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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

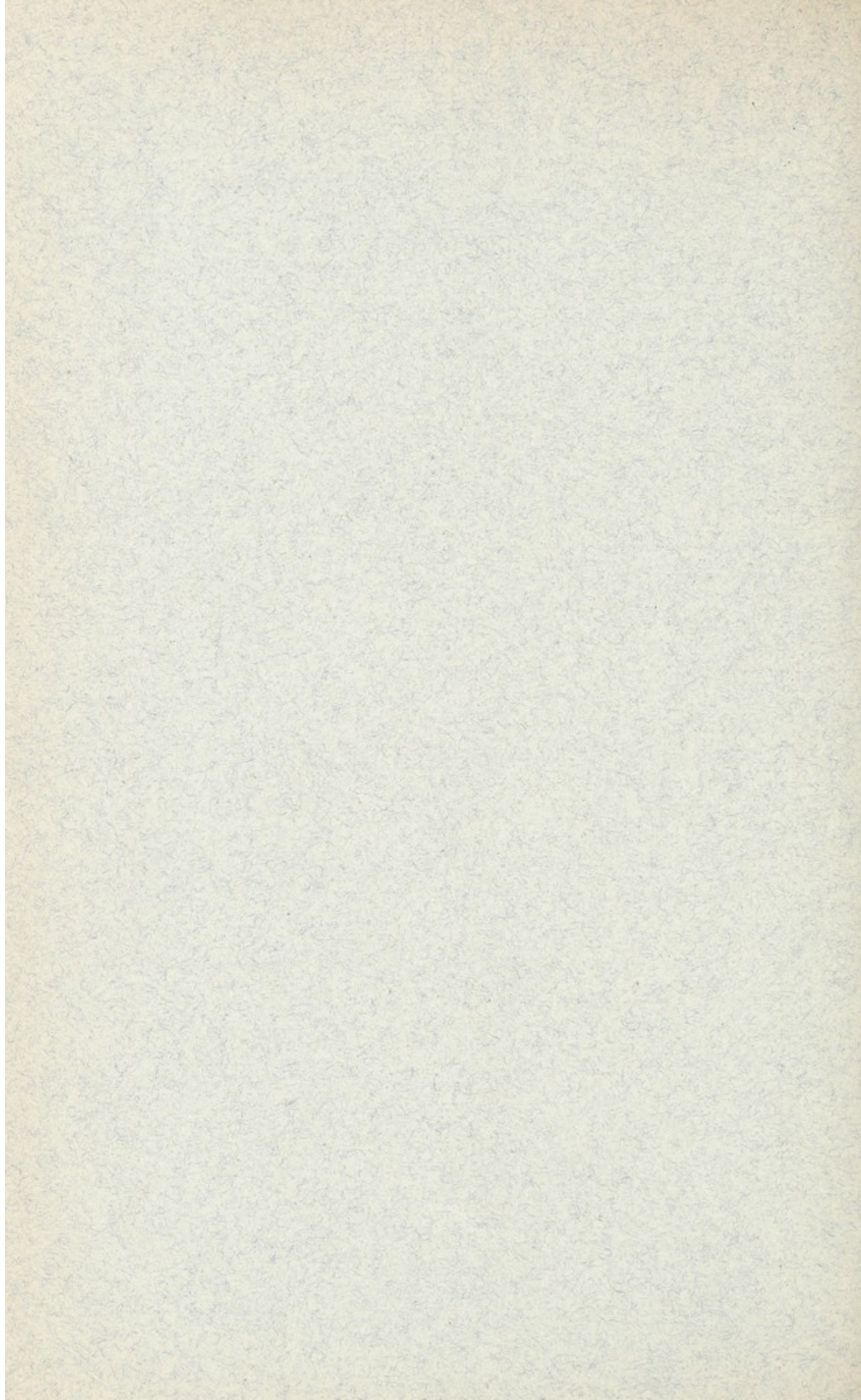
Annual Report

OF

WM. E. BARKER, M.B., CH.B., (VICT.),
AND L.S.A. (LOND.)

Medical Officer of Health.

1910.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Health
Committee of the Borough of Clitheroe.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my (ninth) Annual Report for the year 1910, and in explanation of the repetition therein, of some details with which you are already familiar, I may say that the instructions of the Local Government Board to Medical Officers point out "that it should be remembered that these reports are for the information of the Board, and of the County Council, as well as of the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances, etc., which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies."

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. E. BARKER.



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CLITHEROE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1910.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The Borough of Clitheroe is situated in the valley of the Ribble, at an elevation of from 200 to 300 feet above the level of the sea, the various parts of the town being built on and about a ridge of limestone rock, a formation which at this point comes to the surface.

The district is drained principally by the Mearley Brook, which runs through the town in a South-Westerly direction to join the River Ribble.

The prevailing winds are Westerly, and South Westerly, but considerable spells of North Easterly wind are experienced, particularly during the early months of the year, and recently these have shown a tendency to last until well into May.

The mean annual temperature is 46.9 ; and the mean annual rainfall is 47.69 inches.

The area of the Borough is 2385 statute acres.

The number of inhabited houses at the last census, (March, 1901), was 2,535, and the population at that time was 11,414.

The number of houses in the town at present is 3010, and with the exception of about 40 all are occupied.

The assessable value of the Urban District is, £48,890 10s. 4d. ; and its income from all sources £28,435 ; Expenditure on improvement works, £1,980 ; total expenditure, £28,583.

The principal industry of the town is Cotton Weaving but neighbouring Lime Quarries employ a considerable number of hands, and an extensive Print Works is in course of erection.

There is no canal in the neighbourhood, the river at this point is not navigable, the Railway being the sole means of transit and communication within the district, and from one reason and another the town has, for many years now, made small progress as an industrial centre.

The population is estimated for the purposes of the Statistics contained in the Tables which follow as 13,350, which probably represents a fair average for the year, but these figures may not be reached at the forthcoming census, on account of the numbers of people who left the town at one period owing to trade depression.

The district is an extremely healthy one, and no trades especially harmful to health are carried on in the town.

House Accommodation.

On the whole the housing accommodation for the working classes may be described as satisfactory, whilst in some parts of the town it is good. The chief drawback is the considerable number of back-to-back houses existing in some districts. Of these, 163 still remain at the end of 1910, 6 having been converted during the year into 3 double houses. Four more are to be shortly converted.

In addition there are 68 single houses, but most of these have windows which admit of through ventilation. This number remains as in 1909.

Thirty-one new houses have been built during the year, 18 are in course of erection at the close of the year, and plans have been passed for a further 14.

A proper supervision is exercised over the erection of new property, plans which must conform to the local bye-laws having to be submitted to the Council, and a certificate for habitation being granted, after inspection, when the houses are completed.

The work done under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910 ; was somewhat circumscribed by reason of the serious illness of the Inspector of Nuisances, an illness which unfortunately terminated fatally.

I have, however, prepared a list of property, the early inspection of which is in my opinion desirable, and in accordance with this list, 42 houses have been inspected. Complete records, under each of the headings suggested in the regulations, are kept in book form.

Two houses are reported as being considered unfit for habitation in their present condition, and representations have been made accordingly to the Authority.

With these exceptions the houses are in a fairly satisfactory condition, the more prevalent defects found being "windows which will not open, and defective paving of back-yards."

Property owners have been served with the necessary notices, but no further action has been taken for the moment, the work of inspection having only been done towards the closing weeks of the year.

Water Supply.

As intimated in former Reports, the town is fortunate in this respect, the supply, which is obtained from Upland Sources being of excellent quality, very soft, and quite adequate in amount. The works are the property of the Corporation. Every possible precaution is taken to guard against the risk of pollution, these risks arising mainly from farms, and a couple of Bungalows, situated within the gathering ground, and from the manuring of farm lands.

The collecting pipes are however, so arranged that the water from any particular area may be immediately excluded from the supply where this is deemed necessary.

The main portion of the gathering ground is the property of the Corporation, and the Council are alive to the desirability of securing such further portions as may from time to time come into the market.

To this end application was made in November, 1910 to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £400 for the purchase of certain land within the gathering ground, and permission was obtained.

Recent Reports from the Borough Analyst as to the quality of the water have been entirely satisfactory.

Milk Supply.

This is obtained entirely from neighbouring farms, none being imported into the district. On the other hand very large quantities are sent daily from several local railway stations, Clitheroe included, to Bolton and Manchester. The supply is satisfactory in quality. There are 40 registered Cow Sheds within the Borough with accommodation for about 540 head of cattle. These are visited periodically, and are found to be kept in a cleanly state, but a few of them are deficient in lighting, airspace, and ventilation.

No Tuberculosis was dealt with in cattle.

Food and Drugs Act.

Under this Act 28 samples were purchased by the Police, during the year, as follows : Spirits, 9 ; New Milk, 10 ; Butter, 3 ; Cheese, 4 ; Lard, 2 ; and on examination by the Public Analyst two of the samples of milk were found to be deficient, the vendor in one case being fined, and in the other cautioned without prosecution.

All the other samples examined were satisfactory.

No tuberculous meat came under notice.

Bakehouses.

There are 25 registered Bakehouses in the Borough, and none are classed as "underground." They are frequently inspected, and have been found to be kept clean, and to comply with all other necessary requirements. One or two notices to lime-wash were served.

Slaughter Houses.

There is accommodation for all the Butchers in the town in the recently erected Public Slaughter Houses, but as yet they are only partly occupied. There are 15 Butchers in the Borough, six of whom use the Public Abbatoirs, six private slaughter houses, whilst 3 slaughter outside the Borough.

The private houses are regularly inspected, and no complaints are recorded against them.

Sewage and Drainage.

The surface drainage, which is apart from the Sewage System, is conveyed into the brook which runs through the town to join the river Ribble. In one or two parts of the town heavy rainfalls are occasionally followed by temporary flooding, but on the whole the drainage is satisfactory.

The sewers are in a satisfactory condition and some extensions are in progress. They are kept clean by periodical flushing, and are adequately ventilated.

The sewage is conveyed into Detritus pits, and settlement tanks, and the sludge from these is conveyed on to farm lands. The more liquid portion is passed on into Bacteria Beds and ultimately treated by broad land irrigation.

A Local Government Board Enquiry was held in October, 1910, the Council applying for sanction to borrow £6,500 for purposes of Sewerage, and Sewage disposal; and permission having been obtained, a portion of this sum is now being expended on further Settling Tanks and on the preparation and drainage of an additional thirty acres of land for irrigation.

The effluent has been satisfactory during the year to the Ribble Water Shed Joint Committee.

Excrement Removal.

The method originally in use was a variety of the tub system, the contents being conveyed without treatment on to neighbouring farm lands. The tubs are without lids, and are not prepared in any way. They are attended to during the night time.

Of recent years this method has largely given way to the water carriage system, and 584 fresh water closets, 17 latrines, and 1329 slop water closets are now in use.

22 Fresh Water Closets have been added during the year, and 42 slop water closets; 13 of these latter being put into old property, and 29 into new property.

No Midden Privies have been abolished during 1910, the number still remaining at 22. 14 of these are attached to isolated houses in outlying districts.

House Refuse.

This is deposited in tubs (of which 2728 are in use), and removed by the Public Authorities to tips outside the town. There is no Destructor.

Nuisances.

Information under this heading will be found in the appended Report of the Inspector of Nuisances. The figures are as follows:—Nuisances in the books, 149; notices and letters sent to abate nuisances, 4; nuisances abated without notice, 147; notices in books unabated, 2. There were no prosecutions.

Several smoke observations were taken during the year, the longest period during which dense black smoke was emitted from a mill chimney in one hour being 12 minutes.

No time limit is in force in the Borough.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one Common Lodging House within the Borough, registered under three heads with accommodation for 187 persons. Further particulars appear in the appended Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

This house recently has been overcrowded, on account of extensive works at Whalley in connection with the building of a new Asylum, and the police have granted permission on some occasions for numbers of men to sleep downstairs in the day rooms of the house, no other method of dealing with them being available.

I presume that to some extent these Common Lodging Houses must be regarded as inevitable, but I believe they are the cause of incalculable evil amongst certain sections of the population, for they draw into their meshes large numbers of young unmarried men of the labouring classes who previously lived in private lodgings as respectable, and to some extent, responsible citizens. In these Common Lodging Houses, however, they are thrown into personal contact with the tramping members of the community. Forthwith they imbibe their ideals, and become conversant with their methods,—particularly with the doctrine that “if they do not keep themselves, somebody is bound to provide for them,” and if they then chance to fall temporarily out of work, the

step from "unemployed" to "unemployable," is a short and easy one.

In the Clitheroe Lodging House, during the past year, I attended (as Deputy Poor Law Medical Officer) on an order from the Relieving Officer, a single man whose weekly income, including a pension, exceeded forty shillings, and who had been in regular employment up to the day previous to my visiting him. This, if an extreme case, is quite a fair example of an usual condition of affairs, for once a man becomes a regular inhabitant of a Common Lodging House, he loses all sense of self respect and of citizenship, and becomes sooner, rather than later, a certain charge upon the community.

I believe that all model dwellings have a similarly degrading and degenerating effect upon the inmates of them, for no one long preserves his manhood, and his sense of personal responsibility amid such surroundings.

Schools.

There are five elementary schools within the Borough, four of which are Voluntary, and one Council, the accommodation provided being for 2344 scholars, whilst the number on the register for 1910 was 1800; and the average attendance 1465.

Some of the School Buildings are somewhat out of date, with deficient cloakroom and playground accommodation. None, however, can be said to be insanitary, and all conveniences are on the water-carriage system. All the schools are supplied with the town's water.

As I hold the dual appointments of Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, no difficulty arises in regard to the co-relation of these services.

All children are now examined on four occasions during their school careers, viz : on entrance, at the seventh and tenth years of age, and shortly before leaving. There were 884 inspections during 1910, and full particulars of these appear in my Annual Report as School Medical Officer.

Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act has been in force since 1890, and no addition has been made since then to the list of Notifiable Diseases. There is a small Isolation Hospital for Smallpox, situated at Salt Hill, which was provided jointly with the Bowland and Clitheroe Rural Councils. Apart from this there is no Infectious Diseases Hospital, and no Disinfecting Apparatus, though the provision of this latter has more than once been under the consideration of the Council.

After cases of Infectious Disease, the rooms with their contents are fumigated with burning sulphur, and bedding and clothing are occasionally destroyed by burning when this is deemed advisable.

In cases of Typhoid Fever a special pail is provided for the excreta under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Beyond the provisions of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, Phthisis is not compulsorily notifiable, and no voluntary system has been instituted. In several instances rooms with their contents have been fumigated after deaths from this disease. There is no hospital accommodation.

Two Reports were received, as mentioned later, that persons suffering from this disease had become inmates of the local Workhouse.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 264 ; and of these 142 were boys, and 122 girls. This gives a birth-rate of 19.7 per 1000 per annum of the population, a figure which is 3.1 below the average of the last ten years, and so far as my Statistics are available, the lowest ever recorded. I find on reference, that the average figures for the twenty-four years, 1875 to 1898 (inclusive), was 30.7, which will give some idea of the extent to which this rate has recently declined.

Quite a remarkable circumstance is the fact that no fewer than ten cases of twins were recorded during the year, and of these twenty infants fourteen were surviving on the 31st December, 1910.

Death Rate.

164 deaths were registered as having occurred within the district during 1910, and deducting from this number the deaths of 13 "non-residents," and adding the deaths of 7 "residents" which occurred in Public Institutions outside the district, we get a nett total of 158 deaths actually belonging to the Borough, and this gives a death rate of 11.8 per 1000 per annum. Here undoubtedly we have cause for congratulation for this is the lowest rate of which I have any record, and it is 2.8 below the average of the past ten years. For the twenty three years ending 1898, the average death rate, per 1000 inhabitants of the Borough, was 17.9, or nearly 50 per cent. higher than it is to-day.

TABLE I.

Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages Total.		Deaths in Workhouse	Deaths of Non residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
5	6	7	8	9	10.	11	12	13
41	165	189	16.6	16	5	...	184	16.1
43	163	183	16	23	9	...	174	15.2
32	125	177	15.4	26	11	...	166	14.4
36	131	185	16	20	6	2	181	15.6
39	138	199	17.2	18	8	2	193	16.7
26	100	164	14.1	18	3	2	163	14.
34	131	183	15.7	19	7	1	177	15.2
31	104	167	13.3	25	8	8	167	13.3
36	120	175	13.4	28	12	3	166	12.7
24	83	174	13.3	19	5	8	177	13.6
34	126	179	15.1	21	7	...	174	14.6
22	83	164	12.2	27	13	7	158	11.8

Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

22 deaths occurred during the year of children under 12 months of age, and this number is equal to a rate of 83 per 1000 births registered. That is to say, that of every 1000 children born in Clitheroe, 83 fail to complete the first year of life, a number which is exactly equal to the rate recorded in 1909. These figures are low, and compare very favourably with those obtaining in quite recent years. The lowest infantile death rate previously reached was 100 in 1905; the average rate for the past ten years was 130; and the average rate for the twenty-four years ending 1898 was 144.

As I pointed out in my last year's report, one of the chief interests attaching at the present time to this question of Infantile Mortality in Clitheroe, and especially to the marked fall in the death rate in 1909,—a fall which has continued as above mentioned in 1910,—arises from the fact that the Early Notification of Births Act came into operation within the Borough in June, 1909, and its introduction was therefore coincident with the diminished mortality. A not unnatural inference would be that the one was contingent upon the other, but on reference to my last Annual Report I find I wrote as follows:—"As a matter of fact I do not think that one would be justified for the moment in drawing any such inference. Apart from the danger of attempting to draw deductions from an insufficient number of data, I am pretty confident that two factors have been at work during the past twelve months which have influenced favourably the Infantile Mortality in Clitheroe, and I shall be much surprised if the truth of this surmise is not reflected in a diminished rate of Infantile Mortality throughout the whole of the manufacturing districts of Lancashire. I allude to the cool,

TABLE II.

Names of Localities.		Clitheroe.				Clitheroe Proper Including Workhouse				Low Moor.			
Year.		Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1900	..	11375	248	184	41	10525	242	170	40	850	6	14	1
1901	..	11400	263	174	43	10550	244	162	42	„	19	12	1
1902	..	11450	255	166	32	10600	248	157	30	„	12	9	2
1903	..	11500	274	181	36	10650	261	164	35	„	13	7	1
1904	..	11550	282	193	39	10700	264	174	35	„	18	19	4
1905	..	11575	259	163	26	10725	244	154	25	„	15	9	1
1906	..	11600	258	177	34	10750	241	165	31	„	17	12	3
1907	..	12500	296	167	31	11650	279	154	30	„	17	13	1
1908	..	13000	298	166	36	12125	282	152	30	875	16	14	6
1909	..	13000	286	177	24	12125	263	168	23	„	23	9	1
Averages of Years 1900 to 1909.		11895	271	174	34	11040	256	162	32	855	15.6	11.8	2.1
1910	..	13350	264	158	22	12475	257	142	21	875	7	16	1

TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality	
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Clitheroe Proper.	Low Moor.
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria(including Membranous croup)	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	7	..	..	..	..	6	1	7	..
Scarlet fever ..	13	..	4	8	..	1	..	4	9
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	21	..	4	9	..	7	1	11	10

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages)		Deaths in Public Institution. Work-house.
	All ages	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Clitheroe proper.	Low Moor.	
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Typhus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever - Enteric .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Other continued .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza.....	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea (all forms) .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Gastritis	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	14	..	..	..	4	10	..	13	1	2
Other Tubercular diseases	4	..	1	2	..	1	..	4	..	..
Cancer, malignant	20	..	..	..	1	9	10	18	2	..
Bronchitis.....	17	2	1	..	..	1	13	15	2	4
Pneumonia	6	2	..	..	..	4	..	5	1	..
Pleurisy .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	1
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Heart Diseases	10	..	..	1	..	3	6	7	3	..
Accidents	3	..	1	..	1	1	..	3	..	..
Suicides.....	1	1	..	1
All other causes	66	6	2	1	..	14	43	59	7	6
All causes.....	158	22	7	4	6	47	72	142	16	14

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TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	{ Certified	6	2	1	3	12	4	1	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	22
	{ Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria : Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
	Diarrhoea, all forms .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis .....	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Gastritis. Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Premature Birth	5	1	..	1	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Wasting Diseases	Congenital Defects .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Want of Breast Milk .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	1	..	1	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
	Tuber. Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuber- culous Diseases	Tuber. Peritonitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tabes Mesenterica .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pneumonia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
	Suffocation, overlying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Causes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
		6	2	1	3	12	4	1	2	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	22

wet summer, and the scarcity of employment." As events proved, this forecast, whether rightly based or not, was realised, for the County Rate eventually corresponded to 115, being a decrease of 16 per 1000 as compared with 1908, and well below any rate previously recorded. As a matter of fact the average County Rate for the ten years, 1899 to 1908 was 146.

To return, however, to the diminished Infantile Mortality in Clitheroe during 1909 and 1910, it is at least of interest to mention the fact that in my annual "Summary" for 1908 and 1909 to the County Medical Officer, I instanced as amongst notable sanitary improvement in the town, the considerable amount of street improvement carried out, and the very considerable number of slop and fresh water closets which had replaced the old tub system. It is not an Academic theory, but an established fact, that insanitary surroundings with consequent air pollution, and the encouragement of flies, are a fertile source of food infection, and particularly of the infection of such an infantile food as milk. This of course, is one of the reasons why the mortality amongst breast-fed children compares so favourably with the death rate amongst those that are bottle fed, and I think I am justified in saying that the Council may congratulate themselves, that in carrying out the above-mentioned improvements, they have made a step towards the saving of child-life. The recently instituted, or reorganised, house inspection too, if pushed to its logical conclusion, should mark another advance in the same direction.

The student of preventive medicine may well pause occasionally to consider as to whether his efforts do not

at times tend to run counter to Nature's law of "the survival of the fittest," but in connection with the saving of Infantile life he need be troubled with no such scruples, for neither bodily health and strength, nor intellectual potentialities need avail a child against an attack of Infantile Enteritis, and the wheat and chaff are together cast into the burning.

In attributing, however, some measure of the decreased Infantile Mortality to improved sanitation, I am very far from desiring to minimise the good results which I believe to have followed directly upon the adoption of the Early Notification Act.

Here I may state, for the information of the Board, some facts with which the Council is already acquainted.

Early in 1909 an arrangement was entered into between the Council and the local Nursing Association, by which the latter body allowed the former the part-time use of one of their Nurses, in consideration of an annual subscription of £20. This arrangement, which received the sanction of the Board, and which I personally suggested in the first instance as being the line of least resistance towards the adoption of the Early Notification Act, was defective in so far as no definite portion of the Nurse's services was guaranteed, and "part-time" therefore was always liable to be interpreted as "spare-time."

The Act was actually put into operation in June, 1909, and as a matter of fact, during the last six months of that year, 206 visits were paid by the Nurse, then resident in the town, to 54 cases, and these visits probably represented "overtime," rather than "part-time," employment.

When, however, we come to 1910, the work done shows a very welcome and marked advance upon those figures, and the Council is indebted to Nurse Mellor, not only for the way in which she has performed her duties, but for a very interesting and exhaustive Report which she has placed in my hands, a Report which not only summarises the work for the past year, but which also enables one to trace the history of each individual child.

I find that whilst 264 births were registered as occurring within the Borough in 1910, Early Notification was received in 245 cases, or 92 per cent. of the whole, a fairly creditable proportion, but one which I hope to see improved upon in 1911.

In some 40 cases the notification was accompanied by an intimation that the visits of the Nurse were unnecessary or were not desired, but including children born in 1909, but not twelve months old at the commencement of 1910, 223 infants were visited during the year, and to these 842 visits were paid. In not more than a dozen cases was a proffered visit refused.

Of the 223 infants under review, 110, or almost exactly one-half, were breast fed for a longer or shorter period, though in some cases this was only for a few weeks, or months, on account of the mothers returning to work in the mills. In 16 of these cases mixed feeding (breast and bottle) was resorted to, the length of time varying from two to six months. Nineteen babies were nursed out, 12 being kept from Monday until Saturday, and the remainder being taken out each morning.

Amongst bottle-fed babies cow's milk was chiefly

used ; next in popularity coming Patent Barley, then Neave's Food, and watered bread, in the order named.

It is satisfactory to learn that the long-tube bottle is certainly dying out ; but the " dummy-teat " is described as being more fashionable than ever.

Nurse Mellor's experience bears out a statement that I have made on more than one occasion previously, viz : that there is an increasing number of young mothers who are willing, but quite unable, to suckle their children.

There were very few cases in which the infants could be said to be neglected, but there were many in which they were unwisely and carelessly fed. This is precisely of course what one might have expected, and it permits one to hope for better things, whilst at the same time it points the way towards their attainment. Mothers do not know, and they must be taught.

Personally, I am satisfied as to the value of Early Notification, but it should be regarded as a temporary expedient, rather than as a final remedy for undue Infantile Mortality. Our sheet anchor must always be sanitation, and next to that I place education. The teaching of Hygiene in the Elementary Schools will do something. Subsequent Technical instruction might do more, but from the immediate point of Infantile Mortality, I think that most hope lies in the direction of a superior and better educated class of women as Midwives. Many of the most mischievous customs and superstitions have been handed down, from one generation to another, by the ignorant women into whose hands, to a great extent, has unfortunately descended the care of the poorer class of mothers in their confinements.

Many of these women are still of course in active practice, fortified in their authority and influence by the possession of Certificates. This was unavoidable, but I think that they should be subjected to the most stringent supervision, and removed without compunction where they are clearly proved to have run counter to the instructions with which they are provided. Some, I am glad to say, have adapted themselves well to the new conditions, and are satisfactory.

The Midwives' Act has opened up a new branch of Nursing, and offers a new field of work for educated women. If it is made worth the while of these latter to enter it, it may become an educational factor of inestimable value towards the saving of child life, and it should eventually obviate, to a great extent, the necessity for Early Notification.

No voluntary assistance has been utilised in Clitheroe, and for many reasons I should deprecate its employment. The saving of infantile life is not a duty which should be intrusted to unskilled and untrained amateurs, and I think that many of the operative classes, at all events, in the smaller towns, would not improbably resent the advance of such, as savouring of patronage and charity, where they are grateful for the advice and assistance of a professional nurse, and such as these should be our future midwives.

In any case the greatest tact is necessary to dis-arm suspicion, and it says something for the success which has attended this work in Clitheroe during 1910, that whilst in the first half of the year, nearly forty notifications were accompanied by the intimation that the Nurse's visits were

not required, in the latter portion of the year only one or two notifications were so qualified.

Of the 22 deaths of children under the age of twelve months, 7 were attributed to premature birth, four of these being twin children ; 5 to debility or wasting ; 2 to whooping cough ; 4 to acute lung affections ; and 3 to gastro-enteritis ; whilst one was certified as being due to albumenuria.

All of the children dying from gastro-enteritis were bottle fed, and in two of the cases they were carelessly fed, though not culpably so, the ideas of cleanliness being of the most shadowy description. The third case was unfortunately one of those concerning which no early notification was received, and consequently it was never visited by the Nurse.

Of the 22 children dying under one year, 6 failed to complete the first week, and a further 6, (or 12 in all) the first month of life.

Zymotic Death Rate.

During the year only two deaths were referable to the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz : Small-pox, Scarlet Fever ; Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ; Fever—Typhus, Typhoid, and continued ; Measles ; Whooping Cough ; and Diarrhoea ; both of these deaths being attributed to whooping cough. This number gives the extremely low Zymotic Death Rate of .14 per 1000 per annum of the population. The figures for 1909 were .92, and that rate was slightly below the average of the previous seven years.

I have frequently pointed out, that, estimated by the number of deaths referable to it, Whooping Cough, although commonly regarded as a trivial ailment, is quite one of the most fatal diseases of childhood.

Infectious Diseases.

Reference to Table III. shows that only 21 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, this being a very considerable reduction upon the returns for recent years, the figures for which were as follows : 62 for 1902, 84 in 1903, 53 in 1904, 26 in 1905, 39 in 1906, 24 in 1907, 110 in 1908, and 67 in 1909, or an average of 58 for the eight years 1902—1909 inclusive.

Scarlet Fever was again responsible for the majority of the Infectious Reports, but most of the cases were mild and the mortality was nil.

The mild type of the disease has been characteristic of a vast proportion of Scarlet Fever cases in Clitheroe in recent years, which is a cause for congratulation, but this very mildness in itself frequently leads to the spread of infection, parents concluding that an ailment which seems to be trivial, cannot actually be Scarletina. Unfortunately these apparently mild cases not infrequently give rise to permanent heart affections, and may be the source of infection of fatal illness.

Table VI., gives a summary of this disease for the last 20 years, and it appears therefrom that whilst the Case Mortality for the 10 years 1890 to 1899 inclusive, was 6.04 ; the case mortality for the years 1900 to 1909 was only 3.85.

TABLE VI.

Year.	Number of Cases Notified.	Number of Deaths.	Rate of Case Mortality.
1890	140	6	4.2
1891	85	7	8.2
1892	65	6	9.2
1893	175	10	5.7
1894	12	2	13.2
1895	17	3	17.
1896	3	nil.	nil.
1897	7	nil.	nil.
1898	14	nil.	nil.
1899	36	1	2.9
1900	47	1	2.1
1901	118	6	5
1902	52	2	3.5
1903	16	2	12.5
1904	34	nil.	nil.
1905	15	1	6.6
1906	19	1	5.2
1907	11	nil.	nil.
1908	97	2	1.9
1909	56	1	1.7
Average of 20 years.	50.95	2.55	4.9
1910	13	nil.	nil

The prevention of the spread of Infectious Diseases is quite one of the most difficult,—and at the same time one of the most important,—problems which a Medical Officer has to face, and this difficulty is enormously accentuated when no medical man is called in, or where

there is intentional concealment on the part of parents, as I fear is sometimes the case.

I think too, that more assistance might be forthcoming in this regard from School Teachers than is at present the case. In my capacity as School Medical Officer, I have frequently pointed out to teachers the importance of the very careful supervision, for a week or two, of scholars who have been temporarily absent from school through illness, however trivial that illness may have been, and they are under instructions from the Education Committee to immediately refer to me for examination, any cases of which they may have the least suspicion.

The fact that children are frequently sent to me by some teachers, and but seldom or never by others, seems to show how lightly these latter regard their responsibilities in this connection, but the importance of the matter is well exemplified by the circumstance that on February 1st, 1911, a case of two children, from one family, attending school in the desquamative stage of Scarlet Fever, was brought to light by the vigilance of a Head Master.

This is a condition which every careful teacher is competent "to suspect," if not "to diagnose," but the logical remedy for the prompt unearthing of all infectious ailments in schools such as the Exanthemata, Ringworm, Scabies, Impetigo, etc., is the appointment of a School Nurse, specially trained for the work. In this training of course, the ordinary District Nurse is lacking, and for this reason the appointment of such an one might be an added source of danger, from the false sense of security thus engendered.

Measles.

The town has been comparatively free from Measles during 1910. No deaths are recorded from it, and no School Closure was resorted to for this, or any other, Infectious Disease.

Whooping Cough, to which two deaths are attributable, has been the only Zymotic disease attended during the year with fatal results. I have frequently drawn attention to the fact that this affection, with its sequelae, is one of the most fatal of infantile ailments, particularly in very young children, and it might serve to impress the seriousness of it upon parents, if it were added to the list of Notifiable Diseases.

Erysipelas.

Seven cases of Erysipelas were reported during the year, and whilst some of them were mild, others were of considerable severity. This disease has shown a tendency to increase in Clitheroe in recent years.

Diphtheria.

Only one case of Diphtheria was reported during the year. It ended favourably.

In accordance with a suggestion contained in a Circular from the Local Government Board, a supply of Anti-toxin, (of strengths of 2000 and 4000 units), is now kept at my Surgery, and at the local Police Station, for the immediate use of the medical men in the town, who have already availed themselves of the convenience, and it is supplied free of cost in cases where parents or persons in charge, are "able to satisfy the Health Committee that

they are not in a position to pay for it." I may mention in this connection, that the Council also has an arrangement with the Institute in Manchester for Bacteriological Examinations, and during the year the following Reports were obtained, viz: 2 Throat Swabs, in suspected cases of Diphtheria, (1 positive, 1 negative); 4 Sputum Examinations in suspected cases of Phthisis, (1 positive, 3 negative; 1 Blood Test for Widal's Reaction,—Typhoid Fever,—(negative.).

Phthisis.

14 deaths occurred from Pulmonary Consumption during the year, and 4 from "other Tubercular affections," giving death rates of 1.04, and .29 respectively, or a total rate of 1.3 per 1000 per annum from Tubercular diseases. This is .7 below the figures for 1909, but .04 above the average for the eight years, 1902—1909 inclusive.

Renewed attention has been recently drawn in this connection to the danger of "shuttle-kissing" in Cotton Mills, and whilst periodical disinfection of shuttles would undoubtedly minimise this risk the discontinuance of the practice by the compulsory use of an automatically threading shuttle is the proper method of dealing with the subject, for the dust which is necessarily inhaled—apart from disease germs—must be wholly deleterious in its effects, and Phthisis is by no means the only ailment which might thereby be contracted.

No deaths under 1 year of age, and only 1 death under 5 years of age, occurred in Clitheroe during 1910 from Tubercular Disease, so that the question of "milk supply" does not arise for the moment in this connection.

Phthisis is not notifiable in the Borough, but under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, notifications were received that two persons suffering from the disease had become inmates of the local Union Workhouse.

Puerperal Fever.

No cases of this disease were reported during the year and I think that on the whole the Midwives do their work in a more cleanly and generally satisfactory manner than formerly, but as mentioned under the subject of "Early Notification" mischievous habits and superstitions still linger. Butter and sugar, "cinder tea," and wholly unnecessary doses of Castor Oil, leading to troublesome constipation, are still administered to new-born infants, and the more ignorant the women, the more satisfied are they that their knowledge is superior to that of medical men.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

This disease seems to be practically non-existent in Clitheroe, only one case worthy of the name, having come to my notice in an experience of nearly fourteen years. Under these circumstances I was unable to advise the Council to add it to the list of Notifiable Diseases. There has been no tendency to increase since the passing of the Midwives' Act.

Factories and Workshops Act.

There are 175 places in the Borough which come within the provisions of this Act.

All are regularly inspected, proper lists are kept, and also lists of outworkers, and the houses of the latter are periodically visited.

A summary of the work done will be found in the appended Tables.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	60	..	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	73	..	..
Workplaces	36	..	..
Total	169	..	..

2.—DEFECTS.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Actz :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	4	4	..	..
Want of Ventilation .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	..	..
Other Nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sanitary accommodation	1	..	..	..
insufficient ..	..	..	..	..
defective ..	..	..	..	..
nof separate for sexes ..	..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) ..	..	..	..	..
Other Offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	6	5	..	..

3—HOMEWORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.						Number of Inspections of Outworkers premises.
	Twice in the year.			Addresses of Outworkers Received from other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.		
	Lists	Outworkers.					
		Contractors.	Workmen				
Wearing Apparel—							
(1) making, &c.	10	10	13	1	..	14	
(2) cleaning and washing	
Lace, lace curtains and nets	
Furniture and upholstery	
Fur pulling	
Umbrellas	
Paper Bags and Boxes	
Brush Making	
Stuffed Toys	
File Making	
Electro Plate	
Cables and Chains	
Anchors and Grapnals	
Cart Gear	
Locks, Latches and Keys	
Total	10	10	13	1	..	14	

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s.131) at the end of the year.		Number.
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	With Mechanical Power and over 40 persons..	20
	With Mechanical power and under 40 persons ..	43
	No Mechanical Power	73
	Domestic	39
	Total number of Workshops on Register	175

5.—OTHER MATTERS

CLASS.	Number.
<i>Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—</i>	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	2
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) {	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ..	3
Reports of (action taken) sent	3
Other .. .. .	..
<i>Undecground Bakehouses (s. 101) :</i>	
Certificates granted during the year .. .. .	..
In use at the end of the year.. .. .	..

Report of Nuisance Inspector.

Inspector of Nuisances' Office,

Church Street, January 1st, 1911.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you a Report of the work done in this department during the year ending December 31st, 1910.

The major portion of the work in this department was carried out under the supervision of the late Nuisance Inspector, Mr. T. Davies, who unfortunately died on October 29th, 1910. Since that time the work has been carried on under my supervision acting as Nuisance Inspector pro tem.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act.

The following will show the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, with the number of houses in which the cases have occurred :—

Scarlet Fever	.....13	cases in 10	houses
Erysipelas	..... 7	„	7
Diphtheria	..... 1	„	1
<hr/>			
Making a total of	....21	„	18

The previous year there were 67 cases in 53 houses.

After the termination of the cases each house is fumigated with sulphur, and afterwards thoroughly cleansed

Several articles of clothing, beds, bedding, carpets, etc., have been destroyed after fever cases.

Five lots of bedding have been destroyed by fire after cases of consumption.

In all infected houses where books are borrowed from the Free Library, the books are taken and disinfected before they are returned to the Library, and every precaution is taken to prevent the cases from spreading.

We have distributed during the year to various persons for disinfecting purposes, 270 gallons of Disinfecting Liquor and 48 cwt. of Disinfecting Powder.

Nuisances.

The work done under this heading may be summarised as follows :—

Nuisances on the Books.....	149
Notices and Letters sent to abate	
Nuisances	4
Nuisances abated without Notices.	147
Notices in Books unabated	2

The following will show the nature of the Nuisances abated :—

- 81 Choked Drains opened and cleaned.
- 50 Choked Tippers opened and cleaned.
- 7 Tippers repaired.
- 7 New Tippers fixed.
- 2 Broken Bog Hole doors repaired.

Bog Holes in various streets have been cleaned out and disinfected.

There are 22 Old Midden Privies, 14 of which are in the outlying parts of the district where the population is thin and scattered.

All Vans used as dwellings attending the Fairs have been inspected and found clean and free from sickness.

One case of overcrowding has been attended to but the same has not been remedied owing to the people being unable to find a suitable house.

326 Tubs for house refuse and 194 Excreta Pails have been replaced during the year.

There are 2,728 Tubs for house refuse and 1322 Excreta Pails in use.

There are 584 Fresh Water Closets, 17 Latrines and 1,329 Slop Water Closets in use.

Three Single Houses in Lowergate have been done away with and 3 in Moor Lane, making a total of 163 Back to Back houses still existing. Four Back to Back houses in King Street are also being done away with.

There are 68 Single Houses and most of these have windows at the back, thus giving the means of having a through current of air.

There are eight houses in their present condition not fit for human habitation, 6 of which have been closed Notices have been served on the owners of the two remaining houses to show cause why closing orders should not be made with regard to the respective dwelling-houses.

We estimate the number of houses at the end of the year at 3,010, out of this number 2,869 are connected to the main sewer, leaving 141 to be connected. About 30 of these are in the outlying districts and beyond our present sewage system.

31 New Houses have been built during the year and there are 18 in course of erection and plans passed for 14 more.

We estimate the population at the end of the year at 13,350.

The work of laying branch sewers and connecting the houses to the same is still being carried on.

Ventilating shafts are put at the end of all branch sewers.

The mains and branch sewers are periodically flushed.

The Corporation are still going on with the paving and sewerage of the Back Streets and converting the closets from the pail system to the water carriage system.

There are eight Public Urinals in the town, but the Waterloo, Bawdlands and Woone Lane districts are greatly in need of urinal accommodation.

Refuse Removal.

The quantity of refuse collected during the year was as follows :—

	LOADS
House refuse from Tubs taken to the Tips at Horrocksford and Henthorn	2988
Nightsoil from Midden Privies taken to the Tip at Henthorn	28
Rubbish from Back Streets taken to the Tip at Horrocksford	2
Sundries	24
Excreta from Pails taken on to the land of various farms in the district	868
Making a total of.....	3910

Smoke Nuisances.

I have taken several observations of the smoke emitted from the various Mill Chimneys during the year, and the longest period during which dense black smoke was emitted in one hour was 12 minutes.

We have no time limit in force in the Borough.

Bakehouses.

There are 25 registered Bakehouses in the Borough which are frequently inspected. They are well adapted for the purpose and are kept clean.

Shop Hours Act.

There are 25 places that come under this Act. I have no violation of the Act to report.

Cow Sheds and Dairies.

There are 40 registered Cow Sheds with accommodation for about 540 head of cattle.

These places are visited periodically and as far as cleanliness is concerned we have no complaints to make.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 6 private Slaughter Houses in use in the Borough, they are periodically inspected, they are well conducted and generally kept clean.

The new Public Slaughter Houses at Foulisykes are occupied by 6 butchers out of the 15 butchers in the Borough.

Six butchers slaughter in private Slaughter Houses and three slaughter outside the Borough.

There is accommodation at the new Public Slaughter Houses for all the butchers in the town.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one Common Lodging House in the Borough registered under three heads with accommodation for 187 persons.

The average attendance per night during the year has been about 112 persons of both sexes.

There are also furnished apartments in connection with this house of accommodate about 40 persons.

The house is owned by a company with a manager in charge.

The premises are kept clean and well conducted. We have had no serious violation of the Byelaws to report during the year.

Factory and Workshop Act.

There are 20 Factories including the five stone quarries where mechanical power is used and over 40 persons employed, and 43 where no mechanical power is used and under 40 persons employed. There are 73 workshops where no mechanical power is used and 39 domestic workshops making a total of 175 places that come under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

Three places have been registered as Workshops during the year all without mechanical power. These places are visited periodically, they are kept clean and

not overcrowded and the sanitary accommodation is in good order.

Three Notices were served on occupiers during the year to remedy certain defects and in each case the Notices have or are being complied with.

Gentlemen, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR R. BLEAZARD,

Borough Surveyor and Nuisance
Inspector, pro tem.

