

[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Bebington Borough.

Contributors

Bebington (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1954

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hxmt9bhy>

License and attribution

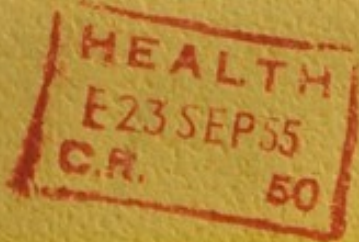
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

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

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



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



Library

BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER,**

AND

DIVISIONAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1954

D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.



BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER,**

AND

DIVISIONAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1954

D. O. MACDONALD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON.

HEALTH AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE.

Chairman: ALDERMAN R. WILLIAMS.

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR W. WEDGEWOOD.

The Mayor: F. McNEILL, Esq., M.A., J.P.

The Deputy Mayor: ALDERMAN C. F. REID.

ALDERMEN—

H. P. LONG

H. SMITH

M. POLLITT

R. SNAPE, M.C.

(from December, 1954).

(Retired October, 1954).

COUNCILLORS—

J. CHRISP

E. A. HEBRON.

R. EVANS

DR. J. N. MACDONALD.

MRS. B. GILL, J.P.

J. TRENCH.

J. H. WARD.

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. & 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:

T. TOWNSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors:

E. CAINES.

L. J. JONES.

W. FARR.

A. R. MOORE.

L. C. MOORE.

Chief Clerk:

W. R. TURNER

Clerical Staff:

MRS. M. H. DIXON Miss M. HOSKER

MRS. E. BIENIEK. MRS. J. THELWELL

Miss A. HASSELSTROM.

Public Health Department,
 "Plymyard,"
 Eastham,
 Cheshire.
 June, 1955.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
 BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The birth rate of 13.0 shows a slight reduction from the previous year, and the death rate has come down to 9.8, which rate compares favourably with that of 11.3 for England and Wales. I should like to draw attention to the infant mortality rate of 23.6 deaths under one year per thousand live births. This is the lowest figure ever recorded for the Borough, and a considerable improvement on the 1953 rate of 32.6. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1954 was 25.5.

There was a marked increase in the number of notifications of respiratory tuberculosis as compared with 1953, but the number of deaths from this disease in 1954 shows a continued reduction. There is every reason to believe that the prevalence of tuberculosis will be considerably reduced in the next few years as a result of preventative inoculation with B.C.G., which has already been vigorously practised for some months in this Borough in a particular age group of school-children. As the vaccine becomes more readily available, it will no doubt be afforded to other age groups. Of the other notifiable infectious diseases, scarlet fever and whooping cough were considerably less prevalent than in the previous year, but the number of cases of measles notified was 623, an increase of 350 on the 1953 figure. The increase in the number of measles notifications is the result of the biennial nature of attack on a new susceptible age group.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system still show the highest figure as causes of death in the Borough, although 20 per cent. of all deaths recorded in 1954 were caused by cancer.

During the year your Medical Officer of Health made 109 medical examinations and reports in respect of Council employees.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Committee for the support they have given me, and to record my appreciation of the loyal work of the staff of the department. To the officials of other departments and authorities I would like to express my indebtedness for their co-operation and help.

I am,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area	... ..	acres	12,244
Estimated Resident Population (Mid-1954)	... ..		48,740
Number of Inhabited Houses at 31st December, 1954.			14,523
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1954	... ..	£	418,067
Yield of a Penny Rate (Estimate for 1954-55)	... ..	£	1,630

Live Births :—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	609	318	291
Illegitimate	26	16	10
	635		

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	13.0
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.05...	13.7
Birth rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales...	15.2

Still Births :—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	17	11	6
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	19		

Rate per 1,000 total births (Live and Still Births)...	29.0
For England and Wales	24.0

Deaths :—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
	478	250	228
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population	9.8		
Death Rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.04...	10.2		
Death Rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales.	11.3		

Principal Causes of Death.

Heart Diseases	... ..	170	Respiratory Diseases :	}	44		
Other Circulatory Diseases	... ..	20	Pneumonia			... ..	23
Cancer	... ..	95	Bronchitis			... ..	20
Vascular Lesions	... ..	64	Other			... ..	1

Deaths of Infants under ONE year of age—Legitimate ...15
 Illegitimate ...—

Death Rate of Infants under ONE year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 total live births 23.6

For England and Wales 25.5

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births ... 24.6

Deaths of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age 13

Death Rate of Infants under FOUR WEEKS of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 total live births... .. 20.5

For England and Wales 17.7

Deaths from Diarrhoea (including Enteritis)

under 2 years of age Nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages) Nil

Number of Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births

for England and Wales 0.69

(Representing 478 deaths)

Birth Rates, Death Rates, and Infant Mortality Rates 1941-1954

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)
		Per 1,000 Population		
1941	41,910	16.4	11.5	52.6
1942	41,880	17.8	9.6	28.1
1943	41,300	18.1	11.0	62.8
1944	41,970	20.4	10.3	42.0
1945	42,390	18.3	9.8	49.0
1946	45,620	19.4	10.8	51.0
1947	46,640	19.6	10.1	51.3
1948	46,780	17.2	9.2	45.3
1949	47,030	14.9	9.9	33.9
1950	47,150	14.5	9.7	26.2
MEAN 1941-1950	44,267	17.7	10.2	44.2
1951	47,300	13.7	11.6	26.3
1952	47,790	13.7	11.0	26.2
1953	48,220	13.3	10.3	32.6
1954	48,740	13.0	9.8	23.6

Cancer Deaths, 1941 to 1954.

Year.	M.	F.	Total.	Percentage of all deaths.
1941	30	38	68	14.1
1942	28	46	74	18.4
1943	35	36	71	15.6
1944	32	42	74	17.1
1945	35	40	75	17.9
1946	42	58	100	20.4
1947	40	46	86	18.3
1948	27	32	59	13.7
1949	43	26	69	14.6
1950	38	43	81	17.6
1951	60	36	96	17.1
1952	41	46	87	16.5
1953	45	56	101	20.2
1954	55	40	95	20.0

Causes of Death

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

All Causes.	M.	F.	Total
1 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	2
2 Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
3 Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	1
4 Diphtheria	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6 Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8 Measles	—	—	—
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
10 Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	8	5	13
11 Malignant Neoplasm, bronchus	17	3	20
12 Malignant Neoplasm, breast	1	10	11
13 Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	3	3
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	26	18	44
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	1	4
16 Diabetes	4	1	5
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	28	36	64
18 Coronary Disease, angina	57	40	97
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	11	14
20 Other Heart Disease	28	31	59
21 Other Circulatory Diseases	8	12	20
22 Influenza	—	1	1
23 Pneumonia	12	11	23
24 Bronchitis	16	4	20
25 Other Diseases of the Respiratory System... ..	—	1	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	—	3
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	5	5
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31 Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	23	19	42
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	1	5
34 All other Accidents	1	5	6
35 Suicide	1	4	5
36 Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	250	228	478

Notifiable Infectious Diseases, 1954.
(a) Total Cases (excluding Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	55	24
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Pneumonia	36	7
Erysipelas	7	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	10†	9
Acute Encephalitis	3	3
Measles	623	10
Whooping Cough	140x	1
Meningitis	3	3
Paratyphoid	2	2
Dysentery	17	12
Food Poisoning	23	6
Total	920	78

1 neg.
2 neg.
15 neg.

† Of this figure 6 were non-Borough cases.

x Of these 140 cases 3 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	4	5	3	1	1	3	9	9	3	17	55
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia	1	4	3	7	6	3	3	6	1	2	36
Erysipelas	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	7
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	6	10
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Measles	113	67	117	94	74	34	17	10	57	40	623
Whooping Cough	25	13	24	9	13	11	14	13	14	4	140
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	12	17
Food Poisoning	3	4	4	3	5	—	2	—	—	2	23
Totals	149	94	151	115	100	52	50	40	78	91x	920

x Of this figure 39 were Borough cases.

Tuberculosis.

(a) New Cases and Mortality notified during 1954.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	3	2	2	1	—	—	—	1
25	...	...	3	12	—	1	—	—	1	—
35	...	...	11	9	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	5	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
55	...	...	6	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	...		33	26	4	8	2	—	1	1
			59		12		2		2	
			71				4			

(b) Sanatorium Treatment during 1954.

Sanatorium.	Admissions.	Discharges.
Aintree Hospital	2	1
Barrowmore Hospital	1	—
Bevenden Sanatorium, Kent	—	1
Clatterbridge Hospital	1	4
Cleaver Hospital	2	—
Liverpool Hospital, Frodsham...	1	1
Market Drayton	14	17
Mill Lane Hospital, Wallasey	2	2
St. Catherine's, Birkenhead	1	1
Wrenbury Hall	2	2
	—	—
	26	29
	—	—

(c) Total Live Register at December, 1954.

Respiratory Cases	402	(Dec. 1953...352)
Non-Respiratory Cases	78	(Dec. 1953... 65)
	480	417

The following table shews the Death Rate (per 1,000 of the population) in the Borough from Tuberculosis for each year since 1941:—

								Respiratory.	Non-respiratory.
1941	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.55	0.02
1942	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.41	0.10
1943	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.43	0.15
1944	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.76	0.17
1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.38	0.14
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.55	0.09
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.45	0.06
1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.38	0.04
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.49	0.04
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.23	0.00
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.23	0.08
1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.23	0.08
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.08	0.02
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.04	0.04

The 1954 Death Rate for England and Wales for all forms of Tuberculosis was 0.18

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Number of and Nature of Inspections made	Total for 1954	Informals	Statutory	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
Dwellinghouses Inspected ...	1188	575	—	—	—	—
Do. Re-inspected ...	1569	625	88	510	65	—
Overcrowding	425	—	—	—	—	—
Private Schools	6	—	—	—	—	—
Public Schools	27	—	—	—	—	—
Offices	4	—	—	—	—	—
Places of Entertainment ...	20	—	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	17	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds	35	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises	311	—	—	—	—	—
Factories, Mechanical Power ...	96	12	—	11	1	—
Do Without Mech Power ...	42	18	—	18	—	—
Workplaces... ..	19	10	—	10	—	—
Hairdressers	23	—	—	—	—	—
Courts, Passages	92	72	14	65	7	—
House Drainage	826	163	22	47	16	—
Cesspools	28	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Tanks	13	—	—	—	—	—
Dustbins	2172	815	—	—	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses	20	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	63	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	12	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Acts	1306	49	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	14	—	—	—	—	—
Pet Shops	11	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	292	—	—	—	—	—
Piggeries	12	2	2	—	—	—
Dairies	48	1	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	225	4	—	4	—	—
Grocers' do	222	18	—	18	—	—
Greengrocers & Fruiterers ...	110	8	—	8	—	1
Wet Fish Shops	16	—	—	—	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	25	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses and Confectioners ...	97	12	—	12	—	—
Cafes, Canteens and Kitchens ...	89	21	—	19	2	—
Other Food Premises	65	6	—	6	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	66	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling	91	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Sampling	103	—	—	—	—	—
Beer Sampling	22	—	—	—	—	—
Washing-up Water Sampling ...	75	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises... ..	72	4	—	3	1	—
Food Poisoning Enquiries	242	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases Enquiries ...	340	—	—	—	—	—
Soil Sampling	70	—	—	—	—	—
Rodent Control	647	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	114	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	31	5	—	5	—	—
Appointments outside Office ...	243	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	11656	2420	128	736	92	1

Complaints.

During the year 1,176 complaints were received. These were all investigated at the earliest possible moment and appropriate action taken to deal with matters where the complaints were justified and there was power to effect a remedy.

HOUSING.

Inspections.

House-to-house visits were continued during the year, where necessary, and a comprehensive list of unfit houses reported to the Health and Housing Committees.

Altogether, 720 houses were inspected with the following result:—

- 106 houses included in Clearance Areas involving 119 families.
- 48 individually unfit houses „ 51 „
- 2 portions of houses recommended for closing orders.
- 48 houses require improvement and/or major repairs.
- 516 houses were in need of repair.

The Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, came into operation during the year, and sixteen applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair and one application was received for revocation of Certificate.

16 Certificates were issued.

No Certificates of Revocation were granted.

This Act created, for the first time, a legal standard of fitness for dwelling houses, a standard, however, which fell far short of that envisaged by the Central Housing Advisory Committee in 1946. A higher standard is the one prescribed by the Minister in accordance with Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, which must be satisfied for a house to qualify for an improvement grant.

Two serious omissions from the enforcement standard are those dealing with (a) drainer boards and (b) stairs. No housewife can carry out washing of cooking utensils without a drainer board attached to the sink, and yet unreasonable property owners question their obligation to maintain such obviously essential fittings. Fortunately the majority of owners in this district are reasonable, and I have received full co-operation in an effort to deal with the many difficult problems of housing repairs. There are too many tenants who neglect their drainer boards, and one still finds such fittings rotting through mis-use. On two occasions where food poisoning had occurred, foul smells in the scullery were found to be due to rotting drainer boards and filthy dish-cloths. In regard

to stairs, future legislation should deal with the safety of the occupants by requiring a minimum standard of light to staircases, and pitch to the stairs themselves. In many cases the treads are too high, and where elderly people and children live, danger is ever-present, particularly where the stairs are winding and there is no handrail.

Verminous Premises.

During the year 311 visits were made in relation to verminous premises, but this figure includes work of a preventive nature such as the examination of furniture and belongings of those about to be re-housed by the Council.

Treatments carried out were as follows:—

- 29 Rooms treated.
- 19 Beds disinfected.
- 149 Other articles disinfected.

Twenty-four houses were treated for boring beetles, such as the furniture beetle.

In eighteen cases advice was given to householders in regard to wood worm eradication.

Overcrowding.

All cases of overcrowding amongst applicants for Council houses are referred to the Housing Manager, and active co-operation exists between the two departments.

Lodging Houses.

These are visited as often as possible. There are still a few families living on top stories without effective means of escape in case of fire, and in some of these cases the families include young children.

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply.

The following information is supplied by Mr. A. L. Lyon, M.Eng., M.I.C.E., Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board:

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 1954 work continued on works forming part of the Dee Scheme authorised by the West Cheshire Water Orders 1950 and 1952. Construction continued on the twelve million gallon service

reservoir at Sutton Hall, and a start was made in August on the Civil Engineering Contract for the new treatment works adjoining the reservoir.

All the pumping mains from Chester were virtually completed by the end of 1954.

At Bala, work continued on the Scheme being undertaken by the Dee and Clwyd River Board, but here, as well as on other parts of the Dee Scheme, the very wet summer and autumn slowed down the rate of progress.

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 simple 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 Board to the Medical Officer of Health during the year at regular intervals.

Dustbins.

At the end of the year—

1,072 Dustbins had been supplied by the Corporation under their Scheme.

371 Dustbins had been supplied by owners following notices served.

83 Dustbins had been supplied by tenants following notices served.

The Scheme adopted by the Council is working well.

During the year—

1,427 Informal Notices were served.

863 14-day Notices were served.

438 Requests were received from owners and/or tenants wishing to participate in the Scheme.

Courts, Passages.

These are regularly visited and appropriate action taken when defects are found to exist.

Public Conveniences.

These are visited from time to time and upon complaint, and defects, if found, referred to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Pet Animals Act.

Four premises are licensed and regularly visited. Raw animal food is still sold from these premises, and samples taken have shown the presence of organisms capable of causing food poisoning in human beings. Such food and food affected with tuberculosis, although not normally consumed by human beings, is handled by those preparing food for their pets, and there is the possible contamination of cloths, knives, etc. In my opinion all food sold from such premises should be sterilized.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

Registration exists in the case of one building where coir fibre is used in the upholstering of furniture.

Sanitary Conveniences.

There are still five privies, fifty pail closets, thirty-six earth closets and nine chemical closets in use in the outer areas of the district.

House Drainage.

117 house drains were smoke or otherwise tested during the year following reconstruction or repair of drains.

86 house drains were plunged or rodded.

Cesspools.

260 houses are drained to cesspools and/or septic tanks. These installations are regularly inspected.

Public and Private Schools.

These are visited at regular intervals not only in regard to sanitation and defects in construction, but to inspect kitchens and canteens and the food therein. As indicated in my last annual report new school premises are needed to replace the temporary school at the Methodist Hall in Allport Lane.

Tips.

Complaints were again received from the tenants living in the Grayland Road area in regard to offensive odours, flies and rats. This department deal with the rodent infestation, but if sufficient covering material could be made available and all refuse covered at the end of each day's work, the nuisance could be prevented.

Mortuary.

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

18 bodies were received into the New Ferry mortuary during the year.

Air Pollution.**(a) Smoke Abatement—**

The industrial area necessitates constant attention in an effort to reduce the smoke nuisance to a minimum, and special observations have been necessary during the evenings and week ends when stokers tend to become careless.

31 timed observations were made during the year and five informal notices served. 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.

(b) Offensive Odours—

A decided improvement was shown in regard to offensive odours. We enjoy the full co-operation of the Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works. One might reasonably ask why certain noxious vapours cannot be conducted underground instead of being poured into the atmosphere.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

340 enquiries and revisits were made in regard to infectious disease notifications. The increased practice of home isolation has created more work for the inspectorial staff, and in most instances, upon the first visit, isolation was found to be unsatisfactory or non-existent.

During the year—

- 86 Rooms were disinfected.
- 79 Beds were disinfected,
- 311 Other articles were disinfected.
- 41 Library books were disinfected.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS,
1937 and 1948.**

Inspections for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of	
		Inspection (3)	Written Notices (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 to 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	68	42	18
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.	69	96	12
(iii) Other Premises	17	19	10
Total	154	157	40

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	18	18	—
Inadequate Temperature	2	2	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	3	3	—
Sanitary Conveniences- Insufficient	2	2	—
Unsuitable or Defective	15	15	—
Not separate for sexes	1	—	—
Total	41	40	—

Outwork

Nature of Work	Number of Outworkers	Visits
Wearing Apparel	10	12

FOOD INSPECTION.

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

In the district there are :

649 Food shops, including cafes, kitchens and licensed premises, etc.

15 Factory Canteens.

3 Food Factories.

21 School Canteens.

3 Other food premises.

691

226 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Many improvements were carried out during the year, including the provision of hot water, window display cabinets, decorations; water and clean towels were provided on hawkers' vehicles.

One Ice-Cream Vehicle inspected during business was found to be equipped with hot water apparatus, but when the Inspector made a detailed examination he found there was no water in the unit. The roundsman admitted it was his fault. The firm concerned was notified.

Persistent effort has been made to have cats removed from food premises. The old idea that the cat keeps away the mice is as old fashioned as it is unhygienic. No shopkeeper should harbour mice if his premises are clean, the food covered and his refuse removed regularly.

In a previous report I referred to lipstick on beer glasses. Close supervision has been given to this matter, and no detergent has been found which will remove lipstick unless the person washing up makes a special effort after seeing the contaminated glass. This is not possible during rush hours. This cosmeticised contamination is also present in cafes.

The law requires persons handling food to maintain their clothing in a clean condition, and the majority of Brewery Companies, Licencees and Cafe Proprietors, as well as canteen Man-

ageresses, insist upon clean overalls. There are some barmaids, however, who still wear the same clothes during duty as they do at other times, and on one occasion I had the opportunity of seeing a girl wearing a frock in her vermin-infested house—she was sitting on the floor—and she continued to wear the same attractive frock when she went on duty in the evening. Clean overalls should be compulsory as should clean head covering. Women with long loose hair are capable of contaminating food, and even public-house customers are entitled to enjoy their food and drink without a hair or two. A few canteen Manageresses, although insisting upon head covering, fail to realise that the hair should not be left uncovered at the front.

Exposure of fruit and cakes to contamination has given us much concern, and it was necessary to institute legal proceedings in one instance. The firm concerned were convicted.

In regard to food poisoning, I am convinced that, although the increase in reported cases is due to the greater habit of communal feeding and the consumption of meals in cafes, snack bars, etc., some cases are associated with dirty sinks in the home and the use of filthy dish cloths. On two occasions during the year I investigated complaints of offensive odours which the tenants attributed to the waste pipes, but which were actually caused by the failure to maintain the sink and drainer board in a thoroughly clean condition and the use of foul dish cloths.

Since the responsibility for the production of clean milk passed from the local authority to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, routine visits at milking times have ceased, and from observations of cowsheds made at irregular intervals I am satisfied the general standard of cleanliness has been lowered. With the responsibility for sampling under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, an opportunity will be given to your officers to comment upon the condition of premises, the condition of the cows, and other factors which may influence the quality of the milk sampled.

Sampling of Food.

(a) 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,	Taken.	Bacteriologists Report Ministry of Health Std.			No. Std.
		Rec'd.	Passed.	F'ld.	
Ungraded	1	1	—	—	1
Accredited	1	1	—	1	—
T.T. and T.T. (Farm Bottled) ...	7	7	7	—	—
Pasteurised	61	61	56	5	—
T.T. (Pasteurised) ...	20	20	20	—	—
Sterilised	6	6	6	—	—
	96	96	89	6	1

All five samples of Pasteurised Milk which failed were from the same pasteurising plant. The management was acquainted with the details, and since that time all samples have proved satisfactory.

One sample of Ungraded Milk and five samples of T.T. (Farm Bottled) Milk were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. The sample of Ungraded Milk was found to be positive, and action was taken under the Milk and Dairies Regulations to prohibit the sale of milk until it had been treated by an approved process. One guinea pig died in connection with the examination of one sample of T.T. (Farm Bottled) Milk, but a repeat sample proved satisfactory.

The following table shows the result of milk sampling so far as the presence of T.B. is concerned over the past 23 years:—

	No.	T.B.	%T.B.
Raw ungraded	1247	65	5.204%
Accredited	1632	109	6.67%
T.T.	99	—	—
T.T. (Farm Bottled) ...	110	—	—
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.

(b) Ice Cream Sampling—

• 88 samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year and were graded as follows:—

- 87 Provisional Grade I. but 12 contained non-Faecal B. Coli.
- 1 Provisional Grade II. and contained non-Faecal B. Coli.

(c) Beer Sampling—

31 samples of Beer were taken during the year from Public Houses and Licensed Clubs. All the 17 samples of bitter beer passed the tests for cleanliness, but of the 14 samples of mild beer 2 contained non-Faecal B. Coli.

(d) Washing-up Water—

88 samples of washing-up water were taken from cafes, snack bars, hotels and school and factory canteens. Results were as follows :—

35 Water before use	—	26 Satisfactory.
		5 Faecal B. Coli isolated.
		5 Non-Faecal B. Coli isolated.
		7 Excessive Plate Count.
53 Water after use	—	24 Satisfactory.
		18 Faecal B. Coli isolated.
		16 Non-Faecal B. Coli isolated.
		24 Excessive Plate Count.

Some samples, both before and after use, were very unsatisfactory, and could only be described as bacteriologically filthy, and it is obvious that there are many people working in food premises who are still unaware that the sink is one of the focal points in any kitchen. Where samples proved unsatisfactory the premises were revisited and advice given on washing-up technique and the use of suitable detergent/sterilising agents. This sampling procedure is providing irreputable evidence that defective sinks and absorbent timber sinks are insanitary in so far as they harbour dangerous bacteria and cannot be satisfactorily cleansed.

It came to the notice of the Department that during this year a Cafe proprietor dispensed with the services of a female assistant because of laxity and carelessness in washing up. This does indicate that by sampling washing-up water and informal education some measure of success is being achieved in the food hygiene field.

At least one problem does remain, however, that being the absence of a suitable detergent/steriliser for catering establishments where main drainage is discharged into a septic tank. Any sterilising agent used to kill bacteria in the sink has a similar effect on the bacteria which are necessary for the effectual functioning of the septic tank.

Food Poisoning.

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

168 Faeces	10 B. Dysentery Sonne. 14 Salmonella Typhimurium. 144 No pathogenic organism isolated.
3 Urine	No pathogenic organisms isolated.
16 Suspected Food	1 Salmonella Typhimurium. 1 Staphylococci Aureus. 1 Lactis Aerogenes. 13 No pathogenic organisms isolated.
8 Sewer Swabs	No pathogenic organisms isolated.
8 Swabs	1 C. Diphtheriae isolated. 7 Negative.
1 Vomit	No pathogenic organisms isolated.

Suspected Food Poisoning Outbreak.

An outbreak of suspected food poisoning was investigated in February at Grove Street Schools where 12 adults and 3 children were affected. Pathogenic organisms (Salmonella Typhimurium) were isolated from the suspected meal, but specimens obtained from all affected persons and the canteen staff proved negative. All patients had recovered and returned to school within three days, and only one case was reported as severe. Sewer swabs were used for a period of six months following the outbreak in an effort to trace an intermittent carrier, but all swabs proved negative.

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

2 Tinned Cream	Satisfactory.
1 Tinned Steak	Seeds of unknown origin.
1 Pkt. Pudding Mixture	Mites present.
1 Animal Feeding Meat	Many organisms present including Cl. Welchii.

Pathogenesis.

49 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 control over slaughtering ceased during the year, and a private firm, who commenced to slaughter in Higher Bebington, only carried on for a short time. In addition to this slaughter house, there are two private slaughter houses.

The following figures relate to the inspection of meat 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 Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	970	1286	706	16436	5016	24414
Ante - mortem inspection including supervision of human slaughter	969	1286	706	16436	5016	24413
Notice of Slaughter rec'd.	969	1286	706	16436	5016	24413
Emergency notifications ...	1	1	6	5	64	77
Post-mortem inspection ...	970	1286	706	16436	5016	24414
Tuberculosis.						
A	5	16	4	—	1	26
B	129	306	1	—	198	634
C (a)	13.81%	25.03%	.708%	—	3.76%	2.703%
All Diseases except T.B.						
A	1	—	13	22	10	46
B	243	399	3	2699	248	3592
C (b)	25.15%	31.02%	2.25%	16.55%	5.14%	14.901%

Condemned Food.

In addition to meat condemned at the slaughter houses, the following food was found to be unsound or diseased and unfit for human consumption:—

- 1 Loaf of bread submitted with a portion of a cigarette inside it. This matter was taken up with the Manufacturers, who took immediate steps to investigate the incident, and an employee was dealt with.
- 1 Packet purchased as Epsom Salts was apparently not Epsom Salts and was submitted to the Chief Inspector, Food and Drugs Act, Cheshire County Council, who had it analysed, when it was found to be 100 per cent. Borax.

4 Diseased rabbits	— 1 Coenurus Serialis.
	— 3 Myxamatoxis.
30-lbs. Sheeps Liver	— Tyrosin Deposits.
1 Silverside and rump of beef---	T.B.
114-lbs. Beef	— Bone taint.
3 Mutton Carcases	— Commencing decomposition.
549 tins Meat.	13 jars Preserves.
1772 ,, Fruit and Vegetables. 60 pkts. "Royal" Brand Dessert.	
63 ,, Fish.	11 ,, Christmas Puddings.
292 ,, Milk.	14 ,, Sponge Mixture.
29 ,, Cream.	2-lbs. Raisins.
14 ,, Jam.	10 bags Cabbages.
1 tin Cooking Fat.	7 boxes Orange Pippin Apples.
2 tins Mincemeat.	6½ ,, "Red Label" Brand
15 jars Sunny Spread.	Bananas.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

Condemned food is disposed of by either burning or being incorporated into the tip worked by the Council.

Technical Investigation.

Co-operation existed between Mr. T. Townson and Mr. K. B. Sinclair of the School of Tropical Medicine in reference to the existence of certain tongue worms in meat, and as a result of this joint investigation it is interesting to know that Mr. K. B. Sinclair has had a book published entitled "The Incidence and Life Cycle of *Linguatula Serrata* (Frohlich 1789) in Great Britain," in which he acknowledges the assistance given him by the staff of the Bellington Abattoir Inspectors.

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 1954.

Article.	Number Obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to Standard.
Almonds, Ground	3	
Amm. Tinc. of Quinine	2	2
Basilicon Ointment	3	
Bi-carb of Soda	2	
Boric Acid Ointment	3	
Borax	1	
Blackcurrant Cordial	1	
Blackberries in Syrup	1	
Codeine Tablets	1	
Cream	3	
Coffee	1	
Condensed Milk	3	
Camphorated Oil	1	
Castor Oil	1	
Custard Powder	1	
Currants	1	
Cheese	1	
Corn and Wart Ointment	1	
Camphor Ice	1	
Dripping	2	
Desiccated Coconut	4	
Dried Apricots	1	
Epsom Salts	1	1
Eucalyptus Oil	1	
Eastons Tablets	1	
Fish Paste	4	
Glycerine	1	
Ginger Cordial	1	
Glycerine and Rose Water .	1	
Honey	1	
Jam	2	
Lemond Curd	2	
Lemon Squash	1	
Milks	68	
Meat Paste	1	
Marzipan	1	

Article.	Number Obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to Standard.
Marmalade	1	
Methyl Salicylate	1	
Olive Oil	3	
Prunes, Tinned	4	
Peanut Butter	1	
Parrishs Food	1	
Raisins	1	
Sal Volatile	1	
Sweets	1	
Surgical Spirit	1	
Sulphur and Yeast Tablets .	1	
Treacle	1	
Vinegar, Malt	2	
Witch Hazel	1	
Wintergreen Ointment ...	1	
Whisky	1	
Zinc Ointment	1	
	147	3

Non-standard samples.

Article.	Analysis.	Remarks.
1. Epsom Salts	Sodium Borate (Borax) 100%	This article was purchased at a grocer's shop and handed to a Bebington Sanitary Inspector. The packet was subsequently passed to the County Council. The matter was immediately taken up with the packers and, following a thorough investigation, it had to be admitted that it was impossible to find any reason for the wrong label having been attached at the factory. As no other complaint was received it can only be assumed that this error in labelling was an isolated instance.

Article.	Analysis.	Remarks.
2. Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	Ammoniated tincture of quinine deficient in ammonia and containing an excess of quinine.	Purchased from retail chemist. Public Analyst stated that unsatisfactory composition of the sample was caused by evaporation of volatile components.
3. Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	Deficient in Ammonia to the extent of 28 per cent and deficient in alcohol to the extent of 70 per cent.	This was a further sample from same trader as No. 2, and following this analysis all remaining stock in shop was returned to manufacturing chemists.

From 1st April, 1955, the duty of sampling under this Act will be borne by the Borough Council, and your sanitary inspectors will become sampling officers.

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

During the year the following notices were served:—

Failure to provide—

Suitable and sufficient ventilation	5
Sufficient means of maintaining a suitable temperature	7
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities	3
Suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences	10

Failure to maintain—

Suitable and sufficient temperature	... ..	8
Suitable and sufficient washing facilities	... ..	2
Suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences	... ..	25
Suitable and sufficient lighting	... ..	2

Warnings were given in regard to the following offences:—

Assistants Half Holiday Notice not exhibited	... ..	50
Seats for females not provided	... ..	5
Mixed business notices not provided (Half Holiday)	... ..	14
” ” ” ” ; (Sunday)	... ..	35
Shops open after closing hours for serving customers (Half Holiday)	... ..	2
Shops open illegally on Sunday	... ..	8
Hours of Employment of Young Persons not recorded	... ..	3
Notices re use of seats not exhibited	... ..	49
Record of Sunday employment not entered	... ..	6

One feature of the year's work was the observation of increased Sunday Trading with its consequent breaches of the Act. There are still those who believe that shops should keep open at all times to suit their personal convenience and have no regard to the employment of others on Sundays, Bank Holidays and during late hours in the evening.

Special trouble was experienced with the sale and exposure for sale of motor cars on Sundays, and it was found very difficult to enforce compliance with the Act because of the negative attitude of surrounding local authorities. Complaints made were investigated, but not only were premises open in neighbouring districts, but the occupiers even advertised the fact in the press. The officers of the neighbouring districts—five in number—were contacted with a view to co-operation, and my thanks are due to the Shops Inspector of Wallasey who took immediate steps so far as his own area was concerned.

The position generally is still unsatisfactory and it is felt that the law should either be enforced or repealed.

Special attention in the autumn and winter is directed to the maintenance of sufficient heating of shops where assistants are employed. There still exists the employer who arbitrarily fixes 1st November for the switching on of electric fires, and last year members of the staff of one shop left their employ because the conditions were too cold without artificial heating. During the coldest part of the winter seven notices were served in respect of temperatures of between 34 degrees and 38 degrees F.

HEATING APPARATUS (FIREGUARDS) ACT 1952.

Regulations made under the above mentioned Act require that fireguards must be fitted to the domestic type of gas, electric and oil heaters. The Regulations prescribe the requisite standards of construction, fitting of guards, and the tests to be employed in determining whether or not the guards comply with the approved standards. Testing technique embraces (1) Proximity of heating filament by use of probe, (2) Strength of guard by application of weight, (3) Demonstration of ignition hazards by the use of fabric material.

No offences under the Act have been observed, and no complaints received. There are, of course, many fireguards in existing dwellings and offices which fall short of modern requirements.

RODENT CONTROL.

Reservoir	—	Infestation of 500 and over.
Major Primary	—	„ „ 20 „ „
Minor Secondary	—	„ „ up to 20.
Routine	—	Includes investigations where no infestation exists.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out during 1954:—

	Reservoir.	Major Primary	Minor Secondary	Routine.	Rats.	Mice.
Inspections—						
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	8	51	218	260		
„ Rodent Operatives .	—	185	266	247		
Revisits—						
By Sanitary Inspectors ...	—	28	76	—		
„ Rodent Operatives .	—	1113	1422	—		
Supervisory visits by S.I.'s	8	22	36	—		
	16	1399	2018	507		
No. of complaints received ...					169	45
„ „ „ investigated ...					169	45
„ „ premises inspected ...					504	46
„ „ infestations (1) notified by occupierr... ..					129	36
„ „ „ (2) otherwise discovered ...					68	9
„ „ „ treated ...					435	150

Type of Visit made:—

Dwelling Houses	... ..	1,094
L.A. Property (1) Tips and non-agricultural land	... ..	180
(2) Sewage Works	... ..	255
(3) Sewers	... ..	29
(4) Other buildings	... ..	346
Business Premises (1) Factories and Workplaces	... ..	255
(2) Shops	... ..	410
(3) Places of Entertainment	... ..	24
(4) Licensed Premises	... ..	32
(5) Cafes and Canteens	... ..	32
(6) Non-agricultural land	... ..	107
Agricultural Property (1) Market Gardens and Farms	... ..	127
(2) Piggeries	... ..	174
(3) Agricultural Land	... ..	36
Other Authority Properties (1) Schools	... ..	246
(2) Hospitals and Clinics	... ..	172
		3,519
No. of estimates provided	... ..	108
„ „ contracts signed	... ..	90
Estimated No. of rodents found during 1954...	... ..	7,920
„ „ „ „ killed during 1954...	... ..	7,810
		90 contracts for £153 19s. 6d.

Sewer Treatment.

Sewer treatments have been carried out in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture requirements.

No. of Manholes Test baited	... ..	272
No. "Takes"	... ..	167
Complete "Takes"	... ..	24
Partial "Takes"	... ..	81
Total cost	... ..	£77 18 9
Cost per manhole baited	... ..	5 9
„ „ infested manhole	... ..	14 10

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

BEBINGTON HEALTH DIVISION

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1954

OF THE

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

Representing Bebington Borough Council.

Chairman: ALDERMAN R. WILLIAMS.

Deputy Chairman: COUNCILLOR MRS. E. WILLIAMS.

ALDERMEN:

H. P. LONG.

M. POLLITT.

H. SMITH.

R. SNAPE, M.C. (Retired December 1954).

COUNCILLORS:

R. EVANS (From December 1954).

R. H. GILL.

MRS. H. G. HEBRON.

DR. J. N. MACDONALD.

MRS. E. MORGAN.

MRS. S. A. PRICE.

W. WEDGEWOOD.

Representing Cheshire County Council.

ALDERMAN MISS B. E. WILSON, J.P.

COUNCILLORS:

G. BEARDSWORTH, J.P.

C. F. REID (From 16th September, 1954).

Ex Officio Members

ALDERMAN G. ASTBURY, J.P.

COUNCILLOR A. WHITLEY.

Representative Members and Nominating Bodies.

J. H. WILLIAMS, Esq. (Divisional Education Executive).

MISS A. L. BULLEY (Retired June 1954).

(Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee).

MR. H. R. LATHOM (From June 1954).

(Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee).

MISS J. E. ARMSTRONG

(Bebington and New Ferry District Nursing Association).

MRS. A. M. FITZPATRICK

(Higher Bebington District Nursing Association).

MRS. E. M. SHARP

(Bromborough and Eastham District Nursing Association).

A. J. RUSHTON, Esq. (Nursery School Society).

DR. B. OARRUTHERS

(Local Medical Committee for County Palatine of Chester).

A. F. DRAKE, Esq., B.D.S.

(National Health Service Local Dental Committee).

STAFF.

Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer:

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

Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee:

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

Assistant County Medical Officers:

Welfare Clinics, School Clinics and Day Nursery:

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: MR. W. R. TURNER; Two shorthand typists

One clerical assistant.

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

Senior Health Visitor: MRS. V. R. BLADES. *Health Visitors:* MRS. E. SYMES,

MISS E. NICHOLSON, MISS R. ABRAHAM, MISS E. WRIGHT, MISS B.

SHEPHERD, MRS. E. BINYON. *School Nurse:* MRS. D. BUSHELL. Two

clinic clerks. Two permanent Home Helps, twelve temporary Home

Helps.

Bromborough Day Nursery.

Matron: MRS. F. G. DAVIES, S.R.N. *Deputy Matron:* MISS M. FARRANT.

Two Nursery Nurses; One Student; One Cook; Two Domestic.

Midwives.

MISS M. BOOTHROYD (retired 30th November, 1954).

MRS. M. UYTENDHAL, MRS. B. CASS, MISS E. M. NEWLANDS.

District Nurses.

Bebington and New Ferry: MISS L. CULLUM.

Higher Bebington: MISS M. R. DAVIES.

Bromborough: MISS R. BAUGHAN.

Eastham: MRS. A. THOMPSON.

Relief District Nurse: MRS. F. E. HARRISON.

Occupation Centre.

Supervisor: MRS F. A. M. 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.

Attended by General Practitioners on rota.

Divisional Health Office,

"Plymyard,"

Eastham,

Bebington.

March, 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEBINGTON
DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my annual report upon the working of the Bebington Divisional Health Committee for the year 1954.

The various services administered and managed by the Committee under the Divisional Health Administration Scheme have been maintained at a high level of efficiency throughout the year, and I trust that the inevitable volume of statistical detail which appears in the report in respect of these services will not present a too difficult form of reading.

During the year under review the responsibility for the distribution of Welfare foods supplied by the Ministry of Food was transferred to local health authorities, following the closure of local offices of the Ministry of Food, as part of their duties under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, and in Cheshire this work was delegated to Divisional Committees.

Towards the end of 1954 a start was made in this Division on the scheme which provides for the vaccination of schoolchildren of a particular age with B.C.G. (*Bacillus Calmette-Guerin*) vaccine for protection against tuberculosis. Details of the scheme are set out in that part of the report devoted to Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

On the subject of immunisation, members will be interested to know that a large number of parents are now choosing for their children a combined prophylactic which affords protection against diphtheria and whooping cough instead of the two separate courses of immunisation against these diseases, the efficacy of the combined preparation being now well proved. However, there was a slight decrease in the number of children who received a full course of primary immunisation against Diphtheria during the year compared with 1953. Wide and varied publicity is constantly given to the subject of diphtheria immunisation, and parents are strongly urged, in the interests of their children, to ensure that immunisation is carried out.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my Chairman, Alderman R. Williams, Councillor Mrs. E. Williams, Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee, and members of the Committee for their continued cordial support and patience. I am grateful to the County Medical Officer, Dr. Arnold Brown, and to Mr. G. Chappell, Clerk to the Committee, for their advice and collaboration respectively. Mr. Turner, my Chief Clerk of comparatively recent appointment, has now established a very firm grip on the working of the Division, and has indeed made remarkable headway in the numerous aspects of his appointment. The Senior Health Visitor, Mrs. Blades, continues to keep her section of the department in a high grade of efficiency. I should like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation of the work of the other members of my staff, without whose earnest collaboration the smooth running of the department would not be possible.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,

Divisional Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1954.

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 day to day management of Child Welfare Clinics, Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics, Specialists' Clinics, and the Day Nursery. It is interesting to note that the average daily attendance at the Bromborough Day Nursery for the year was 24.7 compared with a figure of 21.3 for 1953.

The following statistics for 1954 indicate that the services provided under this Section require a great deal of attention:—

A. DAY NURSERY—BROMBOROUGH:—

Attendances for 1954, Bromborough Day Nursery having 30 places for children 0—5 years.

	0—2	2—5	Total
Jan.	79	432	511
Feb.	85	406	491
Mar.	108	468	576
Apr.	111	395	506
May	104	453	557
June	103	406	509
July	84	421	505
*Aug.	38	177	215
Sept.	84	456	540
Oct.	98	460	558
Nov.	126	485	611
Dec.	131	364	495
	1,151	4,923	6 074

Average daily attendance: (0—2)—4.7; (2—5)—20.0; Total 24.7.

*The Nursery was open for 12 days only in August.

B. MOTHERS' CLINICS:

	Sessions.	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Ante-natal	100 ...	201	1282
Post-natal	combined ...	85	85

C. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS:

(1) Infant Welfare

To 1 year	273 ...	458	6517
1—5 years ... ..	...	37	1292

(2,130 children seen by Doctor)

Special 'Toddlers' Clinics	18 ...	96	99
----------------------------	--------	----	----

(2) Specialist Clinics

Orthopaedic: Surgeon...	21 ...	87	452
Physiotherapist	94 ...	51	375

Ophthalmic:	12 ...	33	153
--------------------	--------	----	-----

(Referred for spectacles 35)

(Referred for treatment ...18)

(For further observation...120)

Ear, Nose and Throat:	4 ...	16	23
-----------------------	-------	----	----

(Referred to hospital 2)

(Referred to own doctor ...10)

(For further observation3)

Sun-ray: (0—5 Group)	} 55 ...	41	469
(5—14 Group)		72	710

Speech Therapy:	170 ...	41	941
-----------------	---------	----	-----

D. Purchases of Branded Infant Foods during the year amounted to £1,109, and the sale of these foods at Child Welfare clinics realised £1,164.

E. DISTRIBUTION OF MINISTRY OF FOOD WELFARE FOODS.

Consequent upon the closing of local offices of the Ministry of Food, the distribution of Welfare Foods supplied by the Ministry of Food under the National Welfare Foods Scheme became the responsibility of Local Health Authorities on the 28th June, 1954. The work was delegated by the County Council to Divisional Committees, and in this Division arrangements were made for distribution of the Foods to take place at the following points and times:

New Ferry Welfare Centre:

Monday to Friday 9-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m.
Saturday 9-0 a.m. to 12-0 noon

Child Welfare Clinic, "Plymyard" Eastham:

Monday 2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

Child Welfare Clinic, Victoria Hall, Hr. Bebington:

Tuesday 2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

Bromborough Council Offices:

Thursday 9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

Child Welfare Clinic, Mayer Hall, Bebington:

Friday 2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

Child Welfare Clinic, Women's Institute, Thornton Hough:

1st and 3rd Friday in each month 2-0 p.m. to 4-0 p.m.

I am satisfied that the service which is being provided is as efficient and accessible as that normally provided by the Ministry of Food.

During the period from 28th June, 1954, to the 1st January, 1955, the following issues of Welfare Foods were made:—

National Dried Milk (price 10½d.)	... ..	9 470 tins.
Cod Liver Oil (free)	... ..	2,811 bottles.
Vitamin Tablets (free)	... ..	687 packets.
Orange Juice (price 5½d.)	... ..	13,644 bottles.

Section 23—Midwifery Service.

The number of midwives serving the Division during 1954 was three. Miss E. M. Newlands succeeded Miss M. Boothroyd, who retired on the 30th November. Including births notified from hospital and nursing homes, a total of 650 births was notified during 1954—males 347, females 303. The births took place as follows:—

Clatterbridge Hospital	... ..	260
Heathfield Maternity Home	... ..	207
At home (attended by County Midwives)	... ..	110
Outside the Borough	... ..	73
		<hr/>
		650
		<hr/>

Of the 110 mothers whose confinements took place in their homes, 13 were attended by Home Helps provided by the Department under Section 20. In 5 of the hospital confinement cases Home Helps were provided before or after confinement.

Section 24—Health Visiting.

A Senior Health Visitor, six Health Visitors and one school nurse carry out the work under this heading. During the year 17,953 home visits were made by the Health Visitors, covering child welfare, tuberculosis after-care, general sickness after-care, and care of the aged. My Department continues to assist in the cancer death research being carried on in North Wales, West Cheshire, and South West Lancashire, and this involves work of investigation by the Health Visitors sometimes necessitating 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 1953 figures, which are given in brackets:—

New Cases in 1954.	Visits paid in 1954.
846 (841)	20,184 (19,679)
Referred to hospital	124 (94)
Deaths	98 (109)

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation Service.

During the Autumn of 1954 the customary four-months' suspension of this service took place, owing to the period being one in which poliomyelitis is most likely to occur. The number of vaccinations performed in the Division during 1954 has shown a marked increase compared with the previous year.

Statistics are as follows:—

Vaccination.			
Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total	
321 ...	134 ...	455	
Diphtheria Immunisation (Completed).			
Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total	Reinforcing doses
416 ...	5 ...	421	72
Whooping Cough Immunisation (Completed).			
Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total	
166 ...	1 ...	167	

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation (Completed)

(Commenced November 1954).

Under 5 years.	5—14 years.
24 ...	Nil
Total number of Clinics held	69

The Committee will be interested in the following statistics for the Division for these three diseases, viz. :—

No. of Cases of:	Smallpox	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough
1953	Nil	1 (?) Carrier	179 (6 immunised)
1954	Nil	Nil	140 (3 immunised)

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

A day and night service was provided from the Ambulance Station, Clatterbridge Hospital. The fleet consists of five ambulances and one sitting-case car, and a Supervisor, ten drivers, and nine attendants are employed. Additional personnel are provided under contract by Messrs. Lever Bros., in respect of the ambulances stationed at Port Sunlight.

The following is a statement of the work of the Ambulance Service during 1954 :—

	(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	7,517	14,687	1,006	61,623
	Car 1	1,198	2,334	6	19,339
Totals (1954) ...	6	8,715	17,021	1,012	80,962
Totals (1953) ...	6	9,116	18,506	906	81,741

In the above figure (1,012) shown in Col. 4, there were included 116 Road accidents, 33 Works accidents, 64 Home accidents, 12 School accidents, and attendance at 2 Air crashes.

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 1954 carried out at Clatterbridge Hospital internal transfer work from ward to ward amounting to approximately 34 weeks of the combined working hours of a driver and an attendant. This service is provided free to the Hospital Authority in lieu of rent for accommodation used by the Ambulance Service within the Hospital.

During the year several patients were transferred by ambulance to places outside the County, and arrangements were made for other patients to travel by ambulance, train and ambulance to Birmingham, Harrogate, Ilkley, London, Eastbourne, and Torquay. In this latter group railway carriages were reserved for the patients and the accompanying attendants.

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, New Ferry.

Tuberculosis After-Care. All cases of tuberculosis are now being visited by the Health Visitors, and close liaison has been established between my department and the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. D. W. Tough. Nursing comforts and requisites are provided to tuberculosis patients who are being nursed at home.

The following statistics show the state of the register at the end of 1954, and other relevant figures for the year:—

Bebington Total Register :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	213	183	396
Non-pulmonary	30	45	75
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	243	228	471
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Primary Notification of New Cases :

Pulmonary	25	17	42
Non-pulmonary	4	8	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	29	25	54
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Removals from Register :—

Deaths : Pulmonary	6
Non-pulmonary	—
Pronounced cured	5
Left District	13
Lost sight of	—
Colonised at Wrenbury	5
	<hr/>
	29
	<hr/>

Contacts referred for examination	170
Contacts examined	184
Child contacts vaccinated with B.C.G.	46
Chalets in use	15
Visits paid by Health Visitors	916
T.B. cases per 1,000 population :—	
1954 9.8 (1953 ... 8.7)	
New T.B. cases per 1,000 population ⁿ :—	
1954 1.1 (1953 ... 1.1)	

B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren. A start has now been made in this Division on the scheme, which provides for the vaccination of schoolchildren who reach their thirteenth birthday during the current academic year with B.C.G. vaccine for protection against tuberculosis.

The written consent of parents is obtained before testing and vaccination are carried out, and it has been found that in the Bebbington schools so far concerned approximately 90 per cent. of the parents involved have given their approval.

The vaccinations are performed in the schools by Dr. Blyth, Assistant County Medical Officer, in collaboration with Head Teachers, and at this point I would like to take the opportunity of expressing my warm thanks and appreciation to the Head Teachers and their staffs for the co-operation they are giving in connection with the work. The Health Visiting staff are also rendering valuable assistance to Dr. Blyth with the various processes involved.

Approximately 700 children will be concerned with the scheme in the present school year.

Sick and Aged After-Care. The work under this section continued vigorously throughout the year, and 565 visits were made by Health Visitors in connection with the welfare of the sick and aged. During the year 100 items of Home Nursing equipment were loaned by my department, and Home Helps were provided in 75 cases.

I was instrumental in obtaining the admission of 4 aged people into County or other Homes (1 under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act). Seven children and three adults were assisted into Convalescent Homes through the special fund allocated by the County Council to the Bebbington 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 119 visits, to assess need and follow up, and assessments for payment were made on the scale laid down by the Cheshire County Council.

The following are the relevant statistics for the year 1954, and the comparative figures for 1953 are shown in brackets:—

Total number of hours worked	...	...	...	15,500	(15,714)
Cases attended:					
Maternity	...	...	...	18	(26)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	3	(6)
Chronic sick, including aged and infirm	...	...	...	75	(46)
Others	...	...	...	12	(45)
Cases paying maximum charge of 2/9 per hour					
(incl. Future Recovery cases)	42	(1953—40)			

Section 51—Mental After-Care.

The Occupation Centre at New Ferry which was opened in 1952 for the training of mentally deficient children is now firmly established, and at the end of December 1954 there were thirty-two children on the register. Children from Bebington and neighbouring districts attend the Centre, and special transport by 'bus to the Centre is provided for them. The ages of the children range from 5 years to 16 years in the case of boys, but girls are retained until they reach the age of 17 years.

The register at the end of the year was made up as follows:—

Bebington	...	...	...	...	9
Ellesmere Port	...	...	...	...	12
Heswall	...	...	...	...	2
Neston	...	...	...	...	3
West Kirby	...	...	...	...	3
Greasby	...	...	...	...	1
Pensby	...	...	...	...	2

—
32
—

The training in the Centre is ably directed by Mrs. F. A. M. Williams, the Supervisor, and her two assistants. Their efforts are warmly appreciated by all concerned, and I would like to pay them a personal tribute for the admirable way in which they carry out their duties.

The Centre is open five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and closed for the usual seasonal holidays. A cooked mid-day meal is provided for the children for which a charge of 9d. is made.

The handicrafts taught include needlework, rug-making, weaving, and felt work, and the results achieved during 1954 were highly successful and most encouraging. In suitable cases instruction is given in reading and writing.

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.

Estimates of Committee Expenditure for Year 1955-56

(as approved by the County Council).

	£.
Vaccination and Immunisation	455
Domestic Help Service	2,409
Ambulance Service	4,730
Prevention of Illness, Care & After-Care	335
Welfare Centres	3,100
Bromborough Day Nursery	910
Midwifery	110
Health Visiting	20
Home Nursing	335
Mental Health	1,685
Administration	3,475
Payment for Infectious Disease	
Notifications	85
	<hr/>
	£17,649
Net Estimated Expenditure 1955/56...	£13,729
	<hr/>
Estimated Income for 1955/56	£3,920
	<hr/>

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

The following information has been supplied by the County Medical Officer in respect of the School Medical Services carried out during the year 1954:—

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.

697 654 491 1,842

General Condition.

Age group	Inspected	(A) Good.	(B) Fair.	(C) Poor.
Entrants	697	228	398	71
Second age group ...	654	214	361	79
Third age group ...	491	190	282	19
Totals...	1,842	632	1,041	169

Special Inspections and Re-examinations.

Examined	Required treatment	Referred for observation	Re-examined
1,026 ...	163 ...	154 ...	960
Number examined for visual acuity			681

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	7	100	107
Second age group ...	25	95	120
Third age group... ..	23	95	117
Totals...	55	290	344

Number of children referred for observation only 230

Number of parents present at all inspections... .. 1,426

School Clinics.

Clinic	Sessions	New Cases	Total attendances	Doctors sessions	Cases seen by Doctor
Bromborough ...	12	34	47	8	36
New Ferry ...	199	206	2422	38	579
Totals ...	211	240	2,469	46	615

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

Specialist Clinics.

Clinic.	New Cases.	Attendances.	Glasses recommended.
Ophthalmic :			
New Ferry ...	139	954	362
D ischarged.			
Speech Therapy :			
Bebington ...	40	912	30

Dental Service.

No. Inspected	No. Selected	No. Treated	No. of Teeth Extracted	No. of Teeth Filled
5,223	3,343	2,999	4,630	5,771

Handicapped Pupils.

	New Cases	Re-examinations
Blind ...	—	—
Partially sighted ...	—	3
Deaf ...	1	—
Partially deaf ...	—	—
Delicate	1	20
Diabetic ...	—	2
E.S.N. ...	5	33
Epileptic ...	4	9
Maladjusted ...	—	2
Physically handicapped ...	4	9
Speech defect ...	—	—
	15	78

Defects Found at Periodic and Special Inspections.

	Periodic Inspections				Special Inspections			
	Number referred for treatment		Number to be kept under observation		Number referred for treatment		Number to be kept under observation	
1. Cleanliness	...	2	...	1	...	—	...	—
2. Infestation								
(a) head	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
(b) body	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
3. Teeth	...	22	...	7	...	2	...	2
4. Skin	...	42	...	8	...	10	...	8
5. Eyes	(a) vision	55	...	10	...	54	...	11
	(b) squint	20	...	2	...	10	...	3
	(c) other	5	...	3	...	2	...	1
6. Ears								
(a) hearing	...	3	...	7	...	1	...	5
(b) otitis media	...	7	...	2	...	2	...	—
(c) other	...	2	...	—	...	2	...	—
7. Nose and Throat	...	73	...	59	...	31	...	35
8. Speech	...	2	...	8	...	6	...	5
9. Cervical glands	...	—	...	19	...	2	...	7
10. Heart & Circulation	...	5	...	5	...	3	...	11
11. Lungs	...	12	...	35	...	8	...	22
12. Developmental								
(a) hernia	...	1	...	—	...	1	...	—
(b) other	...	2	...	5	...	3	...	—
13. Orthopaedic								
(a) posture	...	57	...	9	...	12	...	1
(b) flat foot	...	31	...	30	...	5	...	12
(c) other	...	23	...	17	...	10	...	7
14. Nervous System								
(a) epilepsy	...	—	...	3	...	—	...	5
(b) other	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
15. Psychological								
(a) development	...	—	...	12	...	—	...	9
(b) stability	...	1	...	6	...	2	...	6
16. Other	...	36	...	20	...	10	...	22
	Totals...	401		268		176		172



