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Contributors

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Living

HEALTH

10 SEP 58

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



Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1957

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).

Public Health Inspectors :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert., Meat and other Foods.

Mr. JOHN BRENNAN, Cert., Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. BRIAN B. MORGANS, Cert. Royal Society of Health
R.S.H., Cert., Meat and other Foods.

Food Inspectors :

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS.

1957

**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
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 eighty-second Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1957.

Introduction

The district is bounded on the south and west by Haydock Urban District, on the north and east by Wigan Urban District.

The greater part of the district lies over coal measures and their sandstones. The surface is generally undulating and slopes generally from the north west to south and east. There are some small areas of park land.

**Annual Reports
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

Natural and Social Conditions of the District
for the year

The average is approximately 11,250 with an estimated population of 13,250 giving a density of population of three persons per acre—the administrative boundary is a very irregular shape approximately two per acre. The average value is £13,600 and a penny rate yields £521.

The population is engaged in deep and open cast coal mining, agriculture, retail shopping, rayon manufacture, iron foundry and confectionery. Good transport enables the population to work in the sur-

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1957

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 eighty-second Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1957.

Introduction

The district is bounded on the south and west by Haydock Urban District, on the north west by Billinge Urban District, on the north by Wigan County Borough and on the east by Abram and Golborne Urban Districts.

The greater part of the district lies over coal measures and Bunter sandstone. The surface is gently undulating and slopes generally from the north west to south and east. There are some small areas of park land.

The main problems are reconstruction of sewage works, conservation of water supply and house construction to relieve overcrowding and carry into effect the programme of Clearance Areas. Mining subsidence is a serious problem. Deep mining is a declining industry and in the near future is expected to cease so that the problem of subsidence is likely to diminish. Open cast mining continues, but its usefulness to the local amenity and national economy is a very controversial question.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The acreage is approximately 6,265 with an estimated population of 19,250 giving a density of population of three persons per acre—the administrative county as a whole being approximately two per acre. The rateable value is £138,668 and a penny rate yields £525.

The population is engaged in deep and open cast coal mining, agriculture, textile weaving, rayon manufacture, iron foundry and confectionery. Good transport enables the population to work in the sur-

rounding districts for some of the above-mentioned occupations. The population at the 1951 Census was 19,053.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation water undertaking and also by local supply from upland surface gathering grounds. The local supply is subject to surface contamination and two sources have positively been identified and action taken to eliminate them. The raw water was sampled bacteriologically thirty-five times and thirty-four were unsatisfactory; twenty chemical samples showed twenty unsatisfactory.

The water supplied to consumers is filtered and chlorinated and produces a satisfactory water. Twenty-two bacteriological samples showed eight unsatisfactory. Subsequent to the period covered by this report the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Health and it is proposed to install pressure filters.

There is a direct supply to 6,017 houses including 140 newly connected during the year. The average consumption is approximately twenty gallons per head daily, this must be expected to rise as pail conversions take place.

Sewage disposal is by pail closet and water carriage system.

There are 4,330 houses on the water carriage system and 1,757 with pail closets. 129 conversions took place during the year.

Refuse disposal is by semi-controlled tipping and filling up disused pit shafts. There are 4,562 moveable dustbins and 1,900 dry ashpits.

Vital Statistics.

	Male	Female
Live Births		
Total	170	122
Legitimate	166	120
Illegitimate	4	2
Still Births		
Total	4	7
Legitimate	4	7
Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		
Total	1	5
Legitimate	1	5
Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age		
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)—

Crude rate	12.2		
Adjusted rate	14.3	(England & Wales	11. 5)
Respiratory tuberculosis	0.05	(England & Wales	0.09)
Malignant neoplasms etc.	1.14	(England & Wales	2.09)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	36		
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil	(England & Wales)	0.47)
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	21	(England & Wales	23. 0)
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	7	(England & Wales	16. 5)

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated population.

Crude rate	15.2
Adjusted rate	14.7

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

Cause	MALE Quarters		FEMALE Quarters		T'tls
	1st-3rd	4th	1st-3rd	4th	
All causes	90	33	80	30	233
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	—	—	1
Syphilis	1	—	—	—	1
Infective and parasitic	—	1	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasms—stomach	2	1	—	1	4
„ „ lung and bronchus	3	1	—	—	4
„ „ breast	—	—	3	—	3
„ „ other	3	1	4	2	10
Diabetes	1	—	—	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	4	12	4	30
Coronary disease, angina	19	4	8	—	31
Hypertension with heart disease	6	1	1	—	8
Other heart disease	18	8	26	10	62
Other circulatory disease	4	—	3	—	7
Suicide	2	—	1	—	3
Influenza	—	1	2	1	4
Pneumonia	—	1	2	2	5
Bronchitis	10	3	5	2	20

Other diseases of Respiratory system	5	1	2	—	8
Gastro-enteritis	—	—	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	—	—	2
Congenital malformations	1	1	1	1	4
Other ill-defined diseases	3	4	8	5	20
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	1	1
All other accidents	—	—	1	1	2
	90	33	80	30	233

INFANT MORTALITY, 1957

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	Total under one month	One year
Acute bronchitis	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital abnormality	1	—	—	1	1
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	1	—	—	1	3

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIONS DISEASE 1957 **Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year**

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all Ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										
		AGE PERIOD — YEARS										
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25 and over	Age Un-known	
Scarlet fever ...	56	—	2	2	7	7	31	6	1	—	—	
Whooping cough ...	36	5	1	7	5	5	12	1	—	—	—	
Acute poliomyelitis—												
Non-paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles ...	185	8	13	4	26	44	70	1	—	—	—	
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—	—	0—	5—	15—	45—	65 and over	Age Total	Deaths		
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	17	—	—	—	1	2	6	5	3	—	1	
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Post-infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric or Typhoid fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Food poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Respiratory ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	1	—	—	
Meninges ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other notifiable diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Your district is part of No. 8 Division for Local Authority Health services and the Report of the Divisional Medical Officer (Dr. G. H. Potter) is published annually—the latest at the time of writing being for 1956.

Immunisation against Polio, Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus and Smallpox is part of the Health Service and regular sessions are held at the Child Welfare Centre Queen's Avenue. The response to immunisation is good. This work is done by your Medical Officer of Health. There is an Ante-Natal Clinic every Tuesday and there are three midwives and two District Nurses in the town. The Midwifery, Ambulance, Home Help, District Nursing and Child Welfare Service are all administered by the Lancashire County Council through Division 8.

I take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the department and my colleagues for their help and support in the daily work. The interest and encouragement of the Members of the Urban District Council is also much appreciated.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON,

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1957.

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 pleasure of submitting my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1957.

In addition to the legislation previously in operation covering an extensively wide field of health control, two most important new Acts became effective during the year. The Clean Air Act, 1956 came into operation, with the exception of certain sections, on the 31st December, 1956 and the remainder on the 1st June, 1957. Part II of the Rent Act, 1954, dealing with repairs increase of rent, which had not proved a success was repealed by the Rent Act, 1957, on the 6th July, 1957.

The Slum Clearance programme was continued and ninety-one dwelling houses in seven areas were represented to the Council in July, 1957 after each house had been inspected and all details of defects recorded. I regret to state that in October, when it was reported that new increased rates, in borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board for housing purposes, would be charged, it was resolved that: "Housing building be suspended until interest rates are substantially reduced." I had hoped that the Council's Slum Clearance would have continued without interruption even if the rate of demolition and rehousing was slowed down, but I do realize that the increased costs of building and borrowing rates would have caused rents to rise and in consequence cause hardship to tenants, especially when the majority are now only paying nominal rents.

Attention has been given to the normal routine duties of the health department and much time has been expended in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. I am happy to report that food premises throughout the district have been considerably improved during the year.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re nuisances and complaints	2,210
Nuisances discovered	1,763
Nuisances abated	1,296
Revisits of nuisances	1,287
Visits re infectious disease	67
Revisits re infectious disease	76
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale ...	357
Visits to factories	191
Visits to dairies	25
Visits re licensing and registration Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949	83
Visits to shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	309
Notices served (Preliminary)	286
Notices served Statutory)	82
Legal proceedings	7
Letters sent	715
Court Abatement Orders made	7

In connection with the last item I consider that special mention should be made.

The preliminary notices were served on the 6th September, 1956 and were followed by abatement notices on the 24th October, 1956. As the nuisances were not abated after numerous visits to the properties, interviews with the owner etc., the matter was submitted to the Clerk of the Council for legal proceedings to be taken.

The cases were heard in Court on the 22nd January, 1957 when Abatement Orders were made for the nuisances to be abated within one month. On the second hearing a fine of £1 was imposed in each case, and orders made for the work to be completed within five weeks. When the cases were considered for the third time they were adjourned for one month to enable the owner to contact a builder. The fourth and fifth time of hearing the cases were adjourned for two months and three week respectively.

Still the work was not done and at the sixth hearing the magistrates imposed a £2 fine in each case, if the fine was not paid within seven days the owner was to be committed to prison for three months. A daily penalty of £2 was also to be enforced if the nuisances were not abated within a specified period.

The nuisances were finally abated on the 19th November, 1957, fourteen months after the first notices were served. The number of hours spent on cases such as this are out of all proportion to the penalties imposed and, it should be remembered, the tenants concerned were, for over one year, living in houses at which many nuisances existed.

Description of Nuisances Dealt With.

Defective and damp walls	179
„ roofs	183
„ eaves gutters and spouts	197
„ floors	58
„ sinks	10
„ wastepipes	25
„ plasterwork	287
„ windows and doors	295
„ staircases	21
„ paving in yards and passages	53
„ chimneys and stacks	21
„ setting around gulleys	32
„ firegrates	41
„ washing boilers	15
„ W.C. cisterns	33
„ W.C. basins	2
„ W.C. supply pipes	94
„ closets (roofs, floors, walls, doors and seats)	79
„ ashpits (roofs, floors, doors and walls)	22
„ pail places and doors	11
Overcrowding	2
Houses or parts requiring cleansing	9
Accumulation of refuse	7
Choked and defective drains	63
Ventilating shafts	12
Insufficient light and ventilation	4
Miscellaneous	18

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

Early in 1957 the Ministry of Housing and Local Government confirmed the four areas submitted in 1956 and by the end of 1957 the position regarding the families occupying the houses was as follows:-

	Families Rehoused	Families Remaining
Clearance Area 43 (Bryn Gates)	40	2
Clearance Area 44 (Edge Green Road)	1	4
Clearance Area 45 (Mill Street(Heath Street)	—	11
Clearance Area 46 (Edge Green Street/ Dawber Street)	13	11

In addition six houses were dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses during the year but none of the families occupying the houses were rehoused, although seven families were rehoused from Individual Unfit houses dealt with in 1956. Applicants for Council houses from the general needs class were sadly disappointed when it was decided to cease

offering them new houses and to grant them relets only. The points required for houses had already soared before the end of the year and being fully aware of the hardships endured by some of the lodgers due to domestic strife etc., I am apprehensive of the interviews that will take place regarding the allocation of houses.

Twenty bungalows were erected for old persons and allocated in May, 1957. I wish that this building rate could be continued for the next few years, as the waiting list for bungalows is approximately 150 and many applicants are obliged to have their beds downstairs, owing to disabilities which do not allow them to climb stairs.

The following table gives the particulars in relation to dwellings erected and demolished etc., during 1957.

Housing Statistics

Number of houses erected during year:-

		Houses	Flats	Bungalows	Shops
(a)	(i) By local authority	40	Nil	20	Nil
	(ii) By other authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(iii) By other bodies or persons	7	Nil	73	Nil
(b)	With State assistance under Housing Acts:—				
	(i) By the local authority (included under (a)				
	(i) above				60
	(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) ...	462
	(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	1,406
(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)	7
	(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year (not reported to Council)	25
(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	250

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

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:—	
(a) Unfit houses (orders confirmed in 1938) ...	Nil
(b) Other houses	Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced	168

Number of
Houses Persons
 Displaced

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished or closed during year:—		
(a) Housing Act, 1936		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 11)	3	20
(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 informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	155
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—houses in which defects were remedied	
(i) By owners	63
(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	2
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

- (d) Housing Repairs 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;—
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 ...	9	9	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	9	9	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	N/A	N/A	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	9	9	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(g) Any other action taken under the Act	Nil	—	—	—

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1957

During the year forty-five applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair. Two applications were withdrawn before any action was taken by the inspectors and the Council authorised that notice of intention (Form J) should be issued in forty-three instances. Of these, the inspection of the premises showed that in eighteen cases all defects included by the tenants on Form G should be retained but in twenty-five cases only part of the defects were warranted.

Landlords gave undertakings (Form K) in twenty-two instances within the prescribed period and two were received too late for consideration. Certificates were issued in connection with the remaining

twenty-one houses. Landlords made application for cancellation (Form M) in two cases and both were granted, the tenants not objecting to cancellation.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

Three applications were received from licensed slaughtermen and in each case the application was granted.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Day to day contact with food traders was continued to enforce the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 and by constant supervision and stressing the need for food handlers to be conversant with the fact that the lives of the public can be jeopardized by unhygienic premises and habits, I am happy to report that considerable progress has been made. Many premises are now provided with the additional fittings required by the regulations and shops and preparation rooms have been fitted with hygienic wall and table coverings etc. It has not been possible to see that all premises are to the required standard owing to the call of other duties, but this work will continue as rapidly as practicable.

The factory canteens, licensed premises, food hawkers premises and vehicles are all periodically inspected and when plans of new food premises are submitted to the Surveyor's Department they are inspected. If the new buildings are not to be provided with the fittings etc., required by the regulations, letters are forwarded to the persons responsible for the erection, to point out the omissions.

The following table gives the number and type of food premises in the district.

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	105
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).	18
Bakers and/or confectioners	21
Fried fish shops	24
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments.	75
Other	6

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

Type of Business	No. Registered
Sale of Ice-cream	46
Manufacture of Cooked Meat and Sausage	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	5
Storage of fish sold from vehicles	4
Storage of Fruit and Vegetables sold from vehicles	8

Food Condemned

18 tins stewed steak	13 tins milk
13 tins corned beef	4 tins peas
8 tins tongue	2 tins beans
7 tins ham	24 tins fruit
6 tins chicken	2 tins tomatoes
3 tins chopped pork	1 tin cabbage
5 tins fish	

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	43
(3) Premises outside district	Nil

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

Dealers' Licences — Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
--	---

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949

Retail Distributors:—

Pasteurised	10
Sterilised	51

One-hundred and eight visits and inspections were made to dairies and shops where milk is so'd, in addition to farms, etc., in connection with milk sampling, the particulars of which are as follows:-

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	34
Negative	32
Positive	Nil
No result	2
Phosphatase Test	15

Satisfactory	15
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	15
Satisfactory	15
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	2
Satisfactory	2
Unsatisfactory	Nil

For the first time in six years, and the second in thirteen years, no positive result was received in connection with samples taken for the Biological test. These results coupled with those taken for the Methylene Blue, Phosphatase and Turbidity tests give cause for a certain amount of satisfaction but there can be no relaxation, for the risk of the public consuming infected milk is always with us and strict supervision must be maintained to trace the occasional offender.

Ice-Cream

Thirty-one samples of Ice-Cream were taken, the results being as follows:—

			Produced outside District	Produced within District
Provisional Grade 1	...	25	20	5
Provisional Grade 2	...	4	3	1
Provisional Grade 3	...	1	1	Nil
Provisional Grade 4	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
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 licenses was 46, the fees received were £30/5/0.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Five motor vehicles are engaged in the collection of household and trade refuse and a weekly collection of dustbins from domestic premises is maintained.

In March a demonstration of a tractor type vehicle was given in order to help the Council to consider the advisability of purchasing a vehicle to give easy access to narrow, side and back, streets in order

to remove refuse from ashpits. The cost was considered to be too high and no purchase was made. Some of the owners of the property concerned agreed to purchase bins but the remaining premises still have ashpits which are emptied and the refuse is collected with difficulty.

I have to repeat again my concern regarding the method of disposal. Uncontrolled or semi-controlled tipping is most unsatisfactory and should be superceded by controlled tipping at the earliest opportunity.

Notices were served in fourteen instances on owners, under the provisions of Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936. Twelve bins were provided by the owners and two in default by the local authority, the cost of same being recovered from the owners.

One-hundred and twenty-nine pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year. This was a considerable increase over the number during the past five years due, no doubt to the wise action of the Council in June in raising the contribution of the grant from £4 to £8. In the first six months forty-five closets were converted while during the last six months the number rose to eighty.

I reported last year that a Church of England school still had sixteen pail closets in use. This report received a certain amount of publicity and one well known evening newspaper contained an editorial on the subject. I thought at the time that the desired result would be obtained but I regret to state that at the time of writing the report, the deplorable conditions still exist. I appeal to the District Council representatives on the Managing Body of the school concerned to use any means possible to persuade the school managers to remove these disgusting pail closets without delay. How responsible persons, can in 1958, allow school children to continue to excrete into filthy pails, when the majority of the children are accustomed to water closets in their homes, is beyond my comprehension.

The following table gives the number and type of closet accommodation together with other details.

Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C's. provided	Ashpits abolished	Bins provided
1	129	150	66	80

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1956 (approximately)	1,887
Less number converted	129
Less number demolished	1
	130
Total number of pail closets at end of 1957	1,757

Number of Water closets at end of 1956 (approximately)	4,670
Number of conversions	129
Number of fresh water closets at new houses	140
Number of extra water closets erected	12
Number of water closets demolished	2
	279
Number of water closets at end of 1957	4,949
Number of waste closets included above	16

Ashpit Accommodation

Number of dry ashpits at end of 1956 (approximately) ...	1,966
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1957	66
	1,900
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1956 (approximately) ...	4,332
Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1957	80
Number of new houses	140
Extra bins provided	10
	4,562
Number of bins at properties demolished	Nil
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1957	4,562

Salvage of Waste Paper

The collection of waste paper was continued throughout the year.

The income and weight was as follows:—

£1,526 8s.2d. from 196 tons 1 cwt. 1 qr.

Factories Act, 1937

Number of factories on register:— 118		Inspections	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power	95	115	—
Without Mechanical Power	22	69	—
Other Premises (Not outworkers) ...	6	7	—
Outworkers	6	6	—
Total	129	197	—

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Insufficient closet accommodation	1	—
Unsuitable closet accommodation	4	4
Other Offences	1	1
	6	5

Registered Premises

Bakers and Confectioners	22
Plumbers and Painters	10
Joiners and builders	12
Shoeing smiths	1
Wheelwrights	1
Saddlers	1
Motor and cycle repairers	19
Lock and hinge manufacturers	3
Laundries	1
Printers	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	1
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
Gas holders	1
Electricians	1
Sawmills	3
Contractors	1
Air compressors, etc.,	1
Monumental Masons	1
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Metal Turners	1
Cinemas	2
Food Preparation	1
Demolition contractors	1
Cattle food preparation	1
General Engineering	6
	118

Section 110

There are four 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	3

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

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

Smoke Abatement

The work in connection with smoke abatement and clean air is almost entirely confined to supervision of colliery spoilbanks but this is most essential. There has, I am pleased to say, been full co-operation with the manager of the Park Colliery in connection with the tipping of colliery waste on the Garswood Park spoilbank and the consolidation of the waste has been most efficient and satisfactory.

Slight outbreaks of fire at the Garswood Hall spoilbank have been dealt with as necessary.

Six observations have been made of factory chimneys but no infringement of the byelaws was observed.

Certain sections of the Clean Air Act, 1956 came into operation on the 31st December, 1956, and a full report was submitted to the Council in March, 1957 but it was decided not to proceed to establish smoke control areas in this area. At a later date action was taken under the provisions of Section 24 dealing with the making of byelaws.

Infectious Disease

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

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

Disinfestation

Treatment of all infested domestic property was continued, the number of houses and type of infestations being as follows:—

Council Houses	33;	Other Houses	44.
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The houses were treated for the following infestations:—

Cockroaches	44;	Ants	10;
Bugs	6;	Crickets	2;
Woodworm	2;	Earwigs	3;
Gooseberry Mite	1;	Precautionary Treatments	9.

Rodent Control

The campaign against rats and mice was continued by the staff of the Health Department and the full-time rodent operator, the latter also searching the district for infestations not reported by the public.

The 10% test and the two sewer treatments were carried out and the necessary annual and quarterly returns were submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. After consultations with Mrs. Levi, Field and Instructional Officer the new method of extended baiting for rats in sewers was tried. I am convinced that over a period of years the benefit of this method will be proved.

The following particulars show the number and type of infestation dealt with during the year.

	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 1957 as a result (a) of Notification (b) otherwise.	(a) 2	39	Nil	7	48
	(b) 28	713	32	149	922
2. Number of properties (under 1) found to be infested by rats.	Major Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Minor 17	100	Nil	5	122
3. Number of properties (under 1) found to be seriously infested by mice.	1	32	Nil	9	42
4. Number of infested properties (under 2 & 3) treated by the Local Authority.	18	130	Nil	14	162

Public Conveniences

The attendants have again continued to give conscientious service and have, throughout the year kept the conveniences in a very clean condition.

At times the damage and filthy acts committed have been most annoying and it is difficult to imagine why such foolish practices should be perpetrated.

Problem Families

Quarterly meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee of Officers under the chairmanship of Dr. G. H. Potter, the Divisional Medical Officer, were held at the School Clinic, Ince-in-Makerfield. At these meetings the difficulties of various problem families are discussed and all the welfare workers concerned co-operate to try to find solutions to the unhappy conditions prevailing at these homes.

The time spent in day to day contact with these families is considerable but the Minister of Housing and Local Government has called for co-ordination and for patient, persistent and personal contact if the problem is to be recognised and its solution attempted.

Food and Drugs Acts

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

A total of ninety-two samples was obtained, consisting of fifty samples of milk and forty-two others comprising:—

1 Mustard compound.	1 Teething powders
1 Condensed milk (skimmed)	1 Tapioca
2 Condensed milk (full cream)	6 Fruit—canned
1 Meat—canned	1 Fruit curd
5 Pickles	1 Table jelly
4 Sauce	1 Lard
1 Clotted cream	1 Margarine
1 Meat pies	1 Suet
2 Pork sausages	1 Baking powder
4 Flour confectionery	1 Christmas pudding
1 Butter	1 Sponge pudding
1 Glucose beverage	1 Beef sausage
1 Treacle	

With the exception of the sample of beef sausage detailed below, all were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine:—

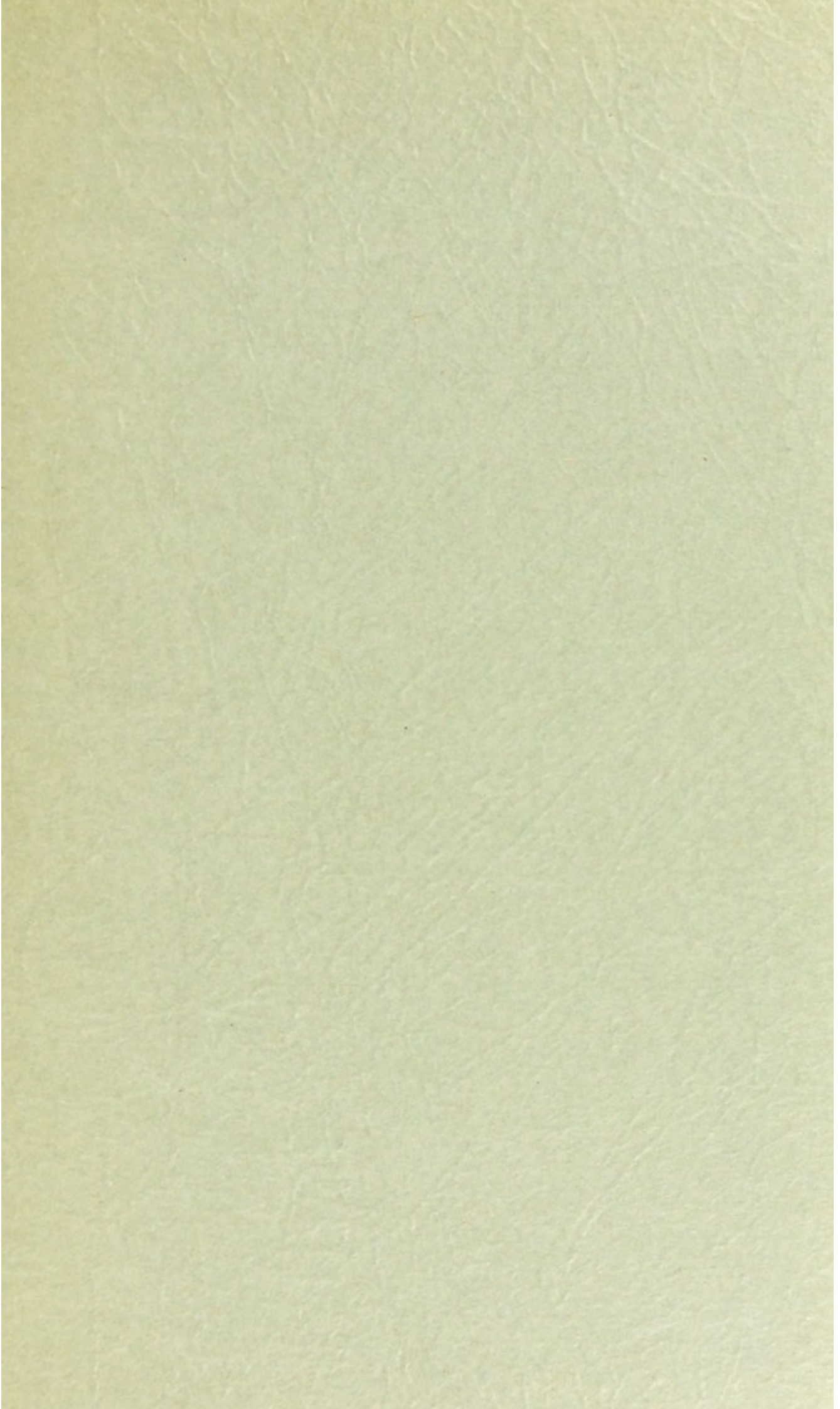
Sample No.	Type	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
S.156	Beef sausage	Contained 615 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide.) An excess of 165 parts per million above the recommended limit.	Manufacturers cautioned

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 be during the year.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



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