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TWENTY-FIRST

Annual REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925.

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ANNUAL REPORT for 1925.

LAURISTON, FORMBY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in submitting my Twenty-first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for 1925.

DEATH-RATE.

During the year 70 deaths (32 male and 38 female) took place, giving the death-rate of 10.3 per 1,000.

BIRTH-RATE.

77 Births were registered (34 boys and 43 girls) ; this gives a birth rate of 11.3 per 1,000.

INFECTIOUS CASES.

24 Infectious Cases were notified during the year :—

- 1 Enteric Fever.
- 16 Cases of Scarlet Fever.
- 5 Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- 1 Other form of Tuberculosis.
- 1 Opthaemia Neonatorum.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS CARTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1926.

URBAN DISTRICT OF FORMBY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

I.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres—7308 (advance) (5613 to H. W. M.)

Population, Census 1921—6318. Estimated, 1925—7000.

Physical Features and general character of the area—Flat, sandy area, sand dunes along coast, and residential in centre, and agriculture to the East.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921)—1317. 31st December, 1925—1618.

Number of Families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)—1327.

Rateable Value, £56960. Sum represented by a penny rate—£220.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants—Two Golf Clubs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	77	34	43
Deaths in 1925	70	32	38

Rates per 1,000 of Population.

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 10 years 1915—1924	—	—	—	—
1924	13.9	9.0	0.45	43
1925	11.3	10.3	0.59	38
<i>Increase or Decrease in 1925 on—</i>				
<i>Ten Years' Average</i>	−3.5	−0.8	−0.38	−6
<i>Previous Year</i>	−2.6	+1.3	+0.14	−5

The amount of Poor Law relief; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised—Nil.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review; and any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health—Nil.

2—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available :—

For Smallpox—Yes.

Where situate—Bootle.

For other Infectious Diseases—Yes.

Where situate—Bootle.

Joint or otherwise—Otherwise. No retaining fee.

Number of Beds available *for your District* :—

For Smallpox—Unlimited.

For other Infectious Diseases—Unlimited.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for—

(a) Tuberculosis—No.

(b) Maternity Cases—No.

(c) Children—No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary and any other Public Institution in district—Ormskirk.

Have any of the following been provided *in your district*? :—

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children—No.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres—Yes. Give day and time open—Wednesday, 3 p.m.

Day Nursery—Nil. School Clinic—Nil.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—Nil.

Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre—Nil,

Ambulance facilities :—

- (a) For Infectious Cases—Bootle Corporation Motor.
- (b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases—Police (hand).

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—Francis Carter. Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1925, £70.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part. Any other public appointments held by him—M. O. post. Office—Police Surgeon.

Sanitary Inspector—S. J. Hellier. Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector at 31/12/1925, £225.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer?—Part. What other appointments does he hold?—Surveyor.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector(s)—Nil.

Any Specialised Inspector(s) (*e.g.*, Food Inspector)?—Nil.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses—Nil.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Nature of arrangements in the district for—

(a) General Nursing—Nil.

(b) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, &c.—Nil.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the district? Yes.

How many District Nurses employed?—2.

If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?—No.

If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?—No.

Does the Association undertake—

(a) *Midwifery Cases?—Yes.

(b) Monthly Nursing?—No.

(* Attendance at confinement without a Medical Practitioner)

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?—No.

Midwives.—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the *Local Authority*?—No.

Number of midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12/1925. Number on Register—4. Number actually practising—4.

Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service?—Very Good.

Legislation in force—

Local Acts—Nil.

Local Orders—Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890; Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890; Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

General Adoptive Acts—Nil.

Bye-laws relating to public health.—New Streets and Buildings, Nuisances, Cowsheds, Daries and Milk Shops, Slaughter Houses, Common Lodging Houses.

Observations as to their administration.—New Streets and Buildings regularly under revision.

Particulars as to co-operation with the Medical and ancillary services of the National Health Insurance, the Voluntary Hospitals, the Poor Law or other agencies—Nil.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply, source and quality—

Southport, Birkdale and West Lancashire Water Board.

Constant or intermittent—Constant.

Approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied—
Direct, 1474. By stand pipe—Nil.

Possibilities of contamination—Nil.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action—No.

Any insufficiency, and where—No.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year—Extension along new streets.

Rivers and Streams—

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams.
Sources and nature—Sundry informal notices to
cleanse watercourse complied with.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewerage Disposal Works, method of treatment—
Septic Tanks. See one fall.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any
developments during year—Gravitation. Ex-
tensions of about 1 mile.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage
system—Parts of Freshfield.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.—All new
work tested. Regular weekly flushing.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1925 :—

Privy Middens :—No. of Middens	127
No. of Pail Closets	529
No. of Fresh Water Closets.....	1093
No. of Waste Water Closets	Nil.
No. of Closets attached to these Middens	149
No. of Dry Ashpits (<i>excluding Middens</i>)	327
No. of Movable Ashbins for refuse	964

Conversions—

	During Year 1925.	During Five Years 1921—1924
No. of Privy Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	8	21
" " to Waste W.C.'s	Nil.	Nil.
" " to Pails, &c. ...	3	5
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	4	14
" " to Waste W.C.'s	Nil.	Nil.
No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s	Nil.	Nil.
No. of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles.....	23	64

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Notice served, where circumstances apply, under Sections 23 and 26, Public Health Act, 1875.

Does Council contribute towards cost of conversion?—No.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for *new* property?—Fresh W.C.'s.

Scavenging—

Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of district.—All streets regularly scavenged; house refuse weekly (bins); Ashpits when notified.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?—By Sanitary Authority.

Are motor vehicles used?—No.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—Night.

How is the Refuse disposed of?—Tips away from residential areas.

Has a Destructor been provided?—No.

Sanitary Inspections during 1925—

No. of premises visited—74.

Defects or nuisances—No. discovered, 74; No. abated, 53.

No. of Notices served—Informal, 74; Statutory, 12.

Legal proceedings—Nil.

Smoke Nuisance—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement—No industrial buildings in area.

No. of Observations—Nil.

No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result—Nil.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour—Nil.

Offensive Trades—Nil.

Workshops and Workplaces, what is their condition?—
Generally satisfactory. All small.

Common Lodging-houses—Nil.

Houses let in Lodings, action taken or needed—Nil.

Schools, sanitary condition—Good. Water Supply, &c.—
Mains.

Canal Boats—Nil.

4—HOUSING.

Housing : General observations and Conclusions.

(I.) General Housing conditions in the area :—

(1) General Housing conditions—Satisfactory.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses—
Recent decision of Council that urgent needs
have now been met by their schemes.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any
shortage—Nil.

(3) Information as to any important changes in popu-
lation during the period under review or
anticipated in the future—Nil.

(II.) Overcrowding :—

(1) Extent—Nil.

(2) Causes—Nil.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with
overcrowding—Nil.

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year
1925, and action taken—Worst cases remedied
by transfer to Council Houses.

(III.) Fitness of Houses :—

(1) (a) General standard of housing in the area—
Satisfactory.

(b) General character of the defects found to exist
in unfit houses—Nil.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper
management and supervision by owners, or
to acts of waste or neglect by tenants—
Owners principally.

- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—
- (a) The Public Health Acts—Investigation of all complaints.
 - (b) The Housing Acts—Inspections.
- (3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—Nil.

Special measures taken or suggested :—

- (a) Any special action to secure improved management of property by owners.—Nil.
 - (b) Better care of property by tenants.—Nil.
 - (c) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements —Nil.
 - (d) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property.—Nil.
- (4) Conditions so far as they affect housing, as regards :—
- (a) Water supply.—Satisfactory.
 - (b) Closet accommodation.—Only old cottage property not connected to sewers where such exist.
 - (c) Refuse disposal.—Quite satisfactory. Ashpits being gradually superceded by portable bins.
 - (d) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (a), (b), and (c).—All cases of nuisance dealt with.

(IV.) Unhealthy areas :—

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas.—Nil.

(V.) Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c. :—

- (1) As to working of existing byelaws.—Now under revision for new Streets and Buildings.
- (2) As to need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws.—Nil.

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous :—

Generally, an account of any action bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (*e.g.*, sinks, water-closets, &c.) and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning.—Nil.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- (*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*))—94.
- (*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—
- (i) By the Local Authority—Nil.
- (ii) By other bodies or persons—50 with subsidies.

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme (and not included above)—36.

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1925—

- (*a*) By loans ?—Yes. No., 7. Amount of loans, £1607 10s. od.
- (*b*) By subsidy ?—Yes. No., 12. Amount of subsidies, £1,200.

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—60.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925—39.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—1.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—59.

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers—48.

Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—3.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners—3.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners—Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close—Nil.

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—9.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners—2, remainder in hand 31/12/25.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners—Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit—Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—Nil.
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—Nil.

D.—Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c.—One.

* Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects. Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Inspections.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply—Observations on—

- (1) The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the district—All produced within district.
- (2) The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character—Local delivery direct from farms.
- (3) The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amentment) Act, 1922, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders—Regular inspection. Sundry Cowsheds very old but repairs difficult owing to farmsteads developing into building lands.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—

Number of Dealers' licences issued during 1925, in respect of :—“Certified” Milk—Nil. “Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)” Milk—Nil. “Grade A” Milk—Nil.

Number of licences issued in respect of " Pasteurised " Milk :—Pasteurising Plants—Nil. Retail Distributors—Nil.

Types of apparatus licensed for the pasturisation of milk—Nil.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation—Nil.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :—

Are they periodically inspected?—Yes. What is their condition?—See (3) above.

Give date of the Regulations made under the Order of the L.G.B.—3/12/06. Are they enforced—Yes.

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

(a) Where cows are habitually grazed—Nil.

(b) Where cows are *not* habitually grazed—800 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers :—Total number of Cowkeepers—25. Number on Register—25. Number of inspections during year—All.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers).—Total number of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors—Nil. Number on Register—Nil.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? Give particulars—No action necessary.

Action taken as to—

(i) Tuberculous Milk—No action necessary.

(ii) Tuberculous Cattle—No action necessary.

Number of samples of milk obtained during 1925 for bacteriological examination—Nil.

(b) Meat.—Observations on—

(1) Meat inspection (including arrangements for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for disposal of condemned meat—Only small quantity of slaughtering of pigs done locally. All cases notified and meat held for inspection.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles—Local Butchers, &c., all agree to conditions of regulations. No stalls. Definite ruling to call for windows is desirable.

(3) Has a public slaughterhouse been provided?—No.

Private slaughterhouses :—

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1926.
No. registered...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
No. licensed ...	1	2	2

(c) Other Foods :—

Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared—Bakehouses, number, 9; condition, satisfactory.

Other Premises—Nil.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1925 as unfit for human consumption—Nil.

Bacterially all meat comes through Liverpool Abbatoirs, &c., except local killing of pigs.

No. of Legal Proceedings and result—Nil.

Food Poisoning? Action taken—Nil.

Action taken by *Local Authority* in respect of—(i.) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts; (ii.) Condensed Milk Regs., 1923; (iii.) Dried Milk Regs., 1923; (iv.) Milk and Cream Regs., 1912-17.—Nil.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases generally.

Diphtheria anti-toxin—Notes on the supply and prompt use :—

Is a supply kept *within* the district?—Yes.

If so, where?—Mr. Woods, Chemist.

Encephalitis Lethargica, any special occurrence—No.

Scarlet Fever, discovery of “return” cases—No.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever, experience in regard to these diseases—Nil.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations, arrangements—With Manchester University.

No. of specimens examined in 1925 :—Blood, nil. ;
Sputum, 4 ; Throat Swabs, 4.

Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum—Nil.

Others—Nil.

Action taken in regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return Cases,
(c) Carrier cases—Carefully watched.

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick
and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respec-
tively, or of the recently developed artificial methods
of immunization against these diseases?—No.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—
No. of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer
of Health : (a) primary—Nil. (b) re-vaccinations—Nil.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable
in your district, Measles—No. ; Whooping Cough—
No. ; Diarrhœa (under 2 years)—No. ; Chicken-pox—
No.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1925—Nil.

No. of Reports made during 1925 under Section 14 (4)
Sanitary Officers Order, 1922—Nil.

Influenza.—Observations on any special inquiries under-
taken in connection with epidemics—Nil.

Has any special attention been given to (a) cancer, (b)
locally contracted anthrax, and (c) rabies—No.

Disinfection :—No. of Houses disinfected during 1925, 21 ;
Method (state disinfectant used), Vaplamp or
Roylet Fumigators.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis—Yes ; (b)
Measles—On request.

Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or
otherwise)—Steam.

If Apparatus at Hospital is available is it used for the
disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c., of Patients
not removed to the Hospital?—Yes

No. of Articles disinfected—Only recorded by Bootle
Corporation.

Where is Apparatus situated?—Bootle.

Any arrangement for bathing verminous, &c.,
persons?—No.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1925.

CASES NOTIFIED.

YEARS.

"NOTIFIABLE" DISEASES.	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1											65 and over	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospitals of persons belonging to district	Total Deaths
		1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65					
Scarlet Fever ...	16	—	—	—	3	8	4	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	2	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals ...	24	1	—	1	3	9	5	—	2	4	—	—	3	1	2	

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age—Periods. Years.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.	
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15—20	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	1
45—55	1	1	—	—	1	—
55—65 —	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	2	3	—	1	1	1

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient?—Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?—No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?—No.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925—Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6, and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade—No.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62—Any action taken under this Section—No.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—1 case, treated at home.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1925—Further Sewering of Roads.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District—Further Sewering of Roads.

Signed,

FRANCIS CARTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1926.

