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REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF
WALTON-LE-DALE,
FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
Urban District Council of Walton-le-Dale,
FOR THE YEAR 1908.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

My Annual Report for 1908, which I have now the pleasure of presenting, is drawn up on very similar lines to those which have preceded it.

It embraces a full analysis of the vital and mortal statistics of the Township; the different localities in which outbreaks of zymotic diseases occurred, the measures taken to prevent their spread, and a general survey of my Monthly Reports. Also the usual Forms required by the Local Government Board.

To these, I might add a desire on my part to follow the instructions laid down in the "Memorandum as to Annual Reports."

The summary of Medical Officer's Report attached to the end of the Report, embraces many of the subjects concerning which the Local Government Board desires to be informed, those which are not included in it I have entered in other parts of my Report. As a basis on which to build my calculations regarding the vital and mortal statistics, I have accepted the last Census Returns, which fixed the population at 11,271. I do not doubt that probably the population is higher than this estimate, but rather than work on lines of supposition, which could not be relied on as strictly accurate, I have adopted it. The records for the past year gave 312 births and 170 deaths.

Of the births, 161 were males and 151 females. Last year, 325 births were recorded, or 13 more than in 1908.

The illegitimate births numbered four, one male and three females.

The birth-rate corresponded to 27·6 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with a rate of 28·8 last year, 26·0 in 1906, 23·8 in 1905, and an average of 26·6 for the 10 years 1898 to 1907. The deaths, as I mentioned previously, numbered 170, including 3 in Public Institutions outside the Township and belonging thereto; of these, 89 were males and 81 females.

Two deaths took place of illegitimate children under the age of one year. The excess of births over deaths gives a natural increase of 142.

The death-rate, 15·0 per 1,000 of the population, I am pleased to say, is lower than it was the preceding year by 0·9; and, as that also was low, we may view with satisfaction this slight but steady improvement. In 1906, the rate was 15·7; in 1905, 15·0; in 1904, 18·3; and for the decenninal period 1898 to 1907, it has averaged 15·6.

Supposing, as is practically certain, that environment and various forms of employment play an active part in the raising or lowering of the death-rate, we may certainly consider even a slight reduction in our death-rate as satisfactory, because a large proportion of the population of our Township spends much of their lives in workshops and factories, inhaling dust and other impurities; often suffering in consequence from respiratory affections.

This improvement is helped by the measures taken in recent years to improve the conditions under which the work-people must pursue their employments.

Under the age of 1 year 51 deaths took place ; 1 year and under 5, 20 deaths ; 5 years and under 15, 1 death ; 15 years and under 25, 5 deaths ; 25 years and under 65, 60 deaths ; 65 years and upwards, 33 deaths ; of the latter deaths 1 died aged 66 years, 4 at 67, 1 at 68, 3 at 69, 2 at 71, 3 at 72, 1 at 73, 2 at 74, 2 at 75, 1 at 76, 2 at 77, 1 at 78, 1 at 79, 1 at 81, 2 at 82, 2 at 83, 1 at 85, 1 at 86, 1 at 87, and 1 at 90.

The deaths above 65 years were 20 less than in 1907, and the maximum age was six years higher than in the previous year.

The following list gives you the number of deaths recorded each month : in January, 19 ; in February, 17 ; in March, 7 ; in April, 14 ; in May, 9 ; in June, 10 ; in July, 13 ; in August, 16 ; in September, 10 ; in October, 12 ; in November, 23 ; and in December, 17 ; the remaining other deaths were in Institutions outside the Township. On Table IV. will be seen the principal causes of death : from measles 9, enteritis 9, phthisis 7, other tuberculous diseases 7, cancer 9, bronchitis 13, pneumonia 15, premature birth 13, and heart disease 17.

The phthisis death-rate was 0·62, or 0·44 per 1,000 below the rate recorded in 1907 ; in 1906 it equalled 0·88.

These deaths occurred : 2 in Walton-le-Dale, 1 in School Lane, 2 in Higher Walton, 1 at Preston Junction, and 1 at Brownedge.

Distributed as these deaths are, it is quite impossible to attribute their cause to any one particular or predisposing agent, such, for instance, as dampness ; air rendered impure by the product of combustion or respiration ; moisture of the soil, or to the difference in any particular form of food ; all lived and laboured under very similar conditions.

The localities in which two deaths each occurred, Higher Walton and Walton-le-Dale, are situated on a permeable soil, which is supposed to afford the greatest immunity from this disease.

In 1907 there were 12 deaths from this disease, four of which took place in Walton-le-Dale and three in Higher Walton, the same portions of the Township in which two deaths each occurred during the past year.

In the event of a death from phthisis, every effort is made to disinfect the rooms occupied by the deceased, and as it is known that the spores may be found in the walls of rooms occupied by phthisical patients, it is advised not only to disinfect the rooms, but also to remove the wall papers.

The deaths from respiratory diseases, including bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, also produced a more favourable rate than in the preceding year, viz., 2.48 against 3.72.

The seasonal curve, to use a technical phrase, points to the prevalence of these diseases during the colder months, more especially is this to be observed in the case of pneumonia. Statistics everywhere show that more persons are attacked in the winter and spring than in the summer and autumn.

Grouping these three diseases together, this statement is well exemplified in your Township.

Out of a total of 28 cases, 9 occurred in January and February, and 13 in October, November, and December, leaving only 6 for the remaining seven months of the year.

In the infantile mortality I regret to say a considerable increase was recorded; 51 deaths took place among children under the age of one year against 32 in 1907.

The rate, calculated per 1,000 births, equalled 163; while last year it was only 98, the lowest recorded since 1889. The average was 139 in 1906, 144 in 1905, 179 in 1904, and for the ten years, 1898 to 1907, 138.

Nine deaths took place during the first week of life, 3 in the second week, 8 in the third week, under three months 28 deaths were recorded, and 40 under the age of six months. Thirteen deaths were due to premature birth, 6 to debility, 6 to convulsions, 5 to bronchitis, and 5 to enteritis.

Under the new classification, 15 deaths are attributed to the principal epidemic disease, giving a rate of 1.33 per 1,000, exactly the same as last year, when 6 deaths from enteritis were included and classified as diarrhœa.

Measles contributed 9 deaths, diarrhœa 4 deaths, and enteric fever 2 deaths. Five of the deaths from measles occurred in Bamber Bridge and 4 in School Lane.

From diarrhœa 2 occurred in Bamber Bridge, 1 in Gregson Lane, and 1 in Higher Walton; both the deaths from typhoid fever took place in the Isolation Hospital. The infantile death-rate, as compared with that of 1907, is to be regretted, but the great difficulty is, how is this heavy mortality of infant life to be overcome?

Thousands of medical practitioners are day by day doing their utmost to instruct ignorant or careless mothers in the ordinary rudiments of infantile hygiene, which embraces feeding, warmth, cleanliness, and non-exposure to infection. We have also the services of the lady health visitors appointed by the Corporations of many of our towns, and the direct aid and advice of district nurses, all given in the same cause; surely in time we may hope to see the effect of these agencies for good in the wished for result of an improvement in our deplorable infantile death-rate.

Under "The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889," 24 cases were notified, against 61 in the last year; 15 of these were typhoid fever, 5 scarlatina, and 4 erysipelas. The portions of the Township in which they occurred are the

following:—7 cases of typhoid fever occurred in Bamber Bridge, 1 of erysipelas, and 1 of scarlatina; 2 of typhoid fever in School Lane; 3 of typhoid fever in Lostock Hall, and 2 of scarlatina; 1 of erysipelas in Hoghton Lane; 2 of typhoid fever in Walton-le-Dale, 1 of erysipelas, and 2 of scarletina; 1 of erysipelas in Higher Walton; 1 of typhoid fever in Kellett Lane, or a total of infectious cases of 9 for Bamber Bridge, 2 for School Lane, 5 for Lostock Hall, 1 for Hoghton Lane, 5 for Walton-le-Dale, 1 for Higher Walton, and 1 for Kellett Lane. Bamber Bridge has again regained its old reputation of having the highest number of infectious cases. From the distribution of these cases and the numerous centres of infection, it is quite impossible to arrive at any definite cause for these outbreaks, excepting of course the theory that all of them owe their origin to a particular form of microbial life, in most instances peculiar to each form of disease, yet the difficulty is to ascertain how these forms of life spring into active operation in the most unlikely and healthy portions of the Township.

In my Report for last year I mentioned that the improvements which I had suggested for Lostock Hall had not been carried out; this year quite a transformation has taken place; the streets that were at that time a perfect quagmire have been well paved, quite changing the character of the place, and this improvement has been, in my opinion, the means of reducing the number of infectious cases from 26 in 1907 to 5 during the past year.

With the marked decrease in infectious cases, viz., from 61 in 1907 to 24 in the past year, it is only natural to infer that the Infectious Hospital would have a smaller number of patients. Such has been the case. In 1906 there were 26 patients treated in it, in 1907 there were 15, and in 1908 only 6. One of these had remained in Hospital from 1907, and was suffering from scarlatina; so in reality only 5 fresh cases were admitted, all were typhoid fever patients and all were males.

Two deaths occurred; 1 of the typhoid fever patients relapsed four times and spent 168 days in hospital, when he left cured.

The number of days in hospital amounted to 379.

The Hospital is kept beautifully clean, well aired, thoroughly fumigated when a ward becomes empty, and is at all times ready for the reception of patients. I state this from my personal knowledge, as I frequently inspect the Hospital.

The same remarks may be made respecting the Small-Pox Hospital.

Several nuisances have been brought under my notice and have received prompt attention.

The first which I shall mention is that set forth in my report for the month of June. My attention was then called to the insanitary condition of some of the closets connected with some of the houses in Collins Row, Bamber Bridge; some of these houses are supplied with water closets and are in good order, others are on the pail system, and amongst these the nuisance is to be found; there appears to be some difficulty in emptying the pails, so they are left for such a length of time that the contents overflow, and in this way give rise to the nuisance complained of. I would suggest that the pails be done away with and water closets substituted.

On the 22nd July, I received a letter from a shop-keeper complaining that he had repeatedly requested the Authorities to empty his ashpit, but said they had not done so. I had an interview with him and ascertained he was putting refuse into the pit contrary to your order. I placed his letter of complaint before you.

With your inspector, Mr. Leigh, on the 20th November, I inspected Main Farm, Walton-le-Dale; the farmyard and surroundings were in a most insanitary condition; the farmer keeps a large number of pigs. On the date of my visit he informed me he has 64; 14 boars and 16 sows he keeps for breeding purposes. These are fed on diseased meat he brings to the farm after the beasts (cows and horses), have been slaughtered.

The young pigs are not given any of the meat. The boars are kept in a large inclosure with a sty slightly raised about the ground. The inclosure is filled with manure over which the animals walk about up to their bellies in semi-liquid filth. The styes occupied by the young pigs have no drains; the cess-pool situated in the middle of the yard was full, with the result that all the drains that empty into it had backed up, flooding the place. There was a dead cow in one of the stalls that had died from tuberculosis. The dairy is a dark, damp cellar, and in no way adapted for the purpose.

I have at regular intervals made inspections of different parts of your Townships, and where I have observed nuisances have pointed these out to the occupiers, who have in most instances attended to my directions and so saved formal reports.

On the occurrence of infectious outbreaks, I have visited the localities and taken the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection.

In several of my Monthly Reports I have drawn attention to the condition of many of the back yards connected with cottage property. These defects still call for urgent attention. In your Township a very large proportion of the cottages is still supplied with petties and ashpits. It is hardly necessary to mention what foul smells and insanitary conditions they give rise to; and in very many instances they are bitterly complained about by the people living in these cottages. Such

conditions as these must very seriously affect the health of the people, and cry aloud for redress. While on this subject, I have in my mind a row of cottages, some 16 in number, where similar conditions prevailed. The row was seldom clear of sickness of an infectious character, chiefly erysipelas and follicular affections of the throat; by my advice you changed the petties into water closets, some three or four years ago, with the happiest results. These and a few other instances I could mention, but the steady improvement in the health and lowered death-rate tell their own story.

During the year I have been obliged to take steps to stay the progress of infectious disease, which, in my opinion, is not attended with the success commensurate with the inconvenience suffered by parents and teachers and the educational disadvantages to the children. I refer to the custom of closing schools.

In adopting these measures, all the regulations have been stringently observed. In all of these cases I was informed by the schoolmasters of the early spread of disease, as well as a list of the children's names and residences. The first school closed during the year was the Infant School, Brownedge. This step was rendered necessary because of an outbreak of measles. I closed the school for 17 days from the 19th June. The second was the Girls' School, Brownedge, from the 26th June to the 13th July (17 days), also for an outbreak of measles. Then, on the 4th July, it was necessary to close the Wesleyan School, Bamber Bridge, because of the spread of measles; it was closed from the 4th to the 24th July (20 days). This brought the closure up to the beginning of the summer holidays. The total number attending this school is 175, from whom 30 were absent owing to this disease. On July 4th I closed the Boys' School, Brownedge, to the 24th instant, because of the same disease. The usual number attending the school is 132, with 34 absent because of measles.

On the same date, because the epidemic was not abating, I ordered the Infant and Girls' Schools at Browndge to be kept closed till the 24th inst.

On the 24th July, St. Andrew's School, School Lane, was closed for 27 days because of measles; 70 scholars were absent out of a total of 226.

On the 15th July, I visited St. Saviour's School, Bamber Bridge, and gave an order for its closure because of measles; in the infant portion, out of a total of 81 on the register, 43 were absent. In the large room, with 176 on the books, 57 were absent; and on November 28th, I was obliged to close the Lostock Hall Council School because of a fresh outbreak of measles; 56 children were absent out of a total of 352, or a percentage of 14. As the rate of sickness was heavy, I closed the school for 27 days. From this date to the end of the year I heard no more of the disease. Measles not being a notifiable disease in your Township, I am placed at a disadvantage as to the progress it may make. The epidemic was confined to School Lane, Bamber Bridge, Browndge, and Lostock Hall.

I quite agree with the view taken by many Authorities that the closing of schools is a very serious step, and must at least retard the progress of the children in their educational work; at the same time I believe it is more likely to be attended with success than the alternative procedure of excluding children from attendance at school who come from infected homes. The whole question is a very difficult one, and especially in our thickly-populated centres. The excluded children out of school hours all play together, and in infectious diseases readily transmit infection from one person to another.

At the beginning of the year, during the months of February and March, your Township was severely visited by an epidemic of influenza, causing in many instances respiratory and neurotic complications, indeed I believe I am correct in saying the Township was never quite clear of the disease during the entire year, sporadic cases were constantly occurring.

Year after year I have mentioned in my reports that the length of canal in your Township is very short, and little if any use is made of it. Numbers of the old houses in your Township have been pulled down and new ones erected to replace them; these latter are of a better class and are more commodious. All the same, the modern house built for the operative is not a good one; it is run up in a "jerry" style, is not built on concrete, has inefficient damp stops, thin walls that do not protect from variations of temperature, poor joiner's work, and only half of those erected during the year are supplied with bath rooms.

All the factories in the Township have (with one exception and that is now receiving the attention of your Board), been brought up to modern sanitary requirements.

I have not received any complaints from the Inspector, and had he or she observed any sanitary defect which ought to come under my official notice they would have apprised me of the matter forthwith.

Mr. Leigh, your inspector, has supplied me with a summary of work carried out in his department. Forty-eight new houses have been erected; 41 of these have water closets; the remaining 7 have been placed on the pail system, and 22 have baths. 17,671 ashpits were emptied and cleaned; 47,164 pails were emptied; 65 ashpits have been abolished; 59 converted into water closets, and 6 into pails; 67 ashpits are at present under notice to be abolished; 54 notices for the abatement of nuisances have been served; 10 houses were fumigated, and 23 parcels of bedding disinfected. During the warm weather last autumn, the Council's workmen disinfected all sinks and yard gullies in the Township by my instructions.

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. TRIMBLE, M.D.

TABLE I.
WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1908 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.*					
1898	11733	351	29.2	53	150	189	15.2	..	..	..	189	15.2
1899	11733	315	26.8	50	158	202	17.2	..	..	..	202	17.2
1900	11733	333	28.3	68	204	235	20.0	..	..	..	235	20.0
1901	11271	274	24.3	29	103	129	11.0	..	..	..	129	11.0
1902	11271	310	27.5	31	100	162	14.4	..	..	..	162	14.4
1903	11271	300	26.6	32	106	159	14.1	..	..	..	159	14.1
1904	11271	289	25.6	52	179	207	18.3	..	..	..	207	18.3
1905	11271	269	23.8	39	144	170	15.0	..	..	..	170	15.0
1906	11271	294	26.0	41	139	177	15.7	3	1	2	178	15.7
1907	11271	325	28.8	32	98	180	15.9	1	..	..	180	15.9
Averages for years 1898-1907	10409	306	26.6	42	138	181	15.6	..	..	..	181	15.6
1908	11271	312	27.6	51	163	170	15.0	2	..	..	170	15.0

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,658.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1901, 11,271; number of inhabited houses, 2,550;

Average number of persons per house, 4½.

TABLE II.

Particulars given on Table I.

TABLE III.

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	At all Ages.	Deaths in Hospital of Patients re- moved from this District.
Erysipelas	4	...
Scarlet Fever	5	...
Enteric Fever	15	2
Total	24	2

The Ages are not given on the Notification Form.
Isolation Hospital, School Lane.

TABLE IV.

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN COUNCIL.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Measles	9	2	7	..	..	..	..
Fever—Enteric	2	..	..	..	..	2	2
Epidemic Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diarrhœa	4	3	1	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	9	7	1	..	..	1	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	7	..	..	..	1	6	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	7	3	4	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	..	..	..	..	8	1
Bronchitis	13	5	..	..	..	4	4
Pneumonia	15	3	3	..	1	7	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	3	..	..	..	..	1	2
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	13	13	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	2	..	..	..	..	2	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	17	1	..	..	3	10	3
Heart Diseases	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidents	2	..	..	..	..	..	1
Suicides	55	14	4	1	..	1	1
All other Causes .....	..	..	..	..	..	16	20
All Causes	170	51	20	1	5	60	33
							2

TABLE V.
WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1908. Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES—													
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
DIARRHOEAL DISEASES—													
Diarrhoea, all forms .....	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh .....	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	5
WASTING DISEASES—													
Premature Birth	5	2	5	12	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	13
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	2	1	1	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
TUBERCULOUS DISEASES—													
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
OTHER DISEASES—													
Meningitis <i>not tuberculous</i> .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Convulsions	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	6
Bronchitis .....	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	5
Pneumonia .....	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	3
Other Causes	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
	9	3	8	20	2	6	3	6	3	3	3	5	51

Population—Census, 11,271. Births in the year, legitimate, 308; illegitimate, 4; total, 312.
Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 49; illegitimate infants, 2; total, 51. Deaths from all causes at all ages, 170.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1908, for the Urban District of Walton-le-Dale, on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries)	None.		
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 of this Report)			
Total			

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			No. of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>	None.			
Want of cleanliness.....				
Want of ventilation.....				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors.....				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient				
{ unsuitable or defective..				
{ not separate for sexes...				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report.)				
Total				

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SE					
	Lists Received from Employers.					
	Sending twice in the Year.			Sending once in the Year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Contractors.	Workmen.		Contractors.	Workmen.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel—						
(1) Making, &c. ...						
(2) Cleaning and washing						
Lace, lace curtains and nets...						
Artificial flowers ...						
Nets, other than wire nets ..						
Tents						
Sacks						
Furniture and upholstery ...						
Fur pulling						
Feather sorting						
Umbrellas, &c....						
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c...						
Paper bags and boxes...						
Basket making... ..						
Brush making						
Racquet and tennis balls ...						
Stuffed toys						
File making						
Electro-plate						
Cables and chains						
Anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches, and keys ...						
Pea picking						
Total... ..						

No

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.		38
	Total number of workshops on Register.....	38

WORK.

				Inspections of Outworkers' premises.	OUTWORK IN UN- WHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES, SECTIONS 109, 110.		
Outworkers	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.	Prosecutions.			Instances.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110).	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110).
Forwarded to other Councils.		Failing to keep or permit inspection of Lists.	Failing to send Lists.							
(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
the Town ship.										

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred to by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) {	Notified by H.M. Inspector
Other	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector.....
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year.....	

ROBERT TRIMBLE, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1908.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF WALTON-LE-DALE.—Area in statute acres, 4,685; Population (Census) 1901, 11,271; Population (Estimated) 1908, 11,271; Name of Medical Officer of Health, ROBERT TRIMBLE; Salary, £50.

Births Registered - Male 161, Female 151, Total 312.

Deaths Registered (Nett deaths belonging to the District—Male 89, Female 81, Total 170.

Number of Illegitimate Births Registered—4.

Deaths of Illegimates under one year of age—2.

Birth Rate 27·6. Death Rate 15·0. Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1,000 Births 163.

Death Rate from the seven principal Epidemic Diseases per 1,000 of Population 1·33.

Diseases prevalent?—Chiefly Influenza and Measles. Period?—Almost all the year.

What action taken?—None. Any Schools closed?—9. If so, for what disease?—Measles.

What is the character of Hospital Accommodation?—For Small-Pox Eight Beds; for other Infectious Diseases could accommodate 20 cases.

Is it Joint or otherwise?—Belongs to this Authority.

Number of Beds available for your District?—For Small-Pox 8; for other Infectious Diseases 20.

Number of cases removed from your District?—Small Pox none, Diphtheria none, Scarlet Fever none, Enteric Fever 5, Total 5.

Deaths in Hospital?—Two from Typhoid Fever.

How is Disinfection carried out?—Houses, Fumigated; Clothing, Bedding, &c., in Chamber; Apparatus used?—Hot Air Chamber; Where situated?—Bamber Bridge.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified?—24.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, &c.)? If so, what are they?—No.

Has any arrangement been made for the "voluntary" notification of Phthisis?—No.

Is Diphtheritic Anti-Toxin supplied to Medical Practitioners free of charge?—Have not heard.

Action taken under "The Housing of the Working Classes Acts"—No. of Houses condemned?—None. Closed?—None. Demolished?—None. Made habitable?—10.

From where is the Water Supply obtained? What is its condition? Is it subject to your inspection?—From deep well at Brindle and Thirlmere mixed. Well water hard, but softened and mixed with Thirlmere, makes it good for all purposes.

Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily?—Yes.

By Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses?—Contract and Authority.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—To Agriculturists for Farms and Gardens.

Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal?—Council Sewage Works.

Canal Boats :—Number Inspected &c. ?—Only very short length in Township. When used only for carriage of manure.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses?—In good order.

What is the condition of the Slaughter-houses?—Clean. Has a Public Abattoir been provided?—No.

What is the condition of the Lodging-houses?—None in Township.

What is the sanitary condition of the Schools?—Very good now.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. No Milkshops in the Township.

What is their condition?—Good.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.?—Yes. Are they enforced?—Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow? An unlimited supply in almost all instances.

Food unfit for Human Consumption: Amount seized?—One lot from a shop at Lostock Hall.

Department of Inspector of Nuisance—

No. of Notices served?—67.

Nuisances remedied?—33.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—One, got verdict.

Closet accommodation of the District—

No. of Privy Middens?—Cannot say.

Pail Closets?—Don't know.

Fresh Water Closets?—Don't know.

Waste Water Closets?—Don't know.

No. of Privy Middens converted during 1908.—To w.c.'s, 59; to Pails, &c., 6.

Smoke—

No. of Observations?—None.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result?—None.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—Never interfered with.

Has the Authority adopted—

“The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890”?—Yes.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890”?—Yes.

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907”?—Yes.

“The Notification of Births Act, 1907”?—No.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1908?—All mentioned in body of Report; nothing very striking, yet steady improvement from year to year.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District?—I think we should have a Destructor.