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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 Public Health
Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

FRANK KENNIFORD, M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.

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== 1956 ==

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

1956-57.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR W. RIDEHALGH, J.P.

(ex-officio)

Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR J. B. BIRCH

Vice-Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR W. M. SPROUL

ALDERMAN W. BROWNBILL

* „ F. CAREFOOT

* „ A. DAWSON

*COUNCILLOR N. BENTLEY

„ J. W. CHADWICK

„ R. LIVERSAGE

„ F. PARKER

„ P. SMITHIES

„ Mrs. TAYLOR

„ A. WADE

* 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 Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
(Full-time Officer):

FRANK KENNIFORD, M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.

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

KEITH FODEN, M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors (Full-time Officers):

GORDON ECCLES, Cert. R.S.H. (Resigned, 25th March, 1956)

KENNETH SHACKLETON, Cert. R.S.H.

JOHN EDDLESTON, Cert. R.S.H.,

(Appointed 1st February, 1957)

Student Public Health Inspectors:

JAMES M. PILKINGTON

DEREK H. WESTWELL

KEVIN H. BAILEY (Appointed 11th September, 1956)

Senior Foreman and Mechanical Supervisor:

ERNEST LIVESEY

Administrative Assistant:

ROBERT McCONNELL

CLERICAL STAFF:

Public Health Offices:

JOHN WALMSLEY

Mrs. A. THORNLEY

Cleansing Dépôt:

ROBERT A. WALMSLEY

Refuse Disposal Works:

WALTER OGDEN

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 the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1956.

It is regrettable that this report is so late in presentation; this is mainly due to the considerable pressure of work on the department, and the fact that, particularly on the inspectorial side, it was short-staffed for a considerable time.

During the year I recall with great regret that we suffered the loss, in a tragic accident, of Alderman W. Howson, Chairman of the Health Committee, who had just become Mayor of the Borough. Both as Chairman of the Divisional Health Committee and as Chairman of the Borough Health Committee and elsewhere, Alderman Howson's unswerving honesty and his ability and zeal in public affairs have left to us an example of the highest quality. His scrupulous impartiality, his ability and his sound technical knowledge of the work of the Health Department all made him an outstanding Chairman, who had rendered long service of high quality to the Town.

The infant mortality record for the year was disappointing. It is true that a number of these deaths were due to causes about whose prevention at present little is known. However, I am far from satisfied with the fact that Accrington, which is the largest town in my Divisional area, shows a tendency to head the list

for infant deaths in most years. It is difficult to suppose that this can be due to environmental conditions only, since Accrington in many respects has less unfavourable conditions than some of the other districts.

The incidence of infectious diseases was generally low, but unhappily there were three cases of poliomyelitis, one of which was fatal. The incidence of measles was low, while that of whooping cough was considerably higher than in the previous year. This is due to the well-known fluctuation in these two diseases, which occurs about every two years. I am happy to say that no outbreaks of food-poisoning occurred during the year.

The number of superannuation examinations shows a continuing increase, and it is a matter for reflection that in each of the past years since 1948 these have shown a continuing upward trend. It will be seen that during the year 119 of these were carried out and this is more than ten times the combined number for five other districts. This is a somewhat remarkable fact, but looking back I find that for each year since 1948 the proportion is somewhat similar. A considerable number of these examinations are carried out for taking up work in the Transport Department, and I must in honesty admit that it is somewhat exasperating to examine persons as to their fitness for work to the age of sixty-five when one knows at the time of examination that there is little likelihood that they will continue for any length of time in the employment; indeed, some of them are examined more than once in the same year, sometimes at intervals of a few weeks. Few things are more exasperating than to carry out work which one knows to be useless at the time when it is being performed. Nevertheless, the examiners in each case have to carry out the work as carefully as possible for obvious reasons. I am not, however, implying that it is only in this Department that this curious disparity exists; it appears to be general, but it is nonetheless frustrating.

During the year the Crematorium was opened. It has been widely used not only by Accrington but by many other districts. The work of the Medical Referee is carried out by the Medical

Officer of Health with Dr. Wheeler, Assistant Medical Officer, as Deputy Referee. This work by no means implies the cursory inspection of forms, but requires careful attention in detail; it is vitally important that no technical irregularity should occur in the forms, but even more so it is vitally important that the duty of reporting to H.M. Coroner in appropriate cases should be scrupulously carried out. This sometimes gives rise to misunderstandings and even to ill-feeling. It is particularly important, not only in the public interest, but in the interests even of the bereaved families, that deaths where there is a suspicion of industrial disease should be reported, and instances of this have, in fact, already been found.

The work of the Health Department in the town is somewhat hampered by the fact that a temporary clinic, as it was supposed, opened before the war, still continues to be the permanent clinic for the town. The building is totally inadequate for its purposes and it is a lamentable illustration of the fact that the short-term temporary policy can, in the long run, turn out to be a liability to the community. This building and many of the activities carried out in it are no longer the direct concern of the Corporation, but I mention the fact because all matters of public health in some way concern the Corporation Health Department and because of the moral which may be drawn from this building.

On the whole, the health of the town has been satisfactory in 1956. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all departments and particularly to the Town Clerk's Department for their friendly co-operation throughout the year. This general friendliness and helpfulness is one of the most valuable features of work in Local Government, and in particular I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Kenniford, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and his staff for their warm co-operation, more especially as they have been labouring under the difficulty of short-staffing and of illness. I am happy to recall that Mr. Kenniford, after his fortunate escape in the road accident which deprived us of the Mayor, has made a good recovery and in his energetic hands the department is continuing the excellent tradition built up by Mr. Hindle.

To you, Mr. Mayor, and to the members of the Health Committee, I would express my thanks for your close interest, help and support throughout the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

REGINALD C. WEBSTER.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulances	}	Provided by Lancashire County Council
Home Nursing		
Home Helps		
Maternity & Child Welfare		
School Medical Service		
Tuberculosis (Home Visiting)		
Welfare of Aged		
Hospitals	}	Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board
Venereal Diseases Treatment		
Tuberculosis Treatment		
Laboratory		At local hospitals and Manchester Public Health Laboratory

Acting Public Analyst - - - Mr. T. W. Lovett, F.R.I.C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Housing.

See Public Health Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of New houses built in 1956:—

1. By the Corporation, 52.
2. By other bodies or persons, 12.

- B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses, 510.
 2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings, 37.
- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year, 4.
 2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 3.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Nineteen (19) new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 16 were respiratory cases and 3 non-respiratory.

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

Respiratory, 9 males, 7 females.

Non-Respiratory, 1 male, 2 females.

Five (5) deaths were caused by this disease in 1956, and these were made up as follows:—

Respiratory, 3 males, 1 female.

Non-Respiratory, 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, 1956:—

Respiratory	males	99	females	73	=	172
Non-Respiratory	„	27	„	33	=	60
						232

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 225 cases during the year 1956. There were 8 cases of Scarlet Fever, 82 cases of Measles, 6 cases of Pneumonia, 115 cases of Whooping Cough, 3 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis, 2 cases of Food Poisoning, 7 cases of Dysentery and 2 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 588 deaths registered in the Borough in 1956. Of these 287 were males and 301 females. The Death Rate for the year was 14.8 as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 11.7.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 179 of the registered deaths. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System came second with 117 deaths and Cancer came third with 92 deaths.

It will be seen then that

30.44% of deaths were due to Heart Diseases.

19.89% " " " Vascular Lesions of
Nervous System.

15.64% " " " Cancerous Diseases.

0.85% " " " 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 1956,
39,790.

Population—Preliminary Census, 1951, 40,671.

No. of inhabited houses (Census 1931), 12,019; (1956, 14,589).

Rateable Value, £359,397.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,550.

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

VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	272	259	531
Illegitimate	13	16	29
	285	275	560

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stillbirths	5	11	16
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	12	9	21
Deaths (all ages)	287	301	588
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			14.1
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ...			28
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.8

Deaths from puerperal causes:	Death-rate per 1,000 total
Deaths.	(live and still) births.

Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.	Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	37.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	35.78
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	68.96

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	92
„ „ Measles (all ages)	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0
„ „ Pulmonary tuberculosis (all ages)	4
„ „ Other forms of tuberculosis (all ages)	1

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

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality.
1956	560	588	21	37.5
1955	513	578	9	17.5
1954	543	579	21	38.7
1953	547	531	16	29.3
1952	551	563	14	25.4
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

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS DURING 1956

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, Other forms	1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	2	2	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective & Parasitic Diseases...	3	—	3
Malignant Neoplasm:			
Stomach	5	8	13
Lung, Bronchus	12	3	15
Breast	—	6	6
Uterus	—	10	10
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	18	30	48
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	51	66	117
Coronary Disease, Angina	48	22	70
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	11	13
Other Heart Disease	37	59	96
Other Circulatory Disease	10	12	22
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	9	16
Bronchitis	23	14	37
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	3	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	—	5
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhœa	—	1	1

Nephritis and Nephrosis	7	1	8
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	2	3	5
Other defined & ill-defined Diseases...	23	24	47
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	—	6
All other Accidents	8	7	15
Suicide	8	6	14
Homicide and Operations of War ...	1	—	1
	287	301	588

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1956.

	Total cases notified.
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	8
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—
Food Poisoning	2
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—
Measles (excluding German Measles)	82
Whooping Cough	115
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	6
Puerperal pyrexia	2
Meningococcal Meningitis	—
Acute poliomyelitis	3

Acute polio-encephalitis	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—
Dysentery	7
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Erysipelas	—
Malaria (contracted in this country)	—
(Abroad)	—
Total	225

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during the year 1956.

NEW CASES.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	1
20	2	1	—	—
25	—	3	1	—
35	1	2	—	—
45	2	—	—	—
55	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	1
Totals	9	7	1	2

DEATHS.

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

FOOD POISONING.

Two cases were notified during the year.

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

In 1956 the following examinations were carried out, viz:—

	By M.O.H.	By Assistant M.O.
Superannuation Acts	89	30
Other examinations	13	—

**PUBLIC HEALTH
AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.**

ANNUAL REPORT, 1956.

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 Second Annual Report on the work of the Borough's Public Health Inspectors for the year 1956, and on the Public Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st March, 1957.

By the time this report appears in print much of its informative value will have been lost, and its usefulness will be confined to a statistical record of the Department's activities. From March, 1956, until February, 1957, the Department had to function with one district inspector instead of the usual three, in addition to which I was absent for a long period. In spite of repeated advertisements for inspectorial staff the position only eased when the Council received approval to pay the permitted plusage for industrial areas.

As meat inspection duties at the Public Abattoir necessitated the full-time attendance of at least one inspector it was thus obviously impracticable to do much more than essential routine work in the public health field. It is highly dissatisfying to me to have to report that staff shortages thwarted our intentions to implement during the year the Food Hygiene Regulations, not to mention the effect on other public health

measures such as slum clearance. While we are not fully staffed at the time of writing it has nevertheless been possible during 1957 to carry out some useful inspection work in food hygiene. It must be our endeavour to promote and maintain the highest standards of hygiene in food premises.

Both Mr. J. A. Hindle, my former chief, and I wish to associate ourselves with Dr. Webster's tributes to the late Alderman Howson, whose sad loss deprived the Health Committee of a respected Chairman and a very experienced member.

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). In addition bulk supplies are obtained from Burnley Corporation and Manchester Corporation (Haweswater Aqueduct).

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 plumbosolvency, 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, 296 samples of water were submitted by the Board for bacteriological examination, together with 7 samples for chemical analysis, the results being satisfactory.

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, 241 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:—

	1956
Fresh water closets	10,196
Waste water closets	4,785
Pail closets	95

The substitution of the fresh water flushed type for these 4,785 waste water closets is the principal sanitary requirement of the Borough. At the present rate of progress it is obvious that the existing unhygienic contraptions will not be wiped out for some considerable time. Progress is, however, limited by the desire to keep rate-borne expenditure within reasonable limits, but more especially by the inability of the local building trades to cope with a greater number of such conversions. The Department has for some time encountered difficulty in obtaining the services of building contractors for this type of work when work of a more pleasant nature is available.

REFUSE STORAGE ACCOMMODATION.

The greatest single operation ever undertaken to improve sanitation in the town was the abolition of the breeding place of flies, vermin and smells — the old ashpit. In 1932 and 1933 an ashpit conversion scheme was carried out, 5,253 ashpits being converted into storage accommodation for over 9,000 dustbins.

The dustbins and bin-shed doors and locks have stood up well to 24 years' wear and tear but replacement inevitably becomes due. A considerable number are now in need of renewal in the interests of domestic and communal hygiene.

The cleanliness of some bin-sheds leaves much to be desired, and householders can do much to assist the Department by the elementary practice of using the bin instead of littering the floor.

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 appreciated that where the number of defects, etc., remedied exceeds the number discovered, this is due to the fact that many such defects discovered in the previous year have been remedied during the year under review.

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

In addition to the defects referred to in the table, blockages were removed by the Department's employees from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,397 premises.

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED AND ABATED.

DWELLING-HOUSES.

INTERNAL.

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Windows :				
Woodwork	30	26	4	2
Cords	16	15	2	1
Fasteners	4	4	0	0
Glazing and putties ...	17	13	1	1
Mastic pointing	22	20	1	1
Doors :				
Doors	1	1	0	0
Casings	2	0	0	0
Thresholds or weatherboards	1	2	0	0
Hinges and fittings ...	1	0	0	0
Pointing	0	0	0	0
Floors :				
Boarded	7	1	5	6
Flagged	3	7	7	2
Damp	1	0	2	2
Water under	2	0	19	18
Walls :				
Plaster	59	39	9	8
Skirting boards	2	7	2	1
Damp	42	26	23	19
Ceilings :				
Plaster	40	48	6	5
Raining-in	40	54	10	8
Pantries, etc. :				
Walls	1	0	1	1
Ceilings	1	0	0	0
Staircases :				
Walls	1	0	1	1
Ceilings	2	0	0	0
Treads or risers	0	0	0	0
Handrails or balustrades	0	0	0	0
Open to bedrooms	0	0	0	0

By Notice		Otherwise	
Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied

Fireplaces :

Fire-ranges (ironwork)	4	6	2	1
Firegrates	4	3	0	0
Tiling	0	0	0	0
Fire backs	10	7	1	1
Flues (chimney or oven)	4	2	4	3
Side boilers	0	0	0	0
Ovens	0	0	0	0
Jambs or Lintels	2	1	0	0
Insufficient light	2	0	0	0
Insufficient ventilation ...	0	0	0	0
Electrical fittings	1	0	0	0
Gas fittings	0	2	0	0
Sinks	5	5	2	1
Lavatory basins or baths...	0	0	2	2
Waste pipes—sinks, etc. ...	1	1	2	2
Insufficient water supply...	0	0	2	2
Water pipes or fittings ...	2	0	6	4
Cooking facilities	0	0	0	0
Washing facilities	0	0	0	0
Food Storage facilities ...	0	0	0	0
Water in cellar	0	0	0	0
Carried forward	<u>330</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>92</u>

DWELLING-HOUSES.

EXTERNAL.

By Notice		Otherwise	
Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied

Dustbins or Bin-sheds :

Bins	87	74	302	243
Lids	23	24	140	123
Doors	11	8	15	0
Locks	0	0	0	0
Frames	0	0	0	0
Structures	1	1	0	0
Misuse of Dustbin	0	0	2	2

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied

Sanitary Accommodation,

Drains, etc.:

Waste water or trough

closets	1	3	196	239
Fresh water closets ...	1	1	29	29
W.C. pedestals	7	6	7	6
W.C. water pipes or fittings	8	2	11	9
W.C. flushing cisterns.	4	0	1	1
Soil pipes	0	0	4	4
Closet structures	14	13	4	3
Closet doors or fittings.	3	3	2	2
Door casings	3	4	0	0
Pails or privies	1	0	0	0
Cesspools or sewage disposal plants	0	0	0	0
Drains	5	8	158	143
Gullies, channel dishes	1	1	4	6

Coal Storage:

Structures	10	5	3	3
Doors or fittings	7	7	2	1
Door-casings	6	5	0	0
None provided externally	0	0	0	0

Yard:

Doors or fittings	7	10	0	0
Door jambs or lintels...	5	2	1	1
Walls	12	7	5	4
Surfaces	3	2	3	2
Drainage	0	0	5	2
Roofs	24	28	15	16
Eaves gutters	34	21	16	15
Rain water pipes	13	6	16	18
Waste pipes	1	0	0	1
Chimney stacks or pots ...	2	12	3	3
House walls (external) ...	2	0	2	2
Wall pointing	23	14	3	3
Cement rendering	8	4	1	1
Doorsteps or window or door jambs	3	0	0	0

Other structures	0	0	1	1
Refuse accumulations ...	0	0	21	20
Barge boards	0	0	0	0
Brought forward	330	290	114	92
	<u>660</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>1086</u>	<u>995</u>

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

	Houses	Flats
(a) By the local authority	—	52
(b) By other local authorities	4	—
(c) By other bodies or persons	8	—

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

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 403
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 445
- (2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—
- (a) Number found during the year 8
- (b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year 116
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 395

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during the year:—
- (a) Unfit houses Nil
- (b) Other houses Nil
- (2) Number of persons displaced Nil

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—

(1) Houses demolished or closed during the year :—

(a) Housing Act, 1936 :—

	No. of Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ...	6	2
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	3	10
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12).	1	1

(b) Housing Act, 1949 :—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
---	-----	-----

(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil
---	-----	-----

No. of
Houses

(2) Repairs during the year :—

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	333
---	-----

(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied :—

(i) By owners	Nil
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16). Houses made fit :—

(i) By owners	Nil
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	5

(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :—

Houses re-constructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil
---	-----

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—

- (1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7. Nil
- (2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above Nil
- (3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949 — Improvement Grants, etc. :—

Action during year :—

	Private bodies or individuals		Local authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwelling- houses or other Buildings affected	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwelling- houses or other Buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	21	21	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	21	21	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	8	8	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Certificates of disrepair under the Act were granted in 4 instances where applications were received from tenants. There was again no evidence to show that owners of rented houses had displayed any general enthusiasm to increase rents as permitted by the Act.

NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice:—	1956
Intimation (preliminary)	188
Statutory	Nil
	188

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are in the Borough 2 registered common lodging houses, their condition and conduct being satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

38 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.

Rooms of dwellinghouses	100
Schools	3
Books	93
Beds	16
Articles of Bedding	162
Articles of Clothing	291
Miscellaneous Articles	25
	690

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, a most satisfactory state of affairs.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The surface infestations which arise in dwelling-houses, business and industrial premises, etc., and originate chiefly as the result of rats gaining access by way of defective drains from the public sewers, have been treated as usual by the whole-time Rodent Operator working under the direction of the Inspectoral Staff. Although a charge is made for disinfection work at business and industrial premises, a free service is afforded to dwelling-houses.

Since 1945, regular bi-annual sewer treatments have been carried out to deal with rats at their source by the laying of poison bait in manholes. These treatments have had a considerable effect in reducing the rat population of the sewers, and consequently of surface premises, two men being engaged thereon for the greater part of the year.

3,825 sewer manholes were baited during the period, in conjunction with which 124 manholes were "test-baited".

The methods of control adopted 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.

66 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The Act provides for the licensing of pet shops, and, in deciding whether to grant a licence, the local authority is required to have regard to the need for securing that there will be provided accommodation suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; that there will be an adequate supply of suitable food and drink; that the animals will not be sold at too early an age; that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; and that appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

Licences were granted in respect of 7 pet shops.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

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

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The year was noteworthy in that it saw the appearance of the Clean Air Act, 1956, certain provisions of which came into force on the 31st December, 1956. The Act gives local authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution. The provisions now brought into force deal with the installation of new furnaces, the height of chimneys, smoke control areas, research and publicity, and the making of building byelaws.

For the past four years the Council have participated in the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution along the lines recommended by the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. A standard deposit gauge has been erected on the Town Hall roof and its contents measured and analysed each month.

Effective action to reduce pollution in the atmosphere must be based on reliable knowledge of its nature and extent. Only by continuous measurement by scientifically standardised methods can the effect of such action be estimated. Any attempt to alleviate the damage and loss to the nation caused by smoke and other impurities in the air therefore requires a scientific investigation of the facts of pollution.

Many other local authorities in the country are participating in the scheme, the Fuel Research Station co-operating with authorities and acting in an advisory and co-ordinating capacity. Results of investigations are collated and circulated monthly to local authorities, thereby enabling an overall view of pollution throughout the country to be obtained in addition to comparisons between authorities.

Observations lasting for five years are considered best for determining average values of atmospheric pollution, such period being necessary before reliable conclusions can be drawn about the average level of pollution or the rate at which it is being produced.

36 visits in connection with atmospheric pollution were paid by Public Health Inspectors during the year.

Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution:

Month.	Water inches rain.	Tons per Square Mile.		
		Total Water Insoluble Matter	Total Water Soluble Matter	Total Solids
January	4.61	5.53	9.84	15.37
February	0.63	4.18	4.24	8.42
March	1.26	7.16	5.63	12.79
April	2.72	6.26	5.07	11.33
May	1.26	8.75	5.30	14.05
June	2.60	8.75	6.76	15.51
July	4.33	6.70	8.15	14.85
August	8.51	6.86	7.72	14.58
September	2.91	7.82	5.27	13.09
October	2.56	6.53	7.29	13.82
November	1.69	6.43	6.83	13.26
December	4.10	6.33	9.01	15.34
TOTAL	37.18	81.30	81.11	162.41
Monthly Average	3.10	6.77	6.76	13.53

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

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

(i) Factories with mechanical power	240
(ii) Factories without mechanical power	42
(iii) Other premises under the Acts (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	3

285

329 visits were paid in connection with the conduct of Factories. In 5 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.

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

Licences were issued as follows:—

To store Petroleum Spirit	77
To store Carbide	3
To store Petroleum Mixtures ...	3

The proper storage of petroleum spirit is a matter of the greatest importance if danger is to be avoided. Many installations have been in existence for a considerable number of years without any accident occurring, but there has to be a first time for everything. Considering its dangerous nature no comparable substance is handled as negligently as petrol, familiarity breeding contempt. Certain existing installations are in need of bringing up to modern standards of safety, and the attention of all licensees is drawn to the necessity for ensuring that their petroleum installations are in such a condition as not to predispose to accident.

With the co-operation of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade it is expected that all existing installations will be inspected and reported upon at the earliest practicable opportunity. In the meantime no new installation is approved without joint inspection by the District Fire Prevention Officer and a Public Health Inspector, thereby ensuring that any likely source of danger is obviated.

It is therefore fitting that I should again extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Chief Fire Officer of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade for the specialised fire prevention knowledge which he readily makes available to the Department on request.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1950.

Prior to the 1st April, 1947, all duties in connection with the Diseases of Animals Acts were carried out by the Borough Police Force. At the time of merger of the County and Borough Police Forces the Council decided to retain their powers, duties and obligations under the Acts, and appointed the Chief Public Health Inspector as the responsible official.

Experience in administering the Acts since that date had led the Department to the conclusion that this transfer of duties had not been in the best interests of all concerned for a number of reasons. The Police Authority were therefore approached with a view to them resuming the carrying out of duties under the Acts on behalf of the Council, and agreement was reached for such resumption to operate from January, 1956.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

(a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

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.

192 visits were paid by Public Health 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	83	1	1.20
Potted Meat	3	—	—
Pork Sausage	1	—	—
Beef Paste	1	—	—
Fish Paste	1	—	—
Butter	1	—	—
Margarine	3	—	—

Compound Fat	1	—	—
Cheese Spread	2	—	—
Desiccated Coconut	1	—	—
Ground Rice	1	—	—
Weetabix Flour	1	—	—
Nut Mix	1	—	—
Bakewell Filling	1	—	—
Baking Powder	1	—	—
Lemon Pie Filling	2	—	—
Trifle Pack	1	—	—
Sunny Spread	1	—	—
Ground Almonds	1	—	—
Ground Ginger	1	—	—
Artificial Colouring	1	—	—
Cochineal	1	—	—
Fruit Sauce	1	—	—
Onion Sauce	1	—	—
Tomato Ketchup	1	—	—
Pickled Red Cabbage	1	—	—
Sage and Onion			
Stuffing	2	—	—
Mixed Herbs	1	—	—
Parsley	1	—	—
Ginger	1	—	—
White Pepper	1	—	—
Malt Vinegar	1	—	—
Lemon Cheese	1	—	—
Pure Honey	1	—	—
Orange Squash	1	—	—
Orange Crush	1	—	—
Jaffa Juice	1	—	—
Lemon Squash	1	—	—
Indian Tonic Water	1	—	—

Kali	1	—	—
Lemonade Powder	1	—	—
Creamola Foam			
Crystals	1	—	—
Aspirin Tablets	3	—	—
Bronchial Balsam	1	—	—
Linctus of Codeine	1	—	—
Indian Brandee	1	—	—
Glycerine	1	—	—
Butter Toffee	2	1	50.00
Invalid Toffee	1	—	—
Barley Sugar	1	—	—
Candy Toffee	1	—	—
Almond Fruit Nougat	1	—	—
	144	2	1.39

The sub-standard milk sample was a retail sample which was reported deficient in milk fat to the extent of 3.3%. The vendor was cautioned.

An informal sample of butter toffee was reported to contain 2.93% butter fat, in consequence of which a formal sample was taken. This was reported to contain 4.7% butter fat which is above the minimum of 4.0% referred to in Circular MF 21/51. A letter was sent to the manufacturer drawing attention to the deficiency in the informal sample.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

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

During the year 17 samples of pasteurised milk and 13 samples of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted for the phosphatase, methylene blue and coliform tests; all samples satisfied the legally prescribed tests except one of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk which just failed the methylene blue test.

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

43 samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for the methylene blue and coliform tests. One sample failed the prescribed test and appropriate action was taken in respect of it.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

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.

175 milk distributors were registered under the Regulations.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

The special designations permitted are "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" for heat-treated milk and "Tuberculin Tested" for raw milk.

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

Dealer's Licence (Sterilised)	153
„ „ (Pasteurised)	46
„ „ (Tuberculin Tested)	26
Supplementary Licence (Sterilised)	2
„ „ (Pasteurised)	2
„ „ (Tuberculin Tested)	2
Pasteuriser's Licence	1

MEAT INSPECTION AND THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

Last year I reported that there had been a considerable increase in the number of animals slaughtered at the abattoir since the end of meat rationing. This increased throughput has been maintained during 1956 and is in fact the highest ever recorded, being the equivalent of 19,036 cattle units. This represents an increase of 77% on the number of animals slaughtered during the last year of government tenancy, when a population of 100,000 was catered for. In the year 1939 the number of animals slaughtered was equal to 12,420 units, from which it can be seen that in 1956 there was an increased throughput of 53% as compared with the pre-war period.

As each carcase of meat leaving the abattoir has to be passed fit for human consumption it will be obvious that a depleted inspectoral staff has been working under difficulties in maintaining this essential public service.

From the point of view of the abattoir tenants the increased throughput has accentuated an already pressing problem, namely, the shortage of lairage accommodation for animals. If this increase is likely to be maintained, the provision of additional lairages must be considered, if necessary by expansion beyond the existing curtilage. There are no private slaughterhouses in the town.

In the White Paper on slaughterhouse policy presented to Parliament in May, 1956, it was stated that minimum standards would be prescribed for the construction, layout and equipment of slaughterhouses. These standards would secure:—

- (a) the lairing, handling and slaughtering of animals in a humane manner insofar as this object is not already met by existing regulations;
- (b) hygienic conditions for the handling of carcasses and offal for human consumption and adequate facilities for the efficient inspection of animals and meat; and,
- (c) satisfactory working conditions and welfare facilities for persons working in slaughterhouses.

At the time of writing this report recommended minimum standards in the form of draft regulations have been published. These will facilitate the consideration of schemes for improvement of slaughterhouses, in which connection I am at present engaged on planning the requisite alterations to our abattoir.

Reference to Table I shown below elicits an important fact, i.e., the continued decline in incidence of diseased conditions, with a corresponding reduction in condemnations as shown in Table IV. Consumer demand dictates quality and it is hoped that the present encouraging state of affairs will continue.

TABLE I.—Annual Comparisons.

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Number of cattle slaughtered and inspected	8,416	7,624	6,469	5,011	4,752
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticercosis	5.1%	9.4%	18.2%	24.0%	22.8%
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	13.3%	17.8%	21.3%	26.8%	28.4%
Percentage affected with Cysticercosis	0.6%	—	—	—	—
Total Disease Percentage	19.0%	27.2%	39.5%	50.8%	51.2%

TABLE II.—Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle other than Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected	4726	3690	524	46075	2462	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	4	8	2	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	201	223	—	258	11	

Percentage of the number
inspected affected with
disease other than
Tuberculosis and
Cysticercosis

4.2%	6.9%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%
<u>5.1%</u>				

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses
condemned

5	24	—	—	2
---	----	---	---	---

Carcasses of which some
part or organ was
condemned

262	826	—	—	61
-----	-----	---	---	----

Percentage of the number
inspected affected with
Tuberculosis

5.6%	21.9%	—	—	2.6%
<u>13.3%</u>				

Cysticercosis only

Whole carcasses
condemned

1	—	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---

Carcasses of which
some part or organ
was condemned

36	9	—	—	—
----	---	---	---	---

Carcasses submitted to
treatment by
refrigeration

2	2	—	—	—
---	---	---	---	---

Percentage of the number
inspected affected
with Cysticercosis

0.8%	0.3%	—	—	—
<u>0.6%</u>				

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

Diseases	Cattle other than		Sheep and		Pigs
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	
Tuberculosis	5	24	—	—	2
Septic Diseases	—	1	—	—	—
Pyæmia	—	—	—	1	—
Fever	1	—	—	—	—
Swine Fever	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—
Emaciation	—	1	—	—	—
Moribundity	—	—	2	6	—
Immaturity	—	—	2	—	—
Cysticercosis	1	—	—	—	—
Total	7	26	4	8	4

TABLE IV.—Comparison of Condemned Meat and Offals.

	Weights of Condemned Meat and Offals.			
	1956		1955	
	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.
Tuberculosis	33,395	18,198	33,651	21,846
All diseases except Tuberculosis	5,857	9,688	8,514	16,743
Total Home Killed	39,252	27,886	42,165	38,589
Add Imported	—	—	—	—
Total Weight Condemned	39,252	27,886	42,165	38,589

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

1,176 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	11185 tins
Miscellaneous Glassed-packed Foods	43 articles
Cheese	27 lbs.
Meat	377 lbs.
Butter	6 „
Fruit	314 „
Potatoes	228 „
Bacon	5 „
Pudding Mixture	6 pks.
Eggs	12 doz.

FOOD PREMISES

The table which follows is a classification of the various types of food premises in the town:—

Type of Business	Number
Grocers and Provision Dealers	205
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	44
Fishmongers	7
Meat Shops	50
Bakers and Confectioners	170
Fried Fish Shops	39
Sweets, Minerals, Ice Cream, etc.	56
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars ...	141
	—
	712
	—

The above-mentioned food premises include certain ones which require registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, viz:—

Manufacture of Ice Cream	3
Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	117
Preparation of Sausage, Preserved Foods, etc.	126
	—
	246
	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Section 50 of the 1948 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. No action was necessary during the year under review.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ended 31st March, 1957.

REFUSE DEALT WITH.

(1) Refuse Collected.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
House and Shop Refuse	9,344	11	2
Clinker from Schools, etc.	390	4	3
Market Refuse	207	13	0
Fish and Trade Refuse	1,211	17	3
	11,154	7	0

(2) Methods of Disposal of Refuse.

Taken to Tips (15.4%)	1,722	12	1
Dealt with at Disposal Works			
(a) Separation and			
Incineration (81.7%) 9,107	11	3	
(b) Direct Incineration			
(2.9%) 324	3	0	
	9,431	14	3
	11,154	7	0

(3) Weight of Refuse.

Actual weight	9,670	1	1
Estimated weight	438	0	0
Estimated weight from test weighings	1,046	5	3
	11,154	7	0

CLEANSING SERVICE.

House and Trade Refuse.

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1957.

Item	Particulars. 1	Collection 2	Disposal 3	Total 4
Revenue Account.				
1	Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	11,764	9,733	21,497
	(ii) Transport	9,466	1,513	10,979
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	2,365	4,281	6,646
	(iv) Other items	23	76	99
	(v) Total gross expenditure	23,618	15,603	39,221
2	Gross Income	3,338	6,758	10,096
3	Net Cost	20,280	8,845	29,125
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (in- cluded above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unit Costs.				
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	21 1	17 5	38 6
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	17 0	2 9	19 9
7	Net cost (all expendi- ture) per ton	36 4	15 10	52 2
		£	£	£
8	Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	509.7	222.3	732.0
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1289.5	562.4	1,851.9

1. Area (statute acres) 4,418
2. Population at 30th June, 1956 39,790
3. Total refuse collected (tons) 11,154
4. Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day
(365 days to year) 15.4
5. Number of premises from which refuse is collected 15,727
6. Average haul by collection vehicle to
disposal point ... approx. $\frac{7}{8}$ mile

CLEANSING SERVICE.

Street Cleansing.

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1957.

Item	Particulars 1	Street Sweeping & Watering 2	Street Gully Cleansing 3	Total 4
1	Revenue Account. Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	4,068	464	4,532
	(ii) Transport	3,325	1,167	4,492
	(iii) Plant, Equipment, buildings, etc.	1,179	229	1,408
	(iv) Other items	19	—	19
	(v) Total gross expendi- ture	8,591	1,860	10,451
2	Gross Income (exclud- ing reimbursements from Ministry of Transport and the County Council)	745	357	1,102
3	Net Cost	7,846	1,503	9,349
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (in- cluded above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Gross expenditure on snow clearance not included previously	794	—	—
6	Unit Costs Net cost per street mile cleansed	£ s. d. 107 16 0	—	—
7	Net cost per 1,000 street gullies cleansed	£ —	£ 60.2	£ —
8	Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	197.2	37.8	235.0

1. Mileage of streets cleansed 72.78

2. Frequency of cleansing: %

(a) At least once daily 9.6

(b) Three to five times weekly 2.8

(c) Twice weekly	—
(d) Once weekly	15.8
(e) Less than once weekly	71.8
	— 100.0%

3. Number of street gullies cleansed	6,549
4. Number of gully cleansings during the year	24,997
5. Percentage of street cleansing done mechanically ...	75.0
6. Percentage of gully cleansing done mechanically ...	100.0

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

Vehicle	Purchased	Actual hours worked	Repairs	Cleaning	% Hours Running	Hours Holidays	Hours rained off, etc.
S. and D. OTC 910	June 1952	2194½	119	112¾	86.9	99	
S & D, PTE 70	May, 1953	2262	53¼	115¼	89.9	99	
Dennis 1 ATC 439	September 1935	1982	195½	213¾	75.2	90	130
Dennis 2 BTD 22	November 1936	131½	43½	3	5.5	135	2086*
Dennis 4 FTJ 18	November 1945	1737¾	90	74½	68.0	99	553
Dennis 5 JTD 464	May 1948	2293¾	99	101	88.5	90	9
Dennis 6 LTJ 528	June 1950	2277¾	216	101	85.3	54	22
Karrier 1 FTD 769	January 1944	2238½	76½	99½	89.1	99	
Karrier 2 JTF 386	September 1948	2165	156½	102¾	85.7	99	2½
Karrier 3 KTF 954	August 1949	2167	96½	105¼	87.7	99	3
Karrier 4 JTJ 308	March 1953	2281	211	100½	85.9	45	19½
Lewin MTE 126	December 1950	1663½	224¼	349½	62.9	144	263
Lewin VTC472	April, 1955	1678	430¼	241½	63.8	99	180
Tractor KTB 638	May 1956	921	20	16½	45.1	36	1048
Total		25992¾	2031¼	1736¾	73.5	1287	4315¾

* This vehicle was scrapped during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION — DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT:					
	Spring Hill & Higher Antley	West and North	East and South	North, Peel Park & Huncoat	Centre
Total emptyings	129,239	135,480	130,650	126,613	115,367
Total tonnage	2,014.7	1,857.5	1,765.3	2,115.2	1,486.2
Bins per man per hour	11	15	14	11	13
Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin)	lbs. 395	lbs. 455	lbs. 432	lbs. 415	lbs. 365
Weight per bin (lbs.)	35	30	30	38	29
No. of bins for District.....	3,407	3,046	2,964	3,406	2,500
Frequency of emptyings	38	44	44	37	46

QUANTITATIVE (SEASONAL) REFUSE ANALYSIS.

	1956-57			
	Summer		Winter	
	Weight	%	Weight	%
	lbs.		lbs.	
Weight of one cubic yard.....	773	100.0	838	100.0
Fine dust minus 5/16"	285	36.9	308	36.8
Fuel cinder 5/16" to 3/4".....	237	30.7	289	34.5
Fuel cinder over 3/4"	57	7.4	51	6.1
Organic matter	30	3.9	25	3.0
Paper	51	6.6	50	6.0
Metal	29	3.7	38	4.5
Rags	8	1.0	13	1.5
Glass	48	6.2	29	3.4
Bone	4	0.5	2	0.2
Unclassified combustible	13	1.7	14	1.7
Unclassified incombustible	11	1.4	19	2.3
Average weight per bin	29		34	

REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.

SALES.

Year Ended 31st March, 1957.

	Tons cwts. qrs.			£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	526	1	0	3697	7	2
Textiles	42	5	3	129	14	9
Compressed Destructor Scrap	166	1	2	1194	11	11
Scrap Iron	57	17	2	232	17	6
Other Metal Scrap	1	4	0			
Lime Mortar	395	3	3	564	5	0
Bottles	—				6	14 10
				£5,825 11 2		

The receipts from sales this year showed a decrease of £1,340 despite an increase of £240 from the sale of scrap metals. The decrease is due to the reduction in tonnage of waste paper sold together with a reduction of approximately 10/- in the average price per ton. Lime mortar sales have maintained the encouraging increase of last year.

At the end of the year the sum of £801 7s. 6d. had been distributed among the Department's employees through the Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of waste paper, as compared with £1,476 8s. 9d. during the previous year.

The Refuse Disposal and Salvage Plant was closed down on the 1st March, 1957, and demolition of the incinerators and machinery was commenced soon afterwards in preparation for a scheme of reconstruction. The scheme provides for the installation of completely new incinerators and separation plant, and was prepared by my predecessor, Mr. J. A. Hindle. In addition

to increased salvage potential, infinitely better working conditions for the Department's employees will result from dust extraction equipment, the elimination of many laborious operations and the provision of a messroom and washing facilities.

At the time of writing the modifications and improvements are nearing completion, and it is then expected that we shall have one of the most modern plants it has been possible to install in an existing building. In the meantime all the town's refuse has been disposed of by controlled tipping on the site of the old Plantation Mill. When finally levelled off this site should form a useful piece of land instead of derelict ruins.

Finally, on behalf of the Department, I should like to thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement. As in the case of my predecessor, Dr. Webster has never failed to give me his backing and help at all times and I feel privileged to serve under him. I thank also the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer and other colleague officials for their co-operation and assistance. To a capable and loyal staff and body of most willing employees my personal thanks are due.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. KENNIFORD,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.



