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Borough of



Accrington

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

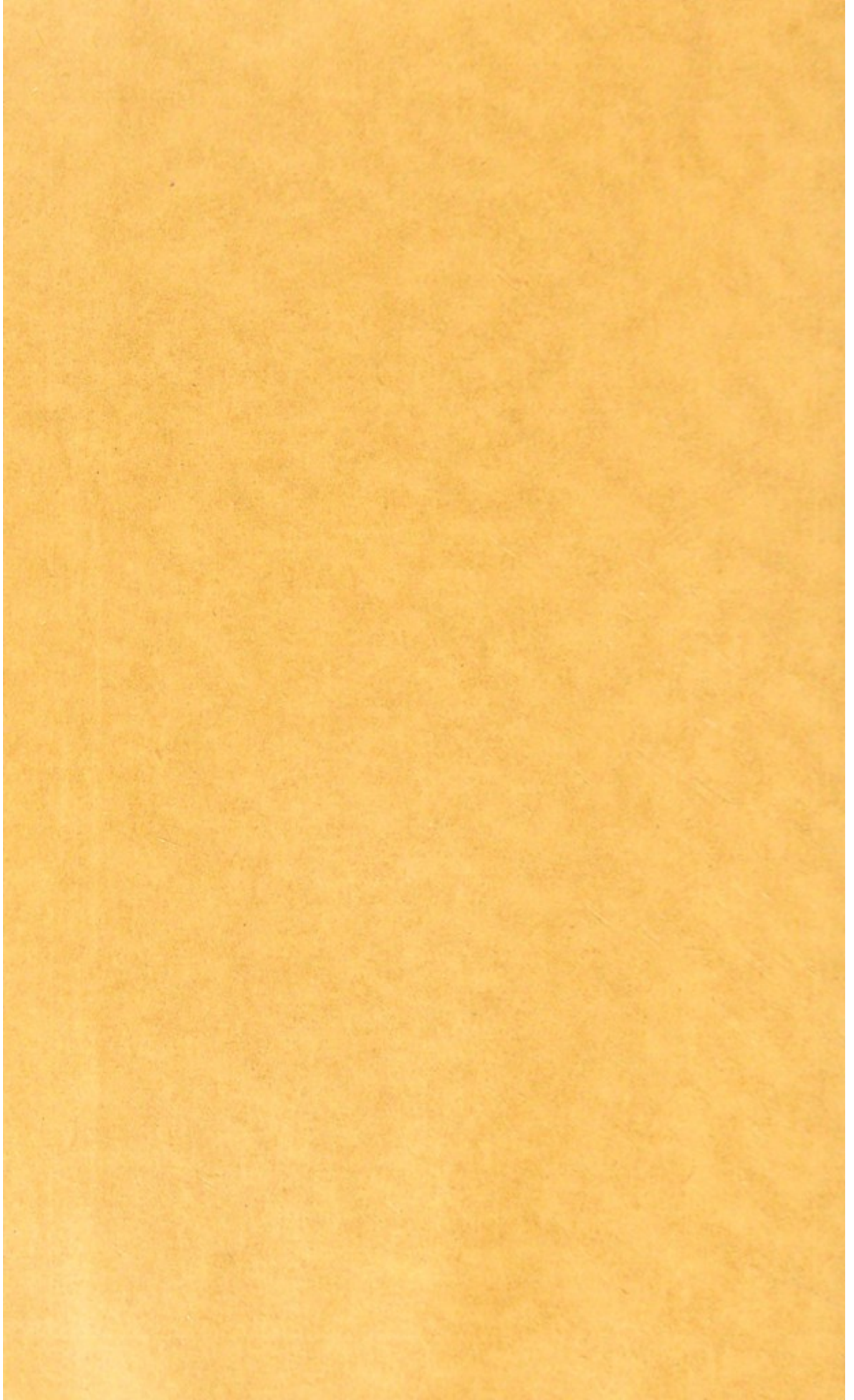
REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

including the

Reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.

== 1951 ==



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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1951-52.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN Dr. A. CAMPBELL, J.P.
(ex-officio).

Chairman :

*ALDERMAN A. WADE.

Vice-Chairman :

*ALDERMAN J. S. HARGREAVES.

*ALDERMAN H. JOHNSON.

„ R. LANCASTER.

*COUNCILLOR J. E. K. BARNES.

„ N. BENTLEY.

„ F. CAREFOOT.

* „ W. HOWSON.

„ W. RIDEHALGH.

„ A. RILEY.

„ G. WALKER.

„ F. WILKINSON.

*Members of the Health Sub-Committee.

**STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND CLEANSING
DEPARTMENT.**

Medical Officer of Health:

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

(Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

FRANK KENNIFORD, M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Full-time Officers):

WILLIAM J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.R.San.I.

KEITH FODEN, M.R.San.I.

(One vacancy).

Student Sanitary Inspector:

GORDON ECCLES.

Infectious Diseases Officer, etc.:

HUBERT MULHALL.

Senior Foreman:

ERNEST LIVESEY.

CLERICAL STAFF:

Public Health Offices:

JOHN WALMSLEY.

ROBERT McCONNELL.

Mrs. A. THORNLEY.

(Appointed 29th October, 1951).

Miss D. BURNS.

(Resigned 31st August, 1951).

Cleansing Dépôt:

WALTER OGDEN.

Refuse Disposal Works:

ROBERT A. WALMSLEY.

(Appointed 21st May, 1951).

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Accrington.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Accrington.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1951.

Housing is of high importance for the health of the community, and not only for physical health but also for mental health. You will note that despite the efforts already made our housing problem remained, and indeed that waiting lists for rehousing continued to grow.

The incidence of infectious diseases was in general low. The number of cases of pneumonia was, however, twice that of the previous year. All but one of the 21 cases occurred in the first quarter of the year; all but 2 were in persons over 50 years of age, and 10 were in persons over 70. Thus they merely reflect the well known fact that the colder months are dangerous in this respect to those whose years are more advanced. The number of cases of tuberculosis of the lungs was higher than in the previous year, 36 as against 25, but there is no apparent reason for this. There is no special association with any district or occupation, and in most cases the source of infection is not apparent; this, of course, is not surprising in a disease whose onset is often slow and insidious. In some cases there is clear evidence of association with other cases in the same household, but in many this is not so. The matter must not, however, be exaggerated; it remains true, as I observed some years since, that the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis is less than 1 per 1,000 of the population, and the deaths are about 1 in 3,000.

Although infant mortality at 39.6 per 1,000 is at a level which might have made us satisfied a generation ago, it is some-

what too high for these days. For the 5 years 1948-52 the average was 39.9. There are times when comparisons are salutary, and therefore I remark that one of Accrington's neighbours has for 1951 a rate of 24, and an average for the same five years of 32. In 1951 Accrington had 23 deaths of children under 1 year of age; had the rate been as low as for that neighbour we would have lost only 14, a difference of 9 citizens. Analysing the causes of these 23 deaths we find that 6 may be attributed to congenital defects, and one to a rare disease. In our present ignorance these are not preventable. Six were due to prematurity which arises from conditions as to which we have still much to learn, and which we are still far from able to control. But there are also 2 deaths from gastro-enteritis, 2 from broncho-pneumonia, 2 from bronchitis 2 from birth injuries and 2 from asphyxia. Looking at any particular death among these it may be impossible to say that it was preventable, but broadly speaking one can say that these are preventable conditions. The infant mortality of Accrington is not high, indeed it is lower than many of us would have ever expected to see it, but the good must become the better.

I thank Mr. Hindle, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and his staff for their co-operation during the year, and the members of the **Council** for their personal interest in all that relates to the health of the town.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

REGINALD C. WEBSTER.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulances Home Nursing Home Helps Maternity & Child Welfare School Medical Service Tuberculosis (Home Visiting) Welfare of Aged	}	Provided by Lancashire County Council.
Hospitals Venereal Diseases Treatment Tuberculosis Treatment	}	Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Laboratory		At local hospitals and Manchester Public Health Laboratory.
Public Analyst	- - -	Mr. S. E. Melling, F.R.I.C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Water Supply.

As has been stated in previous Reports the present supply has reached the limits of its capacities. Agreement has already been reached about the acquisition of a bulk supply from Burnley Corporation. Negotiations are also in progress with Manchester Corporation for an additional source from the Haweswater Aqueduct, when this ultimately becomes completed.

Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of new houses built in 1951—

1. By the Corporation, 64.
2. By other bodies or persons, 23.

B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses on 31/12/51, 1,858.

2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings on 31/12/51, 691.

- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year, 1.
 2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Forty-five (45) new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 36 were respiratory cases and 9 non-respiratory.

The incidence of males to females infected was as follows:—

Respiratory 24 males, 12 females;
 Non-Respiratory 3 males, 6 females.

Fifteen (15) deaths were caused by this disease in 1951 and these were made up as follows:—

Respiratory 5 females, 8 males;
 Non-Respiratory 1 female, 1 male.

The age groups into which these deaths fall can be seen on the statistical sheet on Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases on the active register at 31st December, 1951—

Respiratory	males 90,	females 64	=	154
Non-Respiratory	„ 46	„ 47	=	93
				<hr/>
				247
				<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 309 cases during the year 1951. There were 19 cases of Scarlet Fever, 207 cases of Measles, 21 cases of Pneumonia and 47 cases of Whooping Cough.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 675 deaths registered in the Borough in 1951. Of these 354 were males and 321 females. The Death Rate for the year was 16.7, as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 12.5.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 243 of the registered deaths. Cancer filled second place with 96 deaths, and Intra-cranial diseases came third with 82 deaths.

It will be seen then that

36.00%				of deaths were due to Heart Diseases.
14.22%	„	„	„	Cancerous Diseases.
12.15%	„	„	„	Intra-cranial Lesions.
2.22%	„	„	„	Tuberculosis.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 4,418.

Population (Census 1931), 42,991.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population, mid 1951, 40,340.

Population--Preliminary Census, 1951, 40,671.

No. of inhabited houses (Census 1931), 12,019; (1951, 14,276).

Rateable Value, £256,808.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,064.

The social conditions of the Borough are good. Chief industries are textile weaving, finishing, and printing, textile and general engineering, etc.

VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	309	252	561
Illegitimate	14	6	20
	—	—	—
	323	258	581
	—	—	—
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stillbirths	10	5	15
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	16	7	23
Deaths (all ages)	354	321	675
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			14.4
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still).....			25.0
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			16.7

Deaths from puerperal causes:	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.	Nil.
	—	—
	Nil.	Nil.
	—	—

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	39.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	37.4
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,,	100.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	96
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	2
,, ,, Pulmonary tuberculosis (all ages)	13
,, ,, Other forms of tuberculosis (all ages)	2

**TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, INFANT
DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.**

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality
1951	581	675	23	39.6
1950	564	614	22	39.0
1949	652	652	32	49.1
1948	690	548	23	33.3
1947	710	610	31	43.7
1946	638	617	25	39.2
1945	570	589	29	50.9
1944	567	564	23	40.6
1943	561	605	17	30.3
1942	508	556	20	39.4
1941	464	577	19	40.9

**CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS
DURING 1951.**

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	8	5	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	11	13	24
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f)	—	3	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	8	9	17
Cancer of Breast	1	8	9
Cancer of all other sites	46	21	67

Measles (excluding German Measles)	207
Whooping Cough	47
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	21
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—
Acute poliomyelitis	2
Acute polio-encephalitis	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—
Dysentery	9
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Erysipelas	4
Malaria (contracted in this country)	—
(Abroad)	—
	Total 309
	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1951.

NEW CASES.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	2	—	—	1
5	—	1	—	2
10	1	—	1	—
15	—	2	—	2
20	4	1	—	—
25	8	4	1	1
35	4	1	1	—
45	3	1	—	—
55	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—
	Totals		3	6
	24	12		
	—			

DEATHS.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—
25	2	3	—	—
35	1	1	—	1
45	2	1	1	—
55	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—
	<hr/>			
Totals	8	5	1	1
	<hr/>			

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

Medical examinations for the Corporation Superannuation Scheme, and as to fitness for work, are carried out by the Medical Officer of Health. An arrangement exists by which these may, alternatively, be delegated to his medical assistants on the County Council Divisional Medical Staff.

The following record is incomplete, as it includes only examinations carried out personally by the Medical Officer of Health, but it serves as an index of the work done.

For Local Government Superannuation Act.....	56
For other purposes	22

SANITARY INSPECTION AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.

Public Health and Cleansing Department,
Town Hall,
ACCRINGTON.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my TWENTY-FIFTH Annual Report on the work of the Borough's Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1951, and on the Public Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st March, 1952.

In addition to the presentation of statistical information an endeavour has been made to provide useful comment, and careful perusal of the Report by members of the Council is invited.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Accrington and District Water Board from upland sources (Reservoirs—Dean Clough, Mitchell's House, Burnley Road and Plantation Mill), and from underground sources (Altham Borehole and Rishton Colliery).

All public water supplies are passed through pressure filters and are chlorinated. Water from one reservoir (Mitchell's House) is soft moorland (peaty) water, having a low pH value, and is treated with lime and chalk after filtration to neutralise acidity. Water from the other sources is not liable to plumbo-

solveny, and daily examinations are carried out by the Water Board to ascertain pH value, a standard of 8.0 being sought.

The Board are always vigilant for contamination and exercise all due care in ensuring a safe and wholesome water supply. Routine samples are taken by the Board at monthly intervals from every source of supply, such samples being submitted for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The Water Engineer, Mr. R. Jackson, has kindly supplied the information that, during the year under review, 116 samples of water were submitted by the Board for bacteriological examination, together with 10 samples for chemical analysis, the results being satisfactory.

During the year ending 31st December, 1951, 3,015 yards of new mains were laid, such extensions including provision of mains to new housing estates.

The number of houses in the Borough which do not receive a mains' supply but have private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc., is approximately 50, these premises being situated in the rural parts of the town.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of waste water closets was further reduced during the year, 169 having been converted to the fresh water flushed type.

The various types of sanitary convenience in use at dwelling-houses in the Borough are as follow:—

	1951	1926
Fresh water closets	8,512	2,195
Waste water closets	5,776	9,238
Pail closets	94	294

It will be observed from the preceding statistics that there is still a considerable number of waste water flushed sanitary

conveniences, their conversion to the type flushed by fresh water being the principal sanitary requirement of the town. Progress during the last quarter of a century in improving the sanitary circumstances of the Borough is illustrated by a comparison of the statistics for the current year with those for 1926, the year incidentally, when I took over control of the Department on the decease of my predecessor, Mr. R. Diggle.

In order to facilitate the carrying out of conversion work the Ministry consented in 1950 to the borrowing by the Corporation of a sum of £1,000 to cover the cost of a limited number of grants-in-aid payable to property owners. Towards the end of the year under review this amount had been almost expended, and it therefore became necessary to seek further loan sanction, approval having been given at the time of writing this Report. It is therefore possible to continue our progressive policy of discarding this obsolete type of sanitary convenience and encouraging substitution by more hygienic accommodation.

Under the provisions of the Accrington Corporation Acts the local authority can require the substitution of fresh water closets for any other type of sanitary convenience, provided a sewer and water supply are available.

HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The following Table gives a summarised list of nuisances and housing defects discovered in dwelling-houses during the year and dealt with by the service of notices.

It will no doubt be realised that the statistics given represent a mere fraction of the Department's activities in connection with house disrepair, only the instances where it has been necessary to serve notice being indicated.

In many cases owners are persuaded to voluntarily remedy defects without the necessity of written notices. Such informal action occupies much of the inspectorate's time, but results are usually worth-while.

Internal.	Number found defective, insanitary or missing
Window frames, etc.	75
Doors, door-casings, etc.	30
Skirting boards	1
Boarded floors	14
Flagged floors	3
Staircases, handrails, etc.	5
Fireplaces and ranges	10
Ceiling and wall plaster.....	75
Dampness	86
Insufficient ventilation	1
Washing facilities	1
Sinks and waste pipes	16
Chimney flues	3
Water in cellar	1

External.

Dustbins and lids	396
Water pipes and fittings	3
Gullies	15
Fresh water closets and fittings	4
Waste water closets and trough closets...	8
W.C. and coal store structures	26
Drains	16
Yard surfaces	1
Chimney stacks and pots	6
Eaves gutters	14
Rain water pipes	13
Roofs	9
Yard walls and external brickwork.....	1
Pointing or cement rendering	23

856

In addition, blockages were removed from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,783 premises.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

	Temporary Houses.	Permanent Houses.
(a) By the local authority	Nil	64
(b) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(c) By other bodies or persons	Nil	23

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 214

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 562

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 4

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 15

(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 the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 213

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 129

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4

(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 1

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners Nil.
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV—Overcrowding :—
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein.....
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein
- } No
information
under
this head.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil.
5. Housing Act, 1949 :—
- No schemes for the improvement of existing housing accommodation were submitted.

NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice :—	1951.
Intimation (preliminary)	446
Statutory	5
	451

HOUSING — GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During and since the last war numerous factors have conspired to impede and frustrate Public Health Departments in their efforts to improve existing housing accommodation to the desired extent. Shortages of building labour and materials, the urgent need for new houses, exigencies of the national economy and the high cost of repair work have all played a part.

Priority must necessarily be given to the homeless, and that this is still an acute problem is evident from the fact that, notwithstanding the number of new houses erected locally since the war, there remained at the end of the year 1,858 applicants for Corporation houses, of whom 691 were living in lodgings. While fully appreciating this it must be realised that the needs of those living in sub-standard houses are almost as pressing. The evil effects, physical and moral, on the individual of bad housing cannot be too strongly emphasized.

Before the war approximately 250 houses were systematically inspected and reconditioned annually, but, with the outbreak of hostilities, some curtailment of the Department's activities in this direction became necessary. Circumstances compelled Public Health Departments to direct their attention to essential repair work as distinct from systematic reconditioning. Although the war ended some six years ago, its effect on housing problems is still evident, not the least being the ever-widening gap between rents and repair costs.

At the Annual Conference of the Sanitary Inspector^s Association, held in 1950, the following resolution was passed, viz:—

“That this Conference requests the Minister of Health to give urgent consideration to the problems of maintaining house property, which problems arise mainly from age and from the inability of owners to fund necessary urgent repairs from the current rent yield.”

In consequence thereof, and at the invitation of the Minister, the Association submitted in November, 1951, a lengthy

Memorandum on the Effect of Rent Restrictions on the Repair of Dwelling Houses to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

It might be considered ultra vires for Sanitary Inspectors, as local government officers, to pass comment on what is generally regarded as the private concern of landlord and tenant, but the legal prerequisite of any statutory notice for house repair is that the premises must be capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense. Sanitary Inspectors must regard objectively any matter which interferes with their duty to ensure that the people they represent are housed in premises which are fit for human habitation. They must necessarily concern themselves with the fact that the condition of many houses is deteriorating year by year, and that eventually the cumulative effect of this progressive deterioration, unless arrested, might well be the appearance of numerous secondary slums.

The argument, true as it might be, that many properties have been milked of rents for a few decades with a minimum of expenditure on repairs, notwithstanding that a proportion of the ~~of the~~ rentals should be set aside for repairs, does not help the Sanitary Inspector very much in the execution of his duties. It is usually the oldest houses with the lowest rents which require the most work to be done.

The Ridley Committee on Rent Control reported that there was evidence that the permitted increase (for repairs) had not in **all** cases been applied for the purpose for which it was designed, but had been regarded as an added increment to the landlord's income. The Committee also stated that there was evidence of a tendency among some owners to look upon house property as an investment to give a perpetual income without much expenditure on repairs or replacement.

As previously mentioned, another important obstacle facing Public Health Departments is the position of the building trades. Owing to the pre-occupation of many contractors with the construction of new buildings, improvements to premises, etc., and manpower deficiencies, the Department still encounters diffi-

culties in securing the services of builders to carry out essential repairs, a situation which is by no means confined to this town. The keen competition existing before the war seems very remote and we now have a position where demand exceeds supply, which, as economists know, tends to make prices rise.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are in the Borough 3 registered common lodging houses, their condition and conduct being satisfactory. 172 visits were paid.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

143 visits were paid in connection with cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of infected articles and premises. The following table gives details of disinfections carried out during the year.

DISINFECTIONS.

	1951.
Rooms of dwelling-houses	125
Schools	—
Books	51
Beds	48
Articles of Bedding	234
Articles of Clothing	60
	—
	518
	—

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year 7 houses were disinfested. Satisfactory results were obtained by the use of "D.D.T." solution.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

It is an established fact that sewers constitute the main source of infestations arising in surface properties within the Borough, rats gaining access to premises chiefly by way of defective drains. Regular and systematic attacks upon the sewer rat have been proved to considerably assist in reducing surface infestations to a minimum. With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer and his staff one such maintenance treatment was carried out in October, 2,567 sewer manholes being baited during the period. Systematic inspection and treatment of surface properties for rats and mice were continued throughout the year.

The methods of control adopted for the Borough were those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, from whom grant-aid was available to the extent of 50% of the approved net expenditure incurred.

164 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

This rather prosaic-sounding but nevertheless important statute appeared during the year. It provides for the registration of premises where rag flock and other specified filling materials are used in any form of upholstering, including the stuffing or lining of bedding, toys, baby carriages and other prescribed articles. An offence is committed if unclean filling materials are kept on the premises, or if upholstered articles stuffed with unclean materials are sold. Places used for manufacturing or storing rag flock must be licensed for that purpose.

Registrations were effected in respect of upholstering at 6 different premises in the Borough.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One gut scraper and four tripe dressers carry on scheduled offensive trades on 5 separate premises. The conduct of these trades was, on the whole, satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Department, together with a large number of the Borough's inhabitants, has, over a number of years been disturbed by the possible deleterious effects on the health of the community of large quantities of smoke and grit emitted from the chimneys of factories and workshops in the town. Attention has, in recent years, been focussed on the chimneys of one particular works; complaints with regard to the behaviour of these chimneys have occasionally been bitter and often justified. It is felt that an opportunity presents itself here for the setting out of a few of the problems with which a Health Department is beset in matters of this nature.

The works in question had, prior to the late War, three ranges of Lancashire boilers for steam-raising purposes, comprising in all 13 boilers and 3 chimneys. All these boilers were coal-fired and manually stoked. About this time, nuisance was being caused by heavy emissions of grit particles from the smallest of the three chimneys, a chimney which, incidentally, was quite close to residential property. The works is situated at a much lower level than this property, and the comparative height of this chimney outlet above the houses was consequently reduced. Add to this the out-of-date condition of the offending boiler installation and it is not difficult to understand the occurrence of nuisance.

In 1938, following requests to the firm by this Department that measures be adopted to reduce this grit nuisance, mechanical stokers were fitted to the offending boilers and some improvement ensued. The following year, however, the outbreak of War saw a deterioration in the quality of coal supplied to the firm, with the result that the newly-fitted mechanical stokers could not be fed with suitable fuel. The grit nuisance recurred.

Later, the firm brought into use a fourth boiler range, which had been recently reconditioned by the installation of two new boilers with automatic stoking equipment. The coal position worsened, however, and as production at the works increased, the immediate advantageous effect of this additional steam-raising plant was soon to be nullified by the need to have every available boiler working at full capacity, burning whatever fuel was supplied. This unsatisfactory position continued throughout the War and for some time thereafter. The firm endeavoured to obtain the necessary permits and licences to provide new steam-raising plant, but a considerable time elapsed before work could begin, and it was 1949 before the job was completed.

The new plant consisted of a new boiler-house and chimney, containing three boilers fitted with modern automatic stoking equipment; its main purpose was to enable the oldest boiler range which had become notorious as a grit-producer, to be taken out of use. A dual improvement was anticipated—firstly, by increasing steam-raising capacity and thus keeping abreast with expanding production; and secondly, by improving boiler efficiency and thereby making more economical use of fuel and reducing atmospheric pollution.

Shortly following the bringing into operation of this new range it was found possible, as had been expected, to produce sufficient steam for the works without the help of the old small range referred to above; this range was accordingly taken out of use. Production at the works during the period which followed increased progressively; larger volumes of steam were required for new processes, and the fifteen working boilers became gradually subjected to heavy loads throughout the day and night. The grit nuisance had been reduced, but an equally objectionable smoke nuisance, caused in the main by unsuitable fuel and overloaded boiler plant, took its place.

About this time the national fuel shortage was at its height. The works were using over 800 tons of coal weekly, much of which was unsuitable for the type of boiler in which it had to be burnt. The management endeavoured to obtain supplies of more suitable coal, and a meeting was held in 1951 at which the firm concerned,

the National Coal Board, the Ministry of Fuel and Power, and the Corporation were represented. This resulted in no promise of early improvement in coal supplies, however, and alternative means of solving the problem had to be considered. These alternatives included the conversion of boilers for oil-burning, the installation at the works of coal-crushing machinery to break up the unsuitably large coal, and the provision of automatic stoking equipment for the ten manually-fired boilers.

This latter expedient was thought to be the best, and was tentatively agreed upon. It was natural, however, that before proceeding with the fitting of costly machinery, the firm wanted some assurance that supplies of coal suitable for the new plant would be available. Unfortunately, this assurance was not forthcoming, and the problem appeared to be incapable of immediate solution.

The cotton trade recession in early 1952, however, along with other national developments, saw an improvement in the coal supply position. At this time the firm's fuel consumption had been reduced to between 500 and 600 tons per week, and little difficulty was being experienced in obtaining the type of coal required. Renewed efforts were made to get the large (seven-boiler) range, which at this period was causing the most trouble, fitted up with mechanical stokers, and by mid-1952 this equipment was installed and fully operating together with a new and larger exhaust fan in the main flue from these boilers. By now the old three-boiler range which in earlier years had been mainly responsible for the grit nuisance had been dismantled and its accompanying chimney demolished.

At the time of writing, therefore, the works is in a fairly strong position as far as up-to-date steam-raising plant is concerned. Of the four boiler ranges in existence, comprising 15 boilers in all, three are operating with automatic stoking equipment of modern design; the three boilers in the remaining range continue to be manually fired, but automatic stokers are on order, and delivery is expected in the not too distant future. There is no need for any of the boilers to be overloaded, and difficulties previously encountered by the obligatory use of some

inexperienced stoking labour, have to a large extent been circumvented by the use of automatic stokers.

It can confidently be expected that unless there is a return to the unfortunate days at the beginning of the War, when the staff of this Department were given the task of visiting local works for the express purpose of requesting managements to **increase** smoke production for security reasons, the improvements referred to above, together with continued endeavour and co-operation on the part of this Department and works managements generally to reduce atmospheric pollution to a minimum, will ensure that the atmosphere over Accrington is as clean as is consistent with full operation of the town's factories and workshops which provide the livelihood of the vast majority of the Borough's inhabitants.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The number of Factories on the Register is as follows:—

(i) Factories with mechanical power	231
(ii) Factories without mechanical power	49
(iii) Other premises under the Acts (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	Nil
	280

510 visits were paid in connection with the conduct of Factories. In 7 instances it was necessary to call the attention of occupiers or owners to sanitary defects, in all cases the remedy being applied without resorting to formal action.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE.

52 visits were paid to premises where petroleum spirit and carbide are stored, three new installations for the storage of petroleum spirit being approved during the year.

Licences were issued as follow:—

To store Petroleum Spirit	71
To store Carbide	5
To store Petroleum Mixtures ...	1

Co-operation between the Department and the Lancashire County Fire Brigade in the administration of the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, was continued during the year by courtesy of the Chief Officer, Mr. J. Clitherow.

All premises in respect of which new applications for petroleum licences were made during the year were inspected jointly by a Sanitary Inspector and the District Fire Prevention Officer.

As a Public Health Department we are naturally concerned in the prevention of personal injury due to faulty storage of petroleum spirit, and, as this is also one of the objectives of the County Fire Brigade, it is felt that our mutual co-operation will be beneficial to licensees in the town and to the public generally.

In this connection mention must be made of the serious accident which occurred at a motor garage in Bristol, on the 24th November, 1951. 11 or 12 persons were killed and a further 12 injured as the result of an explosion of petroleum vapour on the premises.

This emphasises the necessity for all practicable precautions to be taken by persons who store or handle petrol, and demonstrates the danger which can quite easily result from relatively small amounts of this common substance. Familiarity breeds contempt, and this adage can be applied to petrol; all persons handling it should learn a lesson from this disaster.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

There were no outbreaks of contágious diseases of animals reported in the Borough during the year, although two separate cases of suspected fowl pest necessitated the imposition of the prescribed restrictions on the premises concerned by an Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

In order to prevent the widespread dissemination of foot-and-mouth disease a wide area in the North, including Accrington, was designated a controlled area. Restrictions on the movement of animals were imposed throughout the area, being subsequently removed when the danger had passed.

The following movement licences were issued by the Department, viz :—

Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1950	2
Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Controlled Areas Restrictions) General Order, 1938	8

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

(a) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Shown below is a Return of all samples of food and drugs analysed by the Public Analyst under the provisions of the Act during the year.

299 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the sampling of food and drugs.

Article of food or drug	Number analysed	Number adulterated or non-standard.	Percentage adulterated or non-standard.
Milk	76	11	14.5
Sausage	12	2	16.7
Potted Meat	5	—	—
Brawn	3	—	—
Pressed Beef	1	—	—
Beef and Pork Loaf	1	—	—
Beef Sausage Meat	1	—	—
Savoury Ducks	1	—	—
Chopped Ham	1	—	—
Polony	1	—	—
Salmon Paste	2	—	—
Desiccated Coconut	2	1	50.0
Iodised Table Salt	1	1	100.0

Coffee	3	—	—
Jam	3	—	—
Malt Vinegar	2	—	—
Custard Powder	1	—	—
Glycerine	1	—	—
Tomato Piquant	1	—	—
Balsam of Aniseed and Blackcurrant	1	—	—
Bouillon Cubes	1	—	—
Concentrated Apple Juice	1	—	—
Shortbread Mixture	1	—	—
Plum Pudding	1	—	—
Pastry Mixture	1	—	—
Self-Raising Flour	1	—	—
Ground Almonds	1	—	—
Biscuits	1	—	—
Epsom Salts	1	—	—
Bottled Apricots	1	—	—
Sage & Onion Stuffing	1	—	—
Fish Dressing	1	—	—
Table Jelly	1	—	—
Synthetic Cream	1	1	100.0
Gelatine	1	—	—
Dried Mincemeat	1	—	—
Sage	1	—	—
Pepper Compound	1	—	—
Gravy Powder	1	—	—
Butter	1	—	—
Margarine	1	—	—
Lard	1	—	—
Peppermint Cordial	1	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	142	16	11.3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The samples of milk certified to be below standard, of which 6 were "appeal to cow" samples taken at the farms in consequence of five non-standard retail samples, were obtained from four different retailers.

In one case, a retail sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 23.6%, while the corresponding "appeal to cow" sample, taken by a Sanitary Inspector who had been present during milking operations, was reported to be genuine. The vendor was prosecuted, a fine of £2 and costs being imposed.

One sample showed a small natural deficiency (3.5%) in non-fatty solids, no further action being taken apart from notifying the vendor.

The remaining three non-standard retail samples were certified to be deficient in milk fat in varying degrees, the "appeal to cow" samples taken in respect thereof indicating that the deficiencies were of natural origin. Both producer-retailers were officially informed by the Town Clerk that the Council were extremely concerned at these adverse reports upon the samples and warned them of the very poor quality of the milk.

An informal sample of sausages was reported deficient in meat content to the extent of 18%, a subsequent formal sample from the same source being found genuine. The other non-standard sample of sausages had a meat deficiency of 10%, but on the advice of the Public Analyst summary proceedings were not taken against the vendor.

The sample of desiccated coconut shown as non-standard contained 30% of an inert diluent consisting largely of carbohydrate material. Further inquiries revealed, however, that the article sampled was in fact "sweetened tenderised coconut", but had not been labelled as such. No further action was necessary as the product was accurately labelled subsequently.

Although the sample of iodised table salt contained only 65% of the stated iodine content, the Public Analyst recommended that no further action be taken.

The sample of synthetic cream adversely reported upon did not bear the name and address of the firm, but, as the Public Analyst stated that a sample taken elsewhere had shown this omission to have been rectified, no action was necessary.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

All bacteriological examinations of milk samples continue to be carried out by the Department of Pathology, Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.

During the year, 28 samples of pasteurised milk and one of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted for the phosphatase, methylene blue and coliform tests; all samples satisfied the tests.

5 samples of sterilised milk were taken and were reported to comply with the turbidity test.

44 samples of tuberculin tested milk and one of accredited milk were submitted for the methylene blue and coliform tests. 5 samples, supplied by 4 different producers, failed the prescribed methylene blue test, and appropriate action was taken in respect of them.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

In accordance with these Regulations duties in connection with the supervision of milk production on farms were transferred from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1949.

Local authorities, however, retained their duties in connection with the control of milk distribution, including the registration of distributors.

123 milk distributors were registered under the Regulations.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The special designations permitted for raw milk are (a) Tuberculin Tested, and (b) Accredited, those for heat-treated milk being principally (a) Pasteurised, and (b) Sterilised.

The following licences were granted under the Regulations, viz :—

Dealer's Licence (Sterilised)	92
,, ,, (Pasteurised)	44
,, ,, (Tuberculin Tested)	31
,, ,, (Accredited)	0
Supplementary Licence (Sterilised)	2
,, ,, (Pasteurised)	2
,, ,, (Tuberculin Tested)	2
Pasteuriser's Licence	1

MEAT INSPECTION AND THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

The most important document on meat inspection to have been issued during the last 25 years—"Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Meat Inspection"—was published early in 1951. For the benefit of new members of the Council it might be worthwhile to quote the following brief extracts in order that they may be acquainted with the history of the present system of control.

"The scheme for control of the slaughter of livestock and of the distribution of meat, which was introduced by the Ministry of Food in January, 1940, had three consequences with a direct bearing upon the inspection of meat; livestock and meat at slaughterhouses became Crown property; the number of slaughterhouses was greatly reduced; and the responsibility for meat inspection was concentrated on those local authorities in whose areas the selected slaughterhouses happened to be situated.

"The Ministry of Health, in a memorandum issued to local authorities in January, 1940, drew attention to the fact that under the scheme of control animals and meat were Crown property until sold and were not, therefore, subject to the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to the seizure of unsound food. The memorandum emphasized, however, that the Minister of Food desired to have the benefit of the meat inspection services already provided by local authorities in the areas where slaughterhouses were to operate under the control scheme. The local authorities concerned willingly provided the service asked for, and the Minister of Food, in agreement with the Minister of Health, appointed

a small advisory staff of technical officers for purposes of liaison with the inspectors.

“With the introduction of the scheme of control the number of slaughterhouses in use in England and Wales was reduced from a pre-war total estimated to be 15,100 in 1937 to a total of 689 in January, 1940.

“At the time of writing there are 495 slaughterhouses used by the Ministry of Food in England and Wales, of which 116 are publicly-owned slaughterhouses and 379 are privately-owned.”

Our Public Abattoir serves a total population of about 100,000 in Accrington and District, the Corporation's Sanitary Inspectors being responsible for inspection as to fitness for human consumption of all meat supplied therefrom.

Statistics relating to the number of animals slaughtered, inspected and found diseased or unsound during the year are given in the subsequent Table 1. It is not proposed to enlarge upon the details given, although one observation might usefully be made. Figures relating to the proportion of disease found in cattle have, on the publication of previous Annual Reports, been unfortunately the subject of varying interpretations, some of which have conveyed the impression, though not widespread, that a proportion of the meat supplied to butchers, etc., in the area is derived from questionable animals. The reader is naturally at liberty to form his own conclusions from the data supplied, but there should be sensible anticipation of the possible unintentional effects such opinions might have when expressed in public.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that all animals slaughtered, whatever their condition, are subjected to careful post-mortem examination. No meat is allowed to leave the Public Abattoir either for retail sale or manufacturing purposes until it has been passed by competent meat inspectors as fit for human consumption, all diseased or unsound meat and offals having been rejected and unhesitatingly surrendered by the Ministry. A high standard of meat inspection has been maintained at Accrington ever since control of slaughtering was introduced, and complete co-operation has existed between officers of the Department and the Slaughterhouse Manager.

Two interesting facts will be observed by a perusal of Table II, the first being the great increase in the number of cattle sent in for slaughter during the last year or two. Secondly, the improvement in the quality of animals over the past five years, as denoted by the continual decline in the incidence of disease among them.

The Department's Inspectors had cause to examine a quantity of meat which had been seized by Ministry of Food Enforcement Officers from the premises of a retail butcher. Part of this meat was found to be diseased and proceedings were instituted against the individual concerned on the grounds that, contrary to the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, he had exposed unsound food for sale for human consumption. Simultaneously the Ministry also prosecuted the butcher for being in possession of meat not supplied by them. The retailer was convicted on both charges, and it is of interest to note that the fine imposed in connection with illegal possession of meat amounted to £100, whereas that for exposing the diseased meat for sale was £25.

Doubts have been expressed in certain quarters in the past that meat inspection is not carried out with the maximum efficiency, and assertions have been made that veterinary surgeons should be responsible for the supervision of Sanitary Inspectors in this type of work. Having considered diverse evidence on the matter the Interdepartmental Committee came to the following conclusion, viz:—"Satisfactory results are being achieved in many slaughterhouses under the present system and this supports the view that experienced non-veterinary inspectors can do the work competently."

Another important matter discussed in the Committee's Report is the subject of hygiene in slaughterhouses. "The conditions and facilities at individual slaughterhouses vary considerably and a large number are in greater or lesser degree inadequately constructed and equipped."

As indicated in my previous Reports the Department is not remaining static and regarding the Public Abattoir with complacency. A considerable amount of work has been done during the past few years, both in regard to essential maintenance and structural improvements. Maintenance work continues apace and

the enforced neglect of the war years is being made good. Perhaps the most important improvement remaining outstanding is the provision of a hot water supply and wash-hand basins in the slaughter halls. The installation of mechanically-operated saws is now complete and the fitting of electric winches will soon be commenced. The erection of a new gut scraping establishment was initiated during the year and the building is now completed and in use.

TABLE I.—**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle other than		Calves	Sheep and	Pigs
	Cows	Cows		Lambs	
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected	3463	2493	430	16209	1239
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	7	6	24	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	628	702	2	827	67
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	18.1%	28.4%	1.9%	5.3%	6.5%
	22.4%				
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	17	103	2	—	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	533	1199	2	—	113
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	15.9%	52.2%	0.9%	—	10.4%
	31.1%				

TABLE II.—Annual Comparisons.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Number of cattle slaughtered and inspected	5,956	5,851	4,676	4,367	4,500
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	22.4%	23.8%	32.9%	50.4%	41.2%
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	31.1%	37.8%	35.1%	28.9%	30.6%
Total Disease Percentage	53.5%	61.6%	68.0%	79.3%	71.8%

TABLE III.—Conditions Necessitating Condemnation of
Whole Carcasses and Organs.

Diseases	Cattle other than			Sheep and	Pigs
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	
Tuberculosis	17	103	2	—	16
Septic Diseases	—	2	—	2	2
Fever	—	1	1	—	3
Swine Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1
Toxaemia	—	2	—	1	1
General Dropsy and Emaciation	—	1	2	16	1
Malignant Neoplasms	—	1	—	—	—
General Bruising	—	—	—	1	—
Moribundity	—	—	—	3	1
Uraemia	—	—	1	—	—
Immaturity	—	—	2	—	4
Leukaemia	—	—	—	1	—
Total	17	110	8	24	29

TABLE IV.—Comparison of Condemned Meat and Offals.

	Weights of Condemned Meat and Offals.			
	1951		1950	
	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.
Tuberculosis	91,674	36,955	126,883	46,118
All diseases except Tuberculosis	12,151	47,747	9,094	54,197
Total Home Killed	103,825	84,702	135,977	100,315
Add Imported	1,143	238	3,686	Nil.
Total Weight Condemned	104,968	84,940	139,663	100,315

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

1,427 visits were paid to miscellaneous food premises for the purpose of examination of food and inspection of premises. In no instance was it found necessary to resort to formal seizure of unsound food, all being surrendered voluntarily. The articles of food which were given up for destruction as being unfit for human consumption were as follow:—

Miscellaneous Canned Foods	5,461 tins
Miscellaneous Glass-packed Foods	545 articles
Cheese	213 lbs.
Butter	4 „
Cereals	23 „
Fish	4 „
Table Jelly	15 „
Cooked Meat	8 „
Cake Mixture	846 „
Nuts	4 „
Sheep Feet	1,120 „
Rabbits	35
Eggs	30
Malt Loaves	6

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926.

During the war the Ministry of Food exercised emergency powers to suspend the Marking Orders relating to eggs, bacon, butter, dried fruit, meat and poultry, which suspension was continued until 24th May, 1951. From that date the Orders again became operative, various types of imported foodstuffs being required to bear an indication of origin, i.e. "Empire", "Foreign", etc., at the time of wholesale or retail sale.

The type of offence which it is the object of the Orders to prevent is, for example, the sale of cheaper imported tomatoes without label, or, in some cases, under the label of English or home-grown. 160 tomato retailers in the town were visited and informed as to correct labelling of their goods. The necessary labels promptly appeared, but during the following year certain defaulters were noticed.

The greengrocery trade, and others concerned with the different foodstuffs to which Marking Orders apply, should realise that it is not the duty of the Department to be continually reminding them of their legal obligations. Successful prosecutions would no doubt have the desired effect of bringing the matter to notice, but such action should not be necessary to remedy what is, in many cases, *lapsus memoriae*.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 50 of the above-mentioned Act imposes on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died in its area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body will be made otherwise than by the authority.

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1952, three burials were effected at a net cost to the Corporation, after deducting receipts for death grants, etc., of £2 0s. 6d., the deceased persons being three adults.

The funeral arrangements in all cases were made by the Cemetery Registrar in collaboration with the Department.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ended 31st March, 1952.

(I) REFUSE DEALT WITH.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
House and Shop Refuse			
Motors	8537	0	0
Clinker from Schools, etc.			
Motors	353	0	0
Market Refuse			
Motors	184	2	2
Fish and Trade Refuse from Shops, etc.			
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
Motors	352	16	2
Miscellaneous	22	10	2
	375	7	0
Total weight of Refuse collected ...	9449	9	2
Refuse taken to Tips	2011	8	2
Refuse dealt with at Disposal Works ...	7438	1	0

(II) MISCELLANEOUS DATA.

	1951-52.	1950-51.
1. Total refuse collected (in tons)	9,449.5	10,163.0
2. Population	40,340	40,420
3. Weight (in cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	12.80	13.78
4. Method of Collection: —		
Horse-drawn vehicles	Nil.	2.9%
Motor vehicles	100.0%	97.1%

5. Method of disposal:—		
Salvage, Incineration & Utilisation	78.7%	79.4%
Tipping	21.3%	20.6%
6. Number of dry ashpits	Nil.	Nil.
7. Number of dustbins	14,831	14,784

The object of including in the Report statistics such as those given overleaf is to provide a factual record of the Department's activities during the year. An important fact will be readily observed from these figures, this being that horse-drawn transport has now been completely eliminated from the Cleansing Services.

Prior to 1931 there existed a separate Department of the Corporation, which consisted of a Stables (comprising a stud of 30 horses), Smithy and Wheelwright's Workshop. In that year the Stables Department was merged and brought under the control of the Health Committee, the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent being placed in charge. The development of motor transport for municipal services since those days has rendered horses obsolete, and it has for some time been the policy of the Health Committee to completely mechanise their services. This is now an accomplished fact; the Stables and Smithy Sections of the Department have ceased to exist, while the Wheelwright's Section will also have disappeared by the time this Report is published.

Another fact which emerges from the data is that approximately one-fifth of the town's refuse is disposed of by "tipping", notwithstanding that we are a "Destructor Town". This is due to the necessity for taking refuse to tips during plant stoppages, such dislocations generally occurring as the result of tube bursts in the boilers used for steam supply to the Electricity Works.

REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.

SALES.

Year ended 31st March, 1952.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	494	2	1			
Textiles	40	9	2			
Compressed Destructor Scrap..	241	6	3			
Scrap Iron	51	16	1			
Lime Mortar	533	4	0			
Household Bones		4	0			
Boiled Swill	895	1	2			
Feeding Meal	3	16	0			
	<hr/>			11,755	1	1
Value of Steam sold to adjoining Electricity Undertaking				800	0	0
				<hr/>		
				£12,555	1	1
				<hr/> <hr/>		

The year under review was outstanding from the revenue aspect—receipts from sales amounted to £12,555 as compared with £7,415 for the previous year. The increase was chiefly the result of record prices received for waste paper and quantities collected. There was much satisfaction to be derived from the Department being able to place the resultant income in aid of rates.

The Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of waste paper, which was commenced on 1st April, 1948, was continued.

At the end of the year the sum of £1,519 2s. 0d. had been distributed among the Department's employees as compared with £609 4s. 11d. during the year 1950-51.

The halcyon days of salvage were not, however, destined to continue, terminating abruptly at the end of the financial year, and, incidently, after rate estimates for the year 1952-53 had been fixed.

Prices for waste paper rapidly slumped from £16 per ton to £8 10s., and this was not to be the full extent of the blow. Demand for the commodity suddenly ceased and local authorities were left with unsaleable stocks on hand. What was only a short time previously a valuable residual had reverted to refuse fit only for destruction. The enhanced prices had attracted sundry newcomers to this field of salvage operations, but, as was to be expected, these quickly disappeared when the profits went, leaving the onus of collection on local authorities.

Although the market had previously declined in 1949 it was even then possible to dispose of the output, albeit at a reduced price of £3 10s. 0d. per ton. At the time of compiling this Report there is still no immediate prospect of any great improvement in the position.

What was a source of satisfaction and congratulation among local authorities a few months ago is likely to be a totally different matter when budget-day for rates arrives in 1953.

REFUSE COLLECTION—DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT:					
	Spring Hill & Higher Antley	West and North	East and South	North, Peel Park & Huncoat	Centre
Total emptyings	127,587	148,355	135,926	131,799	92,072
Total tonnage	1,758.5	1,766.0	1,648.5	1,952.1	1,411.9
Bins per man per hour	14	16	15	14	10
Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin)	lbs. 429	lbs. 432	lbs. 402	lbs. 477	lbs. 345
Weight per bin (lbs.)	31	27	27	33	34
No. of bins for District.....	3,051	3,008	2,956	3,323	2,478
Frequency of emptyings	42	49	46	40	37

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

Vehicle	Purchased	Actual hours worked	Repairs	Cleaning	% Hours Running	Hours Holidays	Hours rained off, etc.
S. and D. TE 9389	September 1929	2314½	61½	64½	91.1	94¾	7
Dennis 1 ATC 439	September 1935	2296	98¼	60½	88.2	14½	6¼
Dennis 2 BTD 22	November 1936	2388	56¼	62½	90.9	94¾	26½
Dennis 3 ETE 269	November 1939	2556½	73	63¼	91.6	91½	5¼
Dennis 4 FTJ 18	November 1945	2557¾	38¼	63	92.0	94¾	26¾
Dennis 5 JTD 464	May 1948	2500¾	57¾	62½	91.3	94¾	22¼
Dennis 6 LTJ 528	June 1950	2686¼	20¾	66½	95.1	50¾	—
Karrier 1 FTD 769	January 1944	2319¼	163½	60½	89.2	55¼	2
Karrier 2 JTF 386	September 1948	2468¾	37	64¾	92.1	89	22¼
Karrier 3 KTF 954	August 1949	2519	74¼	62½	90.8	94¾	22¼
Lewin MTE 126	December 1950	2338	9¼	63½	89.3	85½	123
Total		26974¾	689¾	694	91.1	987¼	263½

CLEANSING SERVICE.

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1952.

Item	Particulars	Refuse Collection excluding Nightsoil Removal	Refuse Disposal	Street Cleansing including Gully Cleansing, Street Sweeping, Snow Removal, etc.
A	Gross Expenditure	£ 17,353	£ 15,219	£ 10,150
B	Gross Income	2,036	13,489	3,609
C	Net Cost.....	15,317	1,730	6,541
D	Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises	1,073	121	458
E	Net cost per 1,000 population	380	43	162
F	Net cost; equivalent rate in the £.....	1s. 2.40d.	1.63d.	6.15d.
G	Percentage of F to total rates in the £	5.85%	0.66%	2.50%

QUANTITATIVE (SEASONAL) REFUSE ANALYSIS.

	1951-52			
	Summer		Winter	
	Weight	%	Weight	%
	lbs.		lbs.	
Weight of one cubic yard.....	613	100.0	713	100.0
Fine dust minus 5/16"	282	46.1	360	50.5
Fuel cinder 5/16" to 3/4"	93	15.2	106	14.9
Fuel cinder over 3/4"	42	6.9	45	6.3
Organic matter	22	3.6	24	3.4
Paper	46	7.5	32	4.5
Metal	28	4.4	25	3.5
Rags	11	1.8	16	2.2
Glass	45	7.3	32	4.5
Bone	2	0.3	1	0.1
Unclassified combustible	19	3.1	14	2.0
Unclassified incombustible	23	3.8	58	8.1
Average weight per bin	27		34	

Reference has been made on numerous occasions in the past to the question of the future means of disposal to be adopted for the 10,000 tons or so of refuse produced each year in the town. Consideration has been given to controlled tipping, but, owing to the restricted amount of accessible land available for such purposes within the Borough boundary, this method of disposal is not one which can be regarded as offering a permanent solution.

It has, therefore, become increasingly obvious that the solution lies with the existing Refuse Disposal and Salvage Works, in which connection two alternatives present themselves, viz:—

- (a) an extensive scheme of repair, renewal and modernisation of plant, machinery, buildings, etc., which would necessitate embarking on a large capital outlay, probably upwards of £40,000, or
- (b) a continuation of the present policy of effecting an increased programme of repairs, replacement and re-conditioning of plant, etc., each year, the cost being met from revenue.

After careful and prolonged consideration, the second alternative appears the most attractive, and has therefore been recommended to the Council.

The most urgent problem for resolution arising from this policy has been the future of the water-tube boilers, used for supplying steam to the adjoining Electricity Works for the past 25-35 years. When the new generating station at Huncoat is in full operation, the British Electricity Authority will have no further need for our steam supply, and the Department will be deprived of £800 per annum, the contribution received for the steam. These boilers are now being kept going only by excessive maintenance expenditure, and also constitute a "bottle-neck" to the Disposal Works as a result of stoppages necessitated by the frequent repairs requiring to be carried out.

At the time of writing agreement has been reached with the B.E.A. for complete removal of the boilers and subsequent reforming of flues and dampers. In spite of the annual loss of revenue for steam, which is in any case inevitable, it is felt that this is the best end to the old boilers; more efficient working of the Disposal Plant will then be possible.

In conclusion, I should like to say a few words of appreciation on behalf of the Department. Our thanks are due to the Mayor and every member of the Town Council, not forgetting the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Health and Cleansing Committee, for a continuation of their encouragement and support throughout the past twelve months. We thank also the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer and other colleague Officials and their staffs for their usual co-operation and assistance. My personal thanks are also due to Dr. Webster, Medical Officer of Health and Divisional Medical Officer, for his continued backing and willing assistance at all times, and, finally, to a very capable and loyal staff and body of employees for services well and truly rendered.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. A. HINDLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.



