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Burnley Rural District Council

**ANNUAL REPORT of Dr. H. J. ROBINSON, Medical Officer of
Health, for the year ended December 31st, 1920.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BURNLEY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

It is a pleasure to submit to you a report which contains many matters for congratulation, and which indicates the practical interest you have shown in the general conditions of the district ; by the improvements which have been effected, and the schemes for the general betterment of the several townships and areas.

It is not necessary for me to detail, in any introductory remarks, the statistics which follow relative to the general health conditions of the district. I will content myself with stating that the birth rate is 21.33,—the highest since 1908, when it was 21.5. The death rate is 12.9, and of those who have died during the year, 83 were over 65 years of age—more than a third of the whole total of deaths. The Infant Mortality rate is 66 per thousand births and Infectious diseases only 38 as against 105 for the previous year. These facts surely indicate that the general health of the district is good.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

POPULATION.

The population of the district at the last census—1911—was 20,292. It is now estimated to be about 18,234, which is the figure adopted by the Registrar General as the basis for the estimates of the birth and death rates.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The district is situated in North-East Lancashire and has an area of 41,774 acres. It is very hilly in character, ranging from 200 to 1,831 feet above sea level, the mean being about 650 feet. The subsoil is mostly clay, and the district damp, the rainfall averaging over 40 inches. The summer of 1920 was exceptionally wet, the rainfall being 42.8 inches, rain falling on 241 days during the year.

The staple industry is cotton weaving, for which a damp atmosphere is very favourable. Coal mining and dairy farming are the other principal occupations. Speaking generally the houses in the district are in good condition, being well built and stone fronted, the two-story type prevailing. Quite a large number of householders are very thrifty and own their own houses.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.—The total number of births registered in the district during the year was 389—males 188, females 201; and of these 16 (males 9, females 7) were illegitimate. This is very satisfactory, and represents an increase of 66% compared with last year, and equals an annual birth rate for the district for 1920 of 21.33 per thousand of the population. The average for England and Wales is 25.4 per thousand of population.

The following table gives the birth rates from 1913 to 1920 inclusive :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 of Population.</i>
1913	347	16.92
1914	346	16.87
1915	302	15.27
1916	312	15.25
1917	282	14.66
1918	227	12.0
1919	234	12.43
1920	389	21.33

This is the highest birth rate since 1908, when it was 21.5.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths of residents and those belonging to the district who died elsewhere, as supplied by the Registrar General, is 237 (males 122, females 115), which equals a death rate of 12.9 per thousand of population, as compared with 13.5 of the previous year. The average death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1920 was 12.4 per thousand of the population.

The following tables, as supplied by the Registrar General, will be of interest as shewing the birth and death rates for the year and mean of 10 years, 1910-1919, and also the rates for the whole country.

TABLE No. 1.

BURNLEY RURAL	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Epidemic Death rate.	Pthisis Death rate.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.
1920	21.3	12.9	0.38	0.87	66
1919	12.4	13.5	0.34	0.51	101
Mean of 10 years :—					
1910-1919.....	16.3	13.0	0.69	0.65	106
Increase or Decrease in 1920 on :					
Previous year	+8.9	—0.6	+0.04	+0.36	—35
Ten years' Average	+5.0	—0.6	—0.31	+0.32	—40

(See table 2 on page 4).

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year was 26 (males 14, females 12), which equals an infantile mortality of 66 per thousand births, calculated upon the number of births as 389. The rate for 1919 was 101, thus giving a decrease of 35 per thousand from previous year, which is very satisfactory.

The average of 10 years—1910-1919—106.

The chief causes of death were as given in the following table, which also gives the ages and causes of death in all cases belonging to the district.

(See Table 3 on page 5).

TABLE 2.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

(Provisional figures. Provisional Populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purposes of this Table.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths			
		All Causes.	Ent'ric Fever.	Small pox.	Meas-les.	Scarlet Fever.	Whoop ing-cough.	Diph-theria.	Influ-enza.	Vio-lence	Diar'hoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certi-fied Causes	Uncer-tified Causes of Death
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6
96 Great Towns, including London (Census populat'ns exceeding 50,000)	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1
148 Smaller Towns (Census popul'tns 20,000—50,000)	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3
London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6
															0.2
															1.2
															1.5
															0.7

TABLE No. 3.

VITAL STATISTICS.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1920.

Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents, whether accruing within or without the District.

CAUSE OF DEATH—ALL CAUSES (Certified and Uncertified).	ALL AGES		UNDER 1 year	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and upwards
	TOTAL	Male	Female							
Scarlet Fever.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	4	2	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	10	6	...	...	1	5	5	3	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cancer Malignant Disease	25	9	16	...	...	1	...	6	8	10
Rheumatic Fever	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Meningitis	3	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Organic Heart Disease	40	20	20	...	...	1	...	6	13	20
Bronchitis	17	8	9	...	...	...	...	1	6	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	16	12	4	1	...	1	1	3	4	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	6	2	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Appendicitis and Typhlitis.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Nephritis	6	2	4	...	...	...	1	...	3	2
Puerperal Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Parturition apart from Puerperal Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Congenital Debility, etc.....	11	6	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Violence, apart from Suicide ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Suicide	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Other Defined Diseases	68	35	33	...	...	1	5	4	19	34
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
TOTALS	237	122	115	26	2	9	16	36	63	83

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

During the year no action has been taken under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts, and in the rural areas it is inevitable that much of the surface and slop water should find its way into the streams.

Only a few of the larger farms and houses have their own septic tanks and filters, and the treatment of sewage in a small way is not always successful, largely on account of the irregularity and unequal discharge of the sewage.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following townships have their own sewage disposal works, viz. :—

<i>Township.</i>	<i>Treatment.</i>
Huncoat	Open septic tanks and double contact filters.
Sabden	Continuous settlement percolating filters and irrigation.
Worsthorne	Septic tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks.
Foulridge	Septic tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks.

The following townships are connected to the Burnley Corporation Sewers under arrangements between the Burnley Rural District Council and the Burnley Corporation, viz. :—Briercliffe, Habergham Eaves, Hapton, Read, Reedley Hallows and Simonstone. The Whinney Hill district of the township of Altham is connected with the Accrington and Church Joint Sewerage Board's Outfall Works at Copy Clough.

I have to draw attention again to the unsatisfactory state of the conveniences in the villages of Wheatley Lane, Higham and Cliviger. As these villages have no proper sewer it is impossible to carry out any great improvements, so far as abolishing the present insanitary system of tank closets or the antiquated drains. As soon as these villages are sewered, every endeavour will be made to convert these tank closets into fresh water closets. No complaint has been received of the omission to empty pail closets. Most of these are emptied by the Council's own workmen and the duty regularly performed. During the year we have records that :—

9 Privy closets have been converted to pail closets.	
8 Pail closets have been converted to clean water closets.	
1 additional pail closet has been built.	
Approximate number of tank closets in district...	762
Approximate number of pail closets in district...	833
Approximate number of waste water closets in district	2580
Approximate number of fresh water closets in district	612

SCAVENGING.

The following townships are scavenged by the Council's own vehicles and labour. Altham, Barley, Briercliffe, Cliviger, Goldshaw Booth, Hapton, Higham, Huncoat, Old Laund Booth, Northtown, Read, Reedley Hallows, Roughlee, Sabden, Simonstone, Worsthorne and a portion of Habergham Eaves. Blacko, Foulridge, Ightenhill, and portions of Huncoat and Habergham Eaves are scavenged by contract. Dunnockshaw is the only place where the nightsoil and house refuse are removed by the property owners. I am pleased to say that the work has been done by the contractors in a satisfactory manner.

The following summary shows how the district is divided for the purpose of scavenging and the quantities of house refuse and nightsoil removed. These figures only relate to the work done by the Council's own employees.

TOWNSHIP.	Ashpits emptied.	Ash Bins emptied.	Privy Pails emptied.	Privy Tanks emptied.	Loads of Ashes removed.	Loads of Nightsoil removed
Briercliffe and part of Reedley Hallows	4256	7352	3748	497	1113	686
Hapton & Huncoat	1400	10133	7796	14	911	306
Altham, Simonstone Read and part of Northtown	1091	7448	5664	82	738	250
Sabden and part of Northtown	686	4537	3845	11	550	207
Old Laund Booth Barley, Higham, Goldshaw Booth, Roughlee Booth & part of Reedley Hallows	667	2997	10635	580	529	1035
Worsthorne, Cliviger and part of Haberg- ham Eaves	966	10555	10527	318	958	373
TOTALS	9066	42922	42215	1502	4799	2857

7 open ashpits have been abolished during the year, and 28 galvanised iron dust bins substituted, giving a total for the district of 2,400 ashpits and 1,684 dust bins. The refuse in all the townships is disposed of by filling disused quarries, and hollows in fields and suitable places are becoming more difficult to secure. The tip in the township of Briercliffe will last probably another 6 months. After it is filled we have been fortunate in securing the use of another old quarry in the occupation of the Parish Council and thereby saved considerable expense in carting or, as an alternative, building a destructor.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The greater part of the district receives its water supply from the Council's own water works and from adjoining public authorities.

In the more rural parts it is inevitable that there should exist a number of private supplies. From the users of these supplies come the complaints of pollution and insufficiency of the water supply. Constant supervision is entailed in order to prevent pollution. During the year it was found desirable to enforce the re-piping of one of these supplies under the Public Health (Water) Act. There is now an abundant supply of wholesome water to these houses.

The following particulars show the principal water supply to the various townships:—

<i>Township.</i>	<i>Source of Supply.</i>
ALTHAM AND SIMONSTONE	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council and Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
BARLEY, BLACKO, OLD LAUND BOOTH, WHEATLEY CARR AND REEDLEY HALLOWS.	Principally from Nelson Corporation; remainder from private supplies.
HABERGHAM EAVES, WORSTHORNE AND IGHTENHILL.	Principally from Burnley Corporation; remainder from private supplies.
BRIERCLIFFE, CLIVIGER, READ AND FOULRIDGE.	From the Council's own water works. Each township has a separate supply.
HUNCOAT.	From Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
SABDEN, HAPTON AND DUNNOCKSHAW.	From water works owned privately
GOLDSHAW BOOTH AND ROUGHLEE BOOTH.	Have no systematic supply.
NORTHTOWN.	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council.
HIGHAM.	From Nelson Corporation.

All the sources of water supply in the district are primarily upland surface water. The supply is constant.

At Briercliffe an extension to the water supply is in progress, the Council having completed the negotiations for the purchase of Jockey Springs and gathering grounds. At Sabden the Council is in a fortunate position for the purchase of the water supply, which at present is privately owned, their offer having been accepted.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 50 written complaints were received and given immediate attention.

The following nuisances were found and notified to the responsible persons :—

Accumulation of nightsoil, refuse, etc.	19
Insanitary privy pails	29
Conveniences in filthy condition	2
Cellar flooded	1
Insufficient closet accommodation	6
Drains blocked	20
Dwellings in filthy condition	2
Defective eaves, gutters, etc.	20
Insanitary privy middens	2
Nuisance from poultry keeping	2
Overcrowding	2
Insanitary stable midden.....	2
Blocked drains in shippin	3
Defective house roof	11
Insufficient accommodation for house refuse...	39
Defective water closets	20
Houses in a damp state	10
Defective water pipes and fittings	2
Defective slop waste pipes	13
Water closets blocked	9
Defective Ashpits	16
Defective surface water drains	2
Defective condition of floors	5
Inadequate water supply	12
Piggeries in filthy condition	1
Dangerous structures	3
Other nuisances	33
TOTAL	277

In connection with the above, 130 informal notices were served upon owners of premises where defects existed, and 20 were personally interviewed.

12 statutory notices were served, but it has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings against any person during the year.

The following figures are the number of visits the Inspector has paid to each township during the year:—

Altham	9	Higham	9
Barley	3	Huncoat	30
Blacko	7	Ightenhill	7
Briercliffe	56	Old Laund Booth	26
Cliviger.....	23	Simonstone and Read	23
Dunnockshaw	5	Reedley Hallows	15
Foulridge	20	Roughlee	12
Goldshaw Booth	2	Sabden	19
Habergham Eaves.....	2	Worsthorne	16
Hapton	35		

TOTAL..... 319

The nuisances principally abated have been those relating to defective drains, dustbins and sanitary pails. The drains of one block of property have been entirely relaid and connected to the Council's sewer.

The Council now supplies dust bins and sanitary pails at cost price, and this system has been found to add to the dispatch of having defective ones replaced. Great difficulty is still experienced in getting work done, the owners of property generally, appear determined to do as little as possible to their property under existing conditions of high prices. This is not a wise or practical policy, for neglected property more quickly deteriorates, and the ultimate cost proves the folly of neglect. In this respect the increase of Rent (Restrictions) Act seems to have failed in effecting the object it was professedly designed to accomplish, and there are few indications that any part of the increase is expended on property. This Act is the only new legislation effecting your Inspector, who is the Officer appointed to issue certificates with respect to repairs to dwelling-houses. In a few instances appeals have been made by tenants under the Act.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions of the elementary schools are generally satisfactory. The same remark applies also to the water supplies, with the exception of Roughlee Church of England

School, which is still without an adequate supply of good water. This of course will be remedied when the scheme to obtain water in bulk from the Nelson Corporation for the Crow Trees area is completed.

Numerous visits have been made to schools where infectious diseases have occurred, and I have made several examinations of the school children.

Owing to the prevalence of measles and whooping cough I found it necessary to recommend the closing of the following schools :—

For Measles : Church of England School, Roughlee and Church of England School, Newchurch-in-Pendle, from 5th to the 23rd January inclusive. Worsthorpe Council School (Infants Department), from 2nd to the 20th February inclusive. Briercliffe Council School (Infants Department), from 9th to the 27th February inclusive. Blacko Council School from 3rd to the 14th May inclusive.

For Whooping Cough : Blacko Council School from 13th to the 24th December inclusive.

MILK SUPPLY.

197 inspections have been made of dairies and cow sheds.

The cowsheds in this district are stone buildings, generally open to and part of the barn. The floors are paved, concreted or flagged, and the windows are made to open at the top for ventilation. Ventilating tiles for the extraction of foul air are often fixed along the ridge. I am pleased to say that the farmers generally, are beginning to realise the importance of the shippens being properly ventilated. Experience teaches that they are very conservative and strongly held by old-fashioned methods, and the air vents are often blocked with hay. Still the use of the thermometer is occasionally found, and I find a temperature of 60 degrees mostly desired. Not many improvements have been carried out at the shippens during the war. Here again the impossibility of obtaining materials except at exorbitant prices has undoubtedly retarded progressive movement. The floors of the shippens at two farms have been relaid in concrete, and new windows fixed, and at another a new manure tank has been built, while one shippen has been entirely remodelled.

The milk supply of the district has been abundant, but evidence has been forthcoming that the price has militated against the unstinted use of this valuable article of food ; people having reduced the consumption per household.

The shippens were generally found to be clean and the lime-washing done at the proper times. In only three cases was it necessary to complain of the neglect to clean up the floors. With regard to the cleanliness of the cattle more powers are necessary to compel grooming of the cattle, especially during the winter months when the cattle are only turned out for

watering. During this period of confinement the hind quarters become very filthy, the result of the animal lying down in its own dung, and the swinging of the tail may easily knock off particles into the milk pail.

The use of such insanitary materials as screenings from cotton waste factories is common, and is discouraged where ever found.

No cases of Anthrax have occurred in the district during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

No Public Abbatoir is provided in any of the townships, but there are 42 places licensed for the slaughtering of cattle, etc., and of these 21 are in general use, and 51 visits have been paid to these since their control was removed from the Food Control Committee. Over an area so scattered as this, it is difficult to exercise that supervision of the slaughter of animals intended for human food one would desire, but as far as possible a careful watch is maintained. In one case two fore-quarters of beef and various organs were condemned.

One new license has been granted during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories relative to certain defects remediable under the Public Health Acts. The factories were visited and the complaints received attention.

Alterations have been carried out, and additional conveniences built at other factories. At another factory the closets were converted from pails to clean water closets. No complaints arose at any of the workshops.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received during the year were as follows:—

	1920		1919	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	1	22	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	2	—
Diphtheria	17	4	36	2
Erysipelas	1	—	4	—
Malaria	1	—	3	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Fever	3	1	2	2
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	3	1	32	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	3	—
TOTALS	38	7	105	15

The following tables gives the distribution of infectious diseases among the various townships :—

TOWNSHIP.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Malaria	Puerperal Fever	Influenzal Pneumonia	TOTAL CASES
Bailey .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Briercliffe	4	...	4	...	...	...	1	9
Cliviger .....	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	3
Foulridge	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hapton	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	5
Higham .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Huncoat	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	3
Old Laund Booth	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Reedley Hallows .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Sabden	2	...	4	...	...	1	2	9
Simonstone.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Worsthorne .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	12	1	17	1	1	3	3	38

No notification of infectious disease has been received from Altham, Blacko, Dunnockshaw, Goldshaw Booth, Haberg-ham Eaves, Ightenhill, Northtown, Newchurch and Roughlee.

This year there has been a gratifying decrease in the number of cases of infectious disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 12 cases of Scarlet Fever reported as against 22 for the previous year, one case ending fatally.. One case was removed to the Sanatorium

DIPHThERIA.

Less than half the number of cases were notified this year, 17 as against 36 last year. There were 4 deaths. The majority of the cases were extremely mild and quite isolated, having no traceable connection with any other case.

One throat swab was examined and gave a negative result. Only one case of Diphtheria was removed to Sanatorium.

I firmly believe in administering a full dose of Anti toxin at an early stage. Anti-toxin is supplied free of charge. Usually the medical practitioners obtain it and forward the account for same to the Council.

MALARIA.

The one notification received related to a discharged soldier who had contracted the disease overseas.

INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA.

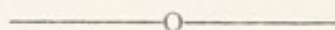
There were three cases notified and one death.

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Encephalitis, Lithargico have been notified.

Immediately upon the receipt of notification of infectious diseases, the houses are visited for the purpose of ascertaining if possible the source of infection, and also for giving instructions to prevent the spread of the disease.

After the recovery of the patient, or if removed to Sanatorium, immediately after such removal, the infected rooms and bedding are properly disinfected either with formalin vapour or by spaying with formalin.

There is no steam disinfecting plant in the district, but arrangements have been made with the Burnley Corporation Health Department for the removal and disinfecting of bedding at their disinfecting station.



PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of Primary Notifications received from Medical Practitioners, Form A. (particulars of which are given under) were 19. Form B. 2. Total 21. A decrease of 6 on the previous year's total of 27.

	1920			1919		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary						
Tuberculosis ...	7	7	14	8	8	16
Cervical Glands	2	—	2	2	3	5
Rib	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meninges of Brain ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Intestines	1	—	1	—	1	1
Other.....	3	1	4	2	1	3
TOTALS	13	8	21	14	13	27

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

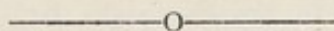
	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	...	6	...	16
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	...	1	...	3
TOTAL	12	...	7	...	19

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS NOTIFIED.

Cotton Operatives	3
Household Duties	3
At School	7
Ex-Soldiers	3
Clerk	1
Not stated	4

4 persons were discharged from Sanatorium during the year without any improvement.

A copy of each notification is forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and also to the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the district. The County Council have now one Tuberculosis Health Visitor in our district.



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Supervising Authority is the County Council, as in schemes for the treatment of Tuberculosis, The Midwives Act, and the notification of Births Act, and by this means the unification of home visiting, and the supervision of children under 5 years of age, by the Health Visitor, also appointed by the County Council is secured.

Briercliffe is the only township in which a Voluntary Child Welfare Centre has been established. This has been very enthusiastically carried on during the year and has proved a success. Arrangements were completed early in 1920 to open the Centre, and the County Medical Officer of Health's co-operation has been given to the scheme. He has arranged for the regular attendance at the Centre of a Doctor and a Health Visitor, both County Officers for this district and at each session there is consistently a good attendance of mothers.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

One Inspector of Nuisances has charge of the whole district, and devotes the whole of his time to the duties. In addition to carrying out the usual duties, the Council have appointed him Inspector under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order, and under the Housing Act, 1909.

There are two hospitals of which the Council have joint use, along with the Burnley Corporation, and the Urban Districts of Brierfield and Padiham. These are situate at Kibble Bank in the Borough of Burnley and at Crown Point, Habergham Eaves in our area. The latter is used for Smallpox cases.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses inspected for purposes of Housing Acts	47
Dwellinghouses unfit for habitation	1
Representations with a view to making Closing Orders	1
Closing Orders made.....	1
Dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders	None
Dwellinghouses put in fit state of habitation after making closing Orders	3
Dwellinghouses Demolished	None

GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST.

The chief defects found included inadequate water supply ; insufficient closet accommodation ; defective house roofs ; dangerous outbuildings and roofs ; defective floors ; windows, stairs and plastering and defective chimney stacks.

The following statement has been supplied to me by your Surveyor, Mr. Pritchard :—

SEWAGE.—Owing to the excessively high cost of materials and labour, schemes for the disposal of sewage and the extension of water supplies have had to remain in abeyance except in cases of emergency.

A sewer extension has been carried out in Simonstone at a cost of £300 which provides for an additional drainage area of about 15 acres.

WATER.—During the year the Council successfully negotiated the purchase of the water rights and plant in Sabden from the Executors of the late Richard Fort and in future the supply will be controlled by the Council.

HOUSING.—During the year plans for 40 house were submitted for approval including houses which the County Council of Lancashire propose to erect in the district under the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, also houses qualifying for grants to private persons under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919. There is no doubt that as soon as the Government re-establish the scheme for paying these grants a number of additional houses will be erected almost immediately.

OVERCROWDING.

In some places in the district there is still some overcrowding although this is not so prevalent as in previous years, and the number of people pressing for houses is, so far as I can learn, fewer.

The general standard of houses is good especially in the more Urban areas, and throughout the district the sanitary arrangements are generally satisfactory.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is incorporated in this report, and notwithstanding the defects and requirements referred to, the general conditions of the district are improving, and are worthy of commendation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. J. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

July 7th, 1921.

