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BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956

R. E. ROBINSON, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.
(with qualifications)

Medical Officer of Health:

R. E. ROBINSON, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Superintendent of Public Cleansing:

H. WOODCOCK.

Certified Sanitary Inspector
Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
Certified Meat and Food Inspector,
Royal Sanitary Institute.
Associate Member of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

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Certified Sanitary Inspector,
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Certified Meat and Food Inspector,
Royal Sanitary Institute.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

J. OGDEN.

Clerk:

MRS. K. THOMAS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.
(with qualifications)

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND WATER COMMITTEE.

Medical Officer of Health:

E. E. ROBINSON, M.A., M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHAIRMAN: Chief Public Health Inspector

and Superintendent of Public Cleansing:
COUNCILLOR WM. ALDERSON, C.A.

H. WOODOCK.

Certified Sanitary Inspector

Sanitary Inspectors Board.

Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

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COUNCILLOR E. DINSDALE.

Associate Member of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

Assistant Public Health Officer:

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C. E. ANGUS.

Sanitary Inspector. H. ATKINSON.

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Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
Meat and Food Inspector. E. BROXUP.

W. DENT.

ROYAL Sanitary Inspector. Mrs. E. FIELDEN.

A. HAIGHTON.

T. LANE.

F. PICKLES.

Public Health Inspector: T. PYE.

W. ROBERTS.

W. COOPER. T. SMITH.

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W. STARKIE.

D. H. J. STUTTARD.

F. SUTCLIFFE.

C. E. WHITTAKER.

R. WOOD.

MRS. K. THOMAS.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of
Burnley Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the standard of health in the Burnley Rural District, and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1956.

The details of the work of the department are dealt with in the body of the report, but there are one or two features which I should like to mention.

The maternal mortality rate, the infant mortality rate, and the neo-natal mortality rate all show steady progress. The conversion of pail closets to fresh water closets goes on steadily, and the collection of refuse shows improvement all round. In fact, in most sections of the work there is a definite step forward.

But the smoke nuisance is still with us and has not materially improved for seventy-five years.

One sad condition needs mention, and this is the high suicide rate. Four adults out of a population of 17,000 is about twice the average of twenty-two countries submitting figures to the NATO organisation, and the cause of this is usually "loneliness."

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their unfailing support during the past year. To the staff of the Health Department, I am indebted for their hard work, loyalty and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam, and
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. E. ROBINSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Registrar-General's Estimate of population, mid-year 1956...	16,320
Area of the District.....	39,841 acres
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1956, according to Rate Book.....	6,170
Rateable Value..... (as at 1st April, 1957)	£192,407
Sum represented by 1d. rate..... (actual for year ended 31st March, 1957)	£788.1446

The chief occupations of the people in the district are cotton weaving, coal mining and dairy farming.

There was practically no unemployment in the district during the year, and social conditions, on the whole, were fairly satisfactory.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate births.....	97	89	186
Illegitimate births.....	3	3	6
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population, mid-1956.....			13.6

Stillbirths.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births..... 25

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of deaths (all causes)	119	134	253
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population, mid-1956.....			14.3

Deaths from Puerperal causes.

Puerperal sepsis.....	0
Other maternal causes.....	0

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.....	3
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.....	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	16
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.....	10

Total deaths from Cancer (all forms)..... 35

Other certified causes of death were as follows:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	4	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	7	0	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	11	8	19
Diabetes.....	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system.....	17	28	45
Coronary disease, angina.....	33	17	50
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	2	3
Other heart disease.....	15	26	41
Other circulatory disease.....	10	5	15
Pneumonia.....	1	4	5
Bronchitis.....	2	5	7
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	0	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	4	5
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	4	2	6
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	4	0	4
Congenital malformations.....	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	5	15	20
Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	1	2
All other accidents.....	4	3	7
Suicide.....	1	3	4
	119	134	253

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA.

1. Laboratory Facilities.

The laboratory work for the department is carried out at the Central Pathological Laboratory, Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

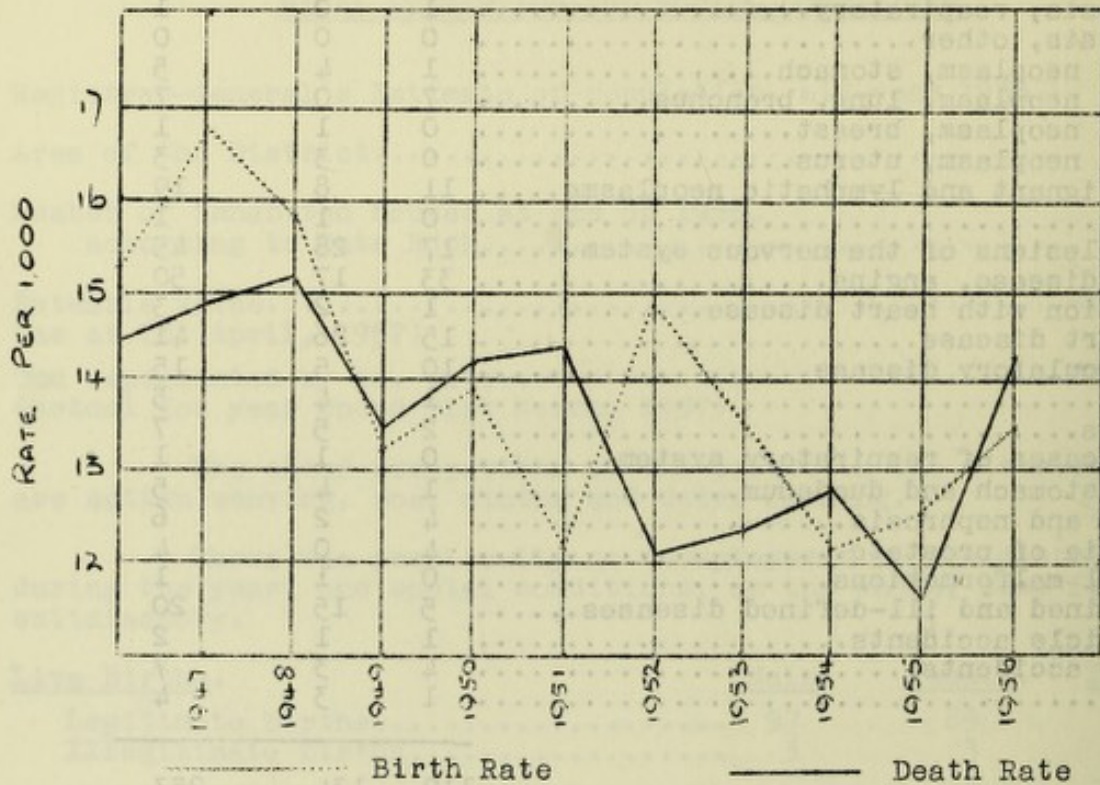
2. Ambulance Facilities.

All the ambulance undertakings for this district are carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

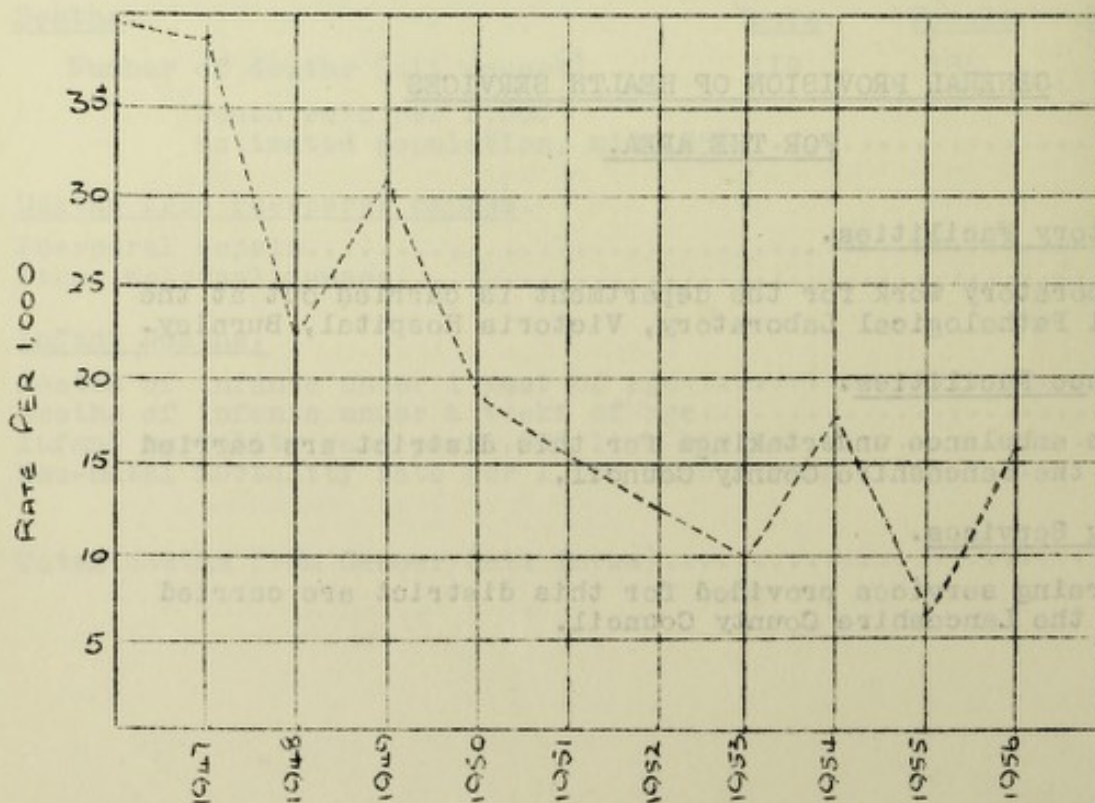
3. Nursing Services.

The nursing services provided for this district are carried out by the Lancashire County Council.

GRAPH SHOWING BIRTH AND DEATH RATE FOR
PAST 10 YEARS.



GRAPH SHOWING INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR
PAST 10 YEARS.



4. Immunisation and Vaccination Services, Home Helps, etc.

All these are under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

5. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Child Welfare Centres:-

Barrowford U.D.C.	.....	Assembly Rooms, Church Street, Barrowford.
Brierfield U.D.C.	.....	Town Hall Annexe, Brierfield.
Burnley R.D.C.	.....	Methodist Chapel, Briercliffe. Village Hall, Holme, Cliviger. Warehouse Lane, Foulridge. Council School, Hapton. 7, Town Gate, Higham. Methodist Sunday School, Sabden. Methodist Sunday School, Worsthorpe.
Colne M.B.	.....	Bank House, Albert Road, Colne.
Nelson M.B.	.....	9/11, Carr Road, Nelson.
Padiham U.D.C.	.....	West Bank House, Padiham.
Trawden U.D.C.	.....	St. Mary's Church Schoolroom, Trawden.

School Clinics:-

Elizabeth Street, Burnley.
West Bank House, Padiham.
9/11, Carr Road, Nelson.
Bank House, Albert Road, Colne.
259, Manchester Road, Nelson.

Tuberculosis:-

Cases of suspected tuberculosis are now seen at the Chest Clinic, Marsden Hospital, Marsden Road, Burnley.

Venereal Diseases:-

At the Out-Patient Department, Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity cases:-

Christiana Hartley Hospital, Colne.
Fern Lea, Nelson.
Bank Hall, Burnley.

All these are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

SECTION C.PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUSAND OTHER DISEASES.Infectious Diseases.

The infectious diseases notified during the year were:

Scarlet fever.....	9
Whooping cough.....	38
Measles.....	4
Dysentery.....	14
Acute pneumonia.....	3
Food poisoning.....	1

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>Total.</u>
No. of primary notifications received from medical practitioners on Form A.....	10	5	15
Un-notified cases (obtained from Death Returns).....	0	0	0

Localisation of Disease.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary tuberculosis.....	8	2	10
Meninges and C.N.S.....	0	0	0
Other.....	0	5	5
	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>15</u>

Occupations of Patients

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Miner.....	1	0	1
Joiner.....	1	0	1
Apprentice Engineer.....	1	0	1
Technical Assistant.....	1	0	1
Central Lathe Turner.....	1	0	1
Clothlooker.....	1	0	1
Labourer.....	1	0	1
Housewife.....	0	3	3
Schoolgirl.....	0	3	3
Primer.....	0	1	1
Children under 2 years.....	1	0	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>15</u>

SCABIES ORDER, 1941.

There were no cases of scabies notified to this authority during the year.

SECTION D.CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.1. WATER SUPPLY.

The area is supplied chiefly by water from the Council's own waterworks and from those of adjoining local authorities, but in addition there are also several privately owned water supplies.

The number of samples taken during the year was:

Bacteriological.

Public supplies: 37
Private supplies: 12

Chemical.

Public supplies: 0
Private supplies: 0

Details of the estimated number of houses with a piped supply of water are as follows:

	Piped Supplies			Not Piped
	No. of dwelling houses	From public water mains	From private supplies	
Altham.....	225	225	-	-
Barley.....	81	24	53	4
Blacko.....	183	156	19	8
Briercliffe.....	887	868	9	10
Cliviger.....	590	484	94	12
Dunnockshaw.....	136	34	98	4
Foulridge.....	497	459	30	7
Goldshaw Booth.....	85	39	44	2
Habergham Eaves.....	257	228	27	2
Hapton.....	624	589	31	4
Higham.....	212	159	47	6
Ightenhill.....	56	56	-	-
Northtown.....	32	18	13	1
Old Laund Booth.....	259	216	43	-
Read.....	337	319	18	-
Reedley Hallows.....	287	243	43	1
Roughlee.....	114	50	63	1
Sabden.....	448	392	56	-
Simonstone.....	230	220	10	-
Worsthorne.....	631	626	5	-

The department has been engaged during the year checking on the purity of water supplies.

In all, 49 samples of water, from public and private supplies, were taken and submitted to the Central Pathological Laboratory, Burnley, for analysis.

The results of these samples were as follows:

Public Supplies.

37 samples taken for bacteriological examination.

Number reported excellent.....	33
Number reported good.....	2
Number reported suspicious.....	1
Number reported unsatisfactory.....	1

Private Supplies.

12 samples taken for bacteriological examination.

Number reported excellent.....	5
Number reported good.....	1
Number reported suspicious.....	4
Number reported unsatisfactory.....	2

In cases where water is reported unsatisfactory the users are requested to boil all water to be used for drinking purposes. Unsatisfactory sources are investigated and, where possible, advice given to owners so that improvements may be effected.

Where there are several springs running into one private supply, samples are taken from each spring, and where one or more is found to be unsatisfactory, then such spring can be disconnected, leaving only those where pure water is delivered.

In several cases it has been found that water issuing from a spring is piped for varying distances in field drain pipes to the tank which is used for storage, and an improvement has been carried out in some cases by the construction of a brick tank properly covered to receive that water from the spring, the water then being conveyed to the storage tank by properly jointed earthenware pipes.

2. POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

When any septic tanks are emptied an inspection is made, and where improvements or repairs are necessary the appropriate notice is served on the owner. Filters require constant attention especially in the vicinity of trees as choking is caused by leaves falling in the Autumn.

The Cliviger sewerage scheme was completed in January, 1954, and there are now only twenty-seven pails existing which are within 100 ft. of the sewer. Efforts are now being made to persuade the property owners to convert their pails to fresh water closets.

Approximate number of houses connected to the sewer..... 353

In these cases the pails mentioned previously are outstanding, but the sink drainage from these twenty-seven houses has been connected to the sewer.

The chief source of river pollution is still from unsewered villages as follows:

Barley, Briercliffe (Lane Bottom area),
Dunnockshaw, Ightenhill, Newchurch-in-Pendle,
and Roughlee.

Another source of pollution is caused by drainage from farms. Sink drainage is usually piped direct to the nearest stream, and liquid manure tanks are, in the majority of cases, fitted with overflow pipes, again which discharge into adjoining streams. In some cases heavy pollution is caused by faulty outlet valves on these liquid manure tanks.

3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In April, 1950, the Council decided to give financial assistance towards the cost of converting privies and pail closets to fresh water closets. A grant of £8, or half the cost of the conversion, whichever is the lesser, is now paid towards the cost of these improvements.

The following table shows the number of conversions carried out during the year:

Privy closets to fresh water closets.....	0
Privy closets to waste water closets.....	0
Privy closets to pail closets.....	0
Pail closets to fresh water closets.....	10
Pail closets to waste water closets.....	0
Trough closets to fresh water closets.....	3
Waste water closets to fresh water closets...	33

The approximate number of the different types of sanitary conveniences in the district are as follows:

Fresh water closets.....	3080
Waste water closets.....	2401
Pail closets (including tank closets).....	879
Trough closets.....	13

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The department has, on the whole, given a weekly collection of both nightsoil and refuse. When, in 1950, it was considered that the Council should own its own vehicles, a report was made stating the number of vehicles and men thought to be sufficient to carry out a regular weekly service.

The number was given as follows:

One cesspool emptier, staffed by a driver and one loader.
Two refuse vehicles, each staffed by a driver and four loaders.
A smaller vehicle to scavenge the more scattered properties,
to be staffed by a driver and one loader.

This number of men and vehicles was employed last year, except for the Ford Diesel, which had an additional loader to compensate for extra houses built. These houses are either detached or semi-detached and the work is difficult for the men because of the long carries.

The first two vehicles which were purchased are now six years old and often lose time owing to breakdowns. In addition, whenever there have been any staff depletions, it has been necessary to transfer workmen from the refuse disposal side in order to maintain collections. This has resulted in tips being left in an unsatisfactory state, and as a result, complaints have been received from ratepayers.

The September holiday has in previous years caused dislocation of the service. The usual practice has been to cease collections, but it was found that very few people went away for the whole week, and consequently the men were faced with double bins in every district when work was resumed. In September, the bins become heavier due to increased ash content, and this gives a bad start for the winter months when a weekly collection is difficult to maintain. This year, however, the holiday was staggered and the service continued, and as a result it was found that the collections were quite well maintained throughout the winter.

In July, a foreman was appointed to devote his whole time to the service.

From the 31st July to the 5th November, the men worked a five-day week of 44 hours, which was a success.

Vehicles and Labour.

One 18/20 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipper, staffed by a driver and four loaders.

One 10 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Side Loader staffed by a driver and four loaders.

One Ford 7 cu. yd. Side Loader staffed by a driver and two loaders. This vehicle has shown considerable saving in fuel but repair costs have been high. There is excessive vibration because the engine is idling for much of the day, and it is not practical to stop the engine whilst loading bins as too low a temperature is reached for efficient working.

One 2 cu. yd. Bedford was purchased in October, 1956, for the use of the foreman.

Nightsoil Collection and Emptying of Cesspools.

One 800 gallon Shelvoke and Drewry Cesspool Emptier.

This vehicle is staffed by a driver and one loader only, and collection was maintained generally on a weekly basis. The vehicle is worked for fifty-two weeks in the year, as the driver and loader can be replaced at holiday times.

Approximately 650 pails are emptied weekly, and cesspools and privies are emptied at regular intervals.

Refuse Disposal.

Household refuse is deposited on tips in the parishes of Foulridge, Reedley, Hapton, Dunnockshaw, Old Laund and Briercliffe.

The tip at Reedley is practically full and work has commenced on culverting the stream so that this tip can be extended. There is also need for a tipping site at Read and Simonstone. Since the waggons return to the depot from each village with practically a full load of waste paper it is most important that you have a sufficient number of tips situated close to the more densely populated parts of the district. At Gorple Road, Worsthorpe, a short length of stream has been culverted and tipping is in progress, refuse from Worsthorpe village being deposited there.

5. SALVAGE.

There was a fair demand for waste paper at prices which averaged £7 per ton. The quantity of paper collected and sold was increased by 13% on the previous year's total, and many other salvage materials were sorted and sold, as will be seen from the figures given below:

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper.....	137.	8.	2.	0.	988.	19.	3.
Aluminium.....		1.	3.	13.	8.	16.	11.
Brass.....				17.	1.	4.	1.
Burning wire.....				7.		3.	6.
Copper.....				3.		7.	0.
Zinc.....				6.		1.	9.
Tins.....	8.	5.	0.	0.	26.	7.	6.
String.....		2.	3.	18.		15.	6.
Rags.....		13.	2.	3.	16.	1.	0.
	146.	12.	0.	11.	£1042.	16.	6.

The men are paid a bonus on waste paper sales which last year amounted to £11. 7. 3d., for a man who worked the full period.

6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There is still a great need for sanitary conveniences in the district as only two parishes, Foulridge and Briercliffe, are so provided. The greatest need is in the parishes which attract numerous visitors at week-ends and public holidays. It seems equitable that the Rural District should provide conveniences for townspeople on holiday, when the towns provide conveniences for rural dwellers when out shopping.

7. DISINFECTION.

During the year 29 houses were visited for the purpose of disinfection. Formaldehyde was used in all cases except in the case of tuberculosis, where a 5% Izal solution was used.

Bedding is removed for steam disinfection, where necessary, to Burnley County Borough Cleansing Station.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The colliery spoilbank which has been burning for some years is still burning slightly. Clay and stone were tipped to an average depth of ten or twelve feet over the whole area, and this has been very effective in keeping down the nuisance.

The gas manufacturing plant (which has been reported previously) still causes some nuisance to householders when the wind blows from the East. This affects, to a large extent, the people living in the Urban District of Clayton-le-Moors. The renewal of the boilers has been completed, and practically no smoke issues from this chimney at present.

There is considerable smoke emission from incomplete combustion when coal is charged into the gas-making ovens. Whilst the ovens are open at the top and are being charged, there is considerable smoke and grit given off from the open doors. It is intended to fix a chimney over the coal-discharging apparatus which will have provision for the entry of air at the bottom, and it is hoped to cause the smoke and grit to burn at the top of the chimney and thus reduce the nuisance. This apparatus will be fitted at an early date. The workmen on the ovens are responsible to some extent for excessive atmospheric pollution as these doors are left open longer than is necessary.

Another cause of nuisance at these works is the quenching of the red hot coke when it has been discharged from the ovens. The coke is carried along in a container and placed under a quenching plant, which discharges water over the red hot coke. This is done out in the open, and each time a charge of coke is quenched there is a considerable emission of smoke and grit. There has been as yet no suggestion of any remedy for this nuisance.

Many of the cotton mills in the district are fitted with Lancashire boilers which are hand fired. This gives rise to regular emission of black smoke and is the cause of several complaints in various parishes.

9. RODENT CONTROL.

Rodent control in private dwellings and business premises was carried out during the year. A free service was given in the case of private dwellings, but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises.

Rat destruction in the sewers has been carried out twice during the year, and below are given details of infestations in sewer lengths treated up to the end of December, 1956.

Treatment, October, 1956.

	<u>Manholes</u> <u>Treated</u>	<u>Manholes</u> <u>Infested</u>	<u>%</u>
Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	4	8
Briercliffe.....	57	5	8.8
Cliviger.....	148	21	14
Foulridge.....	55	23	42
Higham.....	60	3	5
Hapton and Altham.....	82	21	25.6
Read and Simonstone.....	64	16	25
Reedley.....	20	3	15
Sabden.....	48	8	16.7
Worsthorne.....	84	4	4.8

Treatment, April, 1956.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	22	44
Briercliffe.....	57	17	30
Cliviger.....	145	21	14.5
Foulridge.....	55	23	42
Higham.....	60	0	0
Hapton and Altham.....	82	20	24.4
Read and Simonstone.....	57	11	19
Reedley.....	19	7	37
Sabden.....	48	22	46
Worsthorne.....	84	5	6

Comparison is made with the figures obtained when these lengths of sewers were previously treated:

Treatment, 1955.

	<u>Manholes</u> <u>Treated</u>	<u>Manholes</u> <u>Infested</u>	<u>%</u>
Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	2	4
Briercliffe.....	57	15	26
Cliviger.....	146	27	18
Foulridge.....	50	8	16
Higham.....	60	3	5
Read and Simonstone.....	57	3	5
Sabden.....	48	5	10
Worsthorne.....	84	10	12

Treatment, October, 1954.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	18	0	0
Briercliffe.....	18	6	33
Foulridge.....	32	4	12
Hapton and Altham.....	59	7	12
Higham.....	15	3	20
Read and Simonstone.....	35	2	6
Reedley.....	10	7	70
Sabden.....	29	8	28
Worsthorne.....	36	12	33

Treatment, April, 1954.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	50	8	16
Briercliffe.....	57	4	7
Cliviger.....	107	5	5
Foulridge.....	51	9	17
Hapton and Altham.....	82	21	25
Higham.....	60	6	10
Read and Simonstone.....	57	13	23
Reedley.....	19	4	21
Sabden.....	51	11	21
Worsthorne.....	84	22	26

Treatment, October, 1953.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	3	0	0
Briercliffe.....	9	0	0
Cliviger.....	17	4	24
Foulridge.....	15	3	20
Hapton and Altham.....	13	0	0
Higham.....	13	2	15
Read and Simonstone.....	13	9	69
Reedley.....	8	0	0
Sabden.....	40	5	12
Worsthorne.....	69	13	19

Treatment, April, 1953.

Blacko, Fence, Wheatley Lane.....	47	2	4
Briercliffe.....	57	5	9
Cliviger.....	57	10	18
Foulridge.....	45	1	2
Hapton and Altham.....	70	10	14
Higham.....	60	6	10
Read and Simonstone.....	53	6	11
Reedley.....	19	0	0
Sabden.....	40	11	27
Worsthorne.....	69	16	23

Advisory Committee for Rodent Control.

The North East Lancashire Advisory Committee was formed in 1954. This covered Workable Area No. 11, which comprised Colne, Nelson, Trawden, Brierfield, Barrowford, Burnley, Padiham and Burnley Rural districts, together with Workable Areas Nos. 10 and 15. Each district is represented by a member of the Local Authority and the Public Health Inspector. Half-yearly meetings are held in the respective districts, when problems and progress are discussed.

10. OTHER VERMIN.

Three houses were disinfested during the year. One was infested with cockroaches and two were infested with fleas.

11. SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Appendix A on page 23 shows the number of inspections carried out during the year.

12. TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There are two main sites on which vans and sheds are situated, in addition to a number of movable dwellings on single sites in other parts of the district. Two of these sites are licensed by the Council. Arrangements were made for the owner to collect nightsoil from the vans. This is then transferred to the Council's cesspool emptier for disposal.

Occasionally complaints are received of gypsies parking on the grass verges for short periods.

There are often caravans parked on open cast coal sites in the district. These belong to employees of the Companies who work these sites and are stationed there for only a short period.

13. FACTORIES.

There are 126 factories in the district, chiefly cotton mills, and these are inspected regularly. Many of the factories have had modern sanitary accommodation installed in place of existing insanitary types.

There has been some difficulty in the parish of Altham where there are two factories with insufficient sanitary accommodation, and it has not been possible for the owner to install additional accommodation because of the lack of facilities for sewage disposal in that part of the district.

Factory inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	No. on register	Inspections	Notices.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.....	3	3	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (not included above).....	117	20	22
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority....	6	6	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. in which defects were found.	Remedied	Referred by H. M. Inspector
Sanitary conveniences:			
(a) Insufficient.....	3	3	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	3	1	2
TOTAL	6	4	4

SECTION E.HOUSING.

There were no houses erected during the year by the Council or by other local authorities in the district. Twenty-one houses were erected by other bodies or persons during the year.

The Council purchased five existing houses for re-housing tenants from slum clearance houses.

Twenty-nine applications have been received for two and three-bedroomed houses, and twenty-five applications for old people's bungalows. These totals include several applications submitted in 1951 which are now due for reconsideration.

Inspection and Repair of Houses.

Reports of housing defects are not as numerous as they were pre-1939. During the past ten years many tenants have purchased the houses in which they live, and landlords who had houses empty took advantage of their increased value to put them up for sale. Many of these houses which were in a poor state of repair when occupied as tenanted houses have now been given a new lease of life by the money spent by the owner-occupiers and, in many cases, by their own manual efforts. There is however, one disadvantage to owner-occupied houses. Old couples often find themselves unable to work on their own property and are without sufficient funds to pay for repairs to be carried out. In such cases, houses seem to deteriorate rapidly, and people have to live under most unsatisfactory conditions. It is also important to realise that owner-occupiers feel there is no point in complaining to the Public Health Inspector as there is no landlord to complain about.

Housing Act, 1949, Part ii.

Under paragraph (5) in Appendix C, details are given of applications for grants to improve property.

Applications were made from owners of twenty-two properties previous to 1956, but none were granted, and no further applications have been accepted.

Rent Increases and Certificates of Disrepair.
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

This Act came into operation in July, 1954, and the intention was to allow owners of rented houses to increase the rents where their houses had been maintained in suitable condition.

Where a landlord intended to increase the rent he had to serve a notice on the tenant setting out full details of money spent on the property and repairs carried out. Where a tenant believed that the house was not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, he could apply to the local authority for a certificate of disrepair, for which he had to pay the fee of one shilling.

During the past year one application was received for a certificate of disrepair, but was not granted. Although this gives no indication of the extent to which landlords have tried to repair their property and so qualify for rent increase, from information received it does not appear that the working of this part of the Act has been successful.

The number of houses inspected during the year was 158, and 445 re-inspections were made. 52 informal notices requiring repairs to be carried out were served during the year, and 78 informal notices were complied with.

Two formal notices were served under the Public Health Acts, and one served under Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936. Proceedings were taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of six houses, and under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of seven houses.

Particulars of housing inspections and repair work carried out are given in Appendices B and C.

SECTION F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

On the 30th September, 1949, many of the duties in connection with milk supplies were taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The inspection of dairy farms is now no longer the concern of the local authority, but the local authority is responsible for the supervision of dairymen and milk distributors other than dairy farmers. The local authority is also responsible for the sampling of milk for biological tests.

No. of milk distributors in the district.....	26
No. of dairies in the district.....	13
Shops in the district other than dairies.....	11
Premises outside the district.....	2

No. of dealer's licences issued in respect of the distribution of tuberculin tested milk.....	17
No. of dealer's licences issued in respect of the distribution of sterilised milk.....	15
No. of dealer's licences issued in respect of the distribution of pasteurised milk.....	17

(b) Biological Examination of Milk Samples.

Raw Milk.

No. of samples taken for tuberculosis tests.....	69
No. reported negative.....	68
No. reported positive.....	1
Percentage of positive samples.....	1.4%
(By comparison, the positive samples 1955 were.....)	1.6%

The positive sample of raw milk was obtained from a distributor who produced milk in the district.

One positive sample of raw milk was reported by an adjoining authority, and a notice was served on the farmer concerned restraining the sale of raw milk for human consumption unless suitably heat treated.

One cow was seized in the case of the sample taken in the Rural District by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

No. of samples taken for methylene blue tests.....	84
No. reported satisfactory.....	70
No. reported unsatisfactory.....	14

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples a report is made to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Heat Treated Milk.

No. of samples for phosphatase tests.....	46
No. of samples reported satisfactory.....	45
No. of samples reported unsatisfactory.....	1

(c) Meat and Other Foods.

Under the Government war-time scheme of meat control, private slaughterhouses in the district were not used before the 1st July, 1954. All slaughtering for this area before that date was carried out at Burnley and Colne public abattoirs, with the exception of cottagers' pigs.

Since July, 1954, the Council have licensed five slaughterhouses, one each in the parishes of Dunnockshaw, Cliviger, Higham, Read and Sabden. At two of the slaughterhouses regular week-end killing is carried out. This necessitates both Inspectors working alternate week-ends, for which an extra payment is received.

The butchers' shops were inspected and generally found to be clean and well maintained.

Details of meat inspected and condemned within the district during 1956, is shown in Appendix E, on page 28.

Condemned Meat.

In the case of meat condemned at slaughterhouses and butchers' shops, small amounts are buried at the tip, and in some cases at the slaughterhouses. Large quantities of condemned meat are sent for manufacture into fertilizer.

Meat is coloured green at the time of condemnation.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, - and thus deals with the adulteration of food.

During the year 86 samples were obtained, and of these 62 were of milk. The other 24 samples comprised:

2 Coffee	1 Cornflour
2 Jam	1 Beef Extract
2 Olive Oil	1 Currants
1 Castor Oil	1 Sultanas
1 Bacon	2 Meat - canned
1 Flour	1 Fruit Chutney
1 Blancmange Powder	1 Mixed Pickles
1 Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	1 Pepper
1 Drinking Chocolate	1 Creamed Mushrooms
2 Oatmeal	

All the samples were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis and he reports that, with the exception of those listed below, the samples were genuine:-

<u>Sample.</u>	<u>Result of Analysis.</u>	<u>Action Taken.</u>
Milk	Freezing point indicates the presence of 1.1% extraneous water.	Caution and further sample taken.
Milk	Freezing point indicates the presence of 4.9% extraneous water.	Caution and further sample taken.
Milk	Deficient 5.8% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicates the presence of 5.3% extraneous water.	Prosecution. Producer fined £25 and ordered to pay £6.6s. costs.
Milk	Deficient 14.9% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicates 14.3% extraneous water.	
Milk	Freezing point indicates 1.8% extraneous water.	Caution and further sample.
Milk	Deficient 5.0% fat.	Vendor notified.
Milk	Freezing point indicates 1.5% extraneous water.	Caution and further sample.

(d) Food Preparing Premises.

Regular visits were made to canteens and food shops which are generally kept in a satisfactory manner.

There are, however, one or two exceptions and these are not easily improved. It does not seem possible to make a person handle food in a hygienic manner if he or she has not received adequate training.

The most effective remedy is for visits to be made daily and to set the food handler certain specific tasks to be carried out each day. In this way improvements can be brought about but it involves expense in travelling if one particular shop or canteen has to be visited for a long period.

Where the premises do not comply with the Food and Drugs Act, the necessary notices are served on the occupier.

There are quite a considerable number of cottagers who have catering licences, and as these people are open only at holiday times and week-ends, they are therefore difficult to supervise. To supervise such premises, it would be necessary to make regular visits on Sundays and public holidays.

Number of Food Premises, by type of business, at end of year.

General grocers and provision dealers.....	77
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc).....	11
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.).....	0
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc).....	18
Bakers and/or Confectioners.....	17
Fried Fish Shops.....	13
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.....	22
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, and similar catering establishments.....	45
Others.....	42

(e) Ice Cream.

The necessary attention was given to premises where ice cream is prepared and/or sold.

Eleven samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Central Pathological Laboratory, Burnley, for analysis.

The results were obtained as follows:

No. of samples reported Grade 1.....	5
No. of samples reported Grade 3.....	3
No. of samples reported Grade 4.....	2

Further samples were taken in the case of the unsatisfactory samples and the supplies were improved.

(f) Bakehouses.

There are seventeen bakehouses on the register, and routine inspections were carried out.

SCHOOLS.

During the year the twenty-three schools in the district were inspected and the following information may be of interest:

No. of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces..... 16

Sanitary Accommodation.

No. of schools with -

Fresh water closets.....	17
Waste water closets.....	0
Trough closets.....	2
Pail closets.....	4

Refuse Disposal.

No. of schools with -

Dustbins.....	23
Ashpits.....	0

Water Supply.

No. of schools supplied from -

Public mains.....	21
Private supplies.....	2

No. of private supplies considered unsatisfactory.....	0
--	---

No. of schools where washing facilities are unsatisfactory.....	18
---	----

Drainage.

No. of schools with drainage to -

Public sewers.....	19
Private treatment works.....	0

Facilities for handling meals at the schools are generally satisfactory. The main fault seems to be the restricted space.

APPENDIX A.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE.General Sanitation.

Inspections under the Housing Acts.....	153
Inspections under the Public Health Acts.....	292
Visits to verminous premises.....	18
Premises inspected for vermin.....	17
Visits to factories re sanitary accommodation.....	20
Visits re refuse and salvage disposal.....	236
Visits re dustbins, pails, etc.....	110
Visits re septic tanks and filters.....	28
Visits re accumulations and deposits.....	2
Interviews with property owners.....	119
Visits re smoke.....	8
Old drains tested.....	18
Old drains inspected.....	103
Shops inspected under the Shops Act.....	227
Schools inspected.....	17
Inspections and visits in connection with I.D. cases.....	50
Disinfection of rooms.....	29
Miscellaneous sanitary visits.....	142
Visits re conversions.....	39
Visits to dirty houses.....	6
Visits re water supplies.....	9
Visits re caravans and movable dwellings.....	15
Smoke observations.....	6
Visits re infected milk supplies.....	1

Meat and Food Inspection and Inspection of Food Premises and Vehicles.

Meat inspection at shops and slaughterhouses.....	734
Butchers' shops inspected.....	15
Food preparing premises inspected.....	31
Greengrocers' and fruiterers' inspected.....	2
Ice cream premises inspected.....	9
Bakehouses inspected.....	15
Miscellaneous food visits.....	21
Dairies inspected.....	3
Fried fish shops inspected.....	10
Grocers' shops inspected.....	8
Licensed premises inspected.....	3
Canteens inspected.....	1

Sampling.

Milk samples obtained.....	136
Water samples obtained.....	49
Ice cream samples taken.....	10

APPENDIX B.SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.Dwelling Houses.

Roofs repaired or new roofs provided.....	4
Defective plaster repaired.....	2
Walls repointed or repaired.....	2
Rainwater gutters provided or repaired.....	7
Windows provided with new sash cords.....	1
Defective windows repaired or replaced.....	1
Dampness abated.....	1
Chimney flues repaired.....	2
Fire ranges repaired or renewed.....	1
Verminous houses cleansed.....	1

Bakehouses, Food Shops, etc.

Internal walls cement plastered.....	1
Cleansed and limewashed on request.....	4

Factories, Workshops, and Shops.

New sanitary conveniences provided in factories.....	4
--	---

Drainage.

Choked drains cleansed.....	16
Drains repaired or reconstructed.....	6
Defective drains abolished.....	1
Soil or ventilating pipes repaired or renewed.....	1
Drainage disposal installations reconstructed.....	2

Water Closets, Dustbins, etc.

Trough closets converted to fresh water closets.....	3
Waste water closets converted to fresh water closets....	33
Pail closets converted to fresh water closets.....	10
Additional water closets provided.....	5
Tipplers repaired or renewed.....	1
Defective dustbins renewed.....	2

APPENDIX C.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 158
- (b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose..... 445
2. Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:
 - (a) No. found during year..... 3
 - (b) Total (or estimated no.) at end of year..... 46
3. No. of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit..... 52

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954).

1. No. of dwelling houses demolished during the year:
 - (a) Unfit houses..... 0
 - (b) Other houses..... 0
2. No. of persons displaced..... 0

3. Houses not included in Clearance Area.

Houses. Persons
Displaced.

1. Houses demolished or closed during the year:
 - (a) Housing Act, 1936:-
 - i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Sec.11)..... 5 3
 - ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Sec.11 and still in force..... 1 0
 - iii) Parts of building closed (Sec.12)..... 0 0
 - (b) Housing Act, 1949:-
 - i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)..... 0 0
 - (c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:-
 - i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)..... 7 0

2. Repairs during the year:

	<u>No. of</u> <u>houses.</u>
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.....	78
(b) Public Health Acts - Action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied:-	
(i) By owners.....	2
(ii) By local authority in default of owners.....	0
(c) Housing Act, 1936 - Action after service of formal notice (Sec. 9,10,11, and 16): Houses made fit:-	
(i) By owners.....	1
(ii) By local authority in default of owners.....	0
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved, and demolition orders revoked.....	0

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

1. No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7.....	0
2. No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above.....	0
3. No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6).....	0

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants, etc.

	<u>No. of</u> <u>schemes</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>houses.</u>
Action during year:-		
1. Private bodies or individuals -		
a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority.....	0	0
b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry..	0	0
c) Finally approved by Ministry.....	0	0
d) Work completed.....	0	0
2. Local Authority -		
a) Submitted by local authority to Ministry..	0	0
b) Finally approved by Ministry.....	0	0
c) Work completed.....	0	0
3. Any other action taken under the Act:		
No further applications were accepted in 1956. Loans were made under Section 4 of the Act for the purchase and repair and improvement of a house.		

APPENDIX D.PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses.	All other including business premises.	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district.	14	6369	876	510
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
a) Notification.	3	94	25	9
b) Survey under the Act.	6	-	-	290
c) Otherwise.	1	26	-	-
3. Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections.	74	387	80	387
4. Number of properties inspected (in Section 2) found to be infested by				
a) rats	9	98	16	45
b) mice	1	23	11	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Section 4) treated.	10	120	25	45
6. Total treatments carried out.	11	121	27	45
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-
8. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	None.			

APPENDIX E.

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

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excluding</u> <u>cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>and</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number inspected.....	1337	238	31	7145	318
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	1	0	1	0
Organ or part of carcase condemned.....	21	36	1	66	5
% of number inspected affected with disease.....	1.65%	15.6%	3.2%	.9%	1.6%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	1	4	0	0	0
Organ or part of carcase condemned.....	87	40	0	0	3
% of number inspected affected with disease.....	5.8%	18.5%	0%	0%	.9%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	2	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration...	2	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned.....	0	0	0	0	0

