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Contributors

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Food Inspectors :

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS.

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

Annual Reports

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1962



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH 1962

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 presenting for your consideration the eighty-seventh Annual Report of the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1962.

Introduction

This Urban District lies to the south of Wigan County Borough and is equidistant from the large centres of population, Manchester and Liverpool. The land slopes toward the south-west; the coast of Lancashire is 14 miles away. Geologically the area is of Coal and Red sandstone. The area is approximately 6,265 acres.

Social conditions

The population at the 1961 census was 19,260 and is now 19,840 (mid 1962). The proportion of persons over 65 years of age is rising. The density of population is rather more than 3 per acre. Coal mining has ceased but some light industry has moved into the district. Agriculture, textile weaving, rayon manufacture and iron foundry give employment to many of the population.

The Rateable value of property in the Urban District is £165,621 and a penny Rate yields £650.

The District is part of No. 8 Division of the Lancashire County Council who provide Child Welfare, Maternity and School Clinics, Health Visitors and the Midwives.

At Queens Road Clinic there were 104 sessions.

The number of children born in the year of the report was 256 and these made 4,096 attendances at this Clinic. The average attendance per session of all children aged 1 - 4 years was 51.9.

The Maternity Clinic held 40 sessions and the average number of Women attending was 32.4. Eleven post-natal clinics were held, attended by 69 women ; average number attending per session was 6.2.

More detailed and extended statistics are published in the Divisional Medical Officer's Report to the Lancashire County Council.

Sanitary Circumstances

The Makerfield Water Board supervise the distribution of water, largely purchased from Liverpool Corporation, to 6,732 houses by mains supply. The Makerfield Water Board also keep check on the bacteriological and chemical testing of the water.

The sewage works have been improved and extended and 6,281 houses are now on the water carriage disposal system. House refuse is collected in 7,266 bins and disposed of by controlled tipping. Dry ashpits have been eliminated.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year population 19,840

Comparability factors : Births 0.97.

Deaths 1.20.

Live Births	Male	Female
Legitimate	205	190
Illegitimate	2	2
Total	207	192

Still Births		
Legitimate	5	3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	5	3

Deaths — infants under 1 year of age		
Legitimate	7	3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	7	3

Deaths — infants under four weeks of age		
Legitimate	4	3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	4	3

Deaths — infants under one week of age		
Legitimate	3	2
Illegitimate	Nil	1
Total	3	3

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)

Crude rate	11.6
Adjusted rate	14.0
Respiratory T.B.	0.10
Malignant neoplasms etc	1.56

Live Births per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate	20.1
Adjusted rate	19.5
Still births rate per 1,000 total births.	19.7
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births.	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	25.1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	17.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	15.0
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	34.4

Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Other infective diseases	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasms			
stomach	3	3	6
bronchus	3	1	4
breast	—	5	5
uterus	—	1	1
other kinds	6	8	14
Leukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions — nervous system	20	14	34
Coronary disease	21	18	39
Hypertension	3	3	6
Other heart diseases	16	20	36
Other circulatory diseases	4	3	7
Pneumonia	4	5	9
Bronchitis	10	5	15

Other respiratory diseases	—	2	2
Ulcer of stomach	3	1	4
Nephritis	2	—	2
Prostatic diseases	5	—	5
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	3	—	3
Suicide	1	—	1
Other diseases	11	19	30
TOTALS	121	110	231

Infectious Disease

There was no epidemic disease during the year

Scarlet fever	notified	13
Whooping cough	notified	1
Measles	notified	9
Dysentery	notified	1
Acute pneumonia	notified	2
Tuberculosis — respiratory ...	notified	14

There was no case of Poliomyelitis notified.

Immunisations

Against Diphtheria, completed during the year	295
Against Whooping cough, completed during the year	252
Reinforcement against diphtheria	655
Reinforcement against whooping cough	13
Primary vaccinations	587
Re-vaccinations	304
Poliomyelitis vaccinations (Sabin)	199
Poliomyelitis vaccination reinforcement (Sabin)	1,068
Poliomyelitis vaccination reinforcement (Salk)	312
Poliomyelitis vaccination 1st and 2nd reinforcement (Salk)	794

I would end my Report with an expression of thanks to my Staff and colleagues and members of the Council for their kindness and help.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON

Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1962.

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

To the Chairman and Members of the

Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report dealing with the work carried out by the staff in the Public Health Department and the progress made in the improvement of sanitary conditions in the district.

Each year sees a considerable increase in the amount and variety of work to be executed, due to the rapid increase in the growth of the district and the effect of new legislation that has to be implemented.

The most notable advancement during the year was the complete abolition of the use of ashpits and the provision of dustbins to all properties. In 1961 the Council agreed to provide dustbins in accordance with the provisions of Section 75(3) Public Health Act 1936. In 1962 the delivery of dustbins to the 1,210 houses previously using ashpits was completed. Newly erected houses were supplied with dustbins and defective dustbins were replaced with new ones.

The progress with the conversion of pail closets was continued. One hundred and ninety six water closets were installed in lieu of pail closets leaving three hundred and sixty nine pail closets to be abolished. I regret that the future progress may be slow due to the absence of sewers capable of dealing with the sewage from water closets. I hope that provision will be made each year to provide the necessary sewers even even if the cost of providing same is relatively high in relation to the number of pails to be converted.

I regret that no Council dwellings were erected during the year. Tenders were accepted for the erection of one hundred and forty one dwellings. These included four bungalows for disabled persons, which, when occupied will open up a new life for the handicapped persons who will occupy them. Also included in the one hundred and forty one

dwellings were thirty one bungalows for aged persons to be erected in various parts of the district. Eight of these bungalows are to be provided with gas type-central heating.

The erection of dwellings by private developers continued, two hundred and sixty one being completed. The occupation of these dwellings, in the main by persons from outside the district has had the effect of increasing the population of the district to almost the 20,000 level. The population estimate for mid 1962 was 19,840 an increase of three hundred and forty over the 1961 figure.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re nuisances and complaints	2,920
Nuisances discovered	1,758
Nuisances abated	1,561
Re-visits re nuisances	1,930
Visits re infectious disease	26
Re-visits re infectious disease	24
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale ...	470
Visits to factories	163
Visits to dairies	51
Visits to Shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	172
Notices served (Preliminary)	270
Notices served (Statutory)	44
Legal Proceedings	1
Court Abatement Orders Made	1
Letters sent	703

Description of Nuisances Dealt With

Defective and damp walls	200
„ roofs	169
„ eavesgutters and spouts	190
„ floors	7
„ sinks	5
„ wastepipes	26
„ plasterwork	240
„ windows and doors	251
„ staircases	18
„ pavings in yards and passages	21
„ chimneys and stacks	19
„ setting around gullies	11
„ firegrates	34
„ washing boilers	4
„ W.C. cisterns	45
„ W.C. basins	12
„ W.C. supply pipes	280
„ closets (roof, floors, walls, doors and seats)	17

„ ashpits (roofs, floors doors and walls)	7
„ pail places and doors	3
Overcrowding	15
Houses or parts requiring cleansing	9
Accumulation of refuse	20
Choked and defective drains	106
Ventilating shafts	13
Insufficient light and ventilation	4
Miscellaneous	32

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

I made mention in the preamble to this subject and will give brief details of the remaining problem.

In 1955 a report was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government when the Council estimated that the number of houses unfit for human habitation and suitable for action under the Housing Acts was 415.

Members will realize that during the routine inspection of the district and as a result of complaints received, it has been found that some properties, not included in the above mentioned report, have been substandard. These properties have been the subject of reports to the Council and have been dealt with either by making Demolition or Closing Orders as considered appropriate.

Since the date of the report a total of 329 houses have been dealt with leaving approximately 88 houses remaining from the original programme.

A further survey of the district made in July 1962, revealed the fact that an additional 220 houses may have to be dealt with before the district is cleared of houses unfit for human habitation.

Housing Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year : —

	Houses	Bunga-lows
(a) (i) By the local authority	Nil	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	135	126

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

	Houses
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). (Includes Slum Clearance Survey under Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/60)	496

(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	1,255
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	270
(2)	Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	182

2. Houses Demolished : —

	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	1	20	6
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas :			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957	2	16	2
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—

3. Unfit Houses Closed : —

	Number	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	5	8	4
(2) Under Sections 17(3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which defects were remedied :

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	110	—
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	44	Nil
(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :—

	Number of Houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
Position at end of year :—		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation :—		
(a) Under Section 48	—	—
(b) Under Section 17(2)	—	—
(c) Under Section 46	—	—
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	—	—

6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year

—

7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—
Improvement grants etc :—

	Private bodies or Individuals No. of Schemes		No. of dwellings or other buildings affected	Local Authority No. of Schemes		No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
Action during year :—						
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	1	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Approved by Local Authority	1	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(g) Any other action taken under Act :	Nil	Nil				

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

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority	52
(b) Applications approved by local authority	52
(c) Work completed	48

It will be noted that there was a slight increase in the number of applications made for Standard Grants but the applications for Discretionary Grants decreased. This is very disheartening, especially after the publicity given to the facilities available to landlords to provide the amenities that would improve the standard of their houses. Leaflets were distributed to all landlords, agents and owner occupiers, but the response was almost negligible.

Upon receipt of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 42/63 — Improvement of Houses — the Council gave this matter careful consideration and in consequence, a survey of the district was carried out to ascertain the number of properties that could be improved. The subject was still being discussed with selected landlords at the end of the year.

RENT ACT 1957

One application for the cancellation of a certificate of disrepair, issued in 1957, was made by the owner of the premises. Form N was served on the tenant of the house, but he raised no objection to the cancellation, therefore, the cancellation certificate was issued.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

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

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Work has continued in connection with the inspection of food premises, including shops, storerooms, hawkers vehicles, meat transport vehicles and manufacturers premises.

Special attention has been given to the hygienic handling of food and the cleanliness of staff employed in food premises. This duty, although of a routine nature is of great importance and cannot be neglected even when there are other duties demanding attention.

TYPE OF BUSINESS	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	104
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game etc)	15
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	25
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafés, 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.

Sale of Ice-Cream	69
Manufacture of Cooked Meat and Sausage	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	6
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles	4
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles	11

FOOD CONDEMNED — 1962

9 Tins Lunch Tongue	1 Tin Pork Luncheon Meat
2 Tins Stewed Steak	1 Tin Cream
9 Jars Jam	2 Tins Sardines
43 Tins Pears	60 Fish Cakes
1 Tin Meat Pudding	56 lbs. Oats
11 Tins Beans	40 lbs. Dehydrated Potatoes
9 Tins Tomatoes	15½ lbs. Stewed Steak
36 lbs. Corned Beef	103½ lbs. Oatmeal
47 Tins Fruit	3 lbs. 4 ozs Sago
2 lbs. Ox Tongue	7 lbs. Lactose Albumen Compound
6 Tins Milk	2 lbs. Ginger
7 Tins Rice Pudding	5 lbs. 8 ozs Breadcrumbs
2 Tins Ox Tongue	4 galls. Egg Substitute
6 Tins Salmon	14 lbs. Dates.
1 Jar Beetroot	
10¾ lbs. Boiled Ham	

MILK AND DAIRIES

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order is operative in the Urban District, and only designated milk may be sold to the public in sealed bottles or containers.

The number of registered distributors is as follows : —

1. Dairies	6
2. Shops	50

Visits and inspections were made to dairies and shops where milk is sold and 34 samples of milk were obtained, the particulars of which are as follows : —

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	13
Negative	12
Positive	Nil
No result	1
Phosphatase Test	17
Satisfactory	17
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	17
Satisfactory	17
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	4
Satisfactory	4
Unsatisfactory	Nil

ICE-CREAM

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

		Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade 1	30	21	9
Provisional Grade 2	1	1	Nil
Provisional Grade 3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Provisional Grade 4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Void Samples	Nil	Nil	Nil

There is only one manufacturer of ice-cream within the district. The premises are modern and no cause for complaint was found during any of the numerous visits made. This manufacturer has a fleet of modern vehicles which operate over a large area and I have received no indication that samples taken outside the district were unsatisfactory.

Licensed Premises

Alterations have been made to some of the licensed premises in the district during the year. These consisted of improvements to sanitary conveniences and the provision of washing facilities. There are 32 public houses and 18 clubs in the district in addition to the 7 off-licences.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Licences were renewed for the two shops authorised for the sale of pets. The Act empowers local authorities to ensure that pets are kept in satisfactory conditions including light, ventilation, temperature and cleanliness and requires arrangements to be made regarding the risk of fire hazards on the premises. A fee of 10/- is payable for each licence issued.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts

Licences were issued in respect of 39 premises upon which petroleum spirit is stored and fees to the amount of £29 5s. 0d were received from the owners of the premises. When new tanks are installed pressure tests are carried out over a period of 24 hours. All the premises licenced are visited to ensure that the conditions of the licences are complied with and as far as possible to see that petroleum deliveries comply with the safety regulations.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The weekly collection of household and trade refuse was continued throughout the year except for the annual holiday period when only essential services were operated.

A second Karrier Dual Tip refuse collection vehicle of 18 cubic yard capacity was purchased and these vehicles together with four Bedford side loading vehicles of 7 cubic yard capacity are operated continuously for a five day week with the exception of a few hours for maintenance.

The time is rapidly approaching when, in my opinion it will be necessary to have a spare vehicle which could be used in the event of a breakdown by one of the other vehicles.

I must make mention of the change in the nature of household refuse that has taken place over the last few years. It is now far more bulky due to packages, tins, and containers of all types and description. It is also lighter in weight due to a reduction in the amount of ashes from domestic fires. The tendency now is for less refuse to be burned on the living room fire and in consequence a greater amount of bulky refuse must be collected. I consider that it will be necessary to purchase a rear loading compression type vehicle to deal with this refuse in the very near future.

Owing to the increased number of new houses erected on private housing sites it was necessary to completely revise the vehicle collection routes. Although this caused a certain amount of confusion in the initial stages it was later proved to be beneficial from all points of view.

The completion of the provision of a culvert to the Carr Mill refuse disposal tip is most necessary to allow the tipping of refuse to comply with the Ministry of Health recommendations and eventually it will be necessary to obtain mechanical equipment for earth moving and grading of the tip surface.

It was necessary to purchase a water pump for use at the tip to extinguish fires that are lit almost daily by unauthorised persons who trespass on the refuse disposal site.

The reduction in the number of pail closets has permitted the Dennis gully emptier to be used by the Highways department for longer periods than previously for cleansing street gullies etc.

Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C's provided	Ashpits abolished
6	196	457	1,210

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1961 (approximately)	571
Less number converted	196
Less number demolished	6
Total abolished	202
	<hr/>
Total number of pail closets at end of 1962	369
	<hr/>
Number of water closets at end of 1961 (approximately)	6,686
Number of conversions, including troughs and waste water	196
Number of fresh water closets at new dwellings ...	261
Number of extra water closets erected	31
	<hr/>
	7,174
Number of water closets demolished	6
Number of water closets at end of 1962	7,168
	<hr/>
Number of waste water closets included above	14
	<hr/>
Number of dry ashpits at end of 1961 (approximately)	1,210
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1962	1,210
	<hr/>
Number of dry ashpits at end of 1962	Nil
	<hr/>
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1961 (approximately)	5,789

Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1962	1,210
Number of new dwellings	261
Bins provided at other premises	16
	<hr/>
	7,276
	<hr/>
Number of bins at properties demolished	Nil
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1962	7,276
	<hr/>

Salvage of Waste Paper

The salvage of waste paper continued and a total of 256 tons 15 cwts. 1 qr. was collected and disposed of. The income from the sale amounted to £2,126 16s. 6d.

Trade Refuse

A charge of 6d. per bin per week is made for the collection of refuse from trade premises. The sum of £140 15s. 6d. was received for this service.

Factories Act, 1961

Number of factories on register : 124

		Inspections	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power	94	105	Nil
Without Mechanical Power	24	47	Nil
Other Premises (Not outworker)	6	11	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	124	163	Nil
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unsuitable closet accommodation	4	4
Insufficient closet accommodation	1	1
Want of cleanliness	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Registered Premises

Bakers and Confectioners	22
Plumbers and Painters	13
Joiners and Builders	12
Shoeing smiths	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	1
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, etc.	1
Monumental Masons	1
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Metal Turners	2
Cinemas	1
Food Preparation	1
Demolition Contractors	1
Cattle Food preparation	1
General Engineering	7
Scrap Metal Dealer	1
Plant Maintenance	1

124

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	Nil

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are no premises registered under the provisions of this Act.

Smoke Abatement Clean Air Act, 1956

In February a report was submitted to the Public Health Committee on the estimated cost of converting the firegrates at the 230 houses on

the Rectory Road estate to enable open fire smokeless fuel to be consumed. The National Coal Board submitted information regarding the number of persons on the estate who were in receipt of concessionary coal and the availability of smokeless fuel.

In addition reports were made on suggested Smoke Control Areas in the centre of town and on the information obtained from neighbouring authorities regarding supplies of smokeless fuel. At the end of the year no decision had been reached regarding the implementation of the Act.

Twenty-one observations were made of factory chimneys during the year. There was a considerable reduction in the emission of grit, dust and smoke from these chimneys due to improved fuel firing and the installation of mechanical firing.

Advice was given to persons intending to install furnaces greater than 55,000 B.T.U's per hour and notice of intention to install this type of furnace required by Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956 were received.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Moveable Dwellings

There are no licenced caravan sites in the district but a number of caravans were sited on land adjoining the M.6 Motorway. They were used to accommodate workers engaged on the construction of the motorway and as such were exempt from the provisions of the above Act. Many visits were made to caravan dwellers who sited their dwellings on common land and on the side of the East Lancashire Road. These persons cause considerable nuisance and when their caravans are near to occupied houses they are an annoyance to the occupants due to requests for water etc. The ready co-operation of the local police is obtained when necessary.

Infectious Disease

Certain notified cases of infectious disease are visited and advice is given regarding isolation and the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

The number of notified cases of tuberculosis, all pulmonary, increased in 1962 and in addition the number of transferable cases (positive cases moving to within the district) increased over previous years.

The disinfection of 19 houses was carried out.

Disinfestation

All complaints of infestations of houses by various types of insects are investigated and if necessary the premises are treated. It is very rare that infestations of bed bugs are found during normal house inspection

as was the case a few years ago. This is no doubt due to the more effective insecticides in use today and also because many of the older infested houses have been demolished.

The number and type of infestations dealt with was as follows : —

Council Houses	11	Other Houses	29
----------------	----	--------------	----

The houses were treated for the following infestations : —

Cockroaches	20	Silverfish	1
Bugs	1	Ants	15
Woodworm	1	Flies	1
Furniture Beetle	1		

Rodent Control

The systematic search of the district and the treatment of infestations found and reported, continued throughout the year. The number of treatments found necessary shows a slight increase over previous years. Many of the infestations occurred on the new private housing sites, both newly constructed and occupied houses and in houses not yet completed. The cause of much trouble is the fact that apertures are left in the lower walls of buildings to provide access points for electricity, gas and water services. Rodents enter the cavity walls and secure a safe habourage. When these apertures are sealed the trapped rodents gain access to the dwellings or enter the roof space and cause considerable trouble to the occupiers. In many cases it is most difficult to secure complete eradication and much valuable time is spent on this work.

After the completion of the 10% test baiting of sewer manholes, six manholes were found to require further treatment and another baiting and poisoning sequence was carried out to ensure a greater degree of eradication of the rodents.

Details of other action taken was as follows : —

	Non-Agricultural Dwelling houses	All Other	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in district	6,740	880	54
(b) Number of properties inspected	940	218	36
(c) Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	1,327	283	41
(d) Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :			
Rats — major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	230	24	5
Mice — major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	47	12	0

(e) Number of infested properties treated	277	36	5
(f) Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	287	42	5
(g) Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	Nil	Nil	Nil

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

The safety, health and welfare of agricultural workers are protected by the implementation of this Act.

Efforts have been made to ensure that the provisions of the Act have been complied with but it is most difficult to visit all the agricultural units in the area during the days when harvesting is in progress. These visits are necessary to ensure that provision is made, not only for permanent employees, but for the seasonal workers engaged for potato and cereal harvesting.

Public Conveniences

There was no improvement during the year in relation to the damage to fixtures, fittings and coin boxes. In March it was decided to remove the coin boxes for a temporary period in an effort to prevent damage to doors but no improvement was shown. It was decided in July to refix the coin boxes.

The conveniences have been well maintained during the year by the attendants and defects and damage has been repaired as quickly as possible.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 — Section 86

Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers

Only one person and his premises are registered with the local authority for the purpose of this Section. Dealers in scrap metal and marine store dealers must make their records of purchases available for inspection as required by the appointed officer and visits were paid to the premises during the year for this purpose.

Problem Families

Much time has been spent during the year in dealing with families who are not prepared to exert themselves sufficiently to maintain a reasonable standard of conduct and cleanliness.

I regret to say that many of the persons concerned are prepared to accept all the help given, both in advice and of a material kind, as of a right and are not prepared to accept regular employment to help

themselves. In other instances the fault is due to the inability to spend money wisely and to the ease in which goods can be obtained on the hire purchase system. The money required for essentials is not available and in many cases landlords have great difficulty in obtaining the rent from the persons concerned.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for their understanding of the problem in connection with Council tenants and for the help given to me in my dealings with these families. I must also express my thanks to the Lancashire County Council Health Visitors and to all other persons concerned in this vital work.

Food and Drugs Act

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

A total of 83 samples was obtained, consisting of 52 samples of milk (6 of which were of Channel Islands milk) and 31 others comprising :—

5 margarine	1 salmon spread
1 treacle	1 syrup
2 beef sausages	2 pork sausages
2 fresh fruit	1 baking powder
2 lemon fruit curd	1 plain flour
1 bread	3 butter
4 canned meat	3 Vinegar
1 bicarbonate of soda	1 epsom salts B.P.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

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 Public Health Committee for the co-operation given to me during the year.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



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