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BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST. DECEMBER, 1949

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the

Borough of Clitheroe.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Sixth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1949. This follows closely on the lines of my previous Reports.

I am, Lady and 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)

SANITARY INSPECTOR

EDWARD COATES, A.R.S.I.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS POPULATION - 12,240

During the year, 228 Live Births were registered (115 male and 113 female) giving a BIRTH RATE for 1949 of 18.6 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 0.9 above that of 1948 and an increase of 0.9 on the average for the previous five years (1944-1948).

Two Stillbirths (1 male and 1 female) were registered, giving a STILL BIRTH RATE of 9 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, a decrease of 36 per 1,000 on 1948.

Again, no Maternal Deaths were reported during the year.

During the same period, 180 deaths were registered (91 male and 89 female) giving a DEATH RATE of 14.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a figure which is 0.3 per 1,000 below that of 1948, and 0.2 above the previous five years average.

The Deaths included 3 from Pneumonia; 5 from Bronchitis; 2 from Tuberculosis; 30 from Cancer; 65 from Organic Heart Disease; 7 from Nephritis, and 2 from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).

There were 8 Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age) during the year, giving an INFANT MORTALITY RATE of 35 per 1,000 live births registered, a decrease of 2 per 1,000 on the figure for 1948, and an increase of 5 per 1,000 on the average for the previous five years.

STILL BIRTHS

As mentioned previously, two Still Births occurred during the year giving a Rate of 9 per 1,000 total (live and still births), a decrease on the previous year.

Both the children were legitimate. Full enquiries were made and it was found that in both cases there had been adequate medical and nursing attention to confinement.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

210 cases of Notifiable Disease were reported during the year, a decrease of 56 cases on the previous year. Of this total 108 notifications were received in respect of Measles and Whooping Cough, some 89 of the former and 19 of the latter being received. No deaths were attributable to either of these diseases.

There were 24 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year as compared with 15 in 1948, and again no deaths were reported.

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis and one case of Acute Polio-encephalitis occurred during the year. Both cases were non-paralytic and completely recovered.

No cases of Diphtheria were reported during the year. The last case of this disease was reported in 1946.

Outbreak of Enteritis.

A sudden and explosive outburst of sickness diagnosed as Enteritis occurred in the Low Moor district from August 5th to 8th, 1949, when 49 cases were reported. All usual sources of infection were immediately investigated following notification of the outbreak. Ten specimens of faeces and four of blood were submitted for bacteriological examination but the findings were entirely negative. Five samples of milk and two of water were also submitted but again negative results were obtained.

It is impossible to state precisely the cause of the outbreak but circumstances point to an infection from the milk supply, (the source of contamination not being evident) such infection being carried by milk delivered on August 5th, two days before the outbreak was first brought to the notice of the Department. The outbreak subsided very quickly.

SCABIES

No special action was called for in respect of this ailment.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No action was found to be necessary under Section 47 of the above Act during the year.

LABORATORY WORK

Specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester or Blackburn Royal Infirmary.

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, but it is hoped to increase the supply from an artesian source in the near future.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of the town's water supply are made weekly with satisfactory 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

There have been no important changes during the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

There still remain in the Borough 13 Pail Closets and 1,351 Slopwater or "Tipper" Closets.

The prevalent shortages of materials and man-power have again rendered impossible the proposed conversion scheme to deal with this obsolete accommodation.

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...	2425 loads
2.	Offal removed from the Government Slaughter-house.....	170 loads
3.	Fish and Vegetable Offal removed from Trade Premises and Market.....	255 loads
4.	Nightsoil from Pail Closets.....	53 loads
	Total.....	2903 loads

The total weight of house and shop refuse (2425 loads) amounted to 2996 tons 13 cwts 1 qr.

A weekly collection of House Refuse is aimed at and this work has been fairly well maintained 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 the year ended 31st December, 1949.

	T.	C.	QRS.	LBS.	£	S	D
Waste Paper (all grades)	87	14	1	0	453	10	1
Textiles.....	1	10	1	6	12	17	7
Kitchen Waste.....	188	1	1	0	346	7	0
Ferrous Metals.....	5	13	0	0	5	13	0
Baled Destructor Tins..	24	11	1	0	38	12	8
Non-Ferrous Metals.....		8	3	24	5	18	8
Bottles and Jars.....	3	11	2	0	10	17	3
	311	10	2	2	£873	16	3

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.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

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

On the 1st October, the responsibility for the control and supervision of milk production was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and no inspections of Dairy Farms were made by this Department following that date. The local authority remains responsible for the control of milk distribution.

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 fequently visited during the year under review.

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

MEAT

40 Beast Carcases	17,967 lbs.	53 Calf Carcases	1,363 lbs.
3 Sides of Beef	645 lbs.	55 Heads & Plucks	348 lbs.
4 Hindquarters	452 lbs.	Carcase Parts	29 lbs.
4 Forequarters	461 lbs.	28 Sheep Carcases	726 lbs.
Carcase Parts	632 lbs.	32 Heads & Plucks	186 lbs.
Liver Trimmings	7,785 lbs.	482 Sheep Livers	739 lbs.
42 Sets of Offal	2,308 lbs.	Carcase Parts	56 lbs.
83 Heads & Tongues	2,173 lbs.		
Beef Fat	1,049 lbs.	1 Pig Carcase	168 lbs.
17 Skirts	34 lbs.	5 Pig Heads	59 lbs.
8 Hearts	30 lbs.	6 Pig Plucks	43 lbs.
337 Lites & 48 Melts	3,368 lbs.	Carcase Parts	56 lbs.
Udder	845 lbs.	2 Pig Livers	8 lbs.
6 Tails	12 lbs.	2 Pig Lites	6 lbs.
Bruised Beef	134 lbs.		
Frozen Beef	118 lbs.		

OTHER FOODS

Canned Corned Beef 264 lbs; Frozen Egg 22 lbs, Butter 56 lbs; Vegetables 28 tins; Meat 4 tins; Fish 8 tins; Milk 129 tins, Fruits 3 tins, Jam 1tin; Soup 1 tin; Pickles 3 jars, Jam 1 jar; Plums 1 jar.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle including Cows.	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.....	1151	924	5236	17
Number inspected.....	1151	924	5236	17
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcases condemned..	12	53	28	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	480	4	490	3
% of no. inspected affected with disease other than TB	43%	6%	10%	18%
Tuberculosis only -				
Whole carcases condemned...	28	Nil	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	421	Nil	Nil	4
% of no. inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	39%	Nil	Nil	29%

During the year special attention has been given to the hygienic handling of all types of foodstuffs and emphasis placed on the danger from Food and Drink Infections. Contact with owners and employees in the food trade has been continued during the year when the importance of higher standards of cleanliness was always stressed.

A special series of articles on Food and Drink Infections was contributed by the Public Health Staff to the two local weekly newspapers.

An exhibit showing the importance of clean food was displayed in the Gas Showrooms for one week.

A special lecture to Employees in Food Trades is arranged for early January, 1950.

The Council has decided to adopt the new Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Food.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employes one full time Rodent Operator to carry out the work of disinfestation under the direction of the 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 39 premises were found to be rat infested and the necessary treatment was carried out with a resultant kill of 724 rats. Block treatments of premises were carried out in several instances. Fourteen sets of premises were 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.

House to House Inspections.....	45
House to House Re-Inspections.....	6
Other House Inspections.....	341
Factory Inspections (incl. Bakehouses)....	272
Dairy Farm Inspections (to 30/9/49).....	204
Visits to Government Slaughterhouse.....	588
Visits to Food Shops and Stalls.....	216
Visits to Inhabited Vans (Fairground).....	7
Visits to Infected Houses.....	20
Visits re. Work in Progress..	72
Miscellaneous Visits re Complaints, etc...	885
Houses Disinfected.....	23

HOUSING CONDITIONS

It has not yet been found possible to proceed with any major schemes of demolition or improvement of insanitary property. The position regarding repairs is still rather difficult owing to shortage of materials, etc. and only the more serious defects have been given attention during the year.

Judging by the still lengthy waiting lists, many more new houses are required and the Authority is making every effort to provide suitable dwellings of varying types, including bungalows for old people.

During the year under review 19 traditional permanent houses and 42 permanent pre-fabricated houses were completed.

OVERCROWDING

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

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.	Number of houses erected during the year.....	61
1a.	Number of houses in course of erection at end of yr.	25
2.	Number of houses inspected for housing defects.....	42
3.	Number of inspections made for this purpose.....	45
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.....	38
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

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

1. The extension of the housing programme and abolition of sub-standard housing.

2. The conversion of remaining pail closets and slopwater closets.

3. Modernisation of the Public Abattoir at present used as a Government Slaughterhouse.

4. The provision of up-to-date, centrally situated, Public Conveniences with washing facilities, etc.

NOTIFABLE DISEASES DURING 1949 (CIVILIANS ONLY)

Disease	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	49	1	2	5	-	3	4	5	3	10	6	6	4	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	24	-	1	-	2	-	18	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	89	5	6	22	14	15	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	19	4	5	-	4	1	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Pneumonia	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	3	2	-	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	-	-	-	-	-	-			4	2	1	-	-	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	210	10	14	27	20	19	57	9	4	19	12	12	7	1	5

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949

Cause of DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
All Causes - Certified Uncertified	91	89	180
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	2	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	-	-	-
Influenza	-	1	1
Measles	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-
Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries	2	2	4
Cancer (all forms)	18	12	30
Diabetes	-	1	1
Heart Disease	34	31	65
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	4	8
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	2	2
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Other Digestive Disorder	3	2	5
Nephritis	2	5	7
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
Suicide	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	3	1	4
Other Violent Causes	3	2	5
All other Causes	17	19	36
TOTALS	91	89	180