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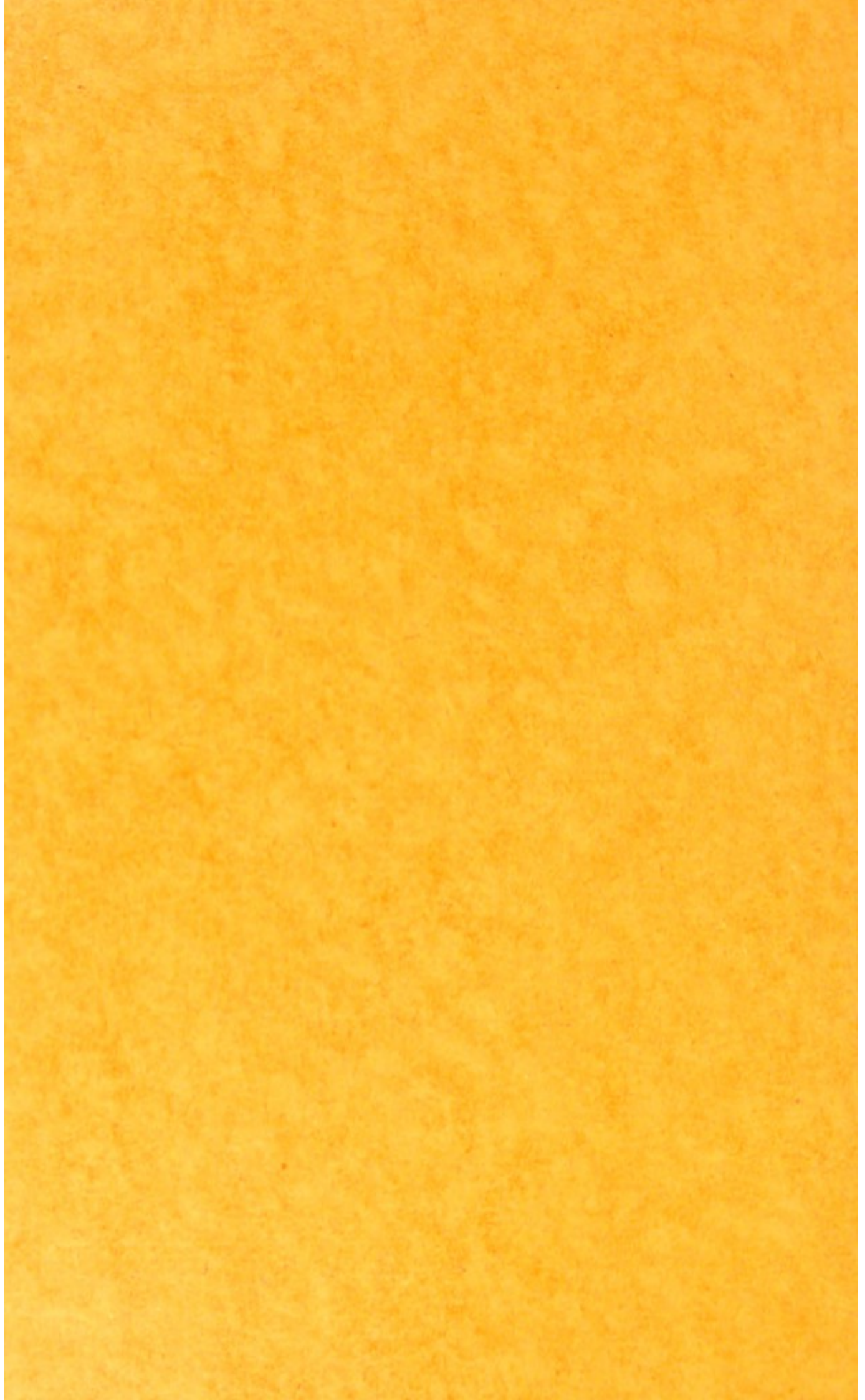
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BOROUGH OF ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1951

Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne 1951

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1951)

Chairman : Alderman W. H. Flowers, M.B.E., M.M.

Deputy Chairman : Councillor J. Wignall.

Members :

His Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T. Smith, J.P.

Alderman C. Arnold.

Alderman J. Q. Massey, J.P.

Councillor R. G. Fish, C.C.

Councillor M. Forbes.

Councillor R. Gleave.

Councillor A. Gray.

Councillor James Hall.

Councillor John Holland.

Councillor T. Kershaw.

Councillor M. MacCormack.

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the health of the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne for the year 1951.

The report contains full comments on the vital statistics and the various statistical tables have been standardised and placed together in the report.

It is almost customary to-day to expect an improvement in every health index from one year to another and annual trends give grounds to support this attitude; one therefore looks rather critically at those diseases whose elimination is not as fast as others; tuberculosis is perhaps a case in point and I would refer you to the body of the report which contains comments on this matter.

There was only one case of poliomyelitis, but it was fatal. There were 3 cases of diphtheria but no deaths. There were no maternal deaths, and the incidence of diphtheria is approaching vanishing point and its complete elimination is at the discretion of the public in accepting immunisation.

Problems of mortality are being solved only to be replaced by problems of dependency amongst the older age groups.

I would take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support during the year and to Mr. Handforth, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for his invaluable assistance.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALAN S. SIMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Alan S. Simpson, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTORS

C. Sykes Handforth, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., M.Inst, P.C., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

C. R. Langdon, M.R.San.I., M.Inst, P.C., C.S.I.B., Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

C. Stoddard, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

H. Houldsworth, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

J. Spencer, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

CLERKS

C. Sharples, E. Waddington, A. Hartley, M. J. Tompson, V. M. Potts (Resigned 31/1/51), S. J. Kenworthy (Commenced 1/8/51).

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres) 2,981

Population :

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
At Census, 1931	24,242	27,331	51,573
At Census, 1951	21,782	24,708	46,490
Estimated, mid-1951	—	—	45,960

Number of inhabited houses :

At Census, 1931	13,071
Estimated at end of 1951	15,432
General rate for 1951	(in the £) 18s. 6d.
Rateable Value	£265,974
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£1,055.85

Social Conditions of the Area

Ashton-under-Lyne is situated in the County of Lancashire, at the foot of the western slopes of the Pennines. Its highest point is 903 feet and its lowest 325 feet above sea level. The greater part of the town is situated between 330 and 340 feet above sea level.

The population is largely industrial and the chief industries are Cotton Spinning, Engineering, Tool Making, Iron and Brass Founding, Brewing and Coal Mining.

VITAL STATISTICS

Civilian population — Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1951, 45,960.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—				Birth-rate per 1,000
Legitimate	691	367	324	estimated civilian
Illegitimate	40	18	22	population, mid-
				1951—
Total	731	385	346	Crude
				Adjusted

Stillbirths—				Rate per 1,000 total
Legitimate	17	12	5	(live and still)
Illegitimate	7	4	3	births
				32
Total	24	16	8	

Deaths	700	340	360	Death-rate per
				1,000 estimated
				civilian popula-
				tion mid-1951—
				Crude
				Adjusted

Maternal Mortality—

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil.
Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths)	Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	41
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	25
Male Infantile Mortality Rate	65
Female Infantile Mortality Rate	14

Neo Mortality—

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	16
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES

(a) From Measles (all ages)	1
(b) From Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
(c) From Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	3
(d) From Diphtheria (all ages)	—
(e) From Cancer (all ages)	93
(f) From Tuberculosis (all forms)	20
Phthisis death-rate	0.35

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS

The year 1951 was a census year and the following is an extract from the Registrar-General's Preliminary Report, 1951.

	1931	1951	<i>Decrease Persons</i>	<i>Decrease Percentage</i>
Persons	52,175	46,490	5,685	10.9
Males	24,623	21,782	—	—
Females	27,552	24,708	—	—

The mid-year estimate on which all current vital statistics are based was 45,960 persons.

The extract of vital statistics, Table I, shows the five year trends of the birth-rate, death-rate, stillbirth-rate, maternal mortality rate and the infantile mortality rate, together with the figure for 1951.

The crude birth-rate at 15.9 per 1,000 population, whilst it is slightly up on the previous year, is in line with the general fall which commenced in 1947.

The comparability factor (1.02) raises this crude rate to an adjusted rate 16.2.

It is very satisfactory to note that there have been no maternal deaths for the last 5 years in Ashton.

The infantile mortality rate at 41 per 1,000 live births leaves room for some improvement—the average for the previous 5 years was 43.

TABLE II.—Gives all the above rates for the years 1930—1951.

TABLE III.—Shows that there were 700 deaths and it analyses them by cause and sex; it is interesting to note that whilst cancer was named on the death certificate in about 14 per cent. of all deaths, tuberculosis was the cause of only 3 per cent.

TABLE IV.—Analyses the 30 infant deaths by cause, sex and age at death; note might be made that the male infant deaths were three times the female, and that more than half the deaths occurred before the infants were 4 weeks old.

TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE V.—Shows the new cases notified during the year and the deaths occurring. The incidence rate for all forms was 1.39 as against 1.10 for last year; for phthisis it thus appears that a new case was notified for every thousand of the population. This table shows clearly that the new cases are appearing amongst males of higher age groups than females (columns 1 and 2).

TABLE VI.—Shows the Annual Incidence and Death-rate for the past 20 years. These rates do not show the progressive decline that one would wish to see.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register as at December 31st, 1951, was as follows:—

MALES—

Pulmonary	125
Non-pulmonary	23

FEMALES—

Pulmonary	91
Non-pulmonary	27

MALES AND FEMALES—

Pulmonary	216
Non-pulmonary	50
TOTAL	266

We have thus 216 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis on our register at the year end and the majority of these cases are residing at home; many of them are in a highly infectious state, some awaiting sanatorium treatment, some not suitable for such treatment, but nevertheless infectious to others.

The presence of this constant reservoir of tuberculosis infection is a very great problem and the segregation of the open or positive case is a matter which will have to be tackled sooner or later if we are to reduce the incidence of the disease in the area.

Domestic familial matters, availability of hospital and/or sanatorium beds are two of the many factors which have a bearing on this difficult problem.

An increase in the number of beds available would certainly lower the "infective reservoir" to some extent and is a matter of great urgency not only from a curative but from a preventive angle.

The 1948 National Health Service Act insofar as it demolished a unified system of tuberculosis prevention control and treatment, has undoubtedly put back the clock, and focussed public and financial attention on the treatment of the disease rather than its prevention.

We are fortunate in this area in the good relations which exist between the Preventive Tuberculosis services and the Chest Clinic Staff under the Regional Hospital Board and now that three separate bodies, namely, the Local Health Authority, the Regional Hospital Board, and the District Medical Officer of Health, are all concerned with different aspects of Tuberculosis, it is perhaps just as well.

It is, however, my firm conviction that we will not see any real progress in tuberculosis control and prevention until the present anomalies are swept away and a unified control is set up whose duties and responsibilities are the prevention, control, treatment and after-care of this disease.

CANCER

The number of deaths occurring where cancer was entered as a cause of death was 93, giving a death-rate of 2.02 per 1,000 of the population. The figures for the last 12 years are as follows:—

1940	.....	87	1946	.....	89
1941	.....	70	1947	.....	74
1942	.....	98	1948	.....	97
1943	.....	96	1949	.....	99
1944	.....	86	1950	.....	93
1945	.....	99	1951	.....	93

These figures do not indicate any marked increase in the disease and it must furthermore be emphasised that the numbers refer to deaths where cancer was mentioned on the death certificate but not in all cases the cause leading to death.

Many cases of cancer if diagnosed early enough are to-day being cured and in a few instances patients who many years ago were suffering from malignant disease survive this condition to succumb to quite another condition.

It can, however, not be emphasised too much that the earlier the person seeks medical advice for this condition, the better are the chances of cure.

TABLE VII.—Analyses these deaths according to sex and the site at which the growth occurred.

A feature of this analysis is the relative increase in the proportion of cases of lung cancer in recent years.

Appended below is a table showing the age and sex distribution of the deaths for 1951.

CANCER DEATHS

Age Groups	Males	Females	Total
10—15	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—
20—35	—	—	—
35—40	—	—	—
40—45	2	—	2
45—50	3	2	5
50—55	3	1	4
55—60	7	3	10
60—65	7	10	17
65—70	7	8	15
70—75	11	4	15
75 and over	13	12	25
TOTAL	53	40	93

THE PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Time was, before the passing of the National Health Service Act, 1948, when a Medical Officer of Health regarded as his particular responsibility the title of this section. He was "in those days" responsible for reporting upon the prevalence and he had considerable powers of control over the common infectious diseases.

Those days have gone. He may report upon the prevalence of these diseases but his powers of controlling them have been sadly reduced by placing Infectious Disease Hospitals under the control of the Regional Hospital Boards.

So that the prevalence and control over Infectious Disease are no longer under one management but have been fragmented just as the Tuberculosis Service. There are many fingers in the "infectious pie" and not unexpectedly they do not all stir it in the same direction.

To be really effective the control of infectious disease in the field demands that the controller has charge of hospital beds, in order that hospital isolation where indicated is better co-ordinated with domiciliary control by the Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE VIII.—Analyses the notifications of all infectious diseases notified according to age groups and indicates the numbers removed to hospital.

TABLE IX.—Gives the annual notifications received from 1930—1951.

Diphtheria notifications (3) were a new low level and no deaths occurred.

Only one case of poliomyelitis occurred.

There were 4 cases of dysentery.

Scarlet fever with 102 cases and an approximately 50 per cent. admission to hospital rate is perhaps best described as the outward and visible sign of the activities of the hæmolytic streptococcus, though the more clandestine and perhaps even more harmful work of the organism when no rash appears passes unheeded and presumably (with facial involvement) is just as infectious.

The annual figures for measles and whooping cough are given below :—

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases Notified</i>	
	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>
1940	686	129
1941	260	128
1942	521	39
1943	355	197
1944	419	69
1945	233	34
1946	136	175
1947	696	48
1948	439	236
1949	416	54
1950	281	223
1951	855	88

From which it will be seen that measles was three times as prevalent as 1950 and whooping cough only one-third as prevalent. Note the alternating high and low incidence of whooping cough from year to year.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The following shows the work carried out at the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary and the numbers since 1948.

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Patients under treatment at Jan. 1st.	150	125	207	205
New cases admitted during the year	170	208	168	150
Total attendance	2976	3954	3378	2268
Patients receiving treatment at the end of the year	125	207	205	207
Pathological examinations for V.D. Patients	549	1090	1365	519

Of the 150 (170—1948) new cases admitted during the year, 49 (64—1948) were Ashton residents. There were 112 (59—1948) cases found not to be V.D.

TABLE I
VITAL STATISTICS (Registrar-General)

Ashton-u-Lyne Municipal Borough Population Mid- Year, 1951 45,960	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1951 ...	731	*15.9	700	*15.2	24	32	Nil	Nil	30	41	16	22
Year 1950 ...	727	15.4	693	14.7	17	23	Nil	Nil	25	34	13	18
" 1949 ...	832	17.6	738	15.6	24	28	Nil	Nil	38	46	—	—
" 1948 ...	858	18.5	650	14.0	12	13	Nil	Nil	36	41	—	—
" 1947 ...	1011	21.4	613	12.9	31	29	Nil	Nil	44	43	—	—
" 1946 ...	884	19.0	657	14.1	30	32	1	1.09	41	46	—	—
1946—1950 } ... Average 5 years }	—	18.4	—	14.3	—	26	—	0.23	—	43	—	—

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.02) — 16.2 per 1,000.
death-rate (comparability factor, 0.97) — 14.8 per 1,000.

TABLE II

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE and INFANTILE MORTALITY
1930 — 1951

YEAR Col. 1	Pop- ulation Mid- Year Esti- mate Col. 2	No. of Births Col. 3	Crude Birth- Rate Col. 4	No. of Deaths Col. 5	Crude Death Rate Col. 6	No. of Infan- tile Deaths Col. 7	Infan- tile Mor- tality Rate per 1,000 Col. 8	AVERAGE 5 YEARS		
								Birth Rate Col. 9	Death Rate Col. 10	Infantile Mor- tality Ccl. 11
1930	51,750	739	14.2	642	12.4	43	58	13.5	13.2	69.4
1931	51,840	765	14.7	711	13.7	53	69			
1932	51,040	690	13.5	697	13.3	58	84			
1933	50,540	634	12.5	704	13.9	41	64			
1934	51,573	645	12.8	645	12.8	46	71			
1935	50,220	620	12.3	705	14.0	41	66	12.7	14.7	65.0
1936	49,580	612	12.3	724	14.6	38	62			
1937	48,810	620	12.7	794	16.2	39	62			
1938	48,540	645	13.2	688	14.1	50	77			
1939	47,950	630	13.0	719	14.9	57	58			
1940	46,320	657	14.1	793	17.1	52	79	16.0	15.0	54.0
1941	45,950	669	14.5	696	15.1	49	72			
1942	45,040	687	14.9	632	14.0	27	39			
1943	44,490	804	18.0	684	15.3	39	48			
1944	44,310	830	18.7	605	13.6	30	36			
1945	44,270	720	16.2	670	15.1	30	41	18.5	14.3	43.0
1946	46,480	884	19.0	657	14.1	41	46			
1947	47,160	1,011	21.4	613	12.9	44	43			
1948	46,270	405	18.5	325	14.0	36	41			
1949	47,280	832	17.6	738	15.6	38	46			
1950	47,300	727	15.4	693	14.7	25	34			
1951	45,960	731	15.9	700	15.2	30	41			

TABLE III
CAUSES OF DEATH
1951

No.	CAUSE OF DEATH	M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	7	9	16
2	Tuberculosis (Other)	2	2	4
3	Syphilitic Disease	2	0	2
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	1
8	Measles	1	—	1
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	4	3	7
10	Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	12	10	22
11	Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus)	13	2	15
12	Malignant Neoplasm (Breast)	—	3	3
13	Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus)	—	1	1
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	31	24	55
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	1
16	Diabetes	2	6	8
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	49	46	95
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	30	34	64
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	9	11
20	Other Heart Disease	64	114	178
21	Other Circulatory Diseases	7	9	16
22	Influenza	12	11	23
23	Pneumonia	18	10	28
24	Bronchitis	28	26	54
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	4
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1	5
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1	3
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	4	6
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	—	5
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations	3	1	4
32	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	25	20	45
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	3	7
34	All Other Accidents	4	6	10
35	Suicide	4	1	5
36	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
	Total	340	360	700

TABLE IV
INFANT DEATHS
CAUSE, SEX AND AGE GROUPS

Cause of Death	Age at Death										Totals		Both Sexes
	Under 1 Day		1 Day & less than 7 Days		1 Week & less than 4 Weeks		4 Weeks & less than 6 months		6 months & less than 12 months		M	F	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System													
Tuberculosis (other forms)													
Diphtheria													
Whooping Cough													
Meningococcal Infections													
Acute Poliomyelitis													
Measles													
Influenza							1				1		1
Pneumonia							4				4		4
Bronchitis							2				2		2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System													
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					1					1	1	1	2
Congenital Malformations	1	1		1	1					1	3	2	5
Birth Injuries	1		4								5		5
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis			1								1		1
Infections of the newborn													
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (inc. Prems.)	1	1	2		1	1					4	2	6
All Other Causes							1	1	2		3	1	4
Total All Causes	3	2	7	1	3	1	8	1	3	1	24	6	30

TABLE V
TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND DEATHS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
5—10	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	5	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
20—25	3	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	8	3	2	—	—	3	2	1
35—45	2	3	1	—	3	3	—	—
45—55	3	1	1	—	2	1	—	—
55—65	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	27	26	6	5	7	9	2	2
	53		11		16		4	
	64				20			
Case Rate per 1,000	1·15	0·24		Death Rate per 1,000		0·35	0·09	
	1·39					0·44		

TABLE VI
TUBERCULOSIS

INCIDENCE AND DEATH-RATES ANNUALLY 1930-1951

YEAR	INCIDENCE			DEATHS		
	Case Rate per 1,000			Death Rate per 1,000		
	Pulm'ry	Non-Pulm'ry	Total	Pulm'ry	Non-Pulm'ry	Total
1932	0.78	0.32	1.10	0.66	0.14	0.80
1933	1.13	0.47	1.60	0.45	0.22	0.67
1934	0.83	0.43	1.26	0.57	0.10	0.67
1935	0.14	0.31	1.45	0.50	0.05	0.55
1936	0.83	0.59	1.42	0.60	0.13	0.73
1937	0.19	0.55	1.74	0.94	0.10	1.04
1938	0.91	0.45	1.36	0.66	0.08	0.74
1939	0.81	0.38	1.19	0.71	0.06	0.77
1940	1.10	0.48	1.58	0.52	0.19	0.71
1941	1.10	0.32	1.42	0.70	0.13	0.83
1942	1.10	0.60	1.70	0.55	0.12	0.67
1943	1.16	0.59	1.75	0.52	0.04	0.56
1944	1.17	0.27	1.44	0.45	0.09	0.54
1945	1.27	0.40	1.67	0.68	0.18	0.86
1946	1.22	0.25	1.47	0.47	0.05	0.52
1947	1.02	0.42	1.44	0.53	0.19	0.72
1948	1.03	0.27	1.30	0.54	0.13	0.67
1949	1.35	0.19	1.54	0.67	0.14	0.81
1950	0.90	0.20	1.10	0.49	0.08	0.57
1951	1.15	0.24	1.39	0.35	0.09	0.44
Average for 20 years	0.95	0.39	1.44	0.58	0.12	0.64
Average for first 5-year period 1932-1936	0.74	0.42	1.36	0.56	0.13	0.68
Average for last 5-year period 1947-1951	1.09	0.26	1.35	0.52	0.13	0.64

TABLE VII
CANCER DEATHS

ACCORDING TO SITE AND SEX

Int. List No.	Sites	Number of Deaths Registered	
		Males	Females
45	Buccal cavity and pharynx	3	2
46	Digestive organs and peritoneum	31	26
47	Respiratory System	14	4
48	Uterus	—	1
49	Other female genital organs	—	2
50	Breast	—	3
51	Male genital organs	3	—
52	Urinary organs	—	—
53	Skin (scrotum excepted)	—	—
54	Brain and other parts of the nervous system	—	1
55	Other and unspecified organs	2	1
	TOTAL	53	40

TABLE VIII

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFICATIONS AND AGE GROUP ANALYSIS

DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and Over	Total Deaths	Total Cases Removed to Hospital from the District
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Scarlet Fever ...	102	—	7	2	12	12	39	26	2	2	—	—	—	—	56
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	51	4	2	3	3	4	3	—	1	2	14	—	15	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis, etc. ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	855	62	103	143	173	172	195	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	88	15	15	16	19	13	10	4	10	16	7	—	4	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	53	1	1	—	1	—	3	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1179	82	128	166	210	202	254	34	18	29	24	10	22	50	84

TABLE IX

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS, 1930—1951

Year	Smallpox	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non- Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Meningo- coccal Infection	Acute Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Totals
1930	99	36	25	359			2	3	56	21	61	3	—	—	1	—	—	666
1931	1	13	16	201			4	—	52	38	89	3	3	—	1	—	—	421
1932	—	22	18	163			4	1	42	20	99	—	2	—	—	—	—	371
1933	—	16	22	73			5	—	57	24	136	3	—	—	1	—	—	337
1934	—	38	19	93			4	—	42	22	100	4	1	—	—	—	—	323
1935	—	63	31	69			10	—	57	16	78	9	1	—	2	—	—	336
1936	—	127	37	179			16	1	40	34	85	3	1	—	1	—	—	524
1937	—	243	25	233			22	1	60	30	97	5	1	—	2	5	—	724
1938	—	225	29	116			37	2	44	22	66	5	3	3	—	2	—	554
1939	—	84	17	59			28	—	39	18	67	5	6	1	—	—	—	324
1940	—	59	12	42	686	129	27	1	51	22	95	4	21	—	—	—	—	1149
1941	—	38	12	48	260	128	23	7	51	14	86	5	16	4	—	—	—	692
1942	—	42	20	86	521	39	28	1	49	27	85	8	8	—	—	—	—	914
1943	—	61	21	98	355	197	19	—	43	22	126	10	4	—	—	—	—	956
1944	—	60	17	63	419	69	13	1	48	15	31	2	4	—	—	—	—	742
1945	—	64	6	41	233	34	7	—	56	18	38	1	3	—	—	—	—	501
1946	—	25	12	27	136	175	8	1	57	11	58	3	3	—	—	—	—	516
1947	—	11	12	26	696	48	7	1	48	20	31	1	—	1	—	—	—	902
1948	—	19	14	131	439	236	2	2	48	12	44	—	1	4	—	—	—	952
1949	—	4	15	265	461	54	3	—	45	19	55	1	2	6	—	—	—	930
1950	—	6	5	103	281	223	1	—	43	12	38	—	1	8	—	10	3	734
1951	—	3	4	102	855	88	1	—	53	11	51	—	3	1	—	4	3	1179

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

I.—SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

A. General Hospitals

The District Infirmary and the Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, are both controlled and administered by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board acting through their Ashton, Hyde and Glossop Hospital Management Committee.

Both hospitals admit medical and surgical cases; the District Infirmary has an out-patient department and the Lake Hospital provides through its Maternity Department, maternity beds and an ante-natal clinic, which, in general, may be said to be utilised by one-half (approximately) the maternity cases occurring in Ashton-under-Lyne.

B. Infectious Diseases

The Hyde Isolation Hospital continues to take the majority of Ashton's cases which require to be isolated.

Other Infectious Diseases Hospitals in the Board's area, on occasion, take our cases.

Smallpox. The Regional Board would indicate which of their Smallpox Hospitals would be used in the event of a case occurring.

C. Tuberculosis Services

The T.B. Dispensary, Lees Street, is now administered by the Regional Hospital Board, though certain aspects of this work, more particularly the domiciliary visiting of cases and contacts, come within the domain of the Local Health Authority's Medical Officer (the Divisional Medical Officer for Health Division No. 17).

The times for attendance at the Dispensary are as follows :—

Tuesdays	...	...	2.0 to 4.0 p.m.
Wednesdays	...	...	10.0 to 12.0 noon.
Fridays	...	...	10.0 to 12.0 noon.
Fridays	...	...	2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

II.—SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Lancashire County Council are the Local Health Authority for the Ashton-under-Lyne area, and they have set up a Divisional Scheme of Administration covering the whole of the County of Lancashire.

Ashton-under-Lyne is one of the six constituent districts in Health Division No. 17, which is comprised as follows :—

Ashton-under-Lyne Borough
Mossley Borough.
Audenshaw Urban District
Denton Urban District
Droylsden Urban District
Limehurst (Part) Rural District
(except Parish of Woodhouses)

The services which are provided by the Lancashire County Council, with effect from July 5th, 1948, are as follows :—

1. Maternity and Child Welfare
2. School Medical Service
3. Midwifery
4. Health Visiting
5. Home Nursing
6. Vaccination and Immunisation
7. Ambulance Service
8. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care
9. Domestic Help
10. Mental Health
11. Health Education and Propaganda

The above services are administered by the Lancashire County Council acting through their Divisional Health Committee No. 17.

A brief resumé of the above services as available to residents in Ashton-under-Lyne follows, the items being listed in the order as shown above :—

1. Maternity and Child Welfare

Child Welfare Centres held at	Clinic 5 : Scotland Street.	Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
	Clinic 6 : Richmond House, Richmond Street.	Thursdays, 2 p.m.
	Clinic 7 : Ormonde Street, Hurst.	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
	Clinic 8 : Hurst Nook.	Mondays, 9.30 a.m. to 12.0 noon.
Ante-Natal Clinics	Clinic 5 : Scotland Street. Clinic 6 : Richmond House, Richmond Street. }	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.

2. School Medical Service

The School Clinic at Water Street is open throughout the week and provides the following Clinics :—

Minor Ailments
Ophthalmic
Orthopædic
Aural
Dental (when Staff available)

3. Midwives

The following are the names and addresses of the Midwives practising in Ashton as at 31st December, 1951 :—

Mrs. B. J. EGERTON, 57, Ladbroke Road.	Tel. No. ASHton 2063.
Mrs. J. GRIFFITHS, 1, Crowthorn Road.	Tel. No. ASHton 2107.
Mrs. A. HARROP, 5, Ney Street, Waterloo.	Tel. No. ASHton 2033.
Mrs. S. A. SIDEBOTTOM, 16, Hurst Hall Drive.	Tel. No. ASHton 2615.
Mrs. I. MALLINSON, 4, Crowhill Road.	Tel. No. ASHton 2741.

4. Health Visitors

Office : St. Michael's Square, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Nurse Chamberlain,
Nurse Weir,
Nurse Cleary,
Nurse Edwards,
Nurse Malone,
Nurse Wrigley,
Nurse Beaumont,
Nurse Smith.

TOWN HALL CHAMBERS,
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

To the Mayor and Members of the Council of the
Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit herewith my Annual Report for the year 1951.

Much time was devoted to the administration of the Bye-laws dealing with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food. Apart from other inspections dealing with this matter, 3,390 visits were paid by members of your staff to food stores and food preparing premises.

During the year we were able to commence a Housing Survey of the Borough. This, of course, is in the nature of a preliminary survey. The results of these inspections are being tabulated as follows :—

Houses which are obviously unfit for human habitation.

Houses which require detailed examination.

Houses which are in good condition.

Houses which are overcrowded.

It is obvious this work will take a considerable time. It is hoped when the preliminary survey is completed we shall be able to get an overall picture of the housing conditions in the town. This will enable your Officers to decide which areas in order of priority, shall be considered for Clearance Area procedure. I would emphasise the work is only in its early stages and a great deal of detailed work still remains to be done.

The conversion of waste water closets into fresh water closets proceeded apace during the year. Alterations were made to 129 structures, an increase of 31 over the previous year. In all these cases the Corporation made a grant of £5 per closet. Since this arrangement was inaugurated 365 waste water closets have been so converted.

During the year the Ministry of Food closed the Dukinfield Slaughterhouse and transferred its activities to the Manchester Abattoir. Efforts were made to obtain the permission of the Ministry of Food to erect a public slaughterhouse within the Borough to be available for Ashton-under-Lyne and the surrounding areas, but without success.

The members of the staff have rendered good service during the period under review and I should like to thank them for their co-operation.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Members of the Committee for the courtesy and consideration which has again been extended to me during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. SYKES HANDFORTH.

Environmental Health Services

Embodying the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1951

Housing Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the Local Authority :		
Traditional Permanent Houses	150	
Prefabricated Houses (Permanent)	Nil.	
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil.	
(iii) By other bodies or persons	3	
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2569	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	5054	
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932	1096	
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1281	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1098	
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	946	

3.	Action under statutory powers during the year :—	
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	36
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) By Owners	25
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	13
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
	(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
4.	Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding—	
	(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	} Housing Survey in Progress
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	
	(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	87
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	301

5. Housing Act., 1949—

(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted			
	(a) by private individuals	...	Nil.
	(b) by the local authority	...	Nil.
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	...	...	Nil.
(b) (i) Number of Schemes approved by Ministry			
	(a) of private individuals	...	Nil.
	(b) of the local authority	...	Nil.
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	...	...	Nil.
(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these Schemes	...	...	Nil.
(c) Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	...	...	Nil.
(d) Any other action taken (give brief particulars)	...		Nil.

Sanitary Improvements

During the year, 129 waste-water closets were converted into fresh-water closets voluntarily by the owners, an increase of 31 over the previous year.

Consideration was given by the Health Committee to the erection of two additional public conveniences, one in Mossley Road for males and females and one in the vicinity of Hurst Cross, with similar facilities.

It was finally decided that priority should be given to the Mossley Road project and a compulsory purchase order was made to acquire the necessary land. Objections were received and in February, 1951, an enquiry was held and later the order was confirmed. It is intended to proceed with the erection of the building as soon as practicable.

The programme as approved by the Council also included the reconditioning of all the conveniences in the town and this was completed in the early part of the year.

Towards the end of 1951, the Committee decided to provide free washing facilities with liquid soap and paper towels at the two conveniences for males (Henry Square and St. Michael's Square). These facilities are now available.

The question of parking of caravans, especially those of members of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain, was under consideration. The present parking sites are situated within a short distance of the centre of the town. Various alternative plots of land were considered and negotiations entered into with the officers of the Guild. No agreement has been reached and the matter is still in abeyance.

During the latter part of 1950, it was decided to discontinue the use of the Mortuary off Tatton Street. Alternative sites were considered for the erection of new premises. Finally, however, arrangements were made that the mortuary attached to Lakeside should be available for Ashton cases and this arrangement has worked well during the year.

Smoke Abatement

The purpose of a survey of sulphur pollution is usually to detect changes which may take place in the amount of pollution emitted each month. The lead peroxide method is particularly suitable for this purpose, although it cannot be used to estimate the total monthly weight of sulphur dioxide emitted within any given area.

During the year, 21 half-hourly observations were taken of smoke emission from factory chimneys within the Borough.

Special attention was paid to one or two factory chimneys concerning which complaints had been received.

In these cases hand firing was in operation. The stokers were advised as to the best method to be adopted to avoid black smoke. It is very essential that the furnace should not be overloaded with coal at one and the same time, and in my view the only way to avoid nuisance is to fire little and often. This necessitates constant attention. It is often found, however, that the stoker has other duties to perform and in these circumstances it is doubtful if there is any satisfactory solution except the adoption of mechanised stokers of a suitable type.

The table below gives the estimation of atmospheric pollution—estimation of sulphur by lead peroxide method.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.
Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method.
January 1st—December 31st, 1951.

MONTH	Area Exposed	Gras- mere	Lord Street	Jubilee Dingle	Hartshead Pike
January ...	100 sq. cms.	2.34	2.89	2.26	2.11
February ...	"	4.02	3.14	1.62	1.76
March ...	"	1.93	2.11	1.60	1.70
April ...	"	1.83	1.09	0.75	1.21
May ...	"	3.68	4.17	3.00	1.90
June ...	"	3.97	4.23	4.08	1.53
July ...	"	0.50	0.72	0.58	0.77
August ...	"	1.59	1.88	1.76	2.24
September ...	"	1.18	1.38	1.16	1.34
October ...	"	1.18	1.38	1.14	0.77
November...	"	3.14	3.44	2.46	2.30
December ...	"	1.49	1.92	1.91	1.51

The above results are expressed in the form :—

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected/milligrams/100 sq. cms./day.

Four lead peroxide instruments are fixed at :—

1. In the grounds of "Grasmere," Stockport Road.
2. On the roof of the Ambulance Station, Lord Street.
3. At Jubilee Dingle.
4. In the grounds of the Hartshead Hospital.

These sites were carefully selected in order to cover the conditions in the area and to give readings in the industrial, semi-industrial, residential and rural parts of the Borough.

I am pleased to state that the Sewage Works Manager (Mr. J. P. Todd, B.Sc.) has carried out the analysis of the four lead peroxide instruments. Our thanks are due to him for his work in this connection.

Installation of four soot deposit gauges during the year necessitated a considerable increase in the micro-analytical work to be undertaken.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

1.—MILK SUPPLY

The Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

No. of registered distributors operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Dairy farms in the district	...	...	...	...	...	16
(c) Shops in the district other than dairies	...	...	...	...	...	243
(d) Premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	3

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

No. of dealer's licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1951, in respect of :—

"Tuberculin Tested" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	14
"Accredited" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	—

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

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat Treated" Milk :—

Pasteurising plants	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sterilising plants	...	...	...	...	...	—

Retail distributors—

(a) "Pasteurised" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	74
(b) "Sterilised" Milk	...	...	...	...	...	238

Action taken by this Department in relation to samples taken in the district :—

Raw Milk

	<i>Number of samples</i>	<i>Number negative</i>	<i>Number positive</i>
(1) Tuberculosis— Biological tests ...	33	29	1* (3 examinations declared void)
	<i>Number of samples</i>	<i>Number satisfactory</i>	<i>Number unsatisfactory</i>
(2) Methylene Blue Test ...	36	33	3

“ Heat treated ” Milk

“ Pasteurised ”—

(1) Phosphatase Test	84	84	—
(2) Methylene Blue Test ...	85	79	6
(3) Tuberculosis Test	7	7	—

“ Sterilised ”—

Turbidity Test ...	5	5	—
--------------------	---	---	---

* This sample was of milk produced in another district.

Ice Cream

127 samples of ice cream were forwarded for examination and were reported upon as follows :—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	90
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	16
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	11
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	10

Lollipops

18 samples of lollipops were forwarded for examination. Coliform organisms were not isolated in any of these samples.

2.—FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

During the year under review, 116 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The details of these samples are as follows:—

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	90
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	10
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	14
Water	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	1

The table below gives particulars of the samples found upon analysis to have been adulterated or below standard:—

Sample No.	Sample	Adulteration or Offence	Remarks
49	Milk	Deficient in milk-fat 6·6%	Formal—Vendor Warned
73	Milk	do. 3·3%	Informal.
53	Milk	do. 10·0%	Formal—Vendor Warned
55	Milk	Naturally deficient in milk-fat ... 10·0%	Formal—"Appeal to Cow" from Sample No. 53.
96	Milk	Adulterated with extraneous water 3·0%	Informal.
114	Milk	do. 1·17%	Informal
27	Milk	do. 33·4%	Formal*
28	Milk	do. 32·7%	Formal* *Prosecution £2-0-0 fine with costs.
2	Sausage	Deficient in meat to the extent of ... 13·2%	Informal
4	Sausage	do. ... 5·7%	Informal
7	Sausage	do. ... 13·8%	Formal—Vendor Warned
8	Sausage	do. ... 8·07%	Formal—Vendor Warned
81	Ice Cream	Deficient in fat to the extent of ... 8·8%	Informal— Vendor Warned

In May the Council considered a suggested Code of Practice which had been prepared in consultation with the officers of neighbouring authorities who were concerned with the administration of Bye-laws made under Section 15. This Code provided that persons handling, wrapping or delivering food should be required or requested, as the case might be, to observe the conditions contained in such Code.

A copy was distributed to all those concerned and every effort has been made to apply these suggestions. Generally speaking, it has proved to be very helpful both to the trade and to the officers concerned.

In May, 1951, a report was submitted on the condition of certain shop premises in the Borough. The Committee very carefully considered this report and the Town Council authorised that proceedings should be taken against the shopkeeper under the Act and the Bye-laws.

The matter subsequently came before the Borough Magistrates' Court, when fines amounting to £20 were imposed.

3.—MEAT INSPECTION

The following tables give particulars of the action taken in connection with meat killed for human consumption within the Borough:—

TABLE I

Carcases with all organs condemned as totally unfit for human consumption

Animals	Tuberculosis	Accidents	Inflammatory Diseases	Other Conditions
Cows	2	—	—	—
Bulls	—	—	—	—
Bullocks	—	—	—	—
Heifers	1	—	—	—
Calves	4	—	1	6
Sheep	—	—	1	1
Pigs	—	—	—	—

Carcases partially condemned as unfit for human consumption

Animals	Tuberculosis	Accidents	Inflammatory Diseases	Other Conditions
Cows	3	4	1	—
Bulls	—	—	—	—
Bullocks	—	—	2	1
Heifers	—	2	—	—
Calves	—	—	—	—
Sheep	—	—	—	13
Pigs	—	2	2	—

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES

For part of the year slaughtering continued to be carried out at Dukinfield. It was understood, early in the year, that the Ministry of Food intended to discontinue using these premises. Alternative accommodation which appeared to the Council to be suitable was suggested, but the Ministry did not accept the view of the Committee and the work is now being carried out at the Manchester abattoir.

The provision of a public slaughterhouse in the Borough has been before the Council for many years and it was deemed an opportune time to consider this matter in more detail. Contact was maintained throughout the discussions with the Master Butchers' Association and various sites were considered.

Finally, however, it was decided in view of all the circumstances, not to proceed with the project.

TABLE II
VARIOUS ORGANS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT
FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Livers	Part Livers	Stomachs	Hearts	Spleens	Mesenteries	Intestines	Udders	Kidneys	Diaphragms	Tails
Tuberculosis :														
Bovines ...	69	69	176	25	—	16	35	14	48	48	6	3	42	3
Pigs ...	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Inflammatory Diseases :														
Bovines ...	—	—	28	27	—	25	11	30	9	9	18	1	13	—
Pigs ...	—	—	9	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Sheep ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Diseases :														
Bovines ...	12	12	20	114	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep ...	—	—	3	123	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Other Diseases :														
Bovines ...	—	—	7	28	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Pigs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table gives some idea of the work involved in this particular branch of my department :—

No. of visits to slaughterhouses during 1951	...	68
No. of visits to food premises and markets	... ..	3390
No. of carcasses inspected—		
Cattle and Calves	... ..	978
Sheep and Lambs	... ..	1156
Pigs	... ..	22
		<hr/>
Total carcasses inspected	... ..	2156
		<hr/>

The total weight of meat and offals destroyed during the 4 months as diseased, unsound and unfit for the food of man was 14,103 lbs., or 6 tons, 5 cwts. 103 lbs.

4.—MARKETS AND SHOPS

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the public market and in the various shops in the town were regularly inspected during the year.

3,390 visits were paid to food stores and food preparing premises, and action was taken to effect improvement at various premises, and it is pleasing to note that in this effort we had the full co-operation of the occupiers and owners of the premises.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
Tinned Foods	3	14	1	27
Beef	—	4	0	23
Mutton	—	—	1	6
Pork	—	—	3	26
Offal	2	9	0	19
Fish	—	—	1	14
Cereals	—	1	0	8
Tomatoes	—	—	3	20
Pears	—	5	3	0
Sundries	—	4	2	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	7	1	3	6
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

5.—RAT REPRESSION

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's district	46	14,572	27	3,242	17,887
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951, as a result :—					
(a) of notification, or	(a) 5	209	Nil	62	276
(b) otherwise	(b) 25	2,542	26	2,577	5,170
3. Number of properties (under No. 2) found to be infested by rats :—					
Major	—	—	1	5	6
Minor	3	245	2	94	344
4. Number of properties (under No. 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	2	127	—	36	165
5. Number of infested properties (under Nos. 3 and 4) treated by the local authority	5	372	—	131	508
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 :—					
(1) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Structural Works (i.e. proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority, following issue of notice under Section 4 ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Legal proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ... ..	...	...	17		

The two full-time Rodent Operators employed in the Department continue to carry out their duties in a satisfactory manner. During the year the usual baiting of the sewers was

carried out. In addition a large number of premises where rats had been observed, was reported, and the necessary action taken.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS

During the early part of the year the district was subject to the movement restrictions imposed by the Foot & Mouth (Infected Areas) Order, 1938.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During 1951, two Council houses and seven privately owned houses were disinfested on account of the presence of bed bugs. Houses are fumigated with H.C.N. by a qualified contractor in accordance with the Ministry's instructions. D.D.T. liquid spray is also used in suitable cases.

SCABIES

Scabies are treated at the Disinfection Station Town's Yard, and the following table gives details of the work done.

Individual No. of Patients Treated
for Scabies in 1951 :—

					<i>Attendances</i>
Pre-School Children	...	...	1	...	1
School Children	...	...	8	...	13
Adults	...	...	—	...	—
			—		—
Total	...	...	9	...	14
			—		—

The building was originally constructed for the disinfection of Smallpox contacts, and it is suitable for treating cases of Scabies. There is a Waiting Room, Bath Room, Treatment and Dressing Room and a Discharge Room. Clothes for stoving are passed through a revolving cupboard in the bathroom to the disinfectant next door.

The treatment given is a bath, followed by an application of Benzyl-Benzoate Emulsion. Each patient is told to bring a change of clean clothes. Typewritten instructions are given regarding clothing and other necessary precautions. The local doctors have been notified of these arrangements.

Fresh sources of infection come into the town from time to time. By careful following up of contacts to known cases, and by treating whole families the infection has been kept down. In difficult cases, and particularly when re-infection occurs, action has been taken under the Scabies Order, 1941—to ensure the medical examination and treatment of contacts.

Water Supply

The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. There has been filtration of all supplies, with Chlorination at the Brushes and Yeoman Hey Filterhouses and Ozonisation at Knott Hill.

During the year, the following examinations were made :—

(a) RAW WATER	<u>Number</u>	<u>Results</u>
Bacteriological examinations ...	4 ...	Satisfactory
Chemical analyses	1 ...	Satisfactory
(b) WATER GOING INTO SUPPLY WHERE TREATMENT IS INSTALLED		
Bacteriological examinations ...	20 ...	Satisfactory
Chemical analyses	1 ...	Satisfactory
PRIVATE SUPPLIES		
Bacteriological examinations ...	2 ...	Unsatisfactory
Chemical analyses	1 ...	Unsatisfactory

Supply condemned and town's water connected.

Except in a few isolated cases, domestic water supplies are received from the town's mains. One of these cases was investigated during the year. Samples for bacteriological and chemical examination were taken. The reports were unsatisfactory and the dwelling has now been connected to the town's mains.

Swimming Baths

The Corporation Baths have the following bathing accommodation :—

- 1 large Swimming Bath (100ft. x 40ft. (120,000 gals.))
- 35 Private Slipper Baths (22 Gents' and 13 Ladies')
- 3 Zotofoam Baths.

The swimming bath water is purified by " Bells " Filtration Plant, having a four-hour turnover.

The pumps extract 15,000 gallons of water from the top and a similar amount from the bottom hourly.

Chlorination is maintained constantly at 0.5 parts/million throughout the bath.

Tests are taken two and three times per day also for alkilinity at 7.0/7.6 Ph. to give perfect filtration.

Warm showers are provided to enable each bather to wash under fresh, clean, running water before entering the swimming bath.

The private slipper baths are fitted with unlimited supplies of hot and cold water.

Zotofoam sweating baths are provided on a modern scale with shampoo and rest rooms. Brine and Pine are also given with these baths.

Zotofoam baths provide the advantages of a Turkish bath without the use of a very hot room, the room being kept at approximately 80 deg. F.

The attendances at the Baths during 1951 were as follows—

Swimming Baths	69,759
Private Slipper Baths	40,981
Zotofoam Sweating Bath	1,586
	<hr/>
Total	112,326
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I am indebted to Mr. W. H. Vollum, M.N.A.B.S., the Baths Superintendent, for kindly supplying me with much information and for his co-operation in matters connected with the general arrangements.

Nine samples of water from the Public Baths were taken during the year by officers of the Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1951

Number of inspections (including housing)	9649
Number of Nuisances abated	1979
Number of visits to common lodging-houses, furnished rooms and dwelling-vans	115
Number of visits to slaughter-houses	68
Number of visits to dairies and milkshops	285
Number of visits to bakehouses	220
Number of visits to food stores and food preparing premises	3390
Number of visits to fish-friers	81
Number of visits to ice cream premises	394
Number of visits to factories and workshops	530
Number of visits to offensive trade premises	30
Number of visits re rat infestations	2827
Number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act ...	116

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power... ..	458	13	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	81	2	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	10	—	—
Total	549	15	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S. 6)	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) {	Insufficient	3	1	—
	Unsuitable or Defective	14	12	—
	Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total	20	16	—	—

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

During the year 1951, consideration was given to the provision of additional public conveniences in the Borough. Two sites were suggested, one in Mossley Road and the other off Queen's Road.

Regarding the Mossley Road site, objections were made to the Ministry of Health against the confirmation of a compulsory purchase order for the acquisition of land and the Minister of Health directed that a public enquiry should be held. This took place on February 28th, 1951, and later the order was confirmed.

After further consideration it was decided that land off Lees Road should be substituted as the proposed site instead of Queen's Road and at the end of the year, the matter was still under consideration.

During the year, the public conveniences in the town were painted and the fittings were renewed, where necessary.

In November, the Committee decided to provide free washing facilities at certain of the public conveniences and two lavatory basins were fixed, one at Henry Square and one at St. Michael's Square (Gents.).

PARKING OF CARAVANS

Consideration was given to the provision of a suitable site for the parking of caravans, in lieu of the site occupied in Manor Street and Harley Street, for use by members of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

Various sites were suggested, but no alterations had been agreed by the end of the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

During the year, the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, came into operation.

The Act was intended to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which were stuffed or lined. Premises upon which certain filling materials (e.g., rag flock, hair, kapok and straw or chaff) were to be used for upholstering, stuffing or lining certain prescribed articles, must be registered with the Council.

A number of premises were inspected and the necessary enquiries made. It was found that one of these came within the provisions of the Act and it was duly registered.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

In pursuance of the provisions of the above Act, three persons were interred during 1951, the arrangements for the burials being undertaken by the officers of your Committee.

