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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL




Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1948.



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Ashfield House,
Aspull,
Wigan.

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, 1948.

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 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1948: 6,474.

Live Births—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	118	62	56
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Total	120	63	57

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1948: 18.5

Stillbirths 4 1 3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 32.

Deaths 68 38 30

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population: 10.5.

Death Rate per 1,000 Total
(Live and Still) Births

Deaths from puerperal causes—

Puerpal and post-abortion sepsis	0	...	Nil
Other maternal causes	1	...	8.06
Total maternal mortality	1	...	8.06

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	33
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	33
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
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-1948: 6,474.

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

End of 1948 according to rate books: 1,826.

Rateable value: £18,739.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £67 8s. 10d.

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: 103 cases of Measles and 54 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. There were no deaths.

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.

Qualifications and special diplomas: None.

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

Any other public appointments held by him?: None.

Is he in private practice?: Yes.

Sanitary Inspector—

Thomas Spencer, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Whole-time. Other appointments: Food Inspector, Rodent Officer, Cleansing Officer.

Other Public Health Officers: None.

Laboratory facilities: Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Ambulance arrangements made by local authority up to July, 1948:

- (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.

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

Nursing of infectious diseases (measles, etc.): None.

Total amount of financial assistance given during the year by local authority to voluntary associations: None.

Hospitals in the district: None.

Is there any Institutional provision in your area for—

Unmarried mothers: None.

Illegitimate infants: None.

Homeless children: None.

Number of Registered Nursing Homes in the district at end of 1948 for—

(a) Medical, Surgical and Maternity: None.

(b) Medical and Surgical only: None.

(c) Maternity only: None.

There are no Nursing Homes in the district.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Authority from which supply is obtained: Water is purchased in bulk from Bolton Corporation and 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: Number of Dwelling-houses 1,826; Population 6,474.

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.

Bacteriological examinations: Two. Results satisfactory.

Any liability to plumbo-solvent action: None.

Nature of extensions of water supplies (if any) during the year: Water mains laid for 300 proposed houses on Hilton Farm Estate.

Drainage and Sewerage—

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

Sewerage system laid on Hilton Farm Estate.

Areas or townships without proper drainage system: None.

Rivers and Streams—

Sources and nature of any pollution: None.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1948—

No. of privy middens: 1.

No. of closets attached to these middens: 2.

No. of pail closets: 23.

No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens): None.

No. of movable ashbins: 1,810.

No. of trough closets: None.

No. of waste water closets: None.

No. of fresh water closets: 1,771.

No. of houses on water carriage system: 1,781.

No. of pail closets converted to fresh w.c.'s: 1.

Public Cleansing—

Collection—One 7 cubic yard refuse collecting vehicle.

Disposal—Tip on moorland.

Sanitary Inspections during 1948—

No. of premises visited: 260.

Defects or nuisances: No. discovered 220; No. abated 173.

No. of notices served: Informal, 119; Statutory, 125.

Legal proceedings: None.

Shops and Offices—

Particulars of any action taken under provision 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: None.

Camping Sites (other than Military): None.

Smoke Abatement—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement: None

No. of factory and works chimneys in district: 5.

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

No. of observations taken during year: None.

No. of legal proceedings: None.

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

Swimming Baths and Pools—

Public swimming baths or pools: None.

Disinfestation—

No. of houses found to be infested: (a) Council houses: None.
(b) Other houses: 2.

No. of houses disinfested: (a) Council houses: None. Other houses: 2.

Methods employed for disinfestation of houses: 5% D.D.T. Spray.

Name of fumigant and insecticide used, and efficiency thereof :
“ Bed Bug Spray.” Results satisfactory.

Methods employed for ensuring disinfection of belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses : “ Cimex ” fumigation in vans.

Is work of disinfection carried out by local authority : By a Contractor.

Measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or de-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—None.

Factories Act, 1937—

Observations on the administration of Parts I and VIII of the Act during 1948 : Factories regularly inspected. Sanitary arrangements found satisfactory.

Common Lodging-houses—

No. on register : None.

Houses let in lodgings—

No. on register : None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.—

Action taken : None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms—

Any need for regulation? : No.

Canal Boats—

Number inspected : None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1948—

One private septic tank installed.

Chief sanitary requirements of the district—

Plenty of new houses are required.

4.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS :

No. of new houses erected during the year—

- (1) By the local authority: Traditional permanent houses, 47.
- (2) By other local authorities: Traditional permanent houses, None.
- (3) By other bodies or persons: Traditional permanent houses, 2

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): 260.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 667.

- (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: 3.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 12.

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: 3.

- (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: 90.

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers: 65

3. *Action under statutory powers during the year—*

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1938:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs: None.

- (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: 3.

- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied : 90.
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
 - (a) By owners : 90.
 - (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 dwellin-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 end of 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, and 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 :
 Number of housing application : 350.
 Two and three bedroom types are required.

- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme—
 - (i) in hand at end of year: the contract for 58 houses nearing completion; 18 houses in course of erection by direct labour.
 - (ii) contemplated: 42 houses for 1949.
 - (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: None.
3. Overcrowding—
- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1948: 2.
 - (b) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding: None.
 - (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding: 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 has 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 Regulation: All cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and the standard continues to improve.

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

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1948 in respect of—
 “Tuberculin Tested” milk:

- (i) Bottling: None.
 - (ii) Distribution: 1.
- “Accredited” milk:
- (i) Bottling: None.
 - (ii) Distribution: None.

No. 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 refusal or revocation: None.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops—

Periodically inspected. Four times per year.

Satisfactory condition.

Structural alteration or improvements: None.

Farms—

Number of dairy farm: 15.

Approximate number of cows in district: 270.

Number of cowkeepers (including dairy farms): 19.

Number of inspection during the year: 50.

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: 8.

Positive: None. Negative: 8

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 and standard continues to improve. 36 tins of foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and found to be unfit for human consumption.

Number of legal proceedings and result: None.

Action taken with regard to—

(i) Ante-mortem inspection of animals: None.

(ii) Post-mortem inspection of animals: 15 pigs were inspected.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned—

Number of pigs inspected: 15.

Whole carcases condemned: None.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned: 1.

Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis: $6\frac{2}{3}\%$.

Tuberculosis only—

Whole carcases condemned: None.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned: 2.
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:
13½%

(b) Food poisoning (including suspected cases): None.

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

Hospital Accommodation provided or available prior to 5th July, 1948:—

For Smallpox:

Name of hospital: Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

Number of beds available for your district: No definite number.

Where situate: Bury.

Is hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement": Agreement.

If a joint hospital, is district a constituent authority: No.

For other Infectious Diseases—

Name of hospital: Aspull, Blackrod & Horwich Joint Hospital Board.

Number of beds available for your district: 5 guaranteed.

Where situate: Horwich for Tuberculosis; Wigan for other infectious diseases.

Is Hospital used by "agreement" or "arrangement": Arrangement.

If a joint hospital, was district a constituent authority: Yes.

Infectious Diseases Generally—

103 cases of Measles and 54 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. Prior to 5th July, 1948, were supplies readily available of—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin: Yes. Where kept: Council Offices.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum: Yes. Where kept: Wigan Infirmary.

Vaccines or sera supplied free to medical practitioners: None.

State whether the following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1948, and, if so, state for what period—

Diarrhoea (under 2 years): No.

Chicken-pox: No.

Any others: No.

Immunisation—

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

- (a) in hospitals, residential institutions or schools: None.
 (b) at clinics or day schools: A Special Clinic was held every month.

(c) otherwise than (a) or (b): None.

Number of person who received artificial immunisation during 1948—

All records were handed over to the County Council.

Post-Schick tests undertaken: None.

Progress of diphtheria immunisation in district during 1948:
 Very satisfactory.

(2) Scarlet Fever—

Specify any action taken in 1948 to provide artificial immunisation (including number of children immunised): None.

Disinfection after Infectious Diseases—

Number of houses disinfected during 1948: 43.

Method (state disinfectant used): Laycock's Fumigators.

apparatus used for disinfecting clothing, bedding, etc.: Steam.

Where is apparatus situated?: Wigan.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1948—

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—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...		1	1	1	—	2	1	1	—
			2		1		3		1	

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths? : All the deaths from tuberculosis were 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.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

Number of applications made during the period 5th July to 31st December, 1948, under sub-section 3 : None.

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT

Population : 6,474

Live Births:—	M.	F.
Total	63	57
Legitimate	62	56
Illegitimate	1	1
Still Births—		
Total	1	3
Legitimate	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—		
Total	4	—
Legitimate	4	—
Illegitimate	—	—

DEATHS IN ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph; (M) uterus (F)	1	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
Cancer of breast	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	5	3
Diabetes	—	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	—
Heart diseases	9	13
Other disorders of circ. system	1	—
Bronchitis	—	1
Pneumonia	2	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—
Other digestive disorders	—	1
Nephritis	1	—
Other maternal causes	—	1
Premature Birth	1	—
Congenial malformation, birth injuries, infant, dis.	2	—
Suicide	1	—
Road traffic accidents	2	—
Other violent causes	—	1
All other causes	4	5
All causes	38	30

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT.

Population—
 For death-rates } 6,474
 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 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Mean of 5 years, 1943-1947	...	12.8	0.44	1.48	7.10	6.75	58
Year—							
1947	...	12.8	0.46	1.56	6.62	6.45	79
1948	...	10.5	0.46	2.00	8.33	8.06	33
Increase or decrease in 1948 on 5 years' average, 1943-1947	...	-2.3	+0.02	+0.52	+1.23	+1.31	-25
Previous year	...	-2.3	Nil.	+0.44	+1.71	+1.61	-46

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Total Cases at all ages.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED. AGE PERIODS—YEARS.											Total Deaths.	Hospital Deaths in cases hospital removed of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45 and over.		
Scarlet Fever	54	—	—	2	9	2	28	9	3	—	1	—	—	8
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles (excluding rubella)	103	9	15	15	24	18	20	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	17	1	3	2	5	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	11	2	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	2
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Totals	189	12	19	21	39	21	54	10	3	2	2	3	3	9

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1948. 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.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population—				
Births—				
Live Births	17.9(a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births	0.42(a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths—				
All Causes	10.8(a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Notifications (Corrected)—				
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet fever	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping cough	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	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	...	34(b)	39	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	3.3	4.5	2.4
Notification (Corrected)—		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births—		
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	...	6.89	8.90	7.34(c)
Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.				
		Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		Rates per million women aged 15-44
140 Abortion with Sepsis	0.11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis	0.05	4
147 Puerperal Infections	0.13	
142-146, 148-150 Other Maternal Causes	0.73	

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population. (b) Per 1,000 related births.
(c) In London puerperal fever alone was 0.61.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

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

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i)				
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	2	1	Nil	Nil
(ii)				
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	7	Nil	Nil
(iii)				
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	1	2	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	10	10	Nil	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND—

				Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	...	...	...	2	2
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	...	...	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	1	1
TOTAL	...	...	...	4	4



