

[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Birkenhead County Borough.

Contributors

Birkenhead (England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1951

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/h8ernte7>

License and attribution

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

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

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



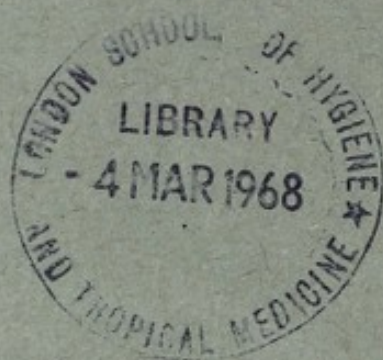
Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

XC40013
COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1951

J. W. Lobban, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1951

J. W. Lobban, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

ALDERMAN J. MILLER

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. MELVILLE

Aldermen T. H. Herron, M. Poland.

Councillors Mrs. L. Baker, Mrs. A. Cochrane, H. D. Ellidge, E. Nevylle Evans, J. Furness, Mrs. F. Gardner, Mrs. F. M. Lindfield, W. J. Parry, B. Van Engel, H. D. Shakeshaft, M. Reney-Smith, Mrs. E. Ward.

Ex-Officio Members:

The Mayor (Alderman C. J. Yates) and the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Alderman H. Platt).

Co-opted Members:

Mr. J. Bennett, Dr. G. Bowen,
Mrs. A. Capper, Mrs. S. Hunter, Mr. J. Harris,
Dr. R. W. L. Pearson, Dr. L. J. Temple.

INDEX

Administrative Staff	v.	Health Committee	ii
Ambulance Service	24, 31	Health Officers	v
Ante-natal Clinics	17	Health Visiting	25
Area of Borough	1	Home Nursing Scheme	26, 27
Artificial Sunlight treatment	22	Housing and Environmental Hygiene	43
		Houses, number of	1
		.. inspection and repair	43
		.. legal proceedings	44
		.. unfit for human habitation	44
B.C.G. Vaccination	13	Ice cream	48, 49
Birkenhead & District Nursing Society	26	illegitimate children	1
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital	25	illegitimacy and mortality	1
Birkenhead Mothers Welfare Clinic	22	Immunisation—Diphtheria	28, 29
Births	1	.. Whooping Cough	30
Birth Rates	2	Infant mortality	4
		Infant Welfare Clinics	17, 18
Care of Mothers and Young Children	17	Infectious Diseases	9, 10, 11
Common Lodging Houses	44	Influenza	6, 9
Convalescent treatment	22	Inquests	4
Coroner's inquests	4		
Cremation	15		
Day Nurseries	20	Kitchens, school cooking	51
Deaths	1, 2		
Death Rates	1		
.. Main causes	6, 7, 8	Live Births	1
Dental Care	20	Lunacy & Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930 Survey	38
Diphtheria	9		
Diseases of Animals Acts	57	Maternity and Child Welfare	17
Domestic Help Service	35	Maternal mortality	22
Dwelling houses, inspection and repair	43	Measles	9
Dwelling houses, unfit for human habitation	44	Meat Inspection	56, 57
Dysentery	9	Medical Research Council	47
		Mental Deficiency Survey	39
Estimated population	1	mental Health Services	36
		Midwives Service	23
Factories Acts—		Milk Supply	46
Action under	55	.. examination	47
Food & Drugs Act—		Mortality, Infant	4
Legal proceedings	53		
Food Hygiene	50, 51	National Assistance Act	41
.. Poisoning	12, 52	National Health Service Act, 1948, Schemes	16
.. Unsound	53	Notification of Births	3
Food premises, inspection of	50	Notification of Infectious Diseases	9, 10, 11
Food Stuffs in shops, inspection	57	Nursing and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948	21
		Nursing Homes Registration	21
General rate	1		
General Statistics	1		

INDEX (Continued)

Occupational Centre (M.D.)	40	Statistics, general	1
		Statistical Tables—	
Paratyphoid fever	11	Infant Clinic attendances	19
Penny rate—product of	1	Causes of death at different periods of life	7, 8
Persons per acre	1	Day Nursery attendances	21
Pneumonia	9	Death rate per 1000	6
Poisons & Pharmacy Act 1933	52	Food Poisoning	52
Poliomyelitis	10	Factories Acts 1937/48	55
Population	2	Housing—	
Premature Infants	21	Defects remedied	10, 11
Prevention of illness, care, etc.	33, 34, 37	Immunisation—1933/1951	29
Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924	57	Meat Inspection—	
Puerperal pyrexia	11	Animals slaughtered	56
		Tuberculosis	12
		„ primary notifications	14
		Vital statistics	1
Rateable value	1	Toddler Clinics	19
Rats, mice, extermination of	45	Tuberculosis, notifications	13, 14
Road Traffic Act, examinations	15	Typhoid fever	9
		Unmarried mothers, care of	21
St. Elizabeth's Convent	22		
Scarlet Fever	9, 10	Vaccination Scheme	28, 30
School Health Service	61/85	Vital Statistics	1
Shops Act, 1950	51		
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	57		
Smoke Abatement	44, 45	Water Supply	42
Still Births	1, 2, 3	Welfare Foods	19
Superannuation examinations	15	Whooping Cough	9

v

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER:

F. G. FOSTER, M.A., M.D., (Edin.), D.P.H., (Retired
31st March, 1951).

J. W. LOBBAN, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., (Commenced duty
16th April, 1951).

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND DEPUTY SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER:

D. F. MORGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 14th May, 1951).

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS:

Anna M. Williams, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Designated Senior Assistant Medical Officer—December, 1951)

Thelma R. Gaunt, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

E. F. W. Richards, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

R. M. C. Tyner, M.B., B.A.O., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Commenced duty 27th March, 1951)

CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST: (Part-time)

Mary C. Lydon, L.R.C.P. and S.I., D.P.M.,

VETERINARY OFFICER:

N. M. Clayton, M.R.C.V.S.,

SENIOR SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER:

P. Wilson Smith, L.D.S., R.F.P.S. (Glas.),
(Retired—12th November, 1951)

ASSISTANT SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICERS:

John B. Andrew, L.D.S., B.D.S., (Resigned 30th April, 1951)

F. G. Sutcliffe, L.D.S., (Commenced duty 1st September, 1951)

Eveline M. Warlow, L.D.S. (part-time)

Kate S. Primrose, L.D.S. (part-time)

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND INSPECTOR UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS:

M. Holgate, A.R.San.I.

SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR:

Miss E. Ramage, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

LAY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

W. M. Cavers

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Birkenhead.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1951.

The epidemic in influenza which my predecessor reported as commencing in December, 1950, continued and reached its peak in January, 1951. It was widespread throughout the Borough and exacted a toll on life, particularly among the aged. It is reflected in the number of deaths from pneumonia and from influenza as will be seen from a study of the Vital Statistics in the body of the report.

It is pleasing to report that the number of confirmed cases of diphtheria was the lowest on record. Contrary to the usual periodicity of measles epidemics, the epidemic of 1950 was followed by another in 1951. Fortunately there were no deaths from measles.

The integration of the Children's, Welfare and Health Departments was carried a step further by the transfer of the Children's and Welfare Departments to office accommodation in the Health Department, Nos. 9 and 10 Hamilton Square. In the necessary rearrangement office accommodation, hitherto lacking, was made available for the Assistant Medical Officers in No. 12 Hamilton Square. The office of the Domestic Help Organiser was changed from the top floor of the main Health Department to the ground floor of No. 12 Hamilton Square, a change much appreciated by callers.

Fitting tributes have been paid elsewhere, and by people more fitted than myself, to Dr. Foster, who retired in March, 1951. Dr. Foster's long service with the Council—29 years—has been of benefit to the many patients who have passed through his hands. I am sure that my good wishes to my predecessor on his well-earned retirement will be echoed by the countless numbers who have been helped and encouraged by him in his long association with the Health Department.

I am glad of this opportunity to thank my brother officials for their welcome to me and for their ready co-operation at all times.

All members of the staff of the Health Department have worked with loyalty and enthusiasm. This has been most encouraging to me in my first year as your Medical Officer.

Finally, I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their continued support and interest in all aspects of Health work; and members of the Council generally, who have shown in so many ways their appreciation of the work of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LOBBAN.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	8,598 acres or 13.4 square miles
Estimated population (mid-year 1951)	141,800
Number of persons per acre (density of population)	16.5
Estimated number of houses in the Borough	36,120
Estimated product of penny rate	£3,920
General Rate	18/3 in the £

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births: Legitimate	1261	1220	2481
Illegitimate	80	54	134
Birth rate (crude) per 1,000 population	18.4		
Birth rate (standardised) per 1,000 population	18.2		

Still Births: Legitimate	44	31	75
Illegitimate	4	—	4
Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)	25.6		

Deaths:	Death Rate (crude) per 1,000 population.	13.6
	Death Rate stand- ardised) per 1,000 population	14.2

Number of women dying in or consequence of childbirth	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births (live & still)
(a) puerperal sepsis	0	0
(b) other puerperal causes	3	1.11

Death Rates of infants under one year of age		
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births		40.5
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		39.5
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		52.2

Death Rate of infants under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births	22.1
--	------

POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

POPULATION

Population.—The population of the Borough, as recorded at the time of the 1951 census, was 142,392 (Males—68,412; Females—73,980).

The Registrar-General has estimated the population of the Borough for mid-year 1951 to be 141,800.

BIRTHS

Births registered during 1951, and birth rate.—During the year 2,615 live births belonging to the Borough were registered.

The live birth rate for 1951 was 18.2

Birth rate in recent years.—The birth rates since 1942 are as follows:—

1942	.....	19.6 per 1,000
1943	.....	21.9 „
1944	.....	23.3 „
1945	.....	21.2 „
1946	.....	23.5 „
1947	.....	24.8 „
1948	.....	21.4 „
1949	.....	19.8 „
1950	.....	18.5 „
1951	.....	18.2 „

Still Births.—In addition to live births, 79 still births belonging to Birkenhead were registered in accordance with Section 7 of the Birth and Deaths Registration Act, 1926. This is equivalent to a still birth rate of 0.56 per 1,000 population.

Comparison of birth rates for country generally:—

	Per 1,000 of Population	
	Live births	Still births
England and Wales	15.5	0.36
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ...	17.3	0.45
148 Smaller Towns (resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	16.7	0.38
London Administrative County	17.8	0.37
Birkenhead	18.4	0.56

Sex-distribution of births.—Of the 2,615 live births, 1,341 were males and 1,274 females; a proportion of 1,052 : 1,000.

Legitimacy.—Of the 2,615 live births registered 134 were illegitimate, a percentage of 5.1.

Registration of stillbirths.—The 79 stillbirths registered were classified as follows:—

Legitimate—Males	44
Females	31
Illegitimate—Males	4
Females	—
	<hr/>
	79
	<hr/>

The stillbirth rate was 25.6 per 1,000 total births.

Births notified during 1951.—During the year 2,772 births were notified in the Borough under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Of these 82 were stillbirths, leaving a total of 2,690 live births. This total includes births which occurred in the Birkenhead Maternity Hospital and St. Catherine's Hospital, many of which were transferable to other areas.

The following is an analysis of the above births:

Births in Hospitals:—

Birkenhead Maternity Hospital ...	591	(19 stillbirths)
St. Catherine's Hospital	846	(43 ,,)
Births in Nursing Homes	250	(3 ,,)

Other births:—

Notified by doctors	1	(— ,,)
Notified by midwives	1,002	(17 ,,)
Notified by parents	—	(— ,,)

2,690 (82 stillbirths)

Un-notified births.—The Registrars reported 47 cases of un-notified births; 10 by doctors or midwives and doctors, 11 by the Maternity Hospital staff and 26 by Annandale Nursing Home.

DEATHS

Death-rate.—1,930 deaths occurred during the year; the total figure includes 205 deaths of Birkenhead residents which occurred outside the Borough, but excludes 305 deaths of non-residents which occurred in the area. This gives a death-rate of 14.2 per 1,000 population.

Deaths in recent years.—The death rates since 1942 are as follows:

1942	14.3 per 1,000
1943	14.8 ,,
1944	13.3 ,,
1945	13.7 ,,
1946	13.7 ,,
1947	14.3 ,,
1948	12.1 ,,
1949	12.3 ,,
1950	12.4 ,,
1951	14.2 ,,

Comparison of Death Rate for Birkenhead and the Country generally.

	Per 1,000 population
England and Wales	12.5
126 County Boroughs	13.4
148 Smaller Towns	12.5
London Administrative County	13.1
Birkenhead	13.6

Sex-distribution of deaths.—Of the total deaths, 1,014 were male deaths—and 916 females, a proportion of 1,107 : 1,000.

Uncertified deaths.—In 1951 there were no uncertified deaths belonging to the area.

Coroners' Inquests.—Coroners' inquests were held regarding 71 deaths—that is, in 3.7 per cent. of the total deaths during the year.

The Coroners' (Amendment) Act, 1926.—Under the provisions of this Act, a Coroner may certify death after a post-mortem examination has been held, **without an inquest**. During the year 94 of the registered deaths (4.9 per cent. of the total deaths) were certified in this way.

Infant Mortality.—There were 106 deaths of infants under 1 year old. This corresponds to an infant mortality rate of 40.5 per 1,000 live births.

There were 7 deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year old: giving an illegitimate infant mortality rate of 52.2 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

The infant mortality rates for each year since 1942 are given below:—

1942	68
1943	74
1945	78
1946	67
1947	72
1948	53
1949	39
1950	42
1951	40.5

The causes of infant deaths during the past year are shown below:—

Pneumonia	20
Whooping Cough	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	3
Influenza	2
Other respiratory disease	1
Congenital malformations	10
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	3
Meningococcal infections	3
Other diseases	60

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was responsible for 3.7 per cent. of all deaths recorded in the Borough in 1951.

Deaths from Respiratory tuberculosis	64
Deaths from other forms of tuberculosis	8
	<hr/>
	72
	<hr/>

These deaths represent a death rate of 0.51 per 1,000 population, which is the lowest yet recorded.

61 of the 64 deaths due to respiratory tuberculosis occurred in the age groups 15—65 years.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases:—

Pneumonia	105
Influenza	92
Diphtheria	1
Whooping Cough	1
Meningococcal infections	6
Other infective diseases	8

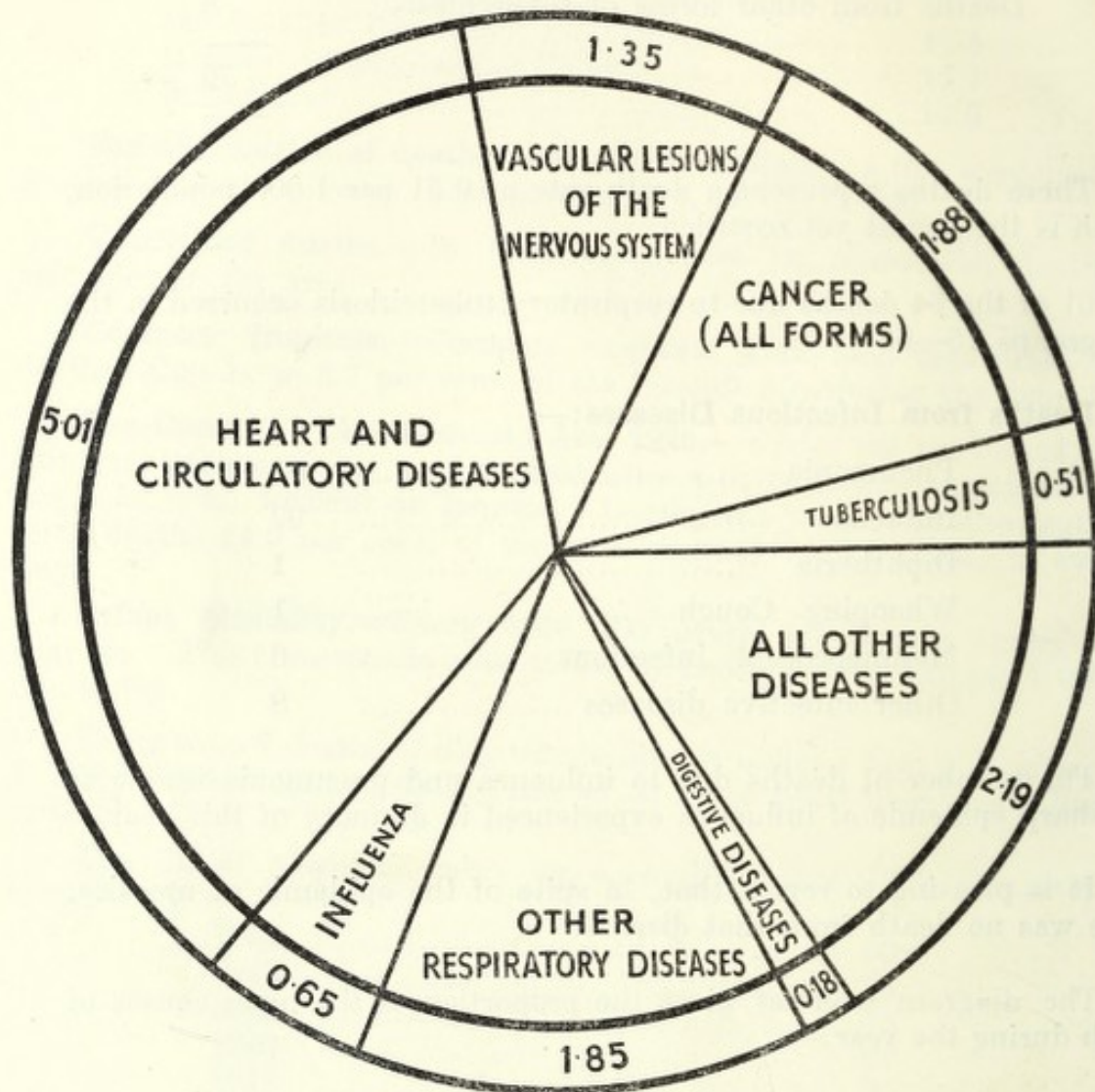
The number of deaths due to influenza and pneumonia is due to the sharp epidemic of influenza experienced in January of this year.

It is pleasing to report that, in spite of the epidemic of measles, there was no death from that disease.

The diagram overleaf gives the proportion of the main causes of death during the year:—

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

Death Rates per 1,000 of the Population 1951



CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE—1951. (Continued)

(As compiled by the Registrar-General)

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All Causes	Male	1014	74	8	5	12	66	289	295	265
	Female	916	32	11	4	5	42	178	238	406
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	Male	6	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	Female	8	5	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	Male	80	45	1	1	4	4	11	5	9
	Female	74	15	2	—	—	4	16	14	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	Male	11	—	1	1	1	4	2	2	—
	Female	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
34. All other accidents	Male	29	1	1	2	2	6	5	5	7
	Female	14	2	1	1	—	—	—	2	8
35. Suicide	Male	8	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	—
	Female	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	Male	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	Female	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of measles notified in 1951 was 1,678, compared with 1,753 in 1950. An epidemic of this magnitude was unexpected following on the previous year. Epidemics of measles have usually recurred every second year. The number of cases of diphtheria was 7, after correction of the original 70 notifications. This is the lowest on record and is a tribute to the diphtheria immunisation scheme.

Cases of scarlet fever numbered 144, compared with 318 in 1950. The type of the disease continued to be of a mild nature.

Confirmed cases of poliomyelitis numbered 8 in all—2 paralytic and 6 non-paralytic. Whooping cough cases numbered 362 compared with 536 in 1950.

There was a sharp epidemic of influenza, which commenced in December, 1950, and continued for the first six weeks in 1951. Notifications of acute primary and influenzal pneumonia increased from 196 in 1950 to 337.

The weekly figures for recipients of National Health Insurance showed a marked increase, attributable to influenza. There were 92 deaths from influenza in the first three months of the year, 70 of which were in the age group 65 years and over.

Two cases of typhoid fever were notified during the year. Both made excellent recoveries. No other member of the family in either case was affected and the course of the infection could not be traced.

There was a welcome decrease in the number of cases of dysentery notified—22 as compared with 59 in 1950.

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Whooping Cough		Typhoid Fever	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
					M.	F.	M.	F.						
Numbers originally notified	81	81	45	25	1	1	3	3	875	809	184	181	2	—
Final numbers after correction : Age under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	47	51	19	24	—	—
Age 1 — 2 years +	9	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	237	221	55	51	—	—
Age 3 — 4 years +	18	21	—	—	—	—	1	—	296	286	48	59	—	—
Age 5 — 9 years +	38	28	3	—	—	—	1	2	285	237	57	40	—	—
Age 10 — 14 years +	9	14	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	9	2	2	—	—
Age 15 — 24 years +	1	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
Age 25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	1	—
Totals	75	69	3	4	1	1	3	3	871	807	182	180	2	—

	Acute Pri- mary and Influenzal Pneumonia		Dysen- tery		Malaria		Para- typhoid Fever		Ery- sipelas		Menin- gococcal In- fection		Puer- peral Pyrexia		Acute Encephalitis				Food Poison- ing		Ophthal- mia Neona- torum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number originally notified	150	187	14	23	1	—	1	2	6	10	14	17	—	18	2	1	1	1	4	3	—	—
Final numbers after correction : Age 0 — 4 years + ...	37	35	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age 5 — 14 years + ...	12	18	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age 15 — 44 years + ...	32	34	4	7	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	2	—	18	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Age 45 — 64 years + ...	22	31	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Age 65 and over	47	69	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	150	187	7	15	1	—	—	1	6	10	6	12	—	18	1	1	1	4	1	—	—	—

The following table gives comparative notification rates for infectious diseases:—

Notifications (Corrected)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	Birkenhead
	Rates per 1,000 Population		
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.13
Scarlet fever	1.11	1.20	1.02
Whooping cough	3.87	3.62	2.55
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.05
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	14.07	13.93	12.10
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	2.38
Acute poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis Paralytic ..	0.03	0.03	0.01
Non-paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.04
Food poisoning	0.13	1.15	0.04

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		
Puerperal fever and pyrexia	10.66	13.77	6.68

Food Poisoning

The total number of cases of food poisoning confirmed, following notification, numbered 5.

These cases were fully investigated. Unfortunately it is often too late when the notification is received to obtain specimens of the suspected food for analysis.

FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

1st quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
—	1	4	—	5

Outbreaks due to identified agents:—

Total outbreaks: 1 Total cases: 3
(2 notified: 1 ascertained)

Outbreaks due to:—

(a) Chemical poisons	—
(b) Salmonella organisms	—
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	1
(d) Cl. Botulism	—
(e) Other bacteria	—

Outbreaks of undiscovered cause:—

Total outbreaks — Total cases —

Single cases:—

Agent identified 3 Unknown cause — Total 3
(Salmonella organisms in all three cases)

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year was 234. Of these, 215 cases were of Pulmonary and 19 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

This number shows a decrease of 42 from that of 1950, i.e., a decrease of 15%.

Mortality

The total number of deaths certified as due to Tuberculosis was as follows:—

Respiratory	...	...	...	64
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	8

Tuberculosis Register

To be an effective indication of the position as regards tuberculosis, the register must be up-to-date and the cases constantly reviewed. At the 31st December, 1951, the register showed a reduction of 102 compared with 31st December, 1950.

		Adults	Children (under 15 yrs.)	Total
Respiratory—	Male ...	661	53	714
	Female ...	489	43	552
Non-Respiratory—	Male ...	41	114	155
	Female ...	74	93	167
Total—	Male ...	702	167	869
	Female ...	563	136	699
TOTAL ...		1265	303	1568

Examination of Contacts.

Every effort is made to encourage contacts to be examined. Although there was a decrease in the number of contact notifications, 937 contacts were examined during the year; an increase of 88 compared with 1950.

	Adults		Children under 15 years	Total
	Male	Female		
Classed as suffering from Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	13	16	8	37
Classed as suffering from other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1
Classed as non-Tuberculosis	98	151	627	876
Classed as "suspect"	4	6	13	23
				937

Of the 937 contacts examined by the Tuberculosis Officer during the year, 38 of these or 4.05% were found to be Tuberculous, and 23, 2.45% were classed as "suspects."

B.C.G. VACCINATION

B.C.G. Vaccination was commenced in January, and during the year 306 child contacts and 28 Student Nurses were vaccinated.

493 children were Mantoux tested prior to vaccination and 264 children were Mantoux tested six weeks after B.C.G.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Cremation.

The Medical Officer of Health is medical referee to the Landican Crematorium. He is assisted by two of the senior members of the Medical Staff who are authorised to act.

Increasing preference is being displayed for this means of disposal of the dead. During the year, 1,343 cremations took place, an increase of 297 compared with 1950.

80 per cent. of the cremations were arranged from areas outside Birkenhead.

In one case a post mortem examination was ordered before the cremation was authorised.

Medical Examinations.

765 medical examinations were carried out by the Medical Staff of the Department in connection with fitness for entry into the Corporation's service and the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937. In addition, 59 medical examinations were carried out in connection with fitness for driving Public Service Vehicles under the Road Traffic Acts, 1930-1947.

**SCHEMES MADE BY THE COUNCIL
UNDER PART III OF THE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946**

- (1) Care of Mothers and Young Children
- (2) Midwives Service
- (3) Health Visiting
- (4) Home Nursing
- (5) Vaccination and Immunisation
- (6) Ambulance Service
- (7) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care
- (8) Domestic Help Service
- (9) Mental Health Services

CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN

Staff

The Medical Staff engaged on duties under the scheme is as follows:—

Clinic	Ante-Natal	Infant Welfare	Toddlers
Central	Dr. A. M. Williams	Dr. E. F. W. Richards	—
North	Dr. T. R. Gaunt	Dr. T. R. Gaunt	Dr. T. R. Gaunt
South	Dr. A. M. Williams	Dr. A. M. Williams	Dr. A. M. Williams
Balls Road	—	Dr. R. M. C. Tyner	—
Upton	—	Dr. R. M. C. Tyner	—

Ante-natal Clinics.

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases attending the Ante-natal Clinics over the previous year.

Every mother attending a Clinic has her blood tested for Blood Group, Rhesus Factor and Wasserman Reaction. The results of these tests are communicated to Hospital, private doctor or midwife as the case requires.

A number of medical practitioners continue to send their patients to the Clinic for Blood Tests for the Rhesus Factor to be carried out.

Ante-Natal Clinics were held once weekly at the Central Clinic, the North Clinic and the South Clinic. Clinics were held on 154 occasions the number of patients dealt with being 727 and the total number of attendances made being 2,550. Of this total, 146 patients attended the Clinic during the previous year.

Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics.—Below are set out the details of attendances at Clinics:—

Clinic	No. of Sessions	No. of Cases	No. of Attendances
Central, Conway St. ...	52	317	1014
North	51	220	719
South	51	190	817

With regard to complications of pregnancy diagnosed at Clinics the patients are referred to the Ante-Natal Clinic at St. Catherine's Hospital, where there is an Obstetrician in attendance.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

There has been an increase in the number of cases attending the Clinics over the previous year. Mothers are anxious to obtain the advice of the Assistant Medical Officers regarding their children and avail themselves of the facilities provided for vaccination and immunisation.

It is to be regretted that many mothers do not continue to attend the Clinics after the child has attained the age of twelve months.

At the end of the year the child welfare clinics were being held as follows:—

Central Clinic: Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

South Clinic: Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

North Clinic: Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

Balls Road Clinic: Thursday and Friday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

Upton Clinic: Tuesday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

Clinic	No. of Cases	No. of Patients	No. of Deaths
Central	217	22	1
South	235	21	1
North	192	24	1

Attendances at Clinics. Below are set out details of attendances at Clinics:—

	Central Clinic (100 sessions)		North Clinic (103 sessions)		Balls Road (101 sessions)		South Clinic (102 sessions)		Upton Clinic (50 sessions)		TOTALS	
	1st Visits	Re- Visits	1st Visits	Re- Visits	1st Visits	Re- Visits	1st Visits	Re- Visits	1st Visits	Re- Visits	1st Visits	Re- Visits
Attendances made by infants under 12 months	304	2994	394	4977	255	4040	462	5606	85	1166	1500	18783
Attendances made by children aged 1-2 years	24	451	4	38	4	466	6	353	8	154	46	1462
Attendances made by children aged 2-5 years... ..	44	233	3	16	19	104	8	74	25	124	99	551
TOTALS	372	3678	401	5031	278	4610	476	6033	118	1444	1645	20796
Examinations of children by doctor	377	1511	391	1778	266	1555	456	2184	113	697	1603	7725

Toddler Clinics.

These clinics, for children between the ages of 1 and 5 years, are held at the North and South Clinics each Monday, between the hours of 2-5 p.m., and attendances at these Clinics are set out below:—

North Clinic (48 sessions)		South Clinic (48 sessions)		Totals	
1st Visits	Re-visits	1st Visits	Re-visits	1st Visits	Re-visits
83	772	50	769	133	1541

Welfare Foods.

Supplies of Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil Emulsion and Tonics of proprietary brands prescribed by the Assistant Medical Officers in charge of the Clinics are available at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil are also distributed.

It is found that the majority of artificially fed babies are given National Dried Milk, produced under the scheme of the Ministry of Food, which is cheaper than the proprietary brands stocked at the Clinics.

Day Nurseries.

Three Day Nurseries are provided for children between the ages of 0-5 years and they have been fully occupied throughout the year. A charge of 1/6d. per day is made for meals.

Priority of admission is given to children whose mothers are widowed, unmarried, or are compelled by domestic reasons to take up employment.

The Hollybank Road Nursery was closed down in April and the children transferred to new Nursery premises at Palm Grove where much improved accommodation was made available by the Council.

Vaccination against smallpox and diphtheria is carried out, subject to the consent of the parent, and a regular system of medical inspection is provided by an Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

Mild outbreaks of infectious diseases occurred at the nurseries during the year. These were dealt with by excluding the sufferers immediately suspicious symptoms appeared. There was one case of mild poliomyelitis during the year. Fortunately no other cases occurred and the child returned to the Nursery with only slight paresis of one arm.

Palm Grove and Old Chester Road Nurseries are approved for the training of Student Nurses for the National Nursery Examination Board.

The Education Department is responsible for organising the Courses, and 6 Student Nurses were successful in obtaining the Nursery Nurses' Certificate during the year.

The following table shows the attendances at each of the Nurseries during the year.

Name of Nursery	Capacity		No. of children on register during year		No. of attendances during year		Average attendances during year	
	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.	0-2 Yrs.	2-5 Yrs.
Cavendish Road ...	15	30	34	50	2662	72.8	11	28
Old Chester Road ...	15	30	39	71	4155	86.13	14	30
Palm Grove	16	22	34	36	3432	52.24	14	20
Hollybank Road {								

Nursery and Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948

One Nursery is registered under this Act, at 17 Cearns Road, accommodation for not more than 15 children being approved.

Nursing Homes Registration

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 187

At the end of the year there were 7 Nursing Homes registered in the Borough.

During the year 3 Homes had closed down.

All Nursing Homes were inspected periodically by the Senior Assistant Medical Officer.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their children

Arrangements are in operation for unmarried mothers to be provided with accommodation in Mother and Baby Homes before and after confinement for periods averaging 12 weeks.

During the past year, 20 unmarried mothers were admitted to the undermentioned Homes:—

- 9 cases—Hoylake Home for Mothers and Babies.
- 3 „ Elmswood, Liverpool.
- 4 „ St. Monica's, Liverpool.
- 2 „ St. Bridget's, Chester.
- 1 „ St. Grettargh's, Kendal.
- 1 „ St. Therea's, Salford.

Dental Care

The continued shortage of Dental Officers has prevented the implementation of the dental service for mothers and young children to be provided by the Local Authority.

The arrangement whereby local Dental Surgeons give priority of treatment to cases referred to them from the Clinics remains in operation.

Care of Premature Infants

Premature infants born at home who cannot be given the required care and attention are sent to Hospital, retained until they are 5-lbs in weight and are not discharged until such time as they are fit to receive the required attention at home.

A cot, especially designed for premature infants, is available at the Public Health Offices and is loaned for the use of premature infants who are being nursed at home.

Close contact is maintained by Health Visitors with such infants for the first six months of life, and longer if found necessary.

During the year, 170 premature babies were born. Of these, 104 were born in Hospitals or Nursing Homes, and 66 were born at home.

Maternal Mortality

The Registrar-General's Statement of causes of death includes 5 deaths connected with pregnancy and child birth.

Artificial Sunlight Treatment

Artificial sunlight treatment was given at the North and South Clinics during the year. Dr. Williams and Dr. Gaunt were in charge of this work.

Convalescent Treatment

An arrangement is in operation with the Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association whereby the Association provides convalescent treatment for children between the ages of 0—5, recommended for such treatment by members of the Medical Staff of the Department.

The Local Authority pays to the Association the actual cost of the treatment plus the administration expenses of the Association in connection therewith.

Number of cases recommended for treatment during the year was 17.

AGENCIES ASSISTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

(a) **St. Elizabeth's Convent.**—At the maternity and child welfare clinics held in connection with this Institution, the following attendances were made during the year:—

Infant Welfare Clinic: children under 1 year		
	1st visits	revisits
	128	1,001
children 1—5 years		
	1st visits	revisits
	40	342

A grant of £50 per annum is paid by the Corporation to the Convent

(b) Birkenhead and District Mothers' Welfare Clinic

Of the 837 new patients who were given advice at the Clinics during the year, 301 were residents of the Borough.

The Society receives a grant of £50 per annum from the Corporation.

MIDWIVES SERVICE

Number of Midwives

During the year 70 midwives gave notice of their intention to practice in the Borough, as follows:—

Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	12
Maternity Hospital Midwife	...	...	...	1
Private Midwives	...	...	...	10
Midwives in Hospitals and Institutions	...	...	...	40
Midwives in Private Nursing Homes	...	...	...	7
				—
				70
				—

Supervision

Dr. A. M. Williams, Senior Assistant Medical Officer, acts as Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

The Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, Miss M. Pringle, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., carried out the following work:—

Inspection of midwives: Visits to midwives homes	...	63
Interviews at Office	...	356
Nursing visits	...	42

Visits in connection with:—

Cases requiring medical aid	.....	46
Cases of puerperal pyrexia	.....	1
Cases of ophthalmia neonatorum	.....	1
Cases of stillbirth	.....	17
Expectant mothers	.....	100

Other visits 25

Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics 114

Number of cases attended by midwives—1,020

The number of cases attended by midwives alone (no doctor being in attendance) numbered 606.

Cases requiring medical aid

80 cases were notified by midwives in which medical aid had been called, as against 100 last year.

Notifications received from midwives

Stillbirths	...	...	...	18
Substitution of artificial feeding	...	...	...	168*
Deaths	...	...	...	0

* including hospital notifications

DOMICILIARY SERVICE

(a) Municipal Midwives

The following is a summary of the work of the Municipal Midwives during the year:—

No. of bookings	.....	847
No. of births attended—		
(a) as Maternity Nurse	... 288	} 733
(b) as Midwife	... 445	
No. of visits to patients	.....	17,801

Arrangements are in operation whereby Municipal Midwives, attend Ante-natal Clinics with the object of obtaining contact, supervision and greater knowledge of the mother for the time of her confinement.

(b) Hospital Sister, Birkenhead Maternity Hospital

The arrangement between the Local Authority and the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board whereby the services of the Midwifery Sister on the staff of the hospital are available for attendance on domiciliary cases is still in operation. This arrangement provides opportunity for Pupil Midwives taking Part II of the training for the Central Midwives Board Examination to gain the required experience—under the supervision of the Midwifery Sister—in attending women who are confined in their own homes.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Hospital Midwifery Staff under the Scheme of the Council during the year:—

No. of bookings	177
No. of domiciliary births	167
No. of visits to homes of patients	2809

(c) Independent Midwives

Independent Midwives attended 49 cases as Midwives and 80 cases as Maternity Nurses during the year.

Cases Discharged from Hospital

At the request of the Birkenhead Hospital Management Committee, arrangements were made for Municipal Midwives to attend maternity cases discharged from Hospital to their homes after the 10th day of the lying-in period.

From the 1st April to 31st December, 1951, Municipal Midwives provided attendance on 499 mothers discharged from Hospital and paid 560 visits for that purpose.

Gas and Air Analgesia

Gas and air analgesia was administered by the Municipal Midwives to 153 patients, and by the Maternity Hospital District Midwifery Sister to 102 patients.

Before gas and air analgesia is administered, the patient must be examined by a doctor and pronounced fit.

Ophthalmic Neonatorum

No cases were notified during the year.

Ambulance Service

Arrangements are in operation whereby the Borough Ambulance Service provides transport for midwives to cases during the hours normal transport facilities are not available, and also conveys gas and air analgesia apparatus to the homes of patients where it is required for use.

HEALTH VISITING

The Staff employed on Health Visiting in the Borough consists of a Superintendent Health Visitor and 16 Health Visitors.

The Health Visitors are employed in all sections of the medical work of the Department with the object of obtaining co-ordination between the Public Health, Maternity & Child Welfare and School Health Services.

During the year Health Visitors paid special visits to homes in the Borough at the request of Hospital Almoners, the Children's Officer and the Welfare Officer. Information was obtained, special reports prepared in respect of many of the cases, and action taken to provide assistance where this was required.

Visiting in the Home

The following is a summary of work done by Health Visitors:—

- 2710 First visits were paid to infants under one year old.
- 8276 Subsequent visits were paid to infants under one year old.
- 19366 Routine visits were paid to infants over one year and under five years old.
- 78* First visits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 28 Re-visits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 75 Visits were made in connection with the deaths of infants.
- 708 Visits were made in connection with infectious diseases.
- 182 Visits were made in connection with miscellaneous matters.
- 14 Visits were made in connection with hospital after-care.
- 4595 Visits were made in which no access could be obtained.

* Does not include visits paid by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives.

Clinic Duties

Health Visitors attended 1545 Clinic Sessions during the year (1438 Infant Welfare, Antenatal, Sunlight; 107 Superannuation sessions).

Visits to Tuberculous Cases

The homes of tuberculous persons are visited by members of the Health Visiting Staff, with the object of giving advice to the patient and the family.

Health Visitors made 200 first visits and 3044 re-visits.

HOME NURSING

Under an arrangement between the Local Authority and the Birkenhead District Nursing Society, in affiliation with the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, the Society continues to provide home nursing services to residents of the Borough.

The Society operates from the Nurses' Home, 2 Park Road South. At the end of the year, the staff consisted of 5 full-time nurses resident in the Home and 5 full-time nurses and 7 part-time nurses non-resident.

During the year the Society was able to obtain the services of 4 additional full-time nurses and, consequently, the number of part-time nurses employed was reduced.

The demands on the service continue to increase and a greater number of cases were attended in the year under review than in any previous year.

It is a tribute to the organising arrangements made by the Superintendent, Miss Heayns, and the co-operation of the nursing staff that the Society was able to meet the increased demand for nursing care in the home.

During this year, 2519 cases were provided with nursing attendance and 56196 visits were made to these cases.

In 1950, 2008 cases were provided with nursing attendance and 49898 visits were made.

A Loan Cupboard is maintained by the Society from which articles of nursing equipment are provided where necessary to cases being nursed at home. A charge of 6d. per week is made for smaller articles, such as bed pans, air rings, etc., and 2/6d. per week for bath chairs, provided the patient can afford to pay the charge.

Summary of Cases Nursed During Year

Cases brought forward from 31st December, 1950	252
Cases attended to during year:	
Men	718
Women	1261
Children	288
	<hr/> 2267
	<hr/> 2519
	<hr/>

Nurses' Services provided at request of:

Doctors	2132
Patients' Relatives and Friends	17
Medical Officer of Health	9
St. Catherine's Hospital	8
General Hospital	79
Children's Hospital	2
Maternity Hospital	—
Other Hospitals	9
Other Sources	11
	<hr/>
	2267
	<hr/>

Classification of cases nursed and visits paid:

	Cases	Visits
(1) Medical	2079	41383
(2) Surgical	211	6643
(3) Infectious	6	43
(4) Tuberculous	50	2177
(5) Senile	173	5950
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2519	56196
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Cases remaining on Register at 31st December, 1951 260

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This has been carried on as in previous years at Infant Welfare Centres, Schools and by general practitioners.

Every endeavour is made to ensure that children under school age are immunised against Diphtheria. Greeting cards are sent to children on their first birthday stressing the desirability of immunisation.

Health Visitors in their visiting of the homes where there are young children are the best means of propaganda, and can do much more than posters and leaflets.

The utmost co-operation has been received from headmasters, headmistresses and their staffs in arranging immunisations sessions in schools.

The response of parents continues to be encouraging.

It is estimated that 41 per cent. of the children under 5 years and 69 per cent. of the school population are immune.

The number of children whose immunisation was completed during the year was 2,471, made up as follows:—

0-4 years of age	1462
5-14 years of age	990
15 years and over	19
Total	2471

General practitioners and the Medical Officers of the Health Department shared in this work as under:—

	Health Department	General Practitioners
Immunisation against Diphtheria	1835	603
Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	—	33
Reinforcing injections against Diphtheria..	2209	159

The following tabulated statement shows the number of children immunised each year since 1933:—

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total immunised on 31st December 1951
Under 1 year	—	—	3	1	1	13	3	3	1	—	18	9	—	5	30	71	60	27	45	Aged under 5 years 5,652
1 year	2	1	62	16	19	31	12	15	106	419	551	548	714	588	712	1009	1124	1020	981	
2 years	2	8	29	15	24	73	45	31	201	501	465	347	355	355	241	353	385	316	289	
3 years	7	7	42	12	30	78	32	25	211	414	392	65	139	125	93	113	144	148	80	
4 years	2	13	62	19	28	77	28	19	184	379	382	57	47	75	71	71	84	136	67	
5 years	4	12	201	24	43	125	43	23	244	350	246	60	37	51	55	56	80	212	137	Aged 5-9 years 8,005
6 years	6	11	479	29	48	174	31	19	450	264	285	48	27	43	33	31	58	344	135	
7 years	2	9	580	18	32	190	45	27	478	219	320	43	17	26	20	28	41	281	115	
8 years	8	9	591	13	19	200	32	27	511	163	248	23	10	20	26	26	21	331	161	
9 years	1	12	668	10	23	120	23	18	511	129	286	21	12	20	17	11	33	273	131	
10 years	—	11	713	7	5	125	20	17	515	121	240	16	6	27	14	20	22	267	114	Aged 10-14 years 6,667
11 years	—	1	666	7	10	96	11	10	655	112	292	16	11	17	8	13	33	221	105	
12 years	—	6	557	4	9	111	11	10	385	113	298	7	1	10	5	14	7	62	57	
13 years	—	3	532	4	6	62	9	7	336	103	198	15	1	5	7	6	7	13	23	
14 years	—	1	306	11	4	44	3	5	250	36	208	19	8	4	7	6	6	14	12	
15 years and over	9	6	90	14	9	69	25	23	132	27	33	24	22	8	15	14	14	11	19	Aged 15 years and over 16,712
Total each year.	43	110	5581	204	310	1588	373	279	5170	3350	4462	1318	1407	1379	1354	1842	2119	3676	2471	Grand Total 1933-1951 37,036

14,672

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Requests for immunisation against Whooping Cough were received from mothers during the year, and to meet their demands 35 children were given a course of injections, at the Child Welfare Clinics.

Smallpox Vaccination

Facilities are available for vaccination at each of the Child Welfare Clinics and steps are taken to ensure that the advisability of infant vaccination is brought to the notice of all parents of newly-born children.

Parents are also informed that their own General Practitioner will carry out the vaccination if they so wish.

Vaccination lymph is available to Medical Officers and General Practitioners, free of charge, through the City Bacteriological Department, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

Publicity arrangements are similar to those for immunisation against diphtheria and a vaccination leaflet is enclosed in each Greetings Card sent to infants on their 1st birthdays.

During the year the following vaccinations have been carried out:

By Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics	...	...	442
By General Practitioners	...	...	1066
			<hr/> 1508 <hr/>

The following table shows the age groups of the persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated).

Born in years	Age Under 1 1950	Age 1 to 4 1946-1949	Age 5 to 14 1936-1945	Age 15 or over Before 1936	
Number vaccinated...	788	171	20	57	1036
Number re-vaccinated	—	9	29	434	472

AMBULANCE SERVICE

I am indebted to Mr. A. R. G. Wray, Chief Fire Officer, for the following report on Ambulance Services through the year now under review. In submitting this report I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Wray and the members of the Service who have maintained the Ambulance Service at its high state of efficiency.

During 1951, your Brigade responded to 38,464 calls; an increase of 5,197 upon 1950 and of 13,368 upon 1949.

Mileage increased by 17,690 miles upon 1950, and 38,989 upon 1949.

The greatest increase is in respect of the conveyance of out-patients, which showed increases of (a) Calls—4,677; (b) Patients—4,715; and (c) Mileage—16,018, upon last year.

The number of abortive calls remained fairly constant at 623, 23 of which were false alarms. The reduction in appointment errors noted in the last report continues, and it can be said that the majority of abortive journeys were the fault of patients not being ready or having forgotten appointments.

Co-operation with hospitals and the medical profession has again been excellent and, as in previous years, everyone plays their part in the endeavour to reduce costs compatible with efficiency.

Classification of Calls

Type	Calls	Patients	Mileage
Emergency	4,640	4,680	18,814
Removals	7,567	8,113	59,759
Out-Patients	24,026	24,175	70,440
Infectious Diseases	378	383	2,426
Special Services	1,230	—	4,456
Abortive	623	—	1,491
	<hr/> 38,464	<hr/> 37,351	<hr/> 157,386

Comparison with previous years since inception of National Health Service Act, 1946

Year	Calls	Mileage
(six months) 1948	7,195	43,280
1949	25,096	118,397
1950	33,267	139,696
1951	38,464	157,386

Mutual Assistance

It is obvious that the geographical position and stronger establishment of the Borough Ambulance Service make it the backbone of the emergency services in Wirral.

Assistance Rendered

To	Calls	Mileage
Wallasey	52	359
Cheshire	34	475
Others	29	1,148
	<hr/> 115	<hr/> 1,982

From	Calls	Mileage
Wallasey	6	85
Cheshire	3	21
	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 106

Standing by for emergency is a duty accepted under Mutual Assistance Schemes, when another Authority has no ambulances available.

By Birkenhead for	No. of Occasions
Wallasey	203
Cheshire	81
	<hr/> 284

For Birkenhead from	No. of Occasions
Wallasey	47
Cheshire	14
	<hr/> 61

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The scheme is restricted to persons suffering from tuberculosis and, to a lesser extent, to those suffering from mental illness.

Tuberculosis

The Tuberculosis Section of the scheme is dealt with by the Care and After Care Sub-Committee, consisting of representatives of the Health Committee, the Corkhill Charity Trust, the Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

The arrangements with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, whereby the services of Dr. E. Blackstock, Tuberculosis Officer, are available in dealing with cases coming under the scheme continue.

The Chest Clinic is situated in 42 Hamilton Square, and the Tuberculosis Almoner, Miss Dunn, has an office in the same building.

During the year, the Almoner held 2,579 interviews with patients and relatives at the Clinic, and had 714 interviews with patients in Sanatoria and Hospitals.

The Tuberculosis Almoner's duties have been of value to patients on the register, especially the married ones in the special problems of their tuberculous households. She endeavours to facilitate treatment by relieving anxiety and safeguard the restored patient against relapse by assisting them in their difficulties.

Effective co-operation exists between the Almoner, the local offices of the Ministry of Labour, the National Assistance Board and other statutory and voluntary bodies with the object of assisting tuberculous patients and their families.

Patients coming under this scheme continue to be indebted for assistance granted by the Corkhill Charity Trust.

Provision continues to be made for extra nourishment to be granted to necessitous cases.

Beds, blankets and nursing requisites are loaned to patients. Paper handkerchiefs are issued to respiratory cases and destructable paper cups are issued to bed patients being nursed at home.

During the year, 165 cases were referred to the National Assistance Board for financial help.

136 patients living under unsatisfactory housing conditions were referred to the Housing Manager for consideration. 39 cases were granted the tenancy of Corporation houses.

Health Visiting.

On receipt of notification that a person is affected with tuberculosis, the home of the person is visited by a Health Visitor who prepares a report on the home conditions, number of contacts, etc., which is forwarded to the Tuberculosis Officer for his information.

The Health Visitor also advises as to the methods which should be adopted to reduce the risk of infection, and maintains contact with the patient and the home as long as is considered desirable.

Occupational Therapy.

An Occupational Therapy Class is held once a week at the Red Cross headquarters, 68 Balls Road, and patients are supplied with materials for work at the Centre and for work which they wish to do at home.

Rehabilitation.

Valuable assistance has been given by the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour in the work of helping patients to find employment.

During the year, 39 patients were registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944—of these 4 were placed in special training, 1 took up Sanatorium nursing and 24 were found other employment.

Institution Cases—Rehabilitation.

(a) Wrenbury Hall Training Colony:—

Cases in Colony at end of 1950	6
Cases admitted during year	9
Cases discharged during year	13
Cases remaining in Colony at end of 1951	2

(b) Derwen Cripples' Training College:—

Cases admitted during 1951	—
Cases undergoing training	2

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

432 households were provided with domestic help in the year under review, against 355 in the previous year—an increase of 77.

Persons supplied with help are charged for the service in accordance with the Scale recommended by the Association of Municipal Corporations, which was adopted by the Council.

Many of the persons granted help are suffering from grave chronic disease, or being aged, infirm or physically handicapped are unable to devote to themselves, and have no relatives to provide that help, which is required to prevent undue hardship. In dealing with these cases, the Organiser continues to work in close co-operation with the Hospital Almoners, the Welfare Department, the National Assistance Board and Voluntary Organisations.

At the end of the year, 5 full-time and 37 part-time workers were employed. Preference of employment as Home Helps is given to single women and widows.

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the year:—

Maternity	102
Illness, etc.	86
Chronic Sick	180
Aged and Infirm	64
	<hr/>
	432
	<hr/>

Number of Hours worked by Domestic Helpers:—

Maternity, Illness, etc. cases	9046
Aged, Infirm and Chronic sick cases	38843
	<hr/>
	47889
	<hr/>

Visits.

During the year, 1376 visits were paid to households by the Domestic Help Organiser and her Assistant in investigating applications for domestic help.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. Administration.

(a) The Mental Welfare Sub-Committee consists of twelve members of the Health Committee, eight being members of the Council, and four co-opted. The Sub-Committee met monthly throughout the year until October, when it was decided that future meetings should be held bi-monthly.

(b) The Mental Health staff consists of two male duly authorised officers and one female part-time duly authorised officer and mental deficiency officer. Of the male authorised officers, one holds the Relieving Officer's Certificate of the former Poor Law Examinations Board, and the other the certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association. The female officer is not certificated. The Mental Health Section is under the direct supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. There is not a medical officer specifically appointed to the mental health service, but the Medical Officer of Health and two assistant medical officers are certifying officers under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

So far, no arrangements have been made for the recruitment or training of mental health workers.

(c) Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees. An evidence of the co-operation with the local hospital authorities is the help given by Dr. G. T. James, the Psychiatrist at St. Catherine's Hospital Annexe. Dr. James has assisted in the after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals at his clinic. The flow of patients is a two-way one, many cases being referred by the Psychiatric Clinic to the Duly Authorised Officers.

	Male	Female	Total
No. of Cases referred to Clinic by D.A.O.'s	4	13	17
„ „ „ „ from Clinic to D.A.O.'s	34	35	69

Duties undertaken by the officers of the local health authority on behalf of Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees were as follows:—

- (i) Supervision of patients on licence or leave from mental deficiency institutions; the furnishing of progress and periodic reports on home circumstances.
- (ii) Visiting homes to which it was proposed to discharge patients in mental hospitals, where doubt existed as to the suitability of the accommodation, etc.
- (iii) Obtaining reports on home conditions and histories of patients referred for psychiatric treatment.
- (iv) Visiting homes to obtain information for hospital index records where this had not been obtained by the hospital staff on admission.
- (v) Conveying mental patients under the Mental Deficiency Acts and Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts between hospitals when hospital staffs were not available to act as escort.

II. Account of Work Undertaken in the Community.

(a) **Prevention, Care and After-Care.** National Health Service Act 1946, Section 28.

No extension of this work has been possible during the past year. With a limited staff and the continued increase in the number of cases dealt with, restriction of the time devoted to this work could not be avoided. Contact was made with each patient referred for after-care, and relatives were advised to get in touch with the authorised officers regarding any matter about which they were in doubt.

This branch of the mental health service is made more difficult by the operation of section 72 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, which allows relatives to obtain the discharge of certified patients against advice. There is a steady increase in the number of these cases. It seems pointless for the authorised officer to visit them with a view to after-care when he is fully aware that what they really require is hospital treatment, and that, if he secures their re-admission, the relatives can, and probably will, again apply for discharge.

Patients discharged from military mental hospitals are also referred, but there have been fewer of these during the past year.

Where patients object to after-care treatment, no visits are made.

Mental defectives under statutory home supervision are also included under this heading, and statistics of these cases are given on page 39.

(i) **Defectives on leave or licence.** 81 reports were sent to various hospitals and officials regarding patients on licence or leave in Birkenhead. Not all the patients were on the Birkenhead M.D. Register, but as the authority in whose area the patients were residing, my officers furnished the necessary reports.

(ii) **Patients on Friendly Supervision**, including defectives discharged from their orders:—

	Male	Female	Total
Number of Patients	6	7	13

It is encouraging to note that the stability of these defectives is firmly established before their discharge, and it is rarely that any further action under the Acts has to be taken.

(iii) **"No Action" Cases.** These are cases where, after investigation, it was found that action under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts was not necessary. Assistance, which can be described as "prevention," was afforded in appropriate cases, and they were referred to the official or voluntary bodies most likely to help them.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
No further action	31	21	52
To Welfare Officer	5	4	9
To Police	2	—	2
To General Practitioners	10	10	20
To General Hospitals	4	6	10

(iv) **After-Care Cases** discharged from mental hospitals or psychiatric clinics:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Referred for After-Care	43	56	99
Refused After-Care	11	14	25

LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS.

(i) **Admissions to Hospitals under the Lunacy Act, 1890.** (as amended):—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total for 1950.
Sec. 20. (3 Day Detention Order)...	61	20	81	(92)
Sec. 21 (14 Day Justice's Order ...	23	47	70	(58)
Sec. 16. (Certification)	64	62	126	(118)
Sec. 5. (Private Patients)	0	0	0	(0)
Sec. 64/67 (Transfers)	0	0	0	(10)
Sec. 11. (Urgency Orders)	0	0	0	(1)
Circular 999 Cases	8	7	15	(24)

(ii). **Admissions under the Mental Treatment Act, 1930** (as amended):—

Sec. 1 (1) (Voluntary patients)	33	52	85	(71)
Sec. 1 (2) (Voluntary Patient under 16)	1	0	1	(1)
Sec. 5. (Temporary Patients)	0	2	2	(2)

The duly authorised officers have given assistance and advice regarding the admission of patients to private mental hospitals and private wards of mental hospitals.

Admissions under the Mental Treatment Act continue to increase. Most of these patients are referred from psychiatric clinics, sometimes after a period of out-patient treatment.

(iii) **Board of Control Circular 999.** Cases from the areas of other local health authorities detained in the Birkenhead Mental Hospital under extended orders (Section 21A), in which the Birkenhead duly authorised officers undertook certification and, where necessary, removal to other mental hospitals:—

Males	Females	Total
8	7	15

(iv) **Hospital Admissions.** Mental hospital accommodation is still acutely limited for both males and females. The duly authorised officers, however, were able to secure accommodation in the following mental hospitals for patients admitted on initial action direct from their homes, hostels, or sick wards:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
St Catherine's Hospital Annexe (Birkenhead)			
Mental Hospital	85	34	119
Upton Mental Hospital, Chester	23	73	96
Rainhill Mental Hospital	4	6	10
Winwick Mental Hospital	0	6	6
Cheadle Royal Hospital	0	1	1
Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool	0	1	1
Ormskirk Hospital	0	2	2

The number of patients dealt with under the Acts was 364, of whom 273 were new cases. A further 93 cases were investigated but required no statutory action. 99 cases were referred for after-care.

It is interesting to note that from August, 1947, to August, 1948, (a period just prior to the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946), 170 patients were admitted to mental hospitals under the provisions of the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, compared with 411 patients admitted during the period August, 1950, to August, 1951.

Senile patients continue to be a major problem. In many cases, no doubt due to the shortage of accommodation for the chronic sick, patients are referred for admission to mental hospitals. These old people, in many cases only mildly confused, are desperately in need of special accommodation where they can be under supervision without being labelled "mental" in their old age. Such accommodation is provided in hospitals in a neighbouring Borough and could be copied with advantage.

In consequence of a suggestion by the Ministry of Health that local health authorities should consider the need for the approval of additional doctors for the purpose of making recommendations for voluntary and temporary treatment under the provisions of sections 1 (3) and 5 (3) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930, I communicated with all the general practitioners in the town, inviting them, if interested, to apply for the necessary approval. Thirteen practitioners applied, in addition to five doctors who had previously been approved, some of whom are attached to hospitals. The approvals date from the 1st January, 1952.

I would like to say a word in praise of the unselfish work of the four Justices who willingly undertook duties in connection with mental patients. The calls made upon their time, often at inconvenient hours, were extremely heavy, particularly as Birkenhead has a mental hospital in the area, which means that they were repeatedly asked to see patients from other Authorities. Their interest in the cases and ready co-operation with doctors and duly authorised officers have been very much appreciated.

III. Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

At the end of the year, the distribution of Birkenhead mental defectives was as follows:—

No. on Register	376
No. in Institutions	169
No. on licence from Institutions	8
No. under Guardianship	1
No. under Home Supervision	198
	<hr/> 376

(i) **New Cases** notified to the Local Health Authority arose as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
Under Education Act, 1944, Sec. 57(3)	8	0	8
Under Education Act, 1944, Sec. 57(5)	7	0	7
Other sources (transfers in, etc.)	1	2	3
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 18

(ii) **Removals from Register.**

	Male.	Female	Total
Deaths, Removals from the area, etc.	4	2	6
Cancellations of Notification (e.g. under Education Act, 1944-48, Sec. 8)	0	0	0
Found not to be certifiable	0	0	0
Dealt with under Lunacy Acts	3	0	3
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 9

(iii) **Admissions to Institutions.**

	Male.	Female	Total
Section 15 (Place of Safety)	1	0	1
Section 8 (From Magistrates' Court)	1	1	2
Section 9 (Order of Secretary of State)	1	0	1
Section 6 (On Petition)	1	0	1
Section 7 (Variation of Guardianship Order)	0	0	0
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 5

There are still 23 mental defectives on the urgent waiting list for accommodation, and, in addition, 46 who would benefit by institutional care.

The shortage of permanent accommodation continues to give cause for concern; it is understood that the shortage is due as much to scarcity of nursing staff as lack of beds. The Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, is, of course, fully aware of the position and is endeavouring to rectify the position.

The provision of temporary accommodation would prove invaluable, and it is hoped that some progress in this direction may be made by utilising the beds vacated temporarily by defectives sent on leave or licence.

The number of Birkenhead defectives in institutions in various parts of the country at the end of 1951 was 177, including 8 on licence.

(v) **Guardianship.** One male defective continued under guardianship and is in receipt of an allowance from the National Assistance Board.

Another case under guardianship in the borough is a child who is the responsibility of the Denbighshire County Council and whose guardian receives a financial grant from that Authority. The supervision of the case is carried out by the authorised officers on my staff.

(vi) **Home Supervision.** Visiting of mental defectives under home supervision was carried out by the duly authorised officers. During the year 633 visits were paid, and 538 reports obtained.

(vii) **Occupation Centre.** Birkenhead mental defectives continue to attend the Wallasey Occupation Centre; there are 30 on the register, and attendances averaged 21 daily during the year.

As in the past, a Christmas Party was held at the Centre for the children. A party for the parents was also held, and the attendance was very encouraging. Examples of the work done were shown to the parents, who were entertained by the children with singing and dancing. The feature of the party was a play by the children, which reflected great credit on the patience and skill of the Centre staff in their work with these handicapped children.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

One case was dealt with during the year. The case was that of a married woman who was ill, was living in insanitary conditions, was not receiving sufficient nourishment and had refused to go to Hospital. Action was taken in the first instance under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, and the patient was removed to Hospital. On the expiration of three weeks she was admitted to Part III accommodation in accordance with Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for a period of three months.

WATER SUPPLY

The Borough has an ample supply of water of good quality. The main supply comes from Lake Alwen in Denbighshire, but subsidiary supplies are obtained from Flaybrick and Springhill Wells situated in the Borough. The water supply is good both in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations are made both of the raw water and fully treated water before going into supply.

Bacteriological examinations are made at monthly intervals, and the results, so far as the treated water is concerned, are universally satisfactory and show in all cases complete freedom from bacteriological impurity.

The water supply is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

All the houses in the Borough, of which there are approximately 36,000, are supplied with water direct, and there are no houses supplied by means of stand-pipes.

HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH

This section of the Annual Report gives details of the variety of functions undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff in conjunction with the environmental health services.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

There seems to be little prospect in the near future of any substantial change in the housing situation. Many people are living under unsatisfactory conditions and the fact that this situation must continue for a number of years must be faced.

Many of the older houses are a continued source of worry and expense to their owners. The carrying out of major repairs on this property is not an economical proposition—equally the wholesale clearance of this property cannot be contemplated at the present time.

INSPECTION AND REPAIRS OF DWELLING HOUSES. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

3,751 complaints were made at the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Office during the year. A further large number of complaints were made directly to the Sanitary Inspectors on their districts.

The total number of inspections of dwelling houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts was 14,392 and these were followed up by 23,680 re-inspections. These inspections resulted in the service of 3,852 informal notices followed by the service of 1,678 abatement notices in cases where the informal notices had not been complied with in a reasonable time. 11,518 defects were remedied during the year.

Usually work required to be executed following the service of a notice is carried out in a reasonable time. When delay does occur the reason given is usually (a) owner being involved in protracted negotiations with the War Damage Commission, (b) certain parts and fittings not being available, (c) owner in poor circumstances and unable to pay the cost of works.

The following is a summary of improvements affected at dwelling houses:—

Roofs Repaired	1440
Chimney Stacks Repaired	137
Rainwater Gutters Repaired	760
Downspouts Repaired	310
Downspouts Disconnected from Drain	17
Walls Pointed or Repaired	538
Lighting Improved	1
Ventilation Improved	14
Windows Repaired	534
Window Sashcords Renewed	565
Firegrates Repaired	487
Hearthstones Repaired	35
Floors Relaid or Repaired	630
Skirting Boards Repaired	125
Wallplaster Repaired	1427
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	714

Walls and Ceilings Cleansed	12
Doors Repaired	505
Staircases Repaired	15
Sinks Renewed	86
Sink Waste Pipes Trapped or Repaired	219
Washing Boilers Repaired	9
Dampness Remedied	423
Yard Surfaces Repaired or Relaid	209
Yards Drained	4
Sufficient Water Supply Provided	75
Drains Constructed, Altered or Relaid	138
Drains Cleansed	422
Water Closets Repaired	979
Food Stores Provided	5
Watercourses or Ditches Cleansed	1
Miscellaneous	682

Legal Proceedings

In 40 cases it was necessary to institute legal proceedings under Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936, to enforce compliance with notices. Fines totalling £39 0. 0d. were inflicted, and £32 19. 3d. costs were awarded. The Magistrates made " Nuisance orders " in all cases where the work had not been completed at the date of hearing. In addition in 13 cases where nuisance orders were not complied with it was necessary to make further complaints to the Magistrates. Total fines of £65 0s. 0d. were imposed and £4 4s. 0d. costs awarded in these cases.

At 2 houses the council were compelled to carry out work themselves in default of the owners. Costs of these works are recoverable from the responsible parties.

Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 & 12. Dwelling Houses Unfit for Human Habitation

6 houses, 1 basement dwelling, 1 caravan and 1 wooden hut were represented to the Health Committee as being unfit for human habitation and not capable, at a reasonable expense, of being rendered so fit, under the provisions of Section 11 & 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

A Closing order in the case of the basement dwelling and demolition orders in the other cases were made by the Council.

Common Lodging Houses

There are five common lodging houses registered in the Borough. They are all old established concerns and provide accommodation for men only. There are no lodging houses accommodating married couples or females. The houses are run on satisfactory lines and there was no serious complaint to be made against them during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year 68 smoke observations were carried out on factory chimneys within the Borough and 30 visits were made to works in connection with smoke abatement.

In the course of these observations and visits, it was necessary on 11 occasions to warn the occupiers of premises that nuisances had been caused by smoke from their chimneys, and on each occasion these verbal warnings were confirmed in writing within 24 hours, as required

by Section 102 of the P.H.A., 1936. Statutory notices were served on 3 occasions.

As a result of this year's work, it is felt that some headway has been made in reducing the amount of smoke from factory chimneys, particularly in the case of certain regular offenders of long standing.

In three cases, about which numerous complaints had been made, the occupiers have been completely successful in abating the nuisances, whilst in a fourth case the possibility of changing from hand firing to mechanical stoking is being considered.

Efforts to bring about an improvement in smoke emission have been met, on the whole with courtesy and an apparent desire to co-operate on the part of the occupiers of factories.

The reasons advanced by occupiers for smoke emission are the difficulty of obtaining skilled firemen, and the poor quality of the fuel supplied to them.

Both these explanations appear to have some foundation in fact.

EXTERMINATION OF RATS, MICE AND OTHER PESTS.

Two rodent operators were engaged on this work throughout the year. One of them is employed full time on disinfestation of the sewer system.

As in previous years a portion of the system on the outskirts of the Borough was "test baited" and found to be free from infestation. The degree of infestation in the remainder of the system has been kept at a minimum with resulting benefit to occupiers of buildings.

No of manholes baited	8991
No. of "partial takes" recorded	7
No. of "complete takes" recorded	1445
No. of manhole "test baited"	1000 (approx.)

326 infestations of rats or mice were found or reported during the year. All infestations were treated or the treatment supervised by the rodent operator. 139 visits were paid by sanitary inspectors in connection with rodent infestation. In addition there are the thousands of visits paid by inspectors to factories, food premises, shops, dwellings etc., which are not recorded under this heading, but where attention is always directed to possibility of rat infestation.

Insect Pests.

Disinfestation of premises infested with the various insect pests was continued as last year. Normally a nominal charge of 2/6d. per room is made for this work but in special cases of hardship no charge is made.

129 rooms in 46 houses and a large block of offices were dealt with during the year.

MILK SUPPLY

The supply and distribution of milk in Birkenhead has been conducted during the past year in a very satisfactory manner from the Public Health point of view.

Almost the whole of the milk supplied in Graded milk, pre-bottled at the wholesale Dairies and sealed with metal over-lapping caps.

There is an increase in the number of registered Dairymen and a corresponding increase in the number of licences issued to Dealers in Sterilized milk.

This milk has long keeping qualities and is, therefore, very suitable for the needs of small general shop keepers who wish to stock milk for the convenience of the "casual" customer. Although the number of shop keepers now stocking this milk has grown, the actual amount of milk sold is comparatively small.

The numbers of Registered Dairies, Registered Dairymen and Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are set out below:—

Number of Registered Dairies	63
Number of Registered Dairymen	142
Dealers Licences to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	94
Dealers Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	86
Dealers Licences to Sell "Sterilised" Milk.....	70
Dealers Licences to sell "Accredited" Milk	3
Licences to Pasteurise Milk	2

248 visits of inspection were made to the above dairies and shops selling milk.

The small amount of ungraded milk sold within the district has decreased still further during the past year, and the inclusion of Birkenhead in a "specified area" seems somewhat overdue. These "specified areas" are declared as such by the Minister of Food and it is compulsory to sell only graded milks within them. However, as the safeguards given by the creation of such an area are already being enjoyed in the Borough to a very large extent, the omission has no adverse effect on the Public Health aspect of milk distribution and no doubt the specifying of Birkenhead will be done in due course.

The two large Pasteurising Plants have again been operated in a most satisfactory manner throughout the year.

Both plants are of the most up-to-date design and are capable of handling an even larger combined gallonage than the present amount of approximately 20,000 gallons daily.

The processed milk from these plants is distributed not only in Birkenhead but in a number of the surrounding areas and regular samples are taken both by this Department and the other Authorities concerned.

The milk is subjected to the Methylene Blue Test for cleanliness and the Phosphatase test to ensure that it has, in fact, been properly pasteurised.

A considerable quantity of other milk is also distributed within the district, mainly by 4 large wholesalers who process and bottle the milk outside our district.

These also are regularly sampled.

It is pleasing to record that only two samples failed to pass the prescribed tests during the year and it is reported that the record of samples taken by adjoining authorities is of an equally satisfactory standard.

The Bacteriological examination of milk is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council. The Birkenhead Laboratory is in the charge of Dr. J. Morrison Richie, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who together with his staff have again rendered much helpful service to the Public Health Department during the past year.

The details of the samples taken are set out below:—

	Passed	Failed	Total
Heat treated Milks	124	2	126
Raw Milks	8	—	8
			<hr/> 134 <hr/>

ICE CREAM

The inspection and supervision of ice cream manufacturers and retailers has continued and it is pleasing to report that at the commencement of the year all wholesale manufacturers in the area had completed the installation of modern and hygienic manufacturing equipment.

There has been a considerable change-over in the retailing side from bulk ice cream to the pre-wrapped varieties and while this has reduced the risk of contamination in the retail shop it has necessitated increased care and attention on the manufacturers' part.

The continued co-operation of all manufacturers has been gratifying and this together with the two factors mentioned above has no doubt contributed to the improvement in the general standard of cleanliness found on analysis.

The details of the samples taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory are as follows:—

Grade 1.	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Grade 2.	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grade 3.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grade 4.	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil

The Laboratory service advise that in interpreting the results of the above tests, a period of 6 months should be taken and a vendors samples should in this period show 50 per cent in Grade 1, 80 per cent in Grades 1 and 2 together, no more than 20 per cent in Grade 3 and none in Grade 4. Based on this, it will be seen that the results for the past year are good.

With regard to Lolly Ices, there is no statutory test laid down but the Laboratory carry out a test, which determines whether there are any pathogenic organisms present or any organisms of the faecal type which would point to contamination from human or animal sources.

Of the 54 samples submitted, all passed this test satisfactorily, but on further investigation 13 of these samples were found to have a rather high "colony count." This shows that while the organisms present are not disease producing or potentially dangerous, they are nevertheless rather numerous.

With the co-operation of the manufacturers concerned, certain steps were taken on the advice of the Inspector and subsequent tests have shown that this matter has been put right.

With regard to the chemical content of Ice Cream, the standard laid down by the Ministry came into force this year.

The details of the standard, together with the average figures found on analysis of 19 samples taken in Birkenhead, are set out below:—

	Standard	Average of samples
Fat	5.0%	10.48%
Non-fatty milk solids	7.5%	8.6%
Sugar	10.0%	13.91%

These figures speak for themselves and maintain the high standard set in the previous year.

Unfortunately, the reduction in rationed materials and restriction of imported fats and powders will no doubt present a considerable problem to the Manufacturers during the current year and a fall in the standard now enjoyed is inevitable.

At the end of the year the number of Registered premises for the sale or manufacture of ice cream were:—

Premises for the manufacture of pasteurised Ice Cream	32
" " " " " " " cold mix	14
" " " " " " " Lollies only	8
" " " sale only of Ice Cream, and/or Lollies	271
	<hr/>
Total	325
	<hr/>

155 visits were made during the year to ice cream manufacturer's premises.

Control of the part-time street vendor of ices is, as reported last year, somewhat difficult and further experience has strengthened the belief that registration of such persons would greatly assist in their supervision and control.

Street trading by registered manufacturers whose premises and staff are known and subject to routine inspection has not occasioned any difficulties.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection of food premises has again occupied a prominent place in the work of the sanitary department in the past year. The summary of inspections dealing with food hygiene indicates certain defects that have been remedied, but statistics of this kind cannot fully reveal the extent or nature of the work accomplished.

If the clean food campaign is to produce worth-while results it is necessary to enlist the willing co-operation of all engaged in the food industry and it has been found that the best way to obtain this co-operation is by personal talks to the owners and staffs of the food premises visited. It is emphasized on these visits that the inspection is made not merely for the purpose of ascertaining infringements of the law, but to place at the disposal of all concerned the specialised knowledge and help of the sanitary department in all matters appertaining to food hygiene. That this method of approach has had some measure of success can be judged by the fact that in only 20 cases during the year was it found necessary to serve written notices.

It is regrettable that even now, after all the excellent propaganda and publicity given to this aspect of public health work, persons with the "couldn't-care-less" attitude of mind are still to be found in food establishments. Happily for Birkenhead this particular type of person is not much in evidence in food premises within the borough.

Every encouragement is given to owners to modernise their premises and it can be reported that one cafe proprietor has completed a scheme of modernisation at a cost of several hundred pounds, and that one other owner has submitted plans for similar improvements. Whilst such schemes are very welcome it must, however, be understood that the main essential for all food establishments is the employment of persons who appreciate and understand the principles of food hygiene. It has been particularly noticeable when inspecting cafes and canteens that where the right type of person is in charge, a high standard of hygiene can be maintained, even though the premises are not all that could be desired and only the minimum of equipment provided.

All fish frying shops within the borough have been inspected during the year, and it is pleasing to be able to report that for the most part this trade is conducted in a satisfactory manner. Complaints were made during the year of the unsatisfactory quality of some fats supplied to fish friers. This fat was labelled "pure dripping" and although the results of analytical and bacteriological examinations were satisfactory, the fat on being heated gave off a very offensive odour.

It has been found possible to include more visits to licenced premises during the year, and on these visits particular attention has been given to the cleanliness of drinking glasses, and the condition of beer cellars. Several licenced premises have glass washing machines and many of the licencees are experimenting with various types of modern detergents for glass washing. The sanitary arrangements at a number of the public houses inspected were found to be unsatisfactory, in that no separate provision was made for females, but unfortunately in some instances it would require major reconstruction to provide these desirable facilities. The brewery companies have been advised that where practicable all public houses in the borough should be provided

with separate sanitary conveniences for people of both sexes. Improvements have been made in some cases and were it not for the restriction on capital expenditure there is no doubt a great deal more would have been accomplished.

The school cooking kitchens have been regularly visited and are maintaining a high standard of hygiene.

During the year 37 new applications for catering licences were referred by the local Food Office to the sanitary department for inspection of the premises. These applications included cafes, canteens, clubs, fish frying shops, mobile catering vans and licenced premises serving refreshments. Four applications were refused on the grounds of the premises being unsuitable.

It is in the interests of both public health and the national economy that the efforts already made to reach a higher standard of food hygiene should be continued with even greater intensity.

Summary of Inspections and Defects Remedied

	Cafes and Can- teens	Food Preparing Premises	Fried Fish Shops	Other Food Shops, Stalls, Hawkers	Licenced Premises	Totals
Premises on register ...	157	40	82	—	79	358
Inspections ...	1529	175	185	1546	140	3575
Defects Remedied						
Walls, floors, ceilings repaired ...	12	4	5	6	1	28
Walls, floors, ceilings cleansed ...	66	14	7	2	15	104
Sanitary conveniences separated from food store ...	1	—	1	1	—	3
Sanitary conveniences provided, cleansed or repaired ...	15	2	—	—	3	20
Rooms ventilated ...	2	1	—	—	1	4
Accumulation of refuse removed ...	5	1	2	1	—	9
Wash-basins, sinks, provided or renewed...	2	1	—	6	—	9
Hot and cold water supply provided ...	5	1	9	4	1	20
Towels, soap, etc., pro- vided ...	2	2	1	1	—	6
Protection of food from contamination...	8	2	—	3	—	13
Equipment cleansed or renewed ...	9	3	6	—	—	18
Contravention of Local Bye-laws ...	2	1	—	1	1	5

Shops Act, 1950.

Not included above are 253 visits paid to shops other than food shops. No contraventions of the Act were recorded under this heading.

SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING CASES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES ASSOCIATED WITH INGESTION OF INFECTED FOOD OR DRINK.

Close attention has been paid during the year to notifications received under the above heading.

In the majority of instances the notifications came from General Practitioners but a few cases arose from reports received direct from individuals.

The investigations frequently disclose other cases not reported and every endeavour is made to ascertain the complete extent of the outbreak.

Unfortunately there are seldom any remnants of the suspected food left and bacteriological analysis of faeces from the sufferers is hampered by the fact that in most cases drugs have already been administered.

In spite of this, however, confirmation has been obtained from Laboratory examinations in a number of cases and the information is of great assistance to this Department in their search for the source of the infection and to the Medical Practitioners in prescribing treatment. It would be of considerable assistance to the Department if all Medical Practitioners and others concerned would notify any suspected cases immediately, as a delay of even an hour or two interferes with the investigation.

Fortunately, there were no large outbreaks during the year but one case where food poisoning was involved, together with other illness, proved fatal.

Altogether 25 reports were received, which disclosed 65 cases, 2 contacts reported for supervision and 61 others exposed to risk. In all 108 visits were made and 102 samples taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

A summary of the cases is given below:—

	Suspected cases reported or subsequently ascertained.	Notified as Contacts from other districts.	Organism identified.	Not identified.
Typhoid	2	1	2	—
Para-Typhoid B.	3	—	3	—
Typhi-murium	9	—	3	6
Sonne Dysentery	18	—	7	11
Typhi 6/47/53	3	—	3	—
Salmonella	1	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	1 (Food handler)	—	—
Food poisoning	10	—	—	10
Food poisoning Birkenhead party affected on a trip outside the borough ...	19	—	—	19
	65	2	19	46

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Food Sampling.

400 samples of food were submitted for analysis to the Public Analyst in accordance with the above Act.

The number and types of samples were:—

	Formal	Informal	Total
Milk	47	165	212
Other Foods	2	186	188
Totals	49	351	400

Of the above milk samples, 26 were reported as below standard and 7 as milk of abnormal composition.

25 of the 26 sub-standard milk samples came from 5 farmers.

In two of these cases further investigation and "Appeal to Cow" samples proved the milk to be below standard as it came from the herd and both farmers were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture's Department. In each case improvements have been shown in subsequent sampling.

In 2 other cases only odd churns were found to be below standard and the quality of milk in the remaining churns was sufficiently high to more than balance the deficiencies.

The remaining farmer was convicted on 6 counts of selling watered milk.

The remaining milk was an informal sample brought in on complaint and further samples taken by the Inspector direct from the Dealer proved satisfactory.

Fourteen other food samples were reported as not satisfactory. Seven of them related to a large consignment of imported soups which were found to contain excessive amounts of tin. The whole consignment of 700 tins was voluntarily surrendered.

The remaining seven cases covered minor infringements, all of which were immediately remedied by the manufacturers concerned after the matters had been brought to their attention.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Legal Proceedings.

Legal proceedings were instituted against Vendors for the following offences:—

	Fine	Costs
For selling milk containing added water. 6 counts	£30	£8.8.0.
For exposing for sale 11 carcasses of poultry unfit for consumption. These carcasses had previously been seized and taken before a Justice	£10	—

Unsound Food

The inspection of food in shops, warehouses, etc., was carried out by all sanitary inspectors. 821 special visits to food premises were made for this purpose and all food was collected and destroyed under the inspector's supervision. The following list shows the quantities of food dealt with.

Canned and Bottled Goods:—

Meat	1844
Fruit and Vegetables	4083
Fish	693
Soup	1146
Milk	1593
Preserves	924
Sauces	26
Puddings	48
Ice Cream	75
Cordials	6

Bacon	47½ lbs.
Barley	20 lbs.
Biscuits	4 lbs. and 6 doz. pkts.
Butter	54¼ lbs.
Cake	129 lbs.
Cereals	8 pkts.
Cheese	15½ lbs. and 1,797 pkts.
Chocolate	8¼ lbs.
Coffee	1½ lbs. and 10 bottles
Coconut	145 lbs.
Condiments and Flavourings ...	9½ lbs. and 7 pkts.
Fondant	56 lbs.
Flour	73 lbs.
Fruit	75½ lbs. and 12 cases
Ham	76 lbs.
Jellies	280 pkts.
Maws	258 lbs.
Milk Powder	42 lbs.
Pastry Mixture	40 lbs.
Rabbits	24
Salad Dressings	6 galls.
Sausages	70 lbs.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.

The department is responsible for the issue of licences to persons other than pharmacists, who sell by retail those poisons set out in Part II of the Poisons List.

Sixty-four visits were paid by inspectors during the year.

The number of licences issued was:—

New licences issued during the year	10
Number of licences renewed during the year	182

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, I set out below a Table showing the inspections made, and the defects found, under Part 1 of the Act.

Under Part VIII of the Act, 4 outworkers engaged in the making of wearing apparel and 6 engaged in the making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper, were included in the August list required by Section 110 (1) (c); there were no prosecutions under Section 110 or 111.

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	88	84	20	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities ...	490	452	17	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	28	12	3	—
TOTAL ...	606	548	40	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	21	18	—	6	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	4	4	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	8	5	—	6	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	14	16	—	10	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	2	2	—	2	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	3	—	1	—
TOTAL ...	50	48	—	25	—

† i.e. Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 & 108).

The following sections of the report detail the work carried out by the Veterinary Officer and the staff of Meat Inspectors.

MEAT INSPECTION

During the year, 137,454 animals were slaughtered in the Borough, a decrease of 10,024 over the previous year.

The decrease in the number of animals slaughtered was due to the reduction in the number shipped from Eire during the previous year.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1951	102,463	4,976	28,442	605
1950	109,383	6,243	31,347	605

All animals slaughtered were subject to ante and post-mortem inspection.

The following table shows the details of the animals slaughtered together with the condemnations:—

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	102,463	4,976	28,442	1573
Number inspected... ..	102,463	4,976	28,442	1573
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	148	41	82	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34,172	29	3,059	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	33.3	1.4	11.0	2.4
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	557	16	—	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18,705	13	—	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	18.8	0.58	—	2.1

Note—(a) The carcasses of 39 animals which died in the Lairages or in transit were also inspected.

(b) The weight of meat and offal from all sources which was condemned as unfit for human consumption totalled 810 tons 3 cwts (575 tons 2 cwts for Tuberculosis, 235 tons 1 cwt for conditions other than Tuberculosis).

(c) 107 bovine carcasses were found to be affected with cysticercus bovis and placed in cold storage.

Public Health (Meat) Regulation, 1924.—The slaughtering of all food animals is carried out at the Public Abattoir (Tranmere) and Woodside Lairages; the meat is supplied not only to butchers within the Borough, but to those in neighbouring districts and London. All the animals are the property of the Ministry of Food. They are slaughtered under the direction of a Slaughterhouse Manager at each centre, and are allocated by Area Meat Agents; the Manager and Agents being employed by the Minister of Food.

Inspections of butchers' shops and stores, vehicles and railway trucks for the conveyance of meat, is carried out as part of the routine work of the inspectorial staff.

Inspection of Foodstuffs in Shops, etc.—During the year, 1,405 inspections were made of butchers' shops and stalls, warehouses, fish shops, etc., where food is stored, prepared or exposed for sale.

Foodstuffs amounting to 342 tins of beef, ham, etc., 2,867 lbs. of beef, 280 lbs. of fish, 89 lbs. rabbit, 50 lbs. of veal, 31 lbs. of pork were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.—57 renewals of licences to slaughter animals were granted to butchers and others, employed in Birkenhead.

Diseases of Animals Acts.—Work under the above Acts has involved:—

(1) Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1939, the removal and slaughter of 2 dairy cows from herds in the Borough showing clinical signs of tuberculosis.

(2) Supervision of the disinfection of premises housing the above-mentioned tuberculous animals.

(3) The routine inspection of 22 dairy herds within the Borough.

(4) The examination of store pigs kept within the Borough to ensure that the animals are free from Swine Fever: 49 visits were paid and 300 pigs were examined.

(5) Visits to Taylor Street Cattle Sidings were made to supervise animals passing through to see cruelty is avoided, to prevent, if possible, sick animals from travelling further, and to take precautions against suspected Anthrax.

(6) Under the Fowl Pest Order, weekly visits are paid to Live Poultry Dealers in the Market and elsewhere within the Borough, to see that the regulations are being properly carried out.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE
FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951

BY

J. W. LOBBAN

M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer

INDEX

	Page
Adenoids—Operative Treatment	68
Child Guidance Treatment	75
Cleanliness, Clothing and Footwear	66
Convalescence and After Care Treatment	70
Defective Vision	67
Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions	68
Education Committee—Composition of	61
Educationally Sub Normal Children	76
Handicapped Pupils—	
Newly Ascertained during 1951	71
Number requiring Special Educational Treatment	72
Distribution at 31st December	73, 74
Heights	65
Hospital Special Schools	74
Immunisations against Diphtheria	62
Infectious Diseases	66
Maladjusted Children	75
Massage and Remedial Exercises	70
Mastoids—Operative Treatment	68
Meals and Milk—Provision of	66
Measles—Incidence	62
Medical Inspection and Treatment	64
Mental Deficiency	76
Minor Ailment Clinics	66
Nursery Classes	63
Nutrition	62, 65
Orthopædic and Postural Defects	69
Parents—Co-operation	64
Physical Education	76, 77, 78, 79
Scabies	67
Schools—Number and Average Attendances	63
Skin Clinic	67
Special Schools	63
Speech Therapy	74, 75
Squint	67
Tonsillitis—Operative Treatment	68
Ultra Violet Ray Treatment	70, 71
Vaccinations	66
Weights	65

APPENDIX :—

Statistical Tables for Ministry of Education	
Numbers Medically Inspected, etc.	80
Return of Defects Found	81
Nutrition—General Condition	82
Infestation with Vermin	82
Treatment of Defects	83, 84
Numbers Dentally Inspected, etc.	85

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Alderman F. GARSTANG, M.A., J.P.

Deputy Chairman:

Alderman W. E. POWER

Aldermen F. Naylor, M.A., J.P., M. Poland.

Councillors Mrs. Crook, N. G. Eddas, G. F. Davies, J.P., J. Furness, Miss D. Jackson, J. Kennedy, C. S. McDonald, J. W. Oates, A. F. Power, A. E. Richmond.

Ex-Officio Members:

The Mayor (Alderman C. J. Yates, J.P.) and the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Alderman H. Platt, J.P.).

Co-opted Members:

Mrs. M. E. Furness, Rev. A. Rigby, J. H. Jones, C. Keegan, C. R. Lockyer, A. Meador, J. Pyke, Rev. F. J. Taylor, M.A., Professor F. W. Walbank, M.A., T. H. Ward, Rev. A. Williamson.

Department of the Medical Officer of Health,
9 Hamilton Square,
Birkenhead.
February, 1952.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the School Health Services for 1951. Contrary to previous experience, an epidemic of Measles occurred in 1951, following the pattern of the epidemic of 1950 very closely. This phenomenon has occurred in other parts of the country.

The immunisation campaign was prosecuted with vigour during the year. I am very indebted to the Director of Education, Headmasters, Headmistresses and members of teaching staffs of schools for their interest and willing help. Without the co-operation of teaching staffs it would be very difficult to cope with this campaign so smoothly.

The nutrition of school children has remained good and shows an improvement compared with 1950. Fewer children have had to be classified as "Poor," 4.51 per cent. of those examined compared with 5.58 per cent. in 1950. There is no doubt that the provision of school dinners is a material factor in maintaining the nutrition of the school child.

Difficulties have been experienced during the year in medical staffing. One Assistant School Medical Officer was given leave of absence for the purpose of studying for the Diploma in Public Health, and it was not found possible to appoint an assistant to fill a vacancy until the autumn. In spite of these staff difficulties (overcome by the employment of a temporary staff) the work of the School Health Service has been maintained.

With regard to Dental Staff the picture is rather different. During the year, one Assistant School Dental Officer was appointed. In the autumn Mr. P. Wilson Smith, Senior School Dental Officer—to whom my predecessor paid fitting tribute in his report for 1950—resigned and at the end of the year the Dental Clinic was staffed by the Assistant School Dental Officer and two part-time Dental Officers. This has been reflected in the work of the School Dental Service. It is earnestly hoped that the position with regard to the supply of School Dental Surgeons will be eased during the coming year.

It is appropriate to pay tribute to Dr. F. G. Foster, who continued as School Medical Officer until the 31st March, 1951. Dr. Foster's years of service in the Health Department of Birkenhead will be long remembered. It remains for me to endeavour to fulfil the duties of School Medical Officer as adequately as my distinguished predecessor one of a line of very notable Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LOBBAN,

School Medical Officer.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN

Primary Schools

County	...	...	...	...	...	17
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	15
No. of Children on the rolls	...	...	...	...	...	14,352
Average attendance	...	...	...	...	...	13,262

Secondary Schools (Maintained)

County	...	...	...	...	...	10
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of Children on the rolls	...	...	...	...	...	6,725
Average Attendance	...	...	...	...	...	6,048

Secondary Schools (Non-maintained)

There are four Direct Grant Secondary Schools in the town as follows:—

The Birkenhead School, Beresford Road (Boys).

The Birkenhead High School for Girls, Devonshire Place
 (G.P.D.S.T.)

The Convent F.C.J., Holt Hill.

St. Anselm's College, Manor Hill.

Nursery Classes

In connection with the Infants' Departments, Nursery Classes are held at:—

Catheart Street Primary School.

Rock Ferry Primary School.

The Dell Primary School.

Bedford Drive Primary School.

Special Schools:

There are three Special Schools at present in the town, viz:—

Claughton Road.

Sight-Saving Class, Hemingford Street.

Thingwall Hospital School.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

During the year, in consultation with the general practitioners of the town, arrangements were made for children found at medical inspections to be suffering from conditions requiring treatment or specialist opinion to be referred to their own general practitioner.

It is rather early to assess the results of this scheme but it is being kept under review. What is gratifying is the co-operation with the general practitioners.

Hospital Staffs have continued to send helpful information about school children and this is much appreciated.

Periodic Medical Inspections were made in schools of the Age Groups specified in Para. 49(2) of the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulation, 1945, namely:—

- (a) every pupil admitted for the first time to a Maintained School, as soon as possible after the date of admission.
- (b) every pupil attending a Maintained Primary School during the last year of attendance at such a school.
- (c) every pupil attending a Maintained Secondary School during the last year of attendance at such a school.
- (d) Fourth Age Group inspections of children between eight and nine years of age on 31.3.51, were also made, and are included in the Statistical Table as Other Periodic Inspections.

In 1951, the number of Periodic Medical Inspections of pupils attending Maintained Schools was 7,983.

Special Inspections of pupils referred from various sources totalled 3,422 examinations, made up as follows:—

At Minor Ailments Clinics	...	...	...	1,765
Pre-Dental Heart Inspections	...	...	...	1,394
Children with Speech Defects	...	...	...	15
Specially referred during course of Routine				
Medical Inspections	...	...	...	41
Referred for Convalescence	...	...	...	113
At Municipal Skin Clinic	...	...	...	24
Employment out of School Hours	...	...	...	40
Boarded-out Children	...	...	...	29
Freedom from Infection	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				3,422
				<hr/>

Re-examinations were made of children found at Periodic and Special Inspections, to have defects. There were 5,014 such Re-examinations.

Statistical Tables, as required by the Ministry of Education, are given at the end of this Report.

CO-OPERATION WITH PARENTS

Parents attended at the examinations of 5,662 (70.43%) of the 7,983 pupils seen at Routine Inspections:—

Code Group	Parents Present
First Age Group	94.74%
Second Age Group	72.93%
Third Age Group	19.75%
Fourth Age Group	78.47%

NUTRITION

The standard of nutrition of school children continues to be good. Children attending schools in the periphery of the town tend to be above the average height and weight but those attending schools in the centre of the town tend to be slightly below the average.

Height and weight.—Below are set out the average heights and weights (measured without footwear) of 25% of the children examined at routine inspections.

Age	Height					
	Boys			Girls		
	No.	Ft.	Ins.	No.	Ft.	Ins.
3 years				2	3	2.00
4 years	61	3	4.64	67	3	3.87
5 years	173	3	5.98	162	3	5.76
6 years	28	3	7.80	42	3	9.02
7 years	15	4	0.20	8	3	11.50
8 years	176	4	1.22	167	4	1.00
9 years	55	4	2.29	48	4	1.42
10 years	97	4	6.06	94	4	6.08
11 years	122	4	6.20	123	4	6.77
12 years	4	4	7.50	1	4	7.00
13 years	15	4	11.80	2	4	7.00
14 years	71	5	2.30	91	5	0.22
15 years	108	5	3.24	77	5	1.55
16 years	22	5	3.55	15	5	3.93

Age	Weight					
	Boys			Girls		
	No.	St.	Lbs.	No.	St.	Lbs.
3 years				2	2	9.00
4 years	64	2	12.50	64	2	10.88
5 years	183	3	0.95	166	2	13.35
6 years	32	3	4.20	43	3	4.31
7 years	15	3	11.66	6	3	9.00
8 years	178	4	1.56	167	3	13.02
9 years	55	4	2.82	46	4	1.13
10 years	100	5	2.34	94	4	13.77
11 years	122	5	4.10	123	5	4.81
12 years	4	5	12.00	1	5	11.00
13 years	15	7	1.00	2	6	8.00
14 years	65	7	9.06	90	7	10.26
15 years	105	8	0.37	79	7	8.20
16 years	22	9	2.50	15	9	6.00

General Condition Tables are given in the Ministry of Education Returns (Table IIB) at the end of this Report.

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK

The total number of School Meals provided during 1951 was 1,601,833, an increase of 67,191 on 1950. Of this number 1,342,598 were supplied on payment and 259,235 were provided free. The figures include meals to teaching staffs, supplied at the appropriate rate.

Every child attending Primary and Secondary Maintained Schools receives one-third of a pint of milk free of charge daily. During the year, 3,448,662 one-third pint bottles were supplied.

CLEANLINESS AND CLOTHING

The general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory, having regard to the congested conditions of the area. Health Visitors made periodic inspections during school terms and 63,447 examinations were carried out. 1,010 pupils were found to be infested with vermin.

The standards of clothing and footwear are generally satisfactory.

VACCINATION

In the Routine Inspections, of 7,983 children examined, 2,973 (37.24%) had no vaccination marks and 5,010 (62.76%) showed marks.

PAST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Before Periodic Inspections, a postal enquiry is made to the parents of the past infectious diseases which the child has had.

Disease	Entrants		Intermediate Primary Grp.		Primary Leavers		School Leavers	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Measles ...	1729	68.39	1631	78.56	1609	88.16	1410	90.73
Whooping Cough ...	969	38.33	1115	53.71	1128	61.80	985	63.38
Scarlet Fever...	104	4.11	180	8.67	270	14.79	256	16.47
Diphtheria ...	34	1.34	139	6.69	109	5.97	145	9.33
Chicken Pox ...	824	32.59	969	46.68	1098	60.16	902	58.04
Mumps ...	575	22.35	664	31.98	786	43.07	709	44.98
No Infectious Disease	392	15.51	142	6.84	65	3.56	35	2.25

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

During the year 7,019 attendances were made and 1,003 defects were treated, compared with 8,354 attendances and 1,650 defects treated in 1950.

The attendances show a decrease of 15.98% on the preceding year. Compared with the attendances in 1948, the figure for 1951 shows a decrease of 47.54%.

The decrease in the number of attendances is a natural consequence of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Parents are using the new Health Service and where treatment is necessary with drugs the general practitioner is the appropriate channel through which this treatment should be given.

These Clinics should only be used for the minor conditions which would otherwise go untreated, as parents would, in many instances, not trouble to visit the general practitioner.

SKIN CLINIC

Since the coming into operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946, there has been a progressive falling off in the work of the Skin Clinic.

During the year, 24 new cases were seen, necessitating 36 attendances for treatment.

DEFECTIVE VISION

During the year, Dr. A. M. Williams (Senior Assistant School Medical Officer) continued, by arrangement with the Local Executive Council, to carry out refractions and sight testing. Dr. Williams is an approved Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner.

The Eye Clinic continues to be busy; there being comparatively few missed appointments. It is gratifying to find parents accompanying the children and taking an interest in the treatment and instructions.

Two sessions are held every week. The first session is devoted to new cases and the second session to re-examinations. Should the need arise for an extra session to cope with the new patients, this is arranged.

Children whose eye condition requires operation or a specialist opinion are referred to an ophthalmic surgeon. The child's general practitioner is informed of this by letter.

There is no need to emphasise the advantages of the follow-up of the test of the vision at a routine school medical inspection.

Refraction, in some cases, decides that spectacles are not necessary. It is interesting to find the children attending the refraction clinic are most co-operative and it is exceedingly rare to find a child behaving in such a manner that a satisfactory examination cannot be completed.

Particulars of School Children refracted at the Eye Clinic in 1951:—

	New Cases	Re- Examinations	Total
Cases examined	575	1086	1661
Glasses prescribed for ...	346	382	728
Authorisation for repair or replacement of glasses	30	345	375

Squint

28 children were reported to have received operative treatment for Squint at local hospitals.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

Pupils found at Routine, Special and Re-Inspections to be suffering from pathological conditions continued until October to be referred to the Specialist Clinics at the Children's and St. Catherine's Hospitals, after which, as previously reported, it was decided to refer children requiring treatment to their general practitioners.

During the year, 342 appointments were made by St. Catherine's and the Children's Hospitals. Of this number 146 (42.69%) failed to keep their appointments.

The following table gives a full analysis of the cases dealt with by the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists:—

	Listed for operative treatment for Adenoids and Chronic Tonsillitis	Received non-operative treatment for E.N.T. conditions	To return for re-examination	No apparent defect on examination	Failed to keep appointment
St. Catherine's Hospital ...	49	7	18	37	76
Children's Hospital ...	44	31	7	13	70
Totals ...	93	38	25	40	146

From in-patient returns submitted by Birkenhead Hospitals, the following operations are reported to have been performed during 1951.

	(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	(b) for other nose and throat conditions	(c) Mastoidectomy
St. Catherine's Hospitals ...	95	5	2
Children's Hospital ...	293	20	2
General Hospital ...	26	3	5
Totals ...	414	28	9

ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

Treatment of Orthopædic defects is still being carried out at the premises of the Birkenhead Invalid Children's Association Clinic by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board.

873 individual children of school age attended the Clinic during the year for treatment of Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

An analysis of the cases of school age and under school age treated during 1951 is given:—

Disease Categories	New Cases				Re-Exams.				Discharged	
	Under 5		Over 5		Under 5		Over 5		Cured	Relieved
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Congenital Deformities:										
Trunk .....	...	...	6	2	1	...	6	9	5	2
Upper Limb .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lower Limb	2	6	5	5	3	3	19	18	6	2
Acquired Deformities:										
Flat Foot	38	33	64	76	76	55	251	282	284	2
Hallux Valgus .....	...	...	1	7	1	...	6	9	3	...
Postural Kyphosis & Scoliosis .....	...	2	2	4	1	...	10	18	16	...
Knock Knee	32	30	8	20	74	67	29	39	128	2
Bow Leg	5	8	2	...	8	6	1	2	29	7
Other Conditions	3	4	14	11	5	8	24	20	...	3
Affections of Skeleton:										
Rickets .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Nervous System:										
Spastic Paralysis	1	1	...	4	2	3	13	22	1	...
Infantile „ .....	...	1	1	...	7	7	7	3	...	...
Peripheral Nerve Lesions .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...
Other Conditions	2	1	1	4	8	2	4	5	9	...
Affections of Bones:										
Osteomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Conditions	1	3	2	5	2	...	3	9	6	...
Affections of Joints:										
Tuberculous .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	16	8	2	...
Non-T.B.	1	...	2	1	...	...	2	3	...	...
Affections of Spine:										
Tuberculous .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	3	...
Non-T.B. .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Affections of Epiphysis	5	3	...	...	...	...	3	4	3	...
Affections of Soft Tissues .....	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	5	3	...
Complications of Trauma .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals.....	90	92	109	141	188	153	399	460	507	18

MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISES

These were provided by the Invalid Children's Association on the advice of the Orthopædic Surgeon. During the year there were 2 full-time and 1 part-time physiotherapists on the Association's Staff.

The number of attendances was 10,314 (compared to 9,162 in 1950) by non-tubercular clinic cases.

In addition 499 attendances were made by Non-Clinic Cases (e.g., those sent by Orthopædic Surgeons of Local Hospitals) as compared with 98 for last year.

CONVALESCENCE AND AFTER-CARE TREATMENT

During 1951 the Medical Staff examined 113 children referred for convalescence, and approval for treatment was given in 110 cases.

The children concerned were referred from the following sources:

Assistant School Medical Officers	...	...	...	45
General Practitioners	...	...	...	58
Local Hospitals	...	...	...	5
Physician to Chest Clinic	...	...	...	2

Arrangements for convalescence were made by the Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association on behalf of the Local Education Authority. The cost of treatment for 99 children was met under the Education Act, 1944, 9 children were paid for by the Merseyside Hospitals Council (Penny in the Pound Scheme) and the cost of convalescence for 2 children was met from the funds of the Association.

ULTRA VIOLET RAY TREATMENT

At the premises of the Invalid Children's Association, a total of 54 children of school age made 907 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Debility	71	1	28

At the North Health Clinic a total of 18 children of school age made 227 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Bronchitis	3	—	—
Post-Pneumonia	2	—	2
Post Whooping Cough	2	—	—
Catarrh	3	1	1
Glands	2	—	—
Debility	3	2	—
	15	3	3
	—	—	—

At the South Health Clinic a total of 18 children of school age made 167 attendances during the year.

	Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Anaemia	13	—	—
Malnutrition	2	—	—
Debility	2	—	—
Catarrh	1	—	—
	18	—	—

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

During the year, 28 Physically Handicapped Pupils were newly ascertained and registered in the following categories:—

Category (a)

Blind 1 pupil

Category (b)

Partially Sighted 3 pupils

Category (c)

Deaf 3 pupils

Delicate 3 pupils

Category (j)

Physically Handicapped :

Heart Disease 7 pupils

Bronchiectasis 2 pupils

Congenital Cystic lung (left) 1 pupil

Pseudo-hypertrophic Muscular Dystrophy 1 pupil

Hydrocephalus 1 pupil

Spasticity 3 pupils

Congenital deformity of skin 1 pupil

Healed T.B. left hip joint 1 pupil

Extensive scarring due to burns 1 pupil

In addition 30 children registered in previous years were re-examined by the School Medical Staff

Details of the School Health Service Clinics and Staff are returned to the Ministry on Form 20M and Form 21M, which is reproduced, gives the numbers for whom Boarding Homes and Special Boarding Schools are required.

Ministry of Education—Form 21M

Handicapped pupils requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Boarding Homes.

	(1) Blind (2) Partially sighted		(3) Deaf (4) Partially deaf		(5) Delicate (6) Physically Handicapped		(7) Educationally subnormal (8) Maladjusted		(9) Epileptic	Total 1-9
In calendar year	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A. Handicapped Pupils newly placed in Special Schools or Homes ...	1	3	2	1	—	1	6	1	—	15
B. Handicapped Pupils newly ascertained as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes ...	1	3	3	—	3	13	6	1	—	30
On or about December 1st :—										
C. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area :—										
(i) Attending Special Schools as Day Pupils ...	—	12	4	—	—	—	107	—	—	123
Boarding Pupils ...	7	—	12	6	—	2	5	1	3	36
(ii) Boarded in Homes ...										
(iii) attending assisted schools (under approved arrangements) ...							2			2
Total (C) ...	7	12	16	6	—	2	114	1	3	151
D. Number of Handicapped pupils being educated under arrangements made under section 56 of the Education Act, 1944—										
(a) in hospitals					14	32				
(b) elsewhere						2				
E. Number of Handicapped Pupils from the area requiring places in special schools (including any such unplaced children who are temporarily receiving home tuition) ...	2	1	1	—	5	27	—	—	—	—

Amount spent on arrangements under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, for the education of handicapped pupils in the financial year ended 31st March, 1951: £1,877. 7. 0.

Particulars of two handicapped pupils resident in Independent Schools assisted by the Local Education Authority under Section 9(1) of the Education Act, 1944, were submitted to the Ministry of Education on Form 23M.

Appended in detail is the distribution of School Children accommodated at 31st December, under the various handicapping categories:—

Category (a)—Blind

Royal Normal College, Shrewsbury	2 pupils
Court Grange Sunshine House for Blind Children, Abbotskerswell, Devon	1 pupil
Awaiting vacancy at the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind	1 pupil
School for the Blind, Liverpool	3 pupils
Catholic Blind School, Liverpool	2 pupils
Awaiting vacancy Catholic Blind School, Liverpool	1 pupil
Awaiting vacancy Ellen Terry Homes for Blind and Mentally Defective Children	1 pupil

Category (b)—Partially Sighted

Sight Saving Class, Birkenhead	12 pupils
Awaiting admission Sight Saving Class, Birken- head	1 pupil
St. George's Approved School, Freshfield	1 pupil

Category (c)—Deaf

Liverpool School for the Deaf	11 pupils
Royal Cross School for the Deaf, Preston	1 pupil
Blenheim School, Farnley, Leeds	2 pupils
St. John's R.C. Institution for the Deaf, Boston Spa	3 pupils

Category (d)—Partially Deaf

Liverpool School for the Partially Deaf, Southport	6 pupils
Primary Schools	1 pupil
Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Non-maintained Secondary School	1 pupil

Category (e)—Delicate

Primary Schools	2 pupils
Secondary Schools	5 pupils

Category (f)—Diabetic

Nil

Category (g)—Educationally Subnormal

Claughton Road Day Special School, Birkenhead	108 pupils
Approved Schools	2 pupils
Pontville R.C. School, Ormskirk	1 pupil
St. Joseph's R.C. School, Dunmow, Essex	2 pupils
Bedford Court R.C. School, Worcester	2 pupils
Thingwall Hospital School, Wirral	1 pupil
Primary Schools	23 pupils
Secondary Schools	32 pupils
Private Schools	3 pupils
Independent Schools	2 pupils
Application made to Independent School	1 pupil

Category (h)—Epileptic

Maghull Homes, Maghull	3 pupils
Secondary Schools	1 pupil

Category (i)—Maladjusted

Approved Schools	7 pupils
Aymestry Court Special School for Maladjusted Boys, Liverpool	1 pupil
Primary Schools	61 pupils
Secondary Schools	44 pupils
Hospital Special School	1 pupil
Excluded from Secondary School	1 pupil
Non maintained Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Private Schools	2 pupils

Category (j)—Physically Handicapped

The Margaret Barclay Residential School for Crippled Children, Mobberley, Cheshire	1 pupil
Not attending School	8 pupils
Secondary Schools	29 pupils
Primary Schools	13 pupils
Hospital Special Schools	1 pupil
Awaiting vacancies Hospital Special Schools	2 pupils
Home Tuition	3 pupils
Private Schools	3 pupils
Non maintained Secondary School	1 pupil
Convalescent Home for Physically Handicapped Children, West Kirby	1 pupil

HOSPITAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS

In-patient returns, including diagnoses of cases were submitted throughout the year in respect of Birkenhead children between the ages of two and sixteen receiving Special Educational Treatment in the following Hospitals:—

Birkenhead Orthopædic Hospital, Thingwall.

Royal Liverpool Children's Hospitals, Heswall and Thingwall.

Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry.

Leasowe Children's Hospital.

SPEECH THERAPY

Mrs. Mary Peel, Speech Therapist, reports:—

“ For the first time in three years the Speech Therapy Clinic has had a settled background. The Medical Room at Bedford Drive Primary School has been used four days a week and the North Clinic on one day a week. This arrangement causes difficulty in the case of children from the North End of the Borough, as it entails travelling quite a distance. Bedford Drive Primary School is in itself satisfactory accommodation, but naturally a central clinic would suit the majority of the children better. The session at Cloughton Road Special School has been found impracticable owing to difficulty experienced in having suitable accommodation there.

During my absence on special leave for four months, Miss Pemberton-Pigott of the Children's Hospital attended for two sessions per week to complete the speech training of children approaching the end of their speech therapy course.

The usual returns of children needing speech therapy from the schools were larger than in previous years. This method of assessing the demand for speech therapy amongst the school children is not too satisfactory and perhaps a more practical method can be established.

The medical inspection of children with speech defects was carried out in schools this year instead of in the clinics. This meant that more children were seen and examined but fewer parents were seen. The parents have not been seen so often this year, possibly due to the number of mothers at work and the distance to travel to Bedford Drive School. A number of parents, however, have shown the keenest interest and co-operation and deserve praise for their encouragement to their children to persevere with the treatment.

It cannot be too often emphasised that speech therapy is not a rapid cure for speech defects but patience and time are needed.

Group treatment has been recommenced. A group has been formed for infants, but again parents have found difficulty in bringing the children for treatment owing to domestic reasons.

The treatment given has not varied from previous years. There have been more facilities for hearing tests. It has not been found possible to provide a recording machine as was hoped.

The present method of physical education in schools has helped children in their therapeutic relaxation.

Generally, the number of speech defects, other than stammering, seems to be on the increase. The number of stammerers reported during the year has not been so large as in previous years. It remains to be seen whether this is maintained.

On the whole it has been a satisfactory year and a sound foundation for a permanent Speech Therapy Clinic has been laid.

Cases reported during the year	441
Cases found suitable for treatment	206
Cases receiving treatment	91
Cases where parents refused permission	14
Discharged	48
Waiting List	53

Summary of Cases Receiving Treatment (91 cases)

	Stammers	Dyslalic Group	Other Cases	Rhinolalic H.F.D., etc.	Retarded Speech
Boys	32	30	9	—	—
Girls	10	2	8	—	—

Summary of Cases Discharged (48 cases)

	Stammers	Dyslalic Group	Other Cases	Rhinolalic H.F.D., etc.	Retarded Speech
Boys	5	21	9	—	—
Girls	2	5	6	—	—

MALADJUSTED CHILDREN

During the year 41 new cases were seen by the Psychiatrist and 7 school children were re-examined.

An analysis of the cases dealt with shows:—

New Cases

No of children examined	41
Registered as Maladjusted Pupils	37
Not Maladjusted	2
Epileptic and Educationally Subnormal	1
Educationally Subnormal	1

Re-examinations:

No. of children re-examined	7
Maladjusted	4
Not Maladjusted	1
Physically Handicapped and Educationally Subnormal and Maladjusted	1
Educationally Subnormal	1

CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

During the year 50 children were treated at the Notre Dame Child Guidance Clinic, Liverpool, for conditions diagnosed by the Psychiatrist.

EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN

Ascertainment examinations of children suspected to be educationally subnormal were held in Schools and at Clinics during the year. The recommendations of the Approved Medical Officers are set out below:—

Total number examined	29
Found to be Educationally Subnormal and:—	
Recommended to attend Day Special School	6
Recommended to remain at Ordinary Schools with special	
Recommended to remain at Ordinary Schools with special	
coaching	11
Found to have no disability of the mind	10
Decision deferred	1

In addition 9 re-ascertainments were carried out in respect of 7 children registered as Educationally Subnormal attending ordinary schools. One child recommended for special educational treatment at a Day Special School for Educationally Subnormal children in 1947 was re-ascertained on withdrawal from a Private School, and as a result was admitted to Claughton Road Day Special School.

During the year 18 children in attendance at Claughton Road Day Special School were ascertained for leave of absence, as Special School leavers and at routine re-examinations. The results of these ascertainment are set out below:—

Total number examined	18
Special School Leavers:—	
(a) Reported to the Local Health Authority Section	
57 (5) of the Education Act, 1944	5
(b) Not requiring supervision on leaving the Special	
School	7
Leave of absence not recommended	1
Withdrawn from Special School for trial at Modern	
Secondary School	1
Routine re-examinations (Continue Special Educational	
Treatment)	4

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

The number of children notified by the Local Education Authority to the Local Health Authority under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944 was 10. 5 children were dealt with under Sub-Section (3) and 5 under Sub-Section (5).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I am indebted to the Director of Education for permitting me to reproduce an abridged report written by the Organiser of Physical Education which deals particularly with the relationship of his work with the School Health Service.

" The teaching of Physical Education in Birkenhead is divided into four schemes of work. These are inter-related and cater for children from the age of 4 to adults of 21 years of age. There is a strong influence of orthopaedic work established in the routine work of Infant and Junior Schools. Set orthopaedic exercises to cure and prevent flat foot and kyphosis are included in the regular daily P.E. lesson. Co-operation between the class teacher, the Orthopaedic Department and the Medical Officer of Health's Department has been established. The scheme is progressing steadily and the use of pedograph prints is now encouraged in the Infant and Junior Schools in the town. This development has been made in the face of certain difficulties not the least of which is the problem of providing schools with sufficient pedographs. The absence of this valuable piece of apparatus in the schools results in improvisations being made. Improvised apparatus is not so satisfactory as the official type of pedograph.

Material advantages are obtained in having the co-operation and assistance of teachers in this type of work. They are able to include set remedial exercises as part of their daily P.E. lesson and they are able to deal with larger numbers than is normal in our Orthopaedic Clinic. With this end in mind help and advice of the Orthopaedic Specialist and the Medical Officer of Health were asked for. These were readily forthcoming and during the year further progress has been made.

Despite repeated attempts by the Education Committee to obtain a suitably qualified lady Organiser of Physical Education, a vacancy still remains in Birkenhead.

In our Secondary Schools, gymnastics, organised games, athletics and swimming form the basis of our Physical Education. Good use is made of the coaches of the Football Association and the Amateur Athletics Association. Recently in our Primary and Girls' Secondary Schools there has been a revival in country dancing.

There is a happy link between the voluntary associations and clubs and the Education Authority. This year has seen excellent achievements in the major sports. Birkenhead teams of both boys and youths along with individual adults have won National Championships or have been selected for National teams. Achievements of this type have been attained in Swimming, Athletics, Boxing, Rugger and Badminton. The usual County Colours have also been won in several of the other sports. Where so much importance is attached to Physical Education and when so much competitive sport is prevalent within the town, it is advisable to develop the present close liaison between the Education Department and the Medical Officer of Health's Department. It is advisable to encourage and understand the individual within the limits of sound medical practice. This we try to do in Birkenhead. Present results are encouraging despite the economies being practised.

The rise in the cost of equipment, particularly wood, leather, rubber, cloth and metal goods is making development of the work increasingly difficult. Despite this and difficulties of accommodation in some Schools certain developments are being maintained. In making this possible teachers have been responsible for much voluntary work, including the provision of P.E. clothing. A substantial increase in this item is necessary if all children are to have suitable P.E. clothing. Fortunately the provision of adequate halls in the vast majority of Infant and Junior Schools and gymnasia or improvised gymnasia in Secondary Schools provides reasonably good teaching facilities. In the small number of Schools where no such indoor facilities are available it is impossible to provide adequate physical education for the children attending those schools. In inclement weather, playground conditions for the P.E. lesson are quite unsuitable.

The question of Playing Fields is a material problem not yet solved. The present position cannot be considered as satisfactory. However, certain progress has been made in obtaining further use of The Oval Recreation Ground at Port Sunlight and the Education Committee has recently acquired a further playing field and changing pavilion at Glenavon Road. At the Gautby Road Playing Field children are at a disadvantage in having no facilities for changing or toilet. From the general health point of view this is regrettable but the Education Committee has some development in mind. It is hoped that present economies will not prevent the erection of the changing pavilion on the Borough Road Playing Field site.

The gymnasium at Livingstone Street Baths is now used every afternoon and evening during the Winter by schools and youth clubs. This innovation is proving highly successful.

Pending further publications by the Ministry of Education, The Ling Physical Education Association is considering the need for more publicity within schools of the type of orthopaedic exercises we now include in our Birkenhead schemes of P.E. for Infant and Junior Schools. This branch of our work is steadily developing and it has been very re-assuring to learn of the Ministry's intention to proceed with this type of work which in the past has been viewed more in the nature of an experiment than a set scheme of work.

During the year there have been three courses in P.E. for teachers within the town. These courses for men and women teachers were held at the new Bedford Drive School. The work catered for was primarily concerned with the teaching of children between the ages of four and eleven. More than 400 teachers attended the courses. In addition, certain voluntary classes are being held in Country Dancing and, in Youth Work, courses have been arranged to enable teachers and youth leaders to qualify as officials in certain of the major games.

The steady increase in the use of apparatus as an integral part of the P.E. syllabus necessitates extra repairs and replacements of equipment being made. Adequate provision must be made for this maintenance.

My thanks, as Organiser of Physical Education, are due in no small measure to the teachers of the town, the officials of the Education Authority, the Orthopaedic Specialist and his Staff and the Medical Officer of Health and his Staff for their very willing advice and assistance in furthering this branch of education. Without such ready help and understanding it would be quite impossible to develop a successful scheme of physical education."

TABLE I MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of inspections in the past three years

Year	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total
1914-15	1,200	800	2,000
1915-16	1,300	900	2,200
1916-17	1,400	1,000	2,400
Total	3,900	2,700	6,600

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of special inspections

Year	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total
1914-15	50	30	80
1915-16	60	40	100
1916-17	70	50	120
Total	180	120	300

C. PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of individual pupils found in periodic medical inspection to require treatment (excluding dental disease and infection with venereal disease)

Year	Primary Schools	Secondary Schools	Total
1914-15	100	50	150
1915-16	120	60	180
1916-17	140	70	210
Total	360	180	540

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951

TABLE I.

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	2528
Second Age Group	1825
Third Age Group	1554
Total	5907

Number of other periodic Inspections	2076
Grand Total	7983

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	3422
Number of Re-Inspections	5014
Total	8436

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA. (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	10	365	371
Second Age Group	187	178	339
Third Age Group	122	73	190
Total (prescribed groups)	319	616	900
Other Periodic Inspections	144	298	381
Grand Total	463	914	1281

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	No. of Defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	81	143	295	1
Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision ...	463	352	9	2
<i>b.</i> Squint ...	92	116	2	—
<i>c.</i> Other ...	52	41	100	—
Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing ...	23	39	4	—
<i>b.</i> Otitis Media	11	79	22	—
<i>c.</i> Other ...	18	56	119	—
Nose or Throat ...	285	574	62	—
Speech	11	45	11	5
Cervical Glands ...	26	242	12	—
Heart & Circulation ...	34	133	14	—
Lungs—T.B. & N.T.B.	35	248	29	—
Developmental—				
<i>a.</i> Hernia ...	2	8	—	—
<i>b.</i> Other	7	53	1	1
Orthopædic—				
<i>a.</i> Posture ...	12	30	—	—
<i>b.</i> Flat Foot	97	242	—	—
<i>c.</i> Other Non-Pul T.B.	102	201	5	1
Nervous system—				
<i>a.</i> Epilepsy...	1	9	—	—
<i>b.</i> Other	3	65	10	—
Psychological—				
<i>a.</i> Development	—	8	—	—
<i>b.</i> Stability—	5	46	1	—
Other	101	149	367	—
	1461	2879	1063	8

**B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS
INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS**

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	2528	769	30.42	1649	65.23	110	4.35
Second Age Group ...	1825	174	9.53	1582	86.68	69	3.79
Third Age Group	1554	227	14.61	1255	80.76	72	4.63
Other Periodic Inspections	2076	489	23.55	1478	71.20	109	5.25
Total	7983	1659	20.78	5964	74.71	360	4.51

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	63447
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infected	1010
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	—
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	—
(v) Total number of individual pupils examined	18228

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN
(excluding uncleanness, for which see Table III)

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Ringworm— (i) Scalp	—	—
(ii) Body	—	—
Scabies	—	—
Impetigo	33	—
Other skin diseases	239	18
Total	272	18

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	100	5
Errors of refraction (including squint) ...	—	29
Total	100	34
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) Prescribed	728*	—
(b) Obtained	—	—
Total	728	—

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	9
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	415
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	28
Received other forms of treatment	205	32
Total	205	484

* Including cases dealt with under arrangements with the
Supplementary Ophthalmic Service.

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	106	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments...	4	873

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	—	50

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	91	—

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	378	—
(b) Other (specified)		
1. Heart and Circulatory	12	35
2. Respiratory	29	124
3. Alimentary	—	14
4. Genito-Urinary	—	27
5. Nervous	9	14
6. Surgical... ..	—	183
7. Casualties	—	105
8. General Medical	—	257
Total	428	759

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY
THE AUTHORITY

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—	
(a) Periodic age groups	4641
(b) Specials	3046
	<hr/>
Total (1)	7687
(2) Number found to require treatment	5465
(3) Number referred for treatment	5978
(4) Number actually treated	4881
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	6888
(6) Half-days devoted to: Inspection	41
Treatment	910
	<hr/>
Total (6)	951
(7) Fillings: Permanent Teeth	2732
Temporary Teeth	47
	<hr/>
Total (7)	2779
(8) Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth	2385
Temporary Teeth	46
	<hr/>
Total (8)	2431
(9) Extractions: Permanent Teeth	1411
Temporary Teeth	5139
	<hr/>
Total (9)	6550
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	2927
(11) Other operations: Permanent Teeth	1667
Temporary Teeth	293
	<hr/>
Total (11)	1960

TABLE V
PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL EARNINGS OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE YEAR 1917

1. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
2. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
3. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
4. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
5. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
6. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
7. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
8. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
9. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
10. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
11. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
12. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
13. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
14. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
15. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
16. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
17. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
18. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
19. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
20. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
21. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
22. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
23. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
24. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
25. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
26. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
27. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
28. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
29. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
30. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
31. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
32. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
33. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
34. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
35. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
36. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
37. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
38. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
39. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
40. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
41. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
42. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
43. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
44. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
45. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
46. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
47. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
48. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
49. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
50. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
51. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
52. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
53. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
54. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
55. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
56. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
57. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
58. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
59. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
60. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
61. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
62. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
63. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
64. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
65. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
66. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
67. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
68. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
69. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
70. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
71. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
72. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
73. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
74. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
75. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
76. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
77. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
78. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
79. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
80. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
81. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
82. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
83. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
84. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
85. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
86. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
87. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
88. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
89. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
90. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
91. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
92. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
93. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
94. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
95. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
96. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
97. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
98. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
99. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00
100. Federal Reserve Bank	1.00