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BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health,
Divisional County Medical Officer and
Divisional School Medical Officer,

for the year 1953

By D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (EDIN.), R.F.P.S. (EDIN. AND GLAS.)





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BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON.

Health and Lighting Committee,

Members :

Chairman: ALDERMAN R. WILLIAMS.

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR R. WEDGEWOOD.

The Mayor: COUNCILLOR C. F. REID, J.P.

The Deputy Mayor: COUNCILLOR A. J. GITTINS.

ALDERMAN H. P. LONG.

ALDERMAN H. SMITH.

ALDERMAN R. SNAPE, M.C.

COUNCILLOR J. CHRISP.

COUNCILLOR R. EVANS.

COUNCILLOR Mrs. B. GILL, J.P.

COUNCILLOR E. A. HEBRON.

COUNCILLOR Mrs. S. PRICE.

COUNCILLOR J. TRENCH.

COUNCILLOR J. H. WARD.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
"PLYMYARD,"
EASTHAM,
CHESHIRE.

August, 1954.

*HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON.*

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1953.

The population of 48,220 at mid-year 1953 showed an increase of 430 on that for 1952. The Birth Rate of the Borough of 12.9 is .8 lower than that for the previous year, whilst the Death Rate for 1953 of 11.0 remains the same as for 1952. During 1953, 21 infants died before reaching the age of one year, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 32.6 per 1,000 live births. This is a slightly higher rate than that for 1952, but seven of the deaths referred to were associated with premature birth.

During 1953 there was a small reduction in the number of notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis, and the number of deaths from this disease was more than halved when compared with the 1952 figure. The notifications of Infectious Disease showed a distinct decrease during 1953. There was a marked decline in the number of cases of Measles reported, but Whooping Cough was rather more prevalent than in the previous year.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system still show the highest figures as causes of death in this area, but otherwise the figures provide no cause for comment.

Regarding the water supply of the Borough, I have collaborated with A. L. Lyon, Esq., M.Eng., M.I.C.E., Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board, and we are in mutual agreement with the following report:

The water is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board from three sources, i.e., Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth, and is obtained by pumping from deep wells, bores and adits by means of steam and electrically-driven machinery.

During 1953 work continued on the River Dee Scheme authorised by the West Cheshire Water Orders 1950 and 1952. The construction of a service reservoir at Sutton Hall to store twelve million gallons of water was commenced and a tender was also let for the provision of treatment plant to deal with six million gallons per day. Considerable progress was also made in the laying of further pipelines between Chester and Ellesmere Port.

The water from the three pumping stations at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth is hard, and due to the present supply position the Board have not been able to soften the water at each of the stations as they did pre-war. Partial softening is in operation at Mouldsworth, and the Board hope to resume full softening operations when additional quantities of treated River Dee water are available. The water at each source is sterilised by chloramination at Prenton and Mouldsworth and simply chlorination at Hooton.

The pH reaction from our source of supply continues to remain within the limits on an average of 7 to 7.5 and is non-plumbo solvent. The samples from the various sources are bright in appearance, most frequently neutral in reaction, and free from iron and other metals, with the exception of the supply from Mouldsworth Pumping Station which shows a negligible trace of iron. All three sources produce a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Witnessed and certified analyses were submitted by the West Cheshire Water Board to my department during the year at regular intervals, but no independent analyses of water have been made by this Council of samples provided by the Board.

I should like to take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the valuable work carried out by Dr. Richie and his Staff of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Birkenhead who continue to co-operate to the utmost with my Department on all matters concerning the routine Bacteriological examination of food samples and Food Poisoning enquiries.

During 1953 your Medical Officer of Health made 117 Medical Examinations and Reports in respect of Council employees.

My thanks are due to all my Staff for their continued keen interest in the work of my Department throughout the year. This is the first Report which my new Chief Clerk, Mr. Turner, has helped me to compile, and I would like to say that he has, in the

comparatively short time of his tenure of office, made a vigorous attempt to justify the confidence and trust which has been placed in him.

The sudden death within the past few weeks of your Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Angus Davidson, was indeed untimely, and I am sure that the Committee will share with me keenly the loss to your Health Department of a valuable and highly respected official.

Finally, I wish to thank my Chairman, Alderman R. Williams, and Members of the Committee for the unfailing help and support they have given me throughout the year.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
R.C.P.S. (Edin.), R.F.P.S. (Edin. and Glas.).
Chief Sanitary Inspector: E. V. CRAPPER, F.R.S.I., F.S.I.A., M.I.P.H. and H.
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector: A. DAVIDSON.
Assistant Sanitary Inspectors: T. TOWNSON, E. CAINES, W. FARR, L. J. JONES.
One Van Driver/Drain Tester/Disinfecter.
Two Rodent Operatives.

Clerical Staff.

Chief Clerk: MISS E. M. GLIDEWELL. (Retired 31.3.1954).
MR. W. R. TURNER. (From 1.4.1954).
Four Shorthand Typists. One Telephonist.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (mid-1953)	48,220
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1953)	14,086
Rateable Value (end of 1953)	£397,575
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated 1953-54)... ..	£1,580

Births and Deaths, 1953.

Number of Registered Live Births:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	327	295	622
Illegitimate	14	7	21
Total	341	302	643

Number of Still Births:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	9	8	17
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	10	8	18

Total Number of Births (Live and Still):—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	351	310	661

Total Number of Deaths:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	255	244	499

Deaths from :—

Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tuberculosis (non-pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Motor Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Deaths under 1 year :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	11	9	20
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	12	9	21

Birth Rates and Death Rates, 1953.**Births per 1,000 civilian population :—**

	Bebington	England and Wales.	160 C.B. & Gt. Towns (inc. London).	160 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000).
Stillbirths	0.36	0.35	0.43	0.34
Live Births	12.9	15.5	17.0	15.7

Deaths per 1,000 civilian population :—

All Causes	11.0	11.4	12.2	11.3
Pneumonia	0.21	0.55	0.59	0.52
Whooping Cough.	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.02	0.16	0.15	0.17
Tuberculosis	0.10	0.20	0.24	0.19

	Bebington	England and Wales.	160 C.B. & Gt. Towns (inc. London).	160 Smaller Towns (Pop. 25-50,000)
Deaths per 1,000 live births:—				
Under 1 year ...	32.6	26.8	30.8	24.3
From Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	*1.5	1.1	1.3	0.9
*Represents 1 death, which was associated with Broncho Pneumonia.				

Deaths per 1,000 total births:—

Maternal Mortality:—

	Bebington.	England and Wales.
Sepsis of Pregnancy ...	0.00	0.10
Abortion with toxæmiæ ...	0.00	0.01
Other toxæmias of pregnancy ...	0.00	0.24
Haemorrhage of Pregnancy ...	0.00	0.13
Abortion without sepsis or toxæmia ...	0.00	0.04
Abortion with sepsis ...	0.00	0.06
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0.00	0.18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	0.00	0.76
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The rate of 0.76 maternal mortality in England and Wales represents 525 deaths.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (Bebington).

All infants per 1,000 Total Live Births ...	32.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Total Live Legitimate Births...	32.2

Comparative Rates.

Per 1,000 Population:—

	Bebington 1952.	Bebington 1953.	England and Wales, 1953.
Birth Rate—Live Births ...	13.7	12.9	15.5
Death Rate ...	11.0	11.0	11.4

Per 1,000 Live Births:—

Infant Mortality Rate ...	26.2	32.6	26.8
---------------------------	------	------	------

Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

Maternal Mortality Rate...	0.00	0.00	0.76
----------------------------	------	------	------

Table of Bebington Infantile Mortality.

Rate per 1,000 births

(under 1 year).

1938	...	...	...	40.0	1946	...	...	...	51.0
1939	...	...	...	43.5	1947	...	...	...	51.3
1940	...	...	...	67.2	1948	...	...	...	45.5
1941	...	...	...	62.6	1949	...	...	...	33.9
1942	...	...	...	28.0	1950	...	...	...	26.2
1943	...	...	...	62.8	1951	...	...	...	26.3
1944	...	...	...	42.0	1952	...	...	...	26.2
1945	...	...	...	49.0	1953	...	...	...	32.6
England and Wales : 1953									26.8

The total of deaths of infants under one year during the twelve months of 1953 was 21. Of these, 15 were neo-natal deaths, which were distributed as follows:—

Neo-Natal Deaths (Under 1 month).

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cerebral haemorrhage and prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis; prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity; congenital abnormality	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cerebral haemorrhage and broncho pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Intracranial haemorrhage consequent on birth injuries.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Subdural haemorrhage; birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Neonatal atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
									—
									15
									—

The other 6 deaths were caused as follows:—

Broncho pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho pneumonia and Mongolism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Broncho pneumonia; whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Spina bifida; hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Myocardial failure; congenital heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
									—
									6
									—

Causes of Death.

Based on Registrar-General's Short List of Causes of Death.

All Causes.	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	1	4
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	1	1
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	12	11	23
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	4	16
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	8	8
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	19	23	42
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	3	5
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	42	44	86
18. Coronary Disease, angina	48	34	82
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	10	15
20. Other Heart Disease	32	46	78
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	3	9	12
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	4	6	10
24. Bronchitis	21	4	25
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System... ..	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	7	—	7
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	—	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	3	7
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	15	16	31
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2	7
34. All other Accidents	9	4	13
35. Suicide	2	2	4
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	255	244	499

Tuberculosis.

(a) New Cases and Mortality notified during 1953.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15	7	6	1	4	—	—	—	—
25	8	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	4	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
55	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Total ...	29	20	3	5	5	4	—	—
	49		8		9		—	
	57				9			

(b) Sanatorium Treatment during 1953.

Sanatorium.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Remaining.
Aintree Hospital	3	2	2
Barrowmore Hospital	1	1	—
Bevenden Sanatorium, Kent ...	1	—	1
Market Drayton	10	18	3
Cleaver Hospital	2	2	2
Leasowe Hospital	—	1	—
Mill Lane Hospital, Wallasey... ..	2	1	2
Newsham General Hospital ...	1	1	—
Wrenbury Hall	11	9	2
	—	—	—
	31	35	12
	—	—	—

(c) Total Live Register at December, 1953.

Respiratory Cases	352	(Dec. 1952...354)
Non-Respiratory Cases	65	(Dec. 1952... 64)
	417	418

Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1953.
(a) Total Cases (excluding Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	77	38	
Diphtheria	3	3	{ 1 neg 2 car's
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	
Pneumonia	27	2	
Erysipelas	14	8	
Acute Poliomyelitis	11†	11	1 neg.
Measles	273	43	
Whooping Cough	200x	22	
Meningitis	1	1	
Paratyphoid	2	2	1 neg.
Dysentery	27	17	6 neg.
Food Poisoning	17	—	11 neg.
Malaria	1	1	
Total	655	150	

† Of these 11 cases 2 were from Bebington.

x Of these 200 cases 6 had been immunised according to records.

(b) Ward Distribution.

Disease	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Bebington	New Ferry	Park	Sunlight	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	Poulton (including Clatterbridge Hospital)	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	3	6	2	8	3	4	7	14	5	25	77
Diphtheria	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pneumonia	2	1	2	4	5	1	5	3	2	2	27
Erysipelas	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	8	14
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Measles	11	11	11	28	6	7	46	83	20	50	273
Whooping Cough	7	16	24	53	9	25	13	11	7	35	200
Meningitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	3	1	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	16	27
Food Poisoning	—	8	—	3	—	1	4	—	—	1	17
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	27	48	39	97	23	42	77	113	36	153x	655

x Of this figure 31 were Borough cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Mr. E. V. Crapper, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the following reports on the Sanitary Inspection of this area:—

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of and Nature of Inspections made	Total for 1953	Informals	Statutory	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
Dwellinghouses Inspected ...	1069	345	—	176	—	—
Do. Re-inspected ...	1371	300	78	173	127	5
Offices	8	—	—	—	—	—
Lodging Houses	20	3	1	8	3	1
Overcrowding	393	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds	13	—	—	—	—	—
Courts, Passages	78	56	15	28	28	1
House Drainage	963	94	17	65	29	—
Dustbins	957	525	28	195	330	—
Cesspools	38	2	—	2	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses	22	7	—	7	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	66	11	—	11	—	—
Dry Closets	30	10	—	10	—	—
Keeping of Animals	14	4	—	4	—	—
Slaughterhouses	418	9	—	8	1	—
Butchers' Shops	78	8	—	8	—	—
Grocers' do	173	15	—	15	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	30	4	—	4	—	—
Wet Fish Shops	4	1	—	1	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	26	4	—	4	—	—
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	9	2	—	1	1	—
Cafes, Canteen, Kitchens	100	19	—	19	—	—
Bakehouses and Confectioners	78	10	—	10	—	5
Other Food Premises	78	8	—	4	—	—
Piggeries	10	2	—	2	—	—
Dairies & Milk Retailers	35	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds	4	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Sampling	82	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling	118	—	—	—	—	—
Washing-up Water Sampling	13	—	—	—	—	—
Beer Sampling	27	—	—	—	—	—
Factories, Mechanical Power	96	9	—	9	—	—
Do Without Power	52	7	—	7	—	—
Workplaces... ..	43	10	—	10	—	—
Smoke Observations	53	5	—	5	—	—
Public Schools	7	—	—	—	—	—
Private Schools	3	—	—	—	—	—
Places of Entertainment	17	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	21	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises... ..	25	4	—	2	2	—
Infectious Diseases Visits... ..	259	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning Visits	427	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	369	1	—	—	—	—
Appointments outside Office	206	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts	1393	31	—	9	22	—
Rodent Control	624	1	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	118	—	—	—	—	—
Soil Sampling	60	—	—	—	—	—
Other Sampling and Swabbing	7	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10105	1507	139	797	543	12

Complaints.

During the year 1,800 complaints were received. These were all investigated at the earliest moment and appropriate action taken to deal with matters where the complaints were justified and there was power to effect a remedy.

HOUSING.

Inspections.

During the year a commencement was made on an inspection of houses to determine their fitness for human habitation in anticipation of slum clearance activities. The survey was in progress at the end of the year when some 90 houses had been inspected and filed under headings of (1) those requiring demolition under clearance area orders, (2) those requiring demolition as unfit for habitation (individual unfit houses), (3) those requiring reconditioning and repair to make them reasonably fit for human habitation. It is only when such houses are dealt with that modernisation of certain older houses can be considered—houses which may be brought up to modern standards by the addition of baths and hot water. A point worthy of note is the greater attention to property improvements by tenants. Many up-to-date grates have been fixed, and in one case the tenant paid for this work by using the cash she had saved up for her holidays.

At the moment there are some 952 houses in the area without baths and 1,039 without a piped hot water supply, a high percentage having regard to the number of modern houses in the area. There are no houses without an internal supply of water or a sink.

During the year 17 houses were represented to the Health Committee for a proposed clearance area. In the 17 houses there was a population of 54 adults and 12 children. Based on statutory overcrowding there were 5 of the 17 houses over-crowded. Action in these cases was postponed pending the survey of the district already referred to and the introduction of further housing legislation.

More use is being made of the department in advising owners and contractors in remedying of dampness and other housing defects.

Dry rot in timber continues to show its presence to an abnormal extent. The destructive fungus, *Merulius Lacrymans*, attacks new and old timber alike and has made alarming progress throughout the country, and this district is no exception to the rule. The use of unseasoned timber, bad design and imperfect ventilation assists the development of the fungus, which can spread over inert substances such as brickwork in search of nourishment, which it obtains on wood substances. I have often wondered to what extent the strands

of fungus may be spread by snails, for frequently the existence of the former has increased with the presence of the latter.

Verminous Premises.

During the year 369 visits were made in relation to verminous premises, but this figure includes work of a preventative nature such as the examination of furniture and belongings of those about to be re-housed. 73 rooms were treated for vermin, 14 beds disinfected and 60 other articles disinfected.

The bed-bug population is still on the decline due to a higher general standard of cleanliness and the persisted efforts of this department over the last few years.

Our advice and assistance is frequently sought in regard to the ravages of boring beetles such as the death-watch beetle, the lyctus beetle and the common furniture beetle. These timber-destroying beetles are a menace and destructive pests, the latter frequently spreading throughout the timbers of houses and infesting the occupiers' furniture. In nature these insects serve a useful purpose in destroying dead wood, but unfortunately, the timber we use in our houses and for our furniture is "dead" wood, and having regard to the life cycles of the insects, we receive the majority of complaints and requests for advice when the adult beetles emerge from April onwards until the end of summer. My advice was sought by a lady who had received a tom-tom from Africa. Beetles were seen coming from it. They were identified as club-horn beetles; advice was given in regard to disinfection.

Overcrowding.

There were 81 cases of overcrowding known to the Department at the end of the year, involving 85 families and 512 persons. This is exactly the same figure as at the end of the previous year, for although 5 overcrowded families were re-housed, an equal number came to light as a result of visits to premises.

In 68 cases overcrowding was between $\frac{1}{2}$ a unit and $2\frac{1}{2}$ units.

„ 13 „ „ „ „ 3 units and $5\frac{1}{2}$ units.

„ 2 „ „ „ „ not numerical, but by the unavoidable mixing of sexes.

„ 4 „ „ „ also involved the presence of tuberculosis in the families concerned.

The Housing Manager and the Chief Sanitary Inspector meet at intervals and check the register of overcrowded families where application has been made for re-housing.

11 of the 81 cases of overcrowding, or 13.57 per cent. were living on the Town Lane Estate in houses owned by the Birkenhead Corporation. Of these 11 cases:—

1 was	overcrowded by	$\frac{1}{2}$	a unit.
2 were	„	„	1 unit.
1 was	„	„	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „
1 was	„	„	2 „
2 were	„	„	3 „ (one a T.B. case).
1 was	„	„	4 „
1 was	„	„	$4\frac{1}{2}$ „
2 were	„	„	$5\frac{1}{2}$ „

Special Visits.

Dual visits were made with the Medical Officer of Health and N.S.P.C.C. Inspector in regard to problem families. One man died at home under insanitary conditions, and the premises were cleansed by his relatives. In one case, following the removal of an elderly woman to hospital, the premises were cleansed and a quantity of refuse removed at the occupier's expense. Owing to the extraordinary amount of refuse accumulated two workmen were employed for ten days removing the refuse and two women employed for two weeks cleaning the premises. As there was a quantity of valuables in the house one Sanitary Inspector supervised the work. Owing to the extent of flea-infestation disinfection was carried out daily for the first few days as the refuse was being removed, and again when the floors became visible.

Lodging Houses.

These are visited as often as possible. In one instance where five families lived, three additional sanitary conveniences and three food stores were provided following a Court Order. Various repairs were also carried out.

There are still a few of these lodging houses where families live on top stories without means of escape in case of fire, and in some cases these families include children of young ages.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Dustbins.

At the end of the year—

563 bins had been supplied by the Corporation under the Council's Scheme.

126 bins had been supplied by owners after notice.

33 bins had been supplied by occupiers after notice.

Public and Private Schools.

These are visited at regular intervals. Complaints are still received about the use of temporary schools used during the evening for other purposes, particularly the Methodist School in Allport Lane. The only remedy is the building of new school premises.

Tips.

Constant attention is paid to the tipping of household and other refuse and every effort made to ensure that controlled tipping is practised.

Mortuary.

The Council's two mortuaries are cleaned by workmen of the health department. They are maintained in a condition fit for immediate use.

35 bodies were received into the New Ferry mortuary last year.

Air Pollution.

(a) Smoke Abatement.

The industrial area of the district necessitates constant attention in an effort to reduce the smoke nuisance to a minimum. Visits to factories take up more time than most types of visit, and when excessive smoke is observed it is necessary to make a timed observation and to visit the factory. Having reached the Engineer or the Works Manager, visited the boiler house with him, discussed the remedy and returned to his office, it is frequently found that there is little time for other work before returning to the office. The law requires that when an authorised officer becomes aware of a smoke nuisance he must confirm it in writing to the occupiers within 24 hours. The defence, in the case of smoke other than black smoke, that the defendant has used the best practicable means for preventing the nuisance adds to the difficulties in dealing with this type of nuisance.

53 observations of chimneys were made during the year and five informal notices served. The provision of a steam accumulator to reduce peak demands; provision of orifice plates to reduce peak demands; provision of cyclone grit arrestors; and complete overhaul of boiler plant were amongst the remedies effected during the year.

Widespread complaints were received in the early part of the year regarding deposit of dust and grit over portions of the Bromborough, New Ferry and Bebington areas. This was traced and your

Chief Sanitary Inspector with a District Sanitary Inspector spent several hours in the factory concerned where every co-operation was given by the Divisional Secretary and the Station Superintendent. There has been no recurrence of this nuisance.

(b) Offensive Odours.

Repeated complaints were made in regard to a variety of smells experienced in every part of the district. In regard to nuisance from a factory in North Wales certain work has been carried out and its efficiency now awaiting final confirmation.

So many descriptions of smells were reported, and the existence of so many factories grouped together both inside and outside the district has made the task, not only of your officials but of officials in the neighbouring districts, more difficult. Generally speaking, complaints have been most numerous in the Eastham and Bromborough areas when the wind has been in an easterly direction, and as they occur late in the evening, and sometimes in the early hours of the morning, it has caused many complainants to believe that the responsible persons have deliberately created this nuisance. Actually, the occurrence of the nuisance during late evening is probably due to temperature inversion. Many evening visits have been made to confirm complaints received, and reference made to the Inspector of Alkali re works in view of the fact that the nuisance is most likely to emanate from factories registered under the said Acts.

The difficulties of identification make one wonder whether the use of a helicopter by a qualified chemist would assist our investigation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

259 enquiries and revisits were made in regard to infectious disease notifications. The increased practice of house isolation has created more work for the inspectorial staff where at times, to ensure satisfactory isolation, daily visits have had to be made.

During the year—

- 68 Rooms were disinfected.
- 57 Beds were disinfected.
- 407 Other articles were disinfected.
- 40 Library books were disinfected.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of	
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	54	41	5
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	64	96	9
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	11	2
Total	125	148	16

2.—Cases in which Defects were found :—

Particulars (1)	Number of Cases in which defects were found		
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (4)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	10	10	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	3	3	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	4	4	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) Unsuitable or Defective	9	9	1
Total	26	26	1

Part VIII of the Act :—

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110
	Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc. Cleaning & Washing)	10

FOOD INSPECTION.

The food supply is safeguarded, as far as possible, by Inspection of Premises and Inspection of Food; Sampling of Food and Washing-up water and Swabbing of Utensils; supervision of methods of food production, handling, etc.

In the district there are :

95	Grocers
32	Milk Retailers
40	Butchers
18	Bakehouses
37	Confectioners
46	Greengrocers and Fruiterers
26	Wet Fish Retailers
18	Fried „ „
117	Ice Cream Premises.
48	Licensed Premises (including Clubs)
103	Cafes, Kitchens and Canteens
72	Miscellaneous Businesses (Sweets, Off Licences, etc.).

652

It has not been possible for Mr. E. Caines, who is employed whole time on food inspection, to inspect all these premises during the year. Much of his time is still taken up with food poisoning enquiries and revisits. It is hoped that with the end of meat rationing we will have more of Mr. Townson's services. At present Mr. Townson is employed whole-time at the slaughterhouse in Hr. Bebington.

A greater public interest is being taken in food hygiene, and following a B.B.C. Broadcast, a resident made a complaint regarding the habits of a butcher in using unsatisfactory wrapping. A visit was paid to the Shop concerned when the assistant was noticed licking her finger before handling the wrapping. A verbal warning was given. Your Chief Inspector lectured to the staff at one food factory, and gave talks in the evening to various organisations.

I believe we have all the legislation necessary to enforce the cleanly production and sale of food. All that is required is sufficient qualified staff to make routine and check visits.

I feel that it should be possible to inspect every food premises at least three times a year, apart from occasional visits.

One of the practical problems during the year has been the covering of food to protect it against dust, flies, filth, etc. The temptation to exhibit fruit and vegetables outside shop windows still exists with some retailers.

The following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act:

18 Fried Fish Shops.	Inspections made.....	26
35 Butchers	„ „	78
105 Ice Cream Retailers	„ „	6
12 Ice Cream Manufacturers	„ „	24
6 Cooked Meats	„ „	6
*33 Milk Retailers.		—
		140
209		—

*For the first time there are no registered dairies in the District of Bebington; all milk retailers receiving their supplies in sealed bottles.

Sampling.

Milk Sampling.

This table shows the number and results of samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination, and for the efficiency of pasteurisation.

Type of Milk.	Bacteriologists Report				F'ld.	No. Std.
	Ministry of Health Std.					
	Taken.	Rec'd.	Passed.			
Ungraded	1	1	—	—	1	—
Accredited	3	3	1	2	—	—
T.T. and T.T. (Farm Bottled)	12	12	11	1	—	—
Pasteurised	48	48	47	1*	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised) ...	22	22	20	2*	—	—
Sterilised	4	4	4	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	90	90	83	6	1	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Tests reported void due to Lab. Temp. exceeding 65 degrees F.

14 samples of milk were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and all were negative.

The following table shows the result of milk sampling so far as the presence of T.B. is concerned over the past 22 years.

	No.	T.B.	%T.B.
Raw ungraded	1246	64	5.05%
Accredited	1632	109	6.67%
T.T.	98	—	—
T.T. (Färm Bottled)	104	—	—
Pasteurised	41	—	—

Pasteurised milk is not now sampled for the presence of T.B., but milk sold as pasteurised is continually checked to satisfy the tests for efficient pasteurisation.

Ice-Cream.

72 samples of Ice-Cream were taken during the year.

71 passed the Provisional Grade 1.

1 failed, being placed in Grade 3.

Beer Samples.

64 samples of Beer were taken during the year from Public Houses and Licensed Clubs. All the 30 samples of bitter beer passed the tests for cleanliness, but of the 34 samples of mild beer 2 contained non-Faecal B Coli.

Washing-up Water.

18 samples of washing-up water were taken from Canteen Kitchens. All were considered satisfactory except 6 samples taken from sinks after use. Repeat samples passed the necessary tests.

12 Swabs were taken from washing-up sinks; faecal B Coli being isolated from 11 swabs and non-faecal B Coli being isolated from 1 swab. These results indicate the absolute necessity for thorough and frequent cleansing of sinks

Water and Swabs at Slaughter House.

6 samples of swab water used for cattle and pigs were found to be unsatisfactory, containing faecal B Coli and excessive "count."

7 swabs taken from hot water storage tanks were all unsatisfactory.

The Ministry of Food were contacted regarding these bad results and requested to renew a pitted concrete water container. This was removed and replaced with a smaller timber tank.

Food Poisoning.

The following figures relate to specimens and samples taken in connection with suspected food poisoning:—

221 faeces	196 no pathogenic organisms isolated.
	13 B Dysentery Sonne.
	12 Salmonella Typhimurium.
2 urine	No pathogenic organisms isolated.
31 suspected food	„ „ „ „
1 vomit	„ „ „ „

1 blood	Widal Reaction Negative.
1 tap water	Satisfactory.
1 fly	No pathogenic organisms.
8 mice	, " "
1 Pasteurised Milk,,	, " "

5 Throat Swabs were taken but in all cases proved negative to Diphtheria.

In addition to samples taken in connection with suspected food poisoning, the following were dealt with :

13 various foods.	2 failed tests.
1 Milk Bottle.	Failed test.
2 pieces of dirt from mixing vat in bakehouse.	" "

Swimming Bath Water.

12 samples of swimming bath water were taken ; 8 from New Ferry and 4 from Port Sunlight Baths. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Pathogenesis.

52 soil samples were taken from all parts of the Borough in connection with the Cancer Research being carried out by the Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.

Meat Inspection.

The following figures relate to meat inspection at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse during the year.

A—whole carcasses condemned.

B—carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.

C—percentage of number affected with (a) T.B. ; (b) diseases other than T.B.

	Cattle excluding			Sheep and		
	Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	3442	2492	1352	24061	4461	35808
Ante - mortem inspection including supervision of humane slaughter	3442	2492	1352	24061	4461	35808
Notice of Slaughter rec'd.	3442	2492	1352	24061	4461	35808
Casualties	8	19	8	8	824	867
Post-mortem inspection ...	3442	2492	1352	24061	4461	35808
Tuberculosis.						
A	13	29	3	10	12	67
B	396	783	3	91	227	1500
C (a)	11.50%	31.04%	0.22%	0.37%	5.08%	4.18%
All Diseases except T.B.						
A	1	3	26	37	30	97
B	822	1000	3	1921	335	4081
C (a)	23.88%	40.12%	1.92%	7.98%	7.50%	11.39%

Collection of Glands.

During the year the following number of healthy glands were collected at the slaughter house for therapeutical purposes :—

Cattle:	Pituitary glands	...	...	...	...	...	1,475
	Pancreas	...	...	...	...	...	5,345
	Adrenals	...	...	...	...	...	5,483
Calves:	Pancreas	...	...	...	...	...	1,162
Sheep:	„	...	...	...	...	...	3,921
Pigs:	Adrenals	...	...	...	...	...	2,292

Condemned Food.

The following food was found to be unfit for human consumption by sanitary inspectors, either during their routine visits or following requests from retailers :

492 tins Meat.	1 jar Salad Cream.
5276 tins Fruit and Vegetables.	1 bottle Sauce.
217 tins Fish.	18 lbs. Rice.
520 Milk.	1 box Raisins.
1 tin Spaghetti.	1 box Sultanas.
20 tins Baked Beans.	19 Table Jellies.
5 tins Fruit Juice.	11 tins Morfat Shipping Cream.
128 tins Soup.	565 pkts. "Royal" Brand Dessert.
16 tins Conserve.	1 box Angelica.
6 pkts. S.R. Flour.	1 pkt. Rice Krispies.
2 jars Sunny Spread.	1 loaf Bread.
1 tin Coffee.	38 lbs. Dried Peas.
80 lbs. Dried Milk Powder.	
99 boxes Cheese.	
55½ lbs. Leg and Shoulder of Lamb.	
20 lbs. Sausage Meat.	
20 lbs. Cooked Legs and Shoulder English Lamb.	
1 Ox Liver.	
11½ lbs. Cooked Loin of English Lamb.	
7½ lbs. Imported Beef.	

As usual a special check was made on Xmas stock in the week prior to Xmas during which a large quantity of poultry and other Xmas food was inspected.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Condemned food (except meat) is disposed of by either burning or incorporating into the Tip worked by the Council.

Meat has been disposed of through Ministry of Food channels, but with de-control the matter will become more of a problem, and

sānitary inspectors will have to be "on their toes" not only in regard to condemned meat leaving their districts, but also so far as the importation of such meat into their area from elsewhere is concerned.

PET ANIMALS ACT.

Four premises were licensed for the sale of pet animals. These are regularly inspected and no special problems have been met with.

Sale of Animal Food.

Raw animal food is sold from several shops, a matter which has given the Chief Sanitary Inspector great concern in view of the fact that such meat may be infected and dangerous to public health. It is sometimes argued that tuberculous and other infected raw meat will not be consumed by human beings, but as such meat has to be handled, there is grave danger of infecting hands; clothes, knives, etc., with subsequent infection to humans. It is not in the public health interest, either, that animals should consume infected meat.

The Local Authority now have the opportunity of making by-laws to enforce the sterilisation of animal feeding meat, and this Council will certainly do so when neighbouring areas are in a position to make such byelaws. Until adjacent areas can act together, the enforcement of a necessary safeguard by one Authority would drive trade to a neighbouring Authority with no protection to public health and to the detriment of the local traders.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector Food and Drugs Act, Cheshire County Council, I am provided with the list of samples taken during 1953. With the exception of three milk samples, all were certified as of genuine quality. One of the unsatisfactory milk samples was deficient in non-fatty solids, one was deficient in fat and one had extraneous water in it.

Article.	Number obtained.
Almonds, Ground	2 samples.
Banana Curd	1 ,,
Boracic Ointment	1 ,,
Baked Beans	1 ,,
Cream	1 ,,
Codeine Tablets	1 ,,
Calamine Lotion	1 ,,
Camphorated Oil	1 ,,
Coffee	4 ,,

Article.	Number obtained.
Custard Powder	1 ,,
Dessicated Coconut	3 ,,
Eucalyptus Oil	1 ,,
Energen Rolls	1 ,,
Friars Balsam	1 ,,
Glycerine	1 ,,
Glycerine of Thymol	1 ,,
Ginger, Ground	1 ,,
Honey	1 ,,
Jam	4 ,,
Lemon Cheese	2 ,,
Lemonade Powder	1 ,,
Lemon Juice	1 ,,
Milks	82 ,,
Milk, Condensed	5 ,,
Meat Paste	5 ,,
Olive Oil	1 ,,
Pepper	4 ,,
Parrishs Food	1 ,,
Suet	3 ,,
Synthetic Cream	1 ,,
Sauce	1 ,,
Sugar	1 ,,
Sausage, Pork Chipolata	1 ,,
Tea	1 ,,
Vinegar, Malt	3 ,,
Whisky	2 ,,

SHOPS ACT 1950.

YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1938.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is Chief Inspector under the above mentioned Acts, reports as follows:—

The administration of the Shops Acts is divided under the following headings:—

Hours of Employment of Young Persons.

Facilities for meals.

Provision of seats for females.

Hours of closing, weekly, half holidays, etc.

Sunday trading, etc.

Provision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities.
light, ventilation and temperature.

During the year the following notices were served :

Failure to provide sufficient ventilation	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ „	means of maintaining a	suitable temperature	.	9	
„ „ „ „	washing facilities	...	2		
„ „ „ „	sanitary conveniences.		5		
„ „ „ „	lighting	...	...	2
„ „ maintain „	ventilation	...	...	2
„ „ „ „	temperature	...	...	8
„ „ „ „	washing facilities	...	3		
„ „ „ „	and suitable sanitary	conveniences	15

Warnings were given in regard to the following offences :—

Assistants Half Holiday Notice not exhibited	...	...	24
Seats for females not provided	...	...	2
Mixed business notices not provided	...	...	26
Shops open after closing orders for serving customers			7
Shops open on Sunday contrary to Sunday Trading Conditions	...	...	31
Hours of Employment of Young Persons not recorded			2
Notices re use of seats not exhibited	...	...	16

RODENT CONTROL.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out during 1953 :—

	Reservoir.	Major Primary.	Minor Secondary.
Inspections.			
By Sanitary Inspectors	3	40	294
„ Rodent Operatives	—	6	102
Revisits.			
By Sanitary Inspectors	3	23	179
„ Rodent Operatives	—	47	4047
Supervisory visits by S.I.'s...	4	36	336
	—	—	—
	10	152	4958
	—	—	—

	Rats.	Mice.
No. of complaints received	118	42
" " " investigated	124	50
" " premises inspected	315	79
" " infestations (1) notified by occupier	85	49
" " " (2) otherwise discovered	73	15
" " " treated	310	123
Type of Visit made :—		
Dwellinghouses		1,644
L.A. Property (1) Tips and non-agricultural land		194
(2) Sewage Works		274
(3) Sewers		32
(4) Other buildings		268
Business Premises (1) Factories and Workplaces		269
(2) Shops		540
(3) Places of Entertainment		26
(4) Licensed Premises		56
(5) Cafes and Canteens		28
(6) Non-agricultural land		48
Agricultural Property (1) Market Gardens and Farms.		157
(2) Piggeries		96
(3) Agricultural land		51
Other Authority Properties (1) Schools		355
(2) Hospitals and Clinics..		164
		<hr/> 4,202 <hr/>
No. of estimates provided		102
" " contracts signed		93
Estimated No. of rats found during 1953		8,751
" " of rats killed " " 		7,827
93 Contracts for £140 os. 6d.		

Sewer Treatment.

Sewer treatment has been carried out in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture requirements.

No. of Manholes Test baited	208
No " Takes "	187
Complete " Takes "	19
Bait Washed Away	2
Total cost	£55 6 5
Cost per manhole baited	£0 5 4
Cost per Infested Manhole... ..	£2 18 2

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Bebington Health Division.

Annual Report
for 1953

of the

Bebington Divisional
Medical Officer of Health

(D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Representing the Bebington Municipal Borough.

R. WILLIAMS, Esq., Chairman.
Mrs. E. B. WILLIAMS, Deputy Chairman.
R. H. GILL, Esq.
E. A. HEBRON, Esq.
B. R. JONES, Esq.
H. P. LONG, Esq.
Mrs. E. MORGAN.
M. POLLITT, Esq.
Mrs. S. A. PRICE.
H. SMITH, Esq.
R. SNAPE, Esq., M.C.
W. WEDGEWOOD, Esq.

Representing the Cheshire County Council.

G. BEARDSWORTH, Esq., J.P. (from 1st December, 1953).
E. SARSON, Esq., J.P. (Retired 30th August, 1953).
Miss B. E. WILSON, J.P.

Ex Officio Members

G. A. ASTBURY, Esq.
A. WHITLEY, Esq.

Representative Members and Nominating Bodies.

Miss J. E. ARMSTRONG
(Bebington and New Ferry District Nursing Association).
Miss A. L. BULLEY
(Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee).
Dr. B. CARRUTHERS
(Local Medical Committee for County Palatine of Chester).
A. F. DRAKE, Esq., B.D.S.
(National Health Service Local Dental Committee).
Mrs. A. M. FITZPATRICK
(Higher Bebington District Nursing Association).
A. J. RUSHTON, Esq.
(Nursery School Society).
Mrs. E. M. SHARP
(Bromborough and Eastham District Nursing Association).
T. H. WILLIAMS, Esq.
(Divisional Education Executive).

BEBINGTON HEALTH DIVISION STAFF.

Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer:

DOUGLAS OVENSTONE MACDONALD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerk to the Bebington Divisional Health Committee:

GERALD CHAPPELL, O.B.E., LL.B.

Assistant County Medical Officers:

Welfare Clinics, School Clinics and Day Nurseries:

JESSIE MILLER TOUGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ALTA STOUT, M.B., Ch.B.

Consultant Tuberculosis Physician:

DAVID WESTON TOUGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clerical.

Chief Clerk: Miss E. M. GLIDEWELL; Two shorthand typists.

Maternity and Child Welfare, T.B. After-Care, etc.

Senior Health Visitor: Mrs. V. R. BLADES. *Health Visitors:* Mrs. SYMES, Miss NICHOLSON, Miss ABRAHAM, Miss DEAVALL, Miss WRIGHT, Miss SHEPHERD, Mrs. BUSHELL (School Nurse). Two clinic clerks. Two permanent Home Helps, fourteen temporary Home Helps.

Day Nurseries.

Matrons: Mrs. F. G. DAVIES, S.R.N. Mrs. L. ATKINSON, S.R.N.

Two deputy Matrons. Certified Warden: Miss M. PICKSTOCK.

Four Nursery Nurses; Four Nursery Assistants; Four Students; Two Cooks; Five Domestic.

Midwives.

Nurse WRIGHT, Nurse BOOTHROYD, Nurse UYTENDHAL, Relief Nurse GREEN.

District Nurses.

Bebington and New Ferry: Miss CULLUM.

Higher Bebington: Miss DAVIES.

Bromborough: Miss BAUGHAN.

Eastham: Mrs. THOMPSON.

Occupation Centre.

Supervisor: Mrs. F. A. WILLIAMS. Two Assistants.

Ambulance Depot.

Ambulance Supervisor: E. JONES. *Senior Driver:* J. BAILEY.

Nine drivers and nine attendants.

Clinic Specialists.

- Gynaecologist*: M. M. DATNOW, M.D., F.R.C.S.
Orthopaedic Surgeon: E. M. KUPFER, M.B., F.R.C.S.
Aural Surgeon: G. A. MOULDIN, M.B., Ch.B.
Ophthalmic Surgeon: P. J. DEVLIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.
Physiotherapist: Miss MUNRO, M.C.S.P.
Speech Therapist: Miss K. JONES, L.C.S.T.

Vaccination and Immunisation Clinics.

- H. L. GARSON, O.B.E., M.C., M.B., Ch. B.
 E. L. HAMM, M.B., Ch.B.
 L. HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.
 J. MCPHEAT, M.B., Ch.B.
 MARY PENRICE, M.B., Ch.B.
 D. ROBERTS, M.B., Ch.B.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bebington Divisional Health Committee.

March, 1954.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I present to the Committee my fifth annual report since the date of operation in 1948 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

An interesting comparison may be made with my first report issued for 1949 when the new organisation for the Bebington Health Division may be said to have been fully established in that,

- (1) The Ambulance Service with one less vehicle than in 1949 is now giving a 50 per cent. increased service in journeys made, patients carried, and in mileage.
- (2) Deaths from tuberculosis for 1953 show 8 cases as against 25 in 1949. The Committee are well aware that treatment of patients and investigation of contacts have been speeded up in addition to which our Health Visiting Staff now have the duty of paying regular supervisory visits to the patients.
- (3) The working hours of Home Helps have increased since 1949 by 50 per cent. though there is a considerable decrease in the total number of cases using the service. The fall-off in the number of maternity cases using the service is offset by the increased number of births taking place in hospital.

- (4) The Home Nursing Service continues to operate vigorously and since 1949 the number of sick people visited has risen from 647 to 841.

The School dental clinic set up at " Plymyard " is now firmly established under the able control of Mr. Littleton and his assistants, and my comments on the Occupation Centre for mentally afflicted children may be found on page 41 of this report.

I must convey my sincere thanks to the Chairman of my Committee and Sub-Committees, Alderman R. Williams and Councillor Mrs. E. Williams, for their continued interest and collaboration, and for their at all times ready approach in the many and varied questions which arise in the work of the Department.

I must also sincerely thank members of my Divisional Staff, who, with the many years' experience they have now had, I feel possess a very high degree of efficiency and understanding of the work. I should like particularly to mention the name of Mrs. Blades, our Senior Health Visitor, who has been so many years with this authority, and who has always given of her very best to the work.

I should also like to mention Miss Glidewell, my Chief Clerk. not only because this is the last report she will be compiling with me, but also because of the thirteen years we have been associated with both the Public Health work and Divisional work in the Borough, and it is with extreme regret that, due to retirement age, our association is to be severed. I would like to wish her many years of well-earned happy retirement.

To my medical colleagues and to the senior officials of the County Council I tender my thanks, and to Dr. Arnold Brown, Dr. Gretton-Watson, and Mr. O'Connor, their Chief Clerk, I express my appreciation for their courteous availability at all times in affording me the wider range of advice which as County officials they are in a position to give.

Finally, my thanks are also due to Mr. G. Chappell, and his assistant, Mr. Kelly, with whom I am so frequently in touch in matters of administration.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. O. MACDONALD.

Divisional Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1953.

For convenience of lay-out I deal with the various duties assigned to the Committee by Sections 22 to 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, by separate headings, namely :—

- Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- Section 23—Midwifery Service.
- Section 24—Health Visiting Service.
- Section 25—Home Nursing Service.
- Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation Service.
- Section 27—Ambulance Service.
- Section 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care (T.B., Sick and Aged, Mental).
- Section 29—Domestic Help Service.

Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

The work under this Section of the Act is concerned with the Welfare Clinics, Specialists' Clinics, and the Day Nurseries, their maintenance and equipment, feeding, staffing arrangements and general welfare. Particular care is paid to the requirements of working mothers regarding the disposition of their children in the Nurseries in order that the industrial needs of the respective districts may be served, and having regard to that factor it was found possible to close the Nursery at New Ferry in April by transferring the necessitous cases to the Bromborough Nursery.

Infant Welfare clinics, ante-natal and post-natal mothers' clinics, together with the other specialist clinics for young children continued vigorously throughout the year.

Statistics for 1953 under this Section are submitted as follows, omitting the figure in the early part of the year for the New Ferry Nursery :—

A. DAY NURSERIES :

Attendances for 1953, Bromborough Day Nursery having 30 places for children 0—5 years.

	0—2	2—5	Total
Jan.	84	445	529
Feb.	72	403	475
Mar.	73	434	507
Apr.	72	395	467
May	50	367	417
June	120	364	484

July	..... 125	349	474
*Aug.	..... 53	159	212
Sept.	..... 126	372	498
Oct.	..... 82	408	490
Nov.	..... 99	414	513
Dec.	..... 76	398	474
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,032	4,508	5,540
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Average daily attendance: (0—2)—4.0 (2—5)—17.3; Total 21.3.

* The Nursery was open for 11 days only in August.

	Sessions.	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
B. MOTHERS' CLINICS:			
Ante-natal	... .. 98	198	1261
Post-natal	... .. combined	72	72
C. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS:			
(1) Infant Welfare.			
To 1 year	... .. 273	443	7613
1—5 years	... .. combined	32	1647
(2,407 children seen by Doctor).			
Special Toddlers' Clinics	22	131	199
(2) Specialist Clinics:			
Orthopaedic: Surgeon	23	65	268
Physiotherapist	53	52	372
Ophthalmic:	12	31	162
(Referred for spectacles)	...27)		
(Referred for treatment)	... 4)		
(For further observation)	...130)		
Ear, Nose and Throat:	6	13	39
(Referred to hospital)	..... 6)		
(Referred to own doctor)	... 1)		
(Discharged)	..... 4)		
Sun-ray: (0—5 Group)	} 55	67	634
(5—14 Group)		80	913
Speech Therapy:			
Bebington	... .. 158	33	732
Plymyard, Eastham	... .. 20	3	130
(ceased 20.5.53).			

D. FOODS PURCHASED: £1476. FOODS SOLD: £1563.

Section 23—Midwifery Service.

The number of midwives serving the Division during 1953 was three, and including births notified from hospital and nursing homes, a total of 670 births was notified during 1953—males 344, females 326. The births took place as follows:—

Clatterbridge Hospital	271
Heathfield Maternity Home	189
Private Nursing Homes	—
At home (attended by District Midwives)... ..	127
Outside the Borough	83
	670

Of the 127 mothers whose confinements took place in their homes in 1953, 17 were attended by Home Helps provided by the Department under Section 29, while 9 others were attended by Home Helps before or after confinement in hospital.

Section 24—Health Visiting.

This work is carried out by a Senior Health Visitor, six assistant Health Visitors and one school nurse. During the year 1953, 19,157 home visits were made by the Health Visitors, covering infant welfare, t.b. after-care, general sickness after-care, and care of the aged. In addition, my Department is assisting in the cancer death research being carried on in North Wales, West Cheshire, and South West Lancashire, and I wish to place on record my appreciation of the Health Visitors' investigations, which necessitate evening visits.

Section 25—Home Nursing.

The four district nurses continued at the request of general practitioners to serve people in the Division needing home nursing, and the relevant statistics for the year are shown in conjunction with the 1952 figures, which are given in brackets:—

New Cases in 1953.	Visits paid in 1953.
841 (749)	19,679 (24,494)
Referred to hospital	94 (69)
Deaths	109 (113)

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation Service.

During the Autumn of 1953 the customary four-months' suspension of this service took place, owing to the period being one in which poliomyelitis is most likely to occur.

Statistics are as follows:—

Vaccination.					
Under 5 years.		5—14 years.		Total.	
267	...	133	...	400	
Diphtheria Immunisation (Completed).					
Under 5 years		5—14 years		Total	Reinforcing doses
432	...	38	...	470	65
Whooping Cough Immunisation (Completed).					
Under 5 years		5—14 years		Total	
192	...	4	...	196	
Total number of Clinics held... .. 70					

The Committee will be interested in the following figures of Bebington cases for these three diseases, viz. :—

	Smallpox	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough
1952	Nil	Nil	113 (6 immunised)
1953	Nil	1 (?) Carrier	179 (6 immunised)

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

The Bebington Ambulance Service comprised the use of five ambulances and one sitting-case car, with a personnel of twenty, namely, Supervisor, ten drivers, nine attendants, plus one temporary attendant for holiday relief work and the additional personnel provided under contract by Messrs. Lever Bros., in respect of the ambulance stationed at Port Sunlight.

The following is the record of work carried out in 1953 :—

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	No. of vehicles	Total No. of Journeys	Total Patients carried	No. of Accidents and Emerg. calls incl. in Col. 3	Total mileage
Directly Provided Service	Ambs. 5	7,928	16,307	897	63,679
	Car 1	1,188	2,199	9	18,082
Totals (1953) ...	6	9,116	18,506	906	81,741
Totals (1952) ...	6	10,052	16,632	910	91,691

In the above figure (906) shown in Col. 4, there were included 115 Road accidents, 38 Works accidents, and 68 Home accidents

In addition to the transport of members of the public from home to Hospital and home again, as already shown, the Bebington Ambulance Service during 1953 carried out at Clatterbridge Hospital internal transfer work from ward to ward amounting to approximately 40 weeks of the combined working hours of a driver and an attendant. The value of this work may be reckoned at £300, and the service is provided free to the Hospital in lieu of rent.

As regards long distance journeys, during the year 34 patients were transferred by ambulance to places outside the County, i.e., Seahouses (Northumberland), Barrow, Ilkley, Bangor, Oswestry, Garstang, and Market Drayton. Arrangements were made for seven other patients to travel by ambulance, train and ambulance to Twickenham (Middlesex), Ashford (Middlesex), Ilkley, Lytham, London, Droitwich, and Bromsgrove. In this latter group railway carriages were reserved for the patients and their attendants travelling to London.

Section 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

The organisation set up for the purpose of handling this section of the work has dealt mainly with T.B. After-Care in addition to the Care of the Sick and Aged. As regards mental cases, the adults are under the direct charge of the Authorised Officer for Mental After-Care, but for certain ineducable children the treatment was continued at the Occupation Centre opened in New Ferry in 1952.

Tuberculosis After-Care. The Health Visitors, in their new duty as t.b. visitors under the Act, have now overtaken the visiting of the 417 cases on my register. It is a cause for satisfaction that all cases are now being supervised by my Department, and it is hoped that in future none will be "lost sight of" by untraced removal. Beds, bedding and medical equipment and comforts were provided where necessary.

The following statistics give the register and the relevant figures for Bebington at the end of 1953, and show a death rate of 50 per cent. less and a notification rate of 12 per cent. less than for the year 1952:—

Bebington Total Register :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	190	162	352
Non-pulmonary	25	40	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	215	202	417
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

1953 Notications :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	29	20	49
Non-pulmonary	3	5	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32	25	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Removals from Register :—

Deaths : Pulmonary	9	} 9
Non-pulmonary	—	
Pronounced cured		12
Left district		19
Lost sight of		17
Colonised at Wrenbury		1
		<hr/>
		58
		<hr/>

T.B. contacts referred for examination	168
T.B. contacts examined during 1953	209
Chalets in use	17
Visits paid by Health Visitors	1,054

T.B. cases under treatment per 1,000 population :—

1953 8.7 (1952 ... 8.8)

New T.B. cases per 1,000 population :—

1953 1.1 (1952 ... 1.4)

T.B. deaths per 1,000 population :—

1953 0.18 (1952 ... 0.33)

Sick and Aged After-Care. The welfare of this group of residents has been assiduously cared for. One hundred and seven cases were referred to me from various sources and 354 visits were made by Health Visitors; 53 items of Home Nursing equipment were loaned during the year and Home Helps were provided in 46 cases.

During the year my Department was instrumental in obtaining the admission of 11 aged people into County or other Homes (3 under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act) and also the admission of 2 M.D. patients to Homes. Two children and one adult were assisted into Convalescent Homes through the special fund allocated by the County to the Bebington Division.

Section 29—Domestic Help Service.

This service is for cases needing domestic assistance, and it continues to provide much appreciated help in maternity cases, illness, and other domestic emergencies. Applications were investigated by Health Visitors, who paid 144 visits, to assess need and follow-up, and assessments for payment were made on the scale laid down by the Cheshire County Council, except for 4 cases reduced by special appeal to the Committee. The following are the relevant statistics for the year 1953, the comparative figures for 1952 being given in brackets:—

Permanent full-time Home Helps employed ...	2	(2)
Temporary Home Helps employed as required.	14	(18)
Total number of hours worked	15,714½	(17,393½)
To Maternity cases	26	(26)
To T.B. cases	6	(7)
Chronic sick, incl. aged & infirm	46	(33)
To others	45	(56)
	123	122

Cases paying full cost (at 2/9 per hour) ... 40 (42)

Cases paying according to scale 83 (80)

It is noted that there was a decrease as compared with 1952 in the number of hours worked by our Home Helps. Even so, the number of hours worked reaches nearly 50 per cent. increase on the Bebington allocation as it was originally planned.

Section 51—Mental After-Care.

In May 1952, as a result of the notification to the local Health Authority of certain ineducable children, an Occupation Centre was opened in New Ferry for the admission daily of 8 children from Bebington and 1 from Ellesmere Port. The number of children in attendance rapidly increased, and at the end of the year 1953 the register read as follows:—

Bebington	9
Ellesmere Port	15
Heswall	2
Neston	2
West Kirby	3
Greasby	1

It will be seen that the Centre continues to fill a gap in the welfare of mentally deficient children under the very able direction of Mrs. Williams, the Supervisor, and her staff. Children who would otherwise have been unhappily confined indoors in their homes are afforded through the Centre a very real happy time between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., thereby the major part of their day being occupied. Their occupations, and what education is possible, are scaled according to their respective mental grouping, and quite a considerable number of the children are trained to be productive in a small way, as their exhibitions of handicraft have already proved to members of the Committee.

The parents continue to show their practical appreciation of the Centre not only from the point of view of their own alleviated responsibilities, but also as to the well-being of these afflicted children, which is evidenced by their attendance at the small functions arranged for the children from time to time.

I need not enlarge on my appreciation of the Staff of the Centre. Their work is only too well known to members of the Committee.

ESTIMATES OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE APPROVED FOR YEAR 1954-55.

	£
Vaccination and Immunisation	495
Domestic Help Service	1,974
Ambulance Service	4,430
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	225
Borough Welfare Centres	2,070
Bromborough Day Nursery	1,005
Midwifery	40
Health Visitors	25
Home Nursing	300
Administration	3,836
Payment for Infectious Diseases Notifications	100
	14,500
Estimated Income for 1954-55	3,800
	£10,700

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Medical Inspection of Pupils attending maintained Primary, Secondary, and Grammar Schools in the Bebington Division.

Periodic Inspections.

Entrants	Second age group	Third age group	Total examined
746	544	473	1,763

General Conditions.

Age group	Inspected	(A) Good	(B) Fair	(C) Poor
Entrants	746	225	415	106
Second age group ...	544	201	253	90
Third age group ...	473	216	227	30
Totals ...	1,763	642	895	226

Special Inspections and Re-examinations.

Examined	Required treatment	Referred for observation	Re-examined
884	103	114	717
Number examined for visual acuity			526

Children found to require treatment at Periodic Examinations (excluding dental diseases, infestation and cleanliness).

Age group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For other conditions (See "Defects Found" Section)	Total No. with defects
Entrants	3	131	134
Second age group ...	20	89	110
Third age group ...	18	102	1
Totals ...	41	322	245

Number of children referred for observation only	250
Number of parents present at all inspections	1,621

School Clinics.

Clinic	Sessions	New Cases	Total attendances	Doctors sessions	Cases seen by Doctor
Bromborough ...	9	46	60	8	54
New Ferry ...	196	257	2286	39	660
Totals ...	205	303	2346	47	714

Children not seen by the Doctor are inspected by the Clinic Nurse.

Specialist Clinics.

Ophthalmic :

	New Cases	Attendances	Glasses recommended
New Ferry ...	116	956	369

Speech Therapy :

			Discharged.
Bebington ...	34	889	41

Dental Service.

No. Inspected	No. Selected	No. Treated	No. of Teeth Extracted	No. of Teeth Filled
4,554	2,917	2,909	3,426	4,998

Handicapped Pupils.

	New Cases	Re-examinations
Blind	—	—
Partially sighted	—	1
Deaf	—	—
Partially deaf	—	—
Delicate	7	12
Diabetic	1	—
E.S.N.	9	26
Epileptic	2	10
Maladjusted	1	1
Physically handicapped	2	17
Speech defect	—	1
	22	68

Defects Found at Periodic and Special Inspections.

	<u>Periodic Inspections</u>				<u>Special Inspections</u>			
		Number referred for treatment		Number to be kept under observation		Number referred for treatment		Number to be kept under observation
1. Cleanliness	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	1
2. Infestation								
(a) head	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
(b) body	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
3. Teeth	... ..	16	...	9	...	7	...	3
4. Skin	... ..	29	...	7	...	7	...	2
5. Eyes	(a) vision	42	...	8	...	27	...	17
	(b) squint	18	...	5	...	11	...	10
	(c) other	11	...	2	...	1	...	1
6. Ears :								
(a) hearing	...	3	...	7	...	1	...	7
(b) otitis media	...	4	...	3	...	1	...	—
(c) other	...	5	...	2	...	—	...	—
7. Nose and Throat	...	88	...	96	...	21	...	24
8. Speech	... ..	8	...	8	...	6	...	5
9. Cervical glands	...	2	...	19	...	—	...	13
10. Heart & Circulation	...	7	...	15	...	1	...	7
11. Lungs	... ..	16	...	31	...	3	...	23
12. Development								
(a) hernia	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
(b) other	...	7	...	2	...	1	...	4
13. Orthopaedic								
(a) posture	...	64	...	3	...	13	...	1
(b) flat foot	...	34	...	24	...	6	...	6
(c) other	...	22	...	14	...	5	...	3
14. Nervous System								
(a) epilepsy	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	1
(b) other	...	—	...	1	...	2	...	—
15. Psychological								
(a) development	...	—	...	8	...	—	...	18
(b) stability	...	2	...	1	...	—	...	5
16. Other	... ..	48	...	29	...	6	...	10
Totals	...	428	...	297	...	122	...	161

Table 1. Results of the first and second inspections.

No.	First inspection		Second inspection	
	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
1	100	0	100	0
2	100	0	100	0
3	100	0	100	0
4	100	0	100	0
5	100	0	100	0
6	100	0	100	0
7	100	0	100	0
8	100	0	100	0
9	100	0	100	0
10	100	0	100	0
11	100	0	100	0
12	100	0	100	0
13	100	0	100	0
14	100	0	100	0
15	100	0	100	0
16	100	0	100	0
17	100	0	100	0
18	100	0	100	0
19	100	0	100	0
20	100	0	100	0
21	100	0	100	0
22	100	0	100	0
23	100	0	100	0
24	100	0	100	0
25	100	0	100	0
26	100	0	100	0
27	100	0	100	0
28	100	0	100	0
29	100	0	100	0
30	100	0	100	0
31	100	0	100	0
32	100	0	100	0
33	100	0	100	0
34	100	0	100	0
35	100	0	100	0
36	100	0	100	0
37	100	0	100	0
38	100	0	100	0
39	100	0	100	0
40	100	0	100	0
41	100	0	100	0
42	100	0	100	0
43	100	0	100	0
44	100	0	100	0
45	100	0	100	0
46	100	0	100	0
47	100	0	100	0
48	100	0	100	0
49	100	0	100	0
50	100	0	100	0
51	100	0	100	0
52	100	0	100	0
53	100	0	100	0
54	100	0	100	0
55	100	0	100	0
56	100	0	100	0
57	100	0	100	0
58	100	0	100	0
59	100	0	100	0
60	100	0	100	0
61	100	0	100	0
62	100	0	100	0
63	100	0	100	0
64	100	0	100	0
65	100	0	100	0
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69	100	0	100	0
70	100	0	100	0
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72	100	0	100	0
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74	100	0	100	0
75	100	0	100	0
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80	100	0	100	0
81	100	0	100	0
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93	100	0	100	0
94	100	0	100	0
95	100	0	100	0
96	100	0	100	0
97	100	0	100	0
98	100	0	100	0
99	100	0	100	0
100	100	0	100	0







