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ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
incorporating the Report of the
Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1966



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FOR THE YEAR 1966

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor T. GRAY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Councillor J. HATTON.

Members of the Council :

Councillor T. Green

Councillor Mrs. E. Matthews, J.P.

Councillor H. Lowe

Councillor J. Moore

Councillor Wm. Maunders

Councillor A. Singer, J.P.

Councillor J. Taberner

The Health Committee comprises all Members of the Council.

Chairman of the Health Committee :

Councillor J. MOORE.

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee :

Councillor Wm. MAUNDERS.

Clerk of the Council and Chief Financial Officer :

PETER RYDER

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SCHOFIELD, M.D., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

E. ASPIN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

(Resigned 31st May, 1966)

B. E. DYSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced 20th June, 1966)

ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ASPULL.

Telephone: Wigan 45843.

To the Chairman and Members of the Aspull Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Matthews and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1966.

The Report has been compiled 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, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Matthews and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. SCHOFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area: 1,906 acres.

Population (Census 1961): 6,740.

Estimated mid-1966 (Registrar General): 7,190.

Total Number of Houses: 2,500.

Rateable Value: £153,273.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £625.

Aspull Urban District is situate some three miles north-east of Wigan and seven miles west of Bolton. The north-western portion of the area reaches to the greatest height above sea level (525 ft.) and from this point an uninterrupted view of the countryside for miles around may be obtained.

The present Urban District Council consisting of nine members governs the district, which is divided into three Wards. The Council, together with the Councils of the neighbouring Urban Districts of Hindley and Westhoughton, administer Borsdane Wood, through which runs the brook forming one of the natural boundaries of the Urban District.

The main industries are weaving, baking and agriculture. Several other smaller factories operate within the area.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1966.

<i>Births</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births:	Legitimate	.....	.....	62	64	126
	Illegitimate	.....	.....	2	1	3
Still Births:	Legitimate	.....	.....	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	.....	.....	NIL	NIL	NIL

Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.9
Adjusted rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	17.6 (17.7)
Area comparability factor	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.98
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	.....	.....	.....	.....	22.7 (15.4)

DEATHS

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Total (all forms):

Crude rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.4
Adjusted rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	15.6 (11.7)
Area comparability factor	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.37
Respiratory tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.14 (0.043)
Malignant neoplasms	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.23

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births NIL

Deaths of Infants:

		Males	Females	Total
Infant Mortality:	Legitimate	1	3	4
(deaths under 1 year of age)	Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Neonatal Mortality:	Legitimate	1	2	3
(deaths under 4 weeks of age)	Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Early Neonatal Mortality:	Legitimate	1	1	2
(deaths under 1 week of age)	Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	31.0	(19.0)
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	23.3	(12.9)
Early Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15.5	(11.1)
Perinatal Mortality (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week of age) rate per 1,000 total births	37.9	(26.3)

(The figures shown in parenthesis represent the respective rates for England and Wales).

CANCER

Sixteen deaths (11 males and 5 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.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH AT VARIOUS AGES

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								75 & over	
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—		
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	M	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
	F	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	6	2	—
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease ...	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Other Circulatory Disease	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1
Bronchitis ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases	M	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
	F	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other Accidents	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide ...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	M	48	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	17	10	12	12
	F	34	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	12	13	13

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Department of Bacteriology, Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan. Chemical analyses are undertaken by the County Analyst, County Hall, Preston. These arrangements are entirely satisfactory.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS

During the year non-infectious, infectious, accident and maternity cases were dealt with adequately by the Ambulance Service operated by the Lancashire County Council. The Ambulances are 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

A total of 180 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year. This figure comprises 156 cases of measles and 24 cases of whooping cough.

The following table shows the number of cases of these diseases occurring within various age groups.

Food Poisoning—No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

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

No new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, but two cases were transferred into Aspull from another area; one death attributable to the disease occurred during the period.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1966

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED									
	TOTAL CASES AT ALL AGES	AGE PERIODS — YEARS								age unknown
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over
Whooping cough	24	2	3	4	6	2	7	NIL	NIL	NIL
Measles (excluding rubella)	156	5	21	23	11	34	59	2	1	NIL

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

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

Children protected against	Primary		Re-inforcement	
	0-4 years	5-15 years	0-4 years	5-15 years
Diphtheria	135	22	110	87
Whooping Cough	130	7	2	4
Tetanus	135	22	110	87
Poliomyelitis	109	17	1	90

Smallpox Vaccination	Primary		Re-vaccination	
	0-4 years	5-15 years	0-4 years	5-15 years
	115	6	2	4

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

B. E. DYSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

DETAILS OF VISITS

Investigation of complaints	156	Grocers Shops	13
Re-inspection of notices	294	Licensed premises	4
Housing Act Inspections	73	Bakeries	2
Supervision of refuse collection and disposal	184	Hawkers and mobile shops	4
Rodent control	335	Fish friers	6
Factories (Mech.)	5	Butchers shops	4
Sites of building operations	5	School kitchens	6
Petroleum Regulations	2	Cafes/snack bars	1
Re: drainage	71	Ice cream vendors	4
Overcrowding	1	Water supply	8
Unwholesome premises-filthy and/or verminous	28	Sampling of ice-cream	8
Demolition sites	15	Sampling of water	8
Improvement grants	4	Fair grounds	1
Noise Abatement Act	1	Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	5
Caravans and moveable dwellings	2	Dustbin provision scheme	85
Outworkers premises	1	Interviews	307
Re: tenancy of Council dwellings	58	Miscellaneous	143

Total number of visits and inspections: 1,844

Defects and/or nuisances:

- (i) Discovered — 180
- (ii) Remedied — 172

Notices served:

- (i) Informal — 85
- (ii) Statutory — 6

Notices compiled with:

- (i) Informal — 73
- (ii) Statutory — 27

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Bolton Corporation is the statutory water undertaker for the Urban District, although certain functions are carried out within the area by the Makerfield Water Board.

There are three sources of supply to the district.

The north-western portion of the district, that is the area adjacent to Butcherfield Row and part of Haigh Road, is supplied from Wilderswood Reservoir at Blackrod. This supply is pumped to Aspull by the Makerfield Water Board.

Properties at Pennington Green and Hall Lane derive their supply of water from the reservoir at Rivington via the Liverpool aqueduct.

The remaining parts of the district receive the Thirlmere supply provided by Bolton Corporation.

All premises within Aspull receive a piped supply from the public mains. During the year five existing mains were extended to sites of new development and 121 new dwellings were connected to the public supply.

The water is soft upland surface water and laboratory reports indicate that it is fit for drinking and all domestic purposes.

The combined fluorine content varied between 0.10 and 0.35 parts per million.

The following table shows the number of samples of fully treated water taken during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS			CHEMICAL ANALYSES		
Results			Results		
No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
2	2	NIL	3	3	NIL

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with exception of 12 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation.

The district is faced with the problem of sewers being inadequate and overloaded if further development of the district is to take place. The foul sewer system from Hilton and Crawford Estates is functioning to capacity, any further development in the Scot Lane area will necessitate new sewerage provisions. The system from Scot Lane settling tank catering for the Bolton Road, Hall Lane and Top Lock areas is mainly the old system and requires investigation. Periodic cleansing is required on stretches of this sewer due to silting up. With the exception of a small area of the Urban District which is treated by the Hindley Urban District Council the district's sewerage system connects to the Wigan County Borough system who treat the effluent.

During the year 71 inspections were made in connection with drainage and sewerage; 119 new dwellings were connected to the sewerage system and 2 houses were constructed with septic tanks.

The sanitary accommodation in the district at the end of the year was :

Number of fresh water closets	2,640
Number of pail closets	6
Number of privy middens	1

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two conveniences in the area, one at New Springs and the other at the Finger Post. Both are designed as integral parts of omnibus shelters. As in many other districts these conveniences have suffered, during the year, from the incomprehensible activities of vandals and appreciable amounts of time and materials have been spent in maintaining the conveniences in a reasonable condition.

It is essential that such damage is repaired as soon as possible in order that the health of the public does not suffer as a result of the actions of the irresponsible few.

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.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no registered premises within the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year several houses were treated for cockroaches using Pybuthrin.

In the summer months ants were often a problem on certain properties and it was found necessary in these cases to remove the flagging from around the premises before treatment could be successfully carried out.

Three adjoining terrace houses were effectively disinfested of bed bugs. Fortunately infestations of this parasite occur only very occasionally, for treatment can sometimes prove difficult especially in older houses which are structurally defective.

Disinfestation of domestic premises is generally carried out free of charge and occupiers are advised on any possible steps that should be taken to prevent re-infestation.

RODENT CONTROL

One man is employed part-time on rodent control work.

During the year 335 visits were made to premises in this connection, dealing with 102 infestations of rats and mice. This shows a reduction of 53 infestations on the previous year.

The presence of rats or mice, or even the suspicion of such, should be reported immediately to the Public Health Inspector, as an early notification will often lessen the task of the rodent operative.

During May 125 manholes on the public sewerage system were baited. Only 4 of these showed partial 'takes' and subsequent baiting of these 4 manholes and adjacent ones revealed no further 'takes'.

TABLE SHOWING DETAILS OF RODENT CONTROL WORK

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Non-Agricultural All other (including business premises)	Total	Agri-cultural
Number of properties in District	8	2500	300	2808	20
Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	3	103	6	112	NIL
(b) Survey or otherwise	5	15	NIL	20	2
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	14	295	24	333	2
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—					
Rats:					
Major	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Minor	1	91	6	98	NIL
(b) Mice:					
Major	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Minor	1	3	NIL	4	NIL
Number of infested properties treated by the L.A.	2	94	6	102	NIL
Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments	2	98	6	106	NIL
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

SCHOOLS

Schools are visited periodically in connection with refuse collection, rodent control, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation.

All the schools now have supplies of hot and cold water to the wash-hand basins, but unfortunately not all have indoor toilet accommodation.

The Lancashire Education Committee have continued to co-operate in employing the paper sack system of refuse collection at the Aspull schools.

HOUSING

A considerable proportion of the houses within the district are old in type and many of these are now beyond improvement. There are however others which with the introduction of the basic amenities would provide accommodation of a reasonable standard for several years longer than the fifteen required by the Standard Grant Scheme.

It is obvious that a close look must be taken of the housing stock and every effort made to encourage owners to repair and improve houses which although substandard at present, could still have a useful life after improvement.

Slum clearance is continuing, but unfortunately, at a very slow rate. The biggest factor which is holding back progress in this direction is the lack of alternative housing. It is essential that the proposed development by the Council be commenced as soon as possible if any marked progress in slum clearance is to be made in the near future.

Private development has continued throughout the year, with several sites under construction. The majority of the private building has taken place in the last seven years and it is pleasing to see the general environment and appearance of Aspull improve in this way.

The Council owned dwelling, providing substantial accommodation with regular maintenance, is still in demand. At the end of the year there were 144 applicants for various types of Council properties.

The flatlets for elderly people, at 'Hollydene', St. David's Crescent, were completed in March. These were designed in two blocks of sixteen flatlets with an additional flat in the main block, for the resident warden. This provided a type of accommodation for which there had

been a great need within the district. The residents still enjoy the privacy and independence that they knew in their previous homes together with the added comfort of dry, draught-free and centrally heated rooms; plus the fact that there is always someone on hand in case of sickness or any other emergency.

The one disappointing feature is that at present there are only four men occupying flatlets. This does not mean that there are no other men suited to this type of accommodation living within the area; there are several at present living alone, in houses affected by dampness, disrepair and lacking such basic amenities as running hot water. Conversations with these men make it clear that most of them have misconceived ideas about 'Hollydene' and it is obvious that their one fear is a loss of privacy and self-sufficiency should they leave their present homes. It appears that no amount of discussion with these men will dispel those ideas.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new dwellings erected during the year:

(i) By Local Authority	33 flats
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	88 houses

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	229
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	492
(c) Number of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	97
(2) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:	
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	14
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made (estimated)	346

2.—HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS:

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

Not in Clearance Area:

(4) As a result of formal or informal pro- cedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	8	13	6
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	Nil	Nil

3.—UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED:

(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	4	17	5
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

4.—UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED:

	<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
(1) After informal action by local author- ity	74	Nil
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	27	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1957	1	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

5.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE: (Housing Act, 1957)

	<i>No. of Houses</i> (1)	<i>No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. (1)</i> (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:

	<i>No. of Houses</i> (1)	<i>No. of occupants of houses in Col. (1)</i> (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 no applications and a reduction in number of queries appertaining to the Rent Act, 1957. It would appear that 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.

PART I.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1) Number of applications for Certificates	Nil
(2) Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue Certificates	Nil
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	Nil
(b) in respect of all defects	Nil
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(6) Number of Certificates issued	Nil

PART II:

APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates.....	Nil
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	Nil

Very little use is now being made of the disrepair procedure provided by the above Act.

7.—HOUSING ACTS: IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

No applications were received for Improvement Grants during 1966.

Four applications, from owner-occupiers, for Standard Grants were received and approved during the year.

It is hoped that there will be an increase in the number of applications for Grants in 1967; and every effort must be made to encourage owners to improve their property in this way.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Seven men are employed in the Refuse Collection Service; one of these men being engaged at the refuse disposal site.

A 'Shelvoke and Drewry' 35.0 cubic yard capacity compression loader was acquired during the year. This vehicle replaced the 'Gibson' pendulum compression vehicle which had been in service for several years.

The nature of domestic refuse has changed considerably during recent years as a result of modern packaging methods, and the extensive use of plastics for containers. This vast increase in the bulk of refuse coupled with the growth of the district show the obvious need for the larger type of vehicle with continuous compression.

All refuse is collected from the rear of premises and a weekly collection is operated throughout the area. This service has been maintained during the year except for the breaks caused by annual and public holidays.

If the efficiency of the refuse collection service may be judged on the number of complaints received from the public, then the almost complete absence of such complaints during the year speaks for itself.

The disposal of refuse is carried out by controlled tipping using a 'Fordson' tractor with a shovel and blade. The tip is regularly treated with bait and insecticidal powder to prevent infestations of vermin and insects.

Tipping is at present taking place in the disused railway cutting off Haigh Road, but the remaining life of this tip is now very short.

The absence of sites within the district, suitable for refuse disposal is now a very serious problem; and although several possible sites have been investigated each presents difficulties either with regard to access or the prior preparation of the site before refuse can be tipped.

The Council have in operation a paper sack system of refuse collection. This method was introduced several years ago and there are now over six-hundred paper sack holders being used at domestic premises, and at the schools within the district.

The advantages of this system over the conventional metal dustbin are readily appreciated by the men engaged on refuse collection; the more obvious of these being less weight to carry, shorter overall distances to walk and virtually dustless loading. The eventual extension of this system throughout the district will be beneficial both to the men and to the householder. A new container each week eliminates the often evil smelling and rarely cleansed dustbin; the noise is minimal. An extra sack is left prior to holidays.

A dustbin provision and replacement scheme is operated within the district.

A census of dustbins carried out in August, showed that, at that time 2,534 dustbins and the remaining 6 pail closets were being emptied weekly; this represents approximately 2,000 tons of refuse per annum.

Street cleansing is carried out under the control and supervision of the Surveyor.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Lancashire County Council are now the responsible Authority for the issuing of milk licences.

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 are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Butchers obtain their supplies from abattoirs situated in neighbouring areas.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Given below are details of samples obtained in the Aspull Urban District, under the provisions of the above Act, during 1966.

A total of 39 samples was obtained comprising 24 milks (of which one was a Channel Islands milk) and 15 others as follows:—

1 soft ice-cream	1 meat and vegetables, canned
2 self-raising flour	2 meat, canned
1 lard	1 butter
1 cream, sterilised	2 ice-cream
2 tea	2 ice-lollies

The following are details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports and the action taken thereon:—

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Formal milk	Fat 2.90%. Deficient 3.3% fat	Producer notified
Formal milk	Fat 2.95%. Deficient 1.6% fat	Producer notified
Ice Lollies	Consisted of chocolate covered ice-lolly yet labelled with a list of ingredients appropriate to a fruit flavoured ice-lolly.	Manufacturer communicated with
Ice Cream	Contained 0.005% saccharin which is prohibited by the Food Standards (Ice-cream) Regulations 1959.	Manufacturer cautioned and further sample obtained.
Ice Lollies	List of ingredients on label included Alginade instead of Alginate.	Manufacturer cautioned and further sample obtained.

The following article of food was voluntarily surrendered as unfit during the year:

Corned beef 1 x 6 lb. can

Food condemned is collected by the Authority and suitably buried on the refuse tip.

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

TYPE OF BUSINESS:	
General grocers and provision dealers	32
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.)	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	9
Fried fish shops	7
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 foods, etc., premises	4

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

Routine inspections of food premises and mobile shops have continued during the year.

Improvements are still being carried out to premises, generally following informal action. The improvement of food premises is something that can be achieved, even if it is necessary to resort to legal action in the odd case; but education of the food handler, in the principles and importance of hygienic practices, is often a more difficult problem. The food handler will only fully appreciate the importance of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and other allied legislation when he has some basic knowledge of such things as the causes and types of food poisoning, how they are spread, how food becomes contaminated and so on.

The courses now organised at a number of technical colleges, leading to the examination for the Certificate in Hygiene of Food Retailing and Catering, awarded by the Royal Society of Health, is obviously a step in the right direction.

It is necessary to stress once again that the general public, especially the housewife, can greatly help to facilitate the work of the Public Health Inspector by observing hygienic practices when in food premises and also by patronising only those shops which provide a clean and hygienic service for their customers.

Inspections of school kitchens revealed that although in most schools the standards are quite satisfactory, there are unfortunately, a small number which suffer from a lack of adequate space. This is generally found in those schools where meals are delivered ready cooked and the only handling of the food is during the actual serving.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1959 and 1963.

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the area.

Several itinerant vendors operate within the district; ice-cream sold from these vehicles is regularly sampled for bacteriological examination.

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

FACTORIES ACT, 1961. (Part 1)

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	5	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	5	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	13	10	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)... ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Unsuitable or defective... ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(c) Not separate for sexes	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) ...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL

Sites of building operations are visited to ensure that suitable sanitary accommodation is provided in accordance with section 127 of the Act and to ensure that insanitary conditions do not arise.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The Act is designed to protect the health and safety of persons employed in offices, shops and certain railway premises.

The few premises in the district yet to be inspected, are those where there is probably no more than one employee and where conditions are expected to satisfy the requirements of the Act.

1. Registrations and General Inspections

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Number of premises registered during the year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises at end of year</i>	<i>Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year</i>
Offices	NIL	2	NIL
Retail Shops	NIL	6	2
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	NIL	1	NIL
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	NIL	9	NIL
Fuel storage depots ...	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTALS:	NIL	18	2

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO
REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT: 5

2. Analysis of Contraventions

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Contraventions found</i>				<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of Contraventions found</i>			
4	Cleanliness	NIL	13	Sitting facilities	NIL				
5	Overcrowding	NIL	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) ...	NIL				
6	Temperature	1	15	Eating facilities	NIL				
7	Ventilation	NIL	16	Floors, passage & stairs ...	NIL				
8	Lighting	NIL	17	Fencing exposed parts mach- inery	NIL				
9	Sanitary conveniences ...	1	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	NIL				
10	Washing facilities	NIL	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous mach- inery	NIL				
11	Supply of drinking water ...	NIL	23	Prohibition of heavy work ...	NIL				
12	Clothing accommodation ...	NIL	24	First aid General provisions	1				
					TOTAL				3

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

Thirteen licences to store petroleum spirit were renewed during the year.

