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**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD**



Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

Medical Officer of Health :

GEORGE A. FULTON, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics
(Local Health Authority)

Sanitary Inspectors :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Royal Sanitary Institute, and
R.S.I. Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Mr. JOHN BRENNAN, Royal Sanitary Institute, and
R.S.I. Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Food Inspectors :

Sanitary Inspectors as above

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
1955**

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the eightieth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1955.

Introduction

The district is bounded on the south and west by Haydock U.D., on the south-west by Billinge U.D., on the north by Wigan County Borough, and on the east by Abram and Golborne U.D.s. The greater part of the district lies over coal measures and Bunter sandstone. The main problems to be dealt with are (1) renewal of sewage disposal works, (2) building of new houses, not only to deal with overcrowding, but to implement a programme of Clearance Areas. (3) Private Streetworks. Mining subsidence continues to be a major problem, interfering with building sites and causing damage to existing property.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District

The acreage is approximately 6,265 with an estimated population of 19,230 living in 5,910 inhabited houses. The Rateable Value is £91,614 and a penny rate yields £355. Although there has been a decline in the population commencing after the first world war, for some years the population has been stationary after a slight increase on the census of 1951, giving the population as 19,053 at that date.

Deep and open-cast mining is carried on in the district with agriculture, light engineering and textile weaving. Outside industry which attracts a number of residents includes iron foundry, rayon manufacture, clothing, catering and confectionery manufacture. Good bus and train services make this outside work available for industrial workers.

Sanitary circumstances

The water supply is upland surface water, and also from the Liverpool Corporation. The daily consumption of water averages approximately 20 gallons per head. A total of 5,799 houses are supplied direct from mains. Six samples of raw water were tested bacteriologically and four were unsatisfactory. Five chemical analyses were all satisfactory. The filter beds at No. 1 Reservoir were closed down, as a result the water supplied after treatment was satisfactory.

The sewage disposal system is partly water-carriage with sedimentation and filtration and partly pail closet and mixture with ash at special depot; the resulting product is disposed of to farmers. One-hundred and twenty-two new houses were connected to the water carriage sewage disposal system. The sewage works is affected by subsidence and approval has been obtained for an alternative site.

Pail Closets number 1,981, and fresh water closets 4,479.

The refuse disposal is by semi-controlled tipping and filling up a disused pit shaft.

There are 1,970 dry ashpits and 4,220 dust bins.

Vital Statistics

This information is supplied by the Registrar General. There has been no excessive mortality in the District and the population at mid-1955 remains practically unchanged at 19,230. The Birth and Death comparability factors are respectively 0.97 and 1.12.

	Male	Female
Live Births—		
Total	136	125
Legitimate	135	121
Illegitimate	1	4
Still Births—		
Total	5	3
Legitimate	5	3
Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—		
Total	4	4
Legitimate	4	4
Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age—		
Total	1	4
Legitimate	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population.

Total (all forms)—

Crude rate	11.5
Adjusted rate	12.9
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.21
Malignant neoplasms	1.61

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population—

Crude rate	13.6
Adjusted rate	13.2
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	30
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	19
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	31

Both the death rate and birth rate are lower than in the previous year, and the infant mortality rate is considerably lower, in particular there is a very great drop in the death rate for infants under one month old.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

Cause—	MALE Quarters		FEMALE Quarters		T'tls
	1st-3rd	4th	1st-3rd	4th	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	1	—	4
Tuberculosis, non-respiratory	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	1	—	2
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm—stomach	2	—	—	—	2
„ „ lung and bronchus ...	5	3	1	—	9
„ „ breast	—	—	2	—	2
„ „ uterus	—	—	2	—	2
„ „ others	9	—	4	2	15
Leukaemia	1	—	—	—	1
Diabetes	1	1	1	—	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	—	12	2	25
Coronary disease	16	3	5	6	30
Hypertension with heart disease	3	—	5	—	8
Other heart disease	11	9	11	6	37
Other Circulatory disease	3	1	2	4	10
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	3	1	8
Bronchitis	14	2	7	—	23

Other respiratory disease	—	—	—	—	—
Ulcer, stomach and duodenum	2	—	1	—	3
Gastroenteritis diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	3	—	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	—	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, etc.	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—	—	1	2
Other defined diseases	6	3	11	4	24
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	—	—	1
All other accidents	4	—	—	—	4
Suicide	1	—	—	—	1
Homicide	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	98	26	72	26	222

There is a small amount of pneumoconiosis among miners.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1955

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	Total under one month	
	Prematurity, Congenital Debility and Malformation	5	—	—	5
Bronchopneumonia	1	—	—	1	
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	
Other	—	—	—	—	
Totals	6	—	—	6	
	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total over one month
Prematurity, Congenital Debility and Malformation	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchopneumonia	1	—	—	—	1
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—
Other	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	2	—	—	—	2

Total from all causes—8

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1955

Disease	Total cases of all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										Age un-known	Total Deaths
		AGE PERIODS IN YEARS											
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over			
Smallpox	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Scarlet Fever	24	—	1	7	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding Paratyphoid)	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Paratyphoid fever	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Measles (excluding rubella)	355	12	89	122	130	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Whooping cough	23	1	6	8	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	Nil
Acute pneumonia, primary and influenza	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	Nil
Puerperal pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	Nil
Meningococcal infection	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	Nil
Acute poliomyelitis—													
Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Non-paralytic	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Acute Encephalitis—													
Infective	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Post-infectious	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Dysentery	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Erysipelas	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Malaria—													
Indigenous	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Abroad	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Tuberculosis Respiratory	9	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	1	—	—	—	Nil
Meninges and C.N.S.	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Other	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	Nil
Any other disease notifiable in district	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
TOTALS	426	14	98	137	154	4	2	9	7	1	—	—	1

Infectious Disease

Cases are admitted to Whelley and Astley Hospitals and a Mechanical Respirator is available. Measles was prevalent accounting for 355 out of 426 Notifications of Infections disease.

Formaldehyde is used for disinfection and a steam disinfector is available at Hindley. No action under Section 172 Public Health Act, 1936, has been necessary.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus is undertaken at the Lancashire County Council Clinic, Queen's Avenue.

Housing

A "points" scheme for the allocation of houses is in operation, and has been several times modified since it was started. The houses are mostly terraced houses of the two or three bedroom type, forty-five to sixty years old. There are some substandard types which are over seventy years old, and old cottages. Some 415 are affected by subsidence sufficiently to warrant demolition and many others are affected to a lesser extent. The overcrowding has not been materially diminished and remains fairly constant at 145 houses.

To deal with Clearance areas, 415 houses are required and approximately 950 persons are listed as lodgers.

On Bolton Road Site another 106 houses and 2 flats have been erected and development continues. On the Lowbank Road Site 550 houses are envisaged. Sixteen bungalows for aged persons are to be constructed at Landgate Site and twenty-two three bedroom type houses at Bryn Site.

Conclusion

I wish to thank the staff of the Department and my colleagues for their help and support in the daily work. The interest and support of all members is greatly appreciated.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR**

1955

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1955.

The position regarding the abatement of nuisances has shown no sign of improvement. This is no doubt due to the high cost of building repairs and to the large number of houses that are affected by mining subsidence.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re nuisances and complaints	2,896
Nuisances discovered	1,448
Nuisances abated	1,360
Revisits to nuisances	1,324
Visits re infectious disease	67
Revisits re infectious disease	120
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale ...	435
Visits to factories	188
Visits to dairies	15
Visits re licensing and registration Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949	63
Visits to shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	54
Notices served (Preliminary)	362
Notices served (Statutory)	45
Letters sent	789

Description of Nuisances Dealt with

Defective and damp walls	190
„ roofs	163
„ eaves gutters and spouts	183
„ floors	82
„ sinks	15
„ wastepipes	7
„ plasterwork	209
„ windows and doors	249
„ staircases	18
„ paving in yards and passages	27
„ chimneys and stacks	18
„ setting around gulleys	19
„ firegrates	22
„ washing boilers	7
„ W.C. cisterns	17
„ W.C. basins	1
„ W.C. supply pipes	52
„ closets (roofs, floors, doors and seats)	48
„ ashpits (roofs, floors, doors and walls)	22
„ pail places and doors	17
Overcrowding	3
Houses or parts requiring cleansing	10
Accumulation of refuse	7
Choked and defective drains	38
Ventilating shafts	2
Insufficient light and ventilation	2
Miscellaneous	20

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required Local Authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by the 31st August, 1955, their proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their areas.

Application was made by the Council to the Minister for an extension of this period, but the Minister did not consider it necessary to agree to any extension. He stated that it was not expected that Local Authorities give precise figures of unfit houses, but that broad estimates should suffice.

Although a comprehensive survey was in fact being carried out the method of ascertaining the number of unfit houses had to be changed and a special report was submitted to the Council in August.

The Council agreed that a total of 375 houses should be dealt with in Clearance Areas and a further 40 houses under the provisions of Section 11 Housing Act, 1936.

By the end of the year the first inspection and survey of 82 houses had been made and the machinery was set in motion to deal with these houses in four Clearance Areas; these being the first since 1939.

If houses are to be provided for the general needs of the district i.e., overcrowding, provision of homes to families living in lodgings, etc., it will be necessary to increase the number of houses built each year.

The direct labour building department completed another 108 houses all at the Bolton Road Estate. In addition four lockup shops with two flats above, were constructed at Landgate Estate.

There were still approximately 145 houses overcrowded at the end of the year. This is a reduction of two from last year while the number of families involved was 317, a reduction of 10. I can visualise that if the Clearance Orders in connection with the areas mentioned previously are confirmed in 1956, the number of overcrowded houses will increase during the same year. Every effort should be made, therefore, to increase the houses built by at least 50%, and in addition a further supply of Old Persons Bungalows would be appreciated by this class of applicant.

During the year, 17 houses were demolished as a result of procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and 9 houses that had been included in confirmed Clearance Areas were also demolished.

The number of persons living in these houses was 84, all the families were rehoused in Council houses.

Twelve houses were erected by private enterprise.

Housing Statistics

Number of new houses erected during year :—

	Houses	Flats	
(a) (i) By the local authority	108	2 (plus 4 shops)	
(ii) By other local authorities ...	Nil	Nil	
(iii) By other bodies or persons ...	12	Nil	
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—			
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)			110
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above) ...			Nil
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)			390
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose			1,410

(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	
(a) Number found during year (Reports submitted to Council during year)	19
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year (not reported to Council)	40
(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	316
2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:—	
(a) Unfit houses	9
(b) Other houses	Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced	31
3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—	
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:—	

	Number of Persons Houses Displaced	
(a) Housing Act, 1936:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 11)	17	53
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sec. 11 and still in force	Nil	—
(iii) Parts of building closed Sec. 12	Nil	—
(b) Housing Act, 1949:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

	Number of Houses
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of in formal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	135

(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	30
(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	1
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954:— Houses reconstructed, 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.:—

	Private Bodies or Individuals	Local Authority
	No. of Schemes	No. of Schemes
	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
Action during year:—		
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	10	10
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(c) Finally approved by Ministry ...	N/A	N/A
(d) Work completed	6	6
(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	Nil	Nil
(f) Any other action taken under the Act:—	Nil	—

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

A total of 52 applications were received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair. 19 were from occupiers who had been served with Notice of Increase by their landlords and in 18 cases the certificates were granted, in one instance the application was refused.

In 33 cases applications were made for certificates to enable tenants to retain the 40% permitted increase under Section 2 of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Act, 1920. Each application was granted.

There were 6 applications for revocation of certificates of disrepair which were granted.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

Three licensed slaughtermen made application for renewal of their licences, and each was granted.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Again there was a reduction of the number of pigs killed by domestic pig keepers.

	No. Slaughtered and Examined	No. found to be affected	Otherwise affected with T.B.
Pigs	7	Nil	Nil
Other Animals	Nil	Nil	Nil

The supervision of premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale is a duty which occupies a considerable amount of the time of the staff of the Public Health Department. The condition of the premises, and the outlook and attitude of the personnel employed in such premises, is not all that is desired, but each year there is a tendency to raise the standard of food hygiene. We do not pretend to take all the credit for this for no doubt the competitive spirit of the trader, who at last realises that the reward for improving his premises is increased profits is one of the major reasons.

--- A total of 435 visits and inspections were made, in addition to visits to dairies and milk shops.

There has been no general improvement in the sanitary accommodation at the licensed premises and I regret to state that it has not been possible to give much attention to these premises during the past year.

The following table gives the number of food premises and type at the end of the year.

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	104
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	14
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	19
Bakers and/or confectioners	23

Fried fish shops	24
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	22
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	75
Others	6

The next table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provision of the Lancashire County Council's (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, Sections 115 and 116.

Type of Business	No. reg.
Sale of Ice-Cream	40
Preparation of Potted and Preserved Fish	1
Manufacture of Cooked Meat and Sausages	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	5
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles	4
Storage of Fruit and Vegetables sold from vehicles	10

Food Condemned

1 tin Cream	31 tins Vegetables
22 tins Milk	4 tins Corned Beef
45 tins Tomatoes	39 lbs. 12ozs. Boiled Ham
32 tins Stewed Steak	48 lbs. Jellied Veal
6 tins Peas	78 lbs. Corned Beef
2 tins Salmon	63 lbs. Tongue
4 tins Crab Meat	3½ lbs. Luncheon Meat
55 tins Fruit	25 lbs. Bacon
1 tin Beans	40½ lbs. Cockles
4 tins Fish	150 lbs. Salmon
2 tins Chicken Fillets	1 Jar Salmon Spread
16 tins Tongue	1 Jar Meat Paste
2 tins Luncheon Meat	2 Jars Jam
2 tins Soup	1 Bottle Sauce

Milk and Dairies

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The number of registered distributors is as follows:—

(1) Dairies in district	6
(2) Shops in district	37
(3) Premises outside district	6

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealer's Licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	6
--	---

**Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)
Regulations, 1949**

Retail Distributors:—

Pasteurised	11
Sterilised	41

Sixty-three visits and inspections were made to dairies and shops where milk is sold, in addition to farms, etc., in connection with milk sampling, the particulars of which are as follows:—

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	28
Negative	26
Positive	1
No result	1
Phosphatase Test	11
Satisfactory	11
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	11
Satisfactory	11
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	5
Satisfactory	5
Unsatisfactory	Nil

Last year two positive biological results were received and as will be seen, one positive sample was taken this year.

I wrote in my report last year, that from one farm two cows were removed between the date when the sample was taken and when the result was received and that the Divisional Veterinary Officer did not find any cows giving tuberculous milk. By a strange coincidence I have to report the same result this year and at the very same farm. This, in my opinion, is a matter for grave concern. A farmer may have suspect beasts on his farm, and only decided to remove them when he considers, after the visit of a sanitary inspector for the purpose of taking a milk sample, that the beast may be siezed if the Veterinary Inspector at his subsequent visit, suspects, later proves that it is giving milk infected with tuberculosis.

The milk was being sent for pasteurisation therefore no restraining notice was served under the provisions of Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Ice Cream

Only 46 samples of Ice Cream were taken, the results being as follows:—

					Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional	Grade 1	...	38	...	28	10
"	" 2	...	5	...	4	1
"	" 3	...	1	...	1	Nil
"	" 4	...	1	...	Nil	1
Void Samples		1		1	Nil

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Only one shop is licensed under the provisions of this Act.

The Occupier is fully conversant with the requirements of the Act and no infringements have been observed.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts

The number of applications for petroleum storage licences was 45, the fees received were £28.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

There has been no improvement in the method of disposal of household refuse and although we are fortunate regarding the small amount of infestation due to rodents and crickets considerable nuisance was caused by tip fires.

The summer was dry and children delighted in lighting fires which spread rapidly on the uncontrolled tips. The work of extinguishing the fires was most objectionable as was the smell to the occupants of adjoining houses.

Unauthorised tipping by builders and contractors who use the tips, and deposit rubbish indiscriminately and without any consideration for the Council's employees is a vexed problem. The loads are seldom levelled out and every few months it becomes necessary to expend time and money in straightening the tips.

There are now five motor vehicles engaged in the collection of household and trade refuse and two motors for the collection of pail closets.

The horse drawn vehicle was still used during the year.

5,802 loads of dry and 2,211 loads of wet refuse were removed during the year.

Notices are still being served under the provisions of Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936 as instructed by the Council, in connection with the supply of dust bins. One Landlord appealed against the notice and the County Magistrates upheld his appeal.

Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C.s provided	Ashpits abolished	Bins provided
21	95	223	23	157

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1954 (approximately)	2,097	
Less number converted	95}	
Less number converted	21}	116
Total number of pail closets at end of 1955	<u>1,981</u>	

Number of Water closets at end of 1954 (approximately)	4,266
Number of conversions	95
Number of fresh water closets at new houses	122
Number of extra water closets erected	6
Number of water closets demolished ...	10
	213
Number of water closets at end of 1955	4,479
Number of waste water closets included above	16

Ashpit Accommodation

Number of dry ashpits at end of 1954 (approximately)	1,993
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1955	23
	1,970
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1954 (approximately) ...	4,076
Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1955	29
Number of new houses	122
Extra bins provided	6
	4,233
Number of bins at properties demolished	13
	4,220

Again there was an increase in the number of pails converted to the water carriage system, but no action can yet be taken by exercising the powers of Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936, owing to the unsatisfactory state of the sewage work.

I am more than pleased to report that there are now no schools at which pail closets are used. The remaining pails were converted during the year at two schools, but at five schools there are trough closets which, in my opinion are almost as bad as pail closets.

Salvage of Waste Paper

The collection of waste paper was continued throughout the year. The income and weight collected was as follows:—
£1,528 6s. 5d. from 193 tons.

Factories Act, 1937

Number of factories on register:—122.

		Inspections	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power	92	112	4
Without Mechanical Power	26	69	1
Other Premises (Not outworkers)	4	7	—
Total	122	188	5

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	7	7
Other nuisances	6	6
	13	13

Registered Premises

Bakers and confectioners	23
Plumbers and painters	10
Joiners and builders	11
Shoeing smiths	1
Wheelwrights	1
Saddlers	1
Motor and cycle repairers	19
Lock and hinge manufacturers	3
Laundries	2
Printers	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	2
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice Cream manufacturers	2
Sausage makers	10
Wholesale chemist	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot, shoe and clog repairers	8
Gasholders	1
Electricians	2
Sawmills	3
Contractors	1
Air compressors, etc.	1
Monumental Masons	1
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Firelighter makers	1
Metal Turners	1
Cinemas	3
Food Preparation	1
Demolition contractors	1
Cattle food preparation	1
General Engineering	5

122

Section 110

There are six outworkers resident in the district employed by firms carrying on business outside this area.

Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	5

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No premises are licensed or registered, but seven inspections have been made at upholsterers' and cabinet makers' works.

Smoke Abatement

There have been a few complaints received from the public of fumes and smoke issueing from burning spoilbanks adjoining the Garswood Hall Colliery. The manager has been consulted and he and his staff have been most co-operative, and steps have been taken to reduce the nuisance.

The spoilbank situated in Garswood Park which receives colliery waste from Park Colliery has been controlled efficiently during the year, and there has been no cause for alarm. Constant visits are made to all spoilbanks to ensure that consolidation measures are maintained, to prevent combustion.

The seven observations of factory chimneys have shown no infringement of the byelaw.

Infectious Disease

All cases of notified infectious disease have been investigated and records made.

There was only one case of Acute Poliomyelitis notified during the year, but unfortunately the patient died.

The full table of cases is included in Dr. Fulton's report.

Disinfestation

There have been less treatments carried out than during the previous year, and the number of cases of bed bug infestation has fallen over a number of years. This is no doubt due to the effective use of D.D.T. which can be purchased and used by persons who require it without the publicity of a visit by the sanitary inspector or disinfestor.

The number of treatments carried out was as follows:—
 Council houses—18. Other houses—25.

Rodent Control

The full time rodent operator continued his inspection of the district for infestations and promptly attended to all cases found in addition to complaints received.

Quarterly and annual returns are submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the following table shows the type and number of infestations dealt with. The 10% test and two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	TOTAL
1. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955 as a result (a) of notification of (b) other wise	(a) Nil	34	Nil	22	56
	(b) 45	908	30	176	1,159
2. Number of properties (under 1) found to be infested by rats	Major 1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
	Minor 18	99	Nil	10	127
3. Number of properties (under 1) found to be seriously infested by mice	Nil	14	Nil	12	26
4. Number of infested properties (under 2 and 3) treated by the Local Authority	19	113	Nil	22	154

Public Conveniences

The attendants were kept fully occupied in maintaining the high standard of cleanliness they have set at the public conveniences, but some of the public have made their work harder by filthy acts. I have been disgusted when I have seen how the walls and floors have been deliberately fouled by misguided persons.

Problem Families

I have again to report on the amount of time that is spent in dealing with problem families.

There is full co-operation from numerous officials and periodical meetings are held to discuss special cases, etc. These meetings are convened by Dr. G. H. Potter, the Divisional Medical Officer and serve a most useful purpose.

The children of parents who are unable or unwilling to give them the care and attention necessary to create a happy, homely atmosphere, are the first concern of all welfare workers, and much thought and attention is given to improve the lot of these unfortunate youngsters.

Food and Drugs Acts

The action taken by the County Medical Officer of Health's Department is as follows:—

A total of 108 samples was obtained, of these 51 were of milk (this total includes one Channel Islands milk) and the 57 other comprised:—

2 Salad cream	4 White pepper
1 Lemon flavouring	7 Butter
2 Almond flavouring	1 Cheese spread
1 Rice	1 Strawberry flavouring
1 Brown sago	1 Barley
1 Blancmange powder	2 Christmas puddings
1 Fish paste	4 Mince meat
4 Fruit, dried	4 Marmalade
1 Cod liver oil	1 Steak and kidney pie
1 Fish potted	1 Mince pie
1 Tea	1 Swiss roll
1 Bacon	1 Best butter toffee
4 Pickles	2 Oranges
3 Flour	1 Vinegar
1 Fruited malt cake	1 Pork sausage

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of one vinegar. The County Analyst reported that the total mineral matter was 0.74% including salt 0.65%. Salt not declared on list of ingredients. The packers were communicated with in respect of this sample.

In conclusion I wish to thank the staff of the Public Health Department, and all other officials of the Town Hall, together with the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and Health Committee for the co-operation given to me during the year.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

