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BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE.



A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F

J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST. DECEMBER, 1946.

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 Third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1946, which in accordance with suggestions of the Ministry of Health is again in an abbreviated form.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH H. FAIRWEATHER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

JOSEPH H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (PART-TIME .

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE OFFICER.

CYRIL ROYLE, M.B., CH.B. (PART-TIME .

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

EDWARD COATES, A.R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

JAMES BOLTON.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE.

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

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION - 10,940

During the year, 178 Live Births were registered (87 Male and 91 Female) giving a BIRTH RATE for 1946 of 16.2 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 2.4 above that of 1945 and an increase of 1.0 on the average for the previous five years. (1941-1945).

Nine Stillbirths (6 male and 3 female) were registered, giving a STILL BIRTH RATE of 48 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, an increase of 29 per 1,000 on 1945.

No Maternal Deaths were reported during the year.

During the same period, 159 Deaths were registered (82 Male and 77 female) giving a DEATH RATE of 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a figure which is 0.9 per 1,000 below that of 1945 and 0.5 above the previous five year's average.

The Deaths included 3 from Pneumonia; 5 from Bronchitis; 5 from Tuberculosis; 23 from Cancer; 57 from Organic Heart Disease; 6 from Nephritis, and 2 from Influenza.

The foregoing figures show slight decreases in deaths from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Cancer, and Nephritis.

There were 3 Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age) during the year, giving an INFANT MORTALITY RATE of 16 per 1,000 live births registered, a decrease of 30 on the figure for 1945 and a decrease of 21 on the average for the previous five years.

STILL BIRTHS.

As mentioned previously, nine Still Births occurred during the year, giving a Rate of 48 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, an increase on the previous year.

Six of the children were legitimate, (4 boys and 2 girls) and three were illegitimate (2 boys and 1 girl).

Full enquiries were made and it was found that in all cases there had been adequate medical and nursing attention to confinement.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

76 cases of Notifiable Diseases were reported during the year, a decrease of 67 cases on the previous year.

Eighteen cases of Pneumonia were reported, as against 7 in 1945, with 3 deaths.

There were 17 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, and again no deaths were attributable to this disease.

One case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. The Immunisation Campaign was continued during the year and there was a gratifying response on the part of parents.

Some 145 children were immunised, and in addition, 233 re-inforcing injections were given subsequent to a complete course.

72% of the child population between one and five years, and 98% of children between five and fifteen had been protected by artificial immunisation up to the 31st December, 1946.

The arrangements for the hospitalisation of infectious cases remain as in previous Reports.

SCABIES.

Only four cases of this disease were found in school children during the year, and these received the necessary treatment at the School Clinic.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

There is a Nursing Association in the town, employing three Nurse Midwives.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held weekly (Tuesday) in rooms at the Castle House, the Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, Dr. Cyril Royle, attending these Sessions for consultations with mothers.

The Abnormal Midwifery and Ante Natal Services in the Borough were re-organised during the year. The Health Visitor (Miss Bates), together with the Nurse-Midwives in the Borough and the surrounding Clitheroe and Bowland Rural Districts, earlier in the year, attended St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, for a course of Ante Natal Exercises. A weekly Exercise Class for Expectant Mothers, under the supervision of a trained Physiotherapist, was instituted in November, as was also a Weekly Midwives Clinic at which cases are booked by the Midwives, and blood pressure, urine tests, etc. carried out.

Also in November, Mr. R. M. Corbet, F.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.P.I., F.R.C.S.I., Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to Preston Royal Infirmary, was appointed Consultant and attends the Clinic on the second Thursday of each month. In addition to pre-natal examination, Mr. Corbet carries out post-natal examination of cases following hospital confinement.

Suitable cases are referred by Mr. Corbet to Preston Royal Infirmary under an arrangement with the Local Authority.

There is also an agreement under the Scheme that in the event of an emergency, in which it is felt that the patient is not fit to travel to Preston Infirmary, Mr. Corbet will visit Clitheroe to deal with the emergency, or to advise.

Facilities are available also for the Obstetrician to bring out Blood from Preston in such severe cases of Post-partum Haemorrhage as are judged too ill to be moved.

Under an arrangement with the Lancashire County Authority, expectant mothers from the Clitheroe Rural District may attend the Midwives Clinic and the Consultant Clinic, and mothers from the Bowland Rural District, if they so desire, may attend the Ante Natal Exercise Class.

During 1946, a considerable number of normal midwifery cases have been admitted to the Maternity Ward of the Coplow View Institution, Clitheroe, but at times, considerable difficulty has been experienced in finding accommodation for maternity cases within reasonable distance of the patients' homes.

LABORATORY WORK.

This shows no change on previous years, specimens being examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is from neighbouring upland sources and is of a high degree of purity and adequate at the source.

The storage capacity of the existing reservoirs, however, is not considered as sufficient and the Authority has given full consideration to the construction of a new Impounding Reservoir to give the additional storage. Pending the construction of this reservoir, as a short-term policy, additional water will probably be obtained from an artesian source, discovered during boring operations to fix the site of the dam for the new reservoir.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of the town's water supply are made monthly, with excellent results.

All houses in the Borough are supplied from public mains direct, with one exception, this an old house on the extreme north boundary of the Borough which is supplied from a well.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

No change during the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There still remain in the Borough 15 Pail Closets and some 1,376 Slopwater or "Tippler" Closets.

It was anticipated that a Conversion Scheme to deal with this obsolete accommodation would be carried out in the early post-war period, but prevalent shortages of materials and man-power has rendered this impossible up to the present time.

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.....	2,246 loads.
2. Offal removed from Government Slaughterhouse....	158 loads.
3. Fish and Vegetable Offal removed from Trade Premises and Market.....	253 loads.
4. Nightsoil from Pail Closets.....	53 loads.
Total...	<u>2,710 loads.</u>

The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (2246 loads) amounted to 2953 tons 15 cwts 1 qr., which is 270 tons over and above the weight collected during the previous year.

A weekly collection period for all household refuse is aimed at and despite many post-war difficulties of man-power, transport, etc. this has been fairly well adhered to throughout the year. Special attention is given to the collection of all forms of Salvage including Kitchen Waste - this latter being collected from communal bins three times weekly.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The following shows the total weight of Salvage disposed of and the income derived therefrom during year ended 31st December, 1946.

	T.	C.	Qrs	Lbs.	£	s	d.
Waste Paper (all grades)...	44	1	2	0	281	17	10
Ferrous Metal.....	13	14	0	0	13	14	0
Baled Destructor Tins.....	44	18	1	0	70	15	0
Non-Ferrous Metal.....		10	3	15	6	8	8
Textiles.....	2	0	1	20	15	3	3
Bottles and Jars.....	4	12	3	0	12	0	11
Household Bones.....	2	4	2	13	4	9	10
Kitchen Waste.....	168	16	2	0	253	4	8
	280	18	3	20	£ 657	14	2

FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Regular inspection of Factory premises and Shops was carried out by the Public Health Staff and it was found necessary to issue notices for several minor defects only during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.MILK SUPPLY.

There are some twenty-nine Dairy Farms on the Register with accommodation for approximately 400 cattle. The standard of cleanliness and methods of milk production has been found, as a result of frequent inspections, to be generally satisfactory.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, two dealers are distributing T.T. Milk, three "Accredited" Milk and two "Pasteurised" Milk.

BAKEHOUSES.

These remain as in previous Reports. As a result of frequent inspection and contact with employers and employees in the baking trade the standard of cleanliness has been well maintained during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Public Abattoir is still used 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 centralised slaughter of animals for food has facilitated the work of meat inspection.

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

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

MEAT.

33 Beast Carcases	12,317 lbs.	42 Calf Carcases	1,285 lbs.
Carcase Parts.	2,566 lbs.	Carcase Parts.	13 lbs.
Liver Trimmings.	9,191 lbs.	44 Heads & Plucks.	269 lbs.
13 Heads and Tongues.	366 lbs.	86 Sheep Carcases.	2,421 lbs.
14 Hearts.	60 lbs.	Carcase Parts.	36 lbs.
45 Skirts.	79 lbs.	89 Heads & Plucks.	544 lbs.
178 Lights and Melts.	1,401 lbs.	1129 Sheep Livers.	1,637 lbs.
Udders.	421 lbs.	1 Pig Head	14 lbs.
39 Sets of Offal.	2,066 lbs.	1 Pig Pluck.	9 lbs.
Beef Fat.	467 lbs.		
4 Tails.	8 lbs.		
1 Set of Tripes.	20 lbs.	Canned Corned Beef.	651 lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

Butter $5\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Bacon 4 lbs. Barley 3 lbs. Smoked Cod 56 lbs. Oats 72 lbs.
 Oranges 120 lbs. Raisins 28 lbs. Pudding Mixture 362 packets.
 Canned Meat 9 tins. Canned Vegetables 18 tins. Canned Milk 68 tins.
 Canned Fish 19 tins.

PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS AND GOOD HABITS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

There has been no widespread lice infestation in the Borough so that no extensive campaign to combat lousiness has been called for.

The Department's Nurse carried out regular cleanliness inspections in the Schools, and the standard was found to be high. Only in one or two cases was it found necessary to issue instructions to parents.

Talks on Personal Hygiene and the Formation of Good Habits regarding cleanliness are given by the Teachers in the Schools.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employs one full-time Rodent Operator to carry out the work of disinfection under the direction of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The town is divided into eight sections and regular tours of inspection of premises within these sections are carried out by the Operator, complete records being kept of all infestations and treatments carried out.

During the year 21 premises were found to be rat infested and the necessary treatment was carried out with a resultant kill of some 1,061 rats. Block treatments of premises were carried out in several instances. One set of premises was also treated for infestation by mice.

Special attention was again given to the Sewers in the Borough Area, and two Maintenance treatments were carried out.

VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Sanitary Inspectors.

House to House Inspections.....	16
House to House Re-Inspections.....	10
Other House Inspections.....	283
Factory Inspections (including Bakehouses)	192
Dairy Farm Inspections.....	210
Visits to Government Slaughterhouse.....	578
Visits to Food Shops and Stalls.....	160
Visits to Inhabited Vans (Fairground).....	9
Visits to Infected Houses.....	54
Visits re. Work in Progress.....	36
Visits re. Complaints.....	256
Miscellaneous Visits.....	625
Houses Disinfected.....	27

Health Visitor.

Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year....	162
Secondary Visits to Infants under 1 year..	319
Visits to Children 1 to 5 years.....	891
Visits to Expectant Mothers.....	65
Visits re. Stillbirths.....	8
Miscellaneous Visits.....	72

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The War, and the present austerity conditions, have held up work on the removal of blocks of unsatisfactory property and the improvement of other property. Clitheroe has still a considerable number of back-to-back houses which call for conversion to through houses, or demolition. Shortage of materials still holds up schemes for the re-conditioning of existing dwelling houses, and only the most serious can be given attention.

Clitheroe, like most towns, experiences an acute shortage of housing accommodation for all classes of the population and the Authority is making every endeavour to accelerate it's Housing Programme

During the year under review, 50 Temporary Government Bungalows were erected on the Pendle Road Site. On the Henthorn Road Site, of the 64 houses of the traditional type to be erected there, 44 were in course of erection at the end of the year. In addition, work was in progress on 14 of the 18 traditional type houses to be erected on the Conway Avenue Site. At the end of the year, Site works were also well advanced on the Tower Hill Site, where 54 B.I.S.F. steel houses are to be erected.

It is anticipated that in 1947, progress will be made towards the erection of 42 Permanent Pre-fabricated houses of the "Orlit" type on the Wilkin Street Site, and a further 28 traditional houses on the Henthorn Site.

OVERCROWDING.

The shortage of housing accommodation and the occupation by more than one family of the smaller dwelling houses has undoubtedly resulted in some overcrowding, but without a special survey of all working class property, it is well-nigh impossible to give an accurate estimate of the number of overcrowded dwellings.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Number of Houses erected during the year.....	50 (Tempy.)
1 a Number of Houses in course of erection at end of year.	58
2. Number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects.....	36
3. Number of Inspections made for this purpose.....	39
4. Number of Houses found to be unfit for habitation....	Nil.
5. Number of Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	34
6. Number of Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or Officers..	34
7. Number of dwellings in respect of which action was taken under Statutory Powers under Public Health and Housing Acts....	Nil.
8. Number of Overcrowding cases dealt with.....	Nil.

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 Hosp	Deaths
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	17	-	-	-	-	1	5	5	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
Measles.	4	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	17	1	1	2	4	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	18	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4	2	5	3	-	3
Enteritis.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	2	2	4
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	7	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	1
	76	1	2	4	5	5	19	7	3	11	6	7	6	6	8

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
All Causes - Certified. Uncertified.	82.	77.	159.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever...	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	1	3	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	1	-	1
Influenza	1	1	2
Measles	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	1
Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries....	2	1	3
Cancer (all forms).....	13	10	23
Diabetes	1	-	1
Heart Disease	33	24	57
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	1	4	5
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum....	1	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Nephritis	2	4	6
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
Suicide	-	2	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	-	1
Other Violent Causes	3	-	3
All Other Causes	16	25	41
TOTALS.....	82	77	159.

