ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Public Health Inspector

for

1960

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Atherton Urban District Council

Public Health Committee

Chairman :
Councillor P. JONES

Vice-Chairman:
Councillor Mrs. A. HIGGINSON

Councillors

J. BOYDELL
J. BROWN
E. DONOGHUE
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H. GREENHALGH
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Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :
THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.), Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :
ALFRED HEALY, M.A.P.H.I.
Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT :
Miss S. HASLAM

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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ended 31st December, 1960, together with certain relevant statistical information.

The population of the district following the Census of 1951, was 20, 596, and this has declined each year for a few years until 1958, when it commenced to increase slightly again. It now stands at a mid 1960 estimate of 19,780.

A total of 320 births was a slight increase on the previous years and a still-birth rate of 16.5 was on a par with the 1959 figure.

There were no maternal deaths, but 7 infant deaths which although higher than last year gave a rate below the national figure.

Total deaths decreased by over 50.

As in previous years the sanitary circumstances covering environment, food legislation and slaughterhouses were kept under review.

The immunisation schemes and the various health facilities afforded to young and old, all functioned efficiently and well within the demands placed upon them.

In conclusion I should like to thank my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR.

SECTION A.

Statistics.

SECTION A

STATISTICS

General Statistics

Area in acres—2,265.
Population—
1951 Census—20,596.
Mid 1960 Estimate—19,780.
Number of inhabited houses—6,758.
Rateable Value—£204,353.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£780.

Vital Statistics

Live Births:—	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	154	166	320
Illegitimate	6	1	7
Total ...	160	167	327

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 16.5

Still Births:—	Males	Females	Total
	7	2	9

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) 26.8

Deaths—All Causes:—	Males	Females	Total
	126	125	251

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 12.7

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 12.7

Maternal Deaths ..... Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) ..... Nil

Infant Deaths 7

Infantile Death Rate 21.4

Neo-Natal Deaths 5

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate 15.3

Adjusted

TABLE I
VITAL STATISTICS

	*Live Births		Stillbirths		* Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1:000 live births
Year 1960	327	16.5	9	26.8	251	12.7	nil	nil	7	21.4	5	15.3
Year 1959	308	15.6	8	25.3	305	15.1	1	3.16	2	6.5	1	3.2
Year 1958	326	16.5	5	15	281	14.3	1	3.02	6	18	3	9
Year 1957	289	14.6	7	24	314	17.4	nil	nil	12	42	7	24
Year 1956	305	15.2	7	22	256	14.3	nil	nil	7	23	4	13
Year 1955	253	12.6	11	42	262	14.0	nil	nil	3	12	3	12
Avge. 5 years— 1955-59	296	14.8	8	27	284	14.2	—	1.3	6	19.7	4	11.8

* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 16.5 per 1,000.
death rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 12.7 per 1,000.

TABLE II

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1960

Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1
Tuberculosis, other	1	...
Syphilitic Disease	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...
Meningococcal Infections	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...
Measles	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	..	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	....
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	.	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	....
Diabetes	1	...
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	16	19
Coronary Disease, Angina	32	19
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	3
Other Heart Disease	5	26
Other Circulatory Disease	4	4
Influenza	...	1
Pneumonia	2	8
Bronchitis	9	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	..
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...
Congenital Malformations	5	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	11	19
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	2
All other Accidents	.	4
Suicide	1	...
Homicide and operations of war	...	...
TOTAL	126	125

TABLE III
VITAL STATISTICS

Birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1960. (Provisional figures based on Registrar General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1960—45,755,000.

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
Births		
Live Births	782,673	17.1
Still Births	15,734	0.34
		19.7 (a)
Deaths		
All causes	526,278	11.5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	3,426	0.075
Respiratory	3,094	0.068
Non-respiratory	332	0.007
Cancer (all forms)	98,691	2.16
Lung and bronchus	21,992	0.48
Other cancer	76,699	1.68
Maternal mortality (total)	311	0.39 (a)
Maternal causes (exc. abortion)	248	0.31 (a)
Due to abortion	63	0.08 (a)
Infant Mortality	16,961	21.7 (b)
Neo-natal Mortality	12,188	15.6 (b)
Notifications (corrected)		
Typhoid fever	89	0.002
Paratyphoid fever	239	0.005
Meningococcal infection	630	0.014
Scarlet fever	32,166	0.703
Whooping cough	58,030	1.268
Diphtheria	53	0.001
Erysipelas	2,954	0.065
Smallpox	1	0.000
Measles	159,314	3.482
Acute pneumonia	14,543	0.318
Acute poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	258	0.006
Non-paralytic	125	0.003
Acute encephalitis—		
Infective	145	0.003
Post-infectious	116	0.003
Dysentery	43,269	0.946
Food poisoning	7,722	0.169
Puerperal pyrexia	8,807	0.192
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory	21,129	0.462
Meninges & C.N.S.	199	0.004
Other	2,662	0.058

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births
(b) Per 1,000 live births

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

SECTION B

Ambulance

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 73111.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 89 Railway Road, Leigh.

Clinics

1. ANTE-NATAL
   Alder House Clinic.
   Each Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

2. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS IMMUNISATION
   (i) Alder House Clinic.
   By arrangement, alternate Monday afternoons of the month.
   (ii) General Practioner Service.

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE
   Alder House Clinic.
   Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

4. OPHTHALMIC
   Alder House Clinic, by appointment.
   Each Tuesday, a.m.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC
   Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley, by appointment.
   2nd Thursday mornings of each month.

6. POST-NATAL
   Alder House Clinic.
   Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

7. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT
   Alder House Clinic.
   Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

8. SPEECH THERAPY
   Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

9. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC
Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

10. VENEREAL DISEASES

(i) Civic Centre, Bolton.
Males and Females: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

(ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
Males: Wednesday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Females: Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisonal Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service

District Nurses employed by the C.C. are available in the district.

Hospitals

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton.
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infimaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

Midwifery Service

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lancs. C.C.

Nursing Homes

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.

Residential accommodation under Divisional arrangements.

X-ray Facilities

At Bolton, Leigh, and Wigan Infirmaries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

SECTION C

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

Again it is pleasing to report no cases from this disease, the last notified case was in 1948, but the importance of immunisation of infants is continuously being stressed on the parents.

Dysentery

No cases notified of this disease.

Erysipelas

Only two cases were notified.

Food Poisoning

Once again there were no notifications of Food Poisoning.

Malaria

No notifications received.

Measles

An appreciable reduction in the number of cases this year as compared to last year. 105 cases notified as against 308 the previous year.

Meningococcal Infection

No notifications for the year.

Paratyphoid Fever

One notification of this disease was received.

Pneumonia

Pneumonia accounted for 21 notified cases, being a reduction of 7 on the previous year.

Poliomyelitis

There were no notified cases in the district.

Puerperal Pyrexia

No notification for the year.

Scarlet Fever

29 cases were notified.

Smallpox

No notifications were received.

Tuberculosis

8 cases of pulmonary infection and none of non-pulmonary gives a reduction of 5 cases on the previous year. There was one death.

Typhoid Fever

No notification for the year.

Whooping Cough

There were 48 cases as against 8 of the previous year.

TABLE IV

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1960

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total Cases at all ages.	Years.													
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German Measles	105	7	6	15	19	12	45	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	21	1	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	2	5	4	10	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	29	...	...	3	5	2	12	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	48	3	7	7	10	7	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	3	...	...	...	..		...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	3
Females	5	...		...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...	...	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Females	...	...	. .	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	213	11	17	25	34	22	68	10	4	6	2	10	4	11	8

TABLE V **Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years**

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36·7	16·49	...	161·6	3	3	14		...	...	...	...	9	29	...	13	2
1905	30·9	13·7	...	141·8	40	3	34	...	5	...	...	...	24	55	1	17	5
1910	26·47	14·67	...	154·1	20	2	15	..	6	...	...	...	36	88	...	19	3
1915	25·44	13·11	...	103·09	31	3	13	..	9	17	13	44	18	100	...	7	2
1920	24·1	12·1	...	109	24	...	9	...	2	23	8	25	15	49	...	2	2
1925	15·4	10·9	...	63	29	3	3	...	1	11	5	28	8	52	...	1	1
1930	15·3	10·6	...	61	8	...	...	...	5	15	4	18	6	42	...	1	...
1935	13·3	12·6	14·3	73	10	3	1	...	3	9	1	15	9	78	...	...	...
1937	14·0	11·2	12·7	51	108	3	1	...	1	7	4	8	6	51	..	1	...
1938	13·6	10·2	11·6	42	127	7	...	...	5	9	2	8	8	37	...	...	...
1940	15·5	12·0	...	35	9	...	3	695	...	8	1	7	9	88	...	...	...
1943	18·2	12·8	...	74	12	2	2	191	...	8	3	11	5	49	...	...	...
1944	16·29	11·86	...	60	8	...	1	382	..	7	2	9	5	70	...	...	...
1945	17·9	11·3	...	23	2	...	...	66	...	8	2	7	4	42	...	...	...
1946	17·6	10·9	...	33	5	...	...	511	...	9	...	12	2	22	...	...	...
1947	19·7	13·3	...	50	1	...	1	77	...	7	...	11	5	79	...	...	...
1948	15·2	10·0	...	28	1	...	...	364	...	7	...	11	5	104	...	...	...
1951	12·9	13·4	14·2	8	...	...	...	50	...	10	...	12	4	59	...	...	...
1952	15·8	12·4	13·1	15	...	...	...	494	1	3	...	11	...	97	...	...	...
1953	15·1	21·6	22·9	44	...	...	...	104	..	2	2	24	4	50	...	...	...
1954	13·7	11·8	12·6	22	...	...	...	20	...	5	...	6	2	27	...	...	...
1955	12·6	13·0	14·0	12	...		...	316	...	...	...	15	2	22	...	...	...
1956	15.2	12·8	14.3	23	...	...	...	278	...	1	...	6	3	9	...	...	...
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	..	...	164	...	2	2	10	1	46	...	...	...
1958	16·5	14·3	14·3	18·4	...	...	...	23	...	1	...	14	2	19	...	...	...
1959	15·6	15·4	15·1	6·5	...	...	...	308	...	1	...	12	2	31	...	...	...
1960	16·5	12·7	12·7	21·4	...	...	...	105	...	..	...	8	1	29	...	...	...

SECTION D.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The township of Atherton is supplied with water by the Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking.

The supply has been adequate and of good quality throughout the year.

The Corporation carry out all the relevant work involved in repairs and renewals of mains and services, and are establishing a depot in the area to handle all urgent demands.

Water samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory have been satisfactory.

Streams

There are no dye or chemical works in the area and consequently no pungent or offensive effluents being discharged into streams. Such water courses that flow within the boundary do suffer from indiscriminate dumping of waste material, of a wide and varied nature. The Council cause the removal of such debris as and when possible in an endeavour to keep streams free from obstruction and flowing freely.

Drainage and Sewerage

The drainage and sewerage is of the Combined drainage system and disposal is affected at the sewage works under the control of the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewage Board.

Projects of sections of sewers affected by subsidence and the laying of new sewers for future housing developments, having been prepared during the year are now awaiting consent to proceed.

Sanitary Accommodation

At the end of 1960 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz:—

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	4
Number of Trough Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets	530
Number of Fresh Water Closets	7,504
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of Moveable Ashbins	6,864
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6,760

Conversions during 1960:—

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	23

A considerable number of waste water closets as yet remain, scattered throughout the district. A survey is being carried out to assess this number, for the purpose of costing and elimination of these fittings by contract.

The grant of £9 paid by the Council towards the cost of conversion is still being paid, or alternatively the applicant can seek improvement grant, whichever is the better.

The small number of pails (4 in number) is no problem.

Disinfestation

Four privately owned houses and two Council houses were treated during the year for bed bug infestation. D.D.T./Lindane residual spray insecticide was used in all cases. This proved effective and is easy to operate. Linen and articles requiring steam disinfestation where lice is proven, are capably handled at the Bolton C.B. disinfestation centre. Their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Scavenging

The collection of house refuse is the responsibility of the Health Department and a weekly collection is maintained, operating four 7/8 cubic yard refuse vehicles. Each vehicle has a team of driver and four men, with trailer attached for the collection of waste paper. Disposal is at the Council tip in Millers Lane, whilst paper is baled in the paper baling shed and sold to the Merchants. The income from the sale of paper amounted to £1,660 for the year, being equal to the product of over a twopenny rate.

Labour problems and the increase of new houses with long garden paths has lengthened the time taken to collect from dust bins. This situation will have to be resolved, probably by the acquisition of another vehicle.

Factories and Workplaces

Inspection of premises were carried out throughout the year, and particulars are contained in Table VII of this report.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The Council rodent operator is fully trained and actively engaged on rodent control throughout the year. A number of contracts for monthly routine treatment at factories, canteens, and bakehouses are undertaken; and half yearly a systematic sewer control treatment is carried out. A report of this treatment is forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture.

TABLE VI **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.			
	Non-Agricultural			
	(1) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(2) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(3) Total of Cols. (1) & (2)	(4) Agricultural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6758	427	7185	17
II. Number of properties inspected	86	134	220	9
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	153	161	314	14
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats Major	—	—	—	—
(a) Rats Minor	22	32	54	3
(b) Mice Major	—	—	—	—
(b) Mice Minor	64	—	64	—
V. Number of infested properties treated	86	33	119	3
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	153	161	314	14
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				
(a) Treatment	—	—	Nil	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	Nil	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act			Nil	
IX. Legal Proceedings			Nil	
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out			Nil	

Householders make reports of rats and/or mice infestation and baiting, with advice against further infestation, is carried out free of charge.

Baits used are Warfarin sewer bags for sewer treatment and Warfarin bait in trays for premises.

Swimming Baths

Atherton Public Swimming Bath has had extensive alterations and improvements. Some £6,000 was spent on re-tiling the plunge and coupled with re-decorating and renewal of outmoded fittings, the interior now presents a most pleasant appearance. The filtration and purification plant are also to receive attention as required.

The baths still retains its popularity, and good attendance figures are obtained, whilst in addition the scholars of schools in Atherton, Westhoughton and Horwich attend for their training curriculum exercises.

The water is the town's mains supply and samples of the plunge taken whilst baths are in use and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, all proved satisfactory.

Schools

The structural and sanitary arrangements of the schools are in general, satisfactory. Minor improvements and repairs have been carried out in the more pressing cases (Lee Street and St. Philip's).

In all schools fresh water W.C.'s are installed, but improvements to the ablution and drinking water facilities are desirable.

School meal arrangements received inspectorial attention throughout the year.

Offensive Trades

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings

There are no common lodging houses in the district and only one "house-let-in-lodgings" and this is included in an area that is listed for future slum clearance.

Rag Flock Acts

The one shop in the district registered under the Act is now using rubber foam or plaster fibre. These modern products are vermin free and most sound hygienically.

TABLE VII

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	10	16	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	89	7	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	3	7	1	—
Total ...	91	112	10	—

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found	Abated	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	—
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	—
Unreasonable Temperature	1	1	—
Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	2	2	—
Unsuitable or Defective ...	6	4	—
Other Offences against the Act	—	—	—
Total ...	18	16	—

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Places under Inspection

The number of food premises, by type of business, at end of 1960 were as follows:—

Grocers	89
Bakers	20
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream), etc.	37
Fried Fish Shops	18
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	23
Greengrocers	10
Fishmongers	6
Canteens, Snack Bars and Licensed Premises	49
Others	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, include:—

	No. of Premises	No. of Inspections during 1960
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit and Vegetables	18	24
,, Meat and Meat Products	2	4
Bakehouses	17	27
Fried Fish Shops	18	26
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	4	17
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises	16	23
Ice Cream Shops	63	94

Food Inspection

There were no outbreaks of disease attributable to foodstuffs and all food and food preparing premises were subject to regular inspection throughout the year.

Food traders and handlers alike are asked to observe the codes of practice and hygiene regulations applicable to the food trade and are informed of the dangers that arise from the careless handling of food.

Premises and equipments are being constantly improved and it is true to say that most traders realise that a well set out and clean shop is the best way of attracting customers.

Vans used for retail trading are quite a problem and it is sad to admit that the same statutory powers do not exist for dealing with these itinerant traders, as exists for dealing with permanent premises.

Sampling of food stuffs is carried out by the inspectors of the Lancashire County Council staff and their report is embodied under a separate heading in this report.

Slaughterhouses

There are two wholesale butcher slaugterhouses in the district, with a daily killing carried out. Post mortem examination of carcase meat is a daily routine.

The following details of animals killed and inspected are presented.

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Slaughtered	1108	1469	—	9003	1340
No. Inspected	1108	1469	—	9003	1340
All Diseases other than T.B.					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	2	—	13	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	184	223	—	819	88
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	16.6	15.2	—	9.1	6.6
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	7	27	—	—	19
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.6	1.8	—	—	1.4
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Unsound Food

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption, other than that stated in previous paragraphs, was as follows:—

2 tins Apples	12	lbs.
7 tins Apricots	7	lbs.
16 tins Apricot conserve	320	lbs.
18 tins Corned Beef	54	lbs.
5 tins Carrots	6½	lbs.
1 tin Crab	½	lb.
30 tins Fruit Salad	34	lbs.
39 tins Grapefruit	39	lbs.
8 pkts. Ground Rice	4	lbs.
11 tins Herrings	11	lbs.
19 tins Ham, cooked	166	lbs.
4 tins Irish Stew	4	lbs.
2 tins Jellied Veal	12	lbs.
31 tins Luncheon Meat	33	lbs.
14 tins Milk	14	lbs.
20 tins Ox Tongue	53	lbs.
39 tins Pears	46	lbs.
20 tins Peas	18	lbs.
38 tins Peaches	68	lbs.
1 tin Pork, chopped	4	lbs.
21 tins Pineapple	21	lbs.
8 tins Rice Pudding	8	lbs.
29 tins Stewed Steak	29	lbs.
4 pkts Soup Powder	1	lb.
6 tins Steak and Kidney	6	lbs.
18 tins Soup	14	lbs.
22 tins Salmon	11	lbs.
107 tins Tomatoes	73	lbs.
12 tins Xmas Pudding	12	lbs.

Milk Supply

Atherton is a designated area and the production of milk is under the supervision of the officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Producers are gradually changing over to Tuberculin Tested milk and the standard of production is quite good.

Supplies at all times have been adequate and school milk supplies are controlled by the County Council.

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is also carried out by the officers of the County Council and results of samples carried out locally for bacteriological examination are as follows:—

(a) Raw Milk:

(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—

No. of samples 9. No. positive nil. No. negative 7. Nil result 2.

(ii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 9. No. satisfactory 9. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Brucellosis Test—

No. of samples 1. No. satisfactory 1. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" Milk:

(i) Phosphatase Test—

No. of samples 7. No. satisfactory 7. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(ii) Turbidity Test—

No. of samples 2. No. satisfactory 2. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Tubuerculosis—

No. of samples 2. No. positive nil. No. negative 2.

A good wholesome water, sufficient in quantity and pressure, is supplied to all farms in the district from the town mains.

Food Premises

Wholesale and retail food premises, bakehouses and cooked meat preparing businesses, have all been subject to visits and inspections throughout the year.

The structural condition of premises is generally satisfactory and the standard of cleanliness of equipments and personnel has been closely watched during the period of routine inspection.

There has been few occasions where written notification to the owners requesting remedial work to be carried out, has been necessary; due to the understanding shown by the managers in the establishment and their ready willingness to put matters right.

No abnormal insect or cockroach infestation of bakehouses has been reported and no report of gross contamination of foods. Minor infestations of rodents and crickets there have been, but these were quickly dealt with by management and health department staffs, jointly.

Hygiene regulation and Clean Food byelaws are consistently stressed and every effort made to encourage staffs to attain a more enlightened approach to clean food handling. A constant and firm appeal is made that hand washing facilities are consistently used in conjunction with toilet usage.

The sampling of foodstuffs for chemical analysis is carried out by the staff of the County Council and the County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with a summary of such activities, which is appended.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

A total of 100 samples was obtained, consisting of 75 samples of milk (6 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 25 others comprising:—

1 Tea
1 Treacle
1 Syrup of figs
1 Bronchial balsam
1 Pork sausages
1 Battenberg cake (two slices) with foreign objects
1 Pickles
2 Orange drink
1 Travel sickness tablets
1 Milk shake syrup
2 Sauce
2 Compound syrup of hypophosphites
2 Meat pies
1 Mouth ulcer pastilles
1 Child's vitamin syrup
1 Salad cream
1 Malt and cocoa beverage
1 Double cream
1 Baking powder
1 Gravy browning
1 Vegetables, fresh, potatoes

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Pork sausages	Contained 195 parts per million preservative without declaration	Vendor notified
1 Battenberg cake with foreign objects (two slices)	Contained the head and thorax and separately the abdomen of a four winged insect of the nature of a honey bee, weighing 0.13 grams	Bakery cautioned

SECTION F.

Housing.

SECTION F

HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Local Authority	77	8
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	13	—

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) 433

(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 729

(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:

(a) Number found during year 22

(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year 154

(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 396

2. **Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954):—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:

(a) Unfit houses 13

(b) Other houses ..... —

(2) Number of Persons displaced 25

3. **Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—**

	No. of houses	No. of persons displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:— Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	—	—
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force	4	12
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 17)	—	—

(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	242
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	6
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):— Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	3
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)...	Nil

4. **Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—**

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

*A defective house remedied more than once during the year is included once only.

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	78	78
(b) Approved by Local Authority	71	71
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry	—	—
(d) Approved by the Ministry	—	—
(e) Work completed	52	52

General Inspections

Houses (including re-visits)	729
Schools	15
Factories and Workplaces	128
Bakehouses	234
Food preparing places	223
Dairies, Miscellaneous, etc.	568
Shops	249
Slaughter-houses	621
	2767

In connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found	Remedied
House roofs in need of repair	53	49
Defective W.C.'s	59	57
Choked or defective drains	19	19
Defective plaster of walls, etc.,	104	82
Insanitary condition of yards	2	2
House walls damp	87	58
Defective eaves gutters	13	11
Defective windows, etc.	22	21
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	2	2
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, etc.)	53	34
	414	335

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:—

Informal	157
Statutory	17

Rent Act, 1957

There have been no applications made for certificates of disrepair under the above Act, Action for the repair to property has resolved to the Public Health and Housing Acts procedure.

GENERAL. Conditions and observations

Atherton is an active Northern industrial town, with a population of approximately 20,000, an area of over 2,200 acres and various industries of cotton, coal, nut and bolt manufacturing and a large passenger transport undertaking.

There are over 6,700 inhabited properties and as is to be found in this kind of industrial town, there are areas of terraced row properties dating some 80 to 90 years old. The suburban privately owned and the Council estate properties, are modern and pleasantly laid out. There are no out-and-out slums, but some of the older terraced properties are admittedly sub standard. It is intended to deal with these in further clearance programmes. Completed programmes of slum clearance and redevelopment have been really praiseworthy of a town of such dimensions. The town is not entirely void of mining subsidence, which accentuates the problem of the planners in their quest for schemes of development. There are no back-to-back or single back type of properties in the district and no common lodging houses.

The two completed aged peoples' bungalow schemes are eminently satisfactory and are genuinely appreciated by the occupiers, who are finding the comfort and leisure they so richly deserve. It is, however, not going to be a case of "resting on our oars" for further schemes of a like nature are already well in hand.

Applications for Council houses stand at around 250 and these needs are also being actively pursued and schemes prepared for providing accommodation for them.

In the field of improvement of older dwellings considerable progress has been made and quite a number of houses have now been modernised to include basic amenities of bath, hot water and W.C. accommodation. Grants totalling £35,000 have been made for this purpose, resulting in some extremely nice cottage houses.

The establishing of Smoke Control Areas is being undertaken and daily volumetric stations are now in operation on two sites in the town area.

As in other years, works of improvement to street lighting, private street works and improvements, have all been receiving attention and are dealt with by your Surveyor.

SECTION G.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.

Atmospheric Pollution

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus, at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method

	Rainfall in ins.	pH	Tons per square mile Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	SO_3/mg. day 100²cm
Alder House						
January ...	5.28	3.7	10.10	7.87	17.97	3.29
February ...	1.89	3.7	8.52	4.17	12.69	2.97
March ...	1.50	3.7	8.38	3.73	12.11	2.46
April ...	1.69	3.9	8.49	3.73	12.22	1.92
May ...	2.29	3.9	17.59	3.52	21.11	1.66
June ...	0.79	4.3	7.90	3.90	11.8	1.13
July ...	4.49	4.1	7.97	6.13	14.10	0.95
August ...	5.28	4.1	10.10	4.79	14.89	1.12
September ...	3.59	3.9	9.48	4.41	13.89	1.38
October ...	4.02	3.7	8.52	6.78	15.30	2.37
November ...	2.52	3.7	5.85	3.63	9.48	2.83
December ...	3.55	4.3	5.95	6.19	12.14	4.18
Monthly Average ...	3.07	3.92 Mean	9.07	4.91	13.98	2.19 Mean
St. George's School						
January ...	5.79	3.7	12.79	8.25	21.04	3.41
February ...	2.32	3.9	10.39	5.91	16.30	2.95
March ...	1.65	3.6	11.66	5.54	17.20	3.81
April ...	0.51	3.7	3.16	2.03	5.19	1.94
May ...	2.64	3.9	16.51	7.05	23.56	1.58
June ...	1.58	3.9	14.96	4.95	19.91	1.29
July ...	5.83	4.1	10.35	7.19	17.54	1.13
August ...	5.67	3.9	13.69	6.98	20.67	1.29
September ...	3.70	3.7	6.95	5.78	12.73	1.76
October ...	4.37	3.7	10.32	5.64	15.96	2.82
November ...	2.80	3.7	3.58	3.27	6.85	2.58
December ...	4.06	3.9	10.97	9.15	20.12	3.47
Monthly Average ...	3.41	3.81 Mean	10.44	5.98	16.42	2.34 Mean

In addition to the deposit gauges and lead peroxide apparatus, there has been established a daily volumetric station at the Town Hall. This gives a daily pollution reading by way of a smoke stained filter paper and assessment of sulphur concentration by titration. These daily recordings are displayed outside the Town Hall for the general public to view.

The following results given show the highest, lowest and average readings in each month.

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

	Smoke in milgrams per 100 cu. metres			SO_2 parts per 100 million		
	Av.	High	Low	Av.	High	Low
January ...	51.	143.	19.	15.4	29.4	4.7
February ...	41.	92.	12.	10.8	21.2	3.4
March ...	26.	43.	12.	7.0	12.4	2.9
April ...	17.3	35.5	9.2	18.1	35.5	4.8
May ...	19.7	54.	5.	8.9	15.8	2.3
June ...	9.5	27.	3.	4.7	19.2	1.2
July ...	10.2	22.	5.	2.8	6.3	1.1
August ...	15.3	45.	10.	4.3	8.4	2.6
September ...	4.4	58.	9.	4.4	19.5	2.5
October ...	29.8	63.	11.	3.3	18.3	3.4
November ...	39.1	118.	13.	10.68	37.4	3.4
December ...	57.1	130.	16.	14.8	36.9	2.8

SECTION H.

Shops Act.

SECTION H

SHOPS ACT

The administration of the Shops Act, 1950, is the responsibility of the Council, but no separate inspectorate exists for this purpose.

It is while inspections under the various other enactments are carried out at shops and warehouses, that conditions affecting the health, comfort and welfare of shop assistants are also given attention.

Verbal suggestions for the improvement of a particular operation or written notification of structural remedies required, have been sufficient to secure improvement in any specific infringement and no occasion has arisen demanding statutory proceedings.

The main shopping centre has been brightened by structural imrovements carried out by some of the larger concerns.

Contracts exist with the more enlightened firms and businesses, for the control of rats and mice as a monthly routine measure.

A year of steady progress, but nonetheless encouraging.

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