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ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Annual Report

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1959







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ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Annual Report

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# ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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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 :

N. G. WEIR,

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Inspectors' Association of Scotland.

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 1959.

The Report is in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and 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.



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area : 1,906 acres.

Population (Census 1951): 6,522.

Estimated mid-1959 (Registrar General): 6,720.

Total Number of Houses : 2,154.

Rateable Value : £39,177.

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £151.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries : One Cotton Mill, One Engineering Works and One Modern Bakery.

### VITAL STATISTICS, 1959

					Males	Females	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	61	62	123	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5	
Still Births—Legitimate	...	...	...	2	1	3	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...	...	—	—	—	
Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :							
Total (all forms)—							
Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	10.6	
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	13.6	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.15	
Malignant neoplasm, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	1.64	
Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population—							
Crude Rate	...	...	...	...	...	19.0	
Adjusted Rate	...	...	...	...	...	18.7	
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	22.9	
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	...	...	7.63	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	15.6	
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	15.6	

### CANCER.

Eleven deaths (5 males and 6 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.



# DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

						Number of Deaths	
						1958	1959
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	9	13
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	15	11
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	19	11
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
All other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE 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 1959, reports were made to the Authority on 24 examinations of milk and 14 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.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 127 of which 106 were cases of Measles which occurred during the period from March to August.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local hospitals, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

Free immunisation is provided for any pre-school or school child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Clinic.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1959.



## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of children resident in Aspull who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

	Pre-School Children		School Children	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria-Whooping Cough and Tetanus) ... ..	89	88	17	5
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections ... ..	5	0	194	4
Poliomyelitis : Primary ... ..	190	120	170	231
Re-inforcing ... ..	3	213	25	499
Smallpox Vaccinations ... ..	56	88	2	0

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.



# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1959

DISEASES	Total Cases all ages										25	Age
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	and over	Un- known	
Scarlet Fever . . . .	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ..	12	—	—	5	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (excluding												
Rubella) .....	106	4	20	11	19	13	36	8	1	1	—	
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery .. .....	4	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Meningococcal												
Infection .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia												
Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

	Total Cases all ages	0—	5—	15—	45—	65 and over	Age Un- known
Acute Pneumonia							
(Prim. and Infl'zal ...	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Smallpox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis							
Infective .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infections .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid							
Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis respiratory	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Meninges and C.N.S. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

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

Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and no cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, and one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was transferred into the district.

No deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred during 1959.

The table below shows notifications by age-group for 1959 :—

### Tuberculosis — New Cases

Age (Years)	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
42	—	I	—	—
44	I	—	—	—
	I	I	—	—
	Totals 2		0	

## 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 10 bacteriological examinations and 4 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 year the County Borough of Bolton became the responsible Authority for the Supply and Maintenance of the water undertaking for the district.

No. of houses with supply direct from the public water main	2,154
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 91 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage.

Number of choked drains and sewers cleared by the Authority	77
Number of houses affected	123

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

Number of Fresh Water Closets	2,127
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 four labourers are employed full time on refuse collection and a tractor and driver on the tip.

The purchase by the Council of a tractor equipped with a bulldozer blade, rear-loader and trailer has greatly facilitated work on the Marsh House tip.

A weekly collection is being maintained as far as possible in all parts of the district. On occasions however, mainly due to the weather conditions and sickness this has not been possible.

Controlled tipping is enforced at the Marsh House refuse tip and has shown very gratifying results. The filling in of a portion of the tip has been completed and the area grassed.

When the present area being used is completed it should provide an added amenity to the district of open park-land.

A dust bin replacement scheme providing for the renewal of 150 dustbins per year is in operation in the district.

There are 13 pail closets, one privy midden and approximately 2,215 dustbins within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied	120,680
Approximate number of pail closets emptied	673
Approximate weight of refuse removed (tons)	4,540



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

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

Number of Informal Notices served ... ..	190
Number of Statutory Notices served ... ..	Nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ... ..	Nil
Number of Defects and Nuisances found ... ..	316
Number abated ... ..	283

## TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravan sites within the district.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

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

Clean Air Act, 1956 : The whole of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into operation on 1st June, 1956. Previously this Authority had adopted bye-laws governing the installation of types of appliances in all new premises, suitable to burn permissible types of fuel.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year nine houses infested with crickets were disinfected with Pybuthrin. Ten 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

104 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.

1,384 inspections (including re-inspections) were made in 1959.

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



## OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

## PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

12 Licences to store petroleum were issued during the year and three inspections were made under the Acts.

## HOUSING

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

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are mainly married couples having to live with parents. 47 new housing applications were received during the year, of which nine were applications for old people's bungalows.

During the year 38 new houses were constructed by the local authority and tenanted. Consisting of 11 two-bedroom flats, 14 three-bedroom houses, and 13 one-bedroom flats. 59 families were rehoused during the year, 18 from slum clearance properties and 41 from the housing list.

The five-year scheme for slum clearance has been completed. 69 houses having been dealt with. New proposals are being considered by the local authority.

At the end of the year 24 houses were under construction for the local authority and 9 by private enterprise.

## HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year—  
Traditional permanent houses :

(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	38
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	19

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

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	201
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose			236

(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit—	
(a) Number found during year	21
(b) Total number (or estimated number) existing at end of year	50
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	102

## 2.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED

In clearance Areas :—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	— —
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	—	— —

Not in Clearance Area :—

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	16	26	9
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—

## 3.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	9	44	8
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—



#### 4.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT and Houses in which Defects were Remedied :—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	127	—
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts ... ..	—	—
(b) Housing Act, 1957	1	—
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—

#### 5.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE

(Housing Act, 1957)

	No. of separate dwellings contained	
	No. of Houses (1)	in Col. (1) (2)
Position at end of year :—		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48 ... ..	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2) ... ..	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 46 ... ..	Nil	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 ... ..	Nil	Nil

#### 6.—PURCHASE OF HOUSE by Agreement

	No. of occupants of houses in	
	No. of Houses (1)	Col. (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year ... ..	Nil	Nil

#### RENT ACT, 1957

There has been a reduction in the number of applications and queries appertaining to the Rent Act, 1957. In my opinion this is mainly due to the fact that repairs are being dealt with more speedily by landlords who are in receipt of increased rents.

During the year the following applications and undertakings were dealt with in respect of repairs to houses where the rent had been increased.



Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair ... ..	8
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued ... ..	—
Number of Undertakings received ... ..	8
Number of revocations of Certificates of Disrepair ... ..	—

#### 7.—HOUSING ACTS—Improvement Grants, etc.

No applications were received for Improvement Grants during the year.

Two applications for Standard Grants were received and approved during the year. These applications were made by owner/occupiers.

In my opinion more use could be made of the scheme by owners of tenanted houses in the area. There are many properties within the area which could be vastly improved by means of Standard Grants. There is no doubt this was indeed the primary intention behind the introduction of Standard Grants.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### MILK SUPPLY

Routine inspections of farms and dairies have been carried out and a good standard of cleanliness maintained. 24 samples of milk have been analysed, and proved to be satisfactory.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. Therefore, on and after that date all dairymen retailing milk in any part of the area must sell the milk under special designation (that is "Pasteurised" "Sterilised" and "Tuberculin Tested") irrespective of whether the premises from which the milk is retailed are inside or outside the area, and any milk which is retailed outside the specified area from those same premises must also be sold under special designation.

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

Dealers in Sterilised Milk ... ..	26
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk ... ..	4
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	1
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk ... ..	2
Number 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	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	No Result
(a) Raw Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests	8	8(Neg)—	—	—
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	4	4	—	—
(iii) B. Typhosus examinations ...	4	4	—	—
(iv) Sediment tests ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) "Heat treated" Milk—				
(i) Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—	—	—
"Pasteurised"				
(ii) Phosphatase tests ... ..	4	4	—	—
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction tests	4	4	—	—
"Sterilised"				
(iv) Turbidity tests ... ..	—	—	—	—

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 tuberculosis milk.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There is one small private slaughterhouse in the district at which 507 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 :—

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs and Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed .....	—	39	—	—	4	—
Number Inspected .....	—	39	—	—	4	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—	—



	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs and Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .....	—	15%	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	I	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	—	I	—	—	—	—
Cysticerosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following other foods were condemned during the year :—

Tinned Meats ... .. 80 lbs.

One fore-quarter of carcase meat was condemned during the year. The small quantity of offal condemned was stained with dye and buried.

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 (including those selling wet fish game, etc.)	...	...	...	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	...	...	...	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	...	...	...	8
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	6

Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc. ....	8
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and other similar 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 ...	24
Preserved, etc., food premises ...	4

Eighteen visits were paid to the registered premises during the year.

### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

All food premises and vehicles of hawkers entering the district have been inspected; also the vehicles of itinerant ice-cream vendors.

Considerable progress has been made without resort to formal action or prosecution, but much more remains to be achieved.

The obligations of the occupiers and food handlers as regards the condition of premises and methods of food handling are greatly stressed in the Regulations, but customers and consumers would greatly help to facilitate the work of the Public Health Inspector by observing hygienic practices when in food premises and also by patronising shops that provide a clean and hygienic service to their customers.

### ICE-CREAM (Heat Treatment, etc.) REGULATIONS, 1947-52.

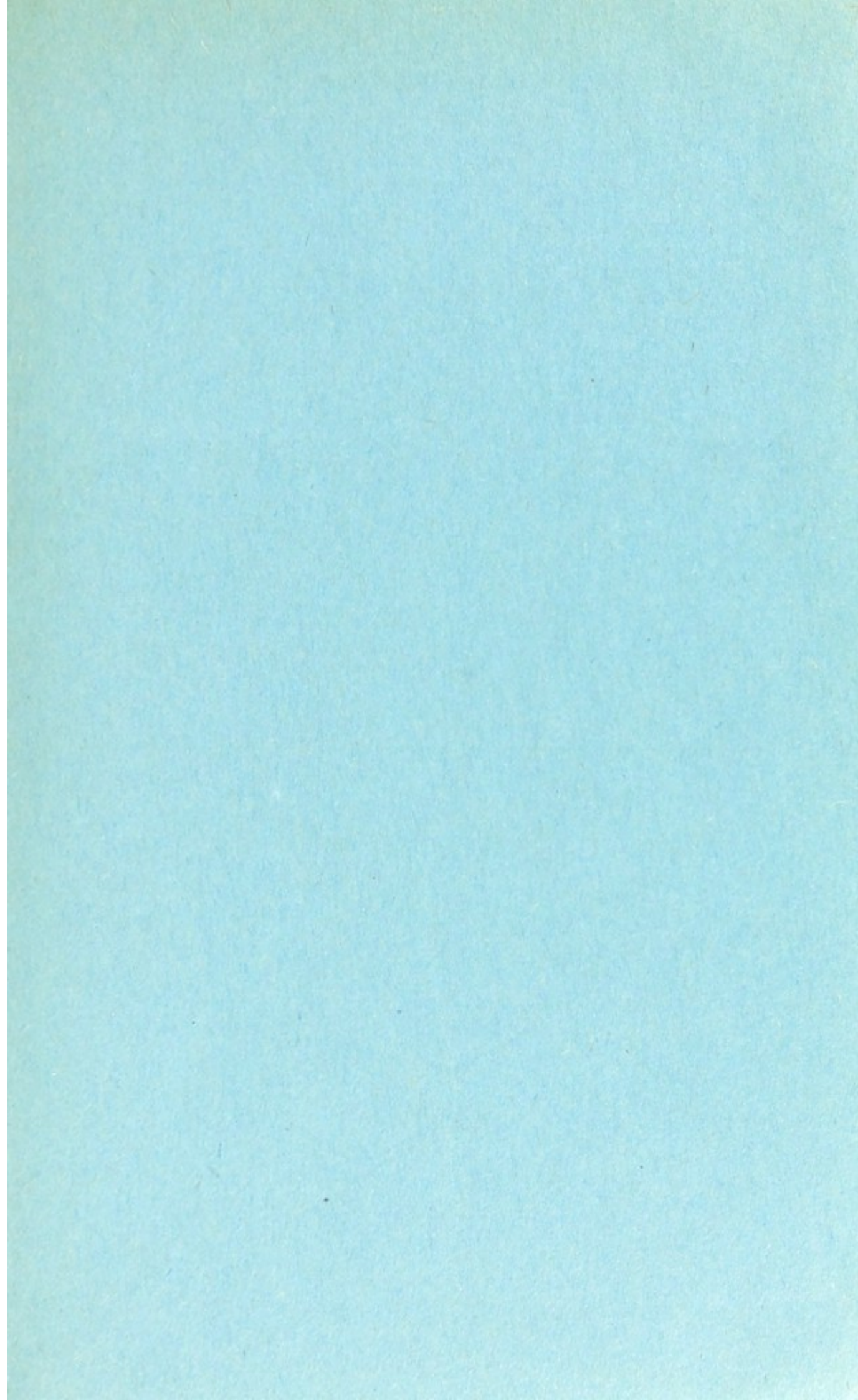
There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

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



# FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C Line No.	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	1	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	6	4	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (exclud- ing out-workers' premises) .....	3	1	1	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>





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