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Contributors

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Preesall Urban District Council.

Annual Report


BY

Dr. S. A. NIELD-FAULKNER

Medical Officer of Health.

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Pressall Urban District Council.

Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my First Annual Report. The importance of your work becomes year by year manifest and although in Country Districts the importance of Sanitary Work may not appear so important as in the towns, yet the latter have to look to the country for their real workers, strength of constitution and stamina.

The Country Districts year by year now show that they are the recruiting ground for the towns, and this in recent times has become more manifest.

Your work then must be of an important character, your efforts are directed to protect the child from its early birth to youth, manhood and old-age.

The whole of your work is directed to this end by providing pure air, pure water, wholesome food and healthy environment. It seems to me quite possible that science is so advancing that it may eventually prove that all real disease is preventable and acquired, and man and woman ought not to die except by natural process of wear and tear which is known as the senile state, senility being a natural cause of death.

Your work then has a noble end, the prevention of disease, with all its subsequent troubles, pain, suffering, poverty and death. Lack of health leads to lack of thought, often leading to intemperance and immorality.

Your work then is directed to acquire good and efficient water to those places which have not the advantage of it, fresh air, light, good and clean food, and the great problem is to acquire such in quantity with the least possible expenditure. Scientific progress demands this, and legislation has placed you in authority to carry such out, you are the machinery to this end.

To create a strong man or woman you must grow the healthy child, by education, fresh air, good wholesome water and clean clothing, then there is a definite power at work to grow a healthy and strong nation.

Area, 3,232 Statute Acres.
 Population in 1911, 1718.
 Estimated Population, 1541.

Birth Rate.

36 births were registered during the year.

MALES.—Legitimate 17.
 Illegitimate, 2.

FEMALES.—Legitimate, 12.
 Illegitimate, Nil.

Death Rate.

13 Deaths were notified during the year, giving a death rate of 8.1.

Deaths from all Causes	Male.	Female.
Bronchitis	1	2
Diphtheria and Croup.....	0	1
Organic Heart Disease.....	0	2
Pneumonia.....	2	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Congenital Debility.....	0	1
Suicide	1	0
Other defined diseases	2	0
	7	6
Death of Infants under one year of age (illegitimate).....		1
		1
	TOTAL	13

**Table showing Deaths from all causes
 at various ages:**

1 year or under.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	5-15 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 and upwards.	Total at all ages.
1	Nil.	Nil.	2	3	7	13

Table showing rates per 1,000 of population—with increase or decrease on previous years.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Epidemic Death Rate	Phthisis Death Rate	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 births.
1920.	19·3	8·1	0·62	Nil.	96
1919	18·0	12·9	Nil.	0·64	68
Mean of 10 year 1910-1919.	17·3	11·4	0·47	0·46	75
Increase or decrease in 1920 on previous year.	+1·3	-4·8	+0·62	-0·64	+28
Ten years' average.	+2·0	-3·3	+0·15	-0·46	+21

Infectious Diseases.

19 cases have been notified during the year. Diphtheria was the chief trouble; there being only 1 death which was complicated to lung, heart and kidney.

The source of infection was traced to a farm in Pilling Lane, and the disease was pretty well under control and further infection and mortality was prevented by free use of disinfectants and Anti-diphtheric Toxin.

There has not been any case of Small Pox notified, but many exemptions to vaccination have been given on conscientious grounds, it is fortunate for the district that it has been free from the infection.

1. Tuberculosis Pulmonary 2
2. Scarlet Fever 2
3. Diphtheria 11
4. Mumps 2
5. Measles 2

Drainage.

The sewerage of the District is conveyed into cesspools and tanks, and also into dykes, and ultimately empty themselves into the Lune and Wyre. The majority of sewage is conveyed into two large septic tanks, one for Preesall Village, and the other for Knott End, situated at Townfoot, Preesall, and Mr. Heald's farm respectively.

CESSPOOLS.—There are several of these in the district, and are not by any means a success, they have to be emptied periodically and are liable to leak, for my own part I should like to see them obsolete in this district for they are generally condemned by sanitarians.

SEPTIC TANKS.—There are several of these in the District ; in fact, all the modern houses have their sewage conveyed into them, firstly because they are permanent, secondly because they deal with the sewage more effectively, thirdly because the tank seldom requires cleaning out.

The sludge which collects is largely composed of mineral matter, as a result of fermentation a thick scum forms on the top of the sewage, varying from 2 to 12 inches in thickness.

I would strongly recommend the Sanitary Committee to have as many houses as possible use this method of dealing with sewage as it is undoubtedly the best in the absence of a District Sewage Scheme.

Water.

The majority of the District is supplied with fresh water by the Fylde Water Board, and a few farms have wells, but the latter are becoming extinct, one well I condemned as absolutely unfit for drinking water.

Nuisances.

This has been in the nature of offensive smells emanating from the Fish Meal Works at Fleetwood, however, improvement has taken place, thanks to the Medical Officer of Fleetwood.

Elementary Schools.

The sanitary conditions are quite good, there being ample floor space, ventilation, and light.

Each school should have water closets, which I expect will be put in sometime by the Lancashire Education Committee, as the present system is not by any means sanitary, the present closets should be emptied at night and not in the day.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

It has often been suggested by past Medical Officers that a nurse should be provided to advise the parents of children how to feed, nurse, and deal with children in a case of sickness and how to prevent them becoming sick, it has up to now received little or no attention, and I would urgently recommend the Councillors to consider the provision of a child welfare nurse.

Health visiting is done from Fleetwood by arrangement with the Fleetwood Urban District Council.

Housing of Working Classes.

This is becoming year by year more difficult in your District.

Many cottages are more or less overcrowded, some old and becoming run out, and yet little prospect of building new ones.

Reform is therefore slow and difficult and the removal of old cottage dwellings I fear rather increases the difficulties of such a District as yours by affording less dwelling accommodation therefore those cottages which should be condemned are to remain on account of the slow progress in building. The capitalist is not disposed to invest in cottage property.

There is no doubt that there is a general demand for cottages throughout your District and under such circumstances and where private enterprise fails two courses are open to you :

1. Insist as far as possible to put the present dwellings in a good sanitary state, both as to the dwelling and its surroundings.
2. To build houses as quickly as possible and let at a rental low enough as would appeal to the present salary of the working man.

I commend this subject to your careful thought and consideration as one materially affecting the present and future condition of your District.

There are too many married sons and daughters living with their parents in the District because they cannot get houses ; a condition of affairs which is lamentable in the extreme.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

S. A. NIELD-FAULKNER.

URBAN DISTRICT OF PREESALL.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1920.

Medical Officer of Health : S. A. NIELD-FAULKNER, salary as M.O.H., 31/12/1920, £30. Amount of Bonus, Nil. Is he a whole-time Officer? Part-time.

Inspector of Nuisances : G. WALLACE PROFITT, salary as Inspector, 31/12/1920, £45. Amount of Bonus, Nil. Is he a whole-time Officer? Part-time. If not, what other appointments does he hold? Surveyor to the Urban District Council.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation :—

For Small-pox—Fylde Joint, Moss Side. For other Infectious Diseases—Nil.

* Is it Joint or otherwise—Joint ; retaining fee paid and costs per head per patient.

* *If you have the joint use of Isolation Hospital belonging to some other Authority, state nature of "Agreement," or "Arrangement."* Is any Retaining Fee paid?

No of Beds available for *your* District ? For Small-pox, as required. For other Infectious Diseases, as required.

Disinfection { No of Houses disinfected ? Three ; Method (state disinfectant used) Formalin Spray and Fumigation.
Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis ? Yes ; (b) Measles ? No.
† Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise) ? Izal supplied free.
No of Articles disinfected ? Nil by Local Authority.
Where is Apparatus situated ? at Hospital and used if necessary.

† If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients *not* removed to the Hospital? No.

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out ; Disinfected on premises by tenants.

Are any Diseases notifiable other than those which are compulsorily notifiable (for instance Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, &c.) ? } No.

What Diseases have been specially prevalent ? Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Measles, Scarlatina. Period ? Vanis.

No. of times School Closure adopted for Scarlet Fever ; Nil. Whooping Cough ; Nil.

Diphtheria ; Nil. Chicken-pox , Nil.

Measles ; Nil. Influenza ; Nil.

Any other Diseases (specify same)

No. of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910 ?

Bacteriological Examinations. No. of Specimens examined : Blood, Nil ; Throat Swabs, 20 ; Sputum, Nil ;

Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Nil ; Milk, Nil ; Others, Nil ;

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept *within* the district ? Yes. If so, where ? M.O.H.
Amount used during 1920 ; 40.

"The Housing Acts 1890 to 1919."

Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article I of the Regulations of 2nd Sept., 1910? Yes.

Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article I (3) a list of dwelling-houses, the "early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H. desirable"? No.

Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake a special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Articles (II) and (III)? ... Yes.

What officer has been so designated? ... Inspector of Nuisances.

Have the necessary books, forms, &c., for keeping the required records been obtained? ... Yes.

Are these kept up-to-date? ... No.

Action taken in 1920 under the Housing Acts:—

(a) No. of Dwelling-houses + specially inspected during 1920 under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909, *i.e.*, with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation? ... None.

Have the particulars of these inspections, as specified in Article II. (1) to (8), and Article III. (1) to (8), of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, been fully recorded? ... None.

(b) * " Dwelling-houses inspected under (a) which are considered unfit for human habitation? ... None.

(c) * " Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders? ... None.

(d) * " Closing Orders made? ... None.

(e) " Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders? ... None.

(f) " Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders? ... None.

(g) " Dwelling-houses demolished? ... None.

General character of defects found to exist? ... None.

Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts, other than those inspected under (a) above. (Not including inspections re Nuisances, &c. See Note †.) None.

NOTE.—The above particulars are required to be included in Medical Officers' Annual Reports by the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations), 1910.

†Visits to houses for purposes other than the Housing Acts should not be included here.

*The particulars under (b), (c) and (d) should relate only to houses inspected under (a).

If your Authority has a Housing Scheme, state what stage had been reached on December 31st, 1920, giving information under the following headings :—

No. of Schemes Submitted.	No. of Lay-outs.		No. of Houses included in House Plans.		No. of Houses.	
	Submitted.	Approved.	Submitted.	Approved.	On which work has commenced.	Completed.
2	2	2	36	36	6	Nil.

No. of houses built during 1920 by private enterprise? Four.

Fylde Water Board.

Good.

Nil.

A few outlying Farmsteads not connected.

None.

Yes.

Source of Water Supply—

What is its condition?

Possibilities of contamination?

Any insufficiency, and where?

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year?

Are Scavenging and Removal of House

Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district?

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses?)	Contract.	
If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?	Day.	
How is the Refuse disposed of?	Tips.	
Has a Destructor been provided?	No.	If so, where?
Sewage Disposal Works. Method of Treatment?	Into Septic Tanks and Water-courses.	
What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year?	Defective.	Nil.
Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system?	Preesall Village and Park.	
Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.?	Drains flushed occasionally.	
Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams?		
Canal Boats: Number Inspected?		Number of Infringements of Acts?
What is the condition of the Bakehouses?	Good.	No. ? 2.
What is the condition of Slaughter-houses?	Structurally fairly good.	No. ? 2
What is the condition of Lodging-houses?	No. Registered ? Nil.	No. Licensed ? 2. Has a Public Abattoir been provided ? No.
What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools?	Nil.	No. ? Are they Registered ?
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected?	Structurally good but defective closet and urinal accommodation.	
	Not Systematically.	What is their condition ? Poor.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L. G. B. ?

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow ?

Cowkeepers ?

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers.)

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows ? Give particulars ?

Action taken (if any) as to tuberculosis milk ?

Yes.

Are they enforced ? No.

(a) Where cows are *not* habitually grazed ? 800 cubic feet.

Total No. of Cowkeepers ? 23. No. on Register ? 23. No. of Inspections during year ? None.

Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors ? None. No. on Register ? None. (other than Cowkeepers)

None.

None.

Inspection of Food —

Amount condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption—

(a) Tuberculosis carcasses and parts ?

(b) Diseases, unsound, or unwholesome meat (*other than above*) ?

(c) Other foodstuffs ?

State approximately the weight of carcasses and of parts—

(a) None.

(b) None.

(c) None.

No. of Legal Proceedings and result ?

Informal 12.

No. of Notices served ?

Statutory.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result ? None.

No. of Nuisances abated ? 12.

Notices served—Nuisances

Privy Middens :--No. of Middens ? 268. No. of Closets attached to these Middens ? 268.

No. of Pail Closets ? 126. No. of Dry Ashpits (*excluding Middens*) ? 52.

No. of Fresh Water Closets ? 93. No. of Portable Receptacles for refuse ? 32.

No. of Waste Water Closets ? Nil.

Closets and Ashpits	<p>No. of Privy Closets converted during 1920? { To Fresh W.C.'s None. To Waste W.C.'s None. To Pails, &c., None.</p> <p>No. of Pail Closets converted to { Fresh W.C.'s None. Waste W.C.'s None.</p> <p>No. of Waste W.C.'s converted to Fresh W.C.'s None.</p> <p>Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? No. If so, how much?</p> <p>What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? F. W.C.'s.</p>
Smoke	<p>No of observations? Nil.</p> <p>No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?</p> <p>What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?</p>
Has the Authority adopted—	<p>“ The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1896 ”? Yes.</p> <p>“ The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 ”? Part.</p> <p>“ The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ”? Yes.</p>
Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council? State whether whole or part time?	No.
Qualifications of Health Visitor?	None.
Has any, and if so, what action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work?	None.
Has any scheme been prepared in regard to the supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?	None.

	No.	How many District Nurses employed ?
<p>Is there a District Nursing Association in the District ?</p> <p>If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work ?</p> <p>If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work ?</p> <p>Does the Association undertake</p> <p>(a) *Midwifery cases ?</p> <p>(b) Monthly Nursing ?</p> <p>(*Attendances at confinement without a Medical Practitioner).</p>	No.	
<p>Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1920</p>	No.	
<p>Chief Sanitary requirements of District</p>		Efficient Sewerage and Drainage.

