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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD



Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1959

Medical Officer of Health :

GEORGE A. FULTON, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic
(Local Health Authority)

Tel. No. Ashton-in-Makerfield 7245.

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.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASTON-IN-MARKETFIELD



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959

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-fourth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1959.

Introduction

The District is bounded on the south and west by the 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 district lies over coal measures and Bunter Sandstone. The surface slopes gently from north-west to south-west and there are small areas of parkland to offset the bleakness of industrial development remaining from the last century. The climate is generally mild and moist and the district frequently escapes the more severe weather conditions prevalent in nearby areas. The sea is only fourteen miles from the south western boundary of the district. The acreage is approximately 6,265.

Social Conditions

The population at the census of 1951 was 19,053 and the estimated mid-1959 population was 19,360. This represents a density of population not quite three per acre, compared with approximately two per acre for the whole county.

The Rateable value of property in the Urban District is £162,267 and a penny rate yields £576. Deep coal mining has now virtually finished and those engaged in the industry have now often to travel considerable distances. There is a small and diminishing amount of open-cast mining. Agriculture, textile weaving, rayon manufacture and iron foundry, give employment to a fair proportion of the population. The population, in common with the country generally, contains an increasing proportion of ageing people. There are estimated to be approximately 2,430 old age pensioners in the population; this is approximately 13%.

There are 6,152 inhabited houses in the district so that the number of persons per house is slightly more than three. An appreciable number of houses have only one occupant, usually an aged person, and the provision of bungalows grouped round a "common room" with provision for a "meals on wheels" service might help to a better use of existing accommodation by leaving larger houses for families.

Sanitary Circumstances

Water is obtained from the Liverpool Corporation and local sources by surface drainage.

Raw Water	Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological examination	102	3	99
Chemical examination	50	16	34

Treated Water : supplied to consumers.

Bacteriological examination	96	91	5
Chemical examination	49	33	16

There is a direct supply to 6,152 houses including 120 new houses. The daily consumption of water is approximately twenty-four gallons, per head of population.

Sewage disposal is by water carriage and pail closets. There are 5,240 houses on the water carriage system and 948 on pail closets. There were 342 conversions to the water carriage system during the year. There are 1,433 dry ashpits in use and 4,832 dustbins. Disposal of refuse is by tipping and filling in old pit shafts.

Welfare Services

This Urban District is part of No. 8 Division and the Welfare Services administered by the Lancashire County Council are enumerated in a booklet issued by the No. 8 Division and include Ambulance service, Midwifery service, Maternity and Child Welfare, Home Helps and Mental Health Service.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year population: 19,360

Comparability factors: Births—0.97

Deaths—1.20

	Male	Female
Live Births		
Total	153	154
Legitimate	148	149
Illegitimate	5	5
Still Births		
Total	8	7
Legitimate	8	7
Illegitimate	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female
Total	6	5
Legitimate	5	4
Illegitimate	1	1

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

Total	3	2
Legitimate	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

Total	3	2
-------------	---	---

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)—

England & Wales

Crude rate	12.4	
Adjusted rate	14.9	11.6
Respiratory Tuberculosis	Nil	0.077
Malignant neoplasms	1.96	2.14

Live Birth Rates per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate	15.9	
Adjusted rate	15.4	16.5

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births 46.6 20.7

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births Nil 0.38

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 35.8 22.0

Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 16.3 15.8

Early neo-natal rate per 1,000 live births 16.3

Perinatal mortality rate per total 1,000 births 62.1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1959

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1959

Notifiable Diseases	Total Deaths	Total Cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED								
			AGE PERIODS—YEARS								25 Age un- and known Over
			0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	
			0-	5-	15	45-	65 & Age un- over known				
Scarlet Fever	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	—	43	4	1	1	—	1	4	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	7	5	—	—	14	2	—	
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (excluding Rubella)	—	213	3	19	36	33	30	90	2	—	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenza)	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Post-infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric or typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelae	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	
Food poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Respiratory	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	
Meninges & C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other notifiable diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Immunisation and Vaccination

Type	Pre-School Children	School Children
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)	233	32
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections	79	425
Poliomyelitis : Primary	351	653
Re- inforcing.....	489	1,123
Smallpox Vaccinations, Primary	186	8

Measles and whooping cough are, at the present time, the most prevalent diseases. Diphtheria has diminished dramatically, owing to the use of immunisation; at the same time there is reason to believe that there is an increased number of children who carry the germ in their throat although not suffering from Diphtheria and there must be no slackening of immunisation to diminish the risk of infection to those children as yet unimmunised against it.

I take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Department for their great help in the daily work and also the members of the Council for their continued support.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR, 1959.**

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

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

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1959.

There has been continued progress in the abolition of pail closets and the number still in existence has now been reduced to below 1,000. If the present speed is maintained the whole district should be cleared within a period of four years, with the exception of pail closets to properties in outlying areas, to which sewers are not available. I am pleased to state that there are now no pail closets at any of the schools.

The provision of the new sewage disposal works, to cope with the increased flow of sewage, remains the chief sanitary requirement of the district.

Ordinary routine work in connection with the sanitary circumstances of the district took up the major portion of the time of your inspectors and each year seems to bring further legislation which requires attention. The coming into operation of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, which gives house owners a right to claim a "Standard Grant" met with an immediate response from owner-occupiers.

A Public Local Inquiry was held at the Town Hall, in connection with three Clearance Areas against which appeals had been lodged in respect of certain properties contained in the areas. In connection with the remaining five Clearance Areas, no appeals were lodged.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re nuisances and complaints	2,398
Nuisance discovered	1,338
Nuisance abated	1,152
Re-visits re nuisances	1,199
Visits re infectious disease	15
Re-visits re infectious disease	18
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	331
Visits to factories	118
Visits to dairies	33

Visits re licensing and registration Milk (Special Designations)	
Regulations, 1949	71
Visits to shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	216
Notices served (Preliminary)	223
Notices served (Statutory)	52
Legal proceedings	3
Letters sent	596
Court Abatement Orders made	3

Description of Nuisances Dealt With.

Defective and damp walls	137
,, roofs	135
,, eavesgutters and spouts	165
,, floors	5
,, sinks	9
,, wastpipes	18
,, plasterwork	232
,, windows and doors	257
,, staircases	11
,, paving in yards and passages	25
,, Chimneys and stacks	23
,, setting around gulleys	11
,, firegrates	35
,, washing boilers	9
,, W.C. cisterns	27
,, W.C. basins	3
,, W.C. supply pipes	67
,, closets (roofs, floors, walls, doors and seats)	43
,, ashpits (roofs, floors, doors and walls)	27
,, pail places and doors	9
Overcrowding	15
Houses or parts requiring cleansing	4
Accumulation of refuse	2
Choked and defective drains	42
Ventilating shafts	4
Insufficient light and ventilation	2
Miscellaneous	21

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

The submission, to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, of Clearance Orders, which were deferred in February, 1958 until a substantial drop in interest rates would allow the Council to re-commence building, caused delay in dealing with this essential work. The first official representation having been made in July, 1957, it was considered advisable to re-inspect all the buildings in the eight areas, owing to the lapse of time. These inspections were carried out and re-represented to the Council in April.

As mentioned in the preamble no appeals were lodged in respect of

five areas and the buildings in same were inspected by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the 22nd September.

The total number of houses in all the eight areas was 91. Seven houses were reported to the Council during the year, under the provisions of Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, and four families were rehoused from similar houses which were subject to Demolition Orders made in 1958.

Although no Council houses were erected there was an increase in the number of private dwellings built during the year and it would appear that this type of building will continue in the area for some considerable time.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses erected during year :—

	Houses	Flats	Bungalows	Shops
(a) (i) By local authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) By other authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other persons or bodies	12	Nil	108	Nil
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts :—				
(i) By the local authority (included under (a)				
(i) above				Houses Nil
(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)	383
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	1,195
(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)	6
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year (not reported to Council)	27

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :—

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

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—

	Houses	Persons
	Displaced	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished or closed during year :—		
(a) Housing Act, 1957		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec. 17)	19	8
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sec. 17 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957 Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 16(4), 17(1), 35(1)	1	1
(c) Housing Act, 1957 Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 17(3) and 26	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957 Parts of buildings closed (Sec. 18)	Nil	Nil
(2) Repairs during the year :—		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		120
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—houses in which defects were remedied		
(i) By owners		45
(ii) By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice, (Sections 9, and 16) Houses made fit :		
(i) By owners		Nil
(ii) By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(d) Under Section 24—Housing Act, 1957		Nil
4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957):		
(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation.		Nil
(a) Under Section 48		Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)		Nil
(c) Under Section 46		Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation (Section 34 or 53)		Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—Improvement Grants, etc. :—

	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
Action during year :—				
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	15	15	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	15	15	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	9	9	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grants :—

	No. of Schemes	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted to local authority	17	17
(b) Approved by local authority	16	16
(c) Work completed	3	3

(Note : In the case not approved there was no sewer available to the dwelling)

In connection with Standard Grants many problems have been encountered and difficulty has been experienced with some builders in persuading them to provide accounts in sufficient detail to differentiate between work ranking for grant and otherwise.

I await with interest the practice notes to be issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government when further experience has been gained of the scheme of standard grants.

If I could be allowed to express an opinion regarding the allowance for each standard amenity I consider that the allowance for a water closet is considerably higher than necessary while that for a wash-hand basin is low.

The provision in Circular 37/39 that :

“ It is of no consequence how much of the expenditure incurred went towards providing each of the amenities needed; the grant is calculated on the total cost.”

has allowed applicants to provide luxury baths and fittings at a cost far in excess of what the ordinary purchaser of a new dwelling can afford.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1957

During the year, five applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair. The Council authorised that notice of intention (Form J) should be issued in four instances. Of these, the inspection of the premises showed that in one case all defects, included by the tenant on Form G should be retained but in three cases only part of the defects included by the tenants were warranted.

Landlords gave undertakings (Form K) in three instances, within the prescribed period and one certificate of disrepair was issued. Applications for cancellation (Form M) were received from landlords in eight cases and three objections received from tenants against cancellation. The three objections were all upheld but during the year six certificates of disrepair were cancelled.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

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

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Steady progress has been made in this particular field although pressure of other duties has once more made it impossible to concentrate on this work as much as I consider necessary. Improvement of food premises continues to be carried out and there appears to be an increasing awareness on the part of the general public of the necessity of a high standard of food hygiene in the shops. This in turn is reflected in the more enlightened approach of the shop-keepers, who are providing clean, well lit premises with adequate protection of the food displayed and a high standard of personal hygiene from the shop workers.

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	105
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc)	13
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	19
Bakers and/or confectioners	21
Fried Fish shops	23
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	74
Other	6

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

Type of Business	No.
Sale of Ice-Cream	57
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

27 lbs. 12 ozs. Boiled Ham	120 lbs. Skinned Rabbits
43 lbs. 14½ ozs. Ox Tails	228 lbs. Beef
23½ lbs. Minced Steak	3 lbs. Ham
15½ lbs. Bacon	2 lbs. Steak
12 ozs. Steak and Kidney	1 lb. Stew Meat
1 lb. Brawn	8 lbs. Pork Sausages
4 lb. 5½ ozs. Lamb Chops	2¾ lbs. Lambs Liver
1 lb. 6 ozs. Breast of Lamb	1 lb: Mixed grill meat products
9 lbs. Tongue	2 Turkeys
4 Steakettes	5 Black puddings
17 Tins Peas	35 Tins Tomatoes
21 Tins Fruit	4 Tins Stewed Steak
4 Tins Luncheon Meat	9 Tins Cooked Ham
2 Tins Pilchards	8 Tins Tongue
2 Tins Pork Luncheon Meat	10 Tins Corned Beef
4 Tins Soup	1 Tin Salmon
9 Tins Sauerkraut	1 Tin Milk
1 Tin Steak Pudding	9 Pkts. Prunes
1 Jar Minced Chicken	7 Pkts. Kipper fillets
2 Pkts. Chicken Pie	8 Pkts. Plaice fillets
2 Bottles Cream	3 Pkts. Fish Fingers
3 Pkts. Fish Cakes	11 Pkts. Cod fillets
6 Sponge Cakes	27 Ice-Creams
108 Ice Lollies	

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	51
(3) Premises outside district	Nil

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

Dealers' Licenses—Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
--	---

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Retail Distributors :—

Pasteurised	14
Sterilised	57

One-hundred and four 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)	20
Negative	20
Positive	Nil
No result	Nil
Phosphatase Test	11
Satisfactory	11
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	11
Satisfactory	11
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	3
Satisfactory	3
Unsatisfactory	Nil

Ice-Cream

Fifty-eight samples of Ice-Cream were taken, the results being as follows :—

		Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade 1	35	29	6
Provisional Grade 2	14	11	3
Provisional Grade 3	4	3	1
Provisional Grade 4	5	3	2
Void Samples	Nil	Nil	Nil

Following the receipt of the results of the Grade 4 samples of ice cream, produced within the district, a complete check of the equipment and manufacturing technique at the premises was carried out and a considerable amount of time was spent on advisory work on subsequent visits.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two shops are licensed under the provisions of this Act.

The occupiers are 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 46, the fees received were £32 5s. 0d.

Public Cleansing

There has been considerable progress during the year in the abolition of pail closets and ashpits. As will be seen from the table below the pail closets were reduced by 420, bringing the total remaining to below the 1,000 mark.

When I was appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector, at the end of 1947, the number of pail closets remaining was 2,684 and I hope that within the next four years all pail closets will have been dispensed with. Much will depend, however, on the provision of adequate sewers in some areas of the district and I ask the Council to give this matter their immediate attention to avoid delay in dealing with this problem.

Ashpits also show a great reduction in number and I hope that the Council will decide to provide dustbins to each house with ashpits and then action can be taken to have the ashpits abolished.

Notices were served in sixteen instances on the owners and in four cases on the occupiers, under the provisions of Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936. Twelve bins were provided by the owners, four bins by the tenants concerned and four in default, by the local authority, the costs of same being recovered from the owners.

A weekly collection of household and trade refuse has been maintained and this service has proved adequate despite the difficulties encountered during the local holiday weeks. Five Bedford refuse collection vehicles of 7 cubic yards capacity are engaged in the collection of the refuse.

The 600 gallon capacity gully emptier is used jointly by the Cleansing Department and Highway's Department for the collection of pails and for emptying and cleansing street gullies, cesspools and sewer man-holes.

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

Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C.'s. provided	Ashpits abolished	Bins provided
78	342	128	364	345

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1958 (approximately)		1,368
Less number converted	342	
Less number demolished	78	420
Total number of pail closets at end of 1959		948
Number of Water Closets at end of 1958 (approximately)		5,406
Number of conversions (including troughs)	353	
Number of fresh water closets at new houses	120	
Number of extra water closets erected	11	
Number of water closets demolished	3	481
Number of water closets at end of 1959		5,887
Number of waste closets included above		16

Ashpit Accommodation

Number of dry ashpits at end of 1958 (approximately)	1,797
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1959	364
	1,433
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1958 (approximately)	4,785
Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1959	345
Number of new houses	120
Extra bins provided	20
	5,270
Number of bins at properties demolished	—
	5,270

Salvage of Waste Paper

The collection of waste paper was continued throughout the year. The income and weight was as follows :—

£1,923 16s. 9d. from 239 tons 11 cwts. 3qrs.

Factories Act, 1937

Number of factories on register : 123

		Inspections	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power	95	63	Nil
Without Mechanical Power	22	47	Nil
Other Premises (Not outworkers)	6	8	Nil
Outworkers	11	11	Nil
	Total 134	129	Nil

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unsuitable closet accommodation	2	2
Other Offences	3	3
	5	5

Registered Premises

Bakers and Confectioners	22
Plumbers and Painters	12
Joiners and Builders	11
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	2
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	2
Sausage makers	12
Wholesale chemists	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot, shoe and clog repairers	9
Gas holders	1
Electricians	1
Sawmills	2
Contractors	1
Air compressors, e tc.	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	7
	123

Section 110

There are eleven 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	1

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

Seventeen observations of factory chimneys were made during the year and numerous consultations held with the managers of the various premises concerned. Advice and suggestions offered resulted in some considerable improvement in the conditions prevailing at one factory.

Following representation made to the management of another factory consideration is being given to the provision and installation of modern equipment, with a view to obtaining maximum fuel efficiency, coupled with a reduction in air pollution.

Owing to the high cost of such installations, careful consideration must be given before deciding on the type of equipment to be used.

Moveable Dwellings

An application was received from the owner of a plot of land for a licence to use same as a site for moveable dwellings and two occupiers of caravans made application for licences to station their caravans on the site. The Council refused to grant the licences, but the matter was complicated by the action of the County Council in giving planning permission for the use of the land as a caravan site.

In my opinion, no permission should be given to use land as a caravan site unless, and until, detailed plans of the proposed layout, which should comply with all the requirements of the local Council, have been submitted by the site owner.

The number of caravan dwellers entering the district and staying for short periods has not decreased and entails a great deal of work in daily visits in an effort to minimise the nuisances that they create.

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 infestation being as follows :—

Council Houses 25; Other Houses 58

The houses were treated for the following infestations :—

Cockroaches 59;	Ants 14;
Bugs 5;	Crickets 1;
Woodworm 1;	Precautionary Treatments 3.

Rodent Control

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, work has continued throughout the year in connection with the control and extermination of rats and mice. A 10% test and two sewer maintenance treatments have also been carried out.

The following table gives details of the year's work :—

1. Number of rodent operatives employed :—(a) Full time 1 (b) Part-time Nil.
2. Action relating to rodent control during year :—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY		
	Non-Agricultural Dwelling houses	All other	Agricultural
(a) No. of Properties in district	6,152	889	54
(b) No. of properties inspected	797	239	54
(c) Total inspections carried out (inc. re-inspections	N/A	N/A	N/A
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
Rats—major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	132	33	Nil
Mice—major	23	6	Nil
minor	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) No. of infested properties treated	155	39	Nil
(f) Total treatments carried out (inc. re-treatments)	155	39	Nil
(g) No. of " Block " control schemes carried out	Nil	Nil	Nil

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Under the provisions of the above mentioned Act, the local authority is empowered to ensure that the agricultural units within the district, and on which workers are employed in agriculture, are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences. These conveniences must at all times be properly maintained and kept clean.

There are forty-seven such units within the area. All the units have been inspected and during periods of seasonal employment additional re-visits were made, where it was considered necessary.

Public Conveniences

The public convenience attendants have again given conscientious service and although at times the conveniences have been subject to misuse and damage the standard of cleanliness has remained high.

Problem Families

The work in connection with the above was continued and much time was expended in an endeavour to improve the conditions of such families. In the majority of cases great strides forward have been made and it is only necessary now to maintain contact with them.

I regret to state, however, that there remains the odd family that does not respond and that requires constant supervision. The Chairman of the Sanitary and Health Committee has undertaken to engage himself unsparingly in this work and although at times it has appeared to be of no avail he has continued to help in every way possible.

I wish to thank all the other officers concerned with problem families, for their help and co-operation.

During the year I attended quarterly meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee of Officers convened by Dr. G. H. Potter and held at Ince Clinic.

Food and drugs Acts

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

A total of ninety-seven samples was obtained, consisting of sixty-six samples of milk (four of which were Channel Islands milk) and thirty-one others comprising :—

2 Coffee and Chicory Essence	1 Malt and Cocoa Beverage
1 Treacle	3 Penicillin Tablets
1 Syrup	4 Ice Lollies
2 Camphorated Oil	3 Tea
1 Cream of Tartar	1 Flour
1 Fruit Curd	1 Cornflour
1 Custard Powder	1 Coffee
1 Baby Food	1 Boracic Lint
1 Pork Sausage	1 Olive Oil
4 Fruit Canned	

I give below details of the samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Ice Lollie	Consisted of a chocolate flavoured ice-cream lolly with ice-cream the main ingredient. Ice-cream should be placed first in list of ingredients and presence of chocolate flavour declared. Declared as Fruit Juice and Sugar Pasteurised and Ice-Cream.	Manufacturers communicated with.
1 Ice Lollie	Vegetable fat should follow non-milk fat-solids instead of heading list.	Manufacturers communicated with.

In conclusion I must express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Sanitary and Health Committee for their co-operation during the year, to the staff of the Public Health Department for ready assistance given at all times, and to all other colleagues in the Council's service for help and friendly co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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