BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER

AND

DIVISIONAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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

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BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman R. WILLIAMS

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. WEDGEWOOD

The Mayor: Councillor R. H. GILL, J.P.

The Deputy Mayor: Alderman C. F. REID

Aldermen—

H. P. LONG M. POLLITT H. SMITH

Councillors—

R. EVANS
Mrs. B. GILL, J.P.
E. A. HEBRON
Dr. J. N. MACDONALD
C. W. D. THOMPSON
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
W. FARR
L. J. JONES
A. R. MOORE
L. C. MOORE

Chief Clerk :

W. R. TURNER

Clerical Staff :

Mrs. M. H. DIXON
Mrs. E. BIENIEK
Miss M. HOSKER
Mrs. J. THELWELL
Miss A. HASSELSTROM

Public Health Department,
"Plymyard,"
Eastham,
Wirral.
Cheshire.
May, 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 1955.

The birth rate of 13.5 showed a slight increase on the previous year's figure but was 1.5 lower than the country generally. The mortality rate of 10.4 although slightly higher than in 1954, compared favourably with that of 11.7 for England and Wales but the death rate of infants under one year was greater by 3.8 per 1,000 related live births than the figure of 24.9 for England and Wales.

The total number of notifications of infectious disease received during the year was considerably less than in 1954, although there was an increase in the number of cases of dysentery and food poisoning reported.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system were responsible for 40.1 per cent of all deaths in the Borough during the year, while 17.3 per cent of all deaths recorded were caused by cancer.

During 1955 I carried out 132 medical examinations in respect of Council employees.

At the present time very active steps are being taken to make use of the available vaccine for the vaccination of children against poliomyelitis. The number of children in the Borough who have been registered so far for vaccination is 1,810, and it is hoped to complete the vaccination of 200 of these children by the end of June, when vaccination will be suspended until the autumn.

In this my last report as Medical Officer of Health of your borough I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for the support they have given me and to record my appreciation of the loyal work of the staff of my department both past and present during the last fifteen years. 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 in acres	12,244
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1955)	49,100
Inhabited houses at 31st December, 1955	14,989
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1955	£425,443
Yield of a Penny Rate (Estimate for 1955/56)	£1,700

Live Births :—

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	638	347	291
Illegitimate	25	13	12
	663		

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	13.5
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.05	14.2
Birth rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	15.0

Still Births :—

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	18	6	12
Illegitimate	Nil		

Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	26.4
For England and Wales	23.1

Deaths :—

Total	*Male*	*Female*
513	278	235

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	10.4
Death rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.04	10.8
Death rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	11.7

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

			No. of deaths	*Per cent of total*
(*a*)	Heart Disease		189	36.8
(*b*)	Other Circulatory Diseases		17	3.3
(*c*)	Cancer		89	17.3
(*d*)	Vascular Lesions of nervous system		71	13.8
(*e*)	Respiratory Diseases :			
	Pneumonia	20	56	10.9
	Bronchitis	35		
	Other	1		

Deaths of Infants under ONE year—Legitimate	19
Illegitimate	Nil
Death rate of Infants under ONE year :—	
All infants per 1,000 related live births	28.7
For England and Wales	24.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.8
Deaths of infants under FOUR WEEKS —Legitimate	13
Illegitimate	Nil
Death rate of infants under FOUR WEEKS :—	
All infants per 1,000 related live births	19.6
For England and Wales	17.3
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 (Representing 437 deaths)	0.64

Birth Rates, Death Rates, and Infant Mortality Rates

1941 - 1955

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
1955	49,100	13.5	10.4	28.7

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	2	5
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	1	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	9	12
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	2	19
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	14	14
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	21	20	41
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	—	3	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	33	38	71
18. Coronary Disease, angina	51	42	93
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	13	8	21
20. Other Heart Disease	34	41	75
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	10	7	17
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	14	6	20
24. Bronchitis	29	6	35
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	—	4
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	3	4
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	5	—	5
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	23	19	42
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	2	6
34. All other Accidents	4	5	9
35. Suicide	4	3	7
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
TOTAL	278	235	513

Cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) notified in Bebington during 1955

Disease	*Total Cases Notified*	*Admitted to Hospital*	
Scarlet Fever	34	13	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	
Pneumonia	22	4	
Erysipelas	9	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	13 x	13	
Measles	497	8	
Whooping Cough	97 *	—	
Meningococcal Infection	3	3	
Dysentery	36	21	8neg.
Food Poisoning	47	13	16neg.
Total	761	77	

x Of this figure 12 were non-Borough cases.
* Of these 97 cases 1 had been immunised according to records.

Ward Distribution

Disease	*Hr. Bebington*	*Woodhey*	*Lr. Bebington*	*New Ferry*	*Park*	*Sunlight*	*N. Bromborough*	*S. Bromborough*	*Eastham*	*Poulton (incl. Clatterbridge Hosp.)*	*TOTAL*
Scarlet Fever	2	2	1	5	1	8	6	3	1	5	34
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	3
Pneumonia	5	5	—	2	2	2	2	—	2	2	22
Erysipelas	1	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	13
Measles	32	41	38	30	25	8	97	71	115	40	497
Whooping Cough	2	3	21	17	10	9	10	11	9	5	97
Meningococcal Infec	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Dysentery	2	3	2	4	—	2	1	1	2	19	36
Food Poisoning	4	6	3	6	6	6	2	2	2	10	47
Totals	48	64	68	65	44	35	119	89	133	96x	761

x Of this figure 44 were Borough cases.

Tuberculosis

(*a*) Primary notifications and the number of deaths during 1955

Age Periods	Primary Notifications				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
35—45	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	17	12	—	2	3	2	—	—
	29		2		5		Nil	
	31				5			

(*b*) Sanatorium Treatment during 1955

Sanatorium	Admissions	Discharges
Aintree Hospital	2	1
Barrowmore Hospital	2	1
Clatterbridge Hospital	1	—
Cleaver Hospital	2	—
Liverpool Hospital, Frodsham	2	1
Market Drayton	5	11
Mill Lane Hospital, Wallasey	2	1
	16	15

(*c*) Total Live Register at 31st December, 1955

Respiratory Cases	418	(Dec. 1954	402)
Non-Respiratory Cases	70	(Dec. 1954	78)
	488		480

(*d*) **The following table shows the number of primary notifications, the number of deaths, and the death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis during the last ten years :—**

Year	*Primary Notifications*		*Number of Deaths*		*Death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis Per 1,000 population*
	Respiratory	*Non-Respiratory*	*Respiratory*	*Non-Respiratory*	
1946	33	9	25	4	0.55
1947	36	8	21	3	0.45
1948	37	5	18	2	0.38
1949	50	6	23	2	0.49
1950	41	8	11	—	0.23
1951	47	9	11	4	0.23
1952	42	11	11	4	0.23
1953	35	5	4	1	0.08
1954	42	12	2	2	0.04
1955	29	2	5	—	0.10 *x*

x The death rate for England and Wales for the year 1955 was 0.13.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Mr. E. V. Crapper, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Chief Inspector, Shops Act 1950 and The Young Persons' (Employment) Act 1938, is responsible for the following reports on the sanitary and other inspections of the area.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of and Nature of Inspections Made	Total for 1955	Informals	Statutory	Complied With	Out-standing	Legal Proceed-ings
Dwellinghouses Inspected	866	386	—	201	185	
Dwellinghouses Re-Inspected	2536	—	26	333	53	
Overcrowding	294	—	—	—	—	
Offices	23	—	—	—	—	
Public Schools	43	9	—	9	—	
Private Schools	5	—	—	—	—	
Places of Entertainment	71	4	—	4	—	
Tents, Vans & Sheds	30	6	—	—	6	
Public Conveniences	31	8	—	8	—	
Dry Closets	13	3	—	3	—	
Verminous Premises	688	1	—	4	—	
Factories, Mechanical Power	124	29	—	29	—	
,, without ,, ,,	36	10	—	10	—	
Workplaces	23	—	—	—	—	
Courts and Passages	50	15	—	31	—	
Hairdressers	37	4	—	4	—	
House Drainage	1119	172	14	145	27	
Cesspools	101	6	—	2	4	
Ditches and Watercourses	15	—	—	—	—	
Offensive Trades	3	—	—	—	—	
Offensive Accumulations	85	10	—	10	—	
Smoke Observations	156	17	2	14	3	
Dustbins	1300	659	—	659	—	
Shops Acts	1877	110	—	17	93	
Slaughterhouses	82	—	—	—	—	
Piggeries	60	—	—	—	—	
Pet Animals	7	—	—	—	—	
Keeping of Animals	10	—	—	—	—	
Pet Shops	31	—	—	—	—	
Dairies and Milk Retailers	112	1	—	—	1	
Cowsheds	19	—	—	—	—	
Butchers Shops	198	19	—	7	12	
Grocers	368	48	—	40	8	
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	174	30	—	26	4	
Fried Fish	55	11	—	12	—	
Wet Fish	48	5	—	6	—	
Bakehouses and Confectioners ..	141	4	—	5	—	
Cafes, Canteens and Kitchens	338	18	—	16	2	
Licensed Premises	256	38	—	21	17	
Other Food Premises	208	11	—	13	—	
Ice Cream Premises	230	16	—	12	4	
Food Hawkers	19	11	—	11	—	
Food & Drugs Sampling						
(a) Bacteriological	260	—	—	—	—	
(b) Nature, Substance, etc.	58	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning Enquiries	796	—	—	—	—	
Infectious Disease Enquiries	214	—	—	—	—	
Beer Sampling	23	—	—	—	—	
Swimming Bath Water Sampling	12	—	—	—	—	
Soil Sampling	103	—	—	—	—	
Rodent Control	1037	—	—	—	—	
Miscellaneous	247	—	—	—	—	
Appointments outside office	322	—	—	—	—	
Totals	14954	1661	42	1652	419	

The "Complied With" figures include those as a result of some notices served in 1954

HOUSING

Inspections.

House-to-house visits were continued during the year, and in relation to this 68 houses were inspected. By the end of the year work had been completed at 26 of these premises; the remainder were being dealt with. Dampness, dry rot and defective sanitary accommodation were the chief defects.

Slum Clearance.

A special report on Unfit Houses was presented which involved 7 Clearance Areas with 106 houses containing a population of 435—(356 adults and 79 children). Adults included children over ten years of age.

Official representations were made in respect of 17 houses with a population of 66. The remaining property will be dealt with during the next five years.

Apart from the Clearance Areas, 11 individual Unfit houses were reported. In all cases the owners agreed with our opinions that the premises could not be made fit at a reasonable expense. By the end of the year 3 of the houses had been vacated, the Housing Committee having re-housed the tenants. The remainder will be dealt with early in 1956. In addition there are 38 Individual Unfit houses to be dealt with during the next five years.

Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954.

During 1955:—

14 applications were made by tenants for Certificates of Disrepair.
13 Certificates were issued.
10 of these authorised non-payment of increased rent.
4 of these authorised 40% deduction of existing rent.
1 Certificate was refused.

Following work carried out :—

25 applications were made from owners for Revocation of Certificates.
17 applications were granted.
8 applications were refused.
17 applications for technical advice were received at the office.

General Inspections.

The number of dwelling houses inspected for all purposes (Housing and Public Health Acts) was 322 less than the previous year due to the shift of emphasis on other duties. At the same time the number of revisits exceeded the previous year's figures by 973, due chiefly to supervision of repair work following housing notices.

Verminous Premises.

During the year 446 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 :—

165 rooms disinfested.
11 beds disinfested.
69 other articles disinfested.
24 houses treated for boring beetles such as the furniture beetle.
In 20 instances advice has been given to householders in regard to woodworm eradication and pest extermination.
172 houses treated for household pests.
2 young girls (awaiting police court proceedings) were cleansed at the steam disinfector.

Overcrowding

All cases of overcrowding amongst applicants for Council houses are referred to the Housing Manager who has on all occasions shown a spirit of active co-operation.

Lodging Houses.

There are 21 lodging houses on the register. These are visited regularly. There are still families living on top stories without effective means of escape in case of fire, and in some of these cases families include young children. Visits were made by the district sanitary inspectors in company with representatives of the Borough Engineer and the Fire Services.

AIR POLLUTION

Greater public interest has been shown in this problem with the passage of the Clean Air Bill but, generally speaking, one is amazed at the acquiescent manner in which this appalling and perpetual rain of filth is accepted. Whether new legislation proposed will deal effectively with this problem remains to be seen.

Chief interest was centred in the following matters :—

Queen Elizabeth II Oil Dock.

Complaints were made by nearby residents during the summer months when smoke was so bad that windows had to be kept closed. The Council contacted the Manchester Port Health Authority and following conferences between the officials concerned, both Authorities decided upon action which would deal with future nuisances

Queen Elizabeth II Oil Dock (*Continued.*)

more promptly. Only one complaint was received before the end of the year when a foreign ship with defective boiler and furnace created a nuisance. On this occasion, however, the wind direction did not affect the residents in this district and a notice by the Manchester Port Health Inspector upon the Master of the ship was in respect of a nuisance caused to another foreign ship in the Dock. As the ship remained in Dock over the New Year, it was kept under observation by both the Manchester Port Health and your own officials.

Riverside Factories.

Apart from casual observations, 156 official and timed observations were made of factory chimneys with the following result:—

On 17 occasions there was excessive smoke.
On 52 occasions discussions and interviews with Engineers, Works Managers, etc. took place.
On 2 occasions statutory notices were served.

The causes of excessive smoke could be classified as follows :—

(*a*) Wrong type of fuel.
(*b*) Fire beds of excessive thickness.
(*c*) Carelessness when raking, slicing and clearing the fires.
(*d*) Defective plant.
(*e*) Absence of smoke preventing devices.

The total number of boilers surveyed during the year was 114. The following list indicates the types of boilers, method of firing and the fuel used.

Type	*Total No.*	*Mech.*	*Hand*	*Oil*	*Coke*	*Town Gas*	*Coal*
Lancashire	68	64	4	2	—	—	66
Economic	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cochrane	7	7	—	5	—	—	2
Vertical Cross Tube	3	1	2	1	—	—	2
Water Tube	18	18	—	3	—	—	15
Fatty Alcohol	3	3	—	2	—	1	—
Independently Fired Superheater.....	3	3	—	2	—	1	—
Dyphenil	3	3	—	—	—	3	—
Daltherme	2	2	—	1	—	1	—
Robin Hood	6	5	1	2	1	—	3
TOTAL	114	107	7	18	1	6	89

Riverside Factories—*Continued*

I would emphasise the very unsatisfactory condition of affairs in regard to the quality of the fuel supplied to local factories. Poor quality fuel means additional care having to be taken and it can, and does make just that difference between pollution of the atmosphere or otherwise, when other factors are not entirely satisfactory.

Two factories, following notices, have gone to considerable trouble to rectify causes of air pollution and have been most co-operative in accepting advice from ourselves and manufacturing experts. A considerable financial outlay was involved in one instance and a similar high expense is anticipated in the other. This expense in the five-figure region makes penalties up to £50 almost a temptation to ignore notices and subsequent prosecution. It is, therefore, more pleasing to recognise the action of firms concerned in the interest of public health, and incidentally prevention of waste so far as they are concerned.

Where industrialists do not fully co-operate the nuisance continues and one could only wish that the ill-effects of a polluted atmosphere were as immediate as the effects of poisoned food. In that event more would be done. As it is, the industrialist receives more consideration than the general public and national policy appears to influence this position. The plain fact is the majority of industrialists are not as smoke-conscious as they should be, sufficient supervision over firemen is not exercised, and special attention is only given when the sanitary inspector calls.

GENERAL SANITATION

Water Supply.

The following information has been 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 1955 work continued on the works forming part of the Dee Scheme authorised by the West Cheshire Water Orders 1950 and 1952. At the Sutton Hall site the twelve million gallons service reservoir was virtually completed and work continued on the construction of the new treatment works nearby.

During the year a contract was let for the construction of a six million gallons service reservoir at Ince and work commenced at the end of the year.

At Bala the scheme being undertaken by the Dee and Clwyd River Board was virtually completed during the year.

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 continued 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.

House Drainage.

The number of inspections increased by 293 compared with 1954 due chiefly to final tests on new buildings.

Dust Bins.

At the end of the year :—

1643 Dustbins had been supplied under the Council Scheme.
561 Dustbins had been supplied during the year.
102 Dustbins had been supplied by owners following notices.
122 Dustbins had been supplied by tenants following notices.
7 Dustbins were renewed.

The above figures do not include Corporation property.

During the year :—

661 Informal notices were served.
315 14-day notices were served.

Courts, Passages.

These are regularly visited and appropriate action taken when necessary.

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 visited at intervals. Occupants have complied forthwith with requests made to them. An improvement needed is the compulsory sterilisation of food sold from such premises. Samples of raw animal food have shown the presence of organisms capable of causing food poisoning in human beings, for although such food is not normally consumed by human beings, it is handled by those preparing food for their pets and there is the ever-present risk of contamination of food, clothes, knives and other utensils in addition to drainer boards.

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. All the remaining conveniences are provided with flushing apparatus and connected either to the sewer or cesspool.

258 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 of construction, including accommodation for clothing, but to inspect kitchens and canteens and the food therein, and the facilities available where school meals are not prepared on the premises.

As indicated in my last two Annual Reports, new school premises are needed to replace the most unsatisfactory temporary school at the Methodist Hall in Allport Lane.

Tips

Complaints were again received from the tenants living in the Graylands Road area in regard to offensive odours, flies, crickets and rats. This department dealt with the rodent infestation at a cost of £5.14.11, and altogether 213 rats were destroyed. This included two dead rats found under the floors of houses in Graylands Road which had to be removed by taking up the floor boards. 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.

The private houses adjoining the tip, (Beaconsfield Road, Graylands Road, Eccleshall Road) were sprayed during the late summer and autumn to rid them of flies and crickets.

Mortuary.

The New Ferry Mortuary is cleaned at least once per week by the van driver employed in this department. During the year the dilapidated mortuary at Job's Ferry was demolished.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

214 enquiries and revisits were made in regard to infectious disease notifications. Increased work is created for the inspectorial staff due to the practice of keeping most scarlet fever patients at home. In most cases isolation was found, on the first visit, to be non-existent, there appearing to be an attitude of carelessness towards preventing the spread of infection.

During the year :—

38 rooms were disinfected.
81 beds were disinfected.
259 other articles were disinfected.
33 library books were disinfected.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

The following information has been supplied to the Minister of Labour and National Service.

Inspections Made.

	On Register	Number of	
		Inspections	*Notices*
Factories (non-mechanical power)	53	36	10
Factories (mechanical power).....	71	124	29
Other premises, e.g., Electrical Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, etc.	15	16	4
	139	176	43

Defects Found and Remedied

	Found	*Remedied*
Want of cleanliness	14	14
Unreasonable Temperature	1	1
Inadequate ventilation.....	3	3
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences:		
Insufficient	9	9
Unsuitable or defective	21	21
	49	49

Outworkers

There are ten Outworkers on the Register carrying out repairs and/or making of wearing apparel. No defects were found on their premises.

PROTECTION OF OUR FOOD SUPPLIES

The work required to deal with the problems of clean homes and clean air (already referred to), and clean food, have almost absorbed all the resources of the inspectorial staff and are likely to do so in the future. The closing of the slaughter house enabled Mr. Caines to devote the whole of his time to food hygiene and he became so much on top of his job that the new Regulations will affect us very little. It is true, however, that this type of work must be maintained and as the slaughter house is to be re-opened it may become necessary to divide food hygiene amongst the district sanitary inspectors. This will mean, of course, that less time will be available for this work.

Exactly one thousand defects in food premises were dealt with either by verbal or written notices and 974 of these were complied with at the end of the year, a satisfactory conclusion to twelve months' activity, and commendable to owners and occupiers who, in most instances, agreed with the inspector's criticisms and readily met his requests.

An of analysis these defects is as follows :—

	Number	*Complied With*
Defects in structure	134	124
Want of cleanliness	313	297
Insufficient, unsuitable or unclean equipment	62	98 *x*
Breaches of Bye-laws	248	258 *x*
Shops Act Provisions	243	197
	1,000	974

x These figures include matters notified during the previous year.

There are 452 shops or premises comprising 665 trades as follows :—

Grocers	102
Butchers	42
Cafes and Kitchens	52
School Canteens	25
Factory Canteens	18
Hospital Canteens	5
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	45
Wet Fish Shops	25
Fried Fish Shops	19
Bakehouses	14
Confectioners	36
Milk Retailers	36
Ice Cream Premises	116
Licensed Premises and Clubs	50
Off-Licence Premises	10
Miscellaneous Food Premises (Sweets, etc.)	69
Mobile Canteens	1

Meat Inspection.

The following table refers to carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Total*
Number Killed	58	3	14	505	580
Number Inspected	58	3	14	505	580
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22	—	—	84	106
Percentage of the number inspected affected	37.93	—	—	16.63	18.2
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	4
Percentage affected	6.89	—	—	—	.68

There were no carcases found to be affected with Cysticecous during the year.

Other Condemned Food.

The following table shows the amount of food to be unsound, other than meat in the slaughter houses :—

1179	tins	Meat
295	tins	Fruit and Vegetables
153	tins	Milk, etc.
40	tins	Soup
48	tins	Fish
1	tin	Spaghetti with Cheese
2	tins	Conserves
2	jars	Meat Paste
3	jars	Pickles
5	packets	Processed Cheese
4	Packets	Semolina
21	packets	Cereal
32	packets	Salted Peanuts
90	lbs.	Cake Flour
20½	Bags	Carrots
179	lbs.	Beef Trimmings
2	Carcases	Turkeys
2½	Stone	Herrings

Sampling

The following table refers to SAMPLES OF MILK taken for cleanliness and freedom from infections :—

	For Inoculation Tests				Bacteriological Report Ministry of Health Std.					Brucella Abortis		
	T.	*R.*	*P.*	*N.*	*T.*	*R.*	*P.*	*F.*	*No. Std.*	*T.*	*P.*	*F.*
T. T.	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	11	8	3
T.T. Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	17	17	17	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	—	—	—	—	36	36	36	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilized	—	—	—	—	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
Ungraded	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
	1	1	—	1	59	59	58	—	1	11	8	3

At the end of the year there were 955 cows in milk giving an approximate yield of 1,719 gallons per day.

The following table refers to ICE CREAM SAMPLING :—

No. Taken	*Provisional Grades*				*Faecal B Coli Present*	*Staph Aureus Present*	*Non-faecal B Coli Present*
	1	2	3	4			
78	74	3	—	1	1	2	9

The following table refers to BEER SAMPLING :—

18 Mild Beer	17 Satisfactory	1 contained non-faecal B. Coli.
1 Bitter Beer	1 Satisfactory	
19	18	1

WASHING-UP WATER in cafes, snack bars, hotels, school and Factory canteens was sampled with the following results :—

Before Use	18	Satisfactory	17	Unsatisfactory	1
After Use	34	Satisfactory	13	Unsatisfactory	21
	52		30		22

The twenty-two unsatisfactory samples were followed up, advice given and methods of washing-up improved.

Crockery and cutlery was swabbed, with the following results :—

Plates	9	Satisfactory	9
Knives	9	Satisfactory	9
Forks	9	Satisfactory	9
Spoons	9	Satisfactory	9
	36		36

Food Poisoning

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

539 Faeces :	3	Salmonella Muenchen
	97	Salmonella Typhimurium
	51	B. Dysentery Sonne
	388	No pathogenic organisms isolated
1 Vomit		No pathogenic organisms isolated
1 Vomit		B. Dysentery Sonne isolated
9 Suspected Food:		
5 Hen Eggs		No pathogenic organisms isolated
1 Dehydrated Milk		,, ,,
1 Orange Juice		,, ,,
1 Jelly		,, ,,
1 Orangeade		,, ,,
1 Sausages		,, ,,
1 Chocolate Cake		,, ,,
1 Sandwich		,, ,,
1 Ham and Meat Paste		,, ,,
4 Dish Cloths		No pathogenic organisms isolated
2 Swabs :		
1 Dish Cloth		No pathogenic organisms isolated
1 Sink		Faecal B. Coli isolated
1 Empty Pineapple Tin		No pathogenic organisms isolated
1 Baby's Feeding Bottle		,, ,,

A considerable amount of work was entailed in the enquiries into and the follow-up of cases of Food Poisoning. The following table gives details of confirmed cases :—

	Under 5 yrs		5 - 15 Yrs.		Over 15 yrs		Total	
	Notified	*Not Notified*	*Notified*	*Not Notified*	*Notified*	*Not Notified*	*Notified*	*Not Notified*
Salmonella Typhimurium	11	3	7	3	8	—	26	6
Salmonella Muenchen	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Para-Typhoid B.	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
	11	3	8	3	9	—	28	6

Food Poisoning—*Continued.*

The following table gives details of Dysentery cases :—

	Under 5 yrs.		5 - 15 Yrs.		Over 15 yrs.		Total	
	Noti-fied	*Not Noti fied*	*Noti-fied*	*Not Noti-fied*	*Noti - fied*	*Not Noti-fied*	*Noti-fied*	*Not Noti-fied*
B. Dysentery Sonne	7	—	13	—	4	—	24	—

Annual Return of Food Poisoning Notifications

1st Quarter	18	Salmonella typhimurium
2nd Quarter	1	Salmonella typhimurium
3rd Quarter	12	Salmonella typhimurium
	1	Salmonella muenchen
4th Quarter	1	Salmonella typhimurium
	1	Paratyphoid
Total	32	Salmonella typhimurium; 1 Salmonella muenchen; 1 Paratyphoid.

Outbreaks due to Identified Agents .... Nil
Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause .... Nil
Single Cases

Agent Identified	**Unknown Cause**	**Total**
32 Salmonella typhimurium	84	118
1 Salmonella muenchen		
1 Paratyphi B.		

Summary of Single Cases.

Salmonella typhimurium

Twenty-five of the cases notified occurred in eleven families. No connection was established between them. The distribution of cases in the various families was as follows :—

(*a*) 5. (*b*) 1. (*c*) 5. (*d*) 1. (*e*) 2. (*f*) 6.
(*g*) 1. (*h*) 1. (*i*) 1. (*j*) 1. (*k*) 1.

The particular food concerned in the above cases was not discovered.

Concerning an only case in one family, the patient's symptoms commenced whilst he was at the R.A.C. Gunnery School, Westhulworth, Wareham, Dorset.

Seven of the cases were children admitted to Clatterbridge General Hospital from Pensby Children's Wing, Irby Road, Pensby, suffering from Salmonella typhimurium food poisoning.

Salmonella muenchen

A case of salmonella food poisoning was notified which on investigation was found to be caused by salmonella muenchen. The particular food concerned was not established.

Annual Report of Food Poisoning Notifications (*Continued*)

Paratyphoid

One case of paratyphoid was notified but no connection was established with any other case. Stool specimens were obtained from other members of the particular family and examined, but no pathogenic organisms were isolated.

The only food (a meringue) consumed outside the house by the patient, and coinciding with the incubation period, was notified to the Medical Officer of Health of the area in which the food was consumed, who arranged for 47 food handlers employed at the cafe concerned to submit faecal specimens for bacteriological examination. All were negative.

In addition to the above 84 known cases of diarrhoea and or vomiting were investigated, the causes of which were not established.

The following table relates to bacteriological examination of sampled foods :—

Food	Result
5 Animal Feeding Meat	Gram positive aerobic spore bearing bacilli isolated
1 Ice Cream Powder	Faecal B. Coli isolated
1 Drinking Straws	Staph Aureous (Coagulase) negative isolated
1 Meat Pie	No pathogenic organisms isolated
3 Flaked Egg Albumen	—do—
11 Cakes	—do—
33 Packets Peanuts :	
27	No pathogenic organisms isolated
4	Streptococcus viridans isolated
2	Non-haemolytic streptococcus isolated
1	Haemolytic Streptococcus isolated
1	Non-faecal B. Coli
1 Packet Nuts & Raisins	Gram positive Bacilli isolated
1 Packet Walnuts	—do—
4 Tins Condensed Sweetened Milk	No pathogenic organisms isolated
2 Samples of Cockles	—do—
1 Synthetic Cream	—do—
1 Flour	—do—
2 Sugar	—do—
1 Peanuts	—do—
1 Puff Pastry Cream Cake	—do—
1 Dates	—do—
1 Egg Albumen	—do—
1 Sun-Pat Chocolate Peanuts	—do—

Food	Result
1 Marmite	.....No pathogenic organisms isolated
1 Butter	—do—
1 Danish Blue Cheese	—do—
1 Custard Powder	—do—
1 Bread	—do—
2 Swabs of Ice Cream Apparatus	—do—
1 Swab of Ice Cream Server	Non-faecal B. Coli isolated

In regard to the eight infected samples of roasted peanuts the manufacturer was contacted and at my request arranged to have a female assistant's throat swabbed. This assistant was found to be harbouring the organism streptococcus viridans. She was suitably treated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT (SAMPLING)

The following table indicates the number and type of foods purchased and analysed by the Public Analyst :—

Article	No. of Samples of each article examined			No. of Samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Informal	*Informal*	*Total*	*Informal*	*Informal*	*Total*
Aspirin Tablets	—	6	6	—	—	—
Baby Foods(Strained)	—	4	4	—	—	—
Baking Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Boracic Ointment	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bread	—	1	1	—	1	1
Brilliantine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cake Mix	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate (Tobler-o-rum)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cough Mixture	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream (Double)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Curry Powder	—	2	2	—	—	—
Dripping	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fish Paste	—	2	2	—	—	—
Foot Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Gin	1	—	1	—	—	—
Health Salts	—	1	1	—	—	—
Iodine (Tincture of)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Iron-ox	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jellies (Table)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lime Soda	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lolly Ices	—	5	5	—	—	—
Meat Paste	—	2	2	—	—	—

Article	No. of Samples of each article examined			No. of Samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Informal	*Informal*	*Total*	*Informal*	*Informal*	*Total*
Milk	54	11	65	10	4	14
Milk (Condensed Sweetened)	—	4	4	—	—	—
Mustard	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peas (Tinned)	—	2	2	—	—	—
Puddings (Christmas)	—	2	2	—	—	—
Quinine (Ammoniated Tincture of)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Saccharin Tablets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Salad Cream	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sardines	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sausages (Beef)	—	4	4	—	—	—
Sausages (Pork)	3	8	11	3	7	10
Seidlitz Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Soup (Cream of Chicken)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Soup (Cream of Tomato)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Soup (Kidney)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sugar (Icing)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Suet (Beef)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sweets (Butter Sweets)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sweets (Cough)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tonic Water	—	1	1	—	—	—
Trifle Pack (Trifona)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vapour Rub	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whisky	1	—	1	—	—	—
Zinc Ointment	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	59	85	144	13	12	25

Details of Samples Adulterated or Below Standard:—

Sample No.	*Name*	*Formal or Informal*	*Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity*	*Action Taken*
1	Milk	Informal	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1 per cent.	Dairyman advised
2	Milk	Formal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 8.3 per cent.	Advice given and further sample taken (4)
3	Milk	Formal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 10 per cent.	Advice given and further sample taken which proved satisfactory

Details of Samples Adulterated or Below Standard (*Continued*)

Sample No.	*Name*	*Formal or Informal*	*Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity*	*Action Taken*
4	Milk	Formal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6 per cent.	Advice given and further sample taken (5)
5	Milk	Formal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6 per cent.	Advice given and further sample taken, which proved satisfactory
6	Pork Sausages	Informal	Contained preservative, the presence of which was not declared	Warning given.
7	Milk	Formal	Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 7.0 per cent.	Further sample taken (13)
8	Pork Sausages	Formal	Contained preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Warning given.
9	Pork Sausages	Informal	Deficient in meat (pork) to to the extent of 22.1 per cent, and contained preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Formal sample taken (11)
10	Pork Sausages	Informal	Contained preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Warning given.
11	Pork Sausages	Formal	Contained preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Warning given. Meat content up to accepted standard.
12	Bread	Informal	Contained foreign body	Warning given
13	Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3 per cent.	Advice given.
14	Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3 per cent.	Advice given.
15	Pork Sausages	Informal	Deficient in meat (pork) to to the extent of 5.5 per cent and contained 280 parts per million of sulphur dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Formal sample taken (21)

Details of Samples Adulterated or Below Standard *(Continued)*

Sample No. Name	*Formal or Informal*	*Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity*	*Action Taken*
16 Pork Sausages	Informal	Contained 250 parts per million of sulphure dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Warning given.
17 Pork Sausages	Informal	Contained 130 parts per million of sulphur dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Warning given.
18 Pork Sausages	Informal	Contained 150 parts per million of sulphur dioxide preservative, the presence of which was not declared.	Warning given.
19 Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 3.5 per cent.	Advice given.
20 Milk	Formal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 26.6 per cent.	Advice given and further sample taken (22)
21 Pork Sausages	Formal	Deficient in meat to the extent of 9.5 per cent.	Manufacturer contacted.
22 Milk	Formal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 23.3 per cent.	Advice given.
23 Milk	Informal	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3 per cent.	Further samples to be taken during the year 1956-57.
24 Milk	Informal	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1 per cent.	
25 Milk	Informal	Genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3 per cent.	

Contracted correspondence with the Staffordshire County Council Food & Drugs Act Inspector and interviews with the local manufacturer, occurred during the year, following a sample of Iced Chocolate Layer Cake Mix taken in Staffordshire and which the Staffordshire County Analyst contended contravened the Labelling of Food Order since the portion of the article listed as "Chocolate Icing Sugar" consisted not of a single ingredient but of a mixture of three ingredients. The matter terminated with the agreement that the manufacturers would re-word the phrase "Chocolate Icing Sugar & Cherries to Decorate" to read "Chocolate Icing Sugar (with a little Calcium Phosphate to prevent caking) & Cherries to Decorate."

The deficiencies in solids-not-fat in several samples of milk were not due to added water but rather to seasonal factors combined with the condition of the cows. One farmer was advised to consider purchasing a younger cow to replace an ageing and rather emaciated beast.

In addition to routine sampling, examination of food was made, following complaints from purchasers, and the details are given in the following table :—

Food	*Condition*	*Action Taken*
Orange Juice	Dirty Bottle	Investigation of other bottles made and dairyman warned.
Milk	Cracked bottle	Dairyman warned.
Wrapped Sliced Loaf	Contaminated by piece of muslin	Baker warned.
Milk	Glass in bottle	Dairyman warned and Chairman of Health Committee gave a public warning at a Council Meeting.
Potted Shrimps	Decomposition	Referred to area in which they were sold.
Batch Cake	Containing a human tooth	Baker warned.
Meat Pie	Cockroach in the pastry	Baker prosecuted— Fined £5.
Meat Pie	Containing mice excreta	Baker warned.
Milk	Clay and sand in bottle	Dairyman warned.
Milk	Vegetable skin in bottle	Dairyman warned.

Swimming Bath Water

32 Samples of water were taken from New Ferry Swimming Baths, iving the following results :—

Average plate count .... 20.1 per ml..

(22 of these samples did not exceed 10 per ml.)

11 Samples contained Coliforms Bacilli.

7 Samples contained Faecal Coli.

The bathing load last summer was particularly heavy and this, coupled with surface and other contamination of the water, suggested a more frequent turn-over period and suitable steps for preventing surface contamination of the water. The Parks Committee received a detailed report from me and decided to prepare estimates for certain improvements, and in particular for the construction of an overflow weir.

Pathogenesis

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

SHOPS ACT, 1950
YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1938

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

Administration

The administration of these Acts concerns (*a*) hours of employment of young persons, facilities for meals, provision of seats for female assistants, hours of closing, Sunday trading, and provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, light, ventilation and temperature.

Defects Found

Insufficient	ventilation	6	Remedied	6
,,	temperature	26	,,	26
,,	washing facilities	6	,,	6
,,	sanitary conveniences	94	,,	94
,,	light	2	,,	2
		134		134

Warnings were given as follows :—

Half-holiday notices not exhibited	65	Remedied	65
Seats not provided for females	5	,,	5
Mixed business notices not exhibited	17	,,	17
Shops open after hours	5	,,	5
Hours of employment not recorded	7	,,	7
Notices re use of seats not exhibited	91	,,	91
Abstract of Act not Exhibited	8	,,	8
	198		198

Warnings in respect of Sunday Trading were as follows :—

Hours of employment not recorded	6	Remedied	6
Illegal Sales	7	,,	7
Failure to exhibit notices re hours of opening	54	,,	54
	67		67

It was found necessary to keep several garages under constant observation where cars were exposed for sale on Sundays. There are those who look upon this aspect of our administration as unnecessary interference when in fact the proper administration of the Act provides an element of fair trade to those concerned. As I have indicated previously, legislation exists and must be recognised. It is unfortunate that illegal sales of cars continues in neighbouring areas, thus making our job more difficult and creating irritation to the trade. All the officers of neighbouring areas have been contacted and the Wallasey Chief Shops Inspector has co-operated to the full.

HEATING APPARATUS (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

No offences under this Act have been observed and no complaints received.

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 1955 :—

Inspections —	*Reservoir*	*Major Primary*	*Minor Secondary*	*Routine*
By Sanitary Inspectors	17	38	175	367
By Rodent Operatives	—	142	144	163
Revisits —				
By Sanitary Inspectors	5	24	189	—
By Rodent Operatives	4	1371	1077	—
Supervisory visits by S.I's.	15	9	21	—
	41	1584	1606	530

	Rats	*Mice*
No. of complaints received	182	48
No. of complaints investigated	182	48
No. of premises inspected	894	43
No. of infestations—		
(1) notified by occupier	152	31
(2) otherwise discovered	41	8
No. of Infestations treated	382	157

Type of Visit made :—

Dwelling Houses			1579
L.A. Property	(1)	Tips and non-agricultural land	189
	(2)	Sewage Works	205
	(3)	Sewers	51
	(4)	Other Buildings	247
Business Premises	(1)	Factories and Workplaces	258
	(2)	Shops	336
	(3)	Places of Entertainment	51
	(4)	Licensed Premises	79
	(5)	Cafes and Canteens	174
	(6)	Non-agricultural land	129
Agricultural Property	(1)	Market Gardens and Farms	110
	(2)	Piggeries	177
	(3)	Agricultural Land	52
Other Authority Properties	(1)	Schools	300
	(2)	Hospitals and Clinics	180
			3,519

Rodent Control—*Continued.*

No. of estimates provided	99
No. of contracts signed	64
Estimated No. of rodents found during 1955	9615
Estimated No. of rodents killed during 1955	8469

64 Contracts for £149 . 10 . 6d.

Sewer Treatment

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

No. of Manholes Test Baited	236
No. " Takes "	210
Complete " Takes "	4
Partial " Takes "	22
Total Cost	£140.12.10d.
Cost per Manhole baited	11.11d.
Cost per infested Manhole	**£5. 8. 2d.**

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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

FOR THE YEAR

1955

Divisional Health Office,
"Plymyard,"
Eastham, Wirral,
Cheshire.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Representing Bebington Borough Council

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. E. WILLIAMS.

Deputy Chairman : Councillor R. EVANS.

Aldermen :

H. P. LONG.
M. POLLITT
H. SMITH
R. WILLIAMS

Councillors :

Mrs. B. E. GILL
Mrs. H. G. HEBRON.
E. J. JACKSON.
Dr. J. N. MACDONALD.
Mrs. E. MORGAN.
W. WEDGEWOOD.

Representing Cheshire County Council

County Alderman Miss B. E. WILSON, J.P.
County Councillor G. BEARDSWORTH, O.B.E., J.P.
County Councillor C. F. REID.

Ex Officio Members

County Alderman G. ASTBURY, J.P.
County Councillor A. WHITLEY.

Representative Members and Nominating Bodies

J. H. WILLIAMS, Esq.	Bebington Divisional Executive for Education.
Dr. B. CARRUTHERS	County Palatine of Chester Local Medical Committee.
A. F. DRAKE, Esq.	County Palatine of Chester Local Dental Committee.
H. AISHEN, Esq.	Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee.
Mrs. M. A. FITZPATRICK Miss J. E. ARMSTRONG Mrs. E. M. SHARPE	Former District Nursing Associations
A. J. RUSHTON, Esq.	Former Bebington Nursery School Society.

DIVISIONAL AND COUNTY STAFF

Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer	D. O. Macdonald, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.
Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee	G. Chappell, O.B.E.,LL.B.
Assistant County Medical Officers	Jessie Miller Tough, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H. Alta Stout, M.B., Ch.B.
Dental Surgeon	F. C. Littleton, L.D.S.
Authorised Officer	E. M. Harborow
Chief Clerk	W. R. Turner
Clerical Staff	Mrs. M. H. Dixon, Mrs. E. Bieniek Mrs. M. Sparke, Miss A. Maudsley Miss N. Mackey
Senior Health Visitor	Mrs. V. R. Blades
Health Visitors	Mrs. E. Symes, Miss E. Nicholson Miss R. Abraham, Miss E. M. Wright Miss B. Shepherd, Miss E. Foster
School Nurse	Mrs. D. Bushell
Home Nurses	Miss L. Cullum, Mrs. M. R. Davies Miss R. Baughan, Mrs. A. Thompson Miss M. G. Griffiths, Mrs. F. E. Harrison
Midwives	Mrs. B. Cass, Miss A.K.D.Morgan Miss A. Banks
Matron, Day Nursery (Bromborough)	Mrs. F. G. Davies, S.RN.
Deputy Matron	Mrs. E. B. West, S.R.N.
Supervisor, Occupation Centre (New Ferry)	Mrs. F. A. M. Williams
Ambulance Supervisor	E. Jones

CLINICAL SPECIALISTS (Part-Time)

Chest Physician	D. W. C. Tough, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Gynaecologist	M. M. Datnow, M.D., F.R.C.S.
Orthopaedic Surgeon	E. M. Kupfer, M.B., F.R.C.S.
Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon	G. A. Moulden, M.B., Ch.B., D.L.O.
Ophthalmic Surgeon	P. J. Devlin, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.
Physiotherapist	Miss B. K. Munro, M.C.S.P.
Speech Therapist	Miss K. Jones, L.C.S.T.

Divisional Health Office,
" Plymyard,"
Eastham,
Wirral.
April, 1956.

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

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The work of the Divisional Committee in 1955 outlined in the following pages of my report does not call for any special comment, and, while the work was of a routine nature with no new ventures, it does not detract from the fact that a very useful year's work was carried through.

My department has been working recently in making the very extensive arrangements for vaccination of children against poliomyelitis, the progress of which venture will become due to be reported on in the next annual report. I am convinced that members of the Committee are in a position to answer any enquiries made to them on this new form of vaccination that it is perfectly safe and that parents need have no anxieties in connection with it.

This is my last opportunity of thanking my Chairman, Councillor Mrs. E. Williams, and members of the Committee for their support and encouragement over the years in which I have been their Divisional Medical Officer. Associated with my thanks to my Chairman and Committee members I would include Dr. Arnold Brown, County Medical Officer, Mr. G. Chappell, Clerk to the Committee, Mrs. V. R. Blades, Senior Health Visitor, and my Chief Clerk, Mr. W. R. Turner, and all the members of my staff for the very happy associations I have had with them, which extend in some cases not only over the period of County divisional control but also over the years when Bebington was autonomous for child welfare.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. O. MACDONALD,
Divisional Medical Officer.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTERED AND MANAGED BY THE DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S DIVISIONAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, 1948.

Section 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(i) **Day Nursery:**

Attendances during the year at the Bromborough Day Nursery, which has a capacity of 30 places, were as follows:—

	0—2	2—5	Total
Jan.	25	279	304
Feb.	79	358	437
Mar.	87	458	545
April	85	338	423
May	140	411	551
June	148	462	610
July	137	437	574
Aug.	62	187	249
Sept.	135	318	453
Oct.	125	338	463
Nov.	137	370	507
Dec.	62	286	348
	1,222	4,242	5,464
Average daily attendance	4.9	17.0	21.9

For two weeks in August the Nursery was closed for Annual Holidays. The average daily attendance figure of 21.9 was lower than that for the year 1954, when it was 24.7, although it was slightly higher than that recorded for 1953.

(ii) The following tables give the attendances at Mothers' Clinics and Young Children's Clinics during the year. There was a slight increase in the number of attendances at Infant Welfare Clinics when compared with the previous year; on the other hand attendances at Specialist Clinics were fewer than in 1954.

		Sessions	New Cases	Total attendances
Mothers' Clinics:	Ante-natal	99	186	1,024
	Post-natal	combined	64	67
Young Children's Clinics:				
(1) **Infant Welfare**				
To 1 year		271	459	6,691
1 to 5 years			20	1,245
(1,788 children seen by Doctor)				
Special Toddlers'		16	81	94

Clinics—*Continued.*

		Sessions	New Cases	Total attendances
	Specialist			
(2)	Orthopaedic : Surgeon	22	85	381
	Physiotherapist	93	53	244
	Ophthalmic:	12	22	134
	(Referred for spectacles—22)			
	(Referred for treatment—9)			
	(For further observation—127)			
	Ear, Nose and Throat:	3	3	7
	(Referred to hospital—Nil)			
	(Referred to own doctor—Nil)			
	(For further observation—3)			
	Sun-ray: (0—5 Group)	60	19	140
	(5—16 Group)		56	568
	Speech Therapy:	161	30	786

(iii) **Infant Foods**

Purchases of branded infant foods during the year amounted to £1,049, and the sale of these foods at Child Welfare Clinics realised £1,144.

(iv) **Welfare Foods Service**

The distribution of Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Vitamin A and D Tablets, and Orange Juice) which became the responsibility of Local Health Authorities in June 1954 continued throughout the year without any change in the original distribution arrangements which were made. During the year the following quantities of foods were issued:—

National Dried Milk	20 oz. tin—10½d.	20,080 tins
Cod Liver Oil	6 oz. bottle—free	5,673 bottles
Vitamin A & D Tablets	free	2,168 packets
Orange Juice	6 oz. bottle—5d.	34,856 bottles

Section 23—Midwifery Service.

The number of Midwives serving the Division during 1955 was 3. Miss A. K. D. Morgan succeeded Miss E. M. Newlands, who resigned on the 31st July. Miss A. Banks replaced Mrs. Uytendhal, who retired on the 30th September. Including births notified from hospital and nursing homes a total of 689 births were notified during 1955—males 381, females 308. The births took place as follows:—

Clatterbridge Hospital	255
Heathfield Maternity Home	209
At home (attended by County Midwives)	152
Outside the Borough	73
	689

The number of births notified in 1954 was 650, of which 110 were attended by County Midwives. Of the 152 mothers whose confinements took place in their homes in 1955, 25 were attended by Home Helps provided by the Department under Section 29.

Section 24—Health Visiting.

This work is carried out by a Senior Health Visitor and six Health Visitors. During the year under review 16, 201 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 continued to assist in the cancer death research being carried on in North Wales, West Cheshire, and South West Lancashire, and this involved work of investigation by the Health Visitors.

Section 25—Home Nursing Service.

Four home nurses continued to serve residents in the Division who were considered by general practitioners to be in need of home nursing, and the relevant statistics for the year are shown in conjuction with the 1954 figures, which are given in brackets.

New Cases in 1955	Visits paid in 1955
844 (846)	20,356 (20,184)
Cases referred to hospital	102 (124)
Deaths	101 (98)

Section 26—Vaccination and Immunisation.

The customary four-months' suspension of this service took place from July to October owing to this period being one in which poliomyelitis is most likely to occur. Details of vaccination and immunisation carried out during 1955 are as follows.

VACCINATION (Smallpox)

Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total
319	87	406

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION (Completed)

Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total	Reinforcing doses
149	4	153	58

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION (Completed)

Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total
43	9	52

COMBINED DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION (Completed)

Under 5 years	5—14 years	Total
213	6	219

Total number of Clinics held 85

I feel sure the Committee will be interested in the following figures which relate to the incidence of the three diseases in Bebington during the last seven years.

	Number of Cases		
	Smallpox	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough
1949	—	6 (NI)	99 (NI)
1950	—	1 (NI)	155 (8 I)
1951	—	—	200 (10 I)
1952	—	—	129 (6 I)
1953	—	1 (?) Carrier	179 (6 I)
1954	—	—	140 (3 I)
1955	—	—	97 (1 I)

NI - None immunised.
I - Immunised.

Section 27—Ambulance Service.

A day and night service continued to operate throughout the year from the Ambulance Station at Clatterbridge Hospital. At the end of the year there were in service five ambulances and one sitting-case car, which includes the ambulance stationed at Lever Bros. (Port Sunlight) Ltd. factory and manned by Lever Bros.' personnel. The staff comprised one Ambulance Supervisor, one Senior Driver-Attendant, fifteen Driver-Attendants, and one Attendant.

In 1955 each journey averaged 9.6 miles and 1.9 patients were carried, as compared with 9.3 miles and 2 patients for 1954.

The following is a statement of the work of the Ambulance Service during 1955:—

	(1) No. of vehicles.	(2) Total No. of journeys	(3) Total patients carried (calls).	(4) No. of Accidents & Emergency calls incl. in Col. (3)	(5) Total Mileage
Directly Provided Ambs	5	7,153	12,944	1,119	59,116
Service Car	1	1,345	3,007	6	22,925
Totals (1955)	6	8,498	15,951	1,125	82,041
Totals (1954)	6	8,715	17,021	1,012	80,962

Section 27—Ambulance Service—(*Continued*).

In the figure of 1,125 shown in Column (4), there were included 107 Road accidents, 22 Works accidents, 71 Home accidents, and 25 School 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 1955 carried out at Clatterbridge Hospital internal transfer work from ward to ward which occupied approximately 28 weeks of the combined working hours of a driver and an attendant. This service was provided free to the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee in lieu of rent for accommodation used by the Ambulance Service within the Hospital.

During 1955 a number of 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 Ashover, Beeston, Droitwich, London, Otley and Salford. In this latter group railway compartments were reserved for the patients and the accompanying attendants.

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

Tuberculosis

Home visits to tuberculosis patients by Health Visitors were continued throughout the year and close liaison with the Tuberculosis Officer, Doctor D. W. Tough, was maintained. Nursing equipment was loaned to patients in appropriate cases.

The following table shows the state of my Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1955, and other relevant figures for the year.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	223	195	418
Non-pulmonary	23	48	71
	246	243	489

New cases placed on register	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	25	25	50
Non-pulmonary	1	2	3
	26	27	53

Tuberculosis—*continued*

Cases removed from Register

Deaths from tuberculosis	—	Non-pulmonary
or other disease	13	Pulmonary
Pronounced cured	1	
Left district	12	
Lost sight of	—	
Colonised at Wrenbury	6	
	32	

Contacts referred for examination	166
Contacts examined	99
Child contacts vaccinated with B.C.G.....	28
Chalets in use	13
Visits paid by Health Visitors	685

Cases on register per 1,000 population:-

1955 .... 10.0 .... (1954 ..... 9.8)

New cases per 1,000 population:-

1955 .... 1.1 .... (1954 ..... 1.1)

Death-rate per 1,000 population:-

1955 .... 0.10 .... (1954 ..... 0.12)

(Represents 5 deaths)

B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren.

The vaccination of schoolchildren (12/13 years) with B.C.G. (Bacillus Calmette Guerin) vaccine for protection against tuberculosis continued, and 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 gave in connection with this work.

Details of the work carried out are as follows:—

No. of consent forms issued	835
No. of children for whom consents received	697
No. of children found to be tuberculin positive	151
No. of children vaccinated with B.C.G.	514

Sick and Aged After-Care.

The work under this section continued vigorously throughout the year, and 685 visits were made by Health Visitors in connection with the welfare of the chronic sick, including aged and infirm. During the year issues of Home Nursing equipment on loan totalled 117, and Domestic Helps were provided in 79 cases.

I was instrumental in obtaining the admission of six aged people into the County Council's Welfare Homes. Two children and three adults were assisted into Convalescent Homes for periods varying from two to four weeks through the special fund allocated by the County Council to the Division.

Section 29—Domestic Help Service.

The demand for domestic help service during 1955 was considerably greater than in any year since the introduction of the service in 1948, and as a result domestic helps were employed for a total of 23,025½ hours, 7,525 hours more than in 1954.

Health Visitors paid 172 visits to households during the course of the year in connection with applications for the service, and it is very satisfactory to record that no applications had to be refused and there was no waiting list.

At the end of the year 2 full time and 21 part time helps were employed, compared with 2 full time and 12 part time workers at the end of 1954.

Details of cases provided with domestic help service during the year, together with comparative figures for 1954 which are shown in brackets, are as follows:—

Maternity	25	(18)
Tuberculosis	7	(3)
Chronic sick, including aged and infirm	79	(75)
Others	31	(12)
	142	(108)

The maximum charge to patients for domestic help service was 2/9d. per hour until the 5th September 1955, but from that date it was increased to 2/10d. per hour. There is a scale of charges in operation whereby the amount payable is assessed according to the income of the family concerned after deductions are made for rent, rates, and personal allowances.

In 67 of the 142 cases provided with help in the year under review the maximum charge was paid.

Section 51—Mental After-Care.

At the Occupation Centre, New Ferry, which was opened in 1952 for the training of mentally deficient children there were forty-three children on the register at 31st December 1955, eleven more than at the end of 1954. Their ages ranged from 5 years to 16 years.

The register was made up as follows:—

District	No. of children on register
Bebington	12
Ellesmere Port	14
Heswall	3
Neston	4
Hoylake	7
Greasby	1
Pensby	2
	43

Mental After-Care. (*Continued.*)

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

Handicrafts taught in the Centre include needlework, rug-making, weaving, and felt work, and the results achieved during 1955 were highly successful and most encouraging. In suitable cases instruction is given in reading and writing.

Estimates of Expenditure for year 1956/57.

	£
Vaccination and Immunisation	435
Domestic Help Service	2,419
Ambulance Service	3,885
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	235
Welfare Centres	2,280
Bromborough Day Nursery	1,040
Midwifery	110
Health Visiting	20
Home Nursing	335
Mental Health	2,000
Administration	4,191
Payment for Infectious Disease Notifications	120
	17,160
Estimated Income for 1956/57	**3,470**
Net Estimated Expenditure 1956/57	**13,690**

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 1955:—

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

Periodic Inspections

Entrants	*Intermediates*	*Leavers*	*Additional Inspections*	*Total examined*
566	857	703	166	2,292

General Conditions

Age Group	*Inspected*	(A) *Good*	(B) *Fair*	(C) *Poor*
Entrants	566	208	303	55
Intermediates	857	378	409	70
Leavers	703	287	379	37
Other periodic inspections	166	83	59	24
Totals	2,292	956	1,150	186

Special Inspections and Re-examinations

Examined	*Required treatment*	*Referred for observation*	*Re-examined*
1,058	141	160	697

Number examined for visual acuity 486

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	83	86
Second age group	37	143	180
Third age group	46	145	191
Other periodic inspections	5	31	36
Totals	91	402	493

Number of children referred for observation only ..... 226.

Number of parents present at all inspections 1,844

School Clinics

Clinic	*Sessions*	*New Cases*	*Total attendances*	*Doctors' sessions*	*Cases seen by Doctor*
Bromborough	7	32	35	8	38
New Ferry	195	204	2,558	38	621
Totals	202	236	2,593	46	659

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

Specialist Clinics

Clinic	*New Cases*	*Attendances*	*Glasses recommended*
Ophthalmic (*New Ferry*)	108	984	432
			Discharged
Speech Therapy (*Bebington*)	30	778	49

Dental Service

No. Inspected	*No. Selected*	*No. Treated*	*No. of Teeth Extracted*	*No. of Teeth Filled*
4,683	3,198	2,277	3,605	4,268

Handicapped Pupils

	New Cases	*Re-examinations*
Blind	—	—
Partially sighted	—	4
Deaf	—	—
Partially deaf	—	1
Delicate	3	26
Diabetic	3	2
E.S.N.	5	28
Epileptic	2	14
Maladjusted	—	1
Physically handicapped	2	22
Speech defect	—	—
	15	98

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	1	—	—	—
2. Infestation				
(a) head	1	—	—	—
(b) body	—	—	—	—
3. Teeth	15	3	1	1
4. Skin	82	12	15	14
5. Eyes				
(a) vision	91	13	40	20
(b) squint	11	2	6	8
(c) other	11	1	1	—
6. Ears				
(a) hearing	1	9	1	4
(b) otitis media	3	1	—	1
(c) other	3	1	—	—
7. Nose and Throat	85	56	25	34
8. Speech	11	7	10	11
9. Cervical glands	—	16	1	6
10. Heart & Circulation	5	8	1	7
11. Lungs	14	38	6	11
12. Developmental				
(a) hernia	2	1	—	—
(b) other	4	2	—	1
13. Orthopædic				
(a) posture	98	8	16	3
(b) flat foot	25	15	6	9
(c) other	31	7	5	5
14. Nervous System				
(a) epilepsy	2	2	—	12
(b) other	—	1	1	1
15. Psychological				
(a) development	1	20	2	22
(b) stability	1	5	1	5
16. Other	43	16	9	15
Totals	541	244	147	190

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