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BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER

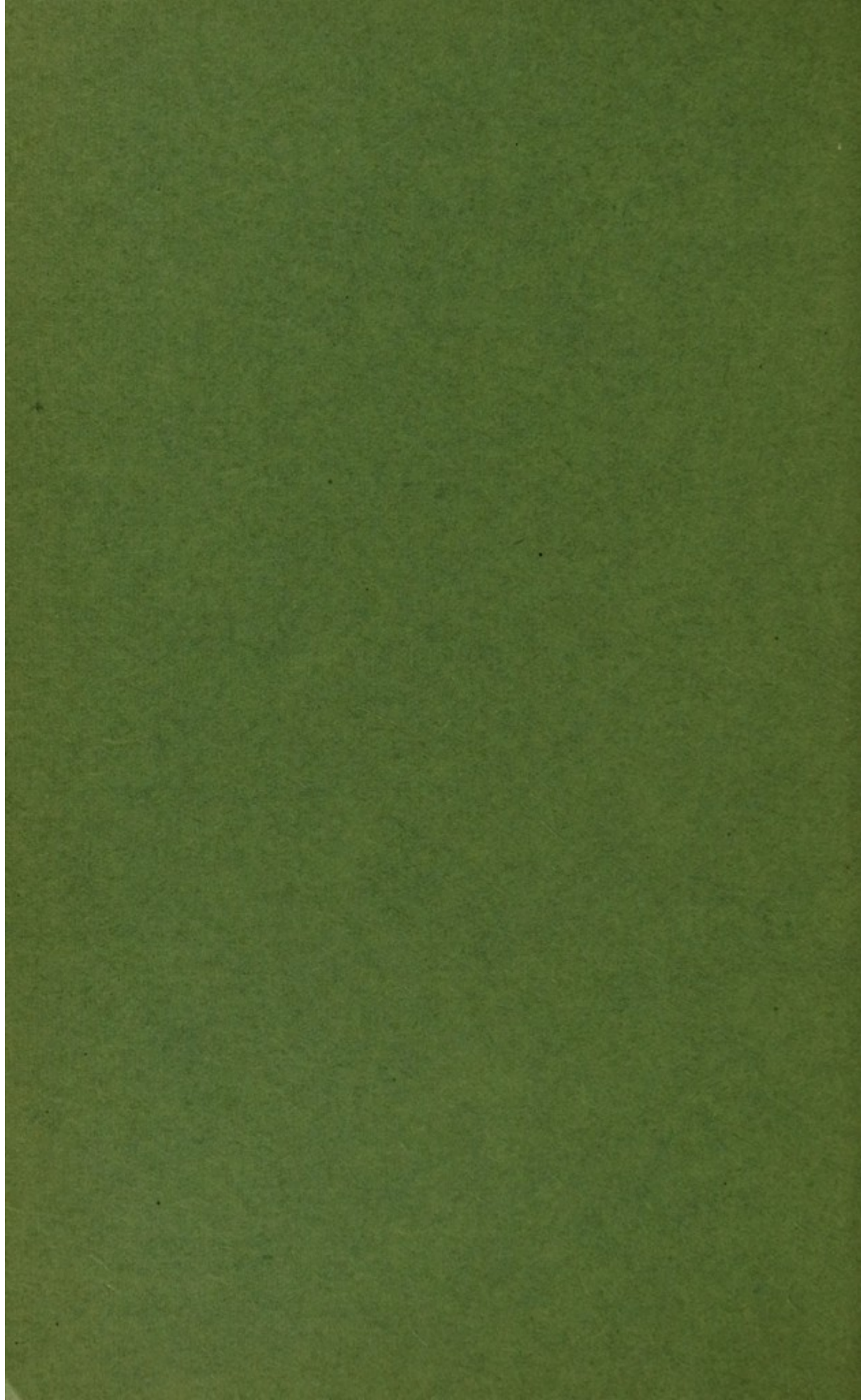
AND

DIVISIONAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1957





BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER

AND

DIVISIONAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1957



## BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

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**HEALTH COMMITTEE***Chairman:* Alderman R. WILLIAMS*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor W. WEDGEWOOD

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*The Mayor:* Councillor Mrs. E. WILLIAMS, J.P.*The Deputy Mayor:* Councillor J. H. WILLIAMS*Aldermen—*

H. P. LONG

H. SMITH

*Councillors—*

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Mrs. M. LEECE

J. H. WARD

Dr. J. N. MACDONALD

Mrs. P. WILDBORE

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**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF***Medical Officer of Health*

F. S. MELVILLE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Chief Public Health Inspector*

E. V. CRAPPER, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.&amp;H.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector*

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

*Additional Public Health Inspectors*

E. CAINES

A. R. MOORE

E. CLOSS-PARRY

R. B. VAUGHAN

*Pupil Public Health Inspector —* J. C. KNEALE (From 2/9/57)*Chief Clerk*

W. R. TURNER

*Clerical Staff*

Mrs. E. BIENIEK

Miss M. HOSKER

Miss A. HASSELSTROM

Mrs. P. JONES

Miss H. L. STANLEY (To 30/6/57)



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

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the annual report for the year 1957.

The tables of vital statistics at the beginning of this report bear careful scrutiny. Particularly noteworthy is the low infant mortality during the year. The rate of 13 is far and away the lowest and best ever achieved in this borough, compares very favourably with the best anywhere and is very much below the national average. This figure is achieved by more than halving the number of deaths of infants under one month, from 13 in 1956 to 6 in 1957 and says much for the prenatal care and education by the general practitioners, hospitals and staff of the local health authority. This low infant mortality rate combined with a nil return for maternal deaths for the seventh successive year is an indication of the value of good preventative medicine.

At the other end of the scale there is a marked increase in the number of deaths from cancer of the lung. Much has been said in the last few years about cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung and that it is an important factor is now well established but there are others, for example, the fumes from the internal combustion engine and smoke from chimneys, industrial and domestic. During the year, thanks largely to the co-operation and help of the North Western Gas Board, preliminary efforts were made to make the Abbots Grange prefabricated bungalow estate smoke free. This estate, which consists of low roofed bungalows and is surrounded by trees, has been a bugbear to itself and its neighbours with its heavy smoke pall and it is to be hoped that when it is smoke free the benefits will become so obvious to the remainder of the citizens in the borough that they will insist on using smokeless fuel themselves. There is much conservative resistance to using these fuels and modern appliances which dissipates as by magic when they are properly and intelligently tried.

This will be the last annual report with which Mr. Crapper will be associated as he retired in May this year. Since he joined the staff of what was then the Lower Bebington Urban District Council, forty-six years ago, he has seen and been instrumental in many changes which have benefited the health of the community.

During the year the Health Committee agreed to appoint a student public health inspector. This method of recruitment has much to recommend it as apprenticeship is still the best method of learning any profession or trade under the guidance of the experienced man.

I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the whole of the staff for their help and enthusiasm throughout the year and for their share in the work of compiling this report.

F. S. MELVILLE,  
Medical Officer of Health

Town Hall,  
Bebington.  
October, 1958.



## VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	12,244
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1957)	50,150
Inhabited houses at 31st December, 1957	15,430
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1957	£710,698
Yield of a Penny Rate (Estimate for 1957/58)	£2,870

### Live Births :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	743	380	363
Illegitimate	23	11	12
	<hr/> 766 <hr/>		

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	15.3
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.04	15.9
Birth rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	16.1

### Still Births :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	19	5	14
Illegitimate	1	1	
	<hr/> 20 <hr/>		

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	25.4
For England and Wales	22.5

### Infant Deaths :—

Deaths of Infants under ONE year—Legitimate	7
Illegitimate	3

#### Death rate of infants under ONE year :—

All infants per 1,000 related live births	13.1
For England and Wales	23.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	9.4
Deaths of infants under FOUR WEEKS—Legitimate	3
Illegitimate	3

#### Death rate of infants under FOUR WEEKS :—

All infants per 1,000 related live births	7.8
For England and Wales	16.5

### Deaths :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
	524	272	252	
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population				10.4
Death rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.12				11.6
Death rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales				11.5



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	0.47

TABLE I

**Comparative Annual Numbers and Rates of Births and Deaths  
for Borough of Bebington since 1939**

Year	Popula- tion	Births		Infant Deaths		Maternal Mortality			Deaths all ages	
		Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Popu'n	Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Puer. Fever	Other 1,000	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Total No.	Death Rate (adjusted)
1939	42,000	781	18.61	34	43.53	0	2	2.56	396	9.38
1940	43,180	682	13.48	46	67.2	2	1	4.68	470	10.88
1941	41,910	688	16.42	36	52.6	0	1	1.46	482	11.5
1942	41,880	748	17.8	21	28.07	—	—	—	403	9.6
1943	41,300	748	18.11	47	62.83	—	—	—	455	11.01
1944	41,970	857	20.41	36	42.00	—	—	—	434	10.34
1945	42,390	788	18.3	39	49.00	1	2	3.8	419	10.02
1946	45,620	875	19.4	45	51.0	—	1	1.14	489	10.8
1947	46,640	914	19.6	47	51.3	—	1	1.09	470	10.1
1948	46,780	809	17.2	37	45.5	—	1	1.2	432	9.2
1949	47,030	706	14.9	24	33.9	—	2	2.8	471	9.9
1950	47,150	687	14.5	18	26.2	—	1	1.4	460	9.7
1951	47,300	648	13.7	17	26.3	1	—	1.52	562	11.5
1952	47,790	651	13.7	17	26.2	—	—	—	529	11.0
1953	48,270	643	12.9	21	32.6	—	—	—	499	11.0
1954	48,740	635	13.7	15	23.6	—	—	—	478	10.2
1955	49,100	663	14.2	19	28.7	—	—	—	513	10.8
1956	49,950	753	15.8	16	21.2	—	—	—	509	11.4
1957	50,150	766	15.9	10	13.1	—	—	—	524	11.6

### Population

The estimated population of the area of the borough at the 30th June, 1957 was 50,150. This is an increase of 200 and continues the upward trend which has been uninterrupted since the end of the war.

The accuracy of this figure cannot be vouched for as it is now six years since there was an official census.

All statistical data for the year throughout this report is based on the mid-year estimate of 50,150.



TABLE II

## Causes of Death

1957

Arranged according to Registrar General's  
Short Classification, Age and Sex

	0-		5-		15-		25-		45-		65-		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory											2		2	-
3. Syphilitic Disease									1				1	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach									1		4	5	5	5
11. " " Lung, Bronchus									14	2	10		24	2
12. " " Breast										2		3	-	5
13. " " Uterus										3			-	3
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms						1	3	1	6	7	16	20	25	29
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia		1							1				1	1
16. Diabetes												2	-	2
17. Vascular Lesions Nervous System									6	7	21	41	27	48
18. Coronary Disease, Angina							3	2	25	9	45	37	73	48
19. Hypertension with Heart disease										1	2	2	2	3
20. Other Heart Disease						1			3	2	11	21	14	24
21. Other Circulatory Disease									6	2	6	5	12	7
22. Influenza									1	1	2		3	1
23. Pneumonia							1		4	3	11	23	16	26
24. Bronchitis		1					1	1	5	1	17	3	23	6
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System											1		1	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum								1	2		2		4	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea								1				1	-	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis								1			1	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate											1		1	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion													-	-
31. Congenital Malformations		1									1		1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	6			1		2		6	5	8	15	16	28
33. Motor Vehicle accidents					3				3	2			6	2
34. All other accidents				1	2						2		4	1
35. Suicide							3		2	2	1		6	2
36. Homicide and Operations of war		1											-	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>252</b>
	<b>11</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>135</b>		<b>345</b>		<b>520</b>	

The totals do not agree with those returned by the Registrar General. (*vide supra*). It is probable that the error arises in that he has transferred some deaths occurring in hospital.



TABLE III.

Number of deaths from certain causes, death rates per 10,000 population, mean ages at death, years of "working life" lost and years of "total life" lost per 10,000 population.

ENGLAND AND WALES, 1956																
BEBINGTON, 1956																
BEBINGTON, 1957																
No.	Cause of Death	Total Deaths		Mean age at death	Years of Life lost per 10,000 population		Total Deaths		Mean age at death	Years of Life lost per 10,000 population		Total Deaths		Mean age at death	Years of Life lost per 10,000 population	
		No.	Rate / 10,000 popu-lation		No.	Rate / 10,000 popu-lation	No.	Rate / 10,000 popu-lation		No.	Rate / 10,000 popu-lation	No.	Rate / 10,000 popu-lation		No.	Rate / 10,000 popu-lation
	All Causes	268	112	66.2	533	2,006	264	111	64.7	625	2,171	267,904	125	65.7	747	2,407
	...	252	96	68.5	461	1,557	245	93	68.2	468	1,547	253,427	109	70.4	472	1,601
1	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	0.8	66	0	8	6	3	59.2	12	52	3,534	2	57.8	14	41
	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	50.3	16	37	1,319	1	50.9	9	18
10-15	Cancer (all sites)	55	23	64.6	103	419	47	20	65.3	139	429	48,935	23	64.9	114	429
	...	45	17	64.9	85	297	43	16	65.1	87	292	43,775	19	65.6	97	331
11	Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	24	10	63	43	194	15	6	61.2	37	133	15,615	7	62.4	39	150
12	Cancer of breast	5	2	69.2	6	30	6	2	58.2	23	54	8,508	4	63.3	22	72
17	Vascular lesions of C.N.S.	27	11	73.3	19	147	21	9	70	22	132	31,034	14	72.5	30	187
	...	48	18	75.5	20	191	45	17	74.1	20	183	43,453	19	74.6	29	190
18	Coronary disease	73	31	66	112	510	78	33	65.1	144	604	46,921	22	67.4	78	360
	...	48	18	72.3	46	233	37	14	75.3	46	203	27,869	12	73.1	18	124
19, 20	Other cardiac diseases	16	7	73.3	10	82	39	16	73.3	40	240	40,043	19	74.6	35	228
	...	27	11	71.4	26	122	44	17	78.4	12	158	55,038	24	77	32	222
23, 24	Bronchitis and Pneumonia	39	16	67.6	51	246	34	14	70.5	45	220	31,498	15	66.5	80	272
	...	32	12	72.7	39	163	28	11	75.3	27	131	21,349	9	71	42	133
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2	66.5	6	30	2	0.8	66.5	—	8	3,778	2	66.7	7	30
	...	1	0.4	42	6	21	—	—	—	—	—	1,564	1	72	2	8
33, 34	Accidents	10	4	42.4	108	184	5	2	59.4	18	50	9,604	4	47.1	87	166
	...	3	1	41.3	27	52	4	2	53.8	27	48	6,701	3	65.5	25	59



## **Births**

766 live births were referable to the borough which gives a rate of 15.9 per thousand of the population compared to 753 and 15.8 the previous year. There has been a progressive upward trend since 1953.

23 illegitimate births were registered during the year.

## **Deaths**

According to the Registrar General 524 deaths were referable to Bebington during 1957 giving a crude death rate of 10.4 and an adjusted death rate of 11.6. The locally determined figure of 520 does not alter these rates as the difference of four is insignificant in numbers of this order.

## **Deaths from various causes**

Table III is again given to show the more important diseases which are responsible for the deaths of people many of whom are still well within the normal retiring age of sixty-five.

The figures for 1956 for Bebington are repeated and those of England and Wales for 1956 as the most recent available so that some comparison can be made. However, too much cannot be read into these as in many cases the total numbers are so small that they make statistical comparison impossible and mortality figures are also coloured by fashions in diagnosis.

I hope by continuing this table that through the years trends will be firmly noted and give suggested lines of action in prevention.

## **Infant Mortality**

The total infant deaths numbered ten during the year giving an infant mortality rate of 13.1 per thousand live births as compared to 21.2 during 1956. This is the lowest rate ever recorded in the borough and considerably below the national level. Six of the ten children dying were less than four weeks old making the neonatal mortality rate only 8 per thousand live births as compared with a rate of 17.3 in 1956. This speaks very highly for the maternal care in the borough as it is recognised that the neonatal mortality figures have been the most difficult to reduce and are an indication of the standard of maternal care.

The stillbirth rate for the year was 25 per thousand live and still births, which is slightly higher than in 1956.

The Stillbirth Rate and Neonatal Death Rate have been combined and called the Perinatal Death Rate. Table IV shows that this rate whilst it has improved slightly has not shown the dramatic fall of the Infant Mortality Rate.

## **Maternal Mortality**

No maternal death has occurred in the borough since 1951.

TABLE IV

Stillbirths, Neonatal (Infants under 1 month) Deaths and Perinatal Deaths  
(Stillbirths plus Neonatal Deaths) and Rates per 1,000 Live and Still Births

Year	Total No. of Live and still Births	No. of Still Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	No. of Deaths Infants under one month	Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	No. of Still Births plus No. of Neonatal Deaths	Perinatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births
1939	807	26	32	26	32	52	64
1940	722	38	53	22	30	60	83
1941	708	24	34	18	25	42	59
1942	771	23	30	8	10	31	40
1943	788	40	51	29	25	60	76
1944	884	27	31	23	26	50	57
1945	881	23	28	23	29	46	57
1946	900	25	28	32	35	57	63
1947	936	22	24	35	37	57	61
1948	832	23	28	26	31	49	59
1949	730	19	26	19	26	38	52
1950	711	24	34	15	21	39	55
1951	655	7	11	11	16	18	27
1952	670	19	28	15	23	34	51
1953	661	18	27	15	23	33	50
1954	654	19	29	13	20	32	49
1955	681	18	26	13	20	31	46
1956	771	18	23	13	16	31	39
1957	788	20	25	6	8	26	33



TABLE V.

Number of notified infectious diseases occurring in Bebington according to year and disease (excluding non-borough cases notified from hospital).

DISEASE	Y E A R									
	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Scarlet Fever	76	54	55	72	46	77	55	34	15	37
Diphtheria	31	15	4	3	8	3	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	104	99	155	200	129	200	140	97	150	134
Measles	439	263	798	293	793	273	623	497	255	496
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	3	5	4	-	2	4	1	1	6
Acute Encephalitis	-	1	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	1
Pneumonia (Primary) and Influenzal)	40	43	16	57	30	27	36	22	16	30
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	3	3	3	1	3	3	2	2
Typhoid	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	36	49	7	27	17	36	19	22
Food Poisoning	-	-	69	60	19	17	23	47	9	4
Erysipelas	11	9	9	6	9	14	7	9	14	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	1	5	4	2	1	3	1	1

Notification of non-borough cases from Clatterbridge Hospital during 1957:—

Dysentery	25	Meningococcal Infection	1
Food Poisoning	1	Poliomyelitis	4
Measles	39	Scarlet Fever	5
Pneumonia	1	Whooping Cough	21
Paratyphoid	1		

TABLE VI.

Notified Infectious Diseases during year 1957 occurring in the different Wards.

	Hr. Bebington	Woodhey	Lr. Bebington	Poulton	Sunlight	Park	New Ferry	N. Bromborough	S. Bromborough	Eastham	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	6	-	1	2	1	-	3	1	5	18	37
Whooping Cough	7	2	10	4	9	21	31	2	12	36	134
Measles	103	59	53	26	33	32	60	20	35	75	496
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	2	6
Pneumonia	4	2	10	-	2	1	6	3	2	-	30
Paratyphoid	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	3	-	3	2	-	2	6	1	-	5	22
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	4
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>740</b>



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Scarlet Fever

37 cases of scarlet fever were notified during 1957. This disease continues in a very mild form and few are admitted to hospital nowadays.

### Diphtheria

It is now four years since a case of diphtheria was notified.

I am happy to report that on the whole the parents of children in this borough realise that this result is due to effective immunisation and can only be maintained if immunisation continues and they co-operate accordingly.

### Whooping Cough

134 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. Only four of these cases had been immunised against the disease and none had been immunised within the previous three years. There were no deaths. Whilst the protection given by immunisation against whooping cough is not so complete as that against diphtheria by diphtheria immunisation there is no doubt of its worth and I am pleased to say that the rate of immunisation against this disease is very high and hope it will be maintained.

### Measles

The epidemic which had commenced in the closing months of 1956 continued with increased magnitude in the early months of 1957. 496 cases were notified during the year almost all in the first half of the year.

### Poliomyelitis

Six cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, five of them early in the year. Four were paralytic and two non-paralytic but the paralytic cases all made good recoveries with no residual incapacity.

Apart from two of the cases who were brothers no apparent connection between these cases could be found.



**Pneumonia**

The number of notified cases of pneumonia rose from 16 in 1956 to 30 in 1957. This rise occurred mainly in the last half of the year due to the epidemic of influenza known popularly at the time as "Asian flu."

**Paratyphoid**

One case was notified during 1957. No evidence could be discovered of where or how the patient became infected.

**Dysentery**

22 cases of dysentery were notified during 1957, two fewer than the previous year. The disease is much more prevalent than these figures suggest but it is usually so mild in character that the doctor is not consulted. However, it can be serious in the very old or very young and the prevention of it is extremely simple and can be summed-up in three words, "Good Personal Hygiene."

**Food Poisoning**

Four cases were notified during the year. Three of the cases were not connected at all and no other contacts were found to be suffering or to be carrying any pathogenic organisms. In one of the three, who was suffering from another and more serious ailment, salmonella typhimurium was isolated. Another had an attack suggesting staphylococcal toxin was the cause although no bacteriological proof was discovered and in the third no presumptive cause could be adjudged. The fourth case was one of several which occurred from eating tinned fish at a canteen outside the Borough. There were other cases from the same source in other areas and the organism in this case was ultimately found to be staphylococcus aureus.





TABLE VIII.

The following table shows the number of primary notifications, the number of deaths, and the death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis during the last eleven years:—

Year	Primary Notifications				Number of Deaths				Death-rate from Resp. T. B. England & Wales per 1000 popul'n
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	Total No.	Rate/1000 popul'n	Total No.	Rate/1000 popul'n	Total No.	Rate/1000 popul'n	Total No.	Rate/1000 popul'n	
1947	36	0.753	8	0.17	21	0.45	3	0.06	0.55
1948	37	0.79	5	0.11	18	0.38	2	0.04	0.51
1949	50	1.06	6	0.13	23	0.49	2	0.04	0.49
1950	41	0.87	8	0.17	11	0.23	—	—	0.36
1951	47	0.99	9	0.19	11	0.23	4	0.08	0.32
1952	42	0.88	11	0.23	11	0.23	4	0.08	0.24
1953	35	0.73	5	0.10	4	0.08	1	0.02	0.20
1954	42	0.86	12	0.25	2	0.04	2	0.04	0.18
1955	29	0.59	2	0.04	5	0.10	—	—	0.13
1956	44	0.88	3	0.06	9	0.18	—	—	0.11
1957	36	0.72	2	0.04	2	0.04	—	—	0.095

#### Total Live Register at 31st December, 1957

Respiratory Cases	468	(Dec. 1956	450)
Non-Respiratory Cases	39	(Dec. 1956	71)
	<u>507</u>		<u>521</u>

#### Medical Examinations.

During the year the Medical Officer has carried out 152 medical examinations for new employees, superannuation and sick pay purposes.



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

TABLE IX.

Table showing total numbers and types of Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors during 1957.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made	Total for 1957	Informals	Statutory	Complied with	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
Dwellinghouses inspected	639	279	-	-	-	-
Dwellinghouses reinspected	1768	160	62	197	82	5
Overcrowding	51	-	-	-	-	-
Lodging Houses	26	4	-	4	-	-
Tents, Vans and Sheds	25	3	-	3	-	-
Public Schools	27	4	-	4	-	-
Private Schools	6	-	-	-	-	-
Places of Employment, e.g.						
Shops	500	30	-	11	19	-
Factories, with Mechanical Power	59	10	-	10	-	-
Factories, without Mechanical Power	19	4	-	4	-	-
Workplaces	19	-	-	-	-	-
Places of Entertainment	66	12	-	12	-	-
Verminous Premises	585	1	-	1	-	-
Hairdressers	17	-	-	-	-	-
Public Conveniences	3	-	-	-	-	-
Courts and Passages	218	8	6	1	7	1
House Drainage	610	101	24	73	28	-
Ditches and Watercourses	83	4	-	1	3	-
Cesspools	121	12	-	7	5	-
Smoke Observations	169	8	-	8	-	-
Air Pollution, Observations	70	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Trades	4	-	-	-	-	-
Offensive Accumulations	60	15	-	15	-	-
Dustbins	1263	731	-	731	-	-
Heating Appliances Act	18	5	-	5	-	-
Pet Shops	14	4	-	4	-	-
Food Premises	728	65	-	32	33	-
Licensed Premises	18	1	-	1	-	-
Food Hawkers	17	3	-	3	-	-
Slaughterhouses	436	3	1	2	1	-
Piggeries	25	5	-	5	-	-
Cowsheds	20	-	-	-	-	-
Sampling :						
Visits	21	-	-	-	-	-
Bacteriological	39	-	-	-	-	-
Nature and Substance	158	-	-	-	-	1
Swimming Bath Water	22	-	-	-	-	-
Infectious Disease	51	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	134	-	-	-	-	-
Rodent Control	397	1	-	1	-	-
Agriculture (Health, etc.) Act 1956	34	23	-	-	23	-
Miscellaneous	221	-	-	-	-	-
Appointments outside Office	264	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	9039	1589	93	1135	201	7

xVisits by Inspectors re Closing etc., not included. See Report under Shops Acts.



## HOUSING

### Inspections

Visits for the purpose of ascertaining condition of repairs were continued on a limited scale. It is hoped it will be possible to step up in this important work in the near future.

### Clearance Areas

26 houses which were represented in 1956 were demolished after the occupants had been rehoused by the Corporation. During the year four further houses were represented.

### Individual Unfit Houses

During the year 5 families from Individual Unfit Houses were rehoused and 25 further houses were represented.

### Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954 Rent Act, 1957

Work under the first mentioned of these Acts was stepped up when the second came into force. Apart from the many Forms required and the inspections involved, a large amount of advice was given — advice on technical matters, e.g. whether this or that item could be included on a Form G. Where landlords gave undertakings to carry out repairs, sanitary notices were deferred unless there were urgent matters involved.

### Rent Act, 1954

The following is the position up to and including 5th July, 1957 :—

1 application for Revocation of Certificate which was granted.

### Rent Act, 1957

The following is the position from the 6th July, 1957, regarding the above Act :—

- 49 Applications by tenants for Certificate of Disrepair (Form I)
- 49 Notices to landlords of Proposal to issue Certificate of Disrepair (Form J)
- 23 Undertakings by landlord to Remedy Defects proposed to be included on Certificate of Disrepair (Form K)
- 22 Certificates of Disrepair issued (Form L)
  - 1 Application by landlord for cancellation of Certificate of Disrepair (Form M)
  - 1 Notice by Local Authority to tenant of Proposal to cancel Certificate of Disrepair (Form N)



161 Requests for advice have been sought in regard to this Act which have been limited to procedure and certain interpretations of Disrepair

In 18 instances increase notices to tenants have been withdrawn by landlords.

### **General Repairs**

General house repairs under the Housing Act and the Public Health Act required much supervision. 264 appointments were kept with owners, agents, architects or contractors.

### **Verminous Premises**

585 visits were made in regard to the prevention and treatment of vermin. Prevention included the examination of furniture and belongings of those to be rehoused by the Council.

Treatments included :—

- 19 rooms
- 68 beds
- 362 other articles
- Disinfestation was as follows :—
- 24 houses treated for boring beetles
- 3 houses treated for bugs, fleas, etc.
- 150 houses treated for cockroaches
- 7 houses treated for other pests

In 48 instances advice was given to householders in regard to woodworm eradication and other household pests.

### **Overcrowding**

Active co-operation continues between the Health Department and the Housing Manager in regard to overcrowded families and their rehousing.

### **Lodging Houses**

There are 29 lodging houses on the register. In 4 instances notices were served to carry out repairs or improve the amenities existing. In one instance where additional sanitary accommodation was required the landlord reduced the number of families living on the premises.

### **Tents, Vans and Sheds**

Our only problem is that connected with the repeated visits of gypsies on land on the riverside of New Chester Road, Bromborough and New Ferry. They possess no sanitary conveniences and invariably leave the land littered with refuse.



## AIR POLLUTION

### Riverside Factories

169 official and timed observations were made of factory chimneys resulting in 8 informal notices and innumerable visits to factory officials.

Excessive smoke was caused by :—

- In 3 instances wrong type of fuel
- In 1 instance fire beds of excessive thickness
- In 2 instances defective plant
- In 2 instances insufficient warning device

The following list indicates the types of boilers, method of firing and the fuel used.

**TABLE X**

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>89</b>

The Council is represented on the West Lancashire & Cheshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee by Councillor Evans and the Chief Public Health Inspector. During 1957 special consideration was given to the new Clean Air Act and to the question of Prior Approval of Boiler Plants. A new Byelaw came into force during the year stating that all heating and cooking appliances in buildings completed after August must be so designed as to burn authorised smokeless fuel.

### Queen Elizabeth II Oil Dock

Only one complaint was received during the year. In this case the nuisance was remedied immediately. Close contact exists between the inspectors of your Authority, and the Manchester Port Health Authority.



## GENERAL SANITATION

### Water Supply

The following information has been supplied by Mr. A. L. Lyon, M.Eng., M.I.C.E., Engineer and Manager 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 the first half of 1957 there was a serious deficiency of rainfall and during June there was a considerable rise in consumption due to the dry weather. As a result, restrictions on supplies had to be imposed and it was necessary to reduce pressures each night between the 21st June and 3rd July and also to ban the use of hose-pipes for garden watering and car washing.

By the end of 1957 the new treatment works and pumping station at Sutton Hall were virtually completed and in fact water was taken into supply from these works on the 23rd January, 1958.

Work proceeded throughout the year on the construction of a new storage reservoir at Ince.

The pipeline from the Sutton Hall Works to the new thermal power station being built by Messrs. Lever Brothers, Port Sunlight, Ltd., was completed during the year, with the exception of the crossing over the Hooton/Helsby railway line.

The water from the three pumping stations at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth is hard and due to the supply position in 1957 the Board have not been able to soften the water at each of the stations as they did pre-war. 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

610 Inspections were carried out during the year.

89 Drains were plunged

75 Drains were rodded

18 Final tests applied to buildings

13 Smoke tests applied to existing buildings following sanitary notice, repairs and reconstruction



## **Dustbins**

At the end of the year :—

3580 Dustbins had been supplied under the Council Scheme

939 Dustbins had been supplied during the year

748 Dustbins had been supplied by owners following notices

280 Dustbins had been supplied by tenants following notices

87 Dustbins were renewed

The above figures do not include Corporation property.

During the year :—

731 Informal Notices were served

1515 14 day Notices were served

## **Courts, Passages**

Legal proceedings were taken against an owner in the case of one rear passage. He was fined £5 for failing to comply with a notice to pave the passage so as to provide sufficient drainage. Eight notices were served requiring the paving and draining of passages.

## **Public Conveniences**

These are visited from time to time and upon complaint. Defects, if found, are dealt with by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

## **Keeping of Pet Animals**

Five premises are licensed under the Pet Animals Act. These are visited at regular intervals. Two notices were served during the year in regard to insanitary conditions and two occupants were warned for not exhibiting the name and address of the person having the key available during the hours when the shop was closed.

## **Sanitary Conveniences**

There are still five privies, forty-eight pail closets, thirty-five earth closets and eight chemical closets in use in the outer areas. 258 houses are drained to cesspools or septic tanks. These installations are regularly inspected.

## **Public and Private Schools**

These are visited at regular intervals both in regard to sanitation and structural matters and to inspect kitchens and canteens and the catering arrangements.

## **Tips**

All Tips are kept under observation. It was estimated that 1,300 rats were killed on the Mayfields Tip during the year.

## **Mortuary**

The Health Department are responsible for the maintenance of the Mortuary at New Ferry. During the year 32 bodies were received into the building.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

51 enquiries were made by Public Health Inspectors in regard to infectious cases.

During the year :—

- 12 Rooms were disinfected
- 21 Beds were disinfected
- 54 Other articles were disinfected
- 12 Library books were disinfected

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

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

**TABLE XI**

Inspections made under Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

	On Register	Number of	
		Inspect'ns	Notices
Factories (non-mechanical power)	74	59	10
Factories (mechanical power) .....	78	19	4
Other premises, e.g., Electrical Stations Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, etc. ....	10	5	2
	162	83	16

### Defects found and Remedied

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness .....	11	11
Unreasonable temperature .....	2	2
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :		
Insufficient .....	1	1
Unsuitable or defective .....	4	4
	18	18

### Outworkers

There are ten outworkers on the register carrying out repairs to or making wearing apparel. No defects were found on their premises.



## PROTECTION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Routine visits to food premises were continued throughout the year and altogether 728 inspections were made.

I would like to comment on the vast improvement in the manufacture, storage and sale of foodstuffs over the last forty-six years. At that time meat was exhibited outside butchers shops, milk was stored in open bowls in congested dairies and little effort was made to protect food from contamination. The standard of cleanliness is much higher today. The public should be educated to avoid all shops where food is not adequately protected.

### TABLE XII

The following improvements were effected during 1957 :—

Structural defects remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Washing facilities provided with hot water	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Clothing cupboards provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Smooth impervious tables, counters, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
New sinks installed in Canteens	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Counters provided with glass screens	.....	.....	.....	.....	8

### TABLE XIII

The following notices were forwarded to occupants of food premises :—

						Complied with
Structural defects	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	28
Dirty utensils and/or equipment	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	29
Unclean personal cleanliness	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	5
Dirty premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	74	66
Food exposed to contamination	.....	.....	.....	.....	52	27
Smoking whilst handling food	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2
Other offences	.....	.....	.....	.....	7	5
					<hr/> 203 <hr/>	<hr/> 162 <hr/>

## Meat Inspection

TABLE XIV

**Meat Inspection at Private Slaughterhouse  
in New Ferry — Retailer**

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

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed .....	103	3	11	779	—	896
Number inspected .....	103	3	11	779	—	896
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned .....	19	1	—	33	—	53
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected .....	18.44%	33.33%	—	4.23%	—	1.33%
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned .....	12	—	—	—	—	12
Percentage affected .....	11.65%	—	—	—	—	1.36%



TABLE XV

**Meat Inspection at Private Slaughterhouse, Higher Bebington, slaughtering animals, the largest percentage of which meat is consumed outside the district.**

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

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed .....	1759	632	38	6291	952	9672
Number inspected	1759	632	38	6291	952	9672
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	—	2	—	2	3	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	632	198	—	103	87	1020
Percentage of the number inspected affected	35.92%	31.32%	—	1.63%	9.13%	10.54%
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned .....	2	17	—	—	2	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	108	165	—	—	63	336
Percentage of the number affected	6.14%	26.107%	—	—	6.61%	3.47%

47 Cattle at the Higher Bebington Slaughterhouse were found to be infected with *Cysticercus bovis* during the year, comprised as follows :—

#### **Young Cattle**

32 Bullocks }  $1\frac{1}{2}$  — 4 years  
12 Heifers }

#### **Cows and Bulls**

3 Cows — Over 6 years

The incidence of infection follows a very similar pattern to that found in 1956, all the Young Cattle affected were imported direct from Ireland and no seasonal incidence was evident, the cases being evenly distributed throughout the year. The percentage of Young Cattle infected (2.5%) shows little change from last year (2.6%) and in the majority of cases cysts were found only in the Masseter muscles — in 9 cases cysts were found also in other sites.

In accordance with recommendations contained in a Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Circular, the routine incision of Internal Masseter and Heart muscles was commenced on the 21st May, 1957. Since that date 8 cases have been detected.

### Other Condemned Food

**TABLE XVI**

The following table indicates the amount of food found to be unsound, other than meat already referred to :—

643 tins	.....	Meat
1 tin	.....	Minced Chicken
445 tins	.....	Fruit and Vegetables
31 tins	.....	Milk, etc.
52 tins	.....	Soup
30 tins	.....	Fish
1 tin	.....	Conserves
3 tins	.....	Spaghetti
14 tins	.....	Creamed Rice
1 tin	.....	Ovaltine
1 tin	.....	Nescafe
3 pkts.	.....	Cheese Spread
15 lbs.	.....	Ox Kidneys
2 boxes	.....	Kippers
75 lbs.	.....	English Beef
44 lbs.	.....	Cheese
11 lbs. 10 ozs.	.....	Ham
10 jars	.....	Salad Cream
8 pkts.	.....	Potato Crisps
2	.....	Jellies
3 lbs.	.....	Corned Beef
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	.....	Ox Tongue
14 lbs.	.....	Sausage
7 crates	.....	Cauliflowers
5 chests	.....	Grapes



## Disposal of Unsound Food

Meat and offal from the slaughterhouses is stained by the Inspector or under his supervision with a vegetable dye before being sent to dealers who are required to sign a note indicating that the unsound meat and offal is not used for human consumption. Details of all such meat and offal are sent to the Public Health or Meat Inspector of the district to which it is consigned.

Small quantities of meat or food from retail shops are dealt with by incineration.

## Bacteriological Sampling

**TABLE XVII**

The following table refers to Sampling of Milk for cleanliness and freedom from pathogenic organisms :—

Pasteurised Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 Satisfactory
T.T. Farm Bottled	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 Satisfactory

**TABLE XVIII**

The following table refers to specimens and samples taken in connection with suspected food poisoning or with food poisoning cases.

95 Faeces :	1 Salmonella Typhimurium
	4 Shigella Sonne
	90 No pathogenic organisms isolated
2 Boiled Ham	No pathogenic organisms isolated
1 tin Crab Paste	Staph. Aureus isolated
1 jar Dressed Crab	No pathogenic organisms isolated
National Dried Milk and Spoon	Non-haemolytic Streptococci and Staphylococcus Aureus isolated

## FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

## Nature, Substance and Quality

TABLE XIX

The following shows the number and type of foods purchased by the Inspectors and analysed by the Public Analyst.

Article	No. of Samples of each article examined			No. of Samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Formal	Inform'l	Total	Formal	Inform'l	Total
Milk	7	36	43	5	7	12
Salted Peanuts	1	1	2	-	-	-
* Plain Flour	1	-	1	-	-	-
Meat Paste	-	15	15	-	-	-
Fish Paste	-	5	5	-	-	-
Iodised Table Salt	1	3	4	-	-	-
Pork Sausage	-	1	1	-	-	-
Blanc Mange	-	1	1	-	-	-
Sponge Mixture	-	2	2	-	1	1
Instant Whip (Strawberry)	-	1	1	-	-	-
Instant Whip (Butterscotch)	1	1	2	1	1	2
Cake Mix	1	-	1	1	-	1
Chicken Pie	-	1	1	-	-	-
Teething Jelly	-	1	1	-	-	-
Teething Powder	-	1	1	-	-	-
Strawberry & Gooseberry Jam	-	1	1	-	-	-
Mustard	-	1	1	-	-	-
Mixed Pickles	-	1	1	-	-	-
Roly Cheese Food	-	1	1	-	-	-
Currie Powder	-	1	1	-	-	-
Salmon Spread	-	2	2	-	-	-
Sunfresh Orange Drink	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dried Prunes	-	1	1	-	-	-
Fish Cakes	-	1	1	-	-	-
Calves Polony	-	1	1	-	-	-
Horseradish Relish	-	1	1	-	-	-
Celery Pills	-	1	1	-	-	-
Minced Beef	-	2	2	-	-	-
Strained Beef & Liver Soup	-	1	1	-	-	-
Beef & Barley Broth	-	1	1	-	-	-
Digestive Tea	-	1	1	-	-	-
Casserole Stewed Steak	-	1	1	-	-	-
Chicken Noodle Soup	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ox Tail Flavour Soup	-	1	1	-	-	-
Glycerine & Borax	-	1	1	-	-	-
Zinc & Castor Oil Cream	-	1	1	-	-	-
Iced Lolly	-	1	1	-	-	-
Malt Vinegar	-	2	2	-	-	-
Ice Cream	2	-	2	1	-	1
Minced Turkey	-	1	1	-	-	-
Minced Chicken	-	1	1	-	-	-
Potted Salmon	-	1	1	-	-	-
Calves Feet Jelly	-	1	1	-	-	-
1 pkt. Cheese (Past.)	-	1	1	-	-	-
1 pkt. Cheese Spread	-	2	2	-	-	-
1 pkt. Bemax	-	1	1	-	-	-



Article	No. of Samples of each article examined			No. of Samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Formal	Inform'l	Total	Formal	Inform'l	Total
Part bottle Lemonade	-	3	3	-	1	1
Cod Liver Oil	-	1	1	-	-	-
Lemon Curd	-	1	1	-	-	-
Plain Flour	-	2	2	-	-	-
Rhubarb & Ginger Jam	-	1	1	-	-	-
Apple & Strawberry Jam	-	1	1	-	-	-
Frizzets	-	1	1	-	-	-
Soft Drink Powder	-	1	1	-	-	-
Coffee Extract	-	1	1	-	-	-
Mint Jelly	-	1	1	-	-	-
Chocolate Laxative	-	1	1	-	-	-
Grapefruit Juice	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pure Sweet Ground Almonds	-	1	1	-	-	-
Mixed Spice	-	1	1	-	-	-
Crystallised Orange & Lemon Slices	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	-	1	1	-	-	-
Onion Sauce	-	1	1	-	-	-
Parsley Sauce	-	1	1	-	-	-
Sage & Onion Stuffing	-	1	1	-	-	-
Parsley & Thyme Stuffing	-	1	1	-	-	-
Fish & Cutlet Dressing	-	1	1	-	-	-
Milo Food Drink	-	1	1	-	-	-
Blackcurrant Cordial Flavour	-	1	1	-	-	-
Bubble Gum	-	1	1	-	-	-
Polo Mints	-	1	1	-	-	-
Iced Strawberry Gateau Cake Mix	-	1	1	-	1	1
Glycerine, Lemon & Ipc. Balsaam	-	1	1	-	-	-
Aspirin	-	1	1	-	-	-
Chicken Soup	-	1	1	-	-	-
Youghart	-	1	1	-	-	-
Cereal	-	1	1	-	-	-
Answer Sweet Vanilla	-	1	1	-	-	-
Glucose Drink Citrose	-	1	1	-	-	-
Mixed Peel	-	3	3	-	-	-
Tea Bags	-	1	1	-	-	-
Salmon & Potato Salad	-	1	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	14	144	158	8	11	19

\* Formal sample taken after adulterated Informal Sample in 1956.

## Details of Samples Adulterated or Below Standard :—

Sample No.	Name	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
1	Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 3.5%	Deficiency not due to added water
2	Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	Deficiency not due to added water
3	Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 4.7%	Deficiency not due to added water
4	Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	Deficiency not due to added water
5	Milk	Formal	Genuine but abnormal. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1%	Deficiency not due to added water
6	Instant Whip Butterscotch	Informal	Sugar mixture incorrectly labelled	Formal sample to be taken
7	Sponge Mix	Informal	Sponge Mixture containing rancid fat	Samples were old stock which were surrendered
8	Instant Whip Butterscotch	Formal	Sugar mixture incorrectly labelled	Labelling altered by producer
9	Cake Mix	Formal	Cake mixture, the fat of which contained an excess of Free Fatty Acids	Samples were old stock — manufacturers called in existing stocks
10	Milk	Informal	Genuine but abnormal milk. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1%	Deficiency not due to added water
11	Milk	Informal	Genuine but abnormal milk. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1%	Deficiency not due to added water
12	Milk	Informal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 10%	Dairyman warned
13	Milk	Informal	Genuine but abnormal milk. Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%	Deficiency not due to added water
14	Milk	Informal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 1% and deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 4.7%	Formal sample to be taken
15	Ice Cream	Formal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 40%	Legal proceedings instituted. Producer fined £5



Sample No.	Name	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
16	Lemonade	Informal	This sample consisted of aerated water only which was contaminated with a small quantity of sediment, the sediment consisted mainly of agglomerations of bacteria	Two further samples taken and found to be genuine
17	Milk	Informal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 23.3%	Dairyman warned
18	Milk	Informal	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%	Dairyman warned
19	Strawberry Gateau Cake Mix	Informal	Cake mixture in which the fat contains an excess of Fatty Acid	Further sample to be taken

It will be seen that out of 158 samples taken 19 were found to be below standard. The fact that 12% were below standard shows the necessity for continual sampling by the Food and Drug Authority in order to maintain the quality of food sold.

### Other Actions under Food and Drugs Act

Examination was made of the following food :—

- |                                      |       |       |       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 1. Dirty Milk Bottle                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | Dairyman warned |
| (Complaint)                          |       |       |       |                 |
| 2. Dirty Milk Bottles                | ..... | ..... | ..... | Dairyman warned |
| 3. Foreign matter in bread           | ..... | ..... | ..... | Baker warned    |
| 4. Particles of glass in milk bottle | ..... | ..... | ..... | Dairyman warned |

### Other Samples

#### Swimming Bath Water

22 samples in all were taken from the New Ferry and Port Sunlight Swimming Baths. All samples were satisfactory.

### HEATING APPARATUS (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

Visits were made to examine fireguards in regard to safety and eighteen tests were carried out.

In thirteen instances the fireguards passed the prescribed tests ; in the remainder they failed the tests. Where tests showed that the fireguards were not up to standard, advice was given.

## RODENT CONTROL

The following statistics indicate the work carried out during 1957 :—

Major Primary                      Infestation of 20 and over

Minor Secondary                      Infestation of up to 20

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses	All other including Business Premises	Total of Columns 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
Properties inspected as a result of					
(a) Notification	5	146	40	191	5
(b) Survey under the Act	22	94	34	150	30
(c) Otherwise (e.g. When visited primarily for some other purpose)	19	2	—	21	—
Total inspections carried out inc. Re-inspections	684	1585	1474	3743	509

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses	All other including Business Premises	Total of Columns 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
No. of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by :					
Rats                      Major	8	2	16	26	4
Minor	—	119	28	147	5
Mice                      Major	—	—	7	7	—
Minor	1	24	13	38	—
No. of infested properties treated by L.A.	19	162	63	244	10
Total treatments carried out inc. re-treatments	40	237	171	448	30



## Types of Visits made :—

Dwellinghouses							1495
L. A. Property	(1)	Tips and non-agricultural land					265
	(2)	Sewage Works					296
	(3)	Other buildings					101
Business Premises	(1)	Factories and Workplaces					380
	(2)	Shops					293
	(3)	Places of Entertainment					26
	(4)	Licensed Premises					42
	(5)	Cafes and Canteens					10
	(6)	Non-agricultural Land					240
Agricultural Properties	(1)	Market Gardens and Farms					150
	(2)	Piggeries					237
	(3)	Agricultural Land					78
Other Authority Properties	(1)	Schools					264
	(2)	Hospitals					184
							<hr/> 4061 <hr/>
No. of estimates provided							107
No. of contracts signed							94
Estimated No. of Rodents found during 1957							6057
Estimated No. of Rodents killed during 1957							4410

77 Contracts for £154.10.0.

**Sewer Treatment**

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

	Manholes test baited	Manholes pre- baited
No. of Manholes	223	49
No. of manholes showing complete takes	Nil	2
No. of manholes showing partial takes	Nil	2
Cost per manhole baited	6/1d.	7/11½d.
Cost per infested manhole	No infestation	£4.17.5d.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

## YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1938

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

**Administration**

This concerns (a) hours of employment of young persons, (b) facilities for meals, (c) provision of seats for female assistants, (d) hours of closing, Sunday Trading, and (e) provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, light, ventilation and temperature.

**Defects Found**

Insufficient ventilation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Insufficient temperature	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Insufficient light	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
						<hr/> 29

All these were remedied at the end of the year.

**Offences Committed**

Half Holiday notices not exhibited	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Seats not provided for female assistants	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

**Shops Open Illegally**

(a) After hours — evening	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
(b) After hours — half day	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
(c) Sunday Trading	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46

**Hours of Employment not Recorded**

(a) Young Persons	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
(b) Sunday Work	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
						<hr/> 116

In all instances warnings were given, and where necessary they were confirmed in writing. No prosecutions were necessary.

Generally speaking the Acts were observed and co-operation of the trade was real. The few regular offenders were kept under special observation. The proper administration of the Act, particularly in regard to car sales on Sundays, can by lack of uniformity amongst Authorities, drive trade out of one district. It therefore does appear to become a matter of national enforcement, or a repeal of the part of the Act concerned.

There are still a few shopkeepers who fail to realise their obligations in regard to maintaining a suitable temperature for their staffs and keep to a fixed date before allowing winter heating to be provided. In two instances the temperature provided for their foodstuffs was considered to be more important than that for the staff.





# CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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## BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(F. S. MELVILLE. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR

1957

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Divisional Health Office,  
Town Hall,  
BEBINGTON,  
Cheshire.



# CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Representing Bebington Borough Council

*Chairman:* Alderman R. WILLIAMS

*Deputy Chairman:* Councillor R. EVANS

Aldermen :

H. P. LONG  
H. SMITH

Councillors :

H. GARNER  
Mrs. H. G. HEBRON  
E. J. JACKSON  
Dr. J. N. MACDONALD  
Mrs. S. PRICE  
W. WEDGEWOOD  
Mrs. P. WILDBORE  
Mrs. E. WILLIAMS

### 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. A. M. FITZPATRICK	Former District Nursing
Mrs. E. M. SHARPE	Associations
A. J. RUSHTON, Esq.	Former Bebington Nursery School Society
H. SPEED, Esq.	

## DIVISIONAL AND COUNTY STAFF

Divisional Medical Officer .....	F. S. Melville, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
and School Medical Officer	
Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee .....	G. Chappell, O.B.E., LL.B.
Assistant County Medical Officers .....	Jessie M. R. Tough, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Dental Surgeons .....	Alta Ravenscroft, M.B., Ch.B.
	F. C. Littleton, L.D.S. (Died 3/10/57)
	J. B. Andrew, B.D.S., R.C.S.
Chief Clerk .....	W. R. Turner
Clerical Staff .....	Mrs. E. Bieniek, Mrs. P. W. Jones,
	Mrs. M. Sparke (Resigned 30/4/57)
	Miss A. Maudsley (Resigned 31/5/57)
	Miss N. Mackey,
	Mrs. E. Wildridge (From 1/5/57)
	Miss H. Stanley (From 1/7/57)
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, Mrs. M. G. Garratt
	(From 1/4/57)
	Mrs. M. F. Cordon (From 1/11/57)
School Nurse .....	Mrs. D. Bushell (Retired 31/10/57)
Home Nurses .....	Miss L. Cullum, Mrs. M. R. Heatley
	Miss R. Baughan, Mrs. A. Thompson
	Miss M. G. Griffiths, Mrs. F. E. Harrison
Midwives .....	Mrs. B. Cass, Miss A. K. D. Morgan
	Miss D. M. Clayton (Commenced 14/1/57
	Resigned 31/5/57)
	Mrs. N. I. Blundell (From 1/2/57)
	Mrs. M. Hibbert (From 1/6/57)
	Mrs. C. R. Green (From 1/7/57)
Authorised Officer .....	E. M. Harborow
Matron, Day Nursery (Bromborough) .....	Mrs. F. G. Davies, S.R.N.
Supervisor, Occupation Centre (New Ferry) .....	Miss I. J. Young
Ambulance Supervisor .....	E. Jones
Physiotherapist .....	Miss B. K. Munro, M.C.S.P. (Resigned 11/7/57)
Speech Therapist .....	Miss K. Jones, L.C.S.T.

## CONSULTANTS

Chest Physician .....	D. W. C. Tough, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Gynaecologist .....	M. M. Datnow, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.
Orthopaedic Surgeon .....	G. A. Wetherell, M.Ch., Orth., F.R.C.S.
Ophthalmic Surgeon .....	P. J. Devlin, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.
Paediatrician .....	K. R. Llewellyn, M.R.C.P., D.C.H.



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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the year 1957, my first full year in the Bebington Division, there have been no startling developments and the work has gone on steadily.

In February the offices at Plymyard were vacated and we moved to the Municipal Offices in Lower Bebington. This very desirable and long overdue change has been of great benefit both to the general public and the staff. Plymyard was inaccessible and inconvenient for the majority of the citizens and as a result, much of the daily routine administrative work had to be divided between the divisional health office and the small office in New Ferry Clinic which has little enough room for its proper functions. Now much of the administrative work in connection with payments for home helps, comforts and so on can be dealt with directly in this office. As a result of this the complement of clerical staff at New Ferry Clinic has been reduced from three to two including one clerk required full time for the sale of infant foods. The third clerk has been absorbed into the divisional office with an all round increase in efficiency. It is very fortunate that this has been possible because the increasing tempo of work in the vaccination and immunisation field alone has increased the burden on the clerks considerably and what used to be part-time work for one clerk on this one facet has become more than enough to keep one clerk at the stretch. When it is seen that 498 children were given B.C.G., 537 vaccinated against smallpox, 1957 immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough and 1410 vaccinated against poliomyelitis, which means about 9500 attendances in all, some realisation of the work involved can be appreciated.

At the end of the year there was still no sign that a hostel for the aged was likely to materialise in the borough and the greatest difficulty was experienced in getting places for these old people who were not able to cope alone at home, even when they were willing to go out of the area and away from any friends they had.

An addition to the specialist services available at the New Ferry Clinic was the introduction of a Paediatric Consultative Clinic which is conducted by Dr. Llewellyn, a consultant paediatrician from Clatterbridge Hospital. This innovation is a great help to the mothers of young children as it is much more central than the hospital. I think it would be fair to say that it has been of great benefit to both the local health authority staff and the staff of the hospital and has lead to greater understanding on both sides.

In the early part of the year thanks largely to the enthusiasm of the local Rotary Club an open meeting was held in the Mayer Hall under the auspices of the Mayor to discuss the formation of a "Home Safety Com-



mittee." As accidents in the home largely affect the very young and the very old, both of which categories are very much the concern of this committee, I am pleased to say that it was unanimously agreed to establish such a committee, the members to be nominees of all the interested bodies in the town. The committee had several meetings, exhibits were put on show and individuals gave talks to various groups during the year.

I would like to thank all the members of the staff, professional and clerical, who carry out their daily work diligently and take on additional tasks willingly and unhesitatingly.

Finally, I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the committee for their interest and help both in and out of committee.

F. S. MELVILLE,

Divisional Medical Officer.

Town Hall,  
Bebington.  
July, 1958.

## NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

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

### Section 22 — Care of Mothers and Young Children

#### (i) Day Nursery

The average daily attendance after showing a rise in 1956 to 23.5 has fallen slightly to 21.8. This is disappointing. There were no epidemics to account for this in the nursery although during the "Asian Flu" epidemic in the autumn attendances did fall a little due to adults being sick.

There is no doubt about the social need for a nursery in the borough, but as I said last year its situation is not ideal. Experience elsewhere shows that nurseries near the centres of work are more popular than nurseries in the areas where the people live.

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



TABLE I

					0—2 years	2—5 years	Total
January	.....	.....	.....	.....	97	411	508
February	.....	.....	.....	.....	62	341	403
March	.....	.....	.....	.....	82	423	505
April	.....	.....	.....	.....	82	338	420
May	.....	.....	.....	.....	75	468	543
June	.....	.....	.....	.....	44	394	438
July	.....	.....	.....	.....	88	365	453
August	.....	.....	.....	.....	45	205	250
September	.....	.....	.....	.....	84	326	410
October	.....	.....	.....	.....	107	357	464
November	.....	.....	.....	.....	72	403	475
December	.....	.....	.....	.....	91	372	463
					<hr/> 929	<hr/> 4403	<hr/> 5332
Average daily attendance	.....	.....			<hr/> 3.8	<hr/> 18.0	<hr/> 21.8

(ii) **Mother's Clinics**

Combined ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the New Ferry Welfare Centre on Monday and Friday mornings where the mothers are examined by the consultant obstetrician and where advice and education on maternity and infant care is given by the health visitors. Table II gives the attendances made during the year.

TABLE II

		Sessions (combined)	New Cases	Total attendances
Ante-Natal	.....	98	139	844
Post-Natal	.....		42	43

(iii) **Infant Welfare Clinics**

There is one ad hoc clinic in the borough at New Ferry where an infant welfare clinic is held each Wednesday afternoon. In addition there are weekly infant welfare clinics held in rented premises at the Mayer Hall, Bebington; "Plymyard House," Eastham; Bromborough Council Offices and the Victoria Hall, Higher Bebington and a fortnightly clinic at the Women's Institute, Thornton Hough.



A clinic has been held at "Plymyard House" because there was no other suitable place in Eastham but it was inconvenient and at the end of the year negotiations were successfully completed with the trustees of St. David's Presbyterian Church to use their new hall at Mill Park Drive, Eastham. This church hall is ideally situated for the growing area in Eastham. All these clinics have both a doctor and health visitor in attendance and there are no non-medical sessions.

During the year 8,423 attendances were made which is 243 more than in 1956.

**TABLE III**

Total attendances, new cases and numbers seen by the doctor at Infant Welfare Clinics during 1957 :—

	Attendances		New Cases		Number seen by doctor	Sessions
	Under 1 year	1—5 years	Under 1 yr.	1—5 years		
New Ferry	1486	89	145	—	568	51
Eastham	1291	377	104	—	272	49
Hr. Bebington	1591	123	115	—	667	51
Bromborough	1157	219	93	3	458	51
Lr. Bebington	1510	271	103	8	466	50
T. Hough	190	119	7	—	127	24
	7225	1198	567	11	2558	276
	8423		578			

#### (iv) **Toddlers' Clinics**

A routine inspection of children yearly on or about their birthday is invaluable for the early detection of physical and psychical defects such as deafness, adenoids, squints, minor orthopaedic defects, feeding and sleeping difficulties, and is also invaluable for imparting such simple health education principles as home safety, nutrition, exercise and the various needs of the child before going to school. Such clinics are held once monthly at New Ferry Clinic and at "Plymyard." During 1957 seventeen sessions were held when one hundred and thirty-four attendances were made as compared with eighteen sessions and one hundred attendances in 1956.

This only touches the problem and it is very desirable that at least one session is held each month at all the centres where there are infant welfare clinics except Thornton Hough where infant welfare clinics and toddlers can be combined.



(v) **Special Clinics and Ancillary Services**

(a) **Orthopaedic Clinic**

The orthopaedic specialist has a consultative clinic fortnightly at New Ferry Welfare Centre. This is a combined clinic for pre-school and school children. During 1957 he had twenty-two sessions when 527 attendances were made of children of all ages, 80 of whom were new cases. The figures for 1956 were sessions 24, attendances 494, new cases 105.

(b) **Physiotherapy**

The Physiotherapist attends two sessions per week at the New Ferry Welfare Centre for treatment of orthopaedic cases.

**TABLE IV**

	<b>1957</b>	<b>1956</b>
Sessions .....	80	91
New Cases .....	25	26
Total Attendances .....	191	146

(c) **"Sunlight"**

The physiotherapist who supervised the "Sunlight" clinic resigned in July, 1957. Up to the end of the year no successor could be found and this accounts for the considerable drop in attendance.

**TABLE V**

	<b>1957</b>	<b>1956</b>
Sessions .....	33	59
New Cases .....	33	65
Total Attendances .....	220	648

(d) **Ophthalmic Clinic**

The ophthalmologist attends New Ferry Welfare Centre monthly to see children under 5 years of age reported to him.

During 1957 he saw 19 new cases and 141 attendances were made as compared with 37 cases and 170 attendances in 1956.

(e) **Ear, Nose and Throat**

No ear, nose and throat clinic is held in the local authority premises. Cases are referred directly to Clatterbridge Hospital.

**(f) Paediatric**

A Paediatric Clinic was inaugurated in June 1957. This clinic is in essence an outpatient clinic from Clatterbridge Hospital as of course are the orthopaedic and ophthalmic clinics.

It is most useful to have this clinic in the New Ferry Welfare Centre as the health visitors can give and get essential information at first hand. The liaison so obtained with the hospital is invaluable both to patients and respective staffs.

**TABLE VI**

	1957
Sessions .....	13
New Cases .....	28
Total Attendances .....	106

**(vi) Infant Foods**

The sale of branded infant foods at child welfare clinics during the year realised £1,499.

**(vii) Welfare Foods**

The arrangements made when these became the responsibility of the Local Health Authority during 1954 continued. New Ferry clinic is the main centre and is open for their sale every day. In addition there is a clerk in attendance at Bromborough Council Offices on a Thursday morning and these foods are sold at all the infant welfare clinics.

It is of interest to see the effect on the sales of National Dried Milk of the increase in price which brings it into line more closely with other dried milks.

During the year 1957 the following Welfare Foods were issued :—

		1957	1956
National Dried Milk	20 oz. tin—10½d. (2/4d. from March, 57)	19,430	22,028
Cod Liver Oil	6 oz. bottle—free	4,293	5,144
Vitamin A. & D. Tablets	free	2,317	2,394
Orange Juice	6 oz. bottle—5d.	40,827	37,328



### Section 23 — Midwifery Service

The establishment of midwives for the area is four and during most of the year there were in fact four but there were changes. These were unavoidable but it is a pity the position was not more stable as mothers prefer to have the same midwife on each occasion and it gives them confidence.

The midwives attended 180 confinements during the year compared with 166 during 1956.

Births notified to the borough during the year took place as follows :—

Domiciliary	180
Heathfield Maternity Home	250
Clatterbridge Hospital	282
Outside the Borough	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>794</b>

### Section 24 — Health Visiting

Towards the end of the year Mrs. Bushell, the wholetime school nurse, retired and an additional health visitor was appointed in her stead making a senior and seven health visitors. This meant in effect that all the health visitors took over duties as school nurses so that each dealt with the schools in her own area. This has much to commend it as she then follows her children from birth until eleven years of age at least. After that age the children become concentrated in the senior schools and unfortunately some of the individual care is lost.

**TABLE VII**

Work done by Health Visitors during 1957

Primary Visits	799
Revisits (Infants)	3,868
Visits (1 — 5 years)	5,934
Visits re school children	395
Ante-natal visits	373
Post-natal visits	229
Infectious Disease Visits	275
T.B. Visits	743
Visits re Vaccination and Immunisation	112
Visits re Domestic Helps	451
Visits re After-Care, Aged and Handicapped	879
Visits re Mental Health	96
Special Visits	411
Visits to Day Nursery	12
Attendances at Clinics	780
Special Interviews	1,446
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,803</b>



## Section 25 — Home Nursing Service

At the end of 1957 six home nurses were serving 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 conjunction with the 1956 figures, which are given in brackets.

### New Cases in 1957

804 (797)

Cases referred to hospital

Deaths

### Visits paid in 1957

24,890 (21,121)

147 (118)

116 (94)

## Section 26 — Vaccination and Immunisation

### (i) Vaccination against smallpox

524 children under the age of five were vaccinated during 1957 just over 100 more than the previous year. The overwhelming majority of these children are under one year of age and this represents 70% of the births. This is compared to the country as a whole a very satisfactory state of affairs and to the credit of the general practitioners' and health visitors' keenness in advocating this proved preventative measure.

**TABLE VIII**  
**VACCINATION** (Smallpox)

	0—5 years	5—14 years	Total
General Practitioners	433	13	537
Local Authority Clinics	91	—	

### (ii) Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisation against diphtheria has continued throughout the year either alone or combined with whooping cough using the Glaxo Combined Diphtheria Pertussis Prophylactic.

695 children under the age of five years were immunised against diphtheria in 1957 as compared to 487 in the previous year. It is not so simple a matter to state this as a percentage as these children are in a much wider age range than those vaccinated against smallpox but it is very satisfactory.

From the Table No. IX it can be seen that very many more older children were immunised either for the first time or given booster doses. Most of this "boosting," which is very important if the level of immunity to diphtheria is to be kept up in the community, was done at the schools and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the head teachers and their staffs for the excellent co-operation and help I have had from them.



TABLE IX

Number of children immunised against diphtheria either alone or combined with whooping cough during 1957.

		Under 5 years	5—14 years	Reinforcing doses	
1957	By General Practitioners	389	25	92	
	At Local Authority Clinics	306	192	1,112	1,204
1956		487	11		102

### (iii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Whooping cough immunisation has been continued throughout the year usually combined with diphtheria using the antigen mentioned already.

Out of the 134 cases of this disease notified during the year only 4 were known to have been immunised against the disease.

TABLE X

Number of children immunised against whooping cough either alone or combined with diphtheria.

		Under 5 years	5—14 years	Reinforcing doses	
1957	By General Practitioners	338	26	25	
	At Local Authority Clinics	317	5	25	50
1956		444	6		11

### (iv) Anterior Poliomyelitis

During 1957 progress in inoculating against anterior poliomyelitis was very slow because of lack of vaccine. 1,410 children had the complete course of two injections during the year so that by the end of the year about 90% of those who had given their consents during 1956 had been completed. In the latter half of the year parents of children born in the years 1955-56 were given the opportunity of consenting to have this inoculation and 751 consents were received. At the end of the year plans were well forward for throwing it open to all children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years and in addition to certain priority groups.



### (v) B. C. G. Vaccination

Efforts to protect schoolchildren at the age of 13 years against tuberculosis so that they enter the more strenuous and serious part of their lives when their world of contacts expands rapidly and it is known that the risks of being infected actively are increased continued during the current year.

This is a time consuming procedure involving at least five or six visits to the schools for each batch of children and the head teachers and staff have been most co-operative.

Table XI gives details of numbers vaccinated.

**TABLE XI**

B.C.G. Vaccination of thirteen year old schoolchildren :—

	1957	1956
1. Estimated population .....	790	711
2. Number of consents .....	592	527
% consenting .....	75.0	74.1
3. Number of children tuberculin tested .....	589	493
4. Number of children tuberculin positive .....	91	81
% positive .....	15.5	16.4
5. Number of children vaccinated with B.C.G. ....	498	412
6. Percentage vaccinated of population .....	63.0	58.0

In addition 55 child contacts of cases of tuberculosis were vaccinated by the Chest Physician during the year.

### Section 27 — Ambulance Service

A 24 hour a day service continued to operate throughout the year from the Ambulance Station at Clatterbridge Hospital.

During the year a new Bedford sitting case vehicle came into service. This vehicle took the place of an ambulance and the fleet now consists of three ambulances (one stationed at Lever Brothers (Port Sunlight) Ltd., factory) and three sitting case vehicles. As the demand is very much for taking patients to and from outpatient clinics these sitting case vehicles are very useful and much more economical. The lines of communication to Clatterbridge from Bromborough and Eastham are difficult and many cases are transported by the service, and rightly so, who could travel by public transport if it took them from door to door.



The staff comprises one Ambulance Supervisor, one senior driver/attendant, fifteen driver/attendants and one night telephonist.

In 1957 each journey averaged 9.6 miles and 1.9 patients were carried, as compared with 9.8 miles and 1.9 patients for 1956.

The following is a statement of the work of the Ambulance Service during 1957 :—

**TABLE XII**

		(1) No. of vehicles	(2) Total No. of journeys	(3) Total patients carried	(4) No. of emergency calls incl. in Col. (3)	(5) Total mileage
Directly Provided Service	Ambs	3	5,067	8,311	1,143	37,902
	Sitting case vehicles	3	3,244	7,477	45	41,544
Totals (1957)		6	8,311	15,788	1,188	79,446
Totals (1956)		6	8,441	16,151	990	82,640

The figure of 1,188 shown in Col. (4), includes 56 road accidents, 36 works accidents, 61 home accidents and 18 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 1957 carried out at Clatterbridge Hospital internal transfer work from ward to ward which occupied approximately eight and a half weeks of the combined working hours of a driver and 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 precincts.

During the year the practice was continued of arranging in suitable cases for transport by rail.

## 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, Dr. D. W. Tough, was maintained. Nursing equipment was loaned to patients in appropriate cases.

The register of non-pulmonary cases was overhauled drastically at the end of the year. Many of these had suffered from tuberculosis of glands which had been removed or had subsided completely and did not require any kind of follow-up.

With cases of pulmonary tuberculosis it is more difficult to say that they should be considered cured and some authorities would say that they can never be so considered but much unnecessary and unwanted visiting is done in this field and the energy could be applied more usefully elsewhere and it is to be hoped that during the next year the numbers on the pulmonary tuberculosis register can be pruned down.

The following table shows the state of the register at the 31st December, 1957, and other relevant figures for the year.

**TABLE XIII**

Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1957				Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	245	223	468
Non-pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	12	27	39
				—	—	—
				257	250	507
				—	—	—
New cases placed on register				Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	30	21	51
Non-pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2
				—	—	—
				31	22	53
				—	—	—
Cases removed from Register						
Deaths	.....	.....	.....	6	(Pulmonary)	
Pronounced cured	.....	.....	.....	34		
Left district	.....	.....	.....	24		
Lost sight of	.....	.....	.....	3		
Colonised at Wrenbury	.....	.....	.....	Nil		
				—		
				67		
				—		



Contacts referred for examination	151
Contacts examined	174
Child contacts vaccinated with B.C.G.	55
Chalets in use	2
Visits paid by Health Visitors	743

	1957	1956
Cases on Register at 31st December	507	521
No. of cases/1,000 population	10.1	10.6
New Cases *	37	47
New Cases/1,000 population	0.7	0.9
Deaths	6	9
Death rate/1,000 population	0.12	0.18

\*These are new cases notified for the first time whilst residing in the borough and this figure does not include transfers.

### Sick and Aged After-Care

The work under this section continued vigorously throughout the year, and 879 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 70, and Domestic Helps were provided in 111 cases.

Convalescence was obtained for three persons during the year.

### Mental Health

The health visitors and the Duly Authorised Officer continue to visit the mentally defective. During the year the health visitors made 96 visits in this connection.

There is one Duly Authorised Officer and no mental health visitors, as such, at all to deal with practically the whole of the Wirral with a population of at least 100,000 and very little after-care visiting can be done. In Bebington itself there is need for at least a part-time mental health visitor in addition to the Duly Authorised Officer or if it is considered desirable for the health visitors to do this then the appointment of an additional health visitor.

### Occupation Centre

The occupation centre is held in St. Mark's church hall where there is a general assembly room, two classrooms, a kitchen, toilets and a small staff room.



At the end of 1956 there were 48 children on the register. As the recognised staffing ratio is one for every 12 to 15 children the establishment was increased by one assistant supervisor, to become a supervisor and three assistant supervisors during 1957. There is also a part-time helper for the dinners.

During the year the centre has been redecorated and this has made a great difference to the atmosphere but no frills will make an adequate centre of this building. The children and staff get dinner from Grove Street School canteen and these dinners are of a very high standard.

Provision is still only being made for children between the ages of 5-16 years but it is hoped that a new centre may be built with facilities for adult training also.

Handicrafts taught in the Centre include needlework, rug-making, weaving, and felt work, and the results achieved during 1957 were most encouraging. In suitable cases instruction is given in reading and writing.

There were forty-six children on the register at 31st December, 1957, two less than at the end of 1956. Their ages ranged from 5-16 years.

The register was made up as follows :—

District	No. of children on register
Bebington	13
Ellesmere Port	14
Heswall	4
Neston	4
Hoylake & West Kirby	7
Irby	2
Pensby	2
	<hr/> 46 <hr/>



## Section 29 — Domestic Help Service

The demand for domestic help service during 1957 continued and domestic helps were employed for a total of 27,122 hours, which is 1,772 hours less than in 1956.

Health Visitors paid 451 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 application had to be refused and there was no waiting list.

At the end of the year 24 part-time helps were employed, compared with 1 full-time and 28 part-time workers at the end of 1956.

Details of cases provided with domestic help service during the year together with comparative figures for 1956 are as follows :—

**TABLE XIV**

	1957	1956
Maternity .....	19	35
Tuberculosis .....	5	6
Chronic sick, including aged and infirm .....	111	105
Others .....	24	20
	<hr/> 159	<hr/> 166

The maximum charge to patients for domestic help service was 3/3d. per hour until the 2nd September, 1957, but from that date it was increased to 3/6d. 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 54 of the 159 cases provided with help in the year under review the maximum charge was paid.

## 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 1957 :—

### Medical inspection of pupils attending maintained Primary, Secondary and Grammar Schools in the Bebington Division.

#### Periodic Inspections

Entrants	Intermediates	Leavers	Additional Inspections	Total examined
567	768	524	16	1,875

#### General Conditions

Age Group	Inspected	Physical Satis.	Condition Unsatis.	No. having had tonsillectomy
Entrants .....	567	549	18	25
Intermediates .....	768	719	49	119
Leavers .....	524	498	26	88
Other periodic inspections	16	16	—	6
Totals	<u>1,875</u>	<u>1,782</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>238</u>

#### Special Inspections and Re-examinations

Examined	Required Treatment	Referred for Observation	Re-examined
864	109	135	814
	Number examined for visual acuity		464

### 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 .....	4	85	89
Intermediates .....	31	96	127
Leavers .....	10	74	84
Other periodic inspections	1	2	3
Totals .....	<u>46</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>303</u>

Number of children referred for observation only	195
Number of parents present at all inspections	1,505



**School Clinics**

Clinic	Sessions	New Cases	Total attendances	Doctors' Sessions	Cases seen by Doctor
Bromborough	23	44	47	10	34
New Ferry	187	211	2,488	30	514
Totals	<u>210</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>2,535</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>548</u>

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

**Specialist Clinics**

Clinic	New Cases	Attendances	Glasses recommended
Ophthalmic (New Ferry)	<u>107</u>	<u>811</u>	<u>423</u>
Speech Therapy (Bebington)	<u>21</u>	<u>643</u>	<u>25</u>

Discharged

**Dental Service**

No. Inspected	No. Selected	No. Treated	No. of teeth extracted	No. of teeth filled
5,679	3,263	2,769	3,813	3,648

**Handicapped Pupils**

	New Cases	Re-examinations
Blind	—	—
Partially sighted	—	—
Deaf	—	—
Partially deaf	—	—
Delicate	—	17
Diabetic	—	2
E.S.N.	1	11
Epileptic	1	8
Maladjusted	—	—
Physically handicapped	—	14
Speech defect	—	—
	<u>2</u>	<u>52</u>

## Defects Found in the Course of Medical Inspection

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections								Special Inspect's	
	No. requiring treatment				No. requiring observation				No. req.	No. req.
	E	L	I	Total	E	L	I	Total	treat't	obs'n
1. Cleanliness	1	—	—	1	1	2	1	4	1	1
2. Infestation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) head	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
(b) body	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Teeth	1	3	5	9	1	—	1	2	2	1
4. Skin	9	14	16	39	3	2	3	8	9	7
5. Eyes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) vision	4	10	32	46	5	2	10	17	28	22
(b) squint	16	1	2	19	—	1	2	3	7	3
(c) other	1	2	4	7	—	1	—	1	—	2
6. Ears	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) hearing	2	—	1	3	2	1	6	9	1	2
(b) otitis media	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	2	1	1
(c) other	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Nose and Throat	23	3	12	38	35	3	9	47	13	21
8. Speech	1	1	3	5	6	1	—	7	3	6
9. Lymphatic Glands R.	2	—	—	2	6	—	2	8	—	3
"    "    L.	2	—	—	2	6	—	2	8	—	2
10. Heart	—	—	1	1	1	3	1	5	—	8
11. Lungs	6	—	1	7	12	4	12	28	1	16
12. Developmental :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) hernia	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—
(b) other	1	—	—	1	3	1	3	7	—	3
13. Orthopaedic :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) posture	3	37	17	57	2	2	2	6	12	1
(b) Feet	13	3	10	26	18	2	8	28	12	20
(c) other	5	3	11	19	3	2	3	8	4	4
14. Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Epilepsy	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	1
(b) other	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
15. Psychological :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) development	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	2	4
(b) stability	1	—	2	3	2	1	3	6	1	3
16. Abdomen	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	—
17. Other	7	10	16	33	1	4	2	7	8	5
	101	87	138	326	108	36	79	223	113	136

**E** Entrants  
**L** Leavers  
**I** Intermediates & Others



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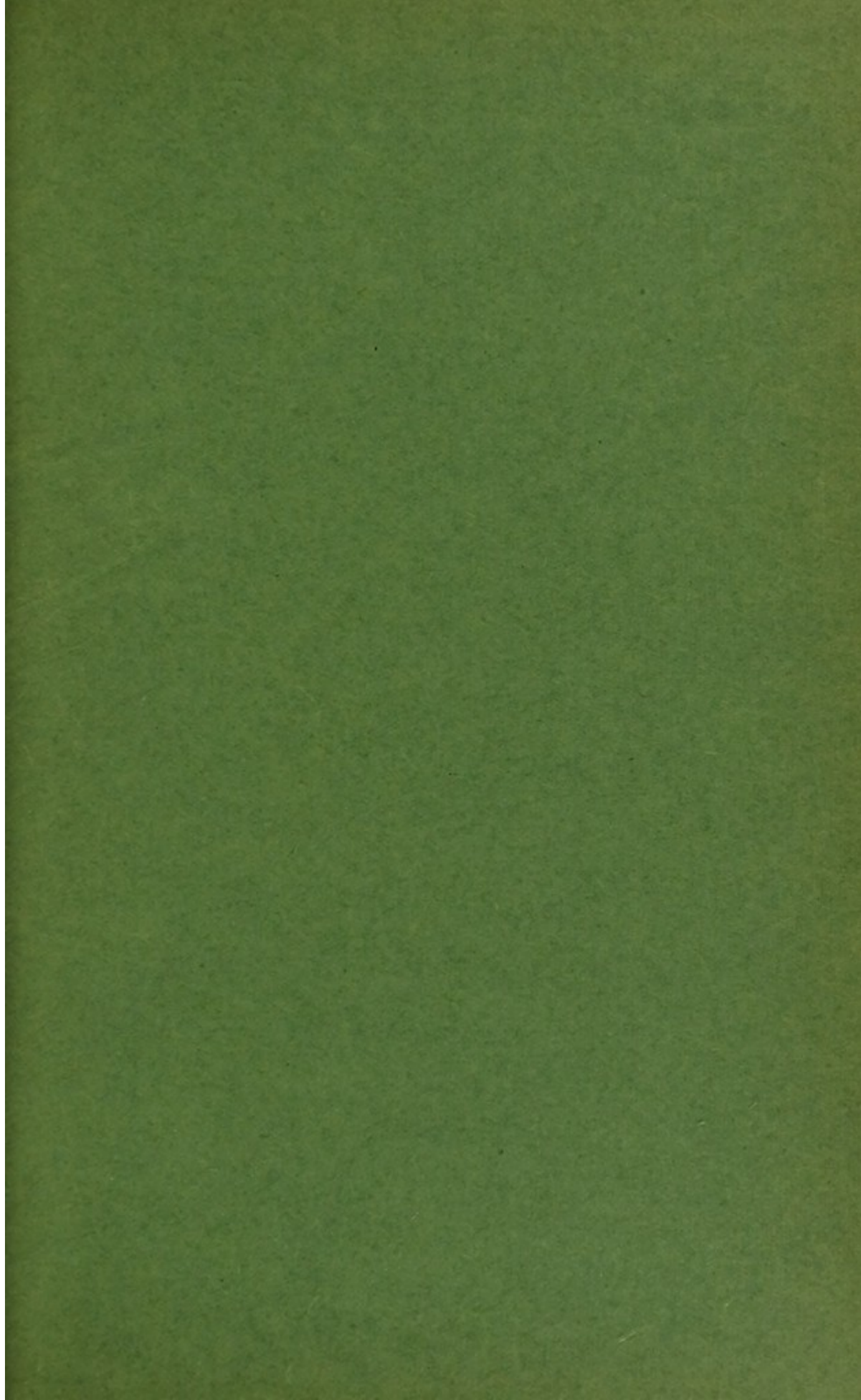
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