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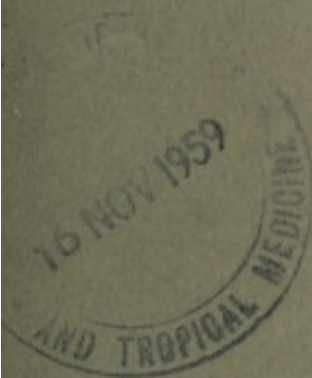
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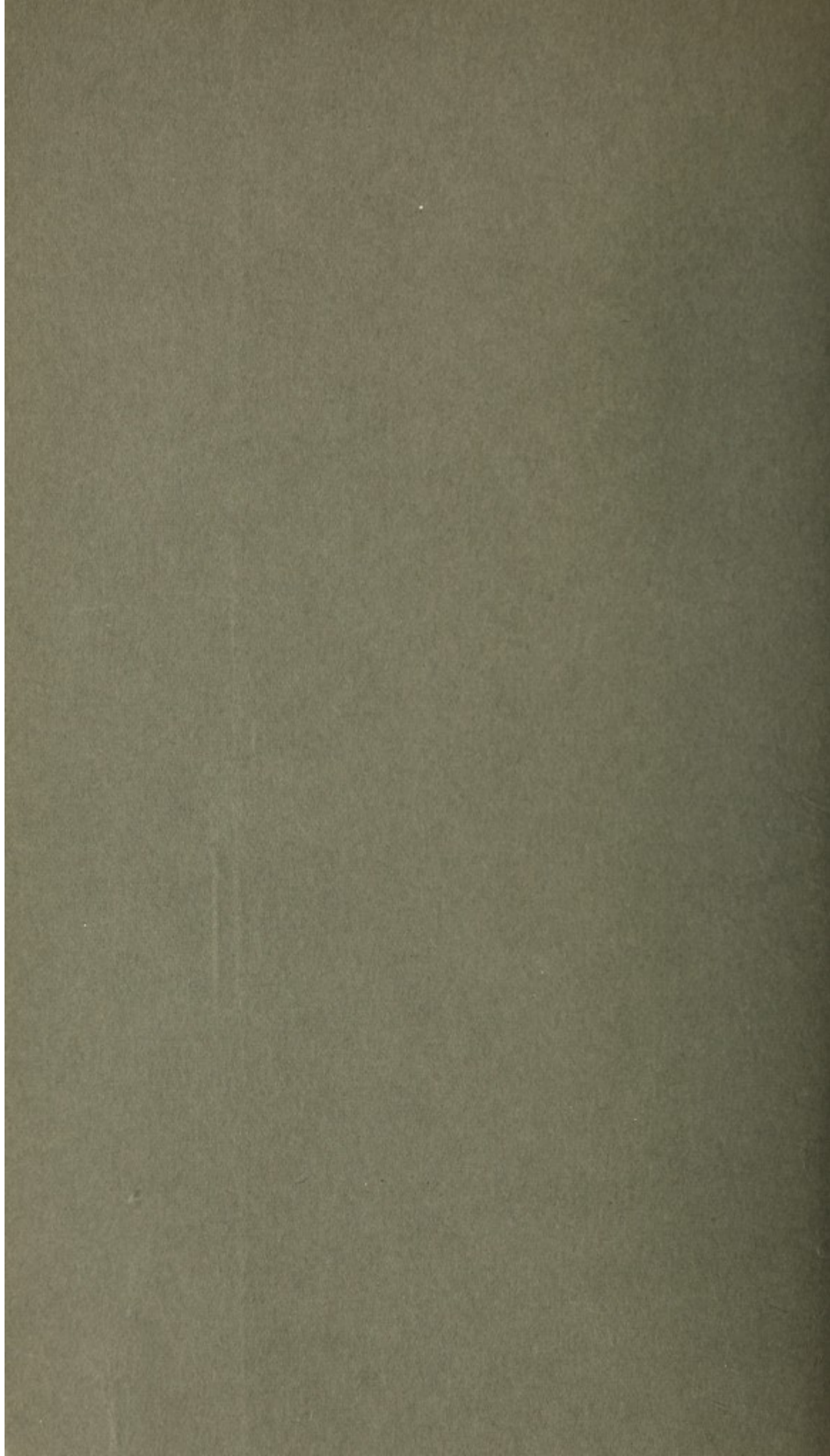
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
1958

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



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BIRKENHEAD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

His Worship The Mayor:

(ALDERMAN R.N. MELVILLE, J.P.)

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. GARDNER

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. A. CROMBLEHOLME

Aldermen:

MRS. E.F. GARDNER

J. MILLER

J. OATES

(Ex-officio Chairman of Finance Committee)

H. PLATT J.P.

(Ex-officio Chairman of General Purposes Committee)

H.D. SHAKESHAFT

MRS. E. WARD (Died 4.6.58)

Councillors:

A.N. DEAN

J. NICKSON

D.T.G. EVANS

E.J. PARNALL (Appointed
22.10.58)

S.V. GALLARD

R. PILKINGTON

MISS B. JACKSON

Non-Council Members:

MRS. A. CAPPER

MRS. M. MUIR

MRS. R. GILL

DR. R.W.L. PEARSON

DR. D.O. HUGHES

MRS. E. VENABLES

INDEX

Administrative Staff	v	Estimated Population	1
After-Care Cases	38	Export of Meat Products	61
Air Pollution	46, 47, 48, 49	Factories Acts -	
Ambulance Service	31, 32, 33	Action under	52, 53, 57
Animal Feeding Meat -		Food Complaints	59
Registrations	62	Food & Drugs Act -	
Ante-natal Clinics	19	Examination & Analysis	54, 55
Ante-natal Relaxation Classes	19	Food Hygiene	55
Area of Borough	1	Food Poisoning	11
Attendances at Clinics	19, 21	Food, Unsound	59
Bacteriological exam. of		Food Premises,	
other Foods	55, 58, 61	inspection of	55, 56, 57
Barbers and Hairdressers	52	Gas and Air Analgesia	25
B.C.G. Vaccination	36	General Rate	1
Birkenhead Maternity Hospital	25	General Statistics	1
Birkenhead & Wirral Moral			
Welfare Association	23	Hairdressers	52
Birkenhead Mothers' Welfare		Health Committee	ii
Clinic	23	Health Visiting	25, 34
Births	1	Home Nursing	26, 27, 28
Birth Rates	1	Home Safety	14
Blindness - Incidence of	16, 17	Hospital Admissions	38
Board of Control		Housing & Environmental	
Circular 999	38	Hygiene	41
Cancer Education	14	Houses, number of	1
Caravans	51	inspection and repair	42
Care & After-Care Committee	33	legal proceedings	43
Care of Mothers & Young		unfit for human	
Children	19	habitation	43
Central Office Accommodation	15	work in default of	
Chemical Analysis of Milk	54	owners	43
Clearance Areas	44, 45	Demolition & Closing	
Clean Air Act, 1956	42, 46, 47, 48, 49	Orders	43, 44
Clinic Duties	26	Applications for	
Common Lodging Houses	46	Certificates of	
Co-ordinating Committee	14	Disrepair	46
Convalescent Treatment	23	Applications for	
Cremation	14	Cancellation of	
		Certificates	46
Day Nurseries	22		
Deaths	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Ice Cream	54, 55
Death Rates	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Illegitimate Births	1
Death - Main Causes	5, 6, 7	Illegitimacy and Mortality	1
Dental Treatment	22	Immunisation - Diphtheria	28
Diphtheria Immunisation	28, 29	- Whooping Cough	29, 30
Diseases of Animals Acts	62	Imported Meat	61
Diseases of Animals Acts		Independent Midwives	25
(Waste Food) Order	62	Infant Mortality	1, 2
Disinfection	50	Infant Welfare Centres	20, 21
District Midwifery Training	25	Infectious Diseases	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Domestic Help Service	36, 37		9, 10, 11
Dwelling Houses, inspection		Insect Pests	50
and repair	42	Inspection of Midwives	24
Dwelling Houses, unfit for		Introductory Letter	vi
human habitation	43		
Emergency Slaughter -		Live Births	1
Tranmere Abattoir	61	Local Authority Services	
Epileptics	16, 17	for the Chronic Sick	
		and Infirm	15

INDEX (Continued)

Lunacy & Mental Treatment Acts 1890-1930	38	St. Elizabeth's Convent	23
Maternal Mortality	1, 3, 23	St. Mary's Churchyard	15
Meat Inspection	60, 61, 62	Shops Act, 1950	58
Medical Examinations	14	Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954 - Licences	61
Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938	39	Slum Clearance Areas	43, 44
Mental Treatment Act, 1930	38	Smallpox Vaccinations	30, 31
Mental Health Services	38, 39, 40	Smoke Abatement	46, 47, 48, 49
Midwifery Establishment	25	Spastics & Epileptics	17, 18
Midwives' Service	24, 25	Staff	v
Milk, Examination	54	Still Births	1
Milk Supply	53, 54	Statistics, general	1
Mortality, Infant	1, 2	Statistical Tables -	
Mothercraft Classes	19	Birth Rates	1
National Assistance Act, 1948	40	Blind & Partially Sighted Persons	17
National Health Service Act, 1946: Schemes	18/40	Causes of death at different periods of life	5, 6
Neonatal Mortality Rate	1	Day Nursery Attendances	22
Noise Nuisances	50, 51	Death Rates	2, 3, 4
Notification of Births	1	Dental Treatment	22
Notifications of Infectious Disease	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Factories Acts 1937/48	52, 53, 57
Number of Cases attended by Midwives	24	Housing - Certificates of Disrepair	46
Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948	22	Defects remedied	42, 43
Nursing Homes Registration	22	Immunisation	28
Occupation Centre (M.D.)	40	Infectious Diseases	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Occupational Therapy	34	Infant Clinic Attendances	21
Offensive Trades	52	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	17, 25
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	17, 25	Meat Inspection - Animals Slaughtered	60, 61
Penny Rate - product of	1	Tuberculosis	12, 13
Persons per acre	1	Tuberculosis Contacts	35
Pests - extermination	49	Tuberculosis primary notifications	13
Pet Animals Act, 1951	62	Vital Statistics	1
Pethidine	25	Supervisor of Midwives	24
Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933	51	Swine Fever Order, 1938	62
Pig-keeping	50	Theatres, Music Halls & Cinemas	51
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	30	Thingwall Clinic	20
Population	1	Tuberculosis, notifications	12, 13
Premature Infants, care of	23	Unmarried mothers, care of	23
Prenton Clinic	20	Unsound Food	59
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	33, 34, 35, 36	Upton Clinic	20
Problem Families	14	Vaccination Scheme	28
Psychiatric Clinic	37	Verminous Persons - Disinfestation	50
Pupil Midwives District Training	25	Visiting in the Home	26
Rag Flock, etc. Act, 1951	51, 52	Visiting to T.B. Cases	26
Rateable Value	1	Vital Statistics	1
Rats, mice, Extermination of	49	Voluntary Agencies	23
Register of Barbers & Hairdressers	52	Water Supply	40, 41
Rehabilitation (T/B Cases)	34	Welfare Foods, distribution of	23
Rent Act, 1957	45	Whooping Cough - Immunisation	28, 30
		Woodchurch Clinic	20
		Woodside Lairage	61

STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

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

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. H. WILDE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1.8.1958)

SENIOR ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER

ANNA M. WILLIAMS, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(Died 15.5.1958)

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS

Anne D. Micah, M.B., CH.B., D.OBST.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.,
(Appointed 1.10.1958)

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.

VETERINARY OFFICER

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

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND INSPECTOR UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

M. Holgate, M.R.S.H.

SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR

Miss C.M. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.C.

LAY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

J.H.H. Shell, D.P.A.

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit this report upon the health of the inhabitants in Birkenhead in 1958. The occurrence of smallpox in the neighbouring Borough of Bebington placed a burden upon the Health Department - a burden cheerfully shouldered and with the desired result that no case occurred in Birkenhead. Details will be found in the report.

The untimely death of Dr. A.M. Williams in the Spring of the year was a loss to the Health Department. Dr. Williams had served in the Department for upwards of twenty-five years. She was popular with the staff and with all those with whom she came in contact professionally.

Following her death, Dr. A.H. Wilde was promoted Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. A.D. Micah joined the staff in October.

Fortunately, the Chief Public Health Inspector thanks to the Trainee Scheme has had sufficient staff to carry out his duties. The Meat Inspection Staff too has been strengthened.

The interest and enthusiasm shown by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee continue to be an inspiration to the staff.

I am glad of the opportunity to acknowledge this, and to say how much also I appreciate the continued co-operation of all Chief Officers and Heads of Departments.

Without the continued support and ungrudging work of the staff of the Health Department, little could be accomplished in the efforts for positive health in the community. This support I have had in full measure.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. LOBBAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

9, Hamilton Square,
Birkenhead.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough	8,588 acres or 13.4 square miles
Estimated population (mid-1958)	142,600
Density of population	16.5 persons per acre
Number of houses in Borough (at 1.4.58)	37,914
Estimated product of a penny rate	£5,930
General rate	17/7d. in the £

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births.

There were 2621 live births representing a birth rate of 17.8 per 1,000 population compared with the National figure of 16.4.

Still Births.

90 still births were registered representing 33.2 per 1,000 total live and still births.

The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 21.6.

The total live and still births numbered 2711.

Infant Deaths.

There were 77 deaths under 1 year of age representing 29.3 per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate.

There were 75 deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age, representing 29.9 per 1000 legitimate live births.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate.

There were 2 deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age, representing 17.3 per 1000 illegitimate live births.

Neonatal Mortality Rate.

The number of deaths of infants in the first four weeks of life was 45, representing 17.2 per 1000 live births.

Legitimacy.

114 illegitimate births occurred, representing 4.3 per cent of total live births.

Maternal Death.

There was one maternal death during the year. This represents a maternal mortality rate of 0.36 per 1000 total live and still births. The comparable national figure is 0.43.

Deaths.

1758 deaths occurred during the year, representing a death rate of 13.3 per 1000 population; the comparable figure for England and Wales was 11.7.

Rate per 1000 Population

1949	...	...	...	12.3
1950	...	...	...	12.4
1951	...	...	...	14.2
1952	...	...	...	12.6
1953	...	...	...	11.8
1954	...	...	...	12.7
1955	...	...	...	13.3
1956	...	...	...	12.8
1957	...	...	...	12.7
1958	...	...	...	13.3

Sex Distribution of Deaths.

889 males and 869 females died during the year.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate of 29.3 while showing a reduction compared with 31.6 in 1957, is still higher than the national average of 22.5.

Rate per 1000 Live Births

		Birkenhead	England & Wales
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
1956	...	33.4	23.8
1957	...	31.6	23
1958	...	29.3	22.5

The deaths of infants under four weeks of age numbered 45 or 17.2 per 1,000 live births.

This represents in Birkenhead 58 per cent of the total infant deaths.

When the perinatal mortality is considered (still births and infant deaths up to 1 week), the figure for Birkenhead is 138 or 50.8 per 1,000 total births.

The causes of death in the 77 infant deaths under 1 year of age were as follows :-

Congenital Malformations	...	...	16
Pneumonia	...	...	9
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	...	...	6
Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	3
Nephritis	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	40
			<hr/> 77

It is disappointing to note that once again six children under the age of one have died from accidents. Constant education in the matter of home accidents is undertaken by Health Visitors. It is hoped that the establishment of a Home Safety Committee will ensure that the importance of avoiding accidents in the home is appreciated by all householders in the Borough.

Maternal Death.

There was one maternal death during the year representing a mortality rate of 0.38 per 1,000 total births compared with the National figure of 0.43. This death followed an attempt by the deceased to procure abortion on herself.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Once again a reduction in the number of deaths due to all forms of tuberculosis has been welcomed.

	(1957)	Rate per 1,000 Population	England and Wales
Respiratory	17 (19)	0.12	0.089
Non-Respiratory	1 (2)	0.007	0.011
Total	<hr/> 18 (21)		

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung.

A fifty per cent increase in deaths from cancer of the lung has been noted. The total number of deaths due to this cause is 90, compared with 60 in 1957.

The rate per 1,000 population is 0.63, compared with the National figure of 0.439.

Again, the great majority of the deaths occurred in males. The sex and age distribution can be seen in the tables of deaths later in the report.

Recent annual figures are 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
1956	48	8	56
1957	53	7	60
1958	79	11	90

Deaths from Cancer of Other Sites.

These deaths numbered 250, representing 1.75 per 1,000 population.

Heart Disease.

Heart disease accounted for 527 deaths and is still the greatest single cause of death in the population, representing twenty nine per cent of total deaths.

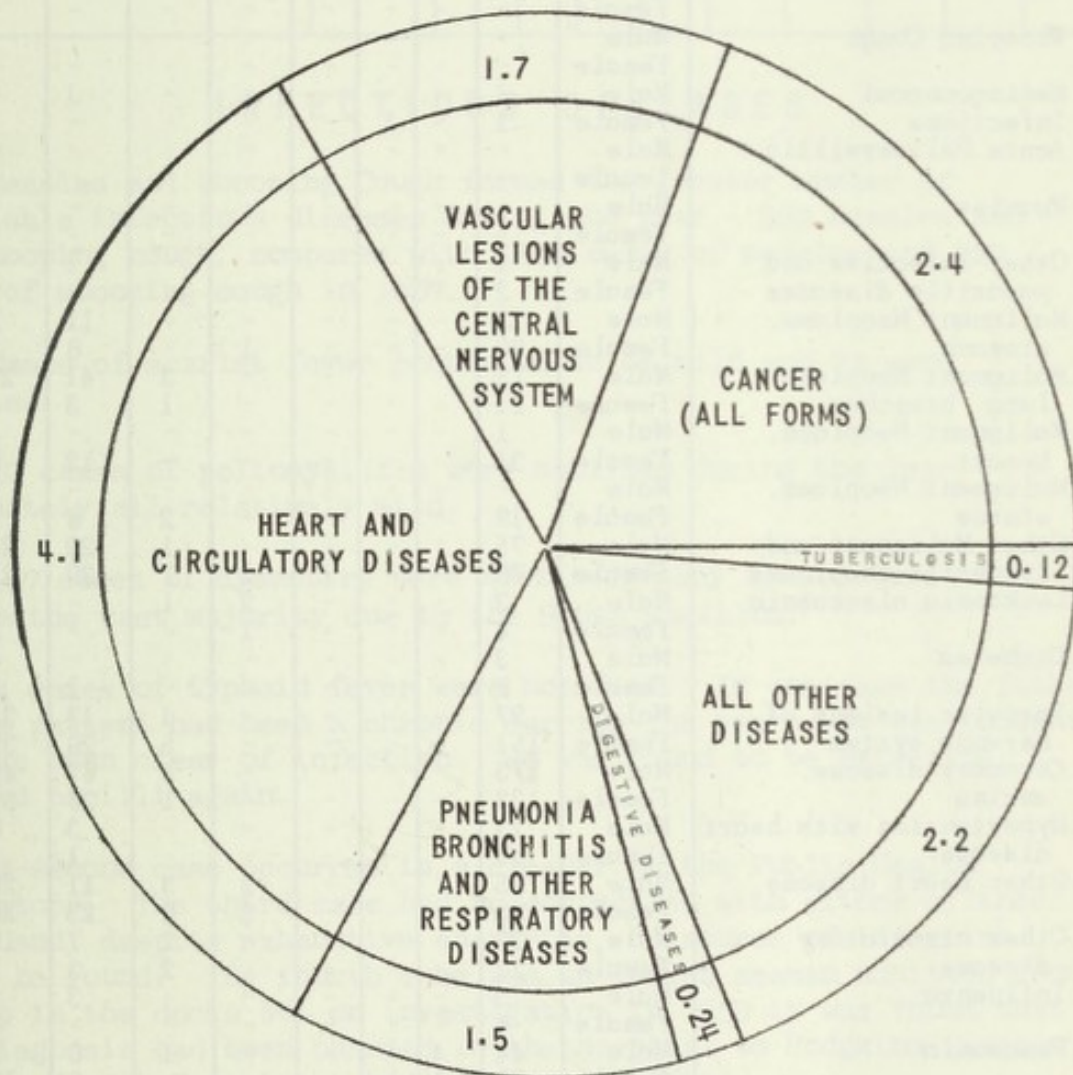
Deaths from Infectious Diseases.

It is gratifying to report that no death occurred during the year from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles or acute poliomyelitis.

The following are details of the deaths due to infectious disease :-

Syphilitic disease	3
Meningococcal Infections	2
Other infective conditions	2
Pneumonia	94
Influenza	9
	<hr/>
	110

Main Death Rates per 1,000 of the Population 1958



CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE - 1958.

(As compiled by the Registrar-General)

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All causes	Male	889	44	5	1	12	37	266	252	272
	Female	869	33	3	4	9	34	164	196	426
1. Tuberculosis respiratory	Male	14	-	-	-	-	1	8	3	2
	Female	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	Male	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Female	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Female	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	Male	23	-	-	-	-	-	11	7	5
	Female	20	-	-	-	1	-	6	5	8
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	Male	79	-	-	-	-	3	41	27	8
	Female	11	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	Male	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	Female	34	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	9
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	19	-	-	-	-	2	8	4	5
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	Male	75	-	-	-	-	1	22	25	27
	Female	78	-	-	1	2	7	20	21	27
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	Male	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
	Female	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
16. Diabetes	Male	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	Female	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	Male	97	-	-	-	-	1	17	39	40
	Female	151	-	-	-	-	5	26	39	81
18. Coronary disease, angina	Male	173	-	-	-	-	5	67	48	53
	Female	122	-	-	-	-	1	28	32	61
19. Hypertension with heart disease	Male	13	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4
	Female	19	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	13
20. Other heart disease	Male	65	-	-	-	2	3	11	20	29
	Female	135	-	-	-	2	2	23	26	82
21. Other circulatory disease	Male	33	-	-	-	-	2	7	10	14
	Female	22	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	16
22. Influenza	Male	5	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-
	Female	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
23. Pneumonia	Male	44	4	-	-	-	1	6	7	26
	Female	50	5	1	-	-	-	6	11	27
24. Bronchitis	Male	83	1	-	-	2	-	33	23	24
	Female	27	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	15
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	Male	10	1	-	-	-	1	3	3	2
	Female	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	Male	11	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	3
	Female	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	Male	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
	Female	11	3	-	-	-	1	1	3	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	Male	8	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	2
	Female	8	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	Male	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	7
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
	Male	889	44	5	1	12	37	266	252	272
	Female	869	33	3	4	9	34	164	196	426
31. Congenital malformations	Male	13	8	4	-	-	-	1	-	-
	Female	12	8	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	Male	70	27	1	-	-	3	12	10	17
	Female	91	13	1	1	-	5	11	11	49
33. Motor vehicle accidents	Male	13	-	-	1	3	6	2	1	-
	Female	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
34. All other accidents	Male	19	3	-	-	2	6	4	-	4
	Female	19	3	-	-	1	-	1	2	12
35. Suicide	Male	10	-	-	-	-	2	5	3	-
	Female	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles and Whooping Cough formed the greater number of notifiable infectious diseases during the year - 882 measles and 320 whooping cough, compared with 1834 cases of measles and 329 cases of whooping cough in 1957.

Cases of scarlet fever continued to be mild and 74 were notified.

10 cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, fortunately all relatively mild.

157 cases of dysentery were notified, many symptomless and in the vast majority due to the Sonne Bacillus.

4 cases of typhoid fever were notified. In one case the father of the patient had been a chronic carrier for years but was thought to have been clear of infection. He was found to be excreting typhoid bacilli again.

A second case occurred in a cleaner in the Public Health Laboratory. The third case had no connection with either of these cases and, despite exhaustive enquiries, no source of infection could be found. The fourth case was an Indian seaman admitted from a ship in the docks but on investigation in 1959 it was found that the diagnosis had been changed in the hospital to Hodgkins Disease but the Health Department had not been notified.

Smallpox.

Following the appearance of smallpox in the neighbouring borough of Bebington, the Health Department was kept exceedingly busy in May following up the 109 contacts living in Birkenhead. Close co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health of Bebington ensured that no possible contact was left unvisited.

Contacts and members of the general public were vaccinated, and general practitioners played a not inconsiderable part in the large number of vaccinations performed. The Medical Officer of Health saw a contact of one of the Bebington cases one evening with the General Practitioner. Following consultation with a Smallpox Consultant it was decided to admit the case to hospital as a suspect smallpox. Fortunately the diagnosis was not confirmed.

No case occurred in the contacts supervised in the Borough and it is gratifying to all the Health Staffs concerned on Merseyside that the outbreak was confined and did not spread as indeed it might well have done.

Details of the actual vaccinations performed will be seen in the section of this report on Vaccination and Immunisation.

	Meningo-coccal Infection		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Whooping Cough		Dysentery	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Paralytic	Non-Paralytic	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified	7	6	36	38	2	4			10	2			174	152	92	74
Final numbers after correction																
Age under 1 year ...	1	1	-	-	-	-			1	-			22	12	9	7
Age 1 - ...	-	1	1	-	-	-			2	-			22	17	9	3
Age 2 - ...	-	-	4	2	-	-			2	-			23	15	8	4
Age 3 - ...	-	1	4	5	-	-			-	-			20	23	10	7
Age 4 - ...	-	-	8	5	-	-			1	-			29	24	5	2
Age 5 - 9 years ...	2	1	16	19	-	-			-	1			50	52	25	19
Age 10-14 years ...	-	-	3	6	-	-			2	-			5	3	9	4
Age 15-24 years ...	-	-	-	1	-	-			-	1			1	2	4	4
Age 25 years and over ...	2	-	-	-	-	-			-	-			-	-	12	16
Totals ...	5	4	36	38	-	-			8	2			148	148	91	66

	Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Malaria		Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Small Pox		Puerperal Pyrexia		Acute Encephalitis			Food Poisoning		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Post-Infectious	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number originally notified	71	62	3	1	2	-	-	-	4	9	-	1	85	-	-	-	-	161	180	-	-
Final numbers after correction Under 5 years	20	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Age 5 - 14 years	4	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Age 15- 44 years	19	14	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	85	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Age 45- 64 years	13	14	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age 65 and over	15	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	71	61	2	1	2	-	-	-	3	9	-	-	85	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	-

Suspected Food Poisoning Cases and Infectious Disease Cases Associated with Food and/or Drink.

341 cases of suspected food poisoning and 161 cases of dysentery were notified during the year. Investigations involved 494 visits to patient's houses and the submission of 852 specimens for bacteriological examination.

Remnants of food suspected to have caused food poisoning are rarely available for examination and in only 2 cases was it possible to submit such samples for examination.

The causal agent was confirmed in the following cases:-

Shigella sonnei	104 cases
Salmonella typhi	3 cases
Salmonella manchester	2 cases
Salmonella typhimurium	6 cases
Staphylococcus aureus	1 case

The cases of Shigella sonnei all occurred in isolated outbreaks, at different times.

Two of the typhoid cases originated from a person who had been a carrier for a number of years, while the other was an isolated case which had no connection with the others and no source of infection could be found.

Two of the cases of Salmonella typhimurium occurred in the same family and probably originated after a holiday in Wales. The remainder were individual cases and had no connection with each other.

The case of Staphylococcal poisoning occurred during a warm spell of weather, after eating baked herring. This had been prepared in the North East of the country and may have been contaminated anywhere during transport or marketing.

When visits are made to the houses of affected families, advantage is taken of the opportunity afforded to give advice on the need for personal hygiene and the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection.

During the year approximately 1,600 samples of various kinds have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, whose director, J. Morrison Ritchie, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., and staff have continued to give every help in the investigations.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications.

The Total number of cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 114. This number shows an increase of 1 from that of 1957.

Mortality.

The total number of deaths certified as due to tuberculosis was as follows :-

Respiratory	17
Non-Respiratory	1
	<u>18</u>

A decrease of 3 on the figure for 1957.

Tuberculosis Register.

At the 31st December, 1958, the Register (including transfers into the Borough) showed a decrease of 20 compared with 31st December, 1957, and was as follows :-

	Adults	Children (Under 15 years)	Total
Respiratory - Male	744	64	808
- Female	586	61	647
Non-Respiratory - Male	25	48	73
- Female	45	37	82
Totals - Male	769	112	881
- Female	631	98	729
TOTAL:-	1400	210	1,610

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Cremation.

The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Referee to the Landican Crematorium. During the year, 1838 cremations took place, compared with 1724 cremations in 1957.

Medical Examinations.

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

	Total
Fit for Corporation Service (including 52 for School Meals Service and 6 for Police Service)	479
Fit for admission to Superannuation Scheme	249
Recommended for premature Superannuation	12
Special Reports	50
Examined for driving Public Service Vehicles	11
Examined for traces of Tar Workers Cancer	4
Examined for traces of Gravediggers Silicosis	-
Deferred for re-examination	64
Unfit	11
	<u>880</u>

The following examinations on behalf of the local Education Authority were conducted during the year:

Candidates for admission to Teachers Training Colleges	28
Candidates for employment as Teachers	34
	<u>62</u>

Cancer Education.

Following an inaugural meeting of representatives of Local Health Authorities on Merseyside, a Working Committee was established to formulate a scheme for the region as a whole. It is anticipated that proposals will be developed during the course of 1959.

Co-ordinating Committee - Problem Families.

This Committee has met during the year and has completed a review of all problem families, or likely problem families, in the Borough.

Home Safety.

Following the establishment of a Home Safety Committee an Exhibition was held in the Autumn of 1958 featuring "Guard that Fire". The Exhibition was staged in the Central Fire Station. The Chief Fire Officer and his staff were untiring in their efforts to make this Exhibition the success it was. Simultaneously displays

with the same underlying motif but with the wider aspects of Home Safety were shown in the various Clinics in the town. Health Visitors in their regular visiting have continued to emphasize the various aspects of Home Safety.

Local Authority Services for the Chronic Sick and Infirm - Ministry of Health Circular 14/57.

As was mentioned earlier in the report, the Welfare Committee asked the Local Liaison Committee to meet to discuss some problems in relation to chronic sick, and this circular was the basis of discussion. Various difficulties were smoothed out and during the year the co-operation between the hospitals and the Hostels established under Part III of the National Assistance Act has been improved. There has been a two way flow of patients between Hostels and Hospitals. The provision of Home Helps has been stepped up as is evidenced by the statistics later in the report - twenty more chronic sick, aged and infirm cases were dealt with compared with 1957, and the hours worked show an increase from 57,573½ to 66,921½. This reflects the increased attention being paid to the chronic sick in their own homes.

Central Office Accommodation.

During the year a report was submitted to the Health, Children's and Welfare Committees on the present accommodation for the three departments.

The disadvantages of the present accommodation were enumerated. The present unsatisfactory nature of the Central Clinic premises at 3 Conway Street were re-emphasized. Each Committee agreed in principle that there should be centralised office accommodation for the Health, Children's and Welfare Departments, with centralisation of the scattered sub-departments of the Health Department.

St. Mary's Churchyard.

During the year under review, the removal of human remains from this churchyard and the reinterment in Landican Cemetery were completed. About four thousand coffins were used in this extensive operation and 1,050 new graves constructed at Landican. It is gratifying to report that no complaints of nuisance arising from this work were received after the opening of the graves in the old churchyard had commenced.

A Public Health Inspector paid daily visits to the site and supervised the precautions to avoid nuisance. The Medical Officer of Health paid frequent visits to ensure that the work was proceeding according to plan. The utmost co-operation was shown by the firm of contractors undertaking this work. Frequent consultations with the Medical Officer of Health took place on the site with regard to the actual exhumations and the welfare of the workmen engaged on the site.

The records of the graves in the churchyard were accurate, as no human remains have been found at a lower depth than was expected from the records. This has been borne out by the subsequent excavations by the contracting firm carrying out the actual construction of the dry dock which will eventually replace the churchyard.

Little, if any, marked curiosity appeared to have been aroused in the general public. Great care was taken to screen the work in progress. This, together with careful scrutiny of persons wishing to approach the site no doubt contributed to the uninterrupted flow of the work.

The Civil Engineering firm supervising the work established an office on the site and again the utmost co-operation was shown with the Medical Officer of Health.

Incidence of Blindness.

The total number of Registered Blind Persons on the 31st December, 1958, was 340 (130 males and 210 females). On the corresponding date in 1957, there were 333 names on the Blind Person's Register. Additions to the Register in 1958 were as follows :-

New cases, 15 males and 25 females. Transfers from other areas and recertifications, 2 males and 3 females. Deaths and removals from the Borough accounted for the deletion of the names of 13 males and 25 females.

Partially Sighted cases numbered exactly 100 at the end of 1958 - 41 males and 59 females. On the 31st December, 1957, there were 85 Registered Partially Sighted Persons. Additions to this Register in 1958 totalled 26; 9 males (including 2 removals into the Borough) and 17 females. Transfers to the Blind Register and deaths accounted for the deletion of 11 names from the Partially Sighted Register - 4 males and 7 females.

Of the 340 Registered Blind Persons, 168 are over the age of 70, and of the 100 Partially Sighted Persons, 35 are over 70 years of age. There are 16 children under the age of 16 registered as being Blind, including 4 under the age of 5, and 9 Registered Partially Sighted children are attending special classes.

Optical examinations carried out by ophthalmic surgeons during 1958 totalled 104 - 72 first examinations and 32 re-examinations.

The cause of blindness in the 40 cases Registered as being Blind within the meaning of the National Assistance Act during 1958 was as follows :-

Cataract	...	...	...	...	23
Glaucoma	...	...	...	...	6
Congenital, Myopic and Other Defects	...	...	...	...	11

The Partially Sighted Persons notified in the same period were:-

Cataract	...	...	...	...	12
Glaucoma	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital, Myopic and Other Defects	...	...	...	...	9

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:-

	Cause of Disability		
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Others
(a) No Treatment	11	5	9
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical or Optical)	24	4	11
(ii) Number of Cases at (i) (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	1	0	1

B. - Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum Cases Nil

Retrolental Fibroplasia Cases 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, 1958.

School Children -

Attending ordinary schools	...	...	10 pupils
At School for Spastics, Birkenhead	...	...	7 pupils
			<hr/> 17 pupils

Pre-School Children -

At home not receiving education	...	...	3 pupils
Combined total	...	...	<hr/>20 pupils

Epileptics.

There are 51 epileptics on the Handicapped Persons Register, 38 live in their own homes and 13 are in Epileptic Colonies.

The problem of epilepsy in school children is not an acute one - only 1 child is registered on the Handicapped Pupils Register as an epileptic. In medical inspections in 1958, 10 children were noted to be kept under observation.

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

The First Ten Years of the National Health Service.

A special survey of the first five years of the National Health so far as the Local Authority Health Services were concerned was asked for in August, 1952.

Accordingly, in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1952, the special survey was included. Apart from minor alterations, the services provided by the Local Health Authority have remained very similar to those described in the special review.

The general comment might be that the emphasis has shifted to prevention and education.

The artificial barriers between the three sections of the National Health Service Act have been broken down in Birkenhead. This has been achieved by the willing co-operation of the officers of the Hospital Management Committee and the officers of the Local Executive Council with the Medical Officer of Health and his staff.

The local liaison committee established in 1951 has met very rarely.

This spirit of co-operative effort is not limited to the officers of the three sections of the National Health Service. Members of the Health Committee, including the Chairman serve on the Executive Council.

The Chairman of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health serve on the Hospital Management Committee, as do other members of the Borough Council who are not members of the Health Committee. There is thus full knowledge of all health problems affecting the community whether they be hospital, local practitioner service or Local Health Authority. The Liaison Committee did meet during the year to discuss the admission of chronic sick to hospital. This was at the request of the Welfare Committee who sent

representatives to the meeting. The difficulties were ironed out and a satisfactory solution was reached. Otherwise there has been no necessity to call the Liaison Committee which, as has been stated earlier, is a sign of the existing co-operation.

So far as the Midwifery Service is concerned during the year 1958 the District Midwifery Sister of the Maternity Hospital resigned. The Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives and the Municipal Midwives were providing holiday relief for this District Sister and it seemed a logical step to hand over the training of the Part II Pupil Midwives to the Non-Medical Supervisor and the Municipal Midwives and not to make another appointment as District Sister and, in fact, by the end of the year this had been done.

Further mention will be made of this, but it seemed opportune in a brief review of the 10 years of the National Health Service to show how services can be integrated if there is good will on both sides.

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 153 occasions, the number of patients dealt with being 861 and the total number of attendances made being 2893. 115 patients had attended during 1957.

Attendances at Clinics.

Clinic	No. of Sessions	No. of Cases	No. of Attendances
Central	51	376	1246
North	52	213	686
South	50	272	961

Ante-natal relaxation Classes.

These classes gained in popularity during 1958. The classes combine instruction in relaxation in preparation for the confinement with instruction in mothercraft.

The relaxation exercises are given and supervised by specially trained Physiotherapists. The mothercraft lectures and demonstrations are given by Health Visitors and Midwives.

Attendances.

Clinic	Patients	Attendances
North	123	881
South	102	776
Total:	225	1657

Infant Welfare Centres.

At the end of the year, Infant Welfare Centres were open as follows :-

Central Clinic	Monday and Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
South Clinic	Tuesday and Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.
North Clinic	Wednesday and Thursday	2 - 4 p.m.
Balls Road Clinic	Thursday and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
Upton Clinic	Tuesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Woodchurch Clinic	Monday	2 - 4 p.m.
Prenton Clinic	Wednesday	9.30 - 12 noon
Thingwall Clinic	Alternate Tuesdays	9.30 - 12 noon

Attendances at Infant Welfare Centres.
Below are set out details.

CLINIC	Attendance of under 1's	1-2	2-5	Total attendances	No. of sessions	Total 1st Visits	Total re-visits	1st visits to Doctor	Re-visits to Doctor
North	4228	385	102	4715	103	348	4367	274	1164
South	4583	422	115	5120	103	374	4746	279	1218
Central	2065	146	62	2273	100	231	2042	149	570
Balls Road	3521	327	101	3949	101	256	3693	195	1271
Upton	1592	170	27	1789	53	135	1654	67	276
#Prenton	687	61	8	756	35	82	674	66	286
Woodchurch	918	92	51	1061	49	128	933	99	309
*Thingwall	240	15	3	258	20	35	223	34	98
Totals	17834	1618	469	19921	564	1589	18332	1163	5192

Opened May, 1958.

* Opened April, 1958 (held fortnightly).

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 table gives details of the dental care provided:-

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	5	4	4	3
Children under Five	98	89	85	78

Forms of Dental Treatment provided:-

	Scaling and gum Treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided		Radio graph
							Full U or L	Part U or L	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	4	2	-	-	10	3	-	-	-
Children under Five	-	2	1	-	195	92	-	-	-

Day Nurseries.

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	5	16	5	13
Old Chester Road	25	7	15	4	10

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation 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 three Nursing Homes registered in the Borough.

All Nursing Homes are inspected periodically by Medical Officers of the Health Department.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and 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. The Local Health Authority contributed £50 to the funds of the Birkenhead and Wirral Moral Welfare Association.

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, 251 premature babies were born - 41 were still born and 210 born alive. 216 were born in hospital or Nursing Homes and 35 born at home. Premature babies are the subject of particular attention by Midwives and Health Visitors.

Convalescent Treatment.

32 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 112 1st Visits 861 Re-visits.

(b) Birkenhead and District Mothers' Welfare Clinic. Of the 682 new patients who were given advice at the Clinic during the year, 269 were residents of the Borough.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one maternal death during 1958.

Distribution of Welfare Foods.

During the year there has again been a decrease in the issues of National Dried Milk and Orange Juice. The opening of Prenton and Thingwall Clinics has resulted in two new distribution centres being available but the distribution centre at 70, Grange Road West was reluctantly closed when the W.V.S. had to relinquish their tenancy of the premises. Strenuous efforts have been made but it has not yet been possible to open another centre in the area. It is anticipated however that distribution from the St. John's Parish Room, St. John Street (off Grange Road) will commence in the new year. The Centre will be staffed by members of the W.V.S. as was the Grange Road West centre.

MIDWIVES SERVICE.

Number of Midwives.

During the year 48 midwives gave notice of their intention to practise in the Borough, as follows :-

Municipal Midwives	13
Maternity Hospital Midwife	-
Private Midwives	3
Midwives in Hospitals & Institutions	30
Midwives in Private Nursing Homes	2
	<hr/> 48 <hr/>

Supervision.

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

Inspection of Midwives.	Nursing Visits	313
	Visits to midwives' homes	127
	Interviews at Office	569
Visits in connection with:-		
Cases requiring medical aid		77
Cases of puerperal pyrexia		-
Cases of stillbirth		12
Expectant mothers		161
Other Visits		166
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	Municipal	123
Attendances at Ante-natal Clinics	G.P.	37
Attendances at Relaxation Clinics		82

Number of Cases attended by Midwives - 822.

The number of domiciliary confinements attended by midwives alone (no doctor in attendance) numbered 676.

Cases requiring medical aid.

154 cases were notified by midwives in which medical aid had been called, as against 90 in the previous year.

Notifications received from Midwives.

Stillbirths	12
* Substitution of artificial feeding	229
Deaths	1

* Including hospital notifications.

Municipal Midwives.

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

No. of Bookings	881
No. of Births attended - (a) as Maternity Nurse	120
(b) as Midwife	560 680
No. of Visits to patients	16916

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	...	...	102
No. of domiciliary births	...	...	90
No. of visits to homes of patients	...	...	2136

Independent Midwives.

Independent Midwives attended 16 cases as Midwives and 36 cases as Maternity Nurses during the year.

Gas and Air Analgesia.

Gas and air analgesia was administered by the Municipal Midwives to 321 patients and by the Maternity Hospital District Midwifery Staff to 40 patients.

Pethidine.

Pethidine was administered to 473 patients by Municipal Midwives and to 67 patients by the District Midwifery Staff of the Maternity Hospital.

District Midwifery Training.

On the 13th November, 1958, the District Sister at the Maternity Hospital resigned. From that date the Part II Training of the Pupil Midwives was taken over by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives and the Domiciliary Midwives. The arrangements were working satisfactorily at the end of the year. The Pupil Midwives continued to reside at the Maternity Hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case was notified during the year.

Establishment.

During the year the establishment of midwives was reduced from 12 to 11, but two car allowances were approved in order to cover part of the outlying districts of the Borough. Towards the end of the year, an increase in bookings was noted and the position will be carefully watched in 1959.

HEALTH VISITING.

There has been no change in the establishment during the year. Two Health Visitors retired following many years service and were replaced by the two Student Health Visitors appointed in 1957 and who obtained the Health Visitor's Certificate in June, 1958.

One new appointment was made during the year to maintain the number of Health Visitors.

The practice of appointing Student Health Visitors continued and two were appointed to commence training in August, 1958.

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

- 2669 first visits were paid to infants under one year old.
- 12943 subsequent visits were paid to infants under one year old.
- *19704 routine visits were paid to infants over one year and under five years old.
- ** 429 first visits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 154 re-visits were paid to expectant mothers.
- 686 visits were paid in connection with miscellaneous matters.
- 5813 visits were paid in which no access could be obtained.

(* includes visits paid in respect of Poliomyelitis Vaccination)

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

Clinic Duties.

Health Visitors attended 1987 Clinic Sessions during the year (1247 Infant Welfare; 201 Ante-natal; 63 Sunlight; 133 Superannuation Sessions; 35 B.C.G. Vaccination; 93 Relaxation Clinics; 197 Poliomyelitis Vaccination Sessions and 18 Smallpox Vaccination Sessions).

Visits to Tuberculous Cases.

The homes of tuberculous persons are visited by Health Visiting Staff to help and advise the patient and the family.

Health Visitors made 150 first visits and 3048 re-visits (640 visits - no access).

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

Miss R. Cornter, the Superintendent, received the Long Service Badge of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, having completed twenty-one years' service. The badge was presented by H.R.H. The Princess Royal in London on 7th November, 1958.

Difficulties with staffing have occurred during the year. One male Nurse resigned on emigration to Canada at the end of the year and no suitable candidate to replace this male nurse had applied.

The turnover of nurses indicates the position with regard to staffing. During 1958 7 nurses resigned for various reasons and 6 nurses were appointed. It is hoped that the vacancy for the second male nurse can be filled during 1959, as there is a demand by patients and doctors for the services of male nurses.

Although there were fewer new cases during the year and the total number nursed was fewer than in 1957, the total number of visits paid increased by nearly 7000. Practically one third of the visits were paid to patients over the age of 65 years. The number of calls to patients for the sole purpose of giving various injections is 25413 (one third of total visits).

This is approximately 6000 fewer than 1957. This attendance for the giving of injections takes up a considerable part of the nurses' time and it is only when the number of such visits is studied that the service provided for general practitioners is appreciated.

Much as one would like to assess the value of the Home Nursing Service in terms of saving to the Hospital Service, it is quite impossible to do.

The satisfaction expressed by patients, the help given to so many old people enabling them to be kept at home, and the knowledge of nursing carried out under difficult circumstances very often remain the tribute to the excellent work of the Home Nursing Service.

Summary of Work done.

Cases brought forward from 1957	...	...	...	490 (440)
New Cases during the year	...	...	...	1671 (1810)
Total Cases nursed	...	...	...	2161 (2250)

Classification of cases and visits paid:-

	Cases		Visits	
Medical	1802	(1847)	56967	(51542)
Surgical	199	(209)	13252	(9501)
Infectious Diseases	3	(3)	40	(27)
Tuberculosis	117	(154)	4858	(7239)
Maternal Complications	40	(35)	306	(221)
	<u>2161</u>	<u>(2250)</u>	<u>75423</u>	<u>(68530)</u>
Visits to patients over 65 years at 1st visit			23945	(20993)
under 5 years			393	(142)
who had over 24 visits during the year.			59816	(47160)

Classification of Injections (To patients not having other treatment.)

	Cases		Visits	
Penicillin	442	(862)	3752	(6222)
Streptomycin	123	(101)	4583	(4431)
Mersalyl, etc.	159	(248)	4593	(6986)
Insulin	90	(61)	6475	(7436)
Cytamen, etc.	209	(208)	4891	(5727)
Morphia	9	(14)	249	(380)
Others	22	(26)	870	(470)
	<u>1054</u>	<u>(1520)</u>	<u>25413</u>	<u>(31652)</u>

Visits by Superintendent:-

Supervisory	- with Staff	106	(273)
	- alone	25	(154)
Investigatory		36	(54)
Nursing		172	(67)
Casual		<u>17</u>	<u>(25)</u>
		<u>356</u>	<u>(573)</u>

Figures in brackets are those for 1957 for comparison.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

F.T., T.A.F., in the case of diphtheria immunisation, and plain pertussis vaccine in the case of whooping cough, are available in the Health Department on demand by general practitioners.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

It is estimated that 43.6 per cent of children under five years and 92.9 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	964	29
5 - 9 years	242	474
10 - 14 years	35	230
15 years and over	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u>1245</u>	<u>746</u>

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

	Medical Officers	General Practitioners
Immunisation against Diphtheria	596	259
Reinforcing Injections against Diphtheria	643	110
Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria Immunisation	-	248
Triple Antigen	-	135

The following tabulated statement shows the numbers immunised against Diphtheria each year since 1937:-

Age in Yrs on 31st Dec of the Corres. Yr.	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	Total Immu- nised on 31st Dec. 1958
Under 1 yr.	5	13	3	3	1	-	18	9	-	5	30	71	60	27	45	539	535	637	626	524	510	69	
1 year	100	31	12	15	106	419	551	548	714	588	712	1009	1124	1020	981	564	494	378	270	228	467	617	Aged Under
2 years	78	73	45	31	201	501	465	347	355	355	241	353	385	316	289	181	261	251	245	294	130	201	5 years
3 years	98	78	32	25	211	414	392	65	139	125	93	113	144	148	80	63	96	75	85	67	60	37	4710
4 years	124	77	28	19	184	379	382	57	47	75	71	71	84	136	67	86	67	60	77	57	60	40	
5 years	284	125	43	23	244	350	246	60	37	51	55	56	80	212	137	275	136	176	243	232	194	49	Aged
6 years	573	174	31	19	450	264	285	48	27	43	33	31	58	344	135	279	249	236	359	244	141	93	5-9
7 years	641	190	45	27	478	219	320	43	17	26	20	28	41	281	115	150	165	123	186	111	60	40	years
8 years	840	200	32	27	511	163	248	23	10	20	26	26	21	331	161	116	98	77	89	74	35	35	8614
9 years	714	120	23	18	511	129	286	21	12	20	17	11	33	273	131	81	57	44	34	61	27	25	19298
10 years	736	125	20	17	515	121	240	16	6	27	14	20	22	267	114	124	78	37	21	60	35	12	Aged
11 years	684	96	11	10	655	112	292	16	11	17	8	13	33	221	105	90	46	19	7	25	18	15	10-14
12 years	576	111	11	10	385	113	298	7	1	10	5	14	7	62	57	71	15	7	1	6	7	8	years
13 years	545	62	9	7	336	103	198	15	1	5	7	6	7	13	23	123	6	1	4	-	-	-	10684
14 years	322	44	3	5	250	36	208	19	8	4	7	6	6	14	12	142	7	-	1	-	-	-	Aged 15 yrs & over - 2/617
15 years and over	128	69	25	23	132	27	33	24	22	8	15	14	14	11	19	16	12	6	8	9	3	4	Grand Total 1937 - 1958 51625
Total each Year	6248	1588	373	279	5170	3350	4462	1318	1407	1379	1354	1842	2119	3676	2471	2900	2322	2127	2256	1992	1747	1245	
Reinforcing Injections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	123	77	4352	2368	2198	1428	1715	1339	2150	1344	746	17887

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

During the year increased supplies of vaccine became available. The scheme was extended to include everyone up to and including the age of twenty-five, all expectant mothers, general practitioners and their families, and hospital and ambulance staffs together with their families.

In spite of the publicity both local and National the response was very disappointing.

Children under 15 years of age who had two injections -	11823	(1/3rd. of possible)
Young people 15 - 25 years	430	(about 1 in 50 of possible)
Expectant mothers	295	
General Practitioners and families	53	
Ambulance Staff	13	
Hospital Staff	168	
Others	220	
	<u>13002</u>	

By the end of the year a third injection or "booster" dose was advocated at a seven month interval from the second injection and 2,233 people of various ages had received this third dose by the end of the year.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

Requests for immunisation against Whooping Cough were dealt with at the Infant Welfare Centres or by G.P.'s as follows :-

		G.P.'s
0 - 1 years	345	36
1 - 2 years	89	11
2 - 3 years	15	1
3 - 4 years	4	1
4 - 5 years	3	1
5 - 6 years	1	0
	<u>457</u>	<u>50</u>

Vaccination against Smallpox.

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

By Medical Officers at Infant Welfare Centres	1463
By General Practitioners	8433
By Hospitals	629
N.W. Gas Board M.O.	34
	<u>10559</u>

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

Age at Date of Vaccination	0 - 1 years	1 - 2 years	2 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 years & over	Total
Number Vaccinated	1355	239	572	2276	770	5212
Number Re-Vaccinated	2	24	77	1125	4119	5347

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

The presence of smallpox in the neighbouring borough of Bebington contributed to this marked increase in vaccination. In addition to the actual case contacts who lived in Birkenhead, members of the general public sought vaccination from their general practitioners and from the Health Department.

This demand for vaccination at a time when the resources of the Health Department are fully stretched in the supervision of actual contacts is a burden which is cheerfully shouldered, but could be avoided if the public sought re-vaccination at regular intervals. Human nature being what it is, this is unlikely to happen.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Chief Fire Officer is responsible for the supervision and administration of the Ambulance Service and I am indebted to him for the following report in respect of 1958.

50,871 calls were answered by the Service, an increase of 940 over 1957 and, as with the Fire Brigade, the highest to date. Emergency calls increased by 382 and removals by 1,605, but there was a substantial reduction of 1,087 in Special Services. This latter was due to issuing, early in the year, gas and air machines to individual midwives.

Mileage at 174,881 showed an increase of 7,746; apart from that covered by additional calls, the extra mileage is contributed to by the movement of population to the new housing estates, and, of course, greater use of out of Borough hospitals and clinics.

On four occasions emergency transport was provided for Maternity Flying Squads. Oxygen had to be administered to 75 patients en route to Casualty Wards, whilst artificial respiration was resorted to on many more occasions. The Fire Brigade's Emergency Tender, with a special rocking stretcher, has been used on a number of cases of carbon monoxide poisoning.

By using the excellent facilities provided by British Railways an estimated 1,500 miles of road journeys were saved during the year.

Radio again played an important part in effecting savings in journeys and mileage, whilst allowing the extra traffic to be handled with no delay in responding to emergency calls.

A small number of complaints was received alleging delays in homeward transport of daily out-patients. It is again necessary to emphasise that unless a very costly increase of establishment and vehicles is to be borne, there are, inevitably, bound to be occasions when pressure of work prevents us effecting the customary quick turn round of clinical patients.

Excellent liaison exists with the medical profession, hospitals and clinics and, with one exception, co-ordination of patients from the same locality is achieved wherever possible. It is hoped to achieve the same result next year with the exception to the rule.

Of the three replacement ambulances ordered during the year, two are still outstanding, being well past the promised delivery date. It is hoped that the progressive turnover to diesels will show a saving in fuel costs in the future.

Vehicle Strength.

Type	Year
1 Bedford Dual Purpose Ambulance	1956
1 Bedford Sitting Case Vehicle	1955
1 Bedford Ambulance	1954
1 Bedford Ambulance	1956
1 Bedford Ambulance	1954
1 Bedford Ambulance	1952
1 Bedford Ambulance	1952
1 Bedford Ambulance	1958
1 Bedford Sitting Case Vehicle	1952
1 Bedford Sitting Case Vehicle	1952

Classification of Calls.

	Calls	Patients	Mileage
Home Accidents	525	527	2,142
Works Accidents	796	806	2,662
Street Accidents	996	1,073	3,787
Maternity	1,054	1,054	5,192
Emergency Illness	1,897	1,897	7,796
Removals	44,199	44,788	147,668
Special Services	761	-	3,525
Abortive	643	-	2,109
	<u>50,871</u>	<u>50,145</u>	<u>174,881</u>

Mutual Assistance.

Assistance To	Calls	Mileage
Wallasey	34	262
Cheshire	15	147
Others	26	541
	<u>75</u>	<u>950</u>
Assistance From	Calls	Mileage
Wallasey	1	6
Cheshire	-	-
Others	1	10
	<u>2</u>	<u>16</u>

Standbys.

Standby for		Standby From	
Wallasey	47	Wallasey	Nil
Cheshire	3	Cheshire	Nil

Establishment.

	Approved	Actual
Station Officer	1	1
Shift Leaders	3	3
Driver/Attendants	31	31

(The Senior Driver/Attendant in each shift acts as deputy to the Shift Leader during periods of Annual Leave and Sickness).

Variations.

Resignations:	6 Driver/Attendants
Appointments:	6 Driver/Attendants

Promotions.

- 1 Shift Leader to Station Officer
- 3 Driver/Attendants to Shift Leaders

Average Age	Average Service
37 years 8 months	9 years 7 months

1 Shift Leader attended a Special Course at the Home Office School, Falfield, and all members attended a British Red Cross Course on First Aid. 3 men qualified as drivers after a full driving course. Routine refresher training is carried out in the dog watches on weekdays.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS - CARE AND AFTER CARE.**Care and After Care Committee.**

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

The Tuberculosis Almoner has her office at the Central Chest Clinic, 42, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, and visits hospitals and the chest clinics at St. James Hospital and Mill Lane Hospital, Wallasey.

Chalets, nursing equipment, destructible paper cups, paper handkerchiefs and free milk are supplied where required.

2131 interviews were held in the Almoner's Office during the year, 1186 home and hospital visits were made, 111 patients were referred to the National Assistance Board for financial help and 223 cases were referred to other organisations.

During the year 21 families were referred for rehousing, 16 to the County Borough of Birkenhead and 5 to other Boroughs: 4 of the cases referred to Birkenhead were rehoused.

29 patients were provided with convalescent treatment or holidays, 22 through the John Lloyd Corkhill Trust. Cash Grants and Free Milk for patients who, though in need, were not entitled to Free Milk under the Local Authority Scheme, were also provided by the Trust.

Health Visiting.

Each case of tuberculosis occurring in the Borough, and which has been notified to the Medical Officer of Health, is visited regularly by the Health Visitor who advises as to nursing methods and the prevention of the spread of the disease.

On the initial visit, details of contacts are obtained and, together with housing and family conditions, are reported to the Chest Physicians for their information.

Occupational Therapy.

Handicrafts are taught on Thursday afternoons at the Outpatients' Handicraft Class at St. James Hospital, and teaching is given on the wards for one session each week. Under our arrangement with the Anne Glassey Workshop, Wallasey, 22 patients attended daily for occupational therapy.

Handicraft materials to patients at home and in hospital are issued through the Almoner's office.

Rehabilitation.

Many patients find their own employment, often with their former employers, when passed as fit for work.

32 patients were referred to the Disablement Resettlement Officer at the Ministry of Labour, of these 13 were placed in employment, 6 were accepted as Ministry of Labour Trainees at the Anne Glassey Workshop, 1 went to the M.O.L. Training Centre at Aintree to train as an Instrument Mechanic and one was transferred from the Workshop to the Birkenhead Technical College to take a clerical course. One patient was sent to an Industrial Rehabilitation Unit and placed in employment on completion of the course and a second, after rehabilitation, was accepted for training as a radio and television mechanic.

14 patients attended the Anne Glassey Workshop as Ministry of Labour Trainees during 1958, 3 of these were transferred to full employment at the Workshop, 2 were transferred for further training, 1 left for domestic reasons and 1 patient was transferred back to Occupational Therapy. One patient who had been in full employment at the Workshop was transferred to open industry.

Examination of Contacts.

During the year 114 primary notifications were received; 848 new adult contacts were asked to attend for X-ray examination and 695 child contacts were given appointments for clinical examination and mantoux tests.

404 X-ray appointments were kept and 510 children attended. Of the 510 children who attended 377 received B.C.G. vaccination as follows :-

at Birkenhead Chest Clinic	335
at Other Hospitals	42

These figures show a decrease in adult examination of 20 and an increase in children given B.C.G. vaccination of 39 as compared with the figures for 1957.

The examination of contacts represents 8.017 per notified case as against 8.053 in 1957.

The results of contact examinations are as follows :-

	Adults		Children	Total
	Male	Female		
Diagnosed as Tuberculous	3	5	6	14
Diagnosed as Non-Tuberculous	176	220	504	900
	179	225	510	914
Primary lesions			6	6

In addition to the figure for adult X-ray given above, 848 old adult contacts were called for yearly X-ray examination, of these 263 attended. This figure shows an increase of 51 on the number for 1957.

B. C. G. Vaccination. Contacts.

As is stated above, 510 children attended for clinical examination and skin tests. Of this number 93 were found to have a positive mantoux and were sent for X-ray examinations. Twelve of these cases

were found to have primary lesions, of which number six were formally notified and admitted to hospital for treatment, the remaining six being kept under close observation.

Of the remaining 417 who were mantoux negative, 12 were examined only, the parents of 28 refused B.C.G. and 377 children were vaccinated.

As stated above 185 children failed to attend for initial examination.

Child contacts made 2915 attendances.

87 Student Nurses attended for skin tests and 34 received B.C.G. vaccination - 32 at the Birkenhead Chest Clinic and 2 at Other Hospitals.

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. Vaccination	Mantoux Positive	Number X-rayed	Chest Normal
2013	1009	712	712	297	263	263

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The services of Domestic Helps are available for confinement, ante-natal and post confinement cases, and for persons who, owing to sickness, infirmity and other reasons, require assistance in their homes. In many cases, the services provided enable the aged, infirm and chronic sick to remain in their own homes.

There is a charge for the service but, where the applicant is unable to 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 hospitals, the Welfare Department, the National Assistance Board and Voluntary Organisations.

During the year, the number of cases provided with domestic help was 618 as against 611 in 1957, an increase of 7. The number of new applications received during the year was 279, an increase of 14.

During the year, 1185 visits were paid to householders by the Organiser and her Assistant in investigating applications and supervising the work of domestic helpers. This is a decrease on last year owing to staff shortages following the resignation in May, 1958, of Miss Shepherd, Domestic Help Organiser who was appointed to a similar position in a neighbouring authority. She was succeeded by her assistant Miss Fraser.

The granting of a car allowance has greatly facilitated the work during this period.

Cases provided with Domestic Help during the Year.

		(1957)
Maternity	66	(58)
Tuberculosis	16	(20)
Chronic Sick, Aged & Infirm	494	(474)
Others	42	(59)
	<u>618</u>	<u>(611)</u>

Number of Hours worked by Domestic Helpers:-

Maternity, Illness, etc. Cases	4407	(5716½)
Chronic Sick, Aged and Infirm	6692¼	(5757½)
	<u>71328¾</u>	<u>(63289¾)</u>

The following table shows the growth of the Domestic Help Service since 1948:-

	Hours Worked	Cases	Visits - Organiser and Assistant
1948	14626	112	N/A
1949	21905	292	N/A
1950	40205	355	1386
1951	47889	432	1376
1952	53431	467	1745
1953	60856	480	1894
1954	61646	488	1784
1955	60497	533	1347
1956	62057	616	1486
1957	63290	611	1457
1958	71329	618	1185 *

* Figure down due to staff changes

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Psychiatric Clinic (St. Catherines Hospital Annexe).

	M.	F.	Total
No. of cases referred to Clinic by D.A.O.'s	5	5	10
No. of cases referred from Clinic to D.A.O.'s	33	39	72

No action Cases.

After investigation it was found that action under the Lunacy & Mental Treatment Acts was not necessary. Assistance was afforded in appropriate cases and when necessary were referred to the official or voluntary body most likely to help them.

	M.	F.	Total
No further action	18	19	37
To Chronic Sick wards	1	2	3
To Welfare Officer	-	1	1
To Police	1	-	1

After Care cases.

Discharged from mental hospitals or Psychiatric clinics.

	M.	F.	Total
Referred for After care	28	34	62
Refusing After care	12	2	14

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

Admissions to mental hospitals Lunacy Act 1890. (as amended)

	M.	F.	Total
Section 20(3 day detention order)	73	112	185
Section 21(14)	5	17	22
Section 16(Certification)	48	103	151
Section 5(Private Patients)	-	-	-
Section 64/67 (Transfers)	2	-	2
Dealt on behalf of other Local Health Authorities	13	24	37
Section 22(Released by Justice to friends)	-	-	-

Mental Treatment Act 1930.

Admissions to mental hospitals

	M.	F.	Total
Section 1 (Voluntary patients)	108	85	193
Section 1(2) (Voluntary patients under 16 years)	-	-	-
Section 5 (Temporary patients)	-	2	2

Hospital admissions.

Due to shortage of accommodation in local mental hospitals the Duly Authorised Officers found it necessary to admit patients into Lancashire Hospitals in the initial proceedings of action under the Lunacy Acts. These cases were at a later date either discharged or transferred to Deva Hospital, Chester, and accordingly this involved considerable travelling for the D.A.Os.

Board of Control Circular 999.

Cases dealt with under this circular are those admitted from other Local Health Authorities into Birkenhead Mental Hospital and subsequently require certification and removal to other mental hospitals.

	M.	F.	Total
Cases dealt with under this Circular	13	24	37

The Justices of the Peace who undertake duties under the Lunacy Acts deserve the thanks of patients, relatives and all concerned with the mental health of the community. Called often at inconvenient hours of the day there is a spirit of willing help and interest in the patient, whether from Birkenhead or elsewhere, which lightens the load of the Duly Authorised Officers.

Mental Deficiency Acts 1913 - 1938.

The informal admission of all mental defectives (other than cases sent by the Magistrates under Section 8 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913) to hospitals has been the order of the day since the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 2/58.

This procedure, so much simplified in comparison with certification, is much appreciated by the parents of defectives - care has been taken to explain that this simplified admission does not necessarily mean earlier admission.

At the end of the year the distribution of mental defectives was as follows :-

Number on the register	416
in Institutions	189
on licence	2
under guardianship	3
under Home Supervision	122

New cases notified to the Local Health Authority.

	M.	F.
Under Education Act, 1944 (Section 57 (3))	7	-
(Section 57 (5))	-	-
Police or Courts	2	-
Other Sources	3	1
Removals from Register (Cancellation under Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1948: Section 8)	-	1
Admissions to Mental Deficiency Hospitals during the year		
Permanent Care	7	1
Temporary Care	4	2

The admissions, both permanent and temporary, were arranged through the joint bed bureau run jointly by the Liverpool and Manchester Regional Hospital Boards. I am grateful for the help so willingly given, particularly in reference to the temporary care which affords hard-pressed parents much-needed relief.

Thanks to the recent admissions for permanent care, there are no very urgent cases awaiting admission. The waiting list has been reduced to 14 males and 3 females. Of these 17 cases, 5 are in special units provided by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. There are no cases in "Place of Safety" accommodation.

In addition to the temporary care provided in hospital, two females were admitted for temporary care to "Orchard Dene".

Occupation Centre.

Mental defectives from Birkenhead continue to attend the Wallasey Occupation Centre. The average daily attendance of Birkenhead cases was 28. The staff of the Occupation Centre continue to look after those in attendance with sympathy, understanding and skill. Parents of those attending have had opportunity during the year of seeing what can be done individually and collectively with these handicapped children.

The displays reflect great credit on all the staff concerned.

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 the aged and infirm is exchanged between Health Visitors, Public Health Inspectors, Duly Authorised Officers, the Domestic Help Organiser and the Welfare Department.

During the year it was found necessary to deal with one case under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, utilising the simplified form of procedure under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. A man, very seriously ill with pulmonary tuberculosis, was left alone with no one to look after him when his wife was removed to a Mental Hospital.

The conditions in which this man was living were deplorable and the Magistrate authorised his removal to hospital on 11th December, 1958. He died on 18th December, 1958.

WATER SUPPLY

The two main sources of supply are the Alwen Reservoir situated on the Denbighshire Moors in North Wales and abstraction from the River Dee at Heronbridge near Chester. In addition, deep wells at Springhill and Flaybrick are available to augment the requirements as necessary but they are mainly held on a reserve basis.

The supply within the Borough is a mixed Alwen/Dee water which is moderately soft in character but slight variations do occur according to the conditions of the raw Dee water abstracted. Chemical treatment provides for the control of corrosive properties and also the control of taste to ensure a pure and wholesome water.

The Waterworks laboratory on the Dee Scheme is operated by a full-time Chemist and Bacteriologist who supervises the whole treatment process and undertakes regular chemical and bacteriological examinations of raw water and treated water going into supply in order to ensure purity of the water for the consumer.

The Works of the Department continue to be a source of interest to the Public and numerous visits to Alwen and the Dee Scheme have been arranged during the year and lectures given to a wide circle of study groups and organisations.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

I am obliged to the Chief Public Health Inspector for the following report on the work of his Section during the year.

Introduction.

The full establishment of Public Health Inspectors was maintained without change during the year.

One of the pupil inspectors appointed 2 years ago was successful in passing his qualifying examination at his first attempt and it is hoped he will join the permanent staff when a vacancy due to retirement occurs early in the New Year. This experiment by the Health Committee of providing training for selected pupils in order to combat the dire shortage of inspectors has so far proved a valuable success. I would like to express thanks to all members of the staff who have freely given of their knowledge and experience in order to train these young men, particularly as some of the older inspectors had to pay high fees for their own training.

A Clean Air Exhibition held in February was, it is thought, the first attempt by the Committee to gain the public's interest in any aspect of environmental hygiene. The Clean Air Act, the remainder of which came into force during the year, has received much publicity in the press, on radio and on television. Undoubtedly the public is "smoke conscious" at present and if any serious attempt is to be made to clear the air of smoke, then vigorous action should be taken in the very near future. This will prove fairly expensive and perhaps unpopular with some individuals.

On housing there was a great set-back due to the Council's

decision to halt slum clearance work for 18 months. The houses in proposed areas are so bad that little can be done in the way of maintenance and nothing in the way of improvement.

A new problem arose in the latter half of the year, when parties of caravanners invaded and established encampments on waste ground in the Borough. These persons were itinerant tinkers, and although they possessed expensive lorries and modern trailer caravans, they had dirty habits and were a menace to the inhabitants of houses close to their encampments. The Council found their powers to deal with this problem were quite inadequate.

Inspection and Repair of Dwelling Houses.

All repairs to houses have been secured as a result of the service of notices under the Public Health Act 1936 and the Birkenhead Corporation Act 1954. No notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.

3,493 complaints were received during the year, an increase of 729 over last year. This is in addition to complaints made to the inspectors on their districts.

No. of inspections under the Public Health Act	12200
No. of re-inspections under the Public Health Act	17322
No. of informal notices served under the Public Health Act	2959
No. of Statutory notices served under the Public Health Act	1220
No. of Statutory notices served under the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954. Sec: 52	264
No. of Statutory notices served under the Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954. Sec: 66	7
Average number of notices outstanding	744
No. of notices complied with during the year	2831
No. of defects remedied during the year	7271

Summary of Improvements effected :-

Roofs repaired	995
Chimney stacks repaired	142
Rainwater gutters repaired	519
Downspouts repaired	211
Walls pointed or repaired	350
Ventilation improved	5
Windows repaired	322
Window sashcords renewed	389
Firegrates repaired	169
Hearthstones repaired	23
Floors relaid or repaired	277
Skirting boards repaired	45
Wallplaster repaired	649
Ceiling plaster repaired	309
Walls and ceilings cleansed	1

Doors repaired	383
Staircases repaired	28
Sinks renewed	48
Sink waste pipes trapped or repaired	162
Dampness remedied	299
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	170
Yards drained	12
Sufficient water supply provided	125
Drains constructed, altered or repaired	96
Drains cleansed	387
Water closets repaired	702
Tents, Vans, Sheds removed	39
Nuisance from animals abated	10
Ashpits abolished	1
Verminous persons cleansed	8
Miscellaneous	395

Legal Proceedings.

Legal proceedings under Sec:94, Public Health Act 1936, were instituted in 18 cases where owners had failed to comply with the requirements of abatement notices. Fines totalling £18.0.0. were imposed and costs of £7.7.0. were awarded.

The Magistrates made nuisance orders in 5 cases where work had not been completed at the time of the hearing of the summons.

Work done by Local Authority in default of owners.

The Local Authority cleansed obstructed drains at 51 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 7 houses 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 ten houses under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The costs of the above work are recoverable from the responsible persons and amounted to £488.7.3. during the year.

HOUSING ACT 1957. Secs. 17 and 18.

Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation.

24 houses and 4 parts of buildings used as dwellings were reported to the Health Committee as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered so fit at reasonable expense.

Demolition and Closing Orders.

24 houses were demolished and 14 houses or parts of buildings subject to Closing Orders were vacated during the year.

The number of persons displaced as a result of the operation of the above Orders was 166.

The Council made the following Orders during the year:—

Demolition Orders in respect of	...	...	6 houses
Closing Orders under Sec. 17.	...	...	15 houses
Closing Orders in respect of	...	...	3 parts of buildings
Accepted undertakings as to future user in respect of	...	...	3 houses

Clearance Areas.

It is to be regretted that no Clearance Areas have been declared by the Council during the past year.

Following the adoption of the Slum Clearance programme, Clearance Areas involving 745 properties were declared between June 1955 and December 1957. This means that only approximately one third of the unfit houses specified in the original programme have been dealt with so far. This programme was based on a survey carried out in 1953.

At the present rate of progress, by the time all the properties originally scheduled have been dealt with, a period of 12 years will have passed since the above mentioned survey.

Meanwhile a considerable number of other houses will have become unfit. The rate at which houses fall into this category each year, naturally varies, and is related to the age of the buildings.

It must be borne in mind that in Birkenhead considerable building took place between 1875 and 1895. The most critical maintenance period for the majority of these houses, therefore, would have been from 1940 onwards. To the unavoidable lack of adequate maintenance during this period must be added the adverse effects of the war damage.

Bearing these factors in mind, it seems reasonable to expect that during the next few years these older houses will become unfit at a faster rate than that at which the Slum Clearance programme is now proceeding.

Confirmation of this is to be found in the number of requests from owners for closing or demolition orders to be made on their properties. These owners of sub-standard property built 70 to 100 years ago cannot take advantage of the higher rents allowed by the Rent Act 1957 as they cannot meet the cost of repairs reasonably required by the tenants. At the existing lower rents they find it is uneconomical to meet the cost of quite minor maintenance and the only way out is to offer the house, free of cost to the local authority or to ask for a closing order to be made. The number of these requests grows year by year and often are in respect of houses not included in the present slum clearance programme.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Council will find it possible to increase the allocation of houses for Slum Clearance families in the 1960's.

During the year the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the following areas :-

Wood Street Clearance Area	without modification.
Old Bidston Road Clearance Area	
Russell Street	
Sidney Road	
Apple Grove	
Payson Street	Modified so that Ref.No. 59. Yard adjoining 7. Payson Street be coloured 'Grey'.

Rent Act, 1957.

During 1958 the provisions of this Act have been brought into considerable use. Many thousands of houses had had rent increases and most tenants had served Form "G" notices, listing the repairs required, upon the landlords.

In the majority of cases agreement was reached between landlord and tenant and the necessary undertakings to carry out the repairs given.

In many instances, however, the necessary repairs were not completed within the time limit of six months, possibly because the labour and financial resources of some owners were insufficient to meet the extensive commitments involved. This has necessitated adjustments of the rents leading to not a little confusion and misunderstanding on both sides. The department has dealt with a very large number of queries regarding the procedure to be adopted and the action available in such circumstances.

An increase in the number of applications for Certificates as to the Remedying of Defects has occurred.

In addition, there have been over three hundred applications for Certificates of Disrepair, where the landlords and tenants concerned failed to reach agreement by direct negotiation.

Proportionately of course, this represents only a fraction of the houses affected by the Rent Act.

There were signs towards the end of the year that the number of queries and applications were decreasing.

During the past few months also, there has been evidence that some Rent Books were being marked in arrear because tenants had operated the rent adjustments and deductions provided for by the Act. There was also evidence that some tenants were being coerced into paying rent which was not legally recoverable under the terms of the Act. Unfortunately a few of these tenants paid the so called "arrears" before making further enquiries.

Under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts, the Local Authority is empowered to take action in certain circumstances and it would be helpful, therefore, if such cases were brought to the notice of the Local Authority without delay.

Formal details of the applications for the issue and cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair are set out below.

Part 1 - Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

1.) (a) Number of applications for certificates	339
(b) Number of applications for certificates withdrawn or void	2
(c) Number of applications for Certificates awaiting consideration	4
2.) Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	Nil
3.) Number of decisions to issue certificates	333
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	254
(b) in respect of all defects	79
4.) (a) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	253
(b) Number of premises where work was completed before expiry of Form 'J'	1
(c) Number of applications withdrawn after service of Form 'J'	1
5.) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
6.) Number of Certificates issued	78

Part 2 - Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

7.) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	44
8.) (a) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	13
(b) Objections by tenants withdrawn later	2
9.) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	1
10.) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	34

Common Lodging Houses.

There was no change in the number of Common Lodging Houses during the year. The six registered premises provide accommodation for 241 men.

There are no lodging houses for women.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act 1956 came into force on the 1st June bringing increased duties to the Smoke Inspector in that domestic smoke and that from railway locomotives became his responsibility. Higher standards for permissible smoke emission were required all round.

In February a successful Clean Air Exhibition was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Whetstone Lane. This gave an opportunity to show the public what could be done, mainly in the domestic field, towards cleaner air. The main exhibits were by the Electricity and Gas Boards, The Solid Smokeless Fuels Association, the Coal Utilisation Council, the Department of Scientific Research and others, and all types of domestic smokeless fuel appliances were shown.

The department had a stand on which were shown models of boilers and instruments. Photographs of the various sources of local air pollution and of local plants and chimneys showed what had and was

being done in the cause of Clean Air locally.

More than 1,500 persons attended the exhibition and Public Health Inspectors who were on duty the whole time had an opportunity of meeting the public and answering their many questions. Public interest continued for a long time after the closing of the exhibition and it was hoped that this interest could have been kept alive by the establishment of a clean air zone. Unfortunately the opportunity was lost. The local Gas Board held a two week's exhibition in a house on the Woodchurch Estate and demonstrated the advantages of using coke as a domestic fuel. This venture met with great success.

This has been another year of very good progress in the reduction of smoke within the Borough, especially from factories. Owners and operators of furnaces have generally been very co-operative as the following records of work done and results will show.

Number of complaints received	19
Number of smoke observations made	1801
Number of visits to factories	527
Number of other visits	223
Number of warning or advisory letters sent	46

Improvements

Conversion from solid fuel to electricity	...	...	8
Conversion from solid fuel to gas	...	...	6
Conversion from solid fuel to oil	...	...	7
Conversion from bituminous coal to smokeless fuel	...	...	35
Chimneys raised	...	...	6
Improved type of mechanical stokers installed	...	...	2
Increased Boiler Power or Load reduced	...	...	1
Reconstructed or improved furnaces	...	...	9
Smoke Indicators fitted	...	...	3
Smoke Recorders fitted	...	...	3
Mirror or skylight fitted	...	...	3
Draught gauges fitted	...	...	1
Temperature gauges fitted	...	...	1
C.O. ₂ recorders fitted	...	...	1
Gas ignition fitted	...	...	1
Inefficient plant dismantled	...	...	6
Small grates converted from coal to coke	...	...	33
Total			126

The above changes include the replacement of the following amounts of bituminous coal by other sources of energy -

Bituminous Coal to electric power	3,900 tons
Bituminous Coal to gas	54
Bituminous Coal to smokeless fuel	6,147
Total	10,101

(5,015 tons in 1957).

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Notifications of installation of furnaces under (Sec.3)	8
Prior approval given to new furnace installation (Sec.3)	1
Height of new chimneys approved (Sec.10)	6
Temporary exemptions from provisions of Sec.1 (Sec.2)	1

Domestic.

During the early part of the year the large multi-storey flats at Oak Gardens and Eldon Gardens were opened and as these are all electric they form the Borough's only, though unofficial, smokeless area. A preliminary survey of the proposed smoke control area at Woodchurch has been made and this gave the Inspectors an opportunity to reply to the tenant's questions. Generally the idea of a smoke control area was well received. Approximately one tenth of the houses were visited to obtain the preliminary figures of what is required to make the area smokeless.

While since the 1st June, 1958, the Clean Air Act applies to domestic property and it is now an offence to emit dark smoke from a domestic chimney, the only really effective means of improvement is through the establishment of smoke control areas, or by tenancy agreements to burn only smokeless fuel on new housing areas.

A bye-law has been adopted whereby only appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels may be fitted in any new houses and this will be very helpful in saving further expense as and when smoke control areas are extended.

During the year a number of householders have requested advice on what was required for them to comply with the Clean Air Act.

Railways.

Coal fired locomotives are bad offenders and collectively, especially when lighting up within their depots, present a real problem for which there is no quick or easy cure foreseen.

It is known that the railways will be electrified and shunting will be carried out with Diesel locomotives eventually, but many of the existing coal fired locomotives will remain for some years.

A small number of privately owned locomotives have, at the department's suggestion, gone over to the use of smokeless coal. It has not been possible to obtain sufficient of this fuel even for lighting up on nationally owned locomotives, but a considerable number are raising steam from "cold" by the use of

waste wood as fuel and this is helping to reduce the amount of smoke from the depots. When operating outside the depots, at the docks, at railway stations and throughout the Borough there is an improvement in the smoke emission, but there is still a long way to go.

It is understood that a considerable number of local steam trains will be replaced by Diesel cars within the next two or three years and real progress will be made along these lines.

Shipping

Ships in the local docks give rise to serious air pollution from time to time but, while it is the duty of the Port Health Authority to deal with them, the Smoke Inspector continues to attend to the really bad offenders. This has led to 81 observations being taken of offending vessels and 72 visits have been made. Recently letters have been sent to the owners, pointing out the offence and its cause and requesting their attention to the matter. Some of these large vessels have, on subsequent visits months later, been without offence. A slow but sure progress is being made with the smaller hand fired bituminous coal burning vessels, all bad offenders, in their replacement by oil fired or diesel engined vessels but it will take many years for all to be replaced. In the meantime efforts are being made by the department, with the owners, for some older hand fired vessels to use a smokeless coal. This fuel is in short supply but it seems probable that some limited supplies will be obtained early in 1959, which will suffice for a few vessels.

New Installations notified.

During the year the plans were endorsed for ten new installations.

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 Fisheries and Food.

No. of manholes baited	7012
No. of "partial" takes recorded	227
No. of "complete" takes recorded	2683
No. of manholes "test baited"	2960

b) In surface Premises.

No. of premises inspected	745
No. of premises found to be infested with rats or mice	450

No. of treatments by rodent operator	335
Total number of visits by rodent operator	1141
Total number of visits by Public Health Inspectors	98

Insect Pests.

No. of houses involved	52
No. of rooms treated	150
Other premises	Nil
Verminous articles treated	Nil
Verminous persons cleansed	8

A nominal charge is made for this work.

7 occupiers of 17 premises retain the services of the rodent operator to make regular visits to their premises throughout the year to keep them free from rats, mice and insect pests.

Disinfection.

12 rooms in 5 houses were disinfected during the year.

Arrangements were made for the disinfection of 9 lots of bedding and 2 parcels of clothing were disinfected prior to export.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1881. Section 90 - PIG KEEPING.

No applications for permission to keep pigs were received. One piggery ceased to operate.

There are now 37 pig-keepers in the Borough, most of whom keep one or two pigs for part of the year only.

NOISE NUISANCES.

Under the provisions of Sec.83 of the Birkenhead Corporation Act 1954 the Local Authority are empowered to deal with noise nuisances as nuisances within the meaning of the Public Health Act 1936.

Several complaints and two petitions were received in respect of three sources of alleged excessive noise.

The first was caused by a number of high speed forced draught fans causing a continual noise which was particularly troublesome at night in the summer months, when several people found their sleep was disturbed. Although it is very difficult and sometimes even impossible to find a cure for such a nuisance, the firm concerned were very co-operative and a large brick screen wall was built which reduced the noise to some extent.

The second case was due to blasting of rock and due to special circumstances this work could be carried out only between the hours of midnight and 3.0a.m. The work was to continue for approximately 6 months. No remedy was available.

The third case arose from the use of a grinding machine. Care on the part of the operator, some screening to minimise the noise and tolerance on the part of the complainants solved this case.

Such cases are extremely difficult to deal with and inspectors had to make visits between 10.0 p.m. and 3.0 a.m. to assess the severity of the trouble. The Health Committee also paid evening visits in the first case mentioned.

BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1930. Section 68 - CARAVANS etc.

One application for permission to place 4 caravans for living purposes on a plot of land for a period of 2½ years was refused.

4 caravans were placed on three different sites without permission having been sought. One of these was removed following representation from the department. The other three were occupied by families of men engaged on engineering contracts and expected to be in the Borough for a comparatively short period. These were still in use at the end of the year.

THEATRES, MUSIC HALLS AND CINEMAS.

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

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	...	...	5
Licences renewed during the year	...	...	181
Change of address	...	...	1
No. of visits to shops	...	...	35

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 registered for the manufacture of new upholstery	...	...	5

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

	Passed	Failed	Total
Rag Flock	4	-	4
Hair	1	-	1
Cotton Felt	2	-	2
Cotton Mill Puffs	2	-	2
Feathers	3	-	3
	<u>12</u>		<u>12</u>

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No applications for the establishment of new trades were received.

One old established trade closed down.

THE BIRKENHEAD CORPORATION ACT 1954.**Register of Barbers and Hairdressers.**

New registrations during the year	12
Number on register at end of year	135
Number of visits to hairdressers premises	17

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948
PART I OF THE ACT.
1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	72	23	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	468	153	14	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	36	35	-	-
TOTAL	576	211	14	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	2	2	-	2	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND (Cont'd).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	16	25	-	9	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	21	30	-	11	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Sixteen outworkers were included in the August list required by Sec. 110(1)(c) - five in the making, etc., of wearing apparel and eleven in curtains and furniture hangings.

There were no prosecutions under Sections 110 or 111.

MILK SUPPLY.

The regular supervision and sampling control of milk has been mainly directed at the pasteurising and bottling plants within the Borough. An appropriate number of samples have also been taken from milk being sold in the Borough but originating from other areas. As will be seen from the details of the samples given later, the excellent record of the past years has been maintained.

Although the number of complaints received this year is less than in last year, the presence of foreign matter in milk bottles still continues to be a source of anxiety to the trade and the department. Of equal concern is the case of the milk bottle returned to the dairy in such a filthy condition that the normal dairy machinery cannot effectively clean out all the dirt. While the Milk and Dairies Regulations places on the bottler responsibility for ensuring that milk containers are in a state of thorough cleanliness before being used, it would greatly facilitate the observance of these Regulations if milk bottles were returned to the dairy in such a condition that they can be cleaned by the normal machinery.

Eleven complaints were received regarding foreign objects in milk, eight of these being in respect of school milk. Fragments of glass were found in four cases, an old foil cap in one bottle and miscellaneous foreign matter in one bottle. Four complaints were received in respect of dirty bottles. A complaint was received about small amounts of sediment at the bottom of bottles of homogenised milk. On investigation this was found to be an abnormal deposit of blood cells from the milk.

Legal proceedings were instituted in one case where the milk contained glass and a fine of £10 was imposed and in another case where the milk was in a dirty bottle, there was a fine of £15.

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

No. of registered dairies	43
No. of registered dairymen	227
Dealers Licences to sell 'Pasteurised' Milk	199
Dealers Licences to sell 'Tuberculin Tested' Milk	101
Dealers Licences to sell 'Sterilised' Milk	133
Processor's Licences to pasteurise milk	2
Number of visits to dairymen's premises	268

Bacteriological examination of milk.

Samples were submitted with the following results :-

	Passed	Failed	Total
Pasteurised milk	91	1	92
Tuberculin Tested milk	70	2	72
Sterilised milk	48	2	50
	<u>209</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>214</u>

Chemical Analysis of Milk.

229 samples of milk were submitted for analysis :-

207 samples were reported as genuine.

16 samples were reported as deficient of fat.

6 samples were reported as deficient of fat and naturally deficient of non-fatty solids.

Of the genuine samples 18 were naturally deficient of non-fatty solids.

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

The 16 samples of milk deficient in fat were from 10 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 6 samples deficient in fat and naturally deficient in non-fatty solids were from 4 farmers. The bulked milk in all cases was satisfactory in fat content and non-fatty solids.

In 5 cases where the bulked milk was naturally deficient in non-fatty solids the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Department was asked to assist the producers to improve the quality.

ICE CREAM.

The high standard of cleanliness and quality set during the previous years has been maintained. Routine inspection and sampling has shown that the Regulations governing the manufacture and handling of ice cream are being fully implemented by the trade so that ice cream can fairly be regarded as a nutritive and hygienic commodity.

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	516
Number of visits paid to premises	150

There are a number of premises included in the above figures from the register, at which the manufacture of ice cream is not very regular or frequent. The tendency of late years has been for retailers to handle supplies from wholesale manufacturers and supplement these if required, during peak periods of consumption, with ice cream of their own manufacture.

54 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	40
II	3
III	5
IV	6
	<u>54</u>

In connection with the Grade IV samples, 41 samples of ice cream mix or rinses from plant and equipment were also taken in order to find the cause of the failure to reach the required standard.

Bacteriological examination of Other Foods.

Once again particular attention has been paid to the state of the raw materials used in the manufacture of meat products. A total of 411 samples of manufacturing meat and offal were submitted to the laboratory. The results were satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE.

The modern standard for the construction, layout and cleanliness of food premises and of the equipment and apparatus required has been maintained. The majority of food traders have co-operated and in many cases have exceeded the requirements which could be enforced. A fairly general routine for applying food hygiene legislation has been evolved and even though one or two occupiers may have a slightly different interpretation of the meaning of "wash-hand basin" or "risk of contamination" or similar undefined terms in the regulations than those of the department, the day to day administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 have settled down to a sound practical application.

It is felt, however, that true hygiene in the handling of food cannot be brought about by legislation alone. Premises may be improved by the application of the standards set out in the Regulations; isolated flagrant offences by food handlers may be stopped by warnings or prosecution; but only constant visiting by inspectors and intelligent interest and supervision by managements can really maintain and improve standards. The general public must

take a share of the blame for some of the unsatisfactory conditions to be found. Every day one can see hordes of customers buying food from unsatisfactory shops and stalls or from barrow boys etc., A discriminating public, by withdrawing its custom, has the power to close such premises far quicker and more surely than any local authority or Act of Parliament.

During the course of the year a total of 1,272 inspections and 748 re-inspections were made; 44 notices were served and 43 verbal notices were given; the notices contained 525 items. For the same period 74 written and 66 verbal notices were complied with and a total of 1,021 defects and contraventions were remedied, details of these figures can be seen in the summary.

In only one case was it necessary to institute legal proceedings to secure compliance with a notice and in fact, the work was completed before the date of the hearing.

In the early part of the year the Corporation carried out considerable improvements and re-organisation in the Country Produce Section of the Market, bringing it into line with present day practice. Following the completion of this scheme, all food stall holders in the market hall were visited and suggestions were made for the improvement of their stalls. This has produced some results, but further work still needs to be done, particularly in the provision of adequate screening to protect food from possible contamination when it is displayed on the stalls. It is felt that co-operation between the Market and Health Authorities is not as close as could be desired.

Two new food preparing factories were built and occupied during the year, both these were for local established traders who closed their old premises. Another large food preparing factory is in the course of construction and is expected to be completed during the coming year.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 :-

Fish fryers	90
Butchers manufacturing sausages and cooked meats	67
Cooked meat manufacturers	12
Pickle manufacturers	2
	<u>171</u>

Premises registered under provisions of the Birkenhead Corporation Act 1954 -

Food Hawkers and their premises (Sec: 102)	15
Vendors of shell fish and their premises (Sec: 103)	34
Notification of new food premises (Sec: 101)	11

Summary of Inspections and Defects remedied.

	Cafes and Canteens	Food Preparing Premises	Licensed Premises	Shops & Stalls	Totals
No. of premises	169	171	137	-	-
No. of inspections	282	249	24	717	1272
No. of re-inspections	233	35	5	475	748
Defects and Contraventions remedied.					
External structural defects	7	-	-	12	19
Drains cleansed, altered or relaid	10	1	-	6	17
Water closets repaired or limewashed	16	1	-	52	69
Sanitary accommodation provided	-	-	-	3	3
Sanitary accommodation separated from food room	1	1	-	2	4
Walls, repaired, cleansed or re-decorated	171	6	-	245	422
Ceilings repaired, cleansed or re-decorated	43	1	-	58	102
Floors and staircases repaired or cleansed	23	2	-	22	47
Doors and windows repaired, cleansed or re-decorated	10	1	-	14	25
Ventilation or artificial lighting provided	7	-	-	1	8
Dirty premises cleansed	5	1	-	2	8
Cleanliness of utensils improved	3	-	-	1	4
Wash-hand basins provided	8	1	-	26	35
Sinks provided or renewed	3	2	-	13	18
Hot or cold water supply provided	21	10	-	87	118
Waste pipes repaired	5	-	-	2	7
Drainer boards provided	-	-	-	2	2
Towels, soap or nail brush provided	9	-	-	9	18
Notices regarding the wash- ing of hands provided	5	-	-	16	21
Cloakroom or locker accommodation for clothes provided	9	-	-	19	28
First aid equipment provided	7	-	-	6	13
Protection from contamination of food	6	-	-	14	20
Additional dustbins provided	3	-	-	-	3
Rat or mice infestations eradicated and proofing	5	-	-	-	5
Name and address displayed	-	-	-	3	3
	377	27	-	615	1019

Shops Act, 1950.

406 Inspections and 44 re-inspections were made under this Act.

2 Notices were served and the contraventions were remedied during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955**Analysis of Food (other than Milk).**

178 samples of various types of food and drugs (in addition to 22 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.

Samples of flavoured drinking straws, luncheon meat, lime essence green colouring, chlorodyne and meat paste were found to be incorrectly labelled. In all cases the attention of the manufacturer or packer was drawn to the offence and the labels changed.

A sample of lemon juice was found to be deficient in mineral constituents. Investigations revealed that the loss was due to what was regarded as an improved process to produce a clearer juice. The packers were warned and stocks were returned to the importers.

A sample of non-brewed condiment was very slightly deficient in Acetic acid. The manufacturer was cautioned.

A sample of Raspberry Vinegar and Cream Olive Oil reported against was in connection with a complaint. It was found to contain 10% of camphorated oil. Stocks were withdrawn by the manufacturing chemists concerned, whose investigations did not reveal how the error occurred.

Unsound Food.

The inspection of food in shops, warehouses, canteens, etc., was carried out by all the public health 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	2437
Fruit and Vegetables	7553
Fish	781
Soup	775
Milk	758
Preserves	100
Puddings	191
Biscuits	1 lb
Cereals	88½ lbs
Cheese	32 lbs
Coffee etc.	2½ lbs
Cream	36½ lbs
Flavoured drinking straws	14 packets
Gherkins	½ gallon
Jellies	7 lbs
Malt	1 lb

Maws	459 lbs
Partridge	1 lb
Peaches	50 cases
Pickles	19 ³ / ₄ lbs
Potatoes	14 ¹ / ₂ cwts.
Sugar confectionery	1 ¹ / ₂ lbs

Food Complaints.

36 complaints were received regarding food alleged to be unfit for consumption. These all alleged that some foreign object or substance was found in the food.

All cases were investigated with the manufacturers and in the majority of cases some fault in the processing or storage was indicated. In a number of cases doubt arose as to whether the foreign object was actually in the food at the time of purchase.

Bread and confectionery were the commodities giving rise to the largest number of complaints - 15 in all.

In five cases nails were found in cakes, and a fly was found in a blackcurrant tart. Nine complaints were received about bread, four being in respect of dirt or grease in the loaf and five concerning bread which contained mould.

Five complaints were received about various meat products. A summons was issued regarding a tin of luncheon meat which was found to be unsound when opened. As this tin had a split seam, it was considered that this should have been seen before sale and a fine of £2.0.0. was imposed.

Five complaints concerned meat pies or sausage rolls. In a case where the meat content of a meat pie was unfit for consumption, a summons was issued and a fine of £2.0.0. was imposed. In the other cases the makers were cautioned.

Two cases occurred where the larvae of the Cocoa Bean Moth (*Ephestia Elutella*) had developed in food. One case was actually in a packet of Cocoa and the other was inside the cardboard lid of a jar of jam. This larva has great powers of penetration when small and can gain access to foods thought to be securely packed.

Small amounts of foreign matter in soft drinks were complained of in 3 cases. The manufacturers were cautioned.

Two complaints were received regarding foreign matter in imported butter. The importers were contacted and the manufacturers' attention was drawn to the defects.

The other complaints were:- jam with mould on the surface; a can of butter beans alleged to have contained a beetle; a can of imported tomatoes where an insect larvae was found in the fruit; and a tin of soup alleged to have contained a beetle.

No action was taken in these cases because of lack of evidence.

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 152,056 animals were slaughtered in the Borough:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1958	47,533	591	93,220	10,712

The numbers again show a decrease from the previous year - 152,056, as compared with 171,713 in 1957. This reduction may again, as last year, be due to an increase in the number of live animals exported.

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	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	47533	591	93220	10712	Nil
Number inspected	47533	591	93220	10712	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	31	8	89	55	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19944	7	53993	661	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	42	2.5	58	6.6	-
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	85	1	Nil	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5387	Nil	Nil	117	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.5	0.16	Nil	1.1	-
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-

Weight of condemned carcasses and portions

127,539 lbs.

Weight of condemned offal and portions

390,567 lbs.

Total:

518,106 lbs.

(231 tons 6 cwt)

Slaughtering has continued seven days a week, which makes it exceedingly difficult to maintain adequate inspection. Sunday work is reflected in the cost of overtime worked by the staff. Tribute must be paid to all members of the meat inspection staff for the way in which the burden of Sunday work, and indeed other overtime, is regularly undertaken.

It is a matter for regret that, although efforts have been made to stop Sunday work, the trade appears adamant that it is necessary. In these days of adequate cold storage and modern transport, it is difficult to understand why Sunday slaughtering is necessary. It places a burden on meat inspection staff and increases the cost of meat inspection quite unnecessarily.

Emergency Slaughter.

Some emergency slaughtering was carried out on farms and the carcasses brought to Tranmere Abattoir for examination.

98 animals were received into Tranmere Abattoir for emergency slaughter. 41 of these animals were condemned, while of the remainder it was only necessary to condemn part or offal only. Cattle reactors to the tuberculin test were sent to Tranmere Abattoir for slaughter.

Woodside Lairage.

This is the wharf for foreign animals to be landed prior to slaughter. The co-operation between the Mersey Docks & Harbour Board, who administer this Lairage, and this branch of the Health Department has continued in the usual pleasant way. The standard of cleanliness is high and there is constant endeavour to have high standards of food hygiene.

Imported Meat.

Check inspections of imported meat in wholesale depots were carried out during the year. Bone taint and decomposition were the main causes of condemnation, as usual. In all, 172 visits were paid to wholesale depots. As a result of the inspections 8 cwt of beef, 76 lbs ox liver, 64 lbs lamb, 20 lbs of pork, 15 tins ham (165 lbs) and 14 tins of other varieties of meat were found unfit for human consumption.

Export of Meat Products.

During the year the Veterinary Officer issued licences to gut scraping firms for 242 tierces (42 gallon casks) of beef rounds, middles, etc., for shipment abroad, following visits to the factories and inspections of the products.

Bacteriological Research.

In connection with an investigation of Salmonellae in pigs, regular post mortem specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The total number collected during the year was 1760.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 - 1954.

66 renewals of licences and one new licence were granted during the year. The standard of work of the slaughtermen was high. There

was no need for prosecutions or even cautions.

Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.

Work has involved

1. The granting of licences to owners of livestock for the movement of animals when restrictions are in operation - this involves a large number of licences.
2. **Swine Fever Order, 1938.**
There was one confirmed outbreak of swine fever in the Borough necessitating the slaughter of all pigs on the premises. Fortunately it was possible to salvage much of the pork as the majority of the pigs were unaffected.
3. The routine inspection of dairy cows of seventeen dairy herds within the Borough. No case of tuberculosis was detected.
4. Visits to Taylor Street Cattle Sidings were made frequently to supervise live animals in transit, to see that cruelty was avoided, to prevent any sick animals from further travel and to take precautions against possible anthrax. Two animals were found dead in trucks and blood smears were negative for anthrax.
5. Visits were paid to local farms in connection with publicity about warble fly infestation.
6. 45 visits were paid to premises containing store pigs. 276 pigs were examined to ensure freedom from swine fever.
7. Frequent visits were paid to live poultry dealers and breeders, and to the Market.

No contraventions of the Live Poultry Restrictions Orders, 1954, were found.

8. **Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.**
No applications for licences under this order were received.
9. **Importation of Dogs and Cats Order, 1928.**
H.M. Customs & Excise reported no infringement under this Order.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Four of the sixteen premises inspected under this Act ceased business at the end of the year. All premises were well maintained during the year and there were no contraventions of the Act.

Registration of Premises used for the Sale of Animal Feeding Meat. (Birkenhead Corporation Act, 1954, Section 98).

One new application was received during the year and was approved.