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West Lancashire Rural District  
Council.



**ANNUAL REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR 1917.



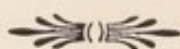
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :  
GEORGE EDWARD SCHOLEFIELD,  
M.D., EDIN., D.P.H., VICT.

# West Lancashire Rural District Council, 1917.

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Chairman . . . HENRY UNDERWOOD.

Vice-Chairman. . JOHN PIMBLEY.



Altcar . . . . CHARLES HY. MILBOURN.

Aughton . . . . HENRY UNDERWOOD.

„ . . . . RICHARD ROTHWELL.

Bickerstaffe . . . RICHARD RIMMER.

„ . . . . THOMAS HEYES.

Bispham . . . . THOMAS ASPINWALL.

Downholland . . . JOB SUMNER.

Halsall . . . . JOHN HARRISON.

Hesketh . . . . DAVID RIMMER.

Lydiate . . . . JAMES G. BLACKLEDGE.

Maghull . . . . JOHN PIMBLEY.

Melling . . . . RICHARD SUMNER.

North Meols. . . . JOHN WAREING.

Rufford . . . . CHARLES YATES.

Scarisbrick . . . . BERNARD H. HOLMAN.

„ . . . . PETER RIMMER.

Simonswood. . . . JAMES HAYES.

Tarleton . . . . ROBERT LATHOM.



# Annual Report for 1917.

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*To the Chairman & Members of the West Lancashire  
Rural District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Twentieth Annual Report, dealing with the Vital Statistics, the Public Health, and the Sanitary work of the District during the year 1917.

Owing to the scarcity of paper and labour, the Local Government Board have again given instructions that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be curtailed as much as possible.

POPULATION.—The figures have again been supplied by the Registrar General. For the purpose of the Death-rates, the population is estimated at 18,577, and for the Birth-rate at 20,708.

BIRTH-RATE.—The number of Births registered during the year was 383, and after allowing for the deduction of those which belonged to other Districts, and the addition of those belonging to the District which were born outside, the net total was the same, 184 boys and 199 girls, which gives an ANNUAL BIRTH-RATE of 18·49 per 1000 of the population. This is ·29 less than that for the previous year, and 2·47 below the average of the preceding 10 years. Seventeen Births were illegitimate or 4·4 per cent. of the total births.

DEATH-RATE.—Two hundred and six Deaths were registered in the District during the year, and after the usual additions of the deaths of the residents which occurred outside, and the deduction of those who died in the area but were non-residents, the net number was 212, 120 males and 92 females. The resulting ANNUAL DEATH-RATE is 11·4 per 1000. This is ·5 less than that for 1916, and 1·21 below the average of the ten preceding years.



**EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE.**—Excluding Diarrhœa, there were 5 deaths due to the principal Epidemic Diseases, 3 to Whooping Congh, 1 to Diphtheria and 1 to Scarlet Fever, 2 fewer than in 1916. The ANNUAL EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE is '26 that for 1916 being '35 and the average of the 10 preceding years '72. There was 1 death due to Diarrhœa which gives a DIARRHŒAL DEATH-RATE of 3'5 per 1000 Births.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY-RATE.**—Twenty nine deaths of children under one year of age were registered which gives an ANNUAL INFANTILE MORTALITY-RATE of 75 per 1000 Births, that for 1916 being 64 per 1000, and the average of the 10 preceding years being 88.

Commenting on the deaths due to some of the other diseases, Tuberculosis was responsible for 21, with a rate of 1'1 per 1000. Respiratory Diseases other than Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 37 deaths (for the previous year the number was 37) with a rate of 1'9 per 1000. Organic Heart Disease for 25, with a rate of 1'3 per 1000. Cancer for 15 deaths with a rate of '8 per 1000.

Following are figures which show the comparison of some of the foregoing rates with those of England and Wales.

|  | Birth-rate<br>per 1000. | Death-rate<br>per 1000. | Epidemic<br>Death-rate<br>per 1000. | Infant<br>Mortality<br>per<br>1000 Births. |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| England and Wales                      | 17'8                    | 14'4                    | '61                                 | 97   |
| West Lancashire Rural<br>District..... | 18'49                   | 11'4                    | '26                                 | 75   |

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

From the Table on page 10 it will be found that the number of Cases of Infectious Diseases which came to my knowledge was 299 in 232 different houses. In comparison with the previous year there were 46 fewer houses infected, 79 fewer cases and 4 less deaths. In addition to the notifications from Medical Men, parents notified 27 cases of Measles, School Teachers 4 of Measles and inquiry brought to light 24 cases of Measles.

### SCARLET FEVER.

HOUSES, 40. CASES, 50. DEATH 1. REMOVED TO  
HOSPITAL, 44.

There were three more cases than in the previous year. There were 18 cases in Tarleton occurring at intervals, and at no time having the appearance of becoming epidemic. There was no special point about any of the other cases.



## DIPHTHERIA.

HOUSES 31. CASES 40. DEATH 1. REMOVED TO  
HOSPITAL 18.

Twenty-four of the cases were in Hesketh Bank and of these 18 were attending Hesketh Bank School, the majority of the cases being notified between December 4th and December 18th. I advised that the School should close on December 12th and not re-open until January 7th, and during this period the school was thoroughly disinfected. When I visited the school and examined the children present I found a number with discharging noses, and on taking swabs from these, 30 were found to have a Bacillus which resembled the Diphtheria Bacillus in many of its features. The epidemic was of a mild character and there were no deaths.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

HOUSES 2. CASES 2. REMOVED TO HOSPITAL 1.

There were no special features about either of these cases.

## MEASLES.

HOUSES 150. CASES 198.

Measles of a mild type was again prevalent chiefly in the early spring and summer. All the Townships had cases except Downholland and North Meols. No special action was required. Measles being now a notifiable disease it is interesting to note that 72 per cent. of the cases were notified by Medical Men, many more parents than formerly calling in medical aid, and it seems probable that in this direction will lie the chief benefit of the Measles Regulations.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

Four cases only of this disease came to my knowledge, three of them in the Registrar's Returns.

## DIARRHŒA.

One death was due to this disease.

## ERYSIPELAS.

There were four cases of this disease, none calling for any special remark.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-one cases of Tuberculosis were notified, the lung being affected in 15 of them, and other parts of the body in the remainder. There were 21 deaths, 7 being notified in 1917 and the remainder in previous years.



## ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

The usual method of procedure has been adopted.

### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital remains the same, viz :—8 beds for Small-pox in the tent hospital and 26 for other cases. Cases of Small-pox can, by arrangement, be sent to the Liverpool Small-pox Hospital. There is a Thresh Steam Disinfector attached to the Hospital.

The Urban District of Croston, the Urban District of Skelmersdale and the Ormskirk Guardians have agreements with the Council by which they can send patients to the Hospital.

The following is a summary of the work done at the Hospital during the year :—On January 1st there were in the Hospital 12 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Diphtheria and 2 of Enteric Fever, and during the year there were admitted from the Council's area 43 cases of Scarlet Fever, 15 cases of Diphtheria and 1 of Enteric Fever. Four cases of Enteric Fever were admitted from Skelmersdale and 1 case of Scarlet Fever from Crosby, making in all 70 cases admitted during the year. The cases in the Council's area were from the following Townships :—Scarlet Fever, Aughton 3, Bickerstaffe 3, Halsall 4, Hesketh 2, Maghull 1, North Meols 10, Scarisbrick 4, and Tarleton 16. Diphtheria, Aughton 2, Bickerstaffe 3, Downholland 1, Hesketh 3, Lydiat 3 and Scarisbrick 3. Enteric Fever, Scarisbrick 1.

Forty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever, 17 cases of Diphtheria and 7 cases of Enteric Fever were discharged cured. There were 2 deaths, 1 due to Diphtheria and 1 to Scarlet Fever.

Eighty-six per cent. of the cases of Scarlet Fever and 37·5 per cent. of the cases of Diphtheria in the District were treated in hospital.

The average length of residence in hospital of the cases of Scarlet Fever was 6 weeks and 4 days, of the cases of Diphtheria 3 weeks and 3 days and 6 weeks and 5 days the cases of Enteric Fever.

The average number of cases in hospital per week was 7, the highest in any one week being 15 and for 9 days in June the hospital was empty.



The outside work was as follows:—There were 49 journeys with the Ambulance, 124 with the bedding van, 405 rooms in 117 houses were disinfected; the Disinfector was used 99 times, 3,099 articles being disinfected; there were 59 journeys with the cycle to disinfect. The schools disinfected were Halsall C.E., Hesketh Bank, Lydiate C.E., Maghull C.E. and Tarleton C.E. twice.

From the opening of the hospital in 1897 to the end of 1917 there have been admitted 1226 cases of Scarlet Fever, 124 of Enteric Fever, 240 of Diphtheria and 14 of Small-pox, making a total of 1604 cases, and there have been 50 deaths.

Outside during the same period the work has been, journeys with the Ambulance 1269; Bedding Van 3100; 10,119 rooms in 2,656 houses and 107,994 articles have been disinfected and the disinfector has been used 3,836 times.

Under Miss Pick's supervision the house and grounds have been kept in a satisfactory condition, the vegetable and fruit gardens having produced almost sufficient for the requirements of the hospital.

### BACTERIOLOGY.

Fifty-six swabs from throats and noses were sent for examination for the presence of the Bacillus of Diphtheria, and of these 30 were positive and 26 negative. Three specimens of sputum for Tubercle Bacilli were negative; and a specimen of cerebro-spinal fluid was also negative.

### SCHOOL CLOSURE.

The school at Hesketh Bank was closed from December 12th until January 7th of this year on account of the prevalence of Diphtheria among the children attending.

### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

Four hundred and seven Births were notified during the year.

### EXCLUSION OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

In case of Infectious Disease this procedure is always adopted in the first instance.

### SCHOOLS.

There are twenty-three Elementary Schools in the District. All are supplied with water from public mains and the Sanitary Conveniences are on the whole in good order.



## WATER SUPPLY.

Eighty-eight decimal five per cent of the inhabited houses in the District are supplied with water from public service. The service has been good and the water of good quality

## SEWERING AND DRAINAGE.

There have been no additions during the year.

The Aughton Sewage Farm has done its work satisfactorily.

## DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

In Aughton largely by water carriage to the sewers ; in Tarleton a few houses discharge into the tidal river ; in other parts of the district water closets discharge into cesspools. During the year 2 privies were converted to pails. There are approximately 684 Water Closets 30 Waste Water Closets, 400 Pail Closets, and 3297 Privies in the District.

## SCAVENGING.

This is carried out by contract in the Townships of Aughton and North Meols. In the former 4,267 receptacles were emptied and in the latter 4,055.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are six registered in the District and all have been in a satisfactory condition when visited.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Eighty-nine carcasses of pigs were inspected. An outbreak of Swine Fever having occurred on a pig farm, the Board of Agriculture's Inspector advised that the whole should be killed off. The carcasses were passed for consumption there being no evidence of disease present. The internal organs were buried.

## SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS ACT.

This Act is administered by the County Police and I am indebted to Superintendent Hodgson, of Ormskirk, and to Superintendent Whittaker, of Chorley, for the following information :—In that part of the District which is in the West Derby Hundred samples were taken—in Aughton 11, Bickerstaffe 5, Downholland 3, Halsall 3, Lydiate 5, Maghull 7, Melling 2, North Meols 8, Scarisbrick 7, There were 3 prosecutions for adulterated milk, with a conviction in one case. In the part of the District in the Leyland Hundred 12 samples were taken in Tarleton, no convictions following.



## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number in the District is 48, being 7 less than in the previous year. They have been found satisfactory on the whole when visited, delay in lime-washing being the chief fault, scarcity of labour being the excuse.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT 1901 AND 1907.

There are 130 Workshops in the District 7 less than in the previous year. Two hundred and twelve inspections were made. The defects found were want of cleanliness, a written notice being required in one case. The occupations carried on in the 130 Workshops are as follows :—Laundries 3, Tinsmith 1, Bakers 9, Basketmakers 15, Blacksmiths 27, Boatbuilder 1, Dressmakers 15, Joiners 3, Wheelwrights 27, Saddlers 3, Shoemakers 18, Tailors 8.

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890, AND HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT 1909.

Under this Act 4 houses were inspected and placed upon the Record Book, 18 inspections being made. Closing Orders were made in 2 cases, and defects were remedied without the necessity for closing orders in 2 cases.

## BUILDING OPERATIONS.

I am indebted to Mr. Wignall and to Mr. Carr, the District Surveyors, for the information that during the year 5 new houses were completed and also 9 alterations to houses and 5 outbuildings.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

On page 10 is the only Table required by the Local Government Board.





# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT.

| Causes of Death.                   |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|
| All Causes ...                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 120    | 92       |
| Scarlet Fever ...                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        |
| Whooping Cough...                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 1        |
| Diphtheria and Croup ...           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        |
| Influenza and Croup ...            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 1        |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis...          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 10       |
| Tuberculous Meningitis ...         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases ...     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 1        |
| Cancer, malignant disease ...      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 8        |
| Rheumatic Fever ...                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        |
| Meningitis ...                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        |
| Organic Heart Disease ...          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9      | 16       |
| Bronchitis ...                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 3        |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ...          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12     | 8        |
| Other respiratory diseases ...     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 1        |
| Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        |
| Appendicitis and Typhilitis ...    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 2        |
| Congenital Debility, &c. ...       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 5        |
| Violence apart from Suicide ...    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 2        |
| Suicide ...                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        |
| Other defined diseases ...         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43     | 31       |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown ...  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 1        |

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Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age... 20 ... 9

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|              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Total Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | 184 | ... | 199 |
| Legitimate   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 177 | ... | 189 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   | ... | 10  |

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|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Population, for Birth-rate | 20,708 |
| Population, for Death-rate | 18,577 |

Mr. T. G. H. Hunter and J. Ainsworth have presented their usual Annual Reports showing in detail the work that has been done in their spheres during the year in the different Townships, and the following is a summary of these reports :—



|                    | Nuisances<br>dealt with. | Inspections<br>made. |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Altcar .....       | 0 .....                  | 2                    |
| Aughton .....      | 19 .....                 | 59                   |
| Bickerstaffe ..... | 7 .....                  | 20                   |
| Bispham .....      | 0 .....                  | 15                   |
| Downholland.....   | 0 .....                  | 4                    |
| Halsall .....      | 1 .....                  | 29                   |
| Hesketh .....      | 12 .....                 | 47                   |
| Lydiat .....       | 1 .....                  | 13                   |
| Maghull .....      | 6 .....                  | 18                   |
| Melling .....      | 5 .....                  | 25                   |
| North Meols .....  | 22 .....                 | 95                   |
| Rufford .....      | 2 .....                  | 35                   |
| Scarisbrick .....  | 14 .....                 | 52                   |
| Simonswood .....   | 0 .....                  | 2                    |
| Tarleton.....      | 18 .....                 | 89                   |
| Totals.....        | <u>107</u>               | <u>505</u>           |