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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

1964

Medical Officer of Health :

GEORGE H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Retired 16th June, 1964)

R. SCHOFIELD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 17th June, 1964)

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. DEREK M. BOLD, Cert. Royal Society of Health,
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Food Inspectors :

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS

Public Health Department,
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD**

To the Chairman and Members of the

Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1964

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-ninth Annual Report of the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1964.

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 land slopes towards 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 21,330 (mid 1964). 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 practically 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 £494,924 and a penny Rate yields £1,926.

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

At Queens Road Clinic there were 106 sessions.

The number of children born in the year of the report was 479 and these made 4,489 attendances at this clinic.

The Ante Natal Clinic held 40 sessions and the average number of Women attending was 42.3. 11 post-natal clinics were held, attended by 69 women ; average number attending per session was 7.4.

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 7314 houses by mains supply. The Makerfield Water Board also keep check on the bacteriological and chemical testing of the water, but after receiving complaints of unsatisfactory water supplies two bacteriological samples were taken. Both were found to be satisfactory.

The new sewage works was opened on 30th January, 1964 and 7,314 houses are now on the water carriage disposal system. House refuse is collected in 7,851 bins and disposed of by Controlled tipping.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population 21,330

Comparability factors : Births 1.0

Deaths 1.20

Live Births

	Male	Female
Legitimate	235	235
Illegitimate	6	3
Total	241	238

Still Births

Legitimate	5	4
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total	5	4

Deaths—infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	6	1
Illegitimate	1	Nil
Total	7	1

Deaths—infants under four weeks of age

Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	1	Nil
Total	4	1

Deaths—infants under one week of age

Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	1	Nil
Total	4	1

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population Total (all forms)

Crude rate	12.3
Adjusted rate	14.8
Respiratory T.B.	0.05
Malignant neoplasms, etc	2.06

Live Births per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate	22.5
Adjusted rate	22.5

Still births rate per 1,000 total births 18.4

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total
births Nil

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 16.7

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live
births 10.4

Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000
live births 10.4

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total
births 28.7

Causes of Death	Sex	Total All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS											75 and over
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—				
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1		
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2		
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	4	2	—		
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—		
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	4	3	—		
	F	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	3	—		
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—		
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—		
Diabetes	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	7	6	—		
	F	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	8	—		
Coronary disease, angina	M	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	7	10	7	—		
	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—		
Hypertension with heart disease	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—		
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—		
Other heart disease	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	9	—		
	F	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	24	—		
Other circulatory diseases	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	—		
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—		
Influenza	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—		
Pneumonia	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	—		
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—		
Bronchitis	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3	3	—		
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—		
Other Disease of Respiratory System	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—		
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2		
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Congenital malformations	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	12	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—		
	F	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	7	—		
Motor vehicle accidents	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—		
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
All other accidents	M	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—		
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Suicide	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—		
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
TOTAL all Causes	M	149	4	3	1	—	3	3	5	17	30	37	46	—		
	F	114	1	—	—	1	2	1	2	5	17	27	60	—		

Infectious Disease

There was no epidemic disease during the year

Scarlet fever	notified	20
Whooping cough	notified	11
Measles	notified	264
Dysentery	notified	Nil
Acute pneumonia	notified	Nil
Tuberculosis — respiratory	notified	3
Tuberculosis other	notified	1
Food poisoning	notified	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	notified	1

Immunisations and Vaccinations

Type	Pre-School children	School children	Adults
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus)			

Primary	252	2	—
Re-Inforcement	115	42	—

Combined Antigen (Diphtheria and Tetanus)

Primary	4	23	—
Re-Inforcement	10	315	—

Smallpox Vaccinations

Primary	111	2	10
Re-Vaccination	2	9	16

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations

Primary	361	5	9
Re-Inforcement	49	154	3

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1964

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, details of the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year 1964. Each year the duties increase due to new legislation and the rapid growth of the district. Although every endeavour has been made to give attention to every aspect of public health duties this has been impossible. I must state that I wonder on occasions whether sufficient thought is given by the various Ministries when new legislation is passed which places additional burdens on the staff of local authorities as to how they are to cope with this work.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re nuisances and complaints	2,843
Nuisances discovered	1,609
Nuisances abated	1,421
Re-visits re nuisances	1,984
Visits re infectious disease	24
Re-visits re infectious disease	7
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	499
Visits to factories	178
Visits to dairies	32
Visits to Shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	159
Notices served (Preliminary)	340
Notices served (Statutory)	48
Legal Proceedings	1
Court Abatement Orders Made	1
Letters sent	690

Description of Nuisances Dealt With

Defective and damp walls	180
„ roofs	159
„ eavesgutters and rain water pipes	179
„ floors	21
„ sinks	13
„ wastepipes	20
„ plasterwork	189
„ windows	170
„ doors and frames	42
„ staircases	9
„ chimneys and stacks	42
„ ventilating shafts	4
„ pavings in yards and passages	26
„ washing boilers	5
„ W.C. cisterns	21
„ W.C. basins	14
„ W.C. supply pipes	41
„ W.C. structures	39
Choked or defective drains and drainage systems	143
Water under floors	15
Accumulation of refuse, etc.	21
Foul Odours	26
Filthy or verminous premises	9
Insufficient water supplies	17
Insufficient lighting	3
Noise Nuisances	7
Clean Air Act Infringements	11
Overcrowding	7
Defective dustbins	152
Miscellaneous	24

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

Fifteen families were rehoused from houses included in Clearance Areas or dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses. Twenty-six houses were demolished and five closed. The number of persons involved was forty-nine.

During the year further inspections were made of houses which I hope will be dealt with in clearance areas in the near future, but it was not possible to report the details to the Public Health Committee for consideration during 1964.

At the end of the year 36 Demolition or Closing Orders had been made, but an estimated 224 premises were still occupied which should be dealt with by Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders.

Housing Statistics.

1. Number of dwellings erected during the year :—

	Houses	Bungalows
(i) By the local authority	Nil	4
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	135	197

2. Number of Council owned dwellings at end of year 1,740

3. 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)	527
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose	1,201
(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	340
(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 and in respect of which—	
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made	36
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	224

4. Houses Demolished : —

	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	15	6	1
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, 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	11	31	9
(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	—	—	—

5. Unfit Houses Closed : —

	Number	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	5	12	5
(2) Under Sections 17 (3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—	—

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

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	122	—
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	28	Nil
(b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957 ...	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

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

	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
	(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	—	—

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement : —

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

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

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

10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants :—

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to full standard	65
(b) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to reduced standard ...	Nil
(c) Total applications approved by local authority	52
(d) Work completed	49

NOTE—The numbers vary due to difference in dates of applications and Council meetings and delays due to legal matters.

There was a slight increase in the number of applications made for Standard Grants as compared with the previous year and a most welcome change was that twelve applications were made by landlords.

The amenities provided were :—

Fixed baths	48
Showers	Nil
Wash Hand basins	48
Hot Water Supply (to any fittings)	48
Water Closets within dwellings	49
Food Stores	47

The total amount paid in grants was £5,749 9s. 8d. an average of £117 6s. 9d. per house.

At the end of the year I submitted a report to the Council on the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964 and following consideration, I was authorised to inspect the district and report back in due course regarding compulsory improvement areas.

Rent Act, 1957

Only one application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair under Part 1 of the first schedule of this Act. Form J. was served on the landlord on the last day of the year, therefore, the matter was not finalised during the period under review.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

No applications were received for a slaughterman's licence during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises

It is not possible for public health inspectors to relax their efforts

in connection with the supervision of food premises or in the education of personnel engaged in the handling of food.

This was proved in the unfortunate outbreak of Typhoid at Aberdeen. All food premises in the area were visited, in the first place to check on the sale or otherwise of corned beef and to trace tins bearing the code letters and numbers and secondly to advise on the correct and hygienic use of meat slicing machines.

It was found in a few instances that some employees in food shops were practicing methods that were not in accordance with those required to prevent possible contamination. I am pleased to report that full co-operation was received in all instances, but a lesson was learned that even in the best conditions there must be no relaxation of food hygiene standards.

At one shop a tin showing the suspect coding had been opened and half the contents consumed. The unconsumed portion was taken for bacteriological examination, but fortunately the result showed a negative culture of salmonella typhi and other organisms of the salmonella groups.

Numerous visits were made to the food factory for the purpose of inspecting quarters of beef received from Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic and frozen meat and offal from the Commonwealth and other countries.

Occasionally certain foods are canned at this factory and following consultation with the staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Liverpool, four samples of food were taken for examination.

The results were as follows :—

Yam, Leek Pudding, Casserole Meat and Stewed Steak.

Colony Count per gram at 37° C. Nil

Coliform Organisms per 1/10th gram. Absent

B. Colli per 1/10th gram. Absent.

and no organisms of the Salmonella group, Staph. pyogenes or Clostridium Welchii were found.

Type of Business	No.
General Grocers and provision dealers	106
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.	17
Bakers and/or confectioners	16

Fried Fish shops	27
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	25
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.

Sale of Ice-cream	72
Manufacturer of Cooked Meat and Sausages	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	6
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles	5
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles	14

Food Condemned

184 lbs. Beef	45 Tins Fruit
150 lbs. Shoulder Steak	15 Tins Vegetables
150½ lbs. Shoulder Mutton	10 Tins Fish
24 lbs. Lamb	4 Tins Ox Tongue
57 lbs. 8 ozs. Boiled Ham	5 Tins Milk
18 lbs. Raw Liver	1 Tin Cream
10 lbs. Chicken	8 Tins Rice Pudding
6 lbs. Veal	1 Tin Sago
30 lbs. Corned Beef.	4 Tins Tongue
28 lbs. Rice	1 Tin Meat Pudding
80 lbs. Apples	3 Tins Stewed Steak
40 lbs. Pears	3 Tins Jellied Veal

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are 12 dairy farms producing milk within the district in addition to 6 registered dairies.

Visits have been paid to all these premises in addition to shops from which sterilized milk is sold. The results of milk samples taken are as follows :—

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	24
Negative	24
Positive	Nil
No result	Nil

Phosphatase Test	16
Satisfactory	16
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	16
Satisfactory	16
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	8
Satisfactory	8
Unsatisfactory	Nil

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

Ice Cream

Seventy-two premises are registered under Sections 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and Genral Powers) Act 1938 for the sale of ice cream. The major portion of the ice cream sold is produced by the larger manufacturers of this product and only one manufacturer produces ice cream within the district. It is necessary for the premises to be strictly supervised because of the large amount of ice cream manufactured and sold outside the district. The number of samples taken was forty-one, the results being as follows :—

	Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade I	29	7
Provisional Grade II	3	Nil
Provisional Grade III	Nil	1
Provisional Grade IV	Nil	1

Ice Lollies

Twenty-two samples were taken all being satisfactory.

Ice Cream Lollies

Eight samples were taken, the results being as follows :—

Grade I	6
Grade II	1
Grade IV	1

Licenced Premises

Although certain licenced premises were improved during the year, it was not possible to make detailed inspections owing to pressure of other work.

The number of public houses in the district is thirty-one, in addition

to seven out-door licences and eighteen clubs.

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 where petroleum is stored and fees amounting to £28 15s. 0d. were paid to the local authority. The duties under these regulations increase year by year and much time is spent when new tanks and pumps are installed in testing these installations. I would suggest that the time is long overdue for a revision of the licence fees which have remained unchanged for a considerable number of years.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The rapid increase in the number of new dwellings erected on the various private housing estates created difficulties again in arranging the refuse collection routes. It must be remembered that the length of carry from these dwellings, far exceeds the carry from the older terraced property and in consequence the number of bins collected per man per day must be reduced unless other methods are employed to maintain an efficient service. The continual change in the type of refuse collected also causes problems and it is necessary to provide vehicles of larger storage capacity to cope with the bulky waste now being produced. The Council agreed that a compression type vehicle should be purchased next year and provision was to be made in the 1965/66 rate estimates for this purpose.

Refuse was collected weekly from all dwellings with the exception of the summer holiday week when only a skeleton staff are employed to deal with business premises and emergencies.

The vehicles engaged in refuse collection are as follows :—

Two 18 cubic yard capacity, dual tip rear loading Karriers.

Three 7 cubic yard capacity, side loading Bedfords.

One converted pail van used in the main for salvage collection and as a spare vehicle and a 600 gallon Dennis gully emptier for pail closet collection. This vehicle is also used by the Highways department for cleansing street gullies.

The culverting of the stream at Carr Mill Tip was almost completed by the end of the year. When this work is finished, a valuable refuse

disposal site will be available for the use of the Council for a considerable number of years. It will be necessary to purchase a mechanical earth mover/scrapper to consolidate the tip, to keep the surface level and to provide covering material from the sides of the tip.

It is almost impossible to supervise the tip during the hours when tipping ceases and the fire hazard is ever present. In addition the store used by the public cleansing employees is constantly being damaged and wire screens and iron posts, provided to prevent paper being blown from the tip are constantly disturbed and damaged.

The following statistics give details of the sanitary accommodation in the district.

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1963 (approximately)		171
Less number converted	41	
Less number demolished	15	
	<hr/> 56	<hr/> 56
		115
Plus pails used at farms found during survey (Agricultural Workers Act)		16
Total number of pail closets at end of 1964		<hr/> 131
Number of water closets at end of 1963 (approximately) including troughs and waste water		7,589
Number of conversions	41	
Number of fresh water closets at new dwellings	336	
Number of extra water closets erected	57	
	<hr/> 8,023	
Number of water closets demolished	15	
Number of water closets at end of 1964		<hr/> 8,008
Number of waste water closets included above		<hr/> 14
Number of moveable dustbins at end of 1963 (approximately)		7,538
Number of new dwellings	336	
Bins provided at other premises	Nil	
	<hr/> 7,874	
Number of bins at properties demolished		<hr/> 23
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1964		<hr/> 7,851

Salvage of Waste Paper

The salvage of waste paper continued and a total of 287 tons 7 cwts. was collected and disposed of. The income from the sale amounted to £2,398 4s. 3d.

Trade Refuse

A charge of 6d. per bin per week is made for the collection of refuse from trade premises. The sum of £132 8s. 0d. was received for this service.

Factories Act, 1961

Number of factories on register : 134

		Inspections	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power	98	131	Nil
Without Mechanical Power	27	35	Nil
Other Premises (Not outworkers)	10	12	Nil
	<u>134</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unsuitable closet accommodation	3	3
Want of cleanliness	3	3
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

Registered Premises

Cafes and Snack Bars	2
Bakers and Confectioners	15
Plumbers	11
Builders	19
Smiths	2
Motor and cycle repairers	22
Painters	9
Clothing Manufacturers	2
Asphalte Production Plant	1
Saddler	1
Corrugated Board Containers	2
Wholesale Warehouse	1
Lock and hinge manufacturers	3
Laundries	1
Printers	1

Cabinet makers and upholsterers	1
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice-cream Manufacturers	1
Sausage makers	10
Wholesale Chemists	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot, shoe and clog repairers	4
Gas holders	1
Electricians	4
Sawmills	5
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Cinemas	1
Food Preparation	1
Demolition Contractors	1
Cattle Food preparation	1
General Engineering	5
Scrap Metal Dealers	1

134

Section 110

There were no 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

Smoke Abatement Clean Air Act, 1956

There has been no change in the policy of the Council regarding smoke control areas but a considerable amount of time has been spent in dealing with complaints in connection with air pollution from factories.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 Moveable Dwellings

There are no licenced caravan sites in the area but the number of moveable dwellings stationed in various parts of the district for short periods increased during the year. Members of the public residing in the vicinity report the matter to the public health department and the sites are visited without delay. It is not possible however to remove the vehicles as quickly as we would wish and often the local police have to be asked to help in this work. The occupiers of these dwellings foul the land in the area and it is necessary to engage the services of the public cleansing employees to clean up the sites after vacation.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

The homes of patients suffering from certain notified cases of infectious diseases are visited and disinfected. Enquiries are made regarding the probable source of infection and advice is given in an effort to reduce the spread of the disease. 25 premises were disinfected.

Disinfestation

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

Council Houses	21	Other Houses	33
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The houses were treated for the following infestations :—

Cockroaches	15	Silverfish	4
Bugs	6	Ants	22
Wasps	1	Maggots	1
Flies	3	Fleas	1
Earwigs	2		

It will be noticed that one house was treated for both bed bugs and fleas. I fail to understand why the occupants were prepared to suffer the discomforts inflicted by these insects when so many insecticides are available which can eradicate infestations so effectively.

When I have carried out treatments at premises such as this I feel that facilities should be provided to enable me to bathe and treat my clothing to prevent me from carrying the insects to my own home.

Rodent Control

Although the treatment of sewers which has been pursued over the years appears to have had the desired effect of reducing the number of rats in the sewer systems, I regret to state that the number of surface infestations continues to increase. One of the reasons is that rats are disturbed when new housing sites are developed and sufficient precautions are not taken by the builders to prevent the access of rats to the new dwellings. I resent the time spent by public health inspectors in tracing and treating infestations at recently occupied premises when the builders could, by adopting simple practices, prevent rodents gaining access. In many cases the builders themselves are put to considerable expense in exposing foundations to check that the brickwork around service pipes and cables have been made good and in numerous instances these are the points of access.

One full time rodent operator is employed in searching the district and dealing with the normal type of infestation.

One sewer treatment was carried out together with the sewage works, and refuse disposal site and other local authority premises.

The annual report supplied to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is as follows :—

	Non-Agricultural Dwelling houses	All Other	Agricultural
(a) Number of properties in District	7,314	886	54
(b) Number of properties inspected	1,439	156	27
(c) Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	1,959	265	59
(d) Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :			
Rats — major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	355	13	Nil
Mice — major	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor	30	7	Nil
(e) Number of infested properties treated	385	20	Nil
(f) Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments)	391	103	Nil
(g) Number of “Block” control schemes carried out	Nil	Nil	Nil

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

Visits were made to all agricultural units in the district to ensure that the provisions of this Act were being complied with. Permanent and temporary workers must be provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences. There are 66 such units in the area.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This is a measure which was introduced to improve the standard of health and safety of persons employed in offices, shops and railway premises. It was considered that the existing regulations, under the Public Health and Shops Acts were inadequate to deal with these matters. Local authorities are required to appoint inspectors to carry out inspections of premises for which they have the responsibility of enforcing the Act. Returns are to be submitted to the Ministry of Labour and certain reports and returns to the Deputy Superintending Inspector of Factories.

The following is a copy of the Annual Report forwarded to the Ministry of Labour. It will be seen that it was only possible to inspect a small number of the premises registered.

Class of Premises	No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during year
Offices	24	Nil
Retail Shops	74	4
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	2	Nil
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	15	Nil
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	Nil

Public Conveniences

Although the conveniences were well maintained by the attendants there was no change regarding malicious damage to fixtures, fittings and coin boxes. The cost of repair and replacement of fittings is excessive, but this problem is universal and no effective answer seems to be forthcoming.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Many complaints were made by the public regarding alleged noise nuisances and these were investigated. Some were founded on fact but others were not substantiated.

In the majority of cases the investigations have to be carried out at night when noise is regarded as more aggravating to the public. It is now recognised that noise is a danger to health and from my discussions with persons suffering this nuisance, I can verify that in some instances their nerves are seriously affected. The Council became members of the Noise Abatement Society during the year.

Hairdressers and Barbers

Inspections were made to ensure that hairdressing establishments complied with the requirements of the bylaws governing these premises. Copies of the bylaws have been issued to the occupiers, but I am of the opinion that many persons operating businesses in their own dwellings have not been registered with the Council.

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

Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers

One person and his premises are registered with the local authority as required by this Act. His records of purchases of scrap metal have been made available to me when required.

Food and Drugs Act

The County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following details of samples taken by County Sampling Officers. The County Council is the Authority responsible for the sampling of food and drugs within the district.

A total of 99 samples was obtained, consisting of 57 samples of milk (9 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 42 others, comprising :—

2 Icipen tablets
 1 Bread
 1 Pork Pie
 1 Brown bread
 4 Jam
 1 Margarine
 1 Multivite pellets
 1 Dried full cream milk
 1 Ethnine Linctus
 3 Blancmange powder
 1 Ground rice
 1 Barley
 1 Gravy Browning
 1 Dried peas

1 Nembutal capsules
 3 Flour confectionery
 4 Pork Sausage
 1 Fruit curd
 1 Cooking fat
 1 Rice
 1 Selsun suspension
 1 Dramamine tablets
 4 Mincemeat
 2 Beef suet
 1 Vegetables, dried
 1 Baked beans, canned
 1 Ground ginger

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

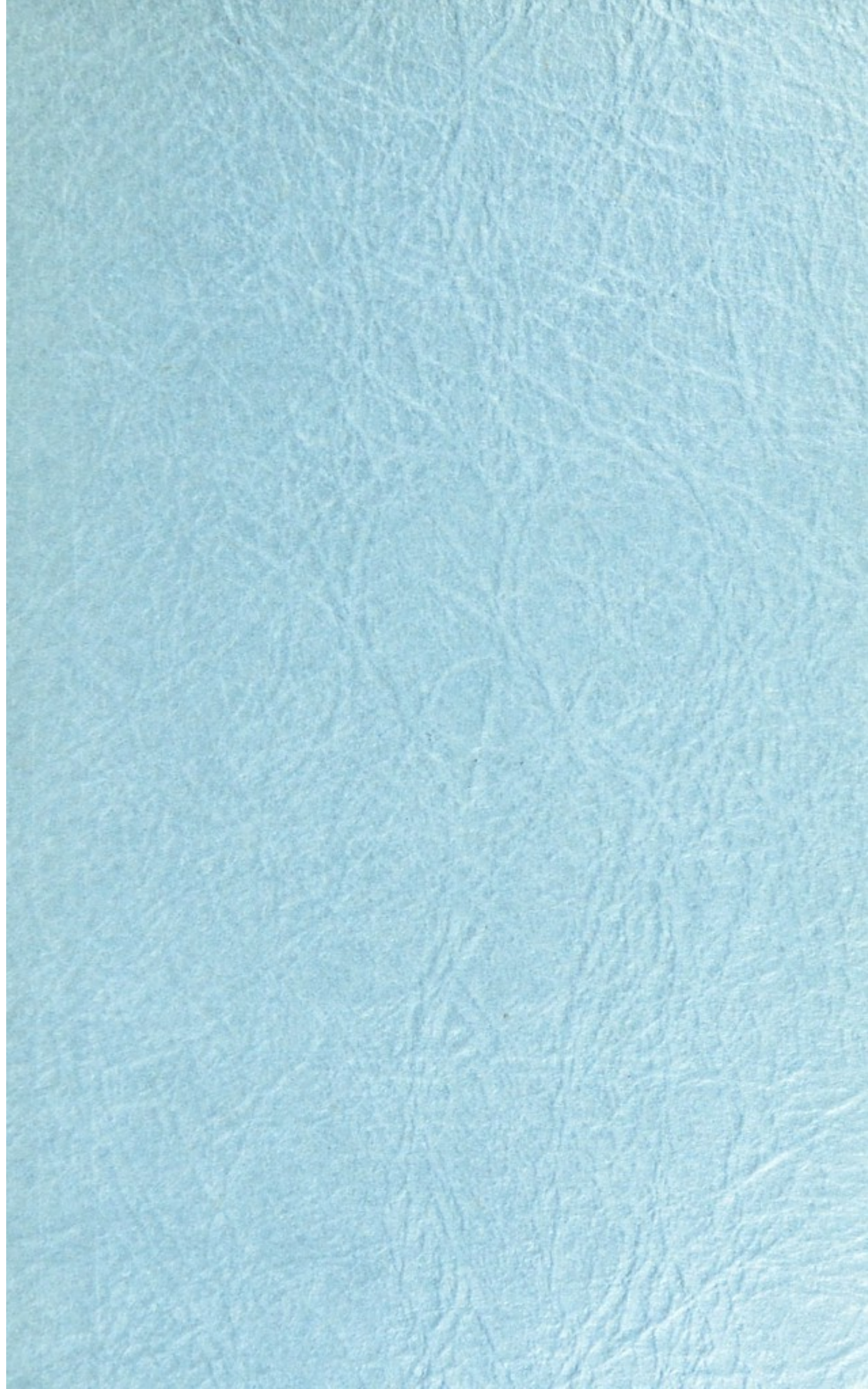
Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 Pork sausage	Contained 220 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned.
1 Pork sausage	Meat content only 59%. Poor in meat content.	No action taken.
1 Pork sausage	Meat content only 47%, poor in meat content. Contained 115 parts per million sulphite preservative expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned both meat content and preservative.
1 Pork sausage	Contained 275 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned.
1 Rice	Infested with mites and book lice.	Dealt with by Assistant County Public Health Officer and Public Health Inspector to Ashton-in-Makerfield U.D.C.

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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