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CLITHEROE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL  
**REPORT**  
FOR 1925

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**WM. E. BARKER**

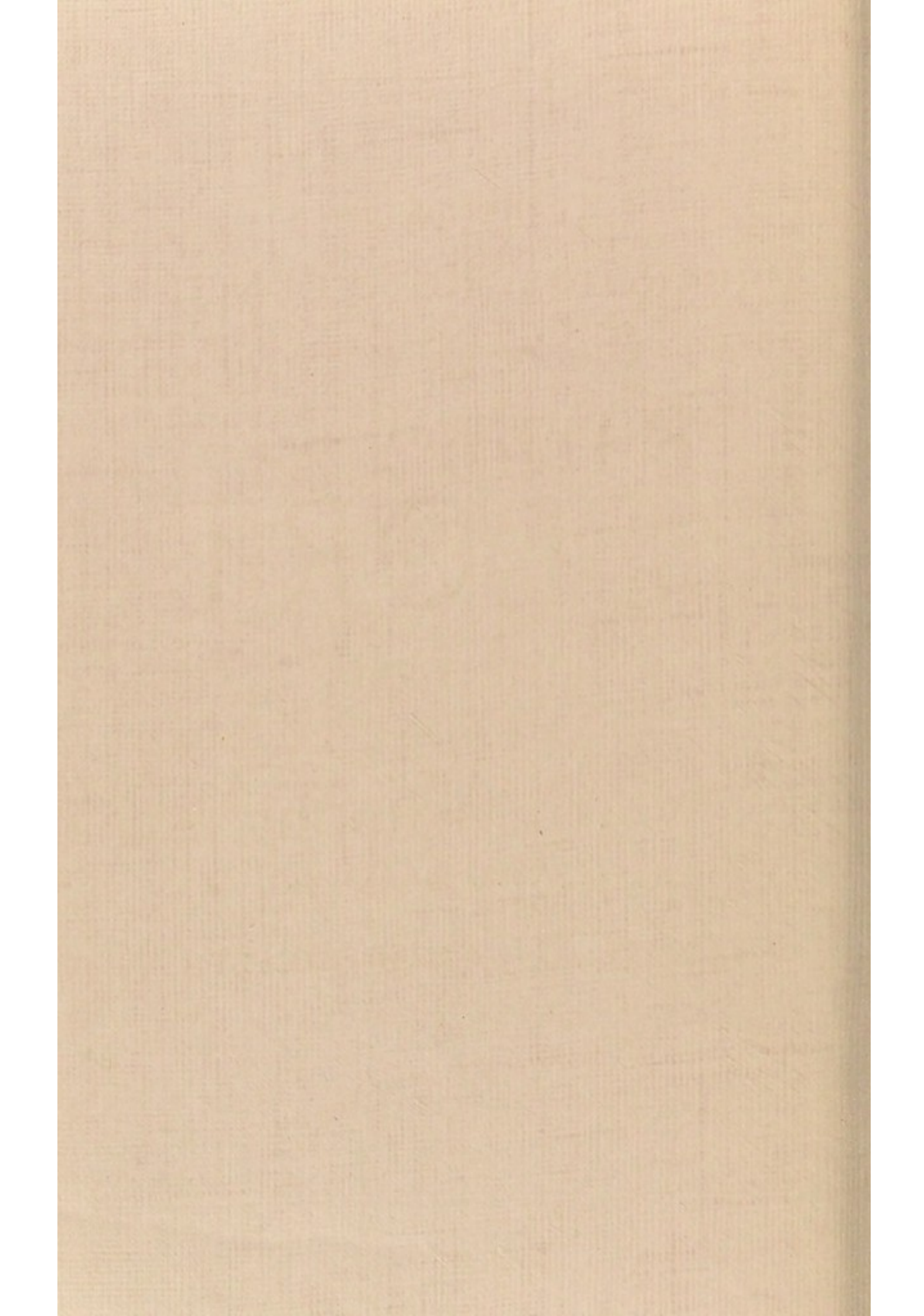
M.B., CH.B., (Vict.) and L.S.A. (Lond.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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CLITHEROE :

*Advertiser & Times Co., Ltd., Printers.*



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my (twenty-fourth) Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1925, and this, in accordance with instructions issued to Medical Officers by the Ministry of Health, is in the nature of a Survey Report of the last five years.

I am, Gentlemen,

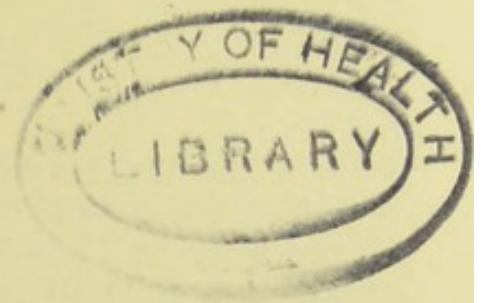
Your obedient Servant,

**WILLIAM E. BARKER.**



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CLITHEROE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Borough of Clitheroe is situated in the valley of the Ribble, in the North-Easterly portion of the County of Lancashire, the river, which runs on the North-West and West sides of the Town, forming the boundary at this point between the County of Lancashire and the neighbouring West Riding of Yorkshire.

The various parts of the town are built on and about a ridge of Limestone Rock (the upper geological strata having at this point been denuded) at an elevation of from 200 to 300 feet above sea level. Pendle Hill, with an elevation of about 1,800 feet, is situated to the East of the town and is possibly some slight protection from the easterly winds which are apt to prevail in the early portion of the year. The more generally prevailing winds are however West and South-West.

The district is drained principally by the Mearley Brook which takes its rise in Pendle Hill on the east, and runs through the town in a south-westerly direction to join the River Ribble about a mile to the south-west of the Town.

The area of the Borough is 2,385 acres, a considerable portion of which is farm lands, the Town itself being fairly compact.

The Population at the Census in 1921 was 12,390 and is estimated at 12,220 in 1925 for the purpose of this Report.

The number of inhabited houses at the Census in 1921 was 3,000, the number of families or separate occupiers being 3,085.

The Rateable Value of the Urban District is £55,383, the sum represented by a Penny Rate being £203.

The principal Industry of the town is Cotton Weaving, whilst there are also Lime Quarries and Cement Works in the neighbourhood and a Bleachworks opened in 1914, and the Barrow Printworks, two miles distant, give employment to a number of persons.

No Trades regarded as especially harmful to health are carried on in the town.

Situated as Clitheroe is, about 10 miles north of Blackburn, and therefore that distance beyond the limit of the chief Colliery and Cotton Manufacturing Districts of Lancashire, the position of the Town as an industrial centre is not an advantageous one, and it has failed to join in the marked advance which such neighbouring towns as Colne, Nelson, Great Harwood, &c. have made during the last 30 or 40 years, the increase in population between the years 1891 and 1921 being only 1,420. As a matter of fact there was a decrease of 110 in the population between the Census of 1911 and 1921.

There is no Canal in the neighbourhood, the river runs half a mile outside the town and is not navigable at this point by the smallest Cargo boats, and Railway rates are high, points which all militate against the industrial advancement of the town.

It is a matter of surprise, however, that more advantage has not been taken of the immediate neighbourhood as a residential centre, for conditions are eminently favourable for such a purpose, the District being a healthy one and the scenery of the Ribble Valley being scarcely surpassed by any portion of England.

## **VITAL STATISTICS**

### **BIRTH RATE**

Only 168 Births were registered during the year of which 90 were males and 78 females.

This gives a Birth Rate of 13.7 per 1,000 per annum of the population, which is 0.5 above the figures for 1924, but 1.8 below the mean for the previous five years, and no less than 4.6 below the Birth Rate of the 157 smaller towns of England and Wales.

Included in the above were 7 Illegitimate Births, viz : 2 Males and 5 Females, precisely the same figures as for the previous year.

### **DEATH RATE**

The number of Deaths registered as actually belonging to the District was 171, of which 91 were males and 80 females, and thus for the first time, so far as I am aware, the Deaths have actually exceeded the Births in number during a year.

The Death rate is therefore 13.9 per 1,000 per annum of the population.

This figure is 1.6 above that for 1924 and 1.7 above the mean figure for the previous five years, whilst it is 2.7 above the Rate for the smaller towns of England and Wales.

There were 3 Deaths from Measles during the year which again serves to emphasise the danger of this Disease, which is often regarded as a trivial ailment; whilst there were no deaths from Scarlet Fever and only 1 from Diphtheria, both usually considered much more serious illnesses than Measles.

Influenza accounted for five deaths as against three in 1924, but there is a decrease during the year as compared with 1924, in the number of deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia which are frequent sequelae of Influenza, viz :—four of the former as against 14 in 1924 and ten of the latter as against 12 in 1924.

There is an increase of no less than 15, in the deaths due to Heart Disease, viz :—32 in 1925 as against 17 in 1924, whilst deaths from Cancer also show an increase (21 as against 13 in 1924).

There were two deaths during the year from Encephalitis Lethargica (Sleepy Sickness) viz :—one male and one female.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Only 11 Deaths occurred during the year of children under one year of age, a very welcome reduction upon the figure (22) for 1924.

This gives an Infantile Death Rate of 65 per annum to 1,000 Births, and this is 38 per 1,000 below 1924, and 16 below the mean Infantile Death Rate of the previous five years, whilst it is nine below the rate for the smaller towns of England and Wales.

Two of the 11 Deaths were of illegitimate female children and whilst the figures are too small for reliable statistical purposes, they show as they stand the heavy infant mortality amongst this class of children, for two deaths as against a total of seven illegitimate children born during the year would work out as a mortality of 285 for every 1,000 born.

The matter is further dealt with under the heading of "Maternity and Child Welfare" later in this Report.

# CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1925

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the District
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All Causes — Certified.....	171	11	1	2	6	4	17	49	81	27
Uncertified .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Measles .....	3	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza .....	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...
Diphtheria.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c .....	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	4
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ..	7	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	11	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	...	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Nephritis .....	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	21	...	...	1	1	...	1	9	9	3
Arterio Sclerosis .....	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	1
Organic Heart Disease .....	32	...	...	...	...	1	2	11	18	5
Bronchitis .....	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2
Pneumonia (all forms).....	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Deaths from Violence.....	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	1
Suicide .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases .....	30	2	...	...	2	2	1	4	19	3
TOTALS .....	171	11	1	2	6	4	17	49	81	27

The first part of the chapter deals with the history of land and water in the United States. It begins with the early settlers and their relationship to the land. The second part discusses the development of the land and water resources. The third part deals with the management of these resources. The fourth part discusses the future of land and water in the United States.

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The Amount of Poor Law Relief during the past five years is shown in the following figures, which are for the 12 months ending March in each year :—

	£	s.	d.
1922.....	1473	3	6
1923.....	1322	11	10
1924.....	1126	14	0
1925.....	727	16	9
1926.....	805	3	9

There is no local Hospital, but considerable use is made of the Infirmary at Blackburn to which many Surgical Cases are admitted.

To a much less extent the Royal Infirmary and St. Mary's Hospital at Manchester are also utilised.

The following Comparative Table shows the Causes of all Deaths in Clitheroe during the past five years.

CAUSE OF DEATH	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Encephalitis Lethargica....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Measles .....	....	....	....	....	3	3
Influenza .....	....	1	1	3	5	10
Diphtheria.....	....	....	1	1	1	3
Diabetes .....	6	5	1	3	1	16
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c	5	4	7	18	20	54
Diarrhoea &c. (under two years).....	1	....	....	....	7	8
Congenital Debility, Mal- formation and Premature Birth .....	9	3	6	10	2	30
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	8	6	6	10	11	41
Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	....	2	3	2	13
Nephritis and Bright's Disease .....	23	11	16	5	5	60
Cancer, Malignant Diseases	16	18	21	13	21	89
Arterio Sclerosis.....	6	7	5	2	5	25
Organic Heart Disease.....	18	23	20	17	32	110
Bronchitis .....	4	19	18	14	4	59
Pneumonia (all forms).....	5	8	10	12	10	45
Appendicitis and Typhlit's	....	2	2	2	1	7
Accidents and Disease of Pregnancy & Parturition	1	....	2	....	1	4
Whooping Cough.....	....	1	1	....	....	2
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	1	1	2	....	....	4
Scarlet Fever.....	2	....	....	....	....	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duo- denum.....	1	1	1	3	3	9
Suicide .....	2	1	1	....	1	5
Deaths from Violence.....	5	3	1	4	4	17
Other Defined Diseases....	36	37	32	33	30	168
Total .....	155	151	156	153	171	786

Perhaps the most striking figures therein concern the large number of Deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage during the past two years, and the small number certified as being due to the closely associated disease Nephritis and Bright's Disease.

Perhaps the comparatively warm Summer of 1925 is reflected in the large number of deaths from Diarrhoea in young children, and the corresponding diminution in the deaths from Respiratory Affections at all ages.

There has not been any marked increase recently in the deaths from Malignant Disease in this area.

The first Deaths in the district from Encephalitis Lethargica occurred in 1925.

A serious outbreak of Food Poisoning, involving 54 cases in 15 families, occurred in September, 1921, and two Deaths resulted.

The outbreak was the subject of a Special Report at the time, and is Case 24 in "Food Poisoning." "A Study of 100 Recent Outbreaks," by Drs. Savage and Bruce-White.

Some other causes of sickness during the period under review are dealt with under "The prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Disease."

There are no conditions of occupation or of environment in Clitheroe having a specially prejudicial effect on health.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED OR AVAILABLE.**

### **1—TUBERCULOSIS.**

The County Authorities undertake the supervision of cases of Tuberculosis, a copy of the Notifications of these cases received being forwarded weekly to the County Medical Officer of Health. These cases are subsequently visited by the County Tuberculosis Officer who recommends such treatment as he considers advisable and arranges when necessary for their removal to a Sanatorium.

In addition the patients are visited by a County Nurse who gives advice and instructions as to precautionary measures, &c.

The nearest Tuberculosis Dispensary, which is at Accrington, is not utilised by Clitheroe patients.

## 2—MATERNITY.

There is no provision in the Borough for Maternity cases.

I put forward the suggestion in my last Report that the Council might possibly be able to enter into some arrangement with the County Borough of Blackburn, whereby beds might be available there for Maternity cases on similar lines to the agreement now existing for the nursing of cases of Smallpox, but in a quite informal conversation which I had recently with the Medical Officer of Health for Blackburn, I gathered that, owing to their limited resources, no such arrangement would be possible at the present time.

One or two urgent Maternity cases have recently been removed by Ambulance to the Blackburn Infirmary and some little time ago a case of Puerperal Eclampsia was sent by Ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

The Council make an annual donation of £10 10s. 0d. per annum to the former, and £3 3s. 0d. per annum to the latter hospital.

## 3—CHILDREN.

There is no Children's Hospital in the Area.

## 4—FEVER.

There is no Fever Hospital.

## 5—SMALL-POX.

The Council have entered into an arrangement with the County Borough of Blackburn, whereby, for a yearly payment of £60, three beds are kept available for Small-pox patients, with a condition that further accommodation will be provided if required. This Hospital is in the Blackburn area, ten miles from Clitheroe.

The old Small-pox Hospital, which was joint with the Clitheroe and Bowland Rural Authorities and was situated within the Borough, was demolished when the above arrangement was entered into.

## PROVISION FOR UN-MARRIED MOTHERS, &c.

There is no Institutional Provision for un-married mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, beyond the Clitheroe Union Workhouse Hospital situated at "Coplow View," within the Borough.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Town possesses a Motor Ambulance for Accident and Non-Infectious Cases, and very considerable use is made of this.

The Blackburn Authorities have undertaken the removal, in their Ambulance, of any cases of Smallpox which may occur.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

### 1—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, provided by the Council, is held fortnightly (at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays) at the Castle for consultative and advisory purposes.

The matter is dealt with further under "Maternity and Child Welfare."

## 2—DAY NURSERIES.

There are no Day Nurseries.

## 3—SCHOOL CLINIC.

A School Clinic for the treatment of Minor Ailments by the School Nurse is held daily in rooms at The Castle, provided by the Council, and a Dental Clinic has been opened during the past year at the same Centre, the accommodation in each case having been approved by the Ministry and the Board respectively.

## 4—TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.

There is none within the Borough, the nearest being at Accrington. It is under the County Scheme and is not used by Clitheroe patients.

## 5—TREATMENT CENTRES FOR VENEREAL DISEASES.

Under the County Scheme provision is made at the Blackburn Infirmary, ten miles distant, for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Disease, and outfits, for diagnostic purposes, are supplied as required by the County Authorities to local Practitioners.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

These are as follows :—

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

WILLIAM EDWARD BARKER, M.B., CH.B.,(Vict.), L.S.A.(Lond.).  
Part-time Officer, also holding the appointments of School Medical Officer, Poor Law Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator and Police Surgeon.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR.

JAMES BOLTON. Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.  
Whole-time Officer, but acting also as Meat and Food Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

## HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE.

FLORENCE PEMBERTON HARROP. C.M.B. Trained Nurse.  
Half-time Health Visitor and half-time School Nurse.

With the institution, however, of School and Dental Clinics, the work has far outgrown the capacity of a single Nurse, and it is the intention of the Council to appoint a second Nurse, who will take charge of the Infant Welfare work, and ascertain and follow up absentees from School from the health point of view, giving such advice as is necessary in regard to treatment in cases of sickness, or as to the desirability of seeking medical advice and particularly acquainting me, as School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health, with actual or suspected cases of Infectious Diseases.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There is a Nursing Association in the Town employing two Nurses, both of whom are Certified Midwives, and who are thus available for either general nursing or Maternity cases.

Milk is supplied to Infants, in necessitous cases, in accordance with a Wages Scale approved by the Ministry.

## MIDWIVES.

Including the two Nurses employed by the local Nursing Association, there are four Midwives practising in the Town.

They are under the supervision of the County Authorities and are not subsidised by the Council.

The number is adequate for the needs of the Community.

## CHEMICAL WORK.

Reports by the Public Analyst are dealt with under the heading "Food and Drugs."

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (PREVENTION) ACT, 1890.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1890. Parts III. and IV.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1907. Parts II. and III. Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65 and 68 of Part IV. Parts V. VI. and X. in force March 21st, 1910.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY.

The town is fortunate in its Water Supply, which is from neighbouring upland sources, and is always abundant and of exceptional purity and softness.

The works and the greater portion of the gathering ground, are the property of the Corporation and the risk of contamination is a remote one, the ground being thrown out of cultivation.

The supply is a constant one and is directed to all the houses in the town. All lead service pipes are specially tin-lined and there have been no cases of lead poisoning in the town within my twenty-four years experience as Medical Officer of Health.

No contamination of any sort has occurred during the year.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There has been no pollution of rivers and streams within the Area and no action has been called for in this connection.

The Ribble is a well-known Salmon and Trout stream.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The surface drainage system, which is apart from the sewage system, is received by the Mearley Brook which runs through the town to join the Ribble.

The sewage is conveyed into settlement tanks, and the sludge from these removed on to neighbouring farm lands, the more liquid portions being passed into Bacteria Beds and ultimately treated by broadland irrigation.

With the exception of some outlying farm lands all parts of the district are efficiently sewered.

The sewers are periodically flushed and automatic flushing tanks are provided in certain positions.

Extensions of the town sewers have been carried out to comply with the scheme of pail closet conversion, and almost all of the populated parts of the town are now connected to the sewer.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In 1923 a Scheme for the conversion of Pail Closets into Freshwater Closets was inaugurated, there being approximately 850 such pail closets at that time. This number has been gradually reduced, during the past year 176 pail closets having been converted, leaving a total of 118 yet to be dealt with.

The following figures show the conversions from pail closets to freshwater closets during the past five years, viz :—

1921.....	Nil.
1922.....	13
1923.....	126
1924.....	428
1925.....	176

A total of 743 closets for the five years.

The Sanitary Accommodation of the Borough now consists of 1,813 Freshwater Closets; 1,512 Slopwater Closets; and 118 Pail Closets.

There is only one privy midden now existing, this being in in a remote part of the District.

### SCAVENGING.

The removal and disposal of House Refuse is carried out by the Council by means of a 2-ton Covered Motor Lorry, the refuse being carried to tips outside the town. The practice of tipping crude refuse, however, will shortly be discontinued, the Council having decided to instal an Incinerator, which will be working early in 1926.

Almost all houses in the town are provided with movable ash receptacles. All new property is provided with galvanized metal ashbins. In the older property, however, ashtubs largely predominate, but the question of the provision of metal ashbins in lieu of these ashtubs is receiving the attention of the Council and already in 70 cases metal ashbins have been substituted for ashtubs in old property.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Four observations of Mill Chimneys, each of one hour's duration have been made during the year with a view to estimating the period over which black smoke was emitted. In one case, where this appeared to be excessive and to amount to a nuisance, notice was sent to the owners and they forthwith installed a Smoke Consuming Apparatus, subsequent observations showing a very marked improvement.

There is no time limit in force within the Borough.

### **PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

Bye-Laws are in force within the Borough for Lodging Houses, Slaughterhouses, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Offensive Trades and Nuisances

There is one Common Lodging House, one Public Abattoir, four Private Slaughterhouses, and thirty-two Dairies, and Milkshops coming under the foregoing Bye-Laws.

There are no Offensive Trades within the Borough, and no action has been necessary in regard to Houses Let in Lodgings.

## OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

It is very desirable that steps should be taken by the Council to improve the Sanitary conditions of some of the Dairies and Cowsheds within the Borough, these in some instances being deficient in lighting and air-space, whilst in many the floors are in a defective state, making adequate cleanliness almost impossible of attainment.

A matter which has received attention during recent years has been the provision of Public Lavatories, several of these having been installed, an important matter in such a town as Clitheroe, which is a favourite holiday resort for neighbouring towns.

In addition, during the past five years, the Sanitary accommodation of the Licensed Premises in the Borough, in response to appeals from the local Magistrates, has been thoroughly overhauled and placed on a satisfactory footing.

## GENERAL REVIEW OF THE HYGIENIC CONDITIONS IN THE SCHOOLS

The St. James's School, completed in 1897, may be said to be a fairly up-to-date school building. Whilst the site for various reasons is possibly not all that might have been desired, the arrangement of the building, the class-room accommodation, the arrangements for warming, lighting, and ventilation, and the sanitation are satisfactory.

The Mixed department of the Roman Catholic School is a modern building, possessing some excellent features.

Of the remaining Schools it may be said that they hardly come up to present day ideals of what Elementary Schools should be, in spite of the fact that in some cases great effort has been made, sometimes at considerable expense, to make the best of existing buildings. Their positions however are unfortunate. They lack sufficiency of surrounding air space, and of playground accommodation and consequently in some of them the lighting leaves something to be desired as regards both directions and amount.

In no case is any portion of play ground roofed in for purposes of shelter.

### HEATING.

Four of the schools are heated by hot water pipes, whilst in the remaining school, stoves are in use supplemented by open fireplaces, which are adequately guarded.

### CLOAKROOM ACCOMMODATION.

This can hardly be said to be really adequate in any of the schools, whilst in others it is quite inadequate, and in one non-existent.

None of the cloakrooms are specially heated with a view to drying the children's clothing in wet weather, but they are warmed along with the other parts of the School.

### LAVATORY ACCOMMODATION.

In some of the schools the Lavatory Accommodation is good, but it is scarcely utilised at times to the extent which appears to be desirable.

### SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The Sanitary Conveniences at all of the schools are now on the Fresh Water Carriage System with automatic flushing. They are all kept as a rule, in a fairly satisfactory condition, but in one or two schools, owing to lack of surrounding space their position is somewhat unfortunate.

## CLEANLINESS.

Generally speaking, the schools are kept in a fair state as regards Cleanliness, but on some occasions there has been cause for complaint in this regard.

The Council propose to proceed with the erection of two new schools.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE.

All the Schools in Clitheroe were closed from January 28th to February 6th, 1922, on account of a wide spread epidemic of Influenza affecting many teachers and scholars, and the failure of the heating apparatus during a cold spell of weather necessitated the closing of the Infant department of the Council school from November 22nd to December 3rd, 1923.

There has been no other resort to School Closure during the past five years.

## HOUSING

### 1—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

As mentioned in previous reports the Housing accommodation for the working classes is in great part satisfactory and in many parts of the town excellent, but there still remain a number of dwellings which fail to reach a desirable standard and there are still 224 single and back-to-back houses, one of the former having been closed, and two of the latter having been converted into a through house during 1925.

More progress would probably have been made in this matter had it not been for the shortage of dwellings during the past five years and this in spite of the fact that the Council have erected 72 houses during that period, 28 of these having been built during 1925.

There still exists a very decided shortage as judged by the number of applications received by the Council for new houses ; the difficulties that owners have in getting possession of their own houses ; the number of houses at present occupied by two families ; and the number of houses in which there are undesirably overcrowded conditions.

Probably not less than 200 further houses will be needed to meet immediate demands and to allow of the Council proceeding with the closure or conversion of houses which no longer meet reasonable modern requirements.

34 houses were in course of erection at the end of 1925 and the Council are at present in treaty for the purchase of land on which to erect a further number.

There have been no changes in population during the period under review, nor are any such changes anticipated in the immediate future.

## 2—OVERCROWDING.

In spite of the fact that there are now approximately 3,107 houses in the town, with an estimated population of only 12,220 giving an average of 3.9 persons per house, there are probably between 20 and 30 houses in which there are an undesirable number of inmates.

The primary cause of the shortage of houses is the suspension of building operations during the war period and the fact that since then the cost of building has been so high as to prohibit building speculations by private firms.

With regard to the measures taken, or contemplated, for dealing with cases of Overcrowding, as mentioned above, the Council have already erected a number of houses, and have a further number in contemplation, whilst a re-arrangement of families has been made in some instances, a small family in an unnecessarily large house exchanging with a large family in a smaller house.

Four serious cases of Overcrowding have been dealt with during the year. In two cases the families moved to new larger Corporation houses, in another case a proportion of the inmates found accommodation elsewhere and in one case, where two families lived in one house, one left to reside in another town.

It is worthy of note that in some instances it is as difficult to induce an overcrowded family to accept alternative and adequate accommodation as it is to provide that accommodation.

Two further cases of serious overcrowding were having attention at the close of the year.

### 3—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

Beyond the large number of single and back-to-back houses, a condition more or less incidental to an old town such as Clitheroe, the standard of houses in the area is generally speaking good and indeed the majority of the single houses are quite good structurally and in good repair.

Where defects exist, these generally take the form of leaky roofs, damp walls and floors, defective eaves gutters and downspouts, &c. whilst there are a few instances where houses are crowded together and are consequently defective in regard to surrounding airspace and access of light and air.

Slums and rookeries such as exist in many of our larger towns are, however, unknown in Clitheroe.

In so far as houses remain structurally defective this must be attributed to the unwillingness of owners to entail the cost of the necessary repairs, and the shortage of houses has prevented the Council from exerting pressure on these owners, as by threats of closure, &c.

In some cases too, where owners were willing to undertake repairs, the tenants were unable to find alternative accommodation so that these might be carried out.

As I imagine must be the case in all towns, there are a few tenants not too careful of the houses in which they live, but these are in a small minority in Clitheroe.

With reference to the general action taken as regards unfit houses, under the Public Health Acts, preliminary notices have been sent to owners calling upon them to remedy defects and in many instances the necessary work has been carried out, whilst cases in default have been reported to the Council and legal notices subsequently served.

No action has been taken under the Housing Acts as during the present shortage the closing of dwellings is scarcely practicable.

Difficulties found in remedying unfitness have already been mentioned, but in one case, where the owner, for financial reasons, was unable to carry out necessary repairs, the Council purchased a block of seven back-to-back houses, closing one, converting two into a through house, and putting the remainder into reasonable repair, as no alternative accommodation for the occupants was available. These will be made into through houses at the first opportunity.

Every house in the town has the Corporation water supply laid on to it. Information as to measures taken in regard to Closet Accommodation and Refuse Disposal will be found in the section of the Report on the "Sanitary Circumstances of the Area."

#### 4—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no Areas in the town which can be regarded as unhealthy.

#### 5—BYE-LAWS.

Beyond Building Bye-Laws there are no existing bye-laws as to Houses let in Lodgings, Tents, Vans and Sheds, &c.

## 6—GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

About two years ago each house in the town received a copy of a Bill calling attention to the importance of general cleanliness, and as to the proper disposal of refuse by burning ; and at the close of 1925, a Press Campaign was being instituted, the intent on being to use the local Newspaper in an effort to bring before the Public the importance of strict attention to requirements bearing on the Public Health.

**HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925**

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total .....	28
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme.....	28
Number of Houses in course of erection at the end of the year under Council's Building Scheme.....	34

**1—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.**

INSPECTION :—

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	144
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....	144
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	43

**2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.**

Number of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	28
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## 3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.... Nil.

- (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Repairs..... Nil.
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after Service of formal Notices—
  - (a) By Owners..... Nil
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.. Nil
- (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close..... Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... Nil.
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which Defects were remedied after service of formal Notices—
  - (a) By Owners..... Nil.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.... Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Section 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders..... Nil.
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... Nil.
- (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit..... Nil.
- (4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... Nil.
- (5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil.

The following is a summary of the Visits, &c. made during the year by the Public Health Staff :—

House-to-House Inspections.....	144
House-to-House Re-inspections .....	305
Other House Inspections.....	180
Factory and Workshops Inspections.....	107
Slaughterhouses Inspections.....	386
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections.....	91
Common Lodging House Inspections.....	12
Visits to Infected Houses.....	93
Visits re Complaints.....	242
Visits re Work in Progress.....	380
Miscellaneous Visits.....	259
Smoke Observations .....	4
Houses Disinfected.....	83
Preliminary Notices served.....	270
Statutory Notices served.....	14

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 65 Factories and 76 Registered Workshops, together with 29 Workplaces in the Borough, making a total of 170 premises which come within the scope of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.

These have been regularly inspected during the year and it was found necessary to issue 3 Notices which were complied with.

#### 1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries).....	20	....	....
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) .....	75	3	....
Workplaces (other than Outworker's premises) .....	12	....	....
Total.....	107	3	....

## 2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness.....	3	3	....	....
Want of Ventilation.....	....	....	....	....
Overcrowding .....	....	....	....	....
Want of drainage of floors....	....	....	....	....
Other Nuisances.....	....	....	....	....
Total.....	3	3	....	....

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) MILK SUPPLY

Large quantities of Milk are produced within the Area, the surplus, beyond that required for local consumption, being sent by rail to Manchester, Bolton, and other Lancashire towns.

There have been no complaints as to quality, the Ribblesdale area, of which this is a part, having an excellent reputation for the quality of the milk supplied.

The number of premises coming under the jurisdiction of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, is 35 ; 27 of these are Dairy Farms and 8 Milkshops.

Of the 27 Cowkeepers, 5 are registered as Wholesale Traders and Producers, 5 as Wholesale Traders and Retail Purveyors, and the remainder as Retail Purveyors only.

One of the Milkshops is licensed for the sale of "Certified Milk." This comes from the neighbourhood of Keswick, and only small quantities are dealt with.

On the application of the owners, two heifers were examined by the Veterinary Inspector for Tuberculosis and on his advice were slaughtered, having been found to be extensively affected. The carcasses were destroyed.

No Tuberculous Milk has come under notice, and there have been no refusals or revocations of registrations or of licenses for graded milk.

(b) MEAT.

An arrangement exists whereby, in accordance with Meat Regulations, slaughtering can take place each day at the Public Abattoirs up to 7 o'clock in the evening and at Private Slaughterhouses between the hours of 12 noon and 6 p.m. special permission having to be obtained from the Meat Inspector if it is desired, for any reason, to slaughter outside of the above hours.

Frequent visits are paid to the Slaughterhouses for the inspection of Meat and the type usually met with is of excellent quality, though in a few cases meat has been condemned.

In this way, 3 carcasses and offal of Cows affected with Tuberculosis; 16lbs. of Pork; and 72lbs. of Unsound Liver, were dealt with. In addition, 12 head of Poultry were seized in a local shop and destroyed.

An arrangement exists with Shopkeepers and Stallholders, whereby meat in transit is covered with clean cloths, and when exposed for sale is shielded as far as is reasonably practicable from dust and flies and sun, &c.

The Public Slaughterhouses are let, for the purposes of Rental, to the local Butchers' Association, who are responsible for the carrying out of internal repairs and cleanliness to the satisfaction of the Council. Beyond that the Council retain complete powers of control and supervision and access at all times, duplicate keys being held for this purpose.

The following Table shows the number of Private Slaughter-houses in use in the area at the dates mentioned.

	In 1920	In January 1925	In December 1925
Registered .....	4	4	4
Licensed.....	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total.....	4	4	4

### (c) OTHER FOODS.

Frequent visits are made for the inspection of shops and stalls in the town and during the year 50lbs. of unsound Pears were found on a greengrocer's cart and were surrendered and destroyed.

There are 28 Bakehouses in the Town, none of these being classed as "underground." They are frequently visited and have been found in a cleanly and generally satisfactory condition.

Other premises where food is prepared and stored have been found in a satisfactory state and existing powers have been found adequate.

There are no places in the town where food is manufactured in large quantities for sale outside the Borough.

### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Under the above Acts, 40 Samples were purchased by the Police during the year and forwarded to the Borough Analyst for investigation. The samples comprised :—23 of Milk ; 1 of Condensed Milk ; 2 of Jam ; 3 of Butter ; 5 of Margarine ; 2 of Coffee ; 2 of Baking Powder ; 1 of Lard ; and 1 of Cheese.

Satisfactory Reports were received in respect of all but one sample of milk. Being an informal sample, no proceedings could be taken. A formal sample was afterwards taken and found to be genuine.

No action has been taken during the year under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, and the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923.

#### MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917.

Under the above Regulations no action has been taken during the year.

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shows the numbers of cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease reported during the past five years :—

Infectious Disease	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Small-Pox .....	....	....	3	....	....
Diphtheria and Mem. Croup.....	5	....	2	35	44
Scarlet Fever.....	83	22	5	1	25
Para-Typhoid Fever .....	....	....	1	1	....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	1	....	3	....	1
Pneumonia .....	3	5	....	....	5
Malaria .....	1	....	....	....	....
Erysipelas .....	1	2	3	....	3
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	....	....	....	1	4
Puerperal Fever .....	....	....	....	1	1
Measles .....	....	....	....	....	5
Chicken-Pox .....	....	....	157	....	....
TUBERCULOSIS—					
Pulmonary : Males.....	10	2	7	6	9
Females .....	4	3	9	3	5
Non-Pulmonary : Males .....	1	3	3	5	4
Females .....	5	....	3	1	5
Totals .....	114	37	196	54	111

Totals for the 5 years.....512 cases.

The small outbreak of Smallpox in 1923 was introduced by a family returning to Clitheroe from Canada on the S. S. Montcalm.

Notification was received from the Port Sanitary Officer at Liverpool to the effect that this family had been in contact with Smallpox on the "Montcalm," and observation was kept upon them, but they refused vaccination. The cases were of a mild type and were limited to the family concerned (three cases in two houses) and were removed promptly to the Smallpox Hospital at Blackburn.

The Outbreak was the subject of a Special Report.

The first case of Encephalitis Lethargica in Clitheroe was reported in 1924. It was of a comparatively mild type, but thoroughly authenticated and has apparently ended in practically complete recovery. Four further cases were notified during 1925 and two of these proved fatal.

Whilst possibly no more than a co-incidence it may be worthy of note that two of the above five cases occurred in adjoining houses, with a third in very close proximity; whilst the two remaining cases occurred in houses not more than 15 or 20 yards apart, but at the other end of the town.

Scarlet Fever was introduced into the town by a travelling Circus in 1921, and accounted for 83 infectious reports in that year, dwindling to 22 cases in 1922, and there was a slight recrudescence in 1925 when 25 cases were reported. Two deaths occurred from this affection in 1921, but generally speaking the cases have been of a mild type and there is a risk nowadays that such cases do not seem to call for Medical treatment and are consequently unrecognised until possibly they are discovered ultimately in the desquamative stage.

A considerable outbreak of Chicken Pox occurred in 1923, at the same time as the Smallpox outbreak, and 157 cases were notified, the disease having been made compulsorily notifiable for the time being on account of the Smallpox outbreak. There were no deaths, though some of the cases were of a fairly severe type.

Diphtheria reached the town at the end of 1923, in which year two cases were reported, and these were followed by 35 reports in 1924 and 44 further reports in 1925, and there was one death from the disease in each of those three years.

On the whole, however, the affection was of a mild type and this added considerably to the difficulty of tracing the course of infection and of limiting the spread of the disease, for some cases were probably unrecognised, no Medical attention having been thought necessary by parents.

Every precaution was taken in regard to the return to School of children who had suffered from the disease and on many occasions swabs were taken from the throats of children who had been absent from school without Medical attention, but all these proved negative and efforts on similar lines to discover "carrier" cases have likewise failed. On several occasions the Schools were disinfected.

A supply of Anti-toxin is kept at the Public Health Office and at the Police Station and is thus available at any hour. It is supplied free of cost in necessitous cases and is promptly used by the Doctors in the town.

One case of Malaria was reported in 1921, but there have been no reports of Dysentery or Trench Fever.

Obviously there has been considerable neglect in regard to the notification of Pneumonia, for only 13 cases were reported in the past five years (none in 1923 and 1924), whilst during the same period, 45 Deaths were certified as being due to the disease in all its forms.

There were 14 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 9 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis reported during 1925, the total reports for the past five years being respectively 58 and 30, of which 50 were males and 38 females.

The Council have an arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester for the examination of Pathological specimens and that considerable use is made of these facilities is shown in the following Table, which gives the figures for the past five years :—

### PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

#### EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS, 1921—1925.

Year	Ven- ereal Dis- eases	Diphtheria		Typhoid Fever		Human Tuberculosis Sputum	
		Total Exams.	Positive Results	Total Exams.	Positive Results	Total Exams.	Positive Results
1921	....	9	5	2	....	22	8
1922	....	3	....	2	....	22	1
1923	....	7	2	2	1*	23	7
1924	....	92	36	2	1*	34	7
1925	....	213	59	4	....	39	4
Total	....	324	102	12	2*	140	27

\*—Para-Typhoid.

There is no Hospital accommodation except for Smallpox, and cases of infectious disease are consequently isolated in their own homes, the rooms subsequently being fumigated and clothing and bedding removed to the Steam Disinfector.

No use has been made of the "Schick" or "Dick" Tests, or of any artificial methods of immunisation against Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

No Vaccinations have been performed by me as Medical Officer of Health, though in my capacity as Public Vaccinator, I vaccinated or re-vaccinated a large number of persons at the time of the Smallpox outbreak in 1923.

Even so, probably not more than one third of the populace are now vaccinated in this Area.

With reference to Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases, Influenza has been prevalent off and on (without special reference to any particular season) during the past five years and has accounted for 10 deaths during that period, 5 of these having occurred during 1925. Probably, too, some of the deaths from Pneumonia had their origin in Influenza.

I have received daily from the School Attendance Officer (up to his death in September, 1925) a Report showing all children absent from School from any infectious ailment, whether notifiable or not, and care has been taken that none of these children (or others in the same house where necessary) have been allowed to return to School until free from the risk of infection.

An Inspection Clinic is held by me at one of the Schools on Friday afternoon of each week, for the express purpose of certifying as to the fitness or otherwise of children for school and suitable cases are treated at the daily School Clinic by the School Nurse, who has also gone to considerably personal trouble, on several occasions, to secure the cleanliness of dirty or verminous children.

There are no Public Baths in the town, but clothing and bedding has when necessary been treated at the Steam Disinfector.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1925.

The two following tables show the number of Reports received of Notifiable Diseases during 1925, and the number of Deaths occurring from the same diseases, the figures in each table being classified under Age-groups :—

Notifiable Diseases	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT												Cases mitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	
Small-Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis .....	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	2
Lethargia .....	44	..	..	2	3	7	13	15	1	2	1	..	..	1
Diphtheria .....	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..
Erysipelas .....	25	..	..	..	..	5	8	5	6	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	3	6	..	11
Pul'ary Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuber- culosis .....	9	..	1	..	..	..	2	3	..	1	..	2	..	2
Typhus Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing and Contin- ued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Neonatorum .....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .....	5	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	10
Puerperal Fever .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Measles .....	5	..	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
TOTALS .....	111	1	1	3	6	13	25	24	10	9	8	9	2	29

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT												
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Measles .....	3	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Diphtheria.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Typhus Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing and Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .....	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	5
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL .....	29	1	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	1	6	12	5

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the number of Reports received of new cases of Tuberculosis, and the number of Deaths occurring from the affection during 1925, classified under age-groups :—

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry.	
	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males
Under 1 year....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1 and under 5	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....
5 „ „ 10	....	....	1	1	....	....	1	....
10 „ „ 15	1	....	2	1	....	....	....	....
15 „ „ 20	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
20 „ „ 25	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....
25 „ „ 35	2	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
35 „ „ 45	3	....	....	....	4	....	....	....
45 „ „ 55	3	3	....	1	3	2	....	....
55 „ „ 65	....	....	....	1	1	1	....	1
65 & upwards	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
TOTALS .....	9	5	4	5	8	3	1	1

Statistics show us no diminution in the number of deaths from Tubercular Diseases in Clitheroe during recent years, and whilst one is reluctant to dispel any hopes which may exist amongst sufferers from this affection as to the efficacy of new methods of treatment now under review, I fear that many are doomed to disappointment when the “Humbert Safe of Sphalingerism” is finally opened.

Tuberculosis Schemes, and schemes for dealing with Venereal Diseases, come within the scope of the Lancashire County Council

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE**

The County Council is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre was first opened in January 1917, and this is held fortnightly (Tuesday afternoon) in rooms at The Castle, which is conveniently situated in the centre of the town. Mothers are invited to bring children up to 5 years of age, and these are examined and weighed and any necessary advice given. The Nurse also gives a short address to the mothers on some suitable topic and expectant mothers are encouraged to attend, and are advised, and if necessary referred to their Medical Attendants.

Valuable assistance has again been given during the year by a Care Committee of ladies who provide tea, &c. at the Centre, as in previous years.

The following Table shows the average number of Mothers and Children who have attended the Centre during each of the last five years :—

Year	No. of times opened	Average Attendance	
		Mothers	Children
1921	24	34	37
1922	24	46	50
1923	24	41	46
1924	24	43	48
1925	23	47	52

In addition, the Nurse visits the homes of infants, suitable Records being kept of all cases, and the following Table shows the number of these Visits paid during the years 1921 to 1925 inclusive :—

Year	Pre-Natal Visits	Visits to Children under 1 year.		Visits to Children 1 to 5 years	Total Visits
		Primary	Secondary		
1921	47	233	829	851	1960
1922	97	193	638	1070	1998
1923	23	148	590	827	1588
1924	25	126	868	650	1669
1925	16	92	557	928	1593
Totals	208	792	3482	4326	8808

The Table on page 9 shows that four mothers have succumbed to Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition during the past five years and this number on a total of Births, during the same period, of 908, gives a Mortality of 4.9 per 1,000 children born.

Of these four deaths, one was certified as "Anaemia following Confinement" (14 days). In this case, the confinement, although unattended by either ante or post-partem haemorrhage, served to intensify an already existing anaemia of a pernicious type, and so merely accelerated the death.

Another of the Deaths occurred in Blackburn Infirmary and was due to Ectopic Gestation.

A third followed an abortion at 2½ months, whilst the fourth was from Placenta Praevia.

Whilst there is no Maternity Hospital within the area, and some births must therefore of necessity take place in surroundings of a not wholly desirable nature, it is at all events to the credit of the Medical Profession in Clitheroe that no mother lacks adequate attention during her confinement, whatever her financial circumstances may be, and a similar compliment may be paid to the two midwives employed by the local Nursing Association.

These midwives are generally engaged a considerable time previous to an expected confinement, and give ante-natal advice, suggesting medical attention when necessary.

Only two cases of Puerperal Fever have occurred in Clitheroe during the last five years, neither of which was fatal, whilst five cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported during the same period.

The following Table shows that in no case was the vision impaired :— OPTHALMIA NEONATORUM 1921—1925.

Year	CASES.			Vision Un-im- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated.					
		At Home	In Hospital				
1921	1	....	1	1	....	....	....
1922	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1923	3	1	2	3	....	....	....
1924	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1925	1	1	....	1	....	....	....
Total	5	2	3	5	....	....	....

The following Table shows the Causes of all Deaths under 1 year of age during the past five years. The exact figures of stillbirths for the past five years were not attainable.

INFANT DEATHS (UNDER 1 YEAR) 1921—1925.

Cause of Death	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Totals
Inanition .....	3	....	1	2	....	6
Pneumonia .....	3	....	4	1	....	8
Premature Birth.....	4	3	1	7	2	17
Bronchitis .....	1	2	1	1	....	5
Convulsions .....	3	....	1	....	....	4
Teething .....	1	....	....	....	1	2
Nephritis .....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Marasmus .....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Tuberculous Meningitis.....	2	....	....	1	....	3
Congenital Cystic Disease of Kidneys.....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Acute Gastritis .....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Pharyngeal Abscess .....	1	....	....	....	....	1
Spina Bifida .....	....	1	1	....	....	2
Suffocation .....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Haemorrhage at Birth .....	....	....	3	....	....	3
Exhaustion (Prolonged labour) .....	....	....	1	....	....	1
Atelectasis Pulmonum.....	....	....	....	1	....	1
Haematemesis .....	....	....	....	1	....	1
Diphtheria.....	....	....	....	1	....	1
Asphyxia (Accidental) .....	....	....	....	1	....	1
Injuries during Difficult Delivery.....	....	....	....	1	....	1
Measles .....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis....	....	....	....	....	6	6
Totals.....	22	6	13	17	11	69

Other matters in this connection have been already dealt with under "General Provision of Health Services in the Area" and "Prevalence, of, and Control over, Infectious Disease."

With a rapidly declining Birth Rate, the question of the care of mothers in parturition, and the preservation of infant life, has assumed in recent years a more immediate importance, and consequently a greater prominence than had hitherto been accorded to it.

Some mishaps to mothers and a greater or lesser percentage of infantile deaths, were looked upon as being inevitable and whilst this of course must probably always be the case in some minor degree, recent investigations and recent efforts, have shown that many of them are avoidable, under suitable conditions, and adequate supervision.

Infant Welfare Centres, Ante-Natal Clinics, and Home Visiting have done much, and Maternity Hospitals would do more, but the problem is one really which touches every aspect of Public Health administration.

If we are to have healthy mothers and healthy children we must have suitable environment.

Undesirable dwellings must be swept away, and we must have healthy homes, clean and with free access of light and air, and with prompt removal of refuse.

We must have clean, well-paved, and well-lighted streets, a pure and adequate water supply and somehow or other there must be assured, even to the least fortunate members of the community, the opportunity for a reasonable standard of life, and health, and comfort.

There must be the guarantee also of freedom from the haunting dread and anxiety which are the inevitable concomitants of poverty.

Public Health Insurance, Unemployment Insurance, and Old-Age Pensions are of assistance here, but can only take their rightful place when each individual is taught to realise that he has a duty to himself, to Society, and to the State, and that the obligation does not lie only the other way.

Again the problem of the unfit mental and physical, must be adequately dealt with, in itself an enormous question, which will call for large additional expenditure, though much of this will be more apparent than real, for already these classes impose an enormous charge upon the community, and what is needed is simply the diversion of much of this charge into preventive channels.

The fact of the matter is that we are faced here with a contingency which Nature never foresaw, or at all events never provided against; that "dilemma of civilisation," as Herbert Spencer termed it, which consists in the fact that whilst nature, left to her own devices, works only on the plan of the survival of the fittest, our state of society decrees that the weak and incapable shall be supported and protected and even allowed to perpetuate their kind.

Sooner or later the time will probably come when it will be found necessary to take some drastic steps to limit the depredations of "The Jukes" upon the Community.

Whilst much then remains to be done before a desirable standard of public health can be realised, for barely the fringe of the problem has been hitherto dealt with, the Council of the Borough of Clitheroe, in comparison with other Authorities, has no reason to be ashamed of the efforts it has put forward during the past five years.

During that period several striking and costly street improvement schemes have been completed; 72 houses have been built by the Corporation, and a considerable addition to this number is contemplated; the Castle Grounds covering  $16\frac{1}{2}$  acres, in the centre of the town, have been purchased by public subscription, for the public use, and two other recreation grounds have been provided.

Public Lavatories have been installed in several parts of the town (an important matter in Clitheroe which is the rendezvous for large number of visitors from surrounding districts); freshwater carriage is rapidly replacing all other methods of sewage disposal, and further extensions have been made to the sewers.

A covered motor waggon has replaced horse-drawn vehicles for refuse removal, and "tips" are to be closed down, a Refuse Destructor being in actual course of erection at the close of 1925.

Electric lighting will very shortly be available ; a new Motor Ambulance is now in use ; and satisfactory arrangements for the nursing of Smallpox patients have been made with the County Borough of Blackburn.

There was a measure of School Inspection in Clitheroe years before it was thought of in many towns, much less made compulsory, and there is now a School Clinic, a Dental Clinic, an Infant Welfare Centre, and a whole-time Nurse, whilst further nursing assistance is contemplated in the immediate future.

Two new Elementary Schools are also to be built.

In view of the serious depression, for some years past, in the Cotton Trade, which is the chief industry of the town, and taking into consideration the fact that a Penny Rate produces but £203, it is obvious that considerable circumspection is necessary before the town is committed to any largely increased expenditure.

There is another difficulty too. Clitheroe, though but a small town, is one of the oldest Boroughs in England and its inhabitants are proud, and rightly proud, of its old and honourable record. But old towns mean old houses, they mean narrow and often ill-paved and ill-lighted streets. They mean, in short, out-of-date conditions in many respects which are more or less immediately concerned with matters of public health.

The result is, that we are frequently faced with problems and obstacles which are unknown to modern towns of mushroom growth, and we must often pull down before we can erect.

I believe, however, that the members of the Council do not mean to be deterred by these difficulties, but that they intend, if not indeed to make Clitheroe exactly a model town, at least to leave no stone unturned to add constantly to its amenities, and to ensure so far as possible a desirable standard of Public Health for its inhabitants.

