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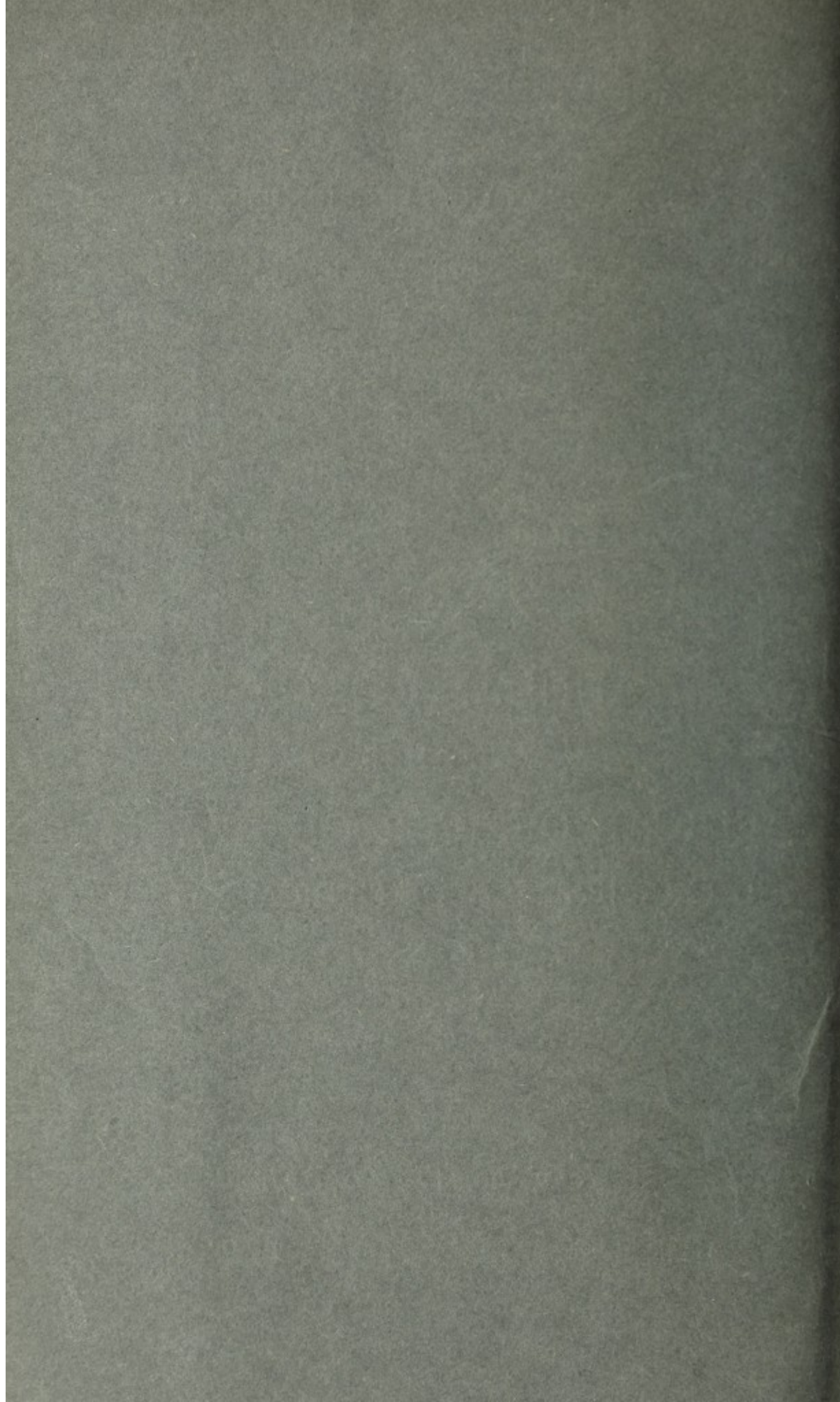
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR
1955

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



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

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Deputy Chairman :
ALDERMAN H. SHAKESHAFT

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STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER :

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

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS :

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

W. H. Parry, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/3/55).

Lillie L. Munro, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

John S. Seaton, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P.S.

A. H. Wilde, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Commenced duty 20/6/55).

VETERINARY OFFICER :

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

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER :

F. G. Sutcliffe, L.D.S.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND INSPECTOR UNDER 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.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report upon the health of the Borough.

That the health of the community is satisfactory will be seen from a study of vital statistics.

As was mentioned last year, Birkenhead is experiencing the national shortage of sanitary inspectors and meat inspectors, notwithstanding staffing difficulties the work of the department has been maintained. The achievement of positive health in a community is a combined operation.

This is my opportunity of saying "Thank you" to my brother officials and their staffs and to the members of the Health Department.

In conclusion, may I say that without the encouragement and interest shown by the Health Committee, supported by the Council, little could be achieved. Encouragement and interest I have had in full measure from you all.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LOBBAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	8.598 acres or 13.4 square miles
Estimated population (mid. 1955)	141,700
Density of population	16.5 persons per acre
Number of houses in the Borough (at 1/4/55)	37,595
Estimated product of a penny rate	£4,185
General Rate	23/6d. in the £

POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Population.—The estimated mid-year 1955 population was 141,700. The population, as recorded in the census of 1951, was 142,392 (68,412 males and 73,980 females).

Births.—There were 2,436 live births allocated to the Borough; the corresponding birth rate being 16.7 per 1,000 population compared with the National figure of 15.0.

The Birth Rates of the last 10 years are as follows:—

	Rate per 1,000 population				
1946	...	...	...	...	23.5
1947	...	...	...	...	24.8
1948	...	...	...	...	21.4
1949	...	...	...	...	19.8
1950	...	...	...	...	18.5
1951	...	...	...	...	18.2
1952	...	...	...	...	18.2
1953	...	...	...	...	18.4
1954	...	...	...	...	17.7
1955	...	...	...	...	16.7

Sex Distribution.—1,236 boys and 1,200 girls were born during the year.

Legitimacy.—124 illegitimate births occurred, giving a percentage of 5.1.

Still Births.—69 still births were registered. This represents a still birth date of 0.49 per 1,000 population, or 28.3 per 1,000 births. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 23.1 per 1,000 total births. Three of the still births were illegitimate.

Births notified during the year.—Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 2,437 births were notified. Of these 70 were still births. Many of the births notified from hospitals were outward transfers to other areas.

Births in Hospitals:

Birkenhead Maternity Hospital	...	...	524	(16 still-births)
St. Catherine's Hospital	...	...	929	(44 ")

Births in Nursing Homes 109 (— ")

Other births:

Notified by doctors	...	...	2	(— ")
Notified by midwives	...	...	873	(10 ")
Notified by parents	...	...	—	(— ")

Un-notified births.—The Registrars reported 3 births which were not notified, 2 by doctors or midwives and 1 by a Nursing Home.

DEATHS

Deaths.—1,746 deaths occurred during the year, representing a death rate of 13.3 per 1,000 population. The comparable figure for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 population. The Death Rates for recent years are as follows:—

	Rates per 1,000 population				
1946	...	...	...	...	13.7
1947	...	...	...	...	14.3
1948	...	...	...	...	12.1
1949	...	...	...	...	12.3
1950	...	...	...	...	12.4
1951	...	...	...	...	14.2
1952	...	...	...	...	12.6
1953	...	...	...	...	11.8
1954	...	...	...	...	12.7
1955	...	...	...	...	13.3

Sex Distribution of Deaths.—898 males and 848 females died during the year.

Uncertified Deaths.—There was one uncertified death—an inward transfer.

Coroners' Inquests.—Inquests were held on 74 (4.2 per cent of the total deaths).

The Coroners (Amendment) Act, 1936.—During the year, 138 deaths were registered following post mortem without an inquest. This represents 7.9 per cent of total deaths.

Infant Mortality.—There were 68 deaths in infants under one year of age. This represents a rate of 27.9 per 1,000 live births.

This is the lowest recorded in Birkenhead. The corresponding National figure is 24.9. The National figure is the lowest ever recorded.

Infant Mortality Rates of recent years are as follows:—

	Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Birkenhead	England & Wales
1947 ...	72	41
1948 ...	53	34
1949 ...	39	32
1950 ...	42	30
1951 ...	40.5	30
1952 ...	34.7	27.6
1953 ...	28.4	26.8
1954 ...	28.5	25.5
1955 ...	27.9	24.9

It is encouraging to note that the national decline is being followed by a local decline. It is not a matter for complacency that certain of the deaths might be prevented. Why should five children not yet a year old have to die from accidents (other than caused by a motor vehicle)?

Medical research is going on continually into the causation of congenital malformations and prematurity but the prevention of accidents is a matter for everyone.

The causes of deaths in infants were as follows:—

Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	1
Pneumonia	12
Congenital malformations	20
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	5
Other defined and ill defined diseases	32
Total ...	70

There were 7 deaths of illegitimate children, representing an illegitimate infant mortality rate of 56.4 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

Neonatal Deaths.—There were 45 deaths of infants in the first four weeks of life. This represents a rate of 18.5 per 1,000 live births, contrasting with the national figure of 17.3 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Deaths.—It is pleasing to report that no woman died as a result of childbirth during the year.

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

	Rate per 1,000 Population	England & Wales Rate per 1,000 Population
Respiratory ... 23	0.162	0.131
Non-Respiratory ... 1	.007	.015
Total ... 24		

The death rate per 1,000 population from all forms of Tuberculosis is 0.16, the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung :

These continue to increase. During the year, 65 men and 17 women died from this disease. The corresponding figures for recent years have been as follows:—

	Male	Female	Total
1951	44	5	49
1952	46	10	56
1953	45	8	53
1954	57	5	62
1955	65	17	82

The rate of 1,000 population is 0.58 compared with the national figure of 0.38 per 1,000 population.

Deaths due to other forms of cancer numbered 222, representing a death rate of 1.56 per 1,000 population, compared with the national figure of 1.66 per 1,000 population.

Heart Disease

572 deaths occurred as a result of coronary disease, angina, hypertension with heart disease or other heart disease. Heart disease in some shape or form is the greatest cause of death.

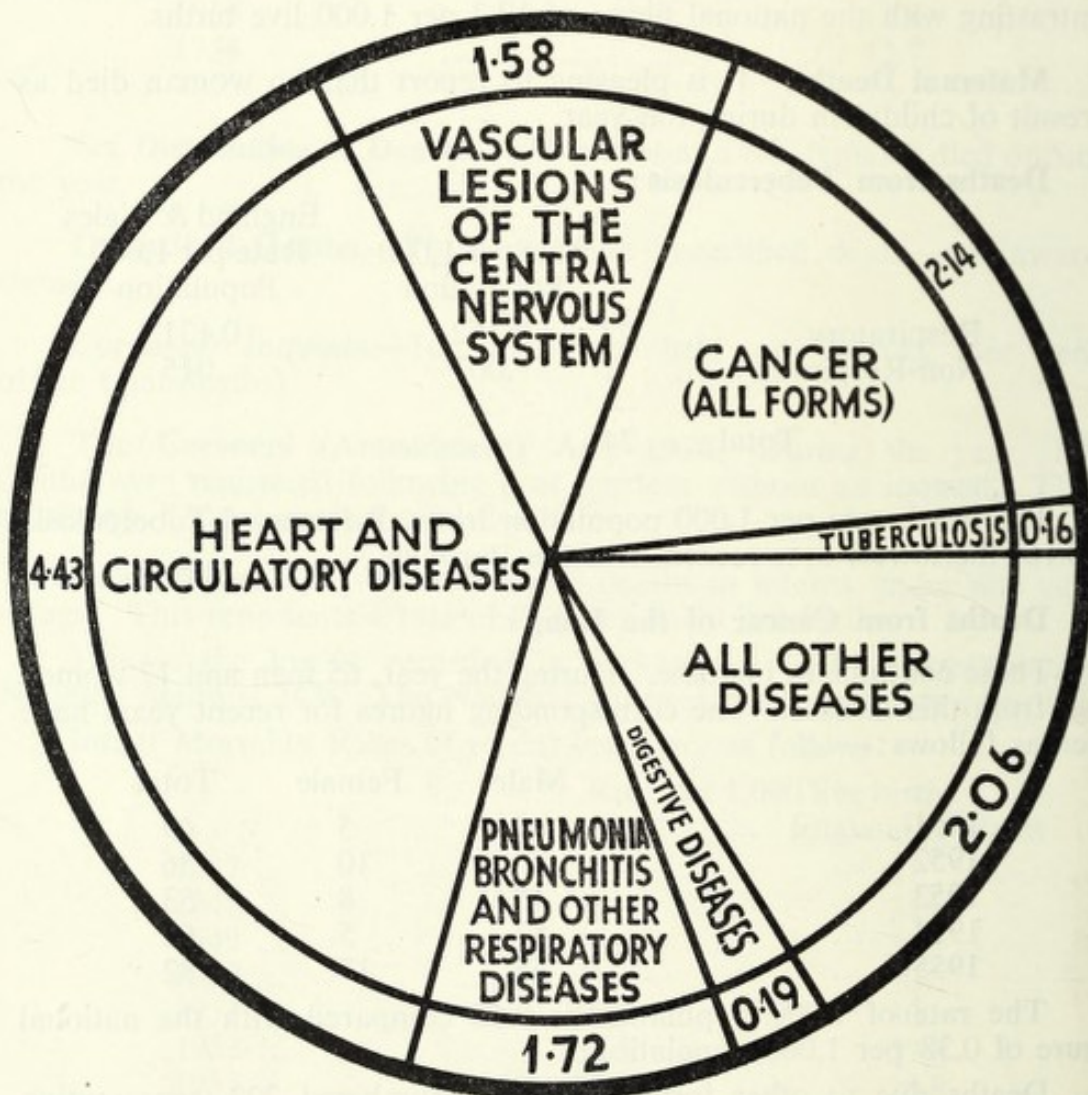
Deaths from Infectious Diseases

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	115
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4

There were no deaths from whooping cough, poliomyelitis or diphtheria.

This diagram gives the main causes of death during the year.

Death Rates per 1,000 of the Population 1955



Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All Causes	Male	898	32	6	4	7	38	246	280	285
	Female	858	36	5	2	—	19	152	241	403
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	Male	13	—	—	—	—	1	7	5	—
	Female	10	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	Male	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	Male	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	Male	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	Male	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
	Female	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	Male	23	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	5
	Female	18	—	—	—	—	1	4	9	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	Male	65	—	—	—	—	2	39	19	5
	Female	17	—	—	—	—	—	9	5	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	36	—	—	—	—	1	17	9	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	13	—	—	—	—	3	8	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Male	74	—	—	1	—	6	20	24	23
	Female	58	—	1	1	—	1	12	21	22
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia... ..	Male	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
	Female	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
16. Diabetes	Male	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Female	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	Male	95	—	—	—	—	2	20	32	41
	Female	129	—	—	—	—	1	21	45	62
18. Coronary disease, angina	Male	132	—	—	—	—	4	39	58	31
	Female	99	—	—	—	—	1	24	39	35
19. Hypertension with heart disease... ..	Male	21	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	9
	Female	39	—	—	—	—	1	8	13	17
20. Other heart disease	Male	127	—	—	—	2	4	15	38	68
	Female	154	—	—	—	—	1	16	27	110
21. Other circulatory disease	Male	27	—	—	—	—	—	8	6	13
	Female	30	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	23
22. Influenza	Male	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Female	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
23. Pneumonia	Male	68	6	2	1	—	1	10	22	26
	Female	47	4	1	—	—	—	3	8	31
24. Bronchitis	Male	88	—	1	—	1	1	28	33	24
	Female	30	—	—	—	—	—	4	15	11
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	Male	7	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	2
	Female	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	Male	15	—	—	—	—	1	7	4	3
	Female	7	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	Male	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	Female	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	Male	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—
	Female	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	Male	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE—1955 (Continued)

(As compiled by the Registrar-General)

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All Causes	Male	898	32	6	4	7	38	246	280	285
	Female	858	36	5	2	—	19	152	241	403
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	Male	12	9	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
	Female	12	11	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases	Male	67	13	1	—	2	4	18	12	17
	Female	106	19	2	1	—	3	9	23	49
33. Motor vehicle accidents	Male	10	—	—	1	1	4	2	1	1
	Female	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
34. All other accidents	Male	19	4	—	1	1	5	2	1	5
	Female	17	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	7
35. Suicide	Male	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
	Female	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
36. Homicide and opera- tions of war	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles cases formed the majority of infectious diseases notified during the year. 1,186 cases of measles were notified compared with 2,031 in 1954. One child died as a result of measles.

521 cases of whooping cough were notified, compared with 728 in 1954. There were no deaths.

Only five cases of poliomyelitis were notified, two of the non-paralytic type.

One case of diphtheria was notified in a girl of seventeen years of age who had not been immunised.

56 cases of scarlet fever were notified, all of a mild character.

73 cases of dysentery were notified and confirmed. In the majority of cases they were due to the Sonne Bacillus.

The year as a whole was uneventful.

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Whooping Cough		Typhoid Fever	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified...	32	28	6	12	3	1	1	1	592	595	253	272	—	—
Final numbers after correction :														
Age under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	21	31	25	35	—	—
Age 1 — 2 years + ...	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	160	144	78	72	—	—
Age 3 — 4 years + ...	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	190	175	77	79	—	—
Age 5 — 9 years + ...	12	18	—	—	1	—	1	—	217	238	68	82	—	—
Age 10 — 14 years + ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	3	—	—
Age 15 — 24 years + ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Age 25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Totals ...	30	26	—	1	2	1	1	1	591	595	250	271	—	—

	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 ...	108	103	46	43	—	—	1	—	8	11	8	6	—	41	—	—	—	196	192	1	—	—
Final numbers after correction : Age 0 — 4 years + ...	30	21	18	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	7	3	1	—	—	—
Age 5 — 14 years + ...	17	9	18	16	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	5	—	—	—	—
Age 15 — 44 years + ...	8	12	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	41	—	—	8	8	—	—	—	—
Age 45 — 64 years + ...	34	24	—	6	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
Age 65 and over ...	16	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	105	100	37	36	—	—	—	—	8	11	6	2	—	41	—	—	27	19	1	—	—	—

SUSPECTED FOOD POISONING CASES AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD AND/OR DRINK

550 cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated during the year. Investigations involved 686 visits to patients' houses and the submission of 726 specimens for bacteriological examination. Remnants of food suspected to have caused food poisoning are rarely available for examination and in only ten cases was it possible to submit such samples for examination. Only two of these showed the presence of pathogenic organisms.

The causal agent was confirmed by the following cases :—

Shigella Sonnei	...	...	...	51 cases
Salmonella typhimurium	...	...	...	52 cases
" london	...	...	...	1 case
" dublin	...	...	...	3 cases

Food poisoning cases occurred in two outbreaks and a number of isolated cases which could not be related to one another, viz :—

	Persons affected	Families involved	Confirmed cases	Organism
Outbreak No. 1	13	5	9	Salm: typhimurium
" " 2	16	11	12	" "
Isolated Cases	23	18	20	" "
" "	3	3	3	Salm: dublin
" "	1	1	1	" london

Outbreak No. 1

This occurred over a period of 2 - 3 days among five families in widely separated districts. All had eaten trifles bought from one or other of three retail shops supplied by the same manufacturer.

Exhaustive enquiries indicated the trifles as the cause of the outbreak but no infected persons were found among the manufacturing or distribution staff, nor was the source traced to any ingredient.

Outbreak No. 2

Most of these cases occurred within 4 - 5 days among eleven families living in a fairly small area of the town. The victims were mainly children. Investigations revealed that a temporary assistant in a sweets and ice cream shop had symptoms of food poisoning immediately prior to the first notifications in this outbreak. This assistant had left her employment at the time of the investigation and was no longer engaged in food handling.

During these investigations the need for greater attention to personal hygiene has been constantly stressed. Patients and parents of young children have been instructed in these matters but until the public generally and food handlers particularly are more acutely aware of the importance of thorough hand washing there seems to be little doubt that food borne infections will be unnecessarily widely spread.

During the year, approximately 900 samples of various kinds were examined in the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead.

The Director, Dr. J. Morrison Ritchie, and his staff have continued to be helpful in our investigations.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year was 213.

This number shows a decrease of 7 from that of 1954.

Mortality

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

Respiratory	...	...	...	...	23
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	1

Tuberculosis Register

At the 31st December, 1955, the register showed an increase of 5 compared with 31st December, 1954.

					Adults	Children (under 15 yrs.)	Total
Respiratory—	Male	...	...	...	728	63	791
	Female	...	...	...	581	58	639
Non-Respiratory—	Male	...	...	...	30	62	92
	Female	...	...	...	42	47	89
Total—	Male	...	...	...	758	125	883
	Female	...	...	...	623	105	728
TOTAL					1381	230	1611

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS DURING YEAR
NUMBER OF PRIMARY NOTIFICATIONS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD	0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total
Respiratory—														
Males ..	—	1	1	2	3	9	10	9	12	17	11	3	2	80
Females ..	—	—	1	1	4	13	10	13	7	4	3	2	—	58
Non-Respiratory—														
Males ..	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Females ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	7
TOTAL	—	1	2	5	10	24	22	25	20	21	14	5	2	151

NEW CASES OTHER THAN BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION

Death returns from Local Registrars														
Respiratory—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Males ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Females ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Non-Respiratory—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Males ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death returns from Registrar-General (Transferable deaths)														
Respiratory—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Males ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Respiratory—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Males ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Posthumous Notifications														
Respiratory—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Males ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Respiratory—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Males ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	—	9

TOTAL ... 160

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Cremation

The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Referee to the Landican Crematorium. During the year, 1,752 cremations took place compared with 1,560 in 1954.

Medical Examinations

The following medical examinations were carried out by the Medical Staff during the year:—

Fitness for entry into the Corporation's Service	457
Fitness for entry into the Local Government Superannuation Scheme	208
Re-examinations	147
Special Reports	85
Fitness for driving P.S. Vehicles under the Road Traffic Acts, 1930-1947	92
Examinations of Gravediggers for signs of Silicosis ...	5
Examination of Tar Workers for Tar Workers' Cancer	4
Examination of candidates for entry into Teachers' Training Colleges (Form 4 RTC)	46
Examination of candidates for Employment as Teachers (Form 28 RQ)	15
Total Examinations ...	1,059

British Empire Cancer Campaign—Cheshire and North Wales Branch

The Department continues to co-operate in the research work carried out by this Branch since 1952. Over 200 investigations yearly have been carried out in the enquiries into environmental factors in the histories of residents within the Borough dying from cancer. The general public has co-operated very well indeed.

Air Pollution

Weekly samples of the suspended matter in a measured quantity of air are sent for analysis, together with daily readings of temperature and barometric pressure. Cylinders of lead peroxide were also exposed for the monthly measurement of the amount of SO₂ in the atmosphere.

Co-operation with the National Assistance Board and other Bodies

During the year, in consultation with Mr. T. Simpson, Area Officer of the National Assistance Board, a series of talks was given to the National Assistance Staff.

The following officers took part:—Medical Officer of Health, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Welfare Officer, Children's Officer, a duly Authorised Officer, the Superintendent Health Visitor and the Domestic Help Organiser.

Following each talk, an opportunity was given for questioning. It was felt that this series had been helpful to all concerned.

It would appear that more interest was shown in environmental hygiene as in response to requests from various organisations, 5 talks on the work of the sanitary inspector were given.

Two lectures on food hygiene were delivered to classes for persons in the catering trade at the Birkenhead Technical College.

INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS

On the 31st December, 1955, there were on the Register of Blind Persons, the names of 128 males and 168 females, making a total of 296.

The corresponding number on the register on the same date in 1954 was 292.

The names of 12 males and 19 females were added to the Register during the year. Removals from the Borough and deaths accounted for the deletion of the names of 12 males and 22 females, and transfers from other areas to the Borough accounted for 5 males and 2 females.

The number of persons on the register of Partially Sighted People on the 31st December, 1955, was 73 (34 males and 39 females). The corresponding number on the same date in 1954 was 63 (29 males and 34 females). During the year the names of 17 persons (8 males and 9 females) were added to the register. Deaths and removal from the Borough accounted for the deletion of the names of 3 males and 4 females from the Register.

With very few exceptions, those qualifying during the year for inclusion in the registers of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons were over the age of 65. One baby was certified as being blind.

Examinations for the purpose of certification are, in accordance with the Ministry of Health directions, now carried out by an Ophthalmic Surgeon of consultant status.

The cause of blindness in the 31 cases registered as being blind within the meaning of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year, was as follows:—

Cataract	...	...	...	...	...	21
Glaucoma	...	...	...	...	...	6
Congenital and Myopic Defects	...	...	...	...	...	4

The partially sighted persons notified in the same period were 11 cataract cases and 6 congenital or myopic defects.

A—Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons

- (i) Number of Cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7(c) of Form B.D.8 recommends:—

- (a) No treatment
- (b) Treatment (Medical, surgical or optical)

- (ii) Number of cases at (i)(a) above which on follow-up action have received treatment

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(a) No treatment	22	4	—	3
(b) Treatment (Medical, surgical or optical)	10	2	—	7
(ii) Number of cases at (i)(a) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	2	1	—	6

B—Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year	Nil
(ii) Number of cases in which (a) vision lost (b) vision impaired (c) treatment continuing at end of year	Nil

SPASTICS AND EPILEPTICS**Spastic Pupils**

The particulars given below relate to the number of Birkenhead children known to be suffering from spastic conditions as at 31st December.

School Children—

Attending Ordinary Schools	...	...	...	25 pupils
„ Day Special School for Educationally Subnormal Children	...	...	...	5 „
„ Boarding Special School for Physically Handicapped Children	...	...	...	3 „
At home not receiving education	...	...	...	5 „
Receiving home tuition	...	...	...	2 „
At Hospital Special Schools	...	...	...	3 „
				—
				43 „

Pre-School Children—

At home not receiving education	...	...	...	3 „
				—
Combined total	...	...	...	46 „
				—

Epileptics

There are 45 epileptics on the Handicapped Persons Register. 31 live in their own homes and 14 are in Epileptic Colonies.

The problem of epilepsy in school children is not an acute one—one pupil was awaiting a vacancy in a Boarding Special School. In medical inspections in 1955, 3 children suffering from epilepsy required treatment and 10 were noted to be kept under observation.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Ante-natal Clinics

Ante-natal clinics were held once weekly at the Central Clinic and the North and South Clinics. Clinics were held on 154 occasions, the number of patients dealt with being 949 and the total number of attendances made being 2,821. Of this total 119 patients attended the Clinics during the previous year.

Below are set out the details of attendances at Clinics:—

Clinic				No. of Sessions	No of Cases	No. of Attendances
Central, Conway St.	...			52	417	1114
North	...	...	...	51	185	626
South	...	...	...	51	347	1081

Infant Welfare Clinics

At the end of the year 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.

Woodchurch Clinic: Monday afternoons, 2 to 5 p.m.

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

CLINIC	Attendance of under 1's	1—2	2—5	Total attendances	No. of sessions	Total 1st visits	Total re-visits	Doctor's 1st visits	Doctor's re-visits
North *	3709	376	239	4324	152	382	3942	370	1645
South *	4333	462	261	5056	149	399	4657	385	1849
Central	2541	236	195	2972	100	376	2596	364	804
Balls Road	3008	445	319	3772	103	224	3548	202	1183
Upton	737	110	51	898	51	73	825	66	310
Woodchurch	1288	123	104	1515	48	143	1372	137	514
Totals	15616	1752	1169	18537	603	1597	16940	1424	6305

* Include Toddler Clinics

Toddler Clinics

Toddler Clinics for children between the age of one and five years are held at the North and South Clinics each Monday between 2 and 5 p.m.

Dental Treatment

By arrangement with the Education Committee, expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age can receive dental treatment by the School Dental Staff at the School Dental Clinic.

The following tables give details of the dental care provided :—

Forms of Dental Treatment provided :—

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	15	15	15	2
Children under Five ...	140	133	133	133

	Scaling and Gum Treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided		Radiograph
							Full U or L	Part U or L	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	—	2	—	—	39	6	1	—	1
Children under Five	—	5	—	—	289	125	—	—	—

Day Nurseries

Owing to the reduction in the number of children attending the nurseries, the number of places and staff have been reduced at each nursery.

The following table shows the attendances during the year.

Name of Nursery	Capacity	No. on register at end of the year		Average daily attendances during the year	
		0—2	2—5	0—2	2—5
Cavendish Road	25 places	7	15	6	12
Old Chester Road	18 „	4	15	4	10

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulations Act, 1948

There is one registration under this Act, 72 Cavendish Drive.

Nursing Homes Registration—Public Health Act, 1936, Section 187

At the end of the year there were four Nursing Homes registered in the Borough. During 1955 one Nursing Home closed down.

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

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children

Arrangements are in operation for the care and welfare of unmarried mothers and their children. Close co-operation is maintained with moral welfare associations and churches of all denominations.

These expectant mothers are encouraged to attend ante-natal clinics and to enter mother and baby homes where it is deemed desirable. The usual practice is for the expectant mother to enter the home before the confinement and to remain following the birth of her baby. The usual length of stay averages twelve weeks.

Care of Premature Infants

During the year, 246 premature babies were born, 42 were still born and 204 born alive. 186 were born in hospital or Nursing Homes and 60 born at home. Premature babies are the subject of particular attention by Midwives and Health Visitors.

Convalescent Treatment

24 children under the age of 5 years were recommended for convalescent treatment during the year.

Voluntary Agencies Assisted by Local Authority

(a) St. Elizabeth's Convent. Number of attendances during year :—
Children under 1 year ... 75 1st visits, 495 revisits.

(b) Birkenhead and District Mothers' Welfare Clinic. Of the 788 new patients who were given advice at the Clinic during the year, 289 were residents of the Borough.

Maternal Mortality

There was no maternal death during the year.

Distribution of Welfare Foods

Arrangements continue in operation for the distribution of National Welfare Foods at 12 Centres in the Borough.

Two of the Distribution Centres, i.e., Grange Road West and St. Peter's Hall, Rock Ferry, are staffed by members of the W.V.S.

MIDWIVES SERVICE

Number of Midwives

During the year 62 midwives gave notice of their intention to practise in the Borough, as follows:—

Municipal Midwives	...	...	...	...	12
Maternity Hospital Midwife	...	...	...	...	1
Private Midwives	...	...	...	...	4
Midwives in Hospitals and Institutions	...	...	...	...	41
Midwives in Private Nursing Homes	...	...	...	...	4
					—
					62
					—

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	...	...	...	91
Interviews at Office	...	...	...	468
Nursing visits	...	...	...	360

Visits in connection with:—

Cases requiring medical aid	...	...	...	...	91
Cases of puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	4
Cases of stillbirth	...	...	...	...	10
Expectant mothers	...	...	...	...	123
Other visits	...	...	...	...	49
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	...	...	...	...	133

Number of cases attended by midwives—865.

The number of domiciliary confinements attended by midwives alone (no doctor being in attendance) numbered 626.

Cases requiring medical aid

123 cases were notified by midwives in which medical aid had been called, as against 43 last year.

Notifications received from Midwives

Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	10
* Substitution of artificial feeding	...	...	...	...	185
Deaths	...	...	...	...	0

* Including hospital notifications

Municipal Midwives

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

No. of Bookings	...	...	...	...	822
No. of Births attended:—					
(a) as Maternity Nurse	...				204
(b) as Midwife	...	...			463
					667
No. of visits to patients	...	...	...	...	17,433

Birkenhead Maternity Hospital

The following is a summary of the domiciliary work carried out by the Hospital Midwifery Staff under an agreement between the Local Authority and the Hospital Authority:—

No. of bookings	...	...	...	...	143
No. of domiciliary births	...	...	...	...	135
No. of visits to homes of patients	...	...	...	...	3,990

Independent Midwives

Independent Midwives attended 51 cases as Midwives and 12 cases as Maternity Nurses during the year.

Gas and air analgesia

Gas and air analgesia was administered by the Municipal Midwives to 441 patients, and by the Maternity Hospital District Midwifery Staff to 94 patients.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No case was notified during the year.

HEALTH VISITING

The staff engaged on Health Visiting in the Borough consists of a Superintendent and 17 Health Visitors.

The Health Visitors are employed on all sections of the medical work of the Department with the object of obtaining co-ordination between the Public Health, Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health Services, and each Visitor is allotted a district of the Borough for which she is responsible.

Visiting in the Home

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

2,447 first visits were paid to infants under one year old.

11,223 subsequent visits were paid to infants under one year old.

20,087 routine visits were paid to infants over one year and under five years old.

* 193 first visits were paid to expectant mothers.

117 re-visits were paid to expectant mothers.

945 visits were paid in connection with miscellaneous matters.

5,164 visits were paid in which no access could be obtained.

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

Clinic Duties

Health Visitors attended 1,451 Clinic Sessions during the year (1,125 Infant Welfare ; 175 Ante-natal ; 67 Sunlight ; 84 Superannuation Sessions).

Visits to Tuberculous Cases

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

Health Visitors made 184 first visits and 3,958 re-visits.

HOME NURSING SERVICE

The Nursing Staff operates from the Nurses' Home, 2 Park Road South, and the Staff employed on the 31st December consisted of the Superintendent, 14 full-time nurses and 3 part-time nurses. The establishment provides for the employment of the Superintendent and 19 full-time nurses and difficulty was experienced throughout the year in obtaining the services of full-time nurses to fill vacancies.

In spite of the shortage of nursing staff, it was found possible to deal with the increase in the number of cases requiring attention during the year—2,896 cases requiring 66,845 visits. The comparable figures for the year 1954 were 2,889 cases—65,074 visits.

The arrangements continue which were put into operation last year whereby patients who are not confined to the house attend the Nurses' Home at specified times for treatment.

Nursing equipment is loaned to patients and a nominal charge is made for the loan dependent upon the circumstances of the case, but where found desirable, articles are loaned free of charge.

Summary of Cases nursed during the year

Brought forward from 1954	...	...	...	...	471
New cases	...	...	...	...	2,425
Total cases nursed					2,896

No. of patients who were aged 65 or over at 1st visit	1,378
" " " " " under 5 years at 1st visit	69

Nursing Services provided for new cases at the request of:—

Doctors	...	...	...	...	2,152
Patients, Relatives and Friends	...	...	...	...	62
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	29
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	167
					2,410

Classification of cases nursed and visits paid:—

	Cases	Visits
(1) Medical	2,321	51,984
(2) Surgical	340	8,113
(3) Tuberculosis	182	6,244
(4) Maternal Complications	53	504

Visits:—

To patients over 65 years of age	30,502
" " under 5 " " "	540

Increasing pressure has been experienced with requests for nursing visits to give injections to patients.

The following statistics give particulars of visits paid to patients for the purpose of giving injections only:—

	Patients				Visits
Penicillin	...	...	...	800	6,265
Streptomycin	...	...	...	180	6,682
Various Cardiac Drugs	...	...	...	226	6,626
Insulin	...	...	...	82	9,336
Cytamin	...	...	...	165	4,256
Others	...	...	...	32	347
Totals	...	...	...	1,485	33,512

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Diphtheria Immunisation

It is estimated that 42 per cent. of children under five years and 64 per cent. of the school population have been immunised.

The number of children dealt with during the year was as follows:—

	Primary				Reinforcing Injections
0— 4 years	...	...	...	1,303	14
5— 9 years	...	...	...	911	1,214
10—14 years	...	...	...	34	96
15 years and over	...	...	...	8	15
	...	...	...	2,256	1,339

This work was shared as follows between General Practitioners and Medical Officers of the Health Department.

	Medical Officers	General Practitioners
Immunisation against Diphtheria	1,495	474
Reinforcing Injections against Diphtheria	1,169	170
Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria Immunisation	—	287

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Requests for immunisation against Whooping Cough were dealt with at the Clinics as follows:—

0—1 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
1—2 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
2—3 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
3—4 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
4—5 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
5—6 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
							93

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year the following vaccinations have been carried out:—

By Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics	...	388
By General Practitioners		1,008
		1,396

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

Age at Date of Vaccination	0—1 Years	1 to 2 Years	2 to 4 Years	5 to 14 Years	15 Years & over	Total
Number vaccinated ..	796	62	73	41	55	1027
Number re-vaccinated	—	—	5	25	339	369

Number of cases specially reported (age groups as above)—None.

31st December of the corresponding year.	& 1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	on 31st December, 1955.
Under 1 year	—	3	1	1	13	3	3	1	—	18	9	—	5	30	71	60	27	45	539	535	637	626	
1 year	3	62	16	19	31	12	15	106	419	551	548	714	588	712	1009	1124	1020	981	564	494	378	270	Aged Under
2 years	10	29	15	24	73	45	31	201	501	465	437	355	355	241	353	385	316	289	181	261	251	245	5 years
3 years	14	42	12	30	78	32	25	211	414	392	65	139	125	93	113	144	148	80	63	96	75	85	5082
4 years	15	62	19	28	77	28	19	184	379	382	57	47	75	71	71	84	136	67	86	67	60	77	
5 years	16	201	24	43	125	43	23	244	350	246	60	37	51	55	56	80	212	137	275	136	176	243	
6 years	17	479	29	48	174	31	19	450	264	285	48	27	43	33	31	58	344	135	279	249	236	359	Aged
7 years	11	580	18	32	190	45	27	478	219	320	43	17	26	20	28	41	281	115	150	165	123	186	5-9 years
8 years	17	591	13	19	200	32	27	511	163	248	23	10	20	26	26	21	331	161	116	98	77	89	10280
9 years	13	668	10	23	120	23	18	511	129	286	21	12	20	17	11	33	273	131	81	57	44	34	
10 years	11	713	7	5	125	20	17	515	121	240	16	6	27	14	20	22	267	114	124	78	37	21	19316
11 years	1	666	7	10	96	11	10	655	112	292	16	11	17	8	13	33	221	105	90	46	19	7	Aged
12 years	6	557	4	9	111	11	10	385	113	298	7	1	10	5	14	7	62	57	71	15	7	1	10-14 years
13 years	3	532	4	6	62	9	7	336	103	198	15	1	5	7	6	7	13	23	123	6	1	4	9036
14 years	1	306	11	4	44	3	5	250	36	208	19	8	4	7	6	6	14	12	142	7	—	1	
15 years and over	15	90	14	9	69	25	23	132	27	33	24	22	8	15	14	14	11	19	16	12	6	8	Aged 15 years and over 22243
Total each year	153	5581	204	310	1588	373	279	5170	3350	4462	1318	1407	1379	1354	1842	2119	3676	2471	2900	2322	2127	2256	Grand Total 1933-1955 46641
Reinforcing Injections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	123	77	4352	2368	2198	1428	1715	1339	13647

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mr. A. R. G. Wray, the Chief Fire Officer, has submitted the following report with regard to the Ambulance Service for the year 1955:—

45,961 calls were responded to, an increase of 1,653. It does appear that the demands upon the service have reached their peak in actual cases carried, but the use of out of Borough hospitals continues to grow, thus adding to the mileage and affecting the availability of ambulances. The increased range of the radio system is helping to keep a tighter control of ambulances when outside the Borough, but it is to be hoped that, in the near future, more facilities in our local hospitals will enable this "outside" work to be reduced.

The majority of ratepayers realise that unless the Service was to operate with a grossly inflated establishment, some system of priorities must be established, but a small minority of people do not seem to appreciate this. From time to time, in periods of stress when dealing with an abnormal number of accidents or emergency admissions, we get a complaint about an out-patient who has had to wait a little longer than normal for homeward transport. Whilst the Service sympathises and does its best to eliminate such waiting periods, we must give emergency cases, admissions and ingoing out-patients priority of attention. Some out-patients could also help in the "turn round" of vehicles by being ready at home about forty-five minutes before the time of appointment, as it is essential that we co-ordinate groups of patients to get the maximum possible carrying capacity in one journey.

Standby:—

Standby For		Standby From	
Wallasey	86	Wallasey	2
Bebington	5	Bebington	1
Deeside	1	Deeside	—

Classification of Calls:—

Type	Calls	Patients	Mileage
Emergency ...	5,311	5,357	23,090
Removals ...	38,043	38,373	123,029
Special Services ...	1,957	—	7,070
Abortive ...	650	—	1,858
	<u>45,961</u>	<u>43,730</u>	<u>155,047</u>

Comparison with Previous Years:—

Year					Calls	Mileage
1951	...	...	...	...	38,464	157,386
1952	...	...	...	...	40,814	141,248
1953	...	...	...	...	44,090	152,804
1954	...	...	...	...	44,308	145,174
1955	...	...	...	...	45,961	155,047

Mutual Assistance:—

Assistance to—				Calls	Mileage
Wallasey	...	...	...	35	222
Cheshire	...	...	...	21	182
Others	...	...	...	22	340
				78	744
Assistance from—				Calls	Mileage
Wallasey	...	...	...	3	13
Cheshire	...	...	...	—	—
Others	...	...	...	2	160
				5	173

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER CARE

Care and After Care Committee

The constitution of the Committee remains unchanged, being composed of representatives of the Health Committee, the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust, the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Under an arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, Dr. E. Blackstock, Tuberculosis Officer, continues to deal with cases coming under the scheme.

The Tuberculosis Almoner has her office at the Chest Clinic at 42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, and continues to visit the Chest Clinic at Mill Lane Hospital, Wallasey, in order to maintain contact with the Birkenhead residents who attend the Wallasey Clinic.

Chalets, nursing requisites, destructable sputum cups, paper handkerchiefs and free milk are supplied to patients where necessary.

During the year 2,471 interviews were held in the Almoner's Office, 1,138 home and hospital visits were made, 131 patients were referred to the National Assistance Board for financial help.

Sixty-six families living under unsatisfactory housing conditions were referred to the Housing Committee for consideration and 35 families were provided with Corporation houses during the year.

Christmas festivities, summer coach trips, extra comforts for patients at home and in hospital were provided by the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust. The Trust also made cash grants to 19 needy patients and assisted other patients in various ways.

Twenty-six patients were referred to the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust and to other organisations for holidays or for convalescent treatment. The Trust met the maintenance cost for 23 of these patients and 3 cases were dealt with under the Regional Hospital Board's arrangements for convalescence.

Health Visiting

Each new case of tuberculosis in the Borough, which is notified to the Medical Officer of Health, is visited by a Health Visitor who advises as to nursing methods and the prevention of the spread of infection.

The Health Visitor also obtains details of all persons who are contacts either through proximity or relationship, and reports these, together with housing and family conditions to the Tuberculosis Medical Officer.

Occupational Therapy

The teaching of handicrafts has been increased during the year—classes for out-patients are held at St. James' Hospital each Thursday afternoon, and teaching is given on the wards for one session each week. With the introduction of a male teacher of handicrafts, the variety of crafts available for patients has widened and fresh interest has been aroused.

Under our arrangement with the Anne Glassey Workshop, Wallasey, 18 patients attended the Workshop daily for Occupational Therapy.

Rehabilitation

Many patients return to their previous employers, or find their own employment when passed as fit for work.

Of the remainder, 68 registered under the Disabled Persons Employment Act and 47 were placed in employment by the Disablement Resettlement Officer. Four patients were sent to Industrial Rehabilitation Units and three of these patients have since been placed in employment. Four male patients were accepted as trainees under the Ministry of Labour Training Scheme and placed at the Anne Glassey Workshop, Wallasey.

Institutional Rehabilitation was provided for 4 patients; 2 male patients at Wrenbury Hall Colony, 1 young male at the Derwen Cripples Training College, and 1 female patient was admitted to Papworth Village Settlement for rehabilitation and possible training in light upholstery.

One patient at Wrenbury was colonised during the year, and a male patient previously at Derwen Cripples' College returned to the Borough and is now in regular employment.

Examination of Contacts

During the year 159 primary notifications were received, 1,340 adult contacts were called for X-ray examination and 674 children for clinical examination and Mantoux tests.

770 adults attended for X-ray examination, this being an increase of 298 on the previous year, and 550 children attended for clinical examination as against 501 in 1954, the results being as follows:—

	Adults		Children (under 15 years)	Total
	Female	Male		
Diagnosed as Tuberculous ...	20	12	12	44
Diagnosed as Non-Tuberculous ...	306	432	538	1276
	326	444	550	1320

B.C.G. Vaccination : Tuberculous contacts

As stated above, 550 children attended for clinical examination and Mantoux test. Of this number 87 were found to have a positive mantoux and were sent for X-ray examination. The parents of 159 children refused vaccination on their behalf and 45 children were vaccinated at other Hospitals. Eight student nurses and 346 children were vaccinated at the Chest Clinic at 42, Hamilton Square as against 6 student nurses and 272 children in the year 1954.

Six children received repeat vaccinations.

The parents of 124 children refused to bring them in for examination.

Child contacts made 2,139 attendances during 1955.

B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children

The scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of children aged between 13 and 14 years of age continued during the year.

Parents Notified	Children Tested	Mantoux Negative	Given B.C.G. Vaccin- ation	Mantoux Positive	Number X-rayed	Chest Normal
1739	794	561	560	233	227	227

The Mass Radiography Unit paid visits to two schools to carry out a survey of pupils and staff, following cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis in these schools. A total of 1,154 pupils and staff were X-rayed. 562 from one school and 592 from the other.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The services of Domestic Helps are available for confinement and post-confinement cases and for persons who, owing to sickness, infirmity and other reasons require assistance in the home. In many cases the services provided to aged, infirm and chronic sick persons enable them to continue to live in their own homes and consequently relieves the demand for hospital and institutional accommodation.

There is a charge for the service, but where the person requiring help cannot pay the full charge, it is reduced according to the financial circumstances of the case.

The Domestic Help Organiser continues to work in close co-operation with medical practitioners, the Welfare Department, the National Assistance Board and Voluntary Organisations.

During the year, the number of persons provided with domestic help was 533 against 488 in 1954, an increase of 45.

At the 31st December, 1955, 4 full-time and 42 part-time workers were employed.

During the year, 1,347 visits were paid to households by the Organiser and her Assistant in investigating applications and supervising the work of Domestic Helpers.

Cases Provided with Domestic Help During the Year—

Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	43
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	27
Chronic Sick, Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	391
Others	...	...	...	...	...	72
						533

Number of Hours Worked by Domestic Helpers—

Maternity, Illness, etc., Cases	...	...	5,167
Chronic Sick, Aged and Infirm	...	...	55,330
			60,497

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Psychiatric Clinic (St. Catherine's Hospital)

	M	F	Total
No. of cases referred to Clinic by D.A.O's	4	2	6
" " " " from Clinic to D.A.O's	20	26	46

"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.

	M	F	Total
No further action	20	27	47
To Welfare Officer	3	1	4
To Police	2	—	2
To General Practitioners	—	—	—
To Hospitals	9	9	18

After-Care Cases discharged from Mental Hospitals or Psychiatric Clinics:—

	M	F	Total
Referred for After-Care	85	51	136
Refused After-Care	40	33	73

LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS

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

	M	F	Total	Total for 1954
Sec. 20 (3 Day Detention Order) ...	62	61	123	163
Sec. 21 (14 Day Justice's Order) ...	11	36	47	31
Sec. 16 (Certification)	38	116	154	244
Sec. 5 (Private Patients)	—	1	1	1
Sec. 64/67 (Transfers)	—	2	2	2
Sec. 11 (Urgency Orders)	—	—	—	—
Dealt with for other L.A's	5	55	60	110

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

	M	F	Total	Total for 1954
Sec. 1 (1) (Voluntary Patients) ...	89	90	179	144
Sec. 1 (2) (Voluntary Patient under 16)	1	—	1	—
Sec. 5 (Temporary Patients)	4	1	5	3

The Duly Authorised Officers have given assistance and advice regarding the admission of patients to private mental hospitals and private wards of mental hospitals.

There has been a marked increase of admissions under the Mental Treatment Act.

Cases dealt with under the Mental Treatment Act are first seen by a Psychiatrist.

Board of Control Circular 999

Cases from areas of other Local Health Authorities detained in Birkenhead Mental Hospital, in which the Birkenhead Duly Authorised Officers undertook certification and, where necessary, removal to other Mental Hospitals:—

Males	Females	Total (1955)	Total (1954)
5	55	60	110

Hospital Admissions

Only very occasionally were male patients admitted to Birkenhead Mental Hospital.

Accommodation for elderly female patients, which was very difficult to obtain, was only available occasionally in Birkenhead Mental Hospital. Mental cases from Birkenhead were admitted to other Mental Hospitals in the Liverpool Region and this has meant much travelling by the Duly Authorised Officers.

The male wards at Birkenhead Mental Hospital were closed for the greater part of the year and this was reflected in the decrease in the number of male patients dealt with on behalf of other Local Authorities.

The total number of patients dealt with was 558, of whom 487 were new cases. Forty-seven cases were investigated but no statutory action was required and these cases were treated according to the individual need.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938

At the end of the year, the distribution of Birkenhead Mental Defectives was as follows:—

No. on Register ...	...	...	...	...	389
No. in Institutions ...	...	...	...	...	173
No. on Licence from Institutions	...	...	...	...	6
No. under Guardianship	...	...	...	...	3
No. under Home Supervision ...	...	...	...	...	207
					389

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

	M	F	Total
Under Education Act, 1944, Sec. 57(3) ...	10	8	18
Under Education Act, 1944, Sec. 57(5) ...	2	3	5
Other sources (transfers in, etc.) ...	1	2	3
			13
			13
			26

(ii) Removals from Register

	M	F	Total
Deaths, removals from area, etc. ...	5	5	10
Cancellations of Notification (under Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1948, Sec. 48) ...	—	—	—
Dealt with under the Lunacy Acts ...	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	5	6	11
	—	—	—

At the end of the year, there were 26 cases in urgent need of permanent institutional accommodation. Of these, 7 defectives were in "Place of Safety" accommodation. There were a further 3 cases on the non-urgent waiting list for permanent institutional accommodation.

The shortage of permanent institutional accommodation continues to give much cause for concern, particularly in the low grade cases under the age of 16 years. It is understood that the shortage is due as much to the scarcity of nursing staff as lack of beds. The Liverpool and Manchester Regional Hospital Board Bed Bureaux continue to operate jointly for the purpose of allocating all accommodation for mental defectives in the two regions.

Guardianship

One female defective was placed under the Guardianship of her father, and one male defective who was under the Guardianship of his father, died. Two male defectives, and one female defective, remain under Guardianship, each of whom are in receipt of an allowance from the National Assistance Board.

There is a further case of Guardianship in the Borough, a boy who is the responsibility of the Denbighshire County Council, and whose Guardian receives a financial grant from that Authority. The supervision of these cases is carried out by the Mental Deficiency Officer.

Home Supervision

Visiting of mental defectives under home supervision was carried out by the Mental Deficiency Officer. During the year 564 visits were paid, and 491 reports were obtained.

Occupation Centre

Birkenhead mental defectives continue to attend the Wallasey Occupation Centre: attendances averaged 26 daily during the year.

As in the past, a Christmas Party was held at the Centre for the children. Parents were invited to attend and see examples of work done by the children. Singing and dancing, which reflected great credit on the patience and skill of the Centre staff in their work with these handicapped children, formed part of the entertainment.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Duties under this Act have been assigned to the Welfare Committee of the Council.

The Medical Officer of Health is in administrative control of the Welfare Department, the staff of which is housed in the Health Department Offices.

There is the utmost co-operation between the staffs and useful information about handicapped persons or aged and infirm is exchanged between Health Visitors, Sanitary Inspectors, Duly Authorised Officers, Domestic Help Organiser and the Welfare Department.

It was not found necessary to take action in any case under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year under review.

WATER SUPPLY

The principal source of supply is Alwen Reservoir in Denbighshire, but subsidiary supplies are obtained from Flaybrick and Springhill Wells situated in the Borough.

The treated Alwen supply is soft in character and the mixed Alwen and Wells supply where distributed within the Borough is classed as moderately soft. It is both good in quality and quantity and is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

In view of rising demands within the Birkenhead Undertaking, an additional source of supply has been secured on the River Dee above Chester, and construction has commenced. It is anticipated that this new source will be available in 1957.

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

All the houses in the Borough, of which there are approximately 37,595, are supplied with water direct, and there are no houses supplied by means of communal stand-pipes.

HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF DWELLING HOUSES

All repairs to houses have been secured as a result of serving notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954. No notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

3,410 complaints were received during the year. This is in addition to complaints made to the inspectors on their districts.

No. of inspections under the Public Health Act	...	9,313
No. of re-inspections under the Public Health Act	...	17,653
No. of informal notices served under the Public Health Act	...	2,707
No. of Statutory notices served under the Public Health Act	...	1,234
Average number of notices outstanding	...	659
No. of notices complied with during the year	...	3,090
Number of defects remedied during the year	...	8,012

Summary of Improvements effected:—

Roofs repaired	...	1,145
Chimney stacks repaired	...	167
Rainwater gutters repaired	...	491
Downspouts repaired	...	224
Downspouts disconnected from drain	...	14
Walls pointed or repaired	...	399
Lighting improved	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	28
Windows repaired	...	376
Window sashcords renewed	...	501
Firegrates repaired	...	206
Hearthstones repaired	...	13
Floors relaid or repaired	...	321
Skirting boards repaired	...	80
Wall plaster repaired	...	782
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	317
Doors repaired	...	471
Staircases repaired	...	37
Sinks renewed	...	32
Sink waste pipes trapped or repaired	...	153
Washing boilers repaired	...	5
Dampness remedied	...	404
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	...	205
Yards drained	...	13
Sufficient water supply provided	...	151
Drains constructed, altered or repaired	...	128
Drains cleansed	...	362
Water closets repaired	...	679
Watercourses, ditches cleansed	...	7
Nuisance from animals abated	...	4
Verminous persons cleansed	...	1
Verminous premises cleansed	...	14
Verminous bedding, etc., cleansed	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	280

Legal Proceedings

Legal proceedings under Sec. 94, Public Health Act, 1936, were instituted in 14 cases where owners had failed to comply with the requirements of abatement notices. A fine of £2. 0. 0d. was inflicted in one case.

The Magistrates made nuisance orders in 11 instances where the work had not been completed at the time of the hearing. A total of £11. 16. 0d. was recovered in costs.

Owners failed to comply with nuisance orders in 2 cases and further summonses were issued under Sec. 95, Public Health Act, 1936. Fines of £3. 0. 0d. and £5. 0. 0d. with £4. 11. 9d. costs were imposed.

Work done by Local Authority in default of owners

The Local Authority cleansed obstructed drains at 21 houses where owners failed to comply with 48 hour notices under the provisions of Sec. 52 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954.

Repairs of an urgent nature were carried out at one house under the powers conferred by Sec. 66 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954.

By agreement with or at the request of owners, repairs of a general nature were completed at 5 houses under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

4 houses subject to demolition orders under the Housing Act, 1936, fell into a dangerous state and were demolished by the Corporation.

The costs of the above work are recoverable from the responsible persons.

Dwelling houses unfit for Human Habitation

26 houses and 11 parts of buildings used as dwelling houses were reported 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 Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

44 houses were demolished during the year and 18 houses or parts of buildings subject to Closing Orders were vacated. 1 house was closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owner.

The number of persons displaced as a result of the operation of the Orders was 319.

The Council made the following orders during the year :

Demolition Orders in respect of	16 houses
Closing Orders (Sec. 12) in respect of	9 parts of buildings
Closing Orders under The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of	14 houses

Grosvenor Street Clearance Area, 1955

On the representation of the Medical Officer of Health a clearance area was declared by the Council under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of the houses and buildings set out below. A compulsory purchase order in respect of this property and land adjoining was made by the Council and submitted to the Minister for confirmation.

	Descriptions of premises	Totals
GROSVENOR STREET	Nos.: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37. Workshop situated between Nos. 37 and 41 Grosvenor Street. 41, 43, 45, 47, 49.	29
	Nos.: Workshop adjoining the site of No. 2 Grosvenor Street, 42, 44, 46 (also known as No. 23 Earl Street)	
MARNE STREET	Nos.: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41. Mission Hall adjoining No. 41 Marne Street	46
	Nos.: 2, 2a, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 22a, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 (also known as No. 17 Earl Street).	
BRUNSWICK STREET	Nos.: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45.	
	Nos.: 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42. Stable adjoining No. 42 Brunswick Street.	43
PITT STREET	Nos.: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41.	42
	Nos.: 2, Stables rear of No. 2, Pitt St., 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 40a.	
ST. PAUL'S ROAD	Nos.: 52, 54, 56, 58a (also known as No. 1 Earl Street), 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68	10
NEW CHESTER ROAD	Nos.: 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392.	6
EARL STREET	No.: 7.	
	Nos.: 2, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78.	25
TOTAL Houses		196
Other buildings		5
		201

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

	1920 Act	1954 Act
Number of applications for CERTIFICATES of DISREPAIR	—	144
Number of applications withdrawn	—	5
Number of certificates granted	—	138
Number of certificates refused	—	1
Number of applications for REVOCATION of certificates	—	88
Number of revocations granted	—	80
Number of revocations refused	—	8

Common Lodging Houses

There was no change to report in respect of the three Common Lodging Houses which are on the register.

They accommodate men only, and were conducted satisfactorily during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

It has not been possible to make routine observations of factory chimneys and action taken has followed the receipt of complaints of excessive smoke emission.

Mechanical stokers were installed at one steam raising plant early in the year and since they have been in operation there has not been a single complaint of smoke emission. This plant had given rise to many complaints in past years.

The owners of another plant decided to change over from hand firing to mechanical stoking and it is expected that this conversion will be made early in 1956.

No. of smoke observations made	76
No. of visits to works re smoke emissions	28
No. of warning letters sent	5
No. of abatement notices served	—

EXTERMINATION OF PESTS**Rats and Mice**

- (a) **In Sewers.** All sewer manholes, except those found to be free from infestation on "test baiting," were treated twice during the year. This is in accordance with instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	1st treatment	2nd treatment	Total
No. of manholes baited	3,765	3,037	6,802
No. of "partial" takes recorded	623	606	1,229
No. of "complete" takes recorded	736	1,174	1,910
No. of manholes "test baited"	Approx. 1,940		

(b) In surface Premises

No. of premises inspected	626
No. of premises found to be infested with rats or mice	487
No. of treatments by rodent operator	394
Total number of visits by rodent operator	1,173
Total number of visits by Sanitary Inspectors	83

Insect Pests

No. of houses involved	...	...	...	...	60
No. of rooms treated	...	...	...	...	169
Other premises	...	...	...	...	3
No. of treatments	...	...	...	...	15
Verminous articles treated	...	...	...	...	—
Verminous persons cleansed	...	...	...	...	1

A nominal charge is made for this work.

The occupiers of two workplaces now retain the services of the rodent operator to make regular visits throughout the year to keep their premises free from rats, mice and insect pests.

Disinfection

15 rooms in 12 houses were disinfected during the year.

Arrangements were made for the disinfection of 4 lots of bedding.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT, 1881. Section 90—
PIG KEEPING

6 applications were made to the Council for permission to keep pigs. Permission was granted in all cases.

There are now 76 pig-keepers in the Borough.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT, 1930. Section 68—
CARAVANS

No applications to use caravans for permanent living accommodation were received.

THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS

49 visits were made during the year. These premises are well conducted and defects speedily remedied.

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.

New licences issued during the year	...	...	...	19
Licences renewed during the year	...	...	...	175
Change of address	...	...	...	1
No. of visits to shops	...	...	...	30

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

In accordance with the provisions of the above Act, the under-mentioned premises have been included in the Statutory Register.

Premises licensed for the manufacture and storage of Rag Flock	...	...	...	1
Premises licensed for the manufacture and storage of layered flock and woollen felting	...	...	...	1
Premises registered for the manufacture of new upholstery	...	...	...	4

15 visits of inspection were made and the undermentioned samples were submitted to the prescribed analysts for analysis :—

	Passed	Failed	Total
Rag Flock ...	5	—	5
Layered Rag Flock ...	1	—	1
Cotton Mill Puffs ...	1	—	1
Kapok mixtures ...	1	—	1
Feathers and Down ...	1	—	1
Down ...	2	1	3
	11	1	12

The sample of down which failed to comply with the prescribed standard was an informal one. Two further formal samples were satisfactory. The manufacturers and the sanitary authority of the area in which the down was manufactured were notified and steps were taken to improve the efficiency of the cleaning processes.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

One application was made for the establishment of a factory for gut scraping. Permission to establish the trade was refused.

THE BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT, 1954

This Act came into force on the 1st January and provides among other things for the registration of hairdressers and their premises, vendors of shell fish, food hawkers and the notification of premises to be used as new food businesses.

By-laws regulating the conduct of hairdressers' businesses were made and come into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

Registrations made during the year were as follows :—

Barbers, hairdresses and their premises (Sec. 164)	133
Vendors of shell fish and their premises (Sec. 103)	32
Hawkers of food and their premises (Sec. 102)	9
Notification of premises for the sale of food (Sec. 101)	8

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

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

Premises (1)	M/c Line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c Line No. (7)
			Inspect'ns (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosec'ed (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	78	38	5	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	491	270	12	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	12	16	2	—	3
TOTAL ..	—	581	324	19	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c Line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c Line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	16	9	—	4	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	1	—	1	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	2	2	—	2	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	4	4	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—(a) Insufficient	9	5	7	—	7	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	23	21	—	21	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	12	1	—	—	1	—	12
TOTAL ..	—	52	44	—	36	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers In August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosec- utions	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing Apparel—								
Making, etc.	13	4						13
Cleaning & washing . .	14							14
Household linen	15							15
Lace, lace curtains and nets	16							16
Curtains & furniture . .	17							17
hangings								
Furniture & upholstery	18							18
Electro-plate	19							19
File making	20							20
Brass & brass articles . .	21							21
Fur pulling	22							22
Iron & steel cables and chains	23							23
Iron & steel anchors and grapnels	24							24
Cart gear	25							25
Locks, latches & keys	26							26
Umbrellas, etc.	27							27
Artificial flowers	28							28
Nets, other than wire nets	29							29
Tents	30							30
Sacks	31							31
Racquet & tennis balls . .	32							32
Paper bags	33							33
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	34							34
Brush making	35							35
Pea picking	36							36
Feather sorting	37							37
Carding, etc., of buttons etc.	38							38
Stuffed toys	39							39
Basket making	40							40
Chocolates & sweetmeats	41							41
Cosaques, Xmas crack'rs, Xmas stockings, etc.	42							42
Textile weaving	43							43
Lampshades	44							44
TOTAL		4						

MILK SUPPLY

As anticipated last year a Statutory Order was made during the current year which included Birkenhead in a "specified area."

The purpose of this order is to prevent the sale of ungraded milk within the areas specified but as far as Birkenhead was concerned, practically no ungraded milk had been retailed for some time before the Order became operative.

The grades of milk being sold remained much the same as in the previous year, namely, a large quantity of Pasteurised milk, some Tuberculin tested (Pasteurised) milk and smaller quantities of Sterilised milk and farm bottled Tuberculin tested milk.

Practically the whole of this milk is supplied by six wholesale milk processors and bottlers; a large proportion coming from the two plants situated within the Borough.

Supervision and sampling control are therefore directed mainly at these places. It is gratifying to be able to repeat that the excellent records of the past years have been maintained by all concerned.

There are, however, certain difficulties which constantly face the milk trade and give rise to anxiety from time to time.

First, there is the difficulty caused by a small number of farmers who produce milk, the quality of which is well below the presumptive legal standard although such milk has not been adulterated. In these cases the farmer has not committed any offence. When, however, this milk is mixed with other milk at the depots the quality of the mixed milk must be above the presumptive standard or the wholesaler is guilty of an offence and liable to prosecution. At certain times of the year when the quality of all milk tends to fall there is real difficulty in keeping up to the required standard. Low quality milk once accepted at the dairy has to be paid for at the same rate as the better quality product.

Secondly, there is the problem of foreign matter and small pieces of glass being found in the bottles of milk from time to time. Milk bottles are grossly misused by some sections of the public and are returned into the dairies in a very dirty condition. The normal practice at the dairy is to break these so that they cannot be used again. When, however, it is realised that as many as threequarters of a million bottles may be washed and filled every week at one dairy alone it is not surprising that occasionally a dirty bottle escapes notice and passes on its way to the customer. The remedy would seem to lie in better co-operation by the public and by the schools to ensure that bottles are returned immediately and in a clean condition.

Again it is inevitable that from time to time bottles get broken in the washing machines or filling and capping machines and small chips of glass fly into the other bottles. Great care is paid to prevent this and expense is not spared by the dairymen but sometimes an odd bottle is found to contain glass chippings. There are other containers for milk which would not chip and would be discarded after being used once, but at the present time they are too expensive for general use.

The numbers of registered dairies and dairymen and of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are :—

Number of registered dairies	...	...	...	6
Number of registered dairymen	...	...	...	181
Dealers Licenses to sell "Pasteurised" Milk	...	...	...	163
Dealers Licenses to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	...	...	...	107
Dealers Licences to sell "Sterilised" Milk	...	...	...	95
Processor's Licences to pasteurise milk	...	...	...	2
Number of visits to dairymen's premises	...	...	...	156

Bacteriological examination of milk

Samples were submitted, with the following results :—

	Passed	Failed	Total
Pasteurised milk	50	—	50
Tuberculin Tested milk	45	—	45
Sterilised milk	16	—	16
	111	—	111

Chemical Analysis of Milk

Samples reported to be "genuine" (including those of abnormal composition)	...	...	176
Samples reported to be deficient of fat	...	...	6
Samples reported to be deficient of fat and naturally deficient of non-fatty solids	...	...	5
Samples reported to contain added water	...	...	3

N.B. Of the above "genuine" samples 11 were reported to be naturally deficient of non-fatty solids.

All the samples adversely reported upon were taken in course of delivery to the wholesale dairies.

The 6 samples of milk deficient in fat were from 4 farmers. In all cases the fat content of milk in other churns of the same consignment made up for the deficiency so that the bulked milk of each farmer was satisfactory.

The 5 samples deficient in fat and naturally deficient in non-fatty solids were from five different farmers. The bulked milks in 4 cases were satisfactory in fat content but unsatisfactory in amount of solids not fat. In the fifth case there was insufficient evidence to support legal action. These farmers were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Dept. in an effort to improve the quality.

The three samples containing added water were from one farm. One sample was informal and in respect of the two formal samples, legal proceedings were instituted.

Total fines of £6. 0. 0. with £4. 11. 0. costs were imposed.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises dealing in Ice Cream increased during the year. The supply is mainly from wholesale manufacturers and although there are still a number of retail premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream only occasional use is made of them and the occupiers tend to deal more and more in pre-wrapped wholesale supplies.

Details of the premises retained on the Statutory Register are as follows :—

Premises registered for the manufacture of				
Pasteurised Ice Cream	...	...	...	14
Premises registered for the manufacture of				
Cold Mix Ice Cream	...	...	...	14
Premises registered for the manufacture of				
Lolly Ices only	...	...	...	10
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream				
and/or Lolly Ices	...	...	...	443
Number of visits paid to premises	...	...	...	401

36 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for Bacteriological analysis during the year and reported upon as follows :—

Samples of ice cream placed in Grade I	...	32
Samples of ice cream placed in Grade II	...	1
Samples of ice cream placed in Grade III	...	2
Samples of ice cream placed in Grade IV	...	—
Samples not graded but found satisfactory	...	1
		36

Such results reflect the high standard of efficiency and cleanliness which has been achieved by the Ice Cream trade since the introduction of the Regulations of 1947.

FOOD HYGIENE

Frequent inspections of cafés and canteens and premises used for processing and cooking of foods have helped to maintain satisfactory hygienic conditions in these premises. It has been found that, with one or two exceptions, the managements of these establishments welcome the visits of the inspector and appreciate advice and constructive criticism. The inspections have also a valuable psychological effect upon the employees, impressing upon them the need for scrupulous cleanliness in the preparation, cooking and serving of meals.

Butchers, fish fryers and other food shops have been inspected as often as possible and attention given to the methods of storing and exposing food for sale. Some shopkeepers could improve their standards by an application of the elementary rules of hygiene. It is regrettable that it should be necessary for an inspector to advise them on such matters as general cleanliness and the protection of open food.

The standard of cleanliness in most public houses inspected has been good, cellars, pipe lines, bar fittings and glasses being kept in a satisfactory condition. New toilet accommodation has been provided in three public houses and similar improvements are in progress in three other premises.

The Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954, which came into operation during the year, requires the registration of food hawkers and vendors of shell fish. It also imposes an obligation upon persons opening new food premises to give 14 days' notice prior to commencing business.

These provisions give a further measure of control over food premises and should be useful in implementing the food hygiene regulations. A careful watch has been kept for signs of rodent and insect infestations in all food premises visited and advice given on methods of eradication and prevention.

Most of the defects found in food premises have been remedied on the verbal instructions of the inspector, but it was necessary in 25 instances to send written notices.

The following food preparing premises are registered under Section 14 (1) (b) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Fish fryers	...	...	...	...	92
Butchers manufacturing sausages and cooked meats	...	...	...	...	78
Cooked meat manufacturers	...	...	...	...	12
Pickle manufacturers	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL ...					183

Premises registered under Sections 102 and 103 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954 :—

Food hawkers	...	...	...	...	9
Vendors of shell fish	...	...	...	...	32
					41

Other food preparing premises (not registered) :—

Sugar confectionery manufacturers	2
Potato crisp manufacturers	2
Fruit and vegetable canners	1
Nut roasting and packing	1
Custard and ice cream powder manufacturers	1

7

Summary of Inspections and Defects remedied

	Cafes and Canteens	Food Preparing Premises	Licensed Premises	Shops	Totals
No. of premises	166	182	142	—	490
No. of visits	1080	168	116	1249	2613
Defects remedied:					
Sanitary convenience separated from food store	—	—	—	1	1
W.C's provided or re- paired	2	9	11	7	29
Walls, floors, etc.: re- paired	17	13	—	24	54
Walls, floors, etc.: cleansed	46	16	1	30	93
Food rooms ventilated	—	—	—	2	2
Accumulation of refuse removed	5	—	—	2	7
Cleanliness of persons, utensils, clothing ..	3	6	—	7	16
Wash basins provided	1	2	—	10	13
Sinks provided	1	—	—	—	1
Hot and cold water supply provided ..	1	4	—	11	16
Towels, Soap, etc.: provided	1	6	—	12	19
Protection from con- tamination of food ..	2	—	—	8	10
Contravention of Bye- laws	1	1	—	3	5
	80	57	12	117	266

Shops Act, 1950.

Not included above are 125 visits to shops other than food shops. No notices were served under this Act.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**Analysis of Food (other than milk).**

213 samples of various types of food (in addition to 189 samples of milk previously referred to) were obtained and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst—Tennyson Harris, Esq., Ph.C., F.P.S., F.R.I.C., whose help and co-operation are gratefully acknowledged.

Of this number 7 samples reported against were in connection with food complaints dealt with and 6 were of water and food taken in connection with a report of suspected metallic poisoning.

In 4 cases the analyst reported the foods were incorrectly labelled. The manufacturer's attention was drawn to these offences and the necessary corrections were made.

2 samples of almond substitute from the same source were found to consist of soya flour and cereal flour, to be devoid of flavouring and to contain numerous insect fragments. Summonses were issued on two counts :—

(1) That the article was not of the quality or the article demanded by the purchaser.

(2) That the food was unfit for human consumption.

Fines of £1. 0. 0. were inflicted on each count and total costs of £1. 1. 0. awarded.

Unsound Food.

The inspection of food in shops, warehouses, canteens, etc., was carried out by all the sanitary inspectors. All condemned food was collected and disposed of—mainly by tipping on the Corporation tip—under supervision. The following list shows the types and quantities of food dealt with.

Canned and Bottled Goods :—

Meat	...	...	3279	lbs.
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	6024 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Fish	...	...	157	lbs.
Soup	...	...	233 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Milk	...	...	647 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs and 616 $\frac{3}{4}$ pints
Preserves	...	...	382 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Puddings	...	...	41	lbs.
Bacon	...	...	765 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	60	lbs.
Brawn	...	...	2	lbs.
Black Puddings	...	...	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Cake and cake mixture	...	...	69 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Calves Foot Jelly	...	...	10	ozs.
Cauliflowers	...	...	42	
Cereals	...	...	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Cheese	...	...	272 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Choco Creams	...	...	280	lbs.
Coffee	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Cream	...	...	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs. and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints
Cream Whipping	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Dripping	...	...	2	lbs.
Dried Peas	...	...	158	lbs.
Egg	...	...	223 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Fish Paste	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Fruit Juice	...	...	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Fruit Cream Sandwich	...	...	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Fritters	...	...	36	lbs.
Jellies	...	...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Marmite	...	...	1	
Meat and offal	...	...	863 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Meat paste	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Margarine	...	...	7	lbs.
Potatoes	...	...	42	cwt.
Pickles	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Pork Pies	...	...	27	lbs.
Sausages	...	...	26	lbs.
Swiss Rolls	...	...	24	
Sauce	...	...	38	bottles
Miscellaneous foods	...	...	1	lb.

Food Complaints.

During the year 32 complaints were received regarding food alleged to be unfit for consumption. All were investigated but in the majority of instances the complainants were not prepared to support any Court proceedings.

In four cases the complaints could not be sustained and in seven others the evidence available was insufficient to justify further proceedings.

Moulds, sourness or "grease" marks in bread, confectionery or meat products accounted for seven further complaints, most of these occurring during the very hot weather which conduces to the growth of moulds, particularly in wrapped moist products. In one of these cases, the food was known to be unfit but was sold in error by a new assistant.

Exposure to the sun had caused deterioration in toffees and two reports concerned milk affected by cement or plaster adhering to the inner surfaces of the bottle.

Foreign objects, i.e., nails, wood or fibres were found in five instances and on another occasion a small piece of broken cutting blade was discovered in a sliced loaf.

Insects, their larvae or eggs were identified in four different kinds of food and some dried fruit was found to contain rodent excreta. On the instructions of the Health Committee proceedings were instituted in this latter case but the Magistrates dismissed the summons.

MEAT INSPECTION

This section of the report details the work carried out by the Veterinary Officer and the staff of Meat Inspectors.

During the year 163,163 animals were slaughtered in the Borough.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1955	55,737	533	94,657	12,236

All animals slaughtered were subject to ante- and post-mortem inspection by the Veterinary Officer and the Meat Inspectors.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	* 55737		533	94657	12236	None
Number inspected	55737		533	94657	12236	None
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i> Whole carcasses condemned	42		14	93	83	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12147		5	15892	936	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	21.8		3.5	16.8	8.3	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i> Whole carcasses condemned	137		None	None	13	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13665		None	None	183	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	24.4		—	—	1.6	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	3		None	None	None	—
Carcases submit- ted to treatment by refrigeration	3		None	None	None	—
Generalised and totally condemned	None		None	None	None	—

* Separation figures not available.

In addition, 56 carcasses were inspected of cattle dying in the Lairages or in transit.

The weight of meat and offal condemned was 263 tons 16 cwt. 151 tons 4 cwt. of this total was condemned on account of tuberculosis.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924

The slaughtering of all animals for food is carried out at the Tranmere Abattoir and Woodside Lairages.

Meat is sent all over the country. Slaughtering takes place practically seven days a week and this undoubtedly places a heavy burden on the meat inspection staff. Fewer animals were slaughtered in 1955 than in 1954, but little or no improvement was seen in the number of hours the meat inspection staff had to be on duty.

The quality of the stock slaughtered during the year was superior to that of previous years.

Check inspection of imported meats received in the wholesale depots was carried out throughout the year. As in previous years, bone taint and decomposition were the chief causes of condemnation. 205 visits were paid to depots during the year. 1 ton 7 cwt. of beef, mutton and pork were found to be unfit for human consumption.

In the course of the year, quite a fair amount of meat from outside sources was received at Tranmere Abattoir, also animals were slaughtered on farms for emergency reasons. All meat was inspected by the meat inspectors in accordance with Memo 3/Meat. Where a certificate of inspection from another Authority accompanied the meat, further inspection was unnecessary.

The standard of cleanliness of the vans engaged in the transport of meat was generally satisfactory. In a few cases, verbal representations concerning minor improvements resulted in quick rectification.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1954.—83 renewals of licences and 11 new licences to slaughter animals were granted to butchers and others employed in the Borough.

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

- (1) The examination of store pigs kept within the Borough to ensure that the animals are free from Swine Fever. 18 visits were paid and 92 pigs were inspected.
Owing to extensive Swine Fever restrictions over the county and neighbouring counties, visits to farms had to be curtailed. As the movement of pigs was allowable only with accompanying movement licences, several hundreds of such were issued by the Diseases of Animals Act Inspectors to the local pig keepers. The movement restrictions were imposed for approximately four months.
- (2) The routine inspection of 22 dairy herds within the Borough.
- (3) Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1939, there were no cows within the area to be removed during the year.
- (4) Visits to Taylor Street Cattle Sidings were made frequently to supervise live animals passing through to see that cruelty is avoided ; to prevent, if possible, sick animals from travelling further and to take precautions against suspected anthrax. Blood smears were

taken from 10 animals found dead in trucks in the sidings with negative results in all cases.

- (5) Visits to farms in connection with warble fly prevention and treatment.
- (6) Visits to farms in connection with the dipping of sheep.
- (7) Under the Fowl Pest Order, frequent visits are paid to Live Poultry Dealers and Breeders in the Market and elsewhere within the Borough. There were no contraventions.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.—15 premises were inspected frequently. There was a careful scrutiny of the meat supplied to the shops for the feeding of the pets.

Registration of Premises used for the sale, etc., of Animal Feeding Meat (Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954, Section 98).—During the year 22 applications were received for registration from shopkeepers and others. After inspection of the premises and approval by the Council, all applications were registered.

Export of Meat Products. During the year, the Veterinary Officer issued export licences to Gut-Scraping firms for 385 tierces (42 gallon casks) of beef rounds, middles, etc., and sheep guts, for shipment to most European countries and U.S.A. It was necessary to visit the factories to carry out token inspections of products as to cleanliness and suitability before issuing the accompanying licences. This is a growing and useful industry and ought to be encouraged.

Contraventions. Under the Swine Fever (Infected Districts) Order of 1955, one farmer was fined £5 by the Birkenhead Magistrates for failing to obtain a movement licence prior to moving pigs to an auction market.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

BY

J. W. LOBBAN

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

Principal School Medical Officer

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Deputy Chairman :

Alderman W. E. POWER

Aldermen :

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STAFF**PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER**

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

SENIOR SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Anna M. Williams, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS

W. H. Parry, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (resigned 22.3.55)

Lillie L. Munro, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

John S. Seaton, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P.S.

A. H. Wilde, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (appointed 29.7.55)

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER

F. G. Sutcliffe, L.D.S.

SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICERS

Local Dental Surgeons provide part-time services on a sessional basis

SPEECH THERAPIST

Mrs. Mary Peel, L.C.S.T.

SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE

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

9, Hamilton Square,
Birkenhead.

April, 1956.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration this report upon the School Health Service for 1955.

The staffing position of the Dental Service continues to give cause for anxiety. Without the help of part-time dental surgeons our dental work could not be maintained.

The work of the School Health Service depends not only on the work of the medical, nursing and clerical staff but upon the co-operation of all interested in Education. This we have had in full measure and I am glad to say how much the co-operation and encouragement of the Director of Education, his staff, the Headmasters and the Headmistresses and indeed of all teaching staff means to the staff of the School Health Service.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the interest which you and your Committee show in our work is stimulating and encouraging.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LOBBAN,
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

(Number of Schools and Children)

Primary Schools

County ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Voluntary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
No. of children on the rolls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,985
Average attendance ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,396

Secondary Schools (Maintained)

County ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Voluntary ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of children on the rolls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,722
Average attendances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,182

Secondary Schools (Non-maintained)

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

The Birkenhead School for Boys, Shrewsbury Road.

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

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

St. Anselm's College, Manor Hill.

Nursery Classes

Nursery Classes exist in connection with the Infants' Departments of the following schools:—

Cathcart Street Primary.

Rock Ferry Primary.

The Dell Primary.

Bedford Drive Primary.

Special Schools

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

Claughton Road Day Special Schools for Educationally Sub-normal Pupils.

Sight Saving Class, Hemingford Street.

Thingwall Hospital School.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The arrangements for the reference of children found to require treatment at routine medical inspections and minor ailments clinics have continued as hitherto.

It is gratifying to report the continued willing co-operation of the medical staffs of Hospitals, particularly the staff of Children's Hospitals on Merseyside. Much useful information has been transmitted about school children.

The sending of medical histories of school leavers has continued during the year but fewer cards have been sent than was anticipated. It is possible, that the reason for this, is the fact, that leavers with significant medical histories are already well known to the General Practitioner. The arrangements are under review at the present time.

Periodic Medical Inspections are held as follows:—

- (a) Every pupil admitted to Maintained Primary Schools, as soon as possible after date of admission.
- (b) Every pupil attending Maintained Primary Schools, 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.

A fourth inspection of pupils between $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $8\frac{1}{2}$ years of age again took place. It proves valuable in the early detection of orthopaedic and visual defects.

Special inspections of pupils numbered 1,313—details are as follows:—

Minor ailments clinic	...	...	...	...	...	541
Pre-dental heart inspections	...	...	...	...	...	453
Referred for convalescence	...	...	...	...	...	84
Employment out of school hours	...	...	...	...	...	21
Employment in entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	3
Handicapped pupils	...	...	...	...	...	8
Boarded-out children	...	...	...	...	...	49
Attendance Centre orders	...	...	...	...	...	18
Referred by Superintendent School Welfare Officer	...	...	...	...	...	93
Other special inspections	...	...	...	...	...	43

1,697 re-inspections were made in the case of children with defects necessitating a "follow-up."

Statistical tables for the year as submitted to the Ministry of Education are shown at the end of this report.

CO-OPERATION WITH PARENTS

Parents attended at the examination of 5,374 (69%) of the 7,687 pupils seen at Routine Inspections.

Age Group	No. Inspected	Parents Present
First age group ...	2,442	2,312 (94.68%)
Second age group ...	969	630 (65.01%)
Third age group ...	1,630	221 (13.56%)
Fourth age group ...	2,646	2,211 (83.56%)

It is always encouraging that so many parents take an interest and attend the periodical examinations.

NUTRITION

The standard of nutrition of the School Children continues to be maintained. 191 children or 2.48% of the 7,687 children examined were classed as 'C' general condition. The remainder, 7,496, were of average or above average condition. School meals and the provision of school milk are having the desired result in the substandard children.

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

Age	Height					
	Boys			Girls		
	No.	Ft.	In.	No.	Ft.	In.
4 years	42	3	4.48	45	3	4.11
5 years	218	3	6.12	216	3	5.48
6 years	24	3	8.08	25	3	7.96
7 years	64	4	0.16	75	3	11.56
8 years	248	4	0.90	235	4	0.28
11 years	63	4	6.81	77	4	7.65
12 years	34	4	7.88	18	4	8.78
14 years	101	5	2.31	116	5	1.02
15 years	65	5	3.61	75	5	1.21
16 years	17	5	7.82	9	5	1.45

Age	Weight					
	Boys			Girls		
	No.	St.	Lb.	No.	St.	Lb.
4 years	42	2	11.72	45	2	11.49
5 years	218	3	1.12	216	2	13.08
6 years	24	3	4.50	25	3	3.72
7 years	64	3	13.22	75	3	10.79
8 years	248	4	0.27	235	3	13.36
11 years	63	5	4.91	77	5	11.18
12 years	34	5	9.30	18	5	9.78
14 years	101	7	8.86	116	7	10.47
15 years	65	8	2.05	75	7	11.91
16 years	17	9	11.21	9	8	5.00

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

PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK

The total number of school meals provided during 1955 was 1,628,249, an increase of 4,638 on 1954. Of this number 1,307,929 were supplied on payment and 320,320 were provided free. The figures include meals to teaching staffs supplied at the appropriate rate.

Children attending Maintained Schools receive one-third of a pint of milk free of charge daily. During the year, 3,841,843 one-third pint bottles were supplied.

CLEANLINESS AND CLOTHING

The general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory, having regard to the difficult housing conditions in which some children have to live. Health Visitors made periodic inspections during school term and 65,539 examinations were carried out. 1,581 pupils were found to be infested with vermin.

The standards of clothing and footwear are generally satisfactory.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

During 1955, 7,687 pupils were examined at routine medical inspections. 3,450 (45%) had been vaccinated, and 4,237 (55%) had not. The number of children vaccinated against smallpox is alarmingly low. In these days of air travel smallpox may arrive in this country unheralded, and the consequent rush for vaccination would place a burden on the already busy Health Service. Every step must be taken to encourage vaccination amongst infants and re-vaccination during school life.

B.C.G. VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of children aged between 13 and 14 years of age continued during the year.

Parents Notified	Children Tested	Mantoux Negative	Given BCG Vaccination	Mantoux Positive	Number X-rayed	Chest Normal
1739	794	561	560	233	227	227

Visits were paid to two schools by the Mass Radiography Unit, to carry out a survey of pupils and staff, following cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis in these schools. A total of 1,154 pupils and staff were X-rayed, 562 from one school and 592 from the other.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The following are the details of immunisation against diphtheria of school children in school:—

Treatment completed	...	...	...	...	...	888
Undergoing treatment	...	...	...	...	...	30
Received booster injections	...	...	...	...	...	1,127

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS

At the Central School Clinic, 3, Conway Street, a service is provided for school children living in the centre of the town who require treatment for their minor ailments.

Children from the north-end of the town are treated at the North Clinic, Park Road West. Children living in the south of Birkenhead are dealt with at the South Clinic, Bedford Avenue, Rock Ferry.

During the school term all three clinics are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. In the school holiday periods the Central Clinic remains open for the treatment of minor ailments and the carrying out of special examinations. The North and South Clinics are opened as required.

The following table shows in statistical form the activities of the clinics in 1955:—

Clinic	Total Attend-ances	First Attend-ances	New Cases		Re-exams		Defects	
			T	NT	T	NT	T	NT
Central	2648	487	270	79	70	24	273	85
North	296	114	24	3	—	—	24	3
South	435	143	40	13	12	6	48	14
TOTALS	3379	744	334	95	82	30	345	102

DEFECTIVE VISION

During the year, Dr. A. M. Williams, Senior School Medical Officer, continued to carry out refractions and prescriptions of spectacles by arrangement with the Local Executive Council. Dr. Williams is an approved Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner.

Three sessions were held weekly at the Eye Clinic. Two sessions dealt with new patients and one session was devoted to re-examinations. By this arrangement it has been possible to reduce to a minimum any waiting.

As in previous years, parents and children continue to co-operate admirably.

There has been no decline in the work of this Clinic. The usual incidence of low myopia in the 10 - 11 year old group was prevalent. There is no indication that the numbers of young children with squints are increasing.

Particulars of school children dealt with at the Eye Clinic during 1955 are as follows:—

	New Cases	Re-Examinations	Total
Cases examined	467	1,202	1,669
Glasses prescribed for ...	211	483	694
Authorisation for repair or replacement	91	563	654

EYE OPERATIONS

18 children were reported to have received operative treatment at local hospitals for eye conditions including squint.

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CLASS

One pupil from the Partially Sighted Class, Hemingford Street, was examined as a special School Leaver. A certificate for her registration under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, was completed.

EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

Pupils found at routine, special and re-inspections to be suffering from pathological conditions requiring treatment, continue to be referred to their General Practitioners.

From in-patients returns submitted by Birkenhead Hospitals, the following operations are reported to have been performed during 1955:—

	(a) For adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	(b) For other nose and throat conditions	(c) Mastoidec- tomy
St. Catherine's Hospital ...	30	5	1
Children's Hospital	155	21	2
General Hospital	18	3	2
Totals	203	29	5

Although some children still have to wait a long time for operative treatment, a general improvement has taken place in Ear, Nose and Throat waiting lists.

ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

By arrangement with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, treatment of Orthopædic defects are being carried out at the premises of the Birkenhead and Wirral Invalid Children's Association.

325 individual children of school age attended the clinic as new cases during the year for treatment of Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

An analysis of the cases of school age and under school age treated during 1955 is given beneath:—

Disease Categories	New Cases				Re-Exams				Discharged		
	Under 5		Over 5		Under 5		Over 5		Cured	Relieved	Left District
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Congenital Deformities :											
Trunk	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—
Upper Limb	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lower Limb	1	5	1	1	1	2	25	26	—	3	—
Acquired Deformities :											
Flat Foot	21	10	26	24	64	29	214	114	8	71	3
Hallux Valgus	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	9	—	—	—
Postural Kyphosis & Scoliosis	—	—	2	2	—	—	25	13	7	—	—
Knock Knee	17	11	7	2	47	45	19	11	26	1	—
Bow Leg	5	2	—	—	15	1	2	—	3	—	—
Other Conditions	2	—	2	5	11	4	20	20	5	—	—
Affections of Skeleton :											
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Conditions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Nervous System:											
Spastic Paralysis	4	3	6	4	24	10	42	43	—	—	1
Infantile Paralysis	—	—	—	—	5	—	6	8	—	—	—
Peripheral Nerve Lesions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Other Conditions	1	—	—	1	2	3	2	3	2	—	1
Affections of Bones :											
Osteomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other Conditions	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	9	5	—	—
Affections of Joints :											
Tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	—
Non-T.B.	—	3	2	1	—	—	7	6	5	—	—
Affections of Spine :											
Tuberculous	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	3	—	—	—
Non-T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Epiphysis	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	3	3	—	—
Affections of Soft Tissues	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	12	4	—	—
Complications of Trauma	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	59	36	50	48	174	96	380	287	148	6	5

MASSAGE AND REMEDIAL EXERCISES

This was provided by the Invalid Children's Association on the advice of the Orthopædic Surgeon. During the year there were one full-time and two part-time physiotherapists on the Association's Staff.

The number of attendances was 7,014 (compared with 6,356 in 1954) by non-tubercular clinic cases.

In addition, 377 attendances were made by Non-Clinic cases (e.g. those sent by Orthopædic Surgeons of Local Hospitals) as compared with 420 for last year.

CONVALESCENCE AND AFTER CARE TREATMENT

During 1955 the Medical Staff examined 84 children referred for convalescence, and approval for treatment was given in all but one case.

The children recommended were referred from the following sources:—

School Medical Officers	...	...	...	...	22
General Practitioners	...	...	...	...	57
Physicians to Chest Clinic	...	...	...	...	2
Invalid Children's Association	...	...	...	...	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 82 children was met under the Education Act, 1944, 2 children were paid for by the Merseyside Hospital Council (Penny in the Pound Scheme) and the cost of convalescence for a small number of school children was met from the funds of the Association.

ULTRA VIOLET RAY TREATMENT

At the premises of the Invalid Children's Association, a total number of 69 children of school age made 1,546 attendances during the year.

At the North Clinic a total of 19 children of school age made 184 attendances during 1955.

					Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Catarrh	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Debility	...	...	...	...	12	—	7
Rickets	...	...	...	...	3	—	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
					19	—	13
					—	—	—

At the South Clinic a total of 19 children of school age made 248 attendances during the year.

					Improved	Not Improved	Still under treatment at end of year.
Debility	...	...	...	...	6	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	—	2
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Catarrh	...	...	...	...	7	—	3
					19	2	7
					—	—	—

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

During the year 18 Physically Handicapped pupils were newly ascertained and registered in the following categories:—

Category (b)	
Partially Sighted	7 pupils
Category (d)	
Partially Deaf	5 pupils
Category (h)	
Physically Handicapped	4 pupils
Category (j)	
Delicate	2 pupils

In addition 23 re-examinations of children registered in previous years were carried out by the School Medical Officers.

SPASTIC PUPILS

The particulars given below relate to the number of Birkenhead children known to be suffering from spastic conditions as at 31st December.

School Children

Attending ordinary schools	25 pupils
„ day special school for educationally sub-normal children	5 pupils
„ boarding special school for physically handicapped children	3 pupils
At home not receiving education	5 pupils
Receiving home tuition	2 pupils
At hospital special schools	3 pupils
	43 pupils

Pre-school Children

At home not receiving education	3 pupils
Combined total	46 pupils

The Spastic School at Paget House, Shrewsbury Road, was not opened during 1955 owing to various delays, but it was confidently expected to open on 9th January, 1956.

DEAF AND PARTIALLY DEAF PUPILS

The audiometer at the Central School Clinic became unreliable during the year, but an audiometer was installed in the Children's Hospital under the supervision of the E.N.T. Consultant. Full co-operation with the Hospital is maintained and this aid in diagnosis is fully used.

There are no special facilities, e.g. audiology centres for the training of deaf children and their mothers.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN—SUMMARY OF ACCOMMODATION

Category (a) Blind

National Society's Schools for the Blind	3 pupils
Blind Institutions	5 trainees
Catholic Blind School, Liverpool	2 pupils
Henshaws Institute for the Blind, Manchester	1 pupil
At home	1 pupil
Awaiting admission to Boarding Special School	1 pupil

Category (b) Partially Sighted

Sight Saving Class, Birkenhead	15 pupils
Secondary Schools	1 pupil
Awaiting admission to Sight Saving Class	1 pupil

Category (c) Deaf

Liverpool School for the Deaf	10 pupils
Royal Cross School for the Deaf, Preston	1 pupil
St. John's R.C. Institution for the Deaf, Boston Spa ...	3 pupils

Category (d) Partially Deaf

Liverpool School for the Partially Deaf, Southport	4 pupils
Secondary Schools	1 pupil
St. John's R.C. Institution for the Deaf, Boston Spa	1 pupil
Awaiting vacancies at Special Schools	3 pupils

Category (e) Educationally Subnormal

Cloughton Road Day Special School, Birkenhead	113 pupils
Approved Schools	3 pupils
Pontville R.C. School, Ormskirk	3 pupils
Besfort Court School, Dulwich	1 pupil
C. of E. Special School, Dulwich	1 pupil
Petton Hall School, Burlton, Salop	1 pupil
Thingwall Residential School, Liverpool	1 pupil
Children's Convalescent Hospital, Southport	1 pupil
All Soul's Boarding School, Hillington	2 pupils
Independent Schools	5 pupils
Primary Schools	14 pupils
Secondary Schools	21 pupils
Not attending school	3 pupils
Awaiting places Boarding Special Schools	2 pupils
Awaiting places Day Special School	2 pupils
Appeals to Ministry of Education	5 pupils

Category (f) Epileptic

Secondary Schools	2 pupils
Awaiting vacancy Boarding Special School	1 pupil

Category (g) Maladjusted

Primary Schools	7 pupils
Secondary Schools	59 pupils
Independent Schools	2 pupils
Dunsterville Girls' Home, Rochdale	1 pupil
St. George's Home, Essex	1 pupil
Basford Hall, Staffordshire	1 pupil
Awaiting places Boarding Special Schools	2 pupils

Category (h) Physically Handicapped

St. John's Open Air School, Essex	1 pupil
The Margaret Barclay Residential School for Crippled Children, Mobberley, Cheshire	1 pupil
West Kirby Children's Convalescent Home	4 pupils
Greenbank Lane Rest School of Recovery, Liverpool ...	2 pupils

Category (h) Physically Handicapped.—Continued

Home Tuition	1 pupil
Leasowe Hospital School, Wallasey	1 pupil
Secondary Schools	13 pupils
Primary Schools	18 pupils
Awaiting places local Spastic School	6 pupils
Not at School	2 pupils

Category (j) Delicate

Primary Schools	6 pupils
Secondary Schools	8 pupils
West Kirby Children's Convalescent Home	3 pupils
St. John's Open Air School, Essex	1 pupil
Abbots Lea Boarding Special School, Liverpool	1 pupil
Hospital Special Schools	1 pupil

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.

During the calendar year ended 31st December, 1955 how many handicapped pupils —	(1) Blind		(3) Deaf		(5) Delicate		(7) Educa- tionally Sub- Normal		(9) Epileptic	TOTAL (1) - (9)
	(2) Partially Sighted	(4) Partially Deaf	(6) Physi- cally Handi- capped	(8) Mal- adjusted						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A. were <i>newly placed</i> in Special Schools or Boarding Homes ?...	1	8	1	1	2	3	51	5	1	73
B. were <i>newly assessed</i> as needing special educational treatment at Special Schools or in Board- ing Homes ?.....	—	7	—	5	2	4	51	7	—	76
On or about 31st January, 1956 how many handicapped pupils from the Authority's area —										
C. (i) were on the registers of Special Schools as :										
(a) Day Pupils.....	—	15	2	—	—	—	113	—	—	130
(b) Boarding Pupils.....	4	—	12	4	3	5	13	3	—	44
(ii) were on the registers of in- dependent schools under arrangements made by the Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	7
(iii) were boarded in Homes and not already included under (i) or (ii)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL C.	4	15	14	4	3	5	131	5	—	181
D. were educated under arrange- ments made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944 —										
(i) in hospitals.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) in other groups (e.g., units for spastics	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) at home	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
E. were requiring places in special schools —										
(i) TOTAL (a) Day	—	—	—	—	2	9	2	—	—	13
(b) Boarding.....	2	1	—	2	—	—	2	2	1	10
Pupils included in totals above										
(ii) who had not reached the age of 5 :—										
(a) awaiting day place	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) awaiting boarding places.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(iii) who had reached the age of 5 but whose parents had not consented to their ad- mission to a special school:										
(a) awaiting day places.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) awaiting boarding places.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

ANALYSIS OF HOSPITAL TREATMENT (IN-PATIENT)

From returns of in-patient and out-patient treatment submitted during the year by hospitals in the area, the following analysis, shown under 13 groups, gives the number of cases treated.

Localisation of Disease	Children's Hospital	St. Catherine's Hospital	General Hospital	Thing-wall Hospital Barnston	Victoria Central Hospital Wallasey	TOTALS
(1) EYES :						
Operative.....	—	6	12	—	—	18
Non-Operative	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) SKIN	4	5	—	—	—	9
(3) GENITO-URINARY	10	36	—	1	—	47
(4) EARS :						
Operative.....	2	1	2	—	—	5
Non-Operative	—	—	—	—	—	—
(5) NOSE & THROAT :						
Tonsils & Adenoids Ops.	155	30	18	—	—	203
OTHERS :						
Operations	21	5	3	—	—	29
Non-operations	12	25	1	1	1	40
(6) HEART & CIRCULATION.	5	10	2	4	—	21
(7) RESPIRATORY	14	93	—	24	—	131
(8) ALIMENTARY	1	9	—	—	—	10
(9) OPERATIVE SURGICAL ..	64	110	4	—	—	178
(10) CASUALTIES	101	10	4	—	—	115
(11) NERVOUS CONDITIONS ..	5	7	—	3	—	15
(12) ORTHOPAEDIC	55	10	—	—	—	65
(13) GENERAL MEDICAL.....	48	129	1	3	2	183
TOTALS	497	486	47	36	3	1069

HOSPITAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Notifications of admissions and discharges with diagnoses continue to be submitted in respect of children who are in-patients at hospitals that use part of their premises as a special school in accordance with the terms of Section 62 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

SPEECH THERAPY

Mrs. Mary Peel, Speech Therapist, in her report for 1955, again refers to the difficulties of enlisting parental co-operation, especially now that so many families are living in new housing estates which are some distance from the town centre. Speech therapy is provided in the medical room at Bedford Drive Primary School and at the North Clinic.

The acquisition of a Grundig TK5 Tape Recorder has proved invaluable. Many pupils did not realise that they had a speech defect until hearing their voices played back on the recorder.

Group classes for children with stammering difficulties were restarted. Individual treatment was given in other cases. There have been fewer children with cleft palates; these are being treated at an early age at hospitals. Speech defects associated with hearing difficulties were more evident.

The Speech Therapist submitted the following statistical data for the year reviewed:—

Number of children referred by schools	...	...	489
Number of children seen during year	...	...	451
Number of children treated	...	...	115
Number of appointments given	...	...	178
Number of children found on further observation not to require treatment	...	...	21
Number of children discharged	...	...	61
Number of children still attending at end of year	...	...	63

Number attending :

	Dyslalic	Partial Deafness	Stammers	Other Cases
Girls	9	3	3	1
Boys	17	4	21	5

Discharged :

	Dyslalic	Partial Deafness	Stammers	Other Cases
Girls	6	—	2	4
Boys	24	5	5	13

MALADJUSTED CHILDREN

Dr. Pinkerton, the Consultant Psychiatrist for children at St. Catherine's Hospital, has been most helpful in his approach to the problem of maladjusted children. It is most gratifying to obtain such comprehensive and helpful reports upon the children sent to Dr. Pinkerton. This is all the more praiseworthy when the pressure of work is appreciated. During the year 16 children were seen.

EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL CHILDREN

The approved School Medical Officers made recommendations as follows in respect of children thought to be educationally subnormal:—

Total number examined	62
------------------------------	----

Found to be educationally subnormal and—

Recommended to attend Day Special School ...	47
--	----

Recommended to attend Boarding Special Schools	4
--	---

Recommended to remain at Ordinary Schools with special coaching	8
--	---

Decision deferred until child reaches the age of 5 years	1
---	---

Still under consideration	2
----------------------------------	---

31 pupils registered at Claughton Road Day Special School, were ascertained in connection with special school leaving and at routine re-examinations, the results were as follows:—

Special School Leavers—

(a) Reported to the Local Health Authority, Section 57 (5) of the Education Act, 1944 ...	4
---	---

(b) Supervision not required on leaving Claughton Road	8
---	---

Recommended to attend Boarding Special Schools ...	2
--	---

Routine re-examinations	17
--------------------------------	----

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 27. Twenty-three children were dealt with under Sub-Section (3) and four Special School leavers under Sub-Section (5).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

I am indebted to the Director of Education for the following information contained in the Physical Education Organiser's report for 1955:—

The staffs and children are beginning to benefit from the improved facilities provided in those schools recently built and provided with adequate modern Physical Education equipment. This is particularly noticeable on the new housing estate at Woodchurch, and at the Technical College where facilities are very good. In certain of our older premises

it has not been possible to provide them with sufficient modern equipment to make a reasonable comparison with the new schools. Nevertheless, certain of the Birkenhead Infants' Schools are feeling the benefit of the assistance of the Education Committee in providing them with types of major Physical Education equipment of modern design. Work of greater variety and interest has thereby been made possible for children at this impressionable age.

In the main, reports from Her Majesty's Inspectors have been favourable and re-assuring during the year. Some specialist teachers of Physical Education in our Secondary Schools are feeling the need of a modern syllabus or scheme of work comparable with the most excellent publication for Primary Schools, "PLANNING THE PROGRAMME." It becomes increasingly difficult to develop a standardised scheme of modern teaching methods in our Secondary Schools when the types of work in our Women's and Men's Colleges of Physical Education vary so much. It is at this time that one feels the need of a woman colleague to develop the work in the Girls' Secondary and Infants' Schools. However, during the year it has been possible for the Organiser of Physical Education to arrange another Physical Education Course in AGILITY WORK for the men teachers in Birkenhead, and a most happy time was spent with about thirty representatives from the teaching staffs of twenty of our schools.

Further use has again been made of the Northern Counties Coach of the Amateur Athletics Association, Mr. D. C. V. Watts, who continues to register excellent service in our schools during his visits. In the main, his activities are confined to the Boys' Secondary Schools, although certain of his influences are being felt in the Girls' Secondary Schools.

Mr. Noel Kelly, F.A. Coach and former Irish International, is carrying on the work of his predecessor, Mr. W. Cook, now in the Middle East, and Mr. J. Carrington is continuing to coach Table Tennis with our Youth Clubs.

It is with pleasure that I place on record the help given to the Birkenhead Boys' Club by the Birkenhead Education Committee and the Ministry of Education in providing substantial grants towards the building costs of the proposed new gymnasium.

In sport, further successes by Birkenhead Scholars and Youths have been gained. Rimmer, of Park High School, has gained a place in the English Schoolboys Side versus The Rest of England in the Final Association Football Trial, and Birkenhead Youth has a representative in the England Junior Badminton Side. The usual representatives in County sides at Athletics, Swimming, Boxing, Football and Netball have been educated in our Birkenhead schools and arrangements are in hand to welcome a visiting team from Australia in the latter sport.

Once again, at the time of writing, the Birkenhead Schoolboys Association Football XI is to be congratulated upon reaching the semi-final of the Welsh Shield with Wrexham, Cardiff and Swansea still in the competition.

During the year a new changing pavilion is being built at Valley Road and schools in the North-End of the town will benefit. Although there has been a temporary delay with the further development of our Education Committee playing fields, it is hoped that progress will continue as more funds become available. In the ensuing growing

season it is felt that full use will be made of the new staff and equipment of the Supervisor of Playing Fields.

Under the Chairmanship of Alderman F. Garstang, M.A., Chairman of the Education Committee, the M.C.C. Coaching Scheme continues to develop in the area. The Organiser of Physical Education continues to act as Joint Secretary of this body along with Mr. Allen, the Cheshire County Cricketer, and has continued to serve on the National Committees of the A.A.A. Advisory Council for Schools; The British Association of Organisers and Lecturers in Physical Education with the Amateur Boxing Association; and the British Association of Organisers and Lecturers in Physical Education with the A.A.A.

Improvements in the conditions of Flat Foot and Kyphosis have been noticed of recent years since the introduction of set remedial exercises as part of the daily teaching of Physical Education in our schools. It is now nine years since the type of work was introduced in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and the Orthopaedic Specialist, and the benefits to be gained particularly by children in the younger age groups by steady daily exercises are truly remarkable. Teachers in our schools carrying out this work are to be congratulated upon the results now being achieved and I wish to express my personal word of appreciation to the Education Committee, Officers, Headteachers and Staffs of schools for their very ready help in this branch of education.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER TO THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1955

The shortage of full-time dental officers in the school dental service continues to delay the full development of the service in Birkenhead. While this adverse state of affairs persists, as it does throughout the country, the provision of comprehensive dental treatment for all school children remains remote. The continued assistance by part-time dental officers is appreciated, and the sessions worked amount to the equivalent of slightly less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ full-time dental officers, showing a slight decrease in the number of sessions worked as compared with 1954.

The Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and School Health Service Regulations emphasise how essential it is to build up the School Dental Service, and the reasons underlying the Government policy are made clear by the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Education in his report on the Health of the School Child, 1953. He states: "A dental service closely associated with the educational system is the most effective arrangement for ensuring that the maximum number of school children obtain regular dental treatment, though individual children may seek such treatment if their parents so desire, from a dentist working in the general dental service."

Treatment by dental extractions for the relief of pain has continued to make a great demand on our time. There has, however, been a further decrease in the number of casual attendances during the year. Similar reductions were noted during the two previous years. Our policy continues to be directed towards giving parents and children a better understanding of the importance of maintaining sound natural teeth.

The annual report to the Ministry of Education is shown on another page. Under the heading, "Other Operations," are included:—

A. Local anaesthetics	651
B. Dressings	1,343
C. Scalings	517
D. Radiographs	112
E. Dentures	26
F. Orthodontic appliances	32
Total	2,681

The Ministry of Education have now revised this form so that the report for 1956 will include a section devoted to orthodontic treatment. A certain amount of this treatment has been carried out during the year, but the more complex cases are undertaken by a Specialist Orthodontist. Recommendations from the Ministry to local authorities regarding orthodontic treatment state that Specialist Orthodontists may be made available to the school dental service by the Regional Hospital Boards.

The scheme providing dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age commenced in February. So far, the small number being referred from Ante Natal Clinics has not justified the setting aside of one whole session per week. Arrangements have, therefore, been made to examine mothers on a certain session in the week, by appointment. Special arrangements are made to deal with urgent cases. Attendances of pre-school children can be arranged during sessions for school children. The early attendance for examination of expectant mothers is desirable, so that any necessary treatment can be carried out during the months most favourable to such treatment. The delay of first attendances at ante natal clinics would of course delay the dental examination. In certain of these cases it is therefore advisable to restrict treatment to that of an emergency nature until after the confinement.

As on previous occasions, I would like to express my keen appreciation for all services contributing to the successful functioning of the school dental service.

F. G. SUTCLIFFE

(Principal School Dental Officer)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

TABLE I

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
(INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)**

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	2,442
Second Age Group	969
Third Age Group	1,630
Total	5,041
Number of other Periodic Inspections	2,646
Grand Total	7,687

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	1,313
Number of Re-inspections	1,697
Total	3,010

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	6	297	288
Second Age Group	79	172	146
Third Age Group	120	76	191
Total (prescribed groups) ...	205	445	625
Other Periodic Inspections ...	132	251	322
Grand Total	337	696	947

TABLE II

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN
THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease (1)	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
		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	Skin	46	140	96	7
5	Eyes—a. Vision ...	337	325	5	4
	b. Squint ...	56	109	1	1
	c. Other ...	33	49	17	5
6	Ears—a. Hearing ...	13	30	—	2
	b. Otitis Media	40	91	2	3
	c. Other ...	15	62	13	6
7	Nose or Throat ...	154	520	7	7
8	Speech	11	38	3	13
9	Cervical Glands ...	8	165	—	1
10	Heart and Circulation	22	151	2	10
11	Lungs—T.B. & N.T.B.	26	369	21	18
12	Developmental—				
	a. Hernia ...	11	8	—	—
	b. Other ...	13	28	4	9
13	Orthopaedic—				
	a. Posture ...	5	69	—	—
	b. Flat Foot	56	221	—	—
	c. Other Non-Pul. T.B.	32	194	1	10
14	Nervous System—				
	a. Epilepsy ...	2	6	1	4
	b. Other ...	5	40	2	2
15	Psychological—				
	a. Develop- ment	5	12	1	—
	b. Stability ...	2	49	—	3
16	Other	119	409	196	52
		1,011	3,085	372	157

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

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Ins- pected	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	2442	1277	52.29	1068	43.73	97	3.97
Second Age Group	969	466	48.09	472	48.71	31	3.20
Third Age Group	1630	942	57.79	669	41.04	19	1.16
Other Period Inspections ..	2646	1560	58.96	1042	39.38	44	1.67
TOTAL	7687	4245	55.22	3251	42.29	191	2.48

TABLE III

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	65,539
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	1,581
(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)	—

TABLE IV
TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III)						Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
						By the Authority	Otherwise
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
(ii) Body	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	...	...	79	8
Total	...	...	...	...	...	96	9

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	...	...	...	...	...	16	7
Errors of refraction (including squint)	...	...	...	...	...	840*	11
Total	...	...	...	...	...	856	18
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were							
(a) Prescribed	...	...	...	...	...	694*	—
(b) Obtained	...	...	...	...	...	—*	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	694	—

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	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsilitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	203
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	...	...	...	...	...	—	29
Received other forms of treatment	...	...	...	...	...	4	40
Total	...	...	...	...	...	4	277

* 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	65	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient department	1	325

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
	—	2

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
	115	—

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	193	—
(b) Other (specified)		
1. Heart and Circulatory	—	21
2. Respiratory	8	131
3. Ailmentary	—	10
4. Genito-Urinary	—	47
5. Nervous	1	25
6. Surgical	—	197
7. Casualties	—	115
8. General Medical	—	183
Total	202	729

TABLE V

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY
THE AUTHORITY

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—		
(a) Periodic		10,499
(b) Specials		1,206
Total (1)		11,705
(2) Number found to require treatment		7,828
(3) Number referred for treatment		7,828
(4) Number actually treated		3,337
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment		9,299
(6) Half-days devoted to : Inspection		95
Treatment		1,448
Total (6)		1,543
(7) Fillings : Permanent Teeth		3,725
Temporary Teeth		20
Total (7)		3,745
(8) Number of teeth filled : Permanent Teeth		3,528
Temporary Teeth		20
Total (8)		3,548
(9) Extractions : Permanent Teeth		2,273
Temporary Teeth		4,808
Total (9)		7,081
(10) Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction		2,515
(11) Other operations : Permanent Teeth		2,027
Temporary Teeth		654
Total (11)		2,681