

Contributors

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Urban District Council of Walton-le-Dale,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

STATEMENT BEARING ON THE GEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is roughly quadrangular in shape, having an average width from east to west of some $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and from north to south $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the surface sloping generally from south-east to north-west.

In the south-east the ground rises to a height of some 280 feet above sea level, whilst at the north-west it is as low as 25 feet or so above the same datum.

About two miles of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble, which is tidal, and in the bed of which an outcrop of red sandstone (Triassic) is seen.

The River Darwen flows through a comparatively deep valley in the northern portion of the district, joining the Ribble on the northern boundary.

The geological surface consists almost entirely of boulder clay, beneath which lie drift sands and gravel, and under these again the Triassic sandstones.

The following adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Regulations are in force in the Area administered by the Urban District Council :—

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, except
Section 14.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts I.,
III., and IV.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II., III., and V., and Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68 of Part IV.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part VIII. (Fire Brigade).

Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, Scavenging, Nuisances, Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in lodgings, Slaughter-houses, and Public Sanitary Conveniences.

It is impossible to avoid less or more repetition in the subject matter of a Report from year to year, in order to comply with the regulations of the Ministry of Health bearing on the compiling of Annual Statements concerning the health conditions of the district. The position in Walton-le-Dale varies little. We are a population mostly employed in the cotton industry, although two or three engineering works find work for a limited number of men. The remainder of the population are farmers engaged mostly in producing milk, which they convey and sell in Preston or distribute within the township. Market gardening occupies the attention of a few inhabitants. Our people are representative of the type found in other Lancashire Urban Areas, and it can be safely said they are industrious and sober living; many are thrifty with a strong desire to get on in the world and provide for their old age. They do not migrate, and it is to be recorded that numerous families have for well into the second century lived in Walton-le-Dale. Up to recent years, there was not much disposition to see the world, and as an example, one old lady who lived to four score years never travelled in a train and never saw Preston, which is three miles away.

The abolition of half-time employment was at first much criticised by those parents whose circumstances were not good, but now one hears little comment. Surely in the interests of physical development and educational advantages, 14 years of age is early enough to launch a boy or girl into the vortex of cotton mill life and other industrial employment. If we are to make good and build up a virile race, we must begin by producing healthy infants and afterwards taking

care that these are reared in healthy surroundings and receive constant care. I would in no sense relieve a mother and father of their responsibilities towards their families, but up to now I do not consider our working people have had much chance to acquire the knowledge of how to rear their children. They lack information in this respect, and resent any interference with their family affairs. The importance of child welfare work has not yet fully come home to them, and it will require some time and effort to reap the fruits of what is now being done. I am very optimistic; it may take a few years to instil the importance of this work, but this task will be accomplished. Let me very briefly enumerate what is done at the present time. The health of the expectant mother is supervised and, if necessary, milk is supplied to her. The birth of the child is notified within 36 hours. The Welfare Nurse visits and gives advice. Milk and cream can be ordered. Supervision is carried on by means of Welfare Centres; cheap or free infant food is supplied. Free vaccination is offered, but often refused or evaded on the ground of conscience. School medical supervision is coupled with School Clinics. Free education (Primary and Secondary) with a supply of food in necessitous cases. Physical training during school years; medical examination prior to industrial employment, coupled with medical advice and supervision in unhealthy and dangerous trades. The provision of the Panel Medical Service, and now the boy or girl is at marriageable age, and so the wheel turns round. All this care, attention, and supervision is practically free—the Nation's effort to raise a virile race.

The Walton-le-Dale Council have always been progressive. To this end the township is sewered, lighted, has an excellent and ample water supply, is scavenged (by the Council), provides two Isolation Hospitals (one for Small-pox and the other for Infectious Diseases), and I believe the near future will see the provision of additional houses, which are much needed.

The Poor Rate during 1920 realised £154 19s. 3d. This compares with £97 7s. 6d. in the preceding year.

The Sanitary Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health, one Sanitary Inspector, together with men detailed from the Council's workmen to carry out the conveying of patients to Hospital, disinfection of infected houses, bedding and clothing. Medical and surgical treatment is provided at the Preston Royal Infirmary. Admission to this Institution is by permit; it is also always available to cases of sudden illness or accident.

To the Chairman and Members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

As your Medical Officer of Health, I have now the opportunity and pleasure of presenting you with a Report covering the year 1920. This statement I intend to frame on the lines of the Report I wrote for the preceding year, and so far as I know there is nothing beyond the usual routine procedure to draw your attention to. You as a Council have always before you the health and well-being of the inhabitants of Walton-le-Dale, and on no occasion have I ever brought to your notice any matter of importance that I have not received your undivided assistance. Throughout the year you have received from me and the Sanitary Inspector Monthly Statements showing the work accomplished and suggestions as to matters of urgency, together with the tendering of advice necessary in carrying out the sanitary detail of the Area. I have been present at all these meetings.

As a community we have not shaken off the effects of the late war. Many who participated in active service are lethargic. We are shaken and have not in over two years gathered way to enable us to proceed and look at circumstances in pre-war ways. Life is yet strenuous, and although remuneration for work done has vastly increased, the general cost of living, the meeting of enormous tastes, and other outgoings render life anxious to a great proportion of the population. There is a stream of those who desire work and another of those who want to avoid it, a shifty rather turbulent sea of uncertainty pervades the general life, which clogs the wheels of energy and resourcefulness. No doubt all this will evaporate in time and leave us more normal and happy.

To summarise some useful points dealt with I briefly introduce a few :—

- (a) Birth-rate corresponding to 24·7 per 1,000 of the estimated population, an increase of no less than 9·3 on last year's rate and 6·0 higher than the 10 years' average. The highest rate recorded since 1910.
- (b) Death-rate, corrected, of 12·9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a fraction higher than last year, but below the 10 years' average.
- (c) Epidemic death-rate 0·66, against 0·68 last year.
- (d) Infant mortality rate, 63 per 1,000 registered births, against 85 per 1,000 last year and an average of 106 for the preceding 10 years.

- (e) Housing.—The carrying out of the Council's Scheme to provide houses when the outlay on such work can be accomplished at a reasonable cost.
- (f) The second survey of the district now in progress.
- (g) Reports of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor attached.

WATER SUPPLY.

It was decided to abandon the Brindle Pumping Station. The grounds on which action was based were:—The small quantity of water to be procured at that site, its hardness, and the excessive cost as compared with the quantity of water obtained. The two sources of supply now available are:—

- (a) The School Lane Station.
- (b) Thirlmere.

The water pumped at School Lane has an original hardness of 30 degrees, this is reduced by softening to 10 degrees, except at such times when the necessary re-agents are unobtainable.

The water delivered to the mains during the year ending the 31st December, 1920, was:—

(1) School Lane	...	...	57,934,000	gallons.
(2) Thirlmere	...	...	26,558,000	„
(3) Brindle	...	...	16,956,000	„
Totals	...	...	101,448,000	„

Assuming the population to be 13,000, this quantity of water means a supply of 21·3 gallons per head per day.

The quality of the water is most excellent.

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF DWELLING HOUSES AT END OF YEAR 1920.

Ward.	Year ending 1919.	Houses built and occupied 1920.	Houses not fit for occupation and not occupied made fit and occupied.	Total.	Houses in course of erection.
St. Leonard's	682	2	...	684	...
Lostock Hall, West	786	...	...	786	...
Bamber Bridge, East	780	...	2	782	4
All Saints' ...	560	3	...	563	2
	2808	5	2	2815	6

The Table indicates that five houses were built and occupied during the year 1920, and, in addition, six houses are in process of being built. It is a matter for regret that more private activity has not been displayed in this direction, but it appears that to the contractor the proposition does not pay and the private individual cannot entertain the cost of building a house for himself, even with the assistance of the Government subsidy.

The number of houses supplied with water within the township of Walton-le-Dale is as follows :—

On Rateable Value—

Houses	...	...	...	...	2617
Farms	...	...	...	...	35
Clubs	...	...	...	...	4
Other Properties, such as Workshops, Churches, Slaughter-houses, Drill Hall, Hospitals, &c.					16
					<hr/> 2672

Supplied by Meter—

Farms	...	...	...	...	48
Schools	...	...	...	...	11
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	27
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	3
Mills, Workshops, Private Houses, &c.	86
					<hr/> 175

Total property in the township supplied with water	<hr/> 2847 <hr/>
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There are 60 horses at 8/- each and 110 cows at 3/- each per annum now charged and paid for on the Water Rate Book.

The Council also supplies water by meter outside the district to the townships of Brindle and Cuerden.

SCAVENGING.

The removal of refuse and thorough scavenging of any area is a matter of great importance. There should be no half measures in carrying out this work, and I am glad to be able to record the fact that there is increased efficiency in this department of the Council's work ever since the Council took over this responsibility by placing their Surveyor in charge and doing the work with their own men and horses.

The process of scavenging is each year receiving assistance through the conversion of privies and bogs and pail closets to water carriage. The contents of ashpits, &c., is dealt with by means of "tips." Although not an ideal method, yet it is the only one available in the absence of a "Destructor." These highly expensive appliances are not possible in these days of enormous rates. So far as my knowledge goes, we have no complaints against our "tips"; of their kind, these are good.

A very considerable amount of useful work has been carried out with regard to the emptying and cleansing of conveniences, ash-pails, and ashpits. The figures for the year are :—

No. of privies emptied and cleansed	...	216
No. of excreta pails emptied and cleansed...	49,660	
No. of ashpails emptied	...	88,192
No. of ashpits emptied	...	1,815

It is of some interest to note the number of ashpits abolished by the introduction of galvanised iron pails. The Table here given records the numbers since 1912. It is very important that, wherever possible, a receptacle capable of being frequently emptied should replace the old-fashioned insanitary ash midden. These formed one of the great fly producing sources, amongst other evil effects.

Number of Ashpits abolished and replaced by Galvanised Iron Ashpails in recent years.

1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1919.	1920.	TOTAL.
75	118	126	80	7	24	61	491

REFUSE RECEPTACLES IN USE IN 1920.

At the end of 1920, there were 1698 ashpails in use, equal to 61 per cent. ; ashpits, 933, equal to 33 per cent. ; and 184, or 6 per cent., outlying farm houses where the refuse is disposed of by the tenants. The future should enable further use of ashpails, with the corresponding reduction in ashpits. Unquestionably the area is becoming more sanitary, and I will continue to advise and press for additional efforts in this direction.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

It will be seen from the Tables afterwards given that steady improvement takes place annually. The years occupied by the Great War curtailed effort in the direction of closet conversion. Now we are again becoming active, during 1920 further money was borrowed to enable the Council to assist property owners to abolish "bogs." Some 35 conversions from "bogs" to water closets, and, in addition, 17 pail conveniences were also put on water carriage. Only 8 per cent. of the closet accommodation of the township is of "bog" type, and the Council are determined that, so far as possible, these abominations shall cease to exist. The Tables before mentioned are interesting. These give details as to work accomplished since 1912, together with accommodation available in Walton-le-Dale at the end of 1920.

Closet Conversions during recent Years.

	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1919	1920	Total
Privies or Bogs to W.C.'s	73	80	80	28	7	16	35	319
Excreta pails to W.C.'s	2	38	22	61	...	6	17	146
Slopwater Closets to W.C.'s	...	...	2	16	...	...	2	20
Privies to Pails ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
	75	118	104	105	7	24	58	491

Closet Accommodation.

	Year ending 1920.		
Fresh Water Closets	1,328
Slopwater Closets	325
Pail	954
Privies	220
			59 per cent.
			33 per cent.
			8 per cent.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

A very considerable number of visits have been paid to various localities, in fact, all through the year, together with your Sanitary Inspector, I have seen the whole township, and there is scarcely a street, lane or house I do not know. The

question may be put to me: What conclusions have you arrived at and what improvements do you suggest? I am of opinion Walton-le-Dale is a fair sample of a partially industrial Urban Area. There are some disadvantages, the most outstanding of these is there are a considerable number of old houses. We are a historical township. Cromwell billeted in Walton. The Pretender was associated with the area, and to go further back, when Bruce partially destroyed Preston in 1322, Walton also suffered. After all this history, our legacy is old buildings. In addition, the early introduction of the cotton trade prior to the birth of the power loom has left old cottage houses—in the cellars of which stood the old hand loom. Then came the steam driven factory, and with it the small brick cottage built anyhow and anywhere. Some of these dwellings are still with us. I have no desire to create the impression that the cottage property in Walton-le-Dale is of a generally inferior type. Nothing of the sort is the actual case. Much of this property is fairly new and in satisfactory repair. Many people own their own little house, and this always ensures a well looked after building. I am very anxious to see the total abolition of cobble-paved yards, bog or pail closets, and ashpits. In the course of my visits, and when going closely into the sanitary environment of localities, it is often forced on me how clean and orderly and in every respect tidy some householders are, and in contradistinction how untidy, slovenly and careless others are, both with regard to the inside and outside of their cottages. Just for a moment let me enumerate the items of a dirty and untidy back-yard—if cobble-paved, the surface is uneven, the depressions will be filled, if wet, with rain water mixed with yard washings and perhaps soap suds; in one corner there is evidence that the family bassinette has yielded up its life in the service of the young, and has through long years of wear become disintegrated, there is a wheel, part of the body with the wadding sticking out through the American cloth or leather covering! Closer inspection reveals the remains of an old petticoat or dress, portions of some old clogs, and a broken wooden chair, which with the residue of broken boxes completes an interesting specimen of a filthy corner of a cottage yard—a dog kennel, the residue of a hen run, and other household debris complete the picture of the other side of the yard. I have seen this. Should you mention this untidiness to the lady of the house, you take the risk of serious rebuke and sometimes strenuous invective. It would make such a

difference in the sanitary state of the township if all householders kept their houses and back-yards neat and clean. I have year after year inveighed against the throwing of house refuse into ashpits or ashbins. The ordinary kitchen fire provides a household destructor of no mean usefulness. I have frequently suggested that after the mid-day meal was cooked and eaten, then all bits and scraps could be thrown on the fire, a shovelful of slack to cover, and the whole left to smoulder. By tea time the destructor would have done its work. This can also be done before going to bed, and in the morning the fire is alight and the refuse consumed. I again assert that all this cleanliness can be obtained and maintained with little labour. All that is required is method and a determination to have cleanliness and tidiness as adjuncts to ordinary life.

It has been and is my custom to submit monthly reports to the General Purposes Committee of the Council. In these I have from time to time brought under notice conditions which I considered merited attention.

Your Sanitary Inspector is engaged in a second survey of the housing and other conditions of the township, and it will repay the trouble taken if his Report, which is appended, is carefully looked into. From this, some idea of the work done in the interests of the public health will be seen. There is evidence that week after week constant supervision is given to the many important points now coming under sanitary administration. The introduction of char-a-banc travelling throughout the summer was the means of creating a considerable nuisance at certain licensed houses where these vehicles called. At times as many as 10 or 12 chars-a-banc would arrive practically together, and as each carried 28 or 30 passengers, a considerable crowd resulted. The ordinary provision of sanitary requirements was quite inadequate, and at times the situation was simply disgusting. The law empowers the abating of a nuisance when created, but nothing could be done to compel the owners to make necessary improvements. I asked the Council to communicate with the Licensing Justices, asking them to intimate to the owners of licensed property their views on the matter. I trust this course of action will have the necessary effect of rectifying a very urgent position.

LODGING HOUSES.

There are no lodging-houses in the township. This is a point which need not be regretted.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one example of an offensive trade. This is a small building where tripe is prepared. I was in hopes that this business would have gone to Preston, but it still remains with us. I have visited it several times, and found it clean and in good order.

SCHOOLS.

During the year the Public Elementary Schools have been inspected both by Mr. Baron, your Sanitary Officer, and myself. Many of these educational establishments are good, others are old and will certainly have to be replaced. The water supply to all schools is excellent, and the sanitary arrangements satisfactory. In some instances these conditions are better than others. It is accepted that the primary object in sending a child to school is to acquire knowledge; this obligation is compulsory, and being so the responsibility of placing a child under the very best conditions whilst so engaged devolves on those who administer the law. School buildings constructed on sound hygienic lines, so as to meet every requirement both with regard to the prevention of general disease and to give the best educational facilities, are of primary importance. After all, everything that possibly can be done may be done by making our schools and their administration practically perfect. Yet there is the outside problem to be recognised and dealt with in the home life of the child. In looking into the future it is reasonable to expect that the child, well grounded whilst at school in the subject matter of personal hygiene and how to avoid conditions likely to interfere with health and development will carry, and use this teaching in after life.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Cowkeepers now registered number 44. Thirty-four inspections were made during the year. As I have before reported, some of the shippens are good and satisfactory; the remainder all require to be brought up-to-date. The distribution of clean milk is absolutely essential. The near future will bring us legislation which will compel very different arrangements both with regard to the health and housing of dairy stock, together with regulating the conditions under which milk can be supplied for public consumption. It is common knowledge that tuberculous milk produces abdominal tuberculosis in the children who drink it in its raw condition,

and there are those who say that this abdominal tubercular infection may be conveyed to the lungs. To-day we talk of graded milk, or milk of tested purity. This is an expensive quality to buy, and thus available only to those who are well off in life. It never reaches those to whom it would be most valuable, both on account of their numbers and circumstances in life—I mean the children of the artizan. There must be no question. All milk should be pure. The Essex County Agricultural Association is organising competitions amongst the numerous dairy farmers in the county. This is an example worth consideration. Personally, I feel that there should be no necessity for competitions or inducements. The enormous value of the milk supply of the country as a food, and especially to infant and child feeding, demands emphatically that all milk should be pure and wholesome.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 19 bakehouses; all had inspectional attention. Lime washing was required in some cases. Marked improvements were effected in two instances, and other minor matters were seen to. Here are prosperous businesses; the development of output necessitated up-to-date facilities. In one case I had grave cause to complain.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These buildings are again being taken into use. I have never liked our local slaughter-houses; in populous centres these should not exist. There is only one remedy, viz., an abattoir and lairage. This development I greatly fear is not possible at the present moment, as the cost would be prohibitive. The only other alternative is to see that the slaughter-houses at present in use are kept in good order.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The factories and workshops have had due attention. There were no urgent or important complaints. A few defects were observed, in two instances want of cleanliness, and in 14 cases the sanitary accommodation was unsuitable; one bakehouse infringed the special sanitary requirements as laid down. Remedial measures were at once adopted. Provision for escape in case of fire appears satisfactory where the law calls for this provision.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

No alteration has taken place since I issued my Annual Report for 1919, with the exception that five new houses have been erected by private builders. It is the intention of the Council to proceed with the original scheme to provide 180 houses on three sites—at Lostock, Higher Walton, and Bamber Bridge—60 houses on each.

The types of houses proposed to be built are :—

- (1) 10 per cent. Type B 4—
Containing parlour, living room, and four bedrooms.
- (2) 10 per cent. Type A—
Containing living room and three bedrooms.
- (3) 80 per cent. Type B 3—
Containing parlour, living room, and three bedrooms.

I would here like to state that these 180 houses are very urgently required, for not alone is the problem one of providing house accommodation for people who are now living with two families and sometimes three families in one cottage, but there is the question of closing certain houses which are quite unfit for human habitation. Accepting an estimated population of 13,000 and 2,815 as the number of houses, there are 4·6 persons inhabiting each house. There are 188 instances where two families are living in one house.

A start was made on the Lostock Hall site; the roads were made, footpaths kerbed, and sewers put down; then the Council stopped. The cost of completing the houses, together with the prospect of cheaper building in the immediate future, weighed with the members. It must be fully realised that the housing requirements of the township is 435 houses. This is last year's estimate, and I know of no factors now operating to alter this. Subject to revision, there are 55 houses unfit for human habitation. Throughout the year 280 houses were specially inspected, particulars of this work has been fully recorded. This is the beginning of the second survey of the township, and it is being wholly carried out by Mr. Baron, your Sanitary Inspector, with the exception of instances where he desires my opinion and assistance. In 122 dwelling-houses defects were remedied, as a rule these were embraced under the headings of drains, closets, yard pavements, and rainwater conductors.

I don't think we have any localities within the township which could be scheduled as "unhealthy areas." There are certainly one or two old fashioned places, such as East Street and Spinners' Square, Bamber Bridge, where the houses are bad and old; but the fewness of these cottages, I think, enables the exclusion from this category.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

I have little comment to make concerning this Act. Some unnecessary trouble is given by the ignorance or carelessness of some parents not notifying births as these occur. This necessitates the writing of letters to obtain the necessary information. I don't think that it is quite realised how much depends on the notification of a birth; failure to do so excludes the infant from the useful supervision of the Welfare Nurse.

CHILD WELFARE.

I again introduce here a resumé of child welfare as carried out in Walton-le-Dale. Two distinct sets of Acts of Parliament and two distinct Government Departments deal with children in England. The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts and the Ministry of Health deal with children under 5 years of age. The Education Acts and Board of Education deal with children of school age (5 years and upwards). In the area administered by the Lancashire County Council a fusion of the two forms of public health activity is adopted; the care of the children from birth until they leave school is undertaken by one department staffed by highly trained Doctors and Nurses. In this way overlapping is avoided, and there can arise no confusion of duties. Thus the work is carried on in a much more efficient and economical fashion; it therefore follows that when a child goes to school he is supervised by the same Doctor and Nurse who looked after him when he was a young child. The switching from one department to another is by this arrangement avoided. All forms of treatment which are provided by the Lancashire County Council are available for both school children and for children under school age. The exact method of working will no doubt be of interest. Under the Notification of Births Act the County Medical Officer of Health receives weekly notification of all births which take place within the area of the County Council, a list of all births corresponding to the townships supervised by each Health Visitor every week. As soon as possible this

Health Visitor, who is always a fully-trained Nurse with special experience of babies and children, visits the homes of the newly born babies, to give advice and assistance to the mothers concerning the feeding, clothing, and bringing up of their babies. The number of visits made by the Health Visitor to a home depends on circumstances; a weakly ailing child may be seen several times a week, while a monthly visit may be quite sufficient for a strong thriving child. All mothers who live within a convenient distance of a Child Welfare Centre are invited to bring their children there regularly for advice and, if necessary, to consult the Medical Officer. In the township of Walton-le-Dale a Child Welfare Centre has for some time past been established at Bamber Bridge. This Centre is open on Thursdays from 2 to 4 o'clock p.m. at the Conservative Club. There is a voluntary committee of ladies who are interested in the welfare of children, and who very kindly provide tea for the mothers and assist in the general work of the Centre. To these ladies the thanks of the community are due. At the Centre the babies are regularly weighed to demonstrate how they are progressing, and advice is given by the Doctor and Nurse. Little talks, lectures, and demonstrations are given each week to the mothers by both Doctor and Nurse. A great deal of good has been done in this way, and the general raising of the standard of mother-craft, the wider diffusion of the knowledge of the laws of health, and the constant insistence on "prevention being better than cure" will all in the course of time tend to make a healthier and better community. In addition to lectures, demonstrations, &c., practical help in the shape of dried milk powder (chiefly glaxo), virol, cod liver oil, and malt are supplied at cost price, less than cost price, or free, according to the circumstances of the family. The supply of these several articles is hedged in with restrictions so as to guard against abuse. The teaching available is regarded as of much more ultimate importance than the supplying of articles of food and clothing. None of the foods named are supplied unless actually ordered and approved for each individual child by the Doctor and Nurse, and even then they are only issued if the mother obeys the instructions of the Doctor and Nurse in regard to the feeding and upbringing of the child and, where possible, brings the baby regularly to the Centre. For example, a supply of glaxo will not be granted to a mother who is able to breast feed her baby, unless it is to enable her to continue

the breast feeding. It will not be granted to a mother who is in a position to procure good cow's milk where she is unable to suckle her baby. In case where articles are supplied at less than cost, or free, a careful investigation is previously made into the economic circumstances of the family. In necessitous cases milk is supplied. Prior to the granting of free milk, inquiry is made as to the financial position of the persons concerned and, if satisfactory, an order is made upon a local farmer, or purveyor of milk, for a definite quantity of milk for a stated period. Steps are taken as far as possible to ensure that the milk is given to the child for whom it is intended, and not used as a substitute for a part of the usual milk supply of the house. Certain forms of treatment for children of all ages have also been provided by the County Council where parents are not able to provide the treatment for themselves. Arrangements have been made with the Preston and Blackburn Infirmarys for operative treatment of enlarged tonsils, adenoids, and squint, and other facilities include the treatment of running ears, the use of X-Rays in the curing of ringworm, the examination of eyes, and the provision of spectacles.

The following statement shows the amount of visiting performed, together with Welfare work, at the Bamber Bridge Centre :—

Home Visits—

No. of 1st visits	212
No. of re-visits	295

Anti-Natal Work—

No. of visits to expectant mothers...	...	6
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Ophthalmia Neonatorum—

Visits	3
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Child Welfare Centre—

No. of times the Centre was open during 1920...	42
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No. of individual children attending—

Under 1 year of age	128
From 1 to 2 years of age	21
Over 2 years of age	...	...	...	17

No. of attendances by children—

under 1 year of age	...	...	...	1,002
From 1 to 2 years of age	...	...	...	167
Over 2 years of age	...	...	...	98

No. of attendances by expectant mothers ... —

No. of individual expectant mothers attending.. 6

No. of actual attendances ... 10

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The County Authorities, through the Police Force, administer the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. Selected Inspectors are appointed to collect samples and submit these for examination and report. The after-given table represents samples purchased in Walton-le-Dale Urban District during the year 1920 :—

Description of Food and Drug.					Number taken.	Result of Analysis.
Milk	...	...	...	...	15	14 genuine
Beer	...	...	...	...	8	Genuine
Rice	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Sago	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Pepper	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Oatmeal	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Cornflour	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Ground Ginger	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Self Raising Flour	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Arrowroot	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	1	Do.
					33	

One sample of milk contained 6 per cent. of added water. No proceedings were taken in this case, as the vendor committed suicide.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

No variation has occurred in the Hospital accommodation available. The Council controls two Hospitals—one of 20 beds as an ordinary Isolation Hospital and the other of eight beds for small-pox purposes. The Isolation Hospital has done splendid service to the township, and there is no difficulty now-a-days in persuading people to use it.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Having regard to the measures adopted to control infectious diseases, I may say that immediate and energetic steps are taken when the existence of infectious cases becomes known. Should Hospital isolation be necessary, removal is at once carried out. The infected premises are sprayed and stoved; bedding is taken away to the steam disinfectors and there treated. I am very nearly correct when I say I personally visit each outbreak. The Sanitary Inspector also gives each outbreak attention. Verbal and printed instructions are tendered, special stress being laid in advising those who have been in actual touch with the patient. School attendance is negatived to the members of the family of school age for varying periods, according to necessity.

Our system is sound and gives good results, and I only regret that the co-operation of contacts cannot always be relied on.

INFECTIOUS CASES NOTIFIED.

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED.	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911
Scarlet Fever	23	20	4	16	50	73	102	69	1	64
Diphtheria	12	21	6	16	4	18	13	21	21	34
Typhoid Fever	1	3	2	1	8	4	14	5	3	13
Erysipelas	5	7	1	4	5	3	12	10	10	6
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Polio-myelitis .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Encephalitis Lethargica.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	11	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	7	17	24	11	14	18	20	15	23	...
Other forms of Tuber- culosis	3	8	5	2	6	2	2	3	...	...
Measles .....	...	6	84	151	36	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	65	94	127	202	123	121	163	124	205	117

The above table deals with 10 years, it reveals an interesting history of prevailing zymotic diseases; all notified in accordance with law. The figures available are most satisfactory. There was little variation in scarlet fever as compared with 1919; diphtheria presented 12 cases as compared with 21; typhoid 1 to 3. Under the heading "Tuberculosis" a most gratifying reduction is evident, only 7 instances of pulmonary and 3 of other forms of tuberculosis as compared with 17 and 8 in the preceding year. These are certainly the most encouraging figures within the decade under tuberculosis.

Of the 23 children who took scarlet fever, 20 went into Hospital, as did 11 of the 12 diphtherias. The one case of typhoid fever also had Hospital treatment. Six of the seven pulmonary tuberculosis infections were sent to Sanatoria for varying periods. No deaths took place in the Isolation Hospital, a most excellent and creditable record for the year.

The table inserted sets forth the monthly incidence of certain infectious diseases :—

	Scarlet Fever.		Enteric.		Diphtheria.		Erysipelas.
Jan. ...	2	...	—	...	1	...	—
Feb. ...	2	...	—	...	3	...	—
Mar. ...	3	...	—	...	2	...	—
April ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—
May ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
June ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
July ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
Aug. ...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—
Sept. ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—
Oct. ...	4	...	—	...	2	...	—
Nov. ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1
Dec. ...	6	...	—	...	4	...	1
Total ...	23	...	1	...	12	...	5

The ages at which typhoid fever, diphtheria, and scarlet fever occurred are demonstrated by the following table, together with the numbers of cases of the specified ailments in evidence in the years 1919–1915. These figures refer to the cases treated in Hospital—

	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	Total 1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.	1916.	1915.
Typhoid Fever	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	8	4
Diphtheria	5	5	...	1	...	11	20	6	13	4	17
Scarlet Fever	4	13	2	1	...	20	20	1	14	43	65
	...	9	19	2	2	...	32	43	9	28	55	86

In addition, there were 219 cases of measles. This disease is not now scheduled as "reportable." The incidence of this outbreak was mostly limited to the first two quarters of the year.

Nine instances of school closure took place and are here tabulated, measles accounting for all these. It will be noted that in several instances only departments of the schools were shut :—

Name and Situation of School.	Date Closed.	Period Closed.	Reason of Closure.
1.—St. Paulinus' R.C. (Infants) Black Lane, Lostock Hall	27th Jan.	27th Jan. to 24th Feb.	Measles
2.—Council School (Infants), Moss Lane, Lostock Hall	27th Jan.	27th Jan. to 24th Feb.	Measles
3.—St. Paulinus' R.C. (Boys and Girls)	3rd Feb.	3rd Feb. to 24th Feb.	Measles
4.—St. Mary's R.C. (Infants), Browndedge	13th Feb.	16th Feb. to 13th Mar.	Measles
5.—St. Aidan's C.E. (Infants), School Lane	23rd Feb.	23rd Feb. to 22nd Mar.	Measles
6.—Bamber Bridge Wesleyan (Infants)	23rd Mar.	23rd Mar. to 19th Apl.	Measles
7.—St. Leonard's C.E. (Infants) Church Brow, Walton-le- Dale	29th Mar.	29th Mar. to 19th Apl.	Measles
8.—St. Patrick's R.C. (Infants) Manybrooks, Gregson Lane, Higher Walton	29th June	29th June to 20th July	Measles
9.—St. Leonard's C.E. (Infants)	26th July	26th July to 30th July	Measles, Mumps, and Influenza Colds

THE PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year under review, there were notified primarily seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three non-Pulmonary. These figures indicate a reduction as compared with the preceding year of ten Pulmonary and five non-Pulmonary cases. This is the most satisfactory statement I have been enabled to make with regard to instances of Tubercle for the past ten years. In addition to these primary cases, I have had the usual notices of those admitted and those discharged after treatment in sanatoria. The County Medical and Nursing Staffs working in the Tuberculosis Department undertake the visiting of all cases of Tubercle. After careful examination, a decision is come to and the line of treatment decided on, and each individual is kept under supervision whilst outside a Sanatorium or Hospital. Personally, I try to see all these cases. The passing of patient to a Pulmonary Hospital enables the Local Sanitary Authority to thoroughly disinfect the vacated premises. This with us is always very carefully done. After the return from the Pulmonary Hospital begins a very critical time for the tubercular individual. In almost every case, great improvement has been effected, weight has increased, cough disappeared, and there may be evidence that capacity to work exists, in fact, some work may be undertaken for a time. The educational advantages received whilst in the Pulmonary Hospital are in evidence for a time and are duly lived up to. Afterwards there is a falling off, carelessness is evident. There is a disposition to let things take their course, and as a result this case deteriorates day by day, and very shortly the condition is worse than when the disease was notified as a primary case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and all this in spite of supervision and after-care treatment. After all the money spent on such a case, and I have seen a considerable number, we have accomplished nothing more than extending this life for a longer or shorter period, and during the extended time an active centre for the spreading of the disease has been kept in existence. Increasing interest is being manifested on all sides in the all important question as to the possibility of preventing and eradicating Tuberculosis. It will be a terribly long and expensive fight; years must pass away before any appreciable effect will be evident. The nation has made up its mind that the white scourge must disappear. This determination cannot be recalled.

MALARIA, INFLUENZA, AND TETANUS.

I only had one notification of Malaria. Little or no use has been made of the issue of the Anti-Influenzal Vaccine issued by the Ministry of Health in January, 1920. Although there was an indication that Influenza was becoming active, yet only in one instance was an application made for a supply of this vaccine. Regarding the use of Tetanus Anti-toxin issued, I greatly fear little use has been made of this as a prophylactic against Tetanus. The issue is still available through the County Medical Officer of Health.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.*

Under the Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations, 1916, the Lancashire County Council has prepared a scheme for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases, and has made the following arrangements :—

(1) For enabling any medical practitioner practising in the area of the County Council to obtain, at the cost of the County Council, a scientific report on any material which the practitioner may submit from a patient suspected to be suffering from venereal disease.

(2) for the treatment at and in hospitals or other institutions of persons suffering from venereal disease, and

(3) for supplying medical practitioners with salvarsan, or its approved substitutes, for the treatment and prevention of venereal diseases.

The facilities mentioned, both for diagnosis and treatment, are available to registered medical practitioners without charge to them or to their patients.

Provision of Laboratory Facilities for Diagnosis and Guidance in Treatment.

Arrangements have been made by which any medical practitioner practising in the area of the County Council will be supplied gratuitously with the necessary outfit for collecting material for examination from persons suspected to be suffering from venereal disease, and a scientific report upon the material submitted will be furnished.

*Syphilis, gonorrhœa or soft chancre.

The Laboratories available for such examinations are :—

LIVERPOOL ... The University of Liverpool, Bacteriological Department, Johnston Laboratories (Prof. Beattie).

MANCHESTER ... The University of Manchester, Pathological Department, Oxford Road (Prof. Dean).

BURNLEY ... The Borough Health Department Laboratory (Dr. R. J. M. Horne).

Nature of Examination.

(a) Microscopic examination of discharges for detection of gonococci, confirmed in exceptional cases by cultural methods.

(b) Microscopic examination of discharge from sores, mucous patches, condylomata, &c., for the detection of spirochetes or of other organisms.

†(c) Wasserman tests on the blood serum of patients—

(i.) For the diagnosis of syphilis,

(ii.) as a control of the effect of treatment.

(d) Examination of foetal tissues for the presence of spirochetes.

(e) More rarely Wassermann tests and microscopic examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid of patients.

(f) Other tests directly concerned with the diagnosis or treatment of venereal diseases.

Outfits.

Applications for Outfits should be made on Form V.I, and addressed to the COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, COUNTY OFFICES, PRESTON.

At the time of application the medical practitioner should state at which laboratory he desires the examination to be made, and when the specimen is collected it should be posted without delay to the laboratory selected.

NOTE.—A specimen must be sent to the Laboratory by *letter post only*, and must be conspicuously marked "fragile, with care," and bear the words "Pathological Specimen," and also the signature and address of the medical practitioner who sends it.

†Specimens of blood for Wasserman tests should be forwarded as early in the week as possible, to arrive at the Laboratory *not later* than first post on Friday morning, in order that the specimens will not have to be kept over the week-end before the examination is completed.

In order to save medical practitioners the trouble of applying for repayment of postage, a uniform payment of 6d. to cover out-of-pocket expenses in the transmission of specimens will be made by the County Council for each specimen sent to the laboratory. The Pathologists will send to the County Medical Officer of Health the number of specimens sent by each practitioner, and the County Council will pay the amounts shown by this statement to be due to each practitioner.

The specimen should be collected in accordance with the "Instructions for collecting specimens," which will be sent with each outfit.

Form V. 4. should be filled in and sent with each specimen. To ensure secrecy, the patient's name is not entered on the Form, but an identification number or letter should be given. A note of the number or letter should be retained for use in correspondence, or for any subsequent examination. The pathologist will forward the results of his examination to the medical practitioner on Form V. 5.

Treatment Centres or Clinics.

Treatment.—Arrangements have also been made by the County Council with 25 Public Institutions for the treatment of patients suffering from these diseases. The most convenient Institutions to this District are as under :—

TREATMENT CENTRE.	Days and Hours of Out-Patient Clinic.	
	MALES.	FEMALES.
Preston Royal Infirmary, Deepdale Road	Wednesday, 4-30—7 p.m. Friday, 4-30—7 p.m.	Tuesday, 4-30—7 p.m.
Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary	Monday, 5—7 p.m. Wednesday, 3-30 p.m.	Tuesday, 4 p.m. Wednesday, 5—7 p.m.
Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan Lane	Tuesday, 4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.	Tuesday, 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.
Bolton, Public Health Department Clinic, Howell Croft North	Monday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, 7 p.m. Wednesday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.	Thursday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.
Burnley Victoria Hospital ...	Monday, 10—11 a.m. ; 5-30—7 p.m.	Friday, 11 a.m—12 noon ; 6—7 p.m.

Arrangements have also been made with Hospitals at Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, and other places.

The following Acts of Parliament, Memoranda, and Circulars relating to Public Health were issued during the year 1920 :—

Housing—

General Housing Memo. No. 19, enclosing S.R. & O. 65,788, The Housing (Regulation of Building) Order, 1920, and S.R. & O. 65,789, The Regulation of Building (Appeal Procedure) Rules, 1920.

General Housing Memo. No. 21, enclosing S.R. & O. 65,811, The Housing (Local Bonds) Regulations, 1920.

S.R. & O. 66, 165, The Housing Accounts Order (Local Authorities), 1920.

Memo. 10/G., Notes on special points in connection with the keeping of Assisted Housing Accounts.

General Housing Memo. No. 24, Standard Specification for Houses of Timber Construction.

S.R. & O. 65,704, The Public Utility Societies (Sale of Houses) Regulations, 1920.

General Housing Memo. Nos. 27 & 33, Sale of Houses by Local Authority.

General Housing Memo. No. 22, Regulation of Building under Section 5 Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919.

General Housing Memo No. 37, Fire Insurance of Houses included in Local Authorities Assisted Housing Schemes.

S.R. & O. 66,631, The Ministry of Health (Temporary Relaxation of Building Bye-laws) Regulations, 1920.

Memo. 8/D., Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919.

General Housing Memo. No. 40. Smoke Abatement.

Infectious Diseases.

Influenza, Hints and Precautions (Jan., 1920).

Maternity and Child Welfare—

Memo. to Local Authorities on the supply of milk to expectant and nursing Mothers (January, 1920).

Blind Persons Act, 1920, and Memo. as to Schemes of Local Authorities.

Milk—

Pamphlet in regard to the use of Milk (October, 1920).

VITAL STATISTICS.

AREA.—The area of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District according to the last census return is 4,658 statute acres.

POPULATION.—During the war period the Registrar General, for statistical purposes, has used two populations, one the "birth-rate population," which included all elements of the population contributing to the birth-rate, and the other the "death-rate population," which excluded all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad.

In 1920, demobilization had reached a stage at which the Registrar General felt that the distinction between "birth-rate populations" and "death-rate populations" made during the period when a large part of the male population was under arms, might in general be discontinued. A single estimate of population is now shown applicable to both births and deaths. This estimate for Walton-le-Dale is 12,111.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.—The total number of births reported by the Registrar General as belonging to the Walton-le-Dale district and registered during the year 1920, was 300—males 161, females 139—as compared with 187 last year.

Illegitimate births in 1920 numbered 14—males 7, females 7.

The birth-rate for the Urban District, calculated on the estimated population above referred to, viz., 12,111, was equal to 24·7 per 1,000, an increase of 9·3 on last year's rate, and 6·0 above the mean of the 10 years 1910-1919. The rate is the highest recorded for the district since 1910.

The provisional birth-rate for England and Wales for 1920 was 25·4 per 1,000.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.—The nett deaths actually belonging to Walton during the year 1920 were 157—males 67, females 90. The deaths actually occurring in the district numbered 138, two of which were of persons not belonging to the district, leaving 136, to which must be added 21 deaths known as "inward transfers," of persons belonging to Walton-le-Dale whose deaths occurred outside the township. In 1919 the corrected number of deaths was 148.

The following tabulated statement, supplied by the Registrar General, analyses the causes of death, distinguishing males and females:—

Causes of Death (Civilians only).	Males.	Females.
All Causes	67	90
Measles	4	2
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	1
Influenza	1	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	6
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	...	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	8
Meningitis	1	1
Organic Heart Disease	5	8
Bronchitis	7	17
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	7
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	...	1
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	1
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	...	2
Congenital Debility, &c.	5	3
Violence, apart from Suicide	3	2
Suicide	1	2
Other Defined Diseases	22	19
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ... ..	...	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	13	6
Illegitimate	1	...
Total Births	161	139
Legitimate	154	132
Illegitimate	7	7
Population (For Births and Deaths)	12111	

The death-rate of the district for the year under report corresponded to 12·9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 12·7 last year, 16·6 in 1918, 15·2 in 1917, and an average of 13·6 for the 10 years 1910-1919.

The provisional death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1920 was 12·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE.—To the diseases usually classified under this heading, 8 deaths were ascribed, viz., measles 6, diphtheria 1, and diarrhoea 1.

The epidemic death-rate calculated per 1,000 of the population was 0·66, as compared with 0·68 last year, and an average of 0·93 for the decennial period 1910-19.

PHTHISIS (PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS).—Twelve deaths were registered as due to pulmonary tuberculosis—males 6, females 6—corresponding to a rate of 0·99 per 1,000. Last year this disease contributed 10 deaths, or a rate of 0·85 per 1,000.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA gave rise to 36 deaths (bronchitis 24, pneumonia 12) as compared with 10 and 8 deaths respectively last year.

INFLUENZA gave rise to six deaths, 4 less than last year, and 27 fewer than in the year 1918.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of infant deaths under the age of one year belonging to the Urban District was 19,—males 13, females 6—as compared with 16 deaths last year and 13 in the year 1918.

The infant death-rate calculated per 1,000 registered births was 63 per 1,000 against a rate of 85 for the preceding year, 77 in 1918, 91 in 1917, 110 in 1916, and 143 in 1915. The infant rate for the year under report was the lowest ever recorded for the district.

The following Table analyses the causes of infant deaths at stated age periods :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 Weeks-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All causes	Certified	6	..	3	..	9	3	..	3	2	17
	Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Measles .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bronchitis .....		..	..	1	..	1	2	..	..	1	4
Pneumonia .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Convulsions .....		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rickets .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Gastro Intestinal Catarrh .....		..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation (including Premature Birth)...		5	..	2	..	7	..	..	..	..	7
Other Causes		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
TOTAL		6	..	3	..	9	4	1	3	2	19

BIRTH AND DEATH-RATES.—The tabular statement below compares the birth and death-rates of the Urban District for 1920 with those for the year 1919 and the mean of the 10 years 1910-1919, showing the respective increases or decreases :—

WALTON-LE-DALE.	Per 1,000 of Population.				
	Birth rate.	Death rate.	Epidemic Death rate.	Phthisis Death rate.	Rate of Deaths under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.
1920.....	24·7	12·9	0·66	0·99	63
1919.....	15·4	12·7	0·68	0·85	85
Mean of 10 years 1910-1919	18·7	13·6	0·93	0·87	106
Increase or Decrease in 1920 on—					
Previous Year	+9·3	+0·2	—0·02	+0·14	—22
Ten Years' Average ...	+6·0	—0·7	—0·27	+0·12	—43

Vital Statistics for the three decennial periods 1891 to 1900, 1901 to 1910, and 1911 to 1920 are given below :—

Period.	Per 1,000 of the Population.				*Enteric Fever.		Diphtheria.		Diarrhoea	Rate of Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births.
	Birth- rate.	Death- rate.	Epi- demic Death- rate.	Phthisis Death- rate.	Cases.	Deaths	Cases.	Deaths	Deaths.	
Ten years—										
1891-1900	30.8	18.9	2.48	1.25	133	27	46	16	122	182
1901-1910	26.3	14.7	1.38	.95	116	21	98	15	58	126
1911-1920	18.7	13.7	.90	.91	54	5	166	16	46	107
1911...	22.1	11.8	1.61	.89	13	1	34	1	14	135
1912...	21.7	13.2	.40	1.05	3	0	21	1	0	85
1913...	22.0	13.6	1.45	.89	5	0	21	2	15	147
1914...	18.4	13.5	.48	.72	14	1	13	1	2	144
1915...	19.1	15.5	2.51	.58	4	2	18	2	9	143
1916...	15.7	12.0	.51	.94	8	0	4	0	2	110
1917...	14.4	15.2	.64	.82	1	1	16	3	1	91
1918...	14.0	16.6	.09	1.41	2	0	6	1	0	77
1919...	15.4	12.7	.68	.85	3	0	21	4	3	80
1920...	24.7	12.9	.66	.99	1	0	12	1	0	58
Total or average ...	18.7	13.7	.90	.91	54	5	166	16	46	107

Appended is the report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES J. TRIMBLE,

L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.P. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Edin.).

Broad Oak,
Cop Lane, Penwortham,
Preston, April, 1921.

Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following report on the sanitary work accomplished during the past year 1920 :—

Housing—

No. of dwelling-houses inspected under Housing Acts	280
No. of dwelling-houses which are considered to be unfit for human habitation	55
No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied	122
No. of houses unfit for habitation and not occupied, which were made fit and occupied	2

Flagging of Back Yards—

37 back yards have been flagged.
18 have been repaired and made good.

Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milk-shops—

34 cowsheds were inspected.
20 were purveyors of milk, and of these—
15 were considered satisfactory.
Defects at the remainder are receiving attention.

Closet Conversions—

No. of privies converted to w.c.'s	35
No. of pails converted to w.c.'s	17
No. of slopwater closets converted to w.c.'s ...	2
No. of privies converted to pails	4

Ashpits—

61 ashpits were abolished and ashpails provided

The following table shows the closet accommodation in 1910, the conversions carried out from 1911 to the end of 1920, and the present accommodation :—

	Closet Accommodation in 1910.	Closets converted to W.C.'s, 1911 to end of 1920.	Closet Accommodation at the end of 1920.
Privies	621	—401	220
Pails	1093	—139	954
Slopwater closets	345	—20	325
Water closets ...	694	+560	1254 +74 New houses
			1328

Table showing the number and kind of refuse receptacles in 1910 and the number of ashpits abolished and replaced by galvanized iron ashpails from 1911 to the end of 1920 and the present refuse receptacles :—

	Refuse Receptacles, 1910.	Ashpits abolished and replaced by galvanized iron Ashpails, 1911 to end of 1920.	Refuse Receptacles at the end of 1920.
Ashpits	1499	—566	933
Ashpails	1058	+566	1624 +74 New houses
			1698

Infectious Disease—

64 houses ;
408 parcels of bedding and
12 schools were disinfected ;
8 parcels of bedding were destroyed ;
219 cases of measles were ascertained.

All cases and suspected cases were visited and printed instructions issued.

Water—

Four samples of water were taken and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst, who reports three as satisfactory and one as unsafe for drinking purposes unless boiled before use.

Notices—

Number of Notices served :—

Statutory	...	...	...	155	
Informal	...	...	...	611	
				<hr/>	766
Nuisances remedied	...	...	...	...	712

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR ENDING

31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

No. of Privy Middens cleansed	...	...	...	...	246
„ Excreta Pails cleansed	...	...	...	...	49,660
„ Ashpails cleansed	...	...	...	...	88,192
„ Ashpits cleansed	...	...	...	...	1,815
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	190
No. of Inspections of Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	337
„ „ Infected Houses	...	...	...	...	237
„ „ Public Houses, Inns, & Hotels					17
„ „ Schools	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ Cowsheds, Dairies, & Milkshops..					34
„ „ Slaughter-houses			...	...	24
„ „ Yards	...	...	...	...	603
„ „ Drains	...	...	...	...	689
„ Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	1,055
„ Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	2
„ Circular-letters sent	...	...	...	...	33

Medical Officer's Circular-letters issued :—

Copies of Births forwarded to County M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	303
Circular-letters posted for Births not notified	...	...	...	...	45
Weekly Returns of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	104
Tuberculosis Returns posted to County M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	19
Quarterly Returns posted to County M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	4
Special Report (Puerperal) posted to County M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	1
Special Report (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) posted to County M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	1
Letters posted, <i>re</i> " Home Helps "	...	...	...	...	7
Notification of School Closure	...	...	...	...	9
Annual Reports posted	...	...	...	...	19
Circulars posted on the Prophylactic treatment of Influenza	...	...	...	...	7
Circulars posted on Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	7
Circulars posted on Measles...	...	...	...	...	7

533

Notices served for Defective Slopstone Pipes	...	...	...	38
" " " Drains	...	...	...	80
" " " Roofs, Gutters, and				
Rainwater Conductors				37
" " " Water Closets	...	...		39
" " " Closet Pails	...	...		102
" " " Yard Pavement	...			51
" " Overcrowding	...	...		2
" " Manure Accumulation	...	...		2
" " Limewashing	...	...		50
" " Stagnant Water	...	...		3
" " General Nuisances	...	...		45
" " Preliminary Demolition Order	...			1
Notices served to Flag Yards	...	...		34
" " Convert Privies to W.C.'s	...			58
" " " Pails to W.C.'s	...			17
" " Abolish Ashpits	...	...		71
" " Provide Ashpails	...	...		112
" " Convert Privies to Pails	...			5
" " for Insufficient Closet Accommodation				4
" " Smoke Nuisance	...	...		1
" " Defective and Insufficient Sanitary				
Accommodation at Publichouses.				
Inns, and Hotels	...	...		11
" " Occupying Barn as a Dwelling	...			1
" " the Keeping of Animals in such a				
State as to be a Nuisance	...			2
				<hr/>
				766
				<hr/>
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...		4
House Drains tested	...	...		4
Houses disinfected	...	...		64
Schools disinfected	...	...		12
Parcels of Bedding disinfected	...	...		408
" destroyed	...	...		8

NICHOLAS BARON,
Inspector of Nuisances.

Council Offices,
Bamber Bridge.

Report of the Surveyor for the Year 1920.

I beg to report that during the past year the Council have completed the work of re-constructing the roadway at Club Street, Bamber Bridge, comprising the draining, channelling, excavating, and putting in foundation ; coating with tarred limestone macadam, and flagging and asphaltting the footpath.

School Lane has been widened and improved as follows :— The brick and stone wall on the north side, fronting the school, and Stone Mill premises, has been removed ; and ornamental iron railing on a dwarf wall substituted, but set back from the old line 15 feet, thus widening the road from an average width of 25 feet to 40 feet ; new branch drains and gullies fixed, foundation put in, and roadway coated with tarred limestone macadam ; and the footpaths flagged and asphalted. This improvement was an expensive undertaking, but encouraged by a contribution of £150 each from Messrs. Thomas Eccles, Sons & Co., Ltd., and Messrs. A. S. Orr & Co., Ltd.

A short length of the main road through Bamber Bridge has been re-constructed, about 300 yards in length, and the remaining 900 yards, which is in a deplorable state, is expected to be re-modelled during 1921.

Tar macadam roadwork was extended from Browndge Lane to the Railway Crossing, and granite sheeting was carried out extensively in Gregson Lane.

The work of sweeping, tar spraying, and chipping the main roads and the main district roads in the Township was carried out during the Summer months.

The gravel approaches and carriage drives at the Council's Isolation Hospital have been asphalted, but there still remains the cart roadway to the Laundry and Mortuary to be similarly improved.

This class of work has already proved very valuable in the cleanliness of the tile and wood block floors of the Institution.

The flushing of drains and stoppages have been attended to by the Council's men ; also the usual water main flushing has received attention.

During the year four dwelling-houses, with baths and w.c.'s, have been erected and are now tenanted.

JAMES LEIGH.

Council Offices,
January 27th, 1921.