

**[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Aspull U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Aspull (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1956

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a23v2yr7>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

HEALTH  
14 SEP 57  
17

*Feb 1957*

ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Annual Report

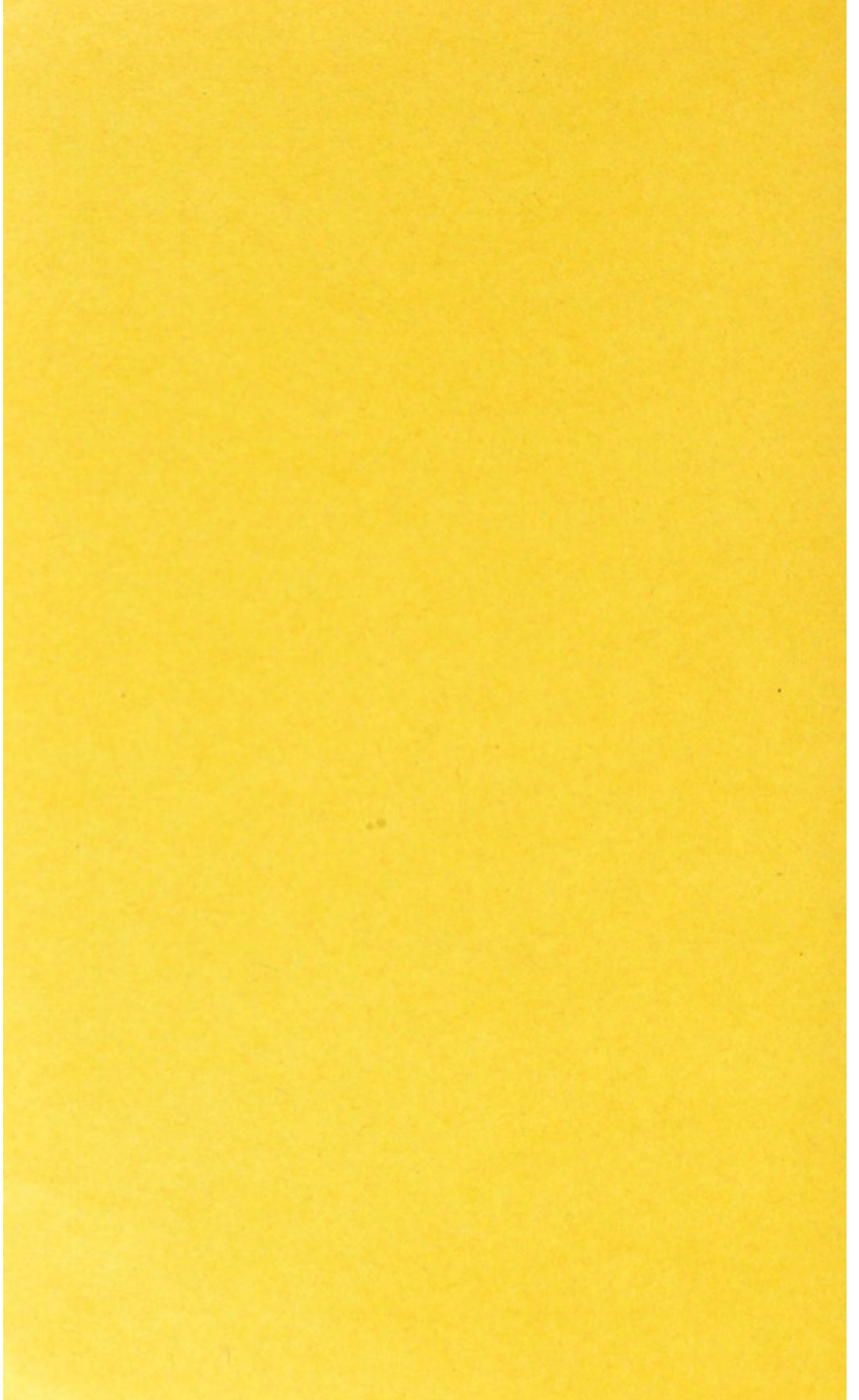
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1956.





**ASPULL**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# Annual Report

**OF THE**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1956.**

## ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

---

*Chairman:*

J. TABERNER, ESQ., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman:*

J. MOORE, ESQ.

*Councillors:*

T. GRAY, ESQ., (Chairman Health Committee),	H. LOWE, ESQ.
T. GREEN, ESQ.	J. MAWDSLEY, ESQ., C.A.
J. HIGHAM, ESQ., J.P.	W. SHALLICKER, ESQ.
	A. SINGER, ESQ.

*Clerk:*

P. RYDER ESQ.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

*Medical Officer of Health*

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Public Health Inspector:*

R. R. T. MORTIMER,

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B.  
Meat Inspectors Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Public Health Department.  
Council Offices,  
Aspull.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Aspull Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1956.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the health and sanitation of the district, and I would also like to extend my thanks to the Public Health Inspector and other members of the staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,  
*Medical Officer of Health*



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

# 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

**Area:** 1906 acres.

**Population (Census 1951):** 6522.

**Estimated mid-1956 (Registrar General):** 6,590

**Total Number of Houses:** 2049.

**Rateable Value:** £33,330.

**Sum represented by Penny Rate:** £129.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

**Industries:** One Cotton Mill and One Engineering Works.

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1956.

	Males	Females	TOTAL
Live Births—Legitimate ... ..	65	45	110
Illegitimate ... ..	2	3	5
Still Births—Legitimate ... ..	1	2	3
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...	1	1	2
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age ...	1	1	2
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :			
total (all forms)—			
Crude rate ... ..			9.7
Adjusted Rate ... ..			12.5
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..			Nil
Malignant neoplasm, etc ... ..			1.06
Live birth rates per 1,000, estimated population—			
Crude Rate ... ..			17.5
Adjusted Rate ... ..			17.1
Still birth rate per 1,000 <b>total</b> births ... ..			25
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 <b>live</b> births ... ..			Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <b>live</b> births ... ..			17
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 <b>live</b> births ... ..			17



In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1956.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	2
Malignant, neoplasm, uterus ... ..	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	9
Coronary disease; Angina ... ..	17
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	1
Other heart disease ... ..	15
Pneumonia ... ..	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	1
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum ... ..	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	5
Accidents ... ..	1
Suicide ... ..	1

## 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and the arrangements are satisfactory. Chemical analyses of water samples are carried out at the City Analyst's Department at the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department and during 1956, reports were made to the Authority on 28 examinations of milk and 6 of water.

### AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

### 3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA :

#### WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 4 bacteriological examinations and 2 chemical analyses of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

During the second half of the year the water supply continued to be insufficient in one part of the district due to encrustation of the main. Steps are being taken to secure the renewal of a portion of the main in order to remedy this.

No. of houses with piped supply				
direct from the public water main	...	...	...	2049
No. of houses supplied from springs, etc	...	...	...	Nil
No. of houses supplied by standpipe	...	...	...	Nil

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 14 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation.

During the year 68 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage.

Number of choked drains and sewers cleared by the Authority	24
Number of houses affected	57

The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was:—

Number of Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	1988
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	13
Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	1

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street scavenging is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

One driver and 5 labourers are engaged whole time on refuse collection and disposal work. An adequate service has been maintained during the year. All refuse is tipped at the Marsh House tip.

During the year the Council commenced a dustbin replacement scheme providing for the renewal of 150 dustbins per year.

There are 13 pail closets, one privy midden and approximately 2,166 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied...	...	86,500
"          "          "    pail closets emptied	...	650
"          weight of refuse removed (tons)	...	3,500

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of defects:—

No. of Informal Notices served ...	...	...	...	215
No. of Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	24
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	18
No. of Defects and nuisances found	...	...	...	658
No. abated	...	...	...	404

### TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravans or sites within the district.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

There are 2 factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year.

### SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

### VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 3 houses infested with bed bugs were disinfested with Coopers Multispray (containing D.D.T.) 6 other houses were disinfested of other insect pests either by spraying with liquid insecticide or by dusting with insecticidal powder. This type of treatment proved highly efficient.

### RODENT CONTROL

49 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for treatment of business premises.

1,305 inspections (including re-inspections) were made in 1956,

One Rodent Operative is employed for 3 days per week on this work

### OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

## FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted	M/C line No.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	2	6	5	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises). .....	3	1	1	—	—	3
TOTAL .....		7	6	—	—	

### PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

13 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and 4 inspections were made under the Acts. 1 new 1,000 gallon storage tank was installed during the year.

### 4. HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and are constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are mainly married couples having to live with parents. 48 new housing applications were received during the year, of which 9 were applications for old peoples' bungalows.

During the year 16 two-bedroom type council houses were tenanted. At the end of the year 10 two-bedroom type houses and 12 three-bedroom type were nearing completion. Two further schemes (a) for 8 old peoples' bungalows and (b) for 24 three-bedroom type houses were in hand by the Council's Direct Labour Department.

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(i)	By the Local Authority ... ..	16
(ii)	By other Local Authorities ... ..	—
(iii)	By other bodies or persons ... ..	10

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

(1)	(a) Total no. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	204
	(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose ... ..	206
(2)	Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—	
	(a) No. found during the year ... ..	1
	(b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year ... ..	54
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ... ..	121

2. CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses demolished during year:—	
	(a) Unfit houses ... ..	—
	(b) Other Houses ... ..	—
(2)	No. of persons displaced ... ..	—

3. HOUSES NOT INCLUDED in Clearance Areas:—

(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:—

	Houses	No. of Persons Displaced
(a) Housing Act, 1936:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (section II)	4	11
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section II and still in force	...	—
(iii) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	—	—
(b) Housing Act, 1949:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	...	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act, 1953:—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	1	3

(2) Repairs during the year:—

	No. of Houses
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	125
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	8
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	—
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	—
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	—
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:—	
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	—

4. UNFIT HOUSES in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	—
(2) No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	—

(3) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary accommodation (Section 6)... .. —

5. HOUSING ACT, 1949—Improvement grants etc:—  
3 schemes were submitted by private individuals to the local authority, but were not approved. No schemes were submitted by the Local Authority to the Ministry.

## 5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

During the year licences under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, were issued to the following:—

Dealers in Sterilised Milk ... ..	25
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk ... ..	4
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	1
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ... ..	2
No. of registered distributors ... ..	4

There is one dairy in the district.

The following is a record of action taken in relation to sampling:—

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No Result
(a) Raw Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests	5	(Neg.) 4	(Pos.) 1	—
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	5	5	—	—
(iii) B. Coli. examinations ... ..	2	2	—	—
(iv) Sediment tests ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) “Heat treated” Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis ... ..	—	(Neg.) —	(Pos.) —	—
“Pasteurised”.....				
(ii) Phosphatase tests ... ..	7	7	—	—
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	7	6	1	—
“Sterilised”—				
(iv) Turbidity tests ... ..	4	4	—	—

No Ministry investigations by the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were found necessary during the year as a result of notifications of tuberculous milk.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:

There is one small private slaughterhouse in the district at which 17 carcasses were inspected during the year. The bulk of the meat supply to the district is from wholesalers in the County Borough of Wigan.

The following table records the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cows Excluding Cattle	Cows	Calves	Lambs and Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed ... ..	1	7	—	—	9	—
No. Inspected ... ..	1	7	—	—	9	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	3	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	—	42.9%	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	* 1	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	100%	71.4%	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* Lungs Only



The following other foods were condemned during the year:—

Tinned Meats	...	...	...	30 lbs.
Tinned soups, etc.	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Tinned and bottled fruits	...	...	...	13 lbs
Pickles	...	...	...	27 lbs.
Jams, etc.	...	...	...	3 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	215 lbs.
Other	...	...	...	8 lbs

All condemned meat is stained with dye and collected for processing by digestors. A receipt is given by the collectors.

Other food condemned is collected by the Authority and buried on the refuse tip.

The following is a list of food premises within the district:-

Type of Business		
General grocers and provision dealers	...	31
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game etc).	...	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc	...	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	...	7
Fried fish shops	...	5
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc	...	7
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar catering establishments	...	27

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 was as follows:

Premises for the storage and retail sale of ice-cream...	20
Preserved etc., food premises	4

13 visits were paid to registered premises during the year.

#### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

It was only possible to inspect a small proportion of the food premises specifically in connection with the above regulations, during the year. Inspections are continuing.

Improvements have been made at several premises.

#### ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS 1947-52.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

At retailers premises all ice-cream sold is pre-packed and stored in cabinet refrigerators at or below 28 deg. F.

#### FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the district in 1956.

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

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 14. One isolated case of Poliomyelitis occurred. The patient recovered with functional limitations.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1956. Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided at the clinic, and during the year 69 pre-school children and 4 school children completed a full course of primary immunisation against Diphtheria. In addition 32 children were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection.

Of the above mentioned pre-school children 68 were immunised against Whooping Cough either with Whooping Cough vaccine only, or a combined (Diphtheria-Pertussis or Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1956.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remain high and the cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

### DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of houses is carried out with formaldehyde and bedding and clothing are steam disinfected by arrangement with Hindley U.D. Council.

During the year disinfection was carried out at 5 houses.

### CANCER.

7 deaths (4 males and 3 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS — YEARS								65 and over
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excl. Rubella)	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	5	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Tuberculosis Other ...	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	14	—	2	1	7	—	2	1	1	—

### TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis registered in 1956.

The table below shows notifications by age-group for 1956.

#### TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES

Age Period (Years)	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
3—5	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	1	1	—
15—25	—	1	1	—
60—65	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	2	3	—
	3		3	



*Printed by*  
EZRA SIDEBOTHAM LTD.  
25-27 WIND  
WIGAN