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ASPULL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1947.



Ashfield House,

Wigan.

Aspull,

To the Chairman and Members of the
ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year
ending December 31st, 1947.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1947: 6,400.

Live Births—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	147	82	65
Illegitimate	4	4	—
Total	151	86	65

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1947: 23.5.

Stillbirths	4	2	2
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 25.

Deaths	82	47	35
--------------	----	----	----

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population: 12.8.

Deaths from puerperal causes—

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	0	...	Nil
Other maternal causes	1	...	6.45
Total maternal mortality	1	...	6.45

Death-rate of infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	79
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	74
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	250
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres: 1,906.

Population—Census, 1931: 7,193.

Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1947: 6,400.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931): 1,636.

End of 1947 according to rate books: 1,740.

Rateable value: £17,520.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £67.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area—

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries: One cotton mill, one mechanical bakery; one small engineering works, and one small carpet factory.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year: None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health: None.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health: R. A. COOKE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Special diplomas or certificates of qualification: None.

Is he a whole or part-time officer of the local authority? Part.

Any other public appointments held by him? Public Vaccinator and District Medical Officer for Schools.

Is he in private practice? Yes.

Sanitary Inspectors—

H. Geoffrey Barnes, M.Inst.R.A., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., whole-time until June, 1947. Other appointments: Food and Petroleum Officer and Rodent Officer.

Thomas Spencer, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., whole-time from Dec. 1st, 1947. Additional appointments: Food Inspector.

Other Public Health Officers: None.

Laboratory facilities: No developments or changes.

Ambulance facilities: Services shared with adjoining authorities.

- (a) Infectious cases: Ambulance provided by Wigan County Borough.
- (b) Non-infectious cases: Ambulance provided by Wigan County Borough.
- (c) Accident cases: Ambulance provided by Wigan County Borough.
- (d) Maternity cases: Ambulance provided by Wigan County Borough.

Ambulance services: No changes, present services are adequate.

Nursing in the Home: Carried out by Aspull and Haigh Nursing Association.

Total amount of financial assistance given during year by local authority to voluntary associations: £15.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (consultation and treatment): Under Lancashire C.C.

Hospitals in the district—

Public: None.

Voluntary: None.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for—

Unmarried mothers? No.

Illegitimate infants? No.

Homeless children? No.

Number of registered Nursing Homes in the district at end of 1947 for—

(a) Medical, Surgical and Maternity: None.

(b) Medical and Surgical only: None.

(c) Maternity only: None.

Describe any arrangements made for the discovery of unregistered Homes: There are no nursing homes in the district.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Authority from which supply is obtained: Water is purchased in bulk from Bolton Corporation and from Wigan R.D.C. and distributed by Aspull U.D.C. to premises.

Source of supply: Upland surface and deep wells.

Particulars of any new sources of public supply acquired during the year: None.

Supplies to houses:

From Public Mains direct to houses: Dwelling-houses, 1,740; Population, 7,193.

Has the water supply of the area and of its several parts been satisfactory during the year? (a) In quality? Yes; (b) in quantity? Yes.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: Nil.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action? No.

Nature of extensions of water supplies (if any) during the year: 4in. water main laid to supply 36 houses on Council's new scheme.

Drainage and sewerage—

All foul sewage is discharged into Wigan County Borough and Hindley U.D.C. sewers except for six premises which have private septic tanks.

Sewerage system laid for Council's new scheme.

Areas or townships without proper drainage system: None.

Rivers and Streams—

Sources and nature of any pollution: None.

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams: None.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1947— (Last year's figures in parentheses.)

Number of privy middens: 1 (1).

Number of closets attached to these middens: 2 (2).

Number of pail closets: 27 (27).

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens): None.

Number of movable ashbins: 1,760 (1,760).

Number of trough closets: None.

Number of waste water closets: None.

Number of fresh water closets: 1,721.

Number of houses on water carriage system: 1,711.

Conversions during 1947: None.

Public Cleansing—

Present methods are satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspections during 1947—

Number of premises visited: 261.

Defects or nuisances: Number discovered, 226; Number abated: 182.

Number of notices served: Informal, 101; Statutory, 105.

Legal proceedings: None.

Shops and Offices—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of:

(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences: None.

(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.: None.

Camping Sites (other than Military): None.

Smoke Abatement—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement: None.

Number of factory and works chimneys in the district: 5.

Time limit allowed for emission of black smoke: 2 minutes in every 30 minutes.

Number of observations taken during year: 4.

Number of legal proceedings and results: None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry: None.

Swimming Baths and Pools—

(a) Public swimming baths or pools: None.

(b) Privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to public: None.

Disinfestation—Particulars of action taken during 1947—

Number of houses found to be infested: (a) Council houses: None ;(b) Other houses: None.

Number of houses disinfested: (a) Council houses: None ; (b) Other houses: None.

Methods employed for disinfestation: Fumigation methods are used when necessary.

State name of fumigant and/or insecticide used, and efficiency thereof: "Thermatox" Fumigators, with satisfactory results.

Methods employed for ensuring disinfection of belongings of tenants before removal to council houses: Hydrogen cyanide in vans.

Is work of disinfection carried out by local authority or by a contractor? By a contractor.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing: Houses inspected at intervals by Sanitary Inspector.

Schools—

(a) Sanitary condition: Good.

(b) Water supply: Council's main supply. Satisfactory.

Offensive Trades—

Number of premises: None. Type of offensive trades: None.

Factories Act, 1937—

Observations on the administration of Parts I and VIII of the Act during 1947: All factories regularly inspected. Sanitary arrangements found satisfactory.

Common Lodging-houses—

Number on register: None.

Houses let in lodgings—

Number on register: None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—

Action taken: None. Action required: None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms—

Any need for regulations?—No.

Canal Boats—

Number inspected: None.

Number of infringements of Acts: None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928—

Number of premises in district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold: None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1947: None.

Chief sanitary requirements of the district: Plenty of new houses are required.

4.—HOUSING.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year: None.

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): 261.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 340.

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932: None.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: None.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: None.

(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: 70.

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: 55.

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: 3.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners: None.

(b) by local authority in default of owners: None.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: 160.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners: 120.

(b) By local authority in default of owners: None.

- (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: None.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders: None.
- (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: None.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit: None.
- 4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding—
 Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year: None.
- (b) **Housing Conditions.**
 - 1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding: The majority of the dwellings are cottages. The average age is about 50 years. The prevailing forms of defects are dampness and decay. Approximate number of (a) back-to-back houses: 9 ; (b) back-to-earth houses: None.
 - 2. Sufficiency of supply of houses—
 - (a) Give some indication of extent of shortage, stating approximate number and type of houses required: 100 non-parlour three-bedroomed houses, 70 non-parlour two-bedroomed houses.
 - (b) Particulars of any housing scheme—
 - (i) in hand at end of year: 58 houses are in course of erection by the Council (non-parlour three-bedroom type). Roads and sewers in construction for 400 more.
 - (ii) contemplated: Thirty houses for 1948.
 - (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future: None.
 - (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses: No.
 - 3. Overcrowding: Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the Local Authority which have been relieved during 1947: None.

4. Fitness of houses—

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts: Shortage of labour and materials have hindered compliance with notices.
- (b) Number of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply: None.
- (c) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation: 6.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to—

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders and Regulations: All cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and have shown continued improvement.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1946—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1947 in respect of—

“Tuberculin Tested” milk—

- (i) Bottling: Non.
- (ii) Distribution: 1.

“Accredited” milk:

- (i) Bottling: None.
- (ii) Distribution: None.

Number of licences issued in respect of “Pasteurised” milk:

Pasteurising plants: None. Retail distributors: 1.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation: None.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—

Are they periodically inspected? Yes.

How often? Four to six times a year.

What is their condition? Satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvement to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds? No.

Farms—

Number of dairy farms: 15.

Approximate number of cows in the district: 260.

Cowkeepers—

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms): 20.

Number of inspections during the year: 40.

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers): 7.

Action taken by local authority as to Tuberculous milk—

Number of samples submitted for biological test: None.

2. Meat and other foods—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared: Regular inspections were carried out. 147 tins of "National Household Milk" were voluntarily surrendered and found to be unfit for human consumption. Five pigs were slaughtered by private owners under licence and all were found fit for human consumption.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

(b) Food poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken (if any): None.

3. Adulteration, etc.—

(i) Food and Drugs Act, 1938: Administered by Lancashire County Council.

(ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations: None.

Name of laboratory at which analyses are carried out: Wigan Infirmary.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available—

For Smallpox: Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

Number of beds available: No definite number.

Where situate: Bury.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?
Agreement.

If a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority? No.

For other Infectious Diseases: Aspull, Blackrod and Horwich Joint Hospital Board.

Number of beds available: 5 guaranteed.

Where situate: Horwich for Tuberculosis, Wigan for other infectious cases.

Is the hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement"?
Arrangement.

If a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority? Yes.
Infectious Diseases generally.—

Review the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases (and, in particular, poliomyelitis) during the year 1947, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection (non-notifiable acute infectious diseases should also be reported upon so far as available information enables this to be done): 51 cases of measles were notified, there was one death. Five cases of poliomyelitis were notified.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation? No.

Give particulars of any existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera: At Wigan Infirmary.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Adequate and promptly used.
Are supplies readily available? Yes.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum: None.

Are any other vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners? No.

State whether the following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1947, and, if so, state for what period—

Diarrhoea (under 2 years): Yes. Chicken-pox: No.

Any others: No.

Observations: None.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations.—Number of specimens examined in 1947: None.

Immunisation—

(1) Diphtheria.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation:

(a) in hospitals, residential institutions or schools: Nil.

(b) at special clinics or day schools: A special clinic is held every month.

Number of persons who received artificial immunisation during 1947—

(i) pre-school children: 38. Prophylactics used: A.P.T.

(ii) school children: 335. Prophylactics used: A.P.T.

(iii) Adults: None.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken? No.

How many of the child population have now been protected by artificial immunisation (i.e., up to 31st Dec., 1947)?	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 and under 15 years of age	Total under 15 years of age
371	937	1308	
What percentage does the number so protected bear to the total number of children in the age group?	65.08	93.7	89.04
Comment briefly on the progress of diphtheria immunisation in the district during the year: Very satisfactory.			

(2) Scarlet fever.—Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation (including immunisation of children immunised during the year): None.

Disinfection after infectious disease—

Number of houses disinfected during 1947: 4.

Method: "Thermatox" Fumigators.

Apparatus used for disinfecting clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise): Steam.

Where is apparatus situated? Wigan.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1947—

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years										
0—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—	...	...	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55—	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			1	2	1	1	2	1	—	—
			3		2		3		0	

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths? All deaths had been previously notified.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district? No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade: None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Any action taken under section 172, Public Health Act, 1936: None.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Is the Maternity and Child Welfare work carried out by the local authority or by the County Council? By the County Council.

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT.

Population : 6,400.

Live Births:—	M.	F.
Total	86	65
Legitimate	82	65
Illegitimate	4	—
Still Births:—		
Total	2	2
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—		
Total	9	3
Legitimate	8	3
Illegitimate	1	—

DEATHS IN ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1
Influenza	—	1
Measles	—	1
Cancer of Uterus	—	1
Cancer of stomach and Duodenum	2	1
Cancer of breast	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	3	2
Diabetes	—	4
Intracranial vascular lesions	2	4
Heart diseases	15	10
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia	4	1
Nephritis	1	1
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature birth	3	—
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infant. dis.	2	2
Suicide	—	1
Other violent causes	1	—
All other causes	8	—
	—	—
All causes	47	35
	—	—

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT.

Population—
For death-rates } 6400
For birth-rate }

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.			Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death-rate from cancer	Per 1,000 <i>live</i> births	Per 1,000 <i>total</i> (live and still) births
Mean of 5 years, 1942-1946	...	17.6	12.5	0.35	1.39	5.77
Year—						
1946	...	18.9	15.6	0.47	1.89	Nil
1947	...	23.5	12.8	0.46	1.56	6.62
Increase or decrease in 1947 on 5 years' average, 1942-1946	...	+5.9	+0.3	+0.11	+0.17	+0.85
Previous year	...	+4.6	-2.8	-0.01	-0.33	+6.62
						+19
						+4

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Total Cases at all ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED. AGE PERIODS—YEARS.											Total Deaths.	Hospital Deaths in Total cases removed of hospital to persons belong- ing from the district to district
		Under 1		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45 65 and over.	
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	51	2	5	6	15	7	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	11	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	13	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	1	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Totals	81	7	9	7	17	9	17	3	3	3	2	1	6	1

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.
Births—				
Live Births	20.5*	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births	0.50*	0.62	0.54	0.49
Deaths—				
All Causes	12.0*	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Notifications—				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

— A dash signifies that there were no deaths.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.
Deaths—		Rates per 1,000 Live Births—		
All causes under 1 year of age	...	41*	36	37
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	5.8	3.7	4.8
Notifications—		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births—		
Puerperal fever	...	7.16	6.27	1.21
Puerperal pyrexia	...			6.94*

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.				
		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		Rates per million women aged 15-44
Abortion with sepsis	0.10	9
Abortion without sepsis	0.06	5
Puerperal infections	0.16	
Other maternal causes	0.85	

* Per 1,000 related births.

† Including Puerperal fever.

FACTORIES ACT, 1947.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of			
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted	
(i)					
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	4	8	Nil	Nil	
(ii)					
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	4	8	Nil	Nil	
TOTAL ...	8	16	Nil	Nil	



