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B O R O U G H O F C L I T H E R O E.

ANNUAL

R E P O R T

O F

WM. E. BARKER

M.B., CH.B. (VICT.) & L.S.A. (LOND.)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1 9 4 3.

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

Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my (Forty-second)
Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1943 and in
accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Health this is
again in a very abbreviated form.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

WILLIAM E. BARKER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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

PART TIME OFFICER.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

EDWARD COATES, A.R.SAN. I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

JAMES BOLTON.

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR.

ELSA W. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The BIRTH RATE for 1943 is 16.5 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 1.2 above that of 1942.

The STILL BIRTH RATE is 57 per 1,000 total (live & still) births, an increase of 19 per 1,000 on 1942.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year.

The DEATH RATE for 1943 is 15.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 2.3 per 1,000 above that of 1942.

The Deaths included 1 from Diphtheria; 1 from Acute Infective Encephalitis; 5 from Pneumonia; 11 from Bronchitis; 3 from Tuberculosis; 36 from Cancer; 49 from Organic Heart Disease; and 6 from Nephritis.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the increased Death Rate is largely due to the numerous Deaths from Cancer, which is general throughout the Country; to the prevalence of Organic Heart Disease; and to an epidemic of Influenza with accompanying chest affections.

The INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the year is 44 per 1,000 live Births registered, an increase of 15 per 1,000 upon the figures for 1942, and the largest rate recorded for some years past. Even so, this mortality is only one third of that of 1902 when I was appointed Medical Officer of Health.

Three of the Deaths were due to Pneumonia or Bronchitis, but the majority were accounted for by causes acting before birth, such as Congenital Debility, Spina Bifida, Pyloric Stenosis, etc.

STILL BIRTHS.

Eleven still births occurred during the year, giving a Rate of 57 per 1,000 total (live & still births), a high figure, and an increase on recent years.

There is a natural tendency to look to War conditions for an explanation of such an increase, but the most exhaustive enquiries lend no support to that view.

All the children were legitimate, (7 boys & 4 girls). Three of the mothers had attended our Ante-Natal Clinic, the others being said to have had ante-natal supervision from their own Doctors.

In two cases, premature labour was induced, one on account of the ill health of the mother, the other being a foetal monstrosity diagnosed previously by X Ray examination.

Two other cases were of abnormal presentation, and in one case the child had been dead for some days before birth.

All the cases had adequate medical and nursing attention to confinement.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Two Hundred & Sixteen cases of Notifiable Diseases were reported during the year, but 109 of these were Measles, and 57 Whooping Cough, and no deaths resulted from either of these two ailments.

Pneumonia, whilst not an infectious disease in the ordinary understanding of the term, is notifiable, and 23 cases were reported during the year, with 6 deaths.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever which for some years now has diminished in severity.

One of the 5 cases of Diphtheria notified was fatal, the patient not having been immunised. Efforts have continued to secure that the largest possible percentage of young children are immunised against this dangerous disease, and the greatest possible credit is due to our Nurse in this respect.

Four hundred and seventeen children were immunised during 1943, and I estimate that not less than 85% of all children between one & five years of age are now protected against Diphtheria.

A case of Anthrax, a comparatively rare disease, occurred during the year. The patient was promptly removed to Hospital and recovered, and it is satisfactory that we were able to trace the infection, with practical certainty, to its source..

SCABIES.

I mentioned in my last Report that the influx of evacuees into the town during the early stages of the War had introduced Scabies, a disease from which the town had previously been practically free for many years.

The ailment is not notifiable, and as I am no longer in private practice I have no means of estimating its prevalence except through its incidence upon children attending the Elementary Schools.

We had no cases in 1939 but 8 were discovered in 1940, whilst 60 new cases were unearthed during 1941, and 30 in 1942. This figure had been reduced to 17 in the year under review and all these had been cured and returned to school before the end of the year. The disease is obviously declining in prevalence, but it may be some time before it is entirely eradicated.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC,

These remain substantially as in previous Reports.

LABORATORY WORK.

This shows no change on previous years.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is from neighbouring upland sources, is of a high degree of purity, and adequate in amount.

The Council have under consideration a scheme for the increasing of storage capacity by the construction of a new reservoir on the existing Gathering Grounds.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

No change during the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There still remain in the Borough some 24 Pail Closets and over 1,500 Slopwater or "Tippler" Closets which should be dealt with under a Conversion Scheme in the early post-war period.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION, ETC.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House Refuse (excluding Salvage loads) during the year :-

1. House and Shop Refuse removed to Destructor.....	1,520 loads.
2. Offal removed from Government Slaughterhouse....	104 loads.
3. Fish and Vegetable Offal removed from Trade Premises and Market.....	256 loads.
4. Nightsoil from Pail Closets.....	52 loads.
Total...	<u>1,932 loads.</u>

The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (1,520 loads) amounted to 2,150 tons 2 cwt. 0 qrs.

Despite the increased demands on the Department in the salvaging of materials so urgently required for War purposes, the collection of dustbins was kept to schedule during the greater part of the year, that is to say, on a fortnightly period. It is very desirable, however, that at the earliest possible moment a weekly collection of household refuse be instituted in the town.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The following shows the total weight of Salvage disposed of and the Income therefrom during the Year ended 31st. December, 1943:-

	T.	C.	QR.	LBS.	£	s	d.
Waste Paper (all grades)...	81.	17.	3.	0.	546	7	0
Ferrous Metal.....	21.	1.	3.	0.	37	4	3
Baled Destructor Tins.....	63.	5.	1.	0.	98	6	9
Non-Ferrous Metal.....		8.	0.	14.	4	9	2
Textiles.....	4.	2.	2.	11.	30	12	7
Rope and String.....		2.	3.	8.		13	0
Waste Rubber.....	1.	11.	2.	3.		15	9
Bottles and Jars.....	3.	17.	1.	0.	10	3	2
Old Batteries.....	4.	0.	0.	0.	2	0	0
Household Bones.....	4.	8.	2.	22.	8	17	2
Kitchen Waste.....	194.	11.	0.	0.	291	16	6
Totals.	379.	7.	3.	2.	£ 1031	5	4

Compared with the previous year, these figures show an increase in collection of some 76 tons. Although there was a sharp decline in the output of Waste Paper, substantial increases are shown for all other grades of salvage. During 1943 we collected almost three times the amount of Household Bones and over twice the weight of Kitchen Waste, and altogether the year's result can be considered satisfactory.

Clitheroe participated in the National Book Recovery Campaign held during the year and set a Target figure of 25,000 books. The efforts put forward resulted in the collection of some 50,117 books, or 4.41 per head of population. The allocation of such books was as follows :- H.M. Forces, 6,062; Blitzed Libraries, 435; Salvage, 43,620.

Thirty two Salvage Stewards are enrolled in the Borough. The majority have again shown themselves to be enthusiastic and have rendered valuable assistance, especially during the period of special drives.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Public Abattoir has continued as a Government Centre for the distribution of meat in the area covered by the Clitheroe

Borough and the Clitheroe and Bowland Rural Districts, and the slaughtering of animals for food is centralised there, and meat inspection thereby facilitated.

Food Shops and Market Stalls have been visited frequently during the year under review.

The following shows the amount of Food condemned and removed from the Food Supply during the year :-

MEAT.

56 Beast Carcasses.	21,657 lbs.	102 Sheep Carcasses	2,815lbs.
Carcass Parts	792 lbs.	Carcass Parts.	199lbs.
91 Sets of Offal.	5,163 lbs.	118 Heads & Plucks.	683lbs.
Liver Trimmings.	7,563 lbs.	1502 Sheep Livers.	1,905lbs.
62 Lights & Melts.	497 lbs.	16 Calf Carcasses.	816lbs.
16 Hearts.	60 lbs.	16 C.Heads & Plucks.	161lbs.
36 Skirts.	47 lbs.	Corned Beef.	948lbs.
2 Pig Carcasses.	350 lbs.	Frozen Beef.	42lbs.
4 Pig Heads.	48 lbs.	4 Pig Plucks.	23lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

Tea 3lbs. Prunes 8 lbs. Bacon 21 lbs. Chocolate 10 lbs.
 Sugar Confectionery $3\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Jam 8 tins. Canned Fish 22 tins.
 Condensed Milk 236 tins. Canned Vegetables 77 tins.
 Canned Meat 31 tins. Canned Fruit 28 tins.

BAKEHOUSES.

These remain substantially as in previous Reports.

The standard of cleanliness in these premises has shown a marked improvement during the year, the result, no doubt, of more frequent inspection and regular contact with employers and employees in this trade.

FACTORIES.

Several contraventions of the Health Provisions of the Factories Act were met with during the year. Following notices to the owners, the following works were carried out in two Power Factories :-

- (1) Effective provision made for lighting convenience and steps taken to maintain in a reasonable condition of cleanliness.
- (2) Effective steps taken to maintain two conveniences for males, and urinal, in a cleanly condition; additional lighting provided for such conveniences; and effective screening erected so that interiors are not visible to persons passing the site.

In the case of a Non-Power Factory, where the sanitary

convenience communicated direct with the workroom and was not lighted or ventilated, a notice was issued but the work had not been completed at the end of the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

Frequent visits have been paid to these premises during the year and, with one or two exceptions, the standard of cleanliness and the methods of production were found to be very satisfactory.

In the early summer numerous complaints were received regarding the milk supply from one farm. Investigation at once proved faulty production methods and careless handling on the premises. A considerable amount of time was spent by the Sanitary Inspector at this farm supervising the milking and handling processes, making Sediment Tests, and sampling for Bacteriological Examinations. After persuasion the farmer also installed sterilising equipment during this period. It is highly satisfactory to note that this work resulted in the production of milk of a good bacteriological standard and of improved keeping quality. Later sampling, and the absence of further complaints, proved that this standard was maintained.

In two other cases, the "souring" of milk was definitely the result of carelessness on the part of the customer and not the milk vendor. Unfortunately, we have little or no control over the householder's milk receptacle which is often far from clean or sterile or is still warm from hasty cleansing when handed to the vendor, nor can we insist on the milk being stored in the coolest part of the home. Moreover, bottled milk or the milk jug often remains on the doorstep exposed to the heat of the sun for lengthy periods following delivery - an undesirable practice, which certainly shortens the keeping period of the milk.

SUMMARY OF VISITS, ETC.

The following is a summary of the visits, etc. made during the year by the Public Health Staff :-

House to House Inspections.....	54
House to House Re-Inspections.....	86
Other House Inspections	194
Factory Inspections (including Bakehouses)...	136
Visits re. Overcrowding.....	2
Visits to Infected Houses.....	45
Visits to Government Slaughterhouse.....	556
Visits to Dairy Farms.....	155
Visits to Milkshops.....	6
Visits to Market Stalls and Food Shops.....	84
Visits to Inhabited Vans (Fairground).....	8
Visits re Complaints.....	182
Visits re Work in Progress.....	46
Miscellaneous Visits by Inspector.....	482

Houses Disinfected.....	24
Houses Disinfested.....	4
Preliminary Notices served.....	62

Health Visitor.

Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year..	175
Secondary Visits to Infants under 1 yr..	293
Visits to children 1 to 5 years.....	1048
Visits to Expectant Mothers.....	44
Visits re Stillbirths.....	8
Visits re Children & Young Persons Act.	1
Miscellaneous Visits.....	75

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

This will be one of the most urgent problems of the immediate future, and the Council have already given it serious consideration.

Clitheroe is an old town, and many of the houses are of an old-fashioned type, which falls far short of present day ideals and requirements.

There are, for instance, some 200 back-to-back houses, and if all these could be converted into "through" houses, (which could not be done in all cases) another 100 houses would be needed to fill the deficiency so created.

This is over and above the normal increase of houses required and as building has been entirely suspended during the war, at least 300 new houses will be necessary to meet the immediate needs of the present population.

The Council's First Year Post-War Programme is for ~~50~~ 68 houses, and it is obvious that this number should be supplemented at the earliest possible date.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Number of Houses erected during the year..... Nil.
2. Number of Houses inspected for Housing defects..... 32
3. Number of Inspections made for this purpose..... 46
4. Number of Houses found to be unfit for human habitation.. Nil
5. Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit
for human habitation.... 15
6. Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of
informal action by Local Authority or Officers.... 12
- Number of dwellings in respect of which action was taken
under Statutory Powers under Public Health and
Housing Acts..... Nil.
- Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year..... Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR (CIVILIANS ONLY).

DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	To Hosptl	Deaths
Smallpox.	..	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Anthrax.	1	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.
Diphtheria.	5	..	.	1	.	3	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	2	1
Scarlet Fever.	8	..	.	1	.	.	2	2	1	1	.	1	.	2	.
German Measles.	2	..	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Measles.	109	..	10	11	15	14	54	4	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Whooping Cough.	57	1	5	6	11	11	19	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.
Erysipelas.	1	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Pneumonia.	23	..	.	.	.	.	1	4	1	1	5	5	6	.	6
Dysentery.	..	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	1	.
Ephthemia Neonatorum.	..	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	4	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	2	.	2	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	3	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	1
	246	1	15	19	26	27	73	12	6	10	8	8	6	8	10

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1943.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
All Causes - Certified.....	75	92	167
Uncertified.....	..	..	..
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever....	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....	..	..	..
Whooping Cough.....	..	..	..
Diphtheria.....	1	..	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	2	..	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	..	1	1
Influenza.....	2	3	5
Measles.....	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis, etc.....	..	1	1
Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries...	4	3	7
Cancer (all forms).....	13	23	36
Diabetes.....	..	1	1
Heart Disease.....	20	27	47
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	3	3	6
Bronchitis.....	5	6	11
Pneumonia.....	2	4	6
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	..	..	..
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	1	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....	..	..	..
Appendicitis.....	..	..	..
Nephritis.....	6	..	6
Puerperal Sepsis.....	..	..	..
Other Maternal Causes.....	..	..	..
Suicide.....	1	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents.....
Other Violent Causes.....	3	..	3
All Other Causes.....	12	18	30
Totals.....	75	92	167

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