

[Report 1917] / Medical Officer of Health, Todmorden R.D.C.

Contributors

Todmorden (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1917

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THE TODMORDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

May 1st, 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the Todmorden Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,—

The Local Government Board have again issued a circular to Health Officers curtailing in many respects the statistics and general information required in former reports. They have also again issued estimated figures from which the birth-rate and death-rate have to be calculated. The figure for calculating the birth-rate is fixed at 4309, and is an estimate of the total population based on the assumption that the ratio between the total and the civil populations is the same in this district as in England and Wales as a whole, and has been calculated by adding to the published estimates for the year 1914, the natural increase up to the middle of the year 1917. The estimate from which the death-rate is to be calculated is 3886, and is the civilian population of the district in 1917.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These are as follows, and for comparison I also append the rates for the years 1916 and 1915:

| | 1917. | 1916. | 1915. |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Birth rate | 10'6 | 12'7 | 14'9 |
| Death rate | 14'7 | 16'1 | 17'0 |
| Infant mortality rate | 130'4 | 114'7 | 72'4 |
| Zymotic rate | Nil | 1'1 | 4 |
| Tuberculous rate | 1'5 | 1'1 | 8 |
| Respiratory rate | 3'1 | 2'0 | 4'5 |
| Cancer rate | 1'5 | 2'0 | 4 |

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered was 46 (one of which was illegitimate), 25 males and 21 females, yielding a rate of 10'6 per 1000. In the five previous years the numbers were:

| |
|-----------------------------|
| 1916—61 with a rate of 12'6 |
| 1915—69 with a rate of 14'6 |
| 1914—77 with a rate of 16'6 |
| 1913—74 with a rate of 16'0 |
| 1912—90 with a rate of 19'4 |

Birth rate for England and Wales for 1917, 17'8.

DEATHS.

The total deaths recorded number 57 (26 males and 31 females), giving a death rate of 14'7 per 1000.

The death rate for England and Wales for the same period was 14'4.

In 1916 the deaths numbered 71, with a death rate of 16'1.

In 1915 the deaths numbered 79, with a death rate of 17'0.

In 1914 the deaths numbered 77, with a death rate of 16'6.

In 1913 the deaths numbered 77, with a death rate of 16'6.

In 1912 the deaths numbered 64, with a death rate of 13'8.

The classification of these deaths in the different age periods has not yet been furnished by the Local Government Board, and consequently is not included in this report.

The following is a list of the causes of death:

| | Males. | Females. |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Influenza | 1 | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 3 | 2 |
| Other tubercular diseases | 1 | 0 |
| Cancer | 1 | 5 |
| Rheumatic Fever | 0 | 1 |
| Heart Disease | 1 | 5 |
| Bronchitis | 1 | 3 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 4 | 4 |
| Nephritis | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital Debility | 2 | 0 |
| Other defined diseases | 11 | 9 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received during the year:—

Measles and German measles, 16.
Erysipelas, 2.
Scarlet fever, 11 (six treated at hospital).
Diphtheria, 2 (one treated at hospital).
Enteric fever, 1 (treated at hospital).
Tuberculosis, 8 (seven pulmonary, one glands of neck).

Four deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred out of the seven notified during the year, with an additional one notified in the previous year, making five deaths in all from this cause.

SCHOOLS.

The schools during the year have been very free from infectious diseases.

German measles appeared among the infants at Wadsworth School in the month of June, and a few cases of whooping cough occurred in Heptonstall and Wadsworth at the latter end of the year. Beyond the presence of these two diseases there is little or nothing to chronicle. I might also say that among the older children and adolescents infectious diseases were practically nil.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Six deaths took place in infants under one year of age from the following causes:—

Lung Diseases, three.
Prematurity, two.
Enlarged thymus, one.

This number is quite normal and satisfactory. The rates for the year were 130'4, compared with 114'7 for the previous year. The rate is higher than in 1916, and is regulated by the number of births during the year, which were considerably less than in the previous one.

WATER SUPPLY.

There have been no developments during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Ten additional houses on Charlestown Hill were connected to the main sewer, making the total number at the end of 1917 fifteen in all.

SCAVENGING.

Total annual cost £156 9s. 6d. as compared with £150 10s. 3d. in 1916.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

During the year 1917 475 inspections were made. Informal notices were served in 36 instances, and in each case complied with.

Total number of nuisances in hand at close of 1916, 1.

Total number of nuisances at close of 1917, nil.

Nuisances reported during 1917, 67.

Abated during 1917, 68.

WEATHER REPORT.

| | 1917. | 1916. | 1915. |
|------------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| Mean temperature | 45'017 | 44'42 | 52'58 |
| Rainfall | 38'24in. | 47'32 | 42'68 |

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) GARNET G. LAWSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

The Todmorden Rural District Council.

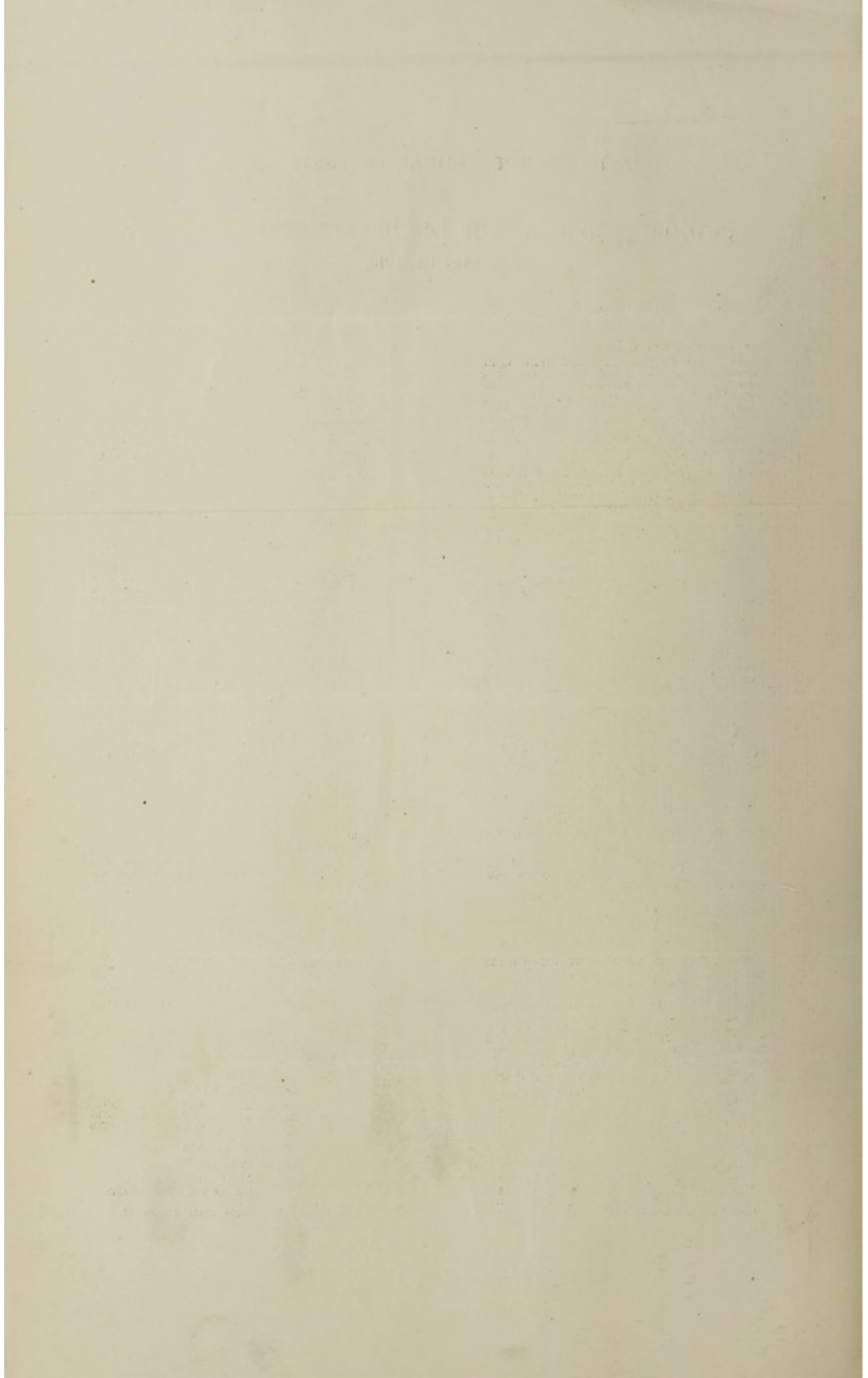


TABLE C.

Year 1917

Todmorden Rural.

Sanitary District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Any developments during 1917? No.
 Any insufficiency, and where? No.
 Any unsatisfactory quality, and where? No.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Any developments during 1917? 3 Water closets serving 10 houses in Woodland View
 Connection to Sewer Charlestown.
 Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers. More Branch Sewers at Charlestown.
 (b) Improvement of defective sewers. No defective Sewers.
 Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works } No.
 or complaints as to smells? }
 Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection? Unknown.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with open middens 23 No. of Pail or Tub Closets 539
 No. of Privies with covered middens 71 No. of Water Closets 119 Waste-water Closets Nil
 No. of Privies re-constructed during 1917 - (a) as w.c.'s 3 (b) other 1
 No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1917 - (a) w.c.'s Nil (b) other 1
 No. of Closets constructed in 1917 for new houses (a) w.c.'s Nil (b) other Nil

SCAVENGING.

Any change during 1917? Nil
 How is refuse disposed of (a) Destructor No (b) Tips Yes
 (c) Farmers Yes. Total annual cost £136. 9s 2d
 Is there any inadequacy, and where? Wadsworth.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1917 475.
 Informal Notices served 36 Complied with 36
 Statutory Notices served Nil Complied with Five { in hand
 in 1916
 Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1916 1 at close of 1916 Nil
 " " reported during 1917 67 abated during 1917 68
 " Summonses or other legal proceedings None.

| Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c. | No. in District. | No. on Register. | Total No. of Inspections made. | General Condition. | Legal Proceedings (if any). |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Common Lodging Houses | None | | | | |
| Canal Boats | | | Nil | | |
| Knackers Yards | None | | | | |
| Offensive Trades (Please specify kind). | | | | | |
| Tripe Boiler. | 1 | 1 | 14 | Satisfactory | Nil |

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, e.g., Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc.? No.
 Please give particulars.

SCHOOLS.—Statutory Medical Inspection is carried out by the County Education Authority in most of the Districts but that does not relieve the M.O.H. of his duties in regard to sanitation and the prevention of infectious outbreaks in connection with Schools.

No. of Visits to Schools..... 31.
Action taken..... None.

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts Nil No. adulterated Nil
No. " " " for bacteriological examination Nil
What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows? Nil
Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1917? No.
No. of Cowkeepers in district 246. No. Registered 246
No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers 34 No. who are Purveyors only 2 Total No. Regt'd 36
Total No. of Cowsheds 260 No. of Inspections in 1917 23 General Condition Fair
Approx. No. of Milch Cows in District 900 Any insufficiency in Milk Supply? No
Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders Nil
Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent? No

OTHER FOODS.

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. Nil No. adulterated Nil
for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts
No. of seizures of unsound food Nil Kind and quantity Nil No. of Prosecutions Nil
No. of Slaughter houses 3 No. Registered 3 Kind and Condition Fair.
No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs Nil (b) Unsound Food Nil (c) re Slaughter Houses Nil

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Any Smoke nuisance, and where? No.
No. of Smoke observations taken Nil No. of Cautions Nil Legal Notices Nil Summonses Nil

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Acts adopted during 1916—(Please state parts or sections) Nil
For Rural Districts { Any Urban Powers obtained in 1916? } Nil.

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Any adopted or revised during 1916—(Please attach copies) No
Are any other Byelaws needed? No

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1916? None
Any diseases specially added to notifiable list? No
Any influences threatening the health of the District? No

SPECIAL REPORTS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—Mention any subjects which have been specially investigated and reported on during the year.

Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.—*Procedure after notification* :—

- (1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop Yes → (2) Examination for contacts No.
 (3) Disinfection In all Fatal Cases Distribution of advice leaflets Yes
 (5) Action re spitting Notices (6) Shelters provided No (7) Is sputum examined? Yes
 (8) Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—Any suggestions No

BACTERIOLOGY.

Is County Laboratory utilized? Yes Any suggestions? No

INFANT MORTALITY.

Any suggestions.

What organised effort to control it? No one required
 Any Baby Clinic, Baby's Welcome, or Mother's League? Not excessive
 Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1916.....
 Any suggestions will be welcomed regarding }
 Maternity Centres and Infant Welfare }
 Schemes. }

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births during 1916—Males 25 Females 21 Total 46
 No. illegitimate included in above 1. No. of Still Births (not included) Not known.
 Deaths during 1916—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction 45
 (2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated { Males 26 Females 31 } 57
 No. of uncertified deaths (included above) Nil

MORTUARIES.

What Mortuary accommodation—(a) for accidents Nil
 (b) for infectious cases other than at Hospital Nil

SANITARY STAFF.

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.? £40.

| Name of Sanitary Inspector. | Annual Salary as Inspector. | Other appointments held. | Salary for such other appointments. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Edgar Simcox. | £65. | Highway Surveyor | £49 |

Any Assistants? No

Is Staff sufficient? Yes.

SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS as to Sanitary requirements of District, suggestions of M.O.H., and extended notes from any of the foregoing entries.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 19 .

No. of Houses inspected under Sec. 17 of 1909 Act..... NI 1 No. found unfit for habitation NI 1
 No. of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders NI 1 No. of Closing Orders made
 No. of Houses with defects remedied without Closing Orders NI 1
 No. of Houses made fit after Closing Orders made NI 1
 General character of defects found NI 1

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act ? NI 1
 Result of action (if any) NI 1

Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2) ? NI 1 Result NI 1
Re-construction Schemes.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act ? No

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act ? No
 Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Sec. 17 (7) ? No Any action in respect of such rooms ? No
 Any scarcity of houses, if so, where ? No

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where ? No
 No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1916 NI 1

Any special activity in house building, and where ? No
 Number of new houses built during 1916 (a) Working-class dwellings NI 1 (b) Other NI 1

Any working-class dwellings erected during 1916 by Sanitary Authority.—Please give number and type :— NI 1

Are Sanitary Authority contemplating erection of working-class dwellings ? Please give number and type :— NI 1

Town Planning :—Any scheme prepared during 1916 ? If so, give details No

Any scheme contemplated ? If so, for what area ? No

Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ? Edgar SIMOX.

Date..... MAY 1st, 1918.....
 Signed GARNET G. LAWSON.
 Medical Officer of Health.