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CHURCH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

(JAMES CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B.)

FOR THE YEAR 1923.

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SARAH DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

JAMES CRAIG, M.D., C.M.D.

FOR THE YEAR 1923

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*Church Urban District Council.*

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**Medical Officer's Report**  
**FOR THE YEAR 1923.**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Church  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you the following report on the health and general sanitary condition of the District during the year ended December 31st, 1923.

The area of the Township (exclusive of water) is 528 acres.

For the purposes of this report, the population is estimated by the Ministry of Health at 6,876. The population at the census of 1911 was 6,891, and at 1921 6,751.

The rateable value is £40,344, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £159.

The number of inhabited houses is 1629, and the estimated number of families or separate occupiers is 1,700.

**Births.**

During the year 121 births were registered in the District: 69 were boys and 52 girls. 1 boy and 3 girls were illegitimate.

This is equivalent to an annual birth rate of 17.5 per 1,000, compared with 139 births and a birth rate of 20.1 in the previous year. The average birth rate for the ten years—1913-1922, was 19.0. The excess of births over deaths is 34, this figure representing the natural increase of the population for the year.

## Deaths.

The deaths (civilians only) totalled 87: 40 males and 47 females, producing a death rate of 12.6, compared with 107 deaths and a death rate of 15.5 in the previous year. The average death rate for the ten years—1913-22, was 14.6.

The causes of death were as follows :

	Males	Females
1 Enteric Fever ... ..	0	0
2 Smallpox ... ..	0	0
3 Measles ... ..	0	0
4 Scarlet Fever ... ..	0	0
5 Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0
6 Diphtheria ... ..	0	0
7 Influenza ... ..	0	1
8 Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	0	0
9 Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	0	0
10 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	0
11 Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	0	0
12 Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	3	9
13 Rheumatic Fever ... ..	0	0
14 Diabetes ... ..	0	0
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ... ..	5	5
16 Heart Disease ... ..	11	6
17 Arterio-Sclerosis ... ..	0	0
18 Bronchitis ... ..	1	6
19 Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	6	5
20 Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	0
21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	0
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	0	0
23 Appendicitis & Typhilitis ... ..	0	1
24 Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	0	0
25 Acute & Chronic Nephritis ... ..	2	2
26 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0	0
27 Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	0	0
28 Congenital Debility & Malformation— Premature Birth ... ..	1	3
29 Suicide ... ..	1	0
30 Other Deaths from Violence ... ..	1	1
31 Other defined Diseases ... ..	6	8
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	0	0

Nine of the deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, two between 1 and 2 years, none between 2 and 5 years, none between 5 and 15 years, three between 15 and 25 years, thirteen between 25 and 45 years, twenty-eight between 45 and 65 years, and thirty-two over 65 years of age.

### **Infantile Mortality.**

The nine deaths under the age of one year give an infantile death rate of 74 per 1,000 births, compared with sixteen deaths and a death rate of 115 per 1,000 in the previous year. During the year there were no deaths of illegitimate children. The average infantile death rate during the ten years—1913-1922, was 106.

The Child Welfare Centre, conducted under the supervision of the County Council, continues to do good work, and I advise all parents to take advantage of the advice and facilities offered at the Centre.

The causes of death in infants were as follows :

	...	Number		...	Number
Convulsions	...	2	Bronchitis	...	1
Pneumonia	...	1	Premature Birth	...	4
Asphyxia	...	1			

The attention of the public is again drawn to the fact that notification of birth is a statutory duty on the part of parents and persons in attendance at the birth, and all steps should be taken by the Council to enforce notification of births as laid down by the Act.

There are no registered midwives resident in the Township.

### **Zymotic Death Rate.**

No deaths occurred as the result of zymotic diseases.

During the year 1922, six deaths occurred from zymotic diseases.

### Respiratory Diseases.

Respiratory diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) caused nineteen deaths, this equals a death rate of 2.7 per 1,000, compared with fifteen deaths and a death rate of 2.2 in 1922.

Seven deaths were due to bronchitis, eleven to pneumonia, and one to other respiratory disease.

### Tuberculosis.

There was only one death (male) from respiratory tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 0.14 per 1,000, as against nine deaths and a death rate of 1.30 in the previous year.

No deaths occurred from other tuberculosis diseases. The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is none.

The notification of tuberculosis is thoroughly efficient.

### Cancer.

Cancer was responsible for twelve deaths (3 males and 9 females), giving a death rate of 1.75, as against eight deaths and a death rate of 1.16 in 1922.

### Tuberculosis.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5-10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
10-15	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
15-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-35	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-45	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 upwds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	2	2	3	1	0	0	0
Totals	8		5		1		0	

### Notifiable Diseases.

Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified, number of deaths from these cases, number of cases removed to Hospital, and deaths in Hospital during the year 1923.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL			
	Total Cases at all ages	YEARS												Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over				
Smallpox .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas .. ..	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .. ..	13	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Enteric Fever includ- ing Paratyphoid ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trench Fever .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery .. .. .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia	} 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	11	0	0
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia																	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	} 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	1	0	1	0	0
Other Forms of Tuberculosis																	
† Measles and German Measles ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
† Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
† Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years) ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
† Chickenpox .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	37	1	0	0	0	4	4	5	3	9	3	7	1	12	1	0	0

† Not compulsorily notifiable in this District.

### **Disinfection.**

Number of houses disinfected, 27. Method: MacDougall's "Vaplamps."

Houses are disinfected after phthisis but not after measles.

The apparatus used for clothing, bedding, &c., is a Steam Disinfector, situated in the Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council's Gasworks Yard.

The number of articles disinfected was 175.

### **Nursing Arrangements.**

There is one District Nurse available for general district nursing, but there is no Nurse available for infectious disease. The Church District Nursing Association (Voluntary) provide the District Nurse.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Accrington Ambulance is available for non-infectious and accident cases. For infectious cases an ambulance is arranged for as required.

### **Hospital Accommodation.**

For smallpox—joint with Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council.

For other infectious diseases—arranged with Blackburn Corporation as required.

The agreement with the Oswaldtwistle Council in regard to the Smallpox Hospital is an annual retaining fee of £3 per 1,000 population and also a proportionate share of the cost in case of use of hospital.

### **Housing.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	0
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme				...	0

## I.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

### *Inspection.*

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	77
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... ..	7
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
(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 ...	5

## II.—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 ... ..	5
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## III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

### A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners ... ..	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..	0

*B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners ...	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

*C. Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

**Sewerage and Scavenging.**

The sewage is dealt with at the Joint Outfall Works at Coppy Clough by the Accrington and Church Joint Outfall Sewerage Board.

The scavenging of the streets and ashpits has been efficiently dealt with.

The Surveyor reports that the number of closets on the various systems and the number of covered ashpits and ashbins is as follows :—

Waste water closets ...	1497	Ashpits ... ..	785
Town's water ...	300	Ashbins ... ..	96
Pail closets... ..	121	Ashtubs ... ..	190
Tanks ... ..	5		
	Total ...		Total ...
	1923		1071

279 closet stoppages were cleared by the Council's workmen.

During the year 2536 loads of house refuse were removed to the "tip" by your employees, and 170 loads of excreta from pail closets were collected.

The following preliminary notices were served for sundry nuisances :—

Defective drains and gullies ... ..	22
„ pail closets ... ..	12
„ waste water closets ... ..	18
„ ashtubs and ashbins ... ..	10
„ ashpits ... ..	1
Damp and dilapidated buildings ... ..	1
Defective downspouts and gutters ... ..	5
Sundry defect ... ..	1
	Total ...
	70

The Local Authority have adopted the following Acts :—

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890,—  
Parts ii, iii and iv.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907,—  
Parts ii, iii, vi, and Section 95.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

There have been no slaughterhouses used in the District during the year.

### **Farms.**

The farms in the District have been inspected, special attention being paid to the condition of the cowsheds and dairies, and these have been found in a fairly satisfactory condition.

### **Mills and Workshops.**

The mills and workshops have been regularly visited, and the condition of their sanitary conveniences is satisfactory.

### **Water Supply.**

The water supply during the year has been plentiful and of good quality, but the water is hard.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAIG, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

*April, 1924.*