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Contributors

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Council Offices,
Gillibrand Street,
CHORLEY, LANCs.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of
Health for the Year 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I present herewith my report for the year 1946.

Area.

No changes have taken place and the acreage remains at 41,111.

Population.

The estimated population (Registrar General's Figure) is 24,420. This does not include the Residents at Highways Hostel, Euxton.

The figures for the past five years are:-

1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.
25,430	24,420	24,540	24,970	25,900

The highest estimate for the District was in 1942 when, according to National Registration figures, it was 27,038.

The population at the 1931 census was 23,633.

It will be seen from the above figures that there has been no big movement either in or out of the District.

Inhabitable Houses.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year is estimated to be 7434, this includes the new houses erected during the year and referred to fully under the housing section. The figure is, I think, the highest ever for the District, and the tendency will be for it to increase further since there is a large number of families without separate accommodation. The only empty houses in the area are derelict and isolated ones.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value of the District is £172,264 and the sum represented by a 1d. rate is £686.

Social Conditions of the Area.

There has been little change in the area in the year under review and the conditions of the Area are those of an Agricultural and Industrial District. In such Parishes as Anglezarke, Bretherton, Brindle, Charnock Richard, Cuorden, Heapoy, Heath Charnock, Heskin, Hoghton, Mawdesley, Rivington and Ulnes Walton agriculture predominates, whilst in several other parishes there is a large aggregate of population in the centre with some industry. Agriculture, cotton and rayon spinning and weaving employ most workers; the Royal Ordnance Factory employs workers from both inside and outside the Area. There is one definite rural industry, basket making, still carried on in Mawdesley. Brick making is again being carried on in several places.

The Staff of the Public Health Department is as follows.

Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. John Rigby, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.	R.H. Grayson, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
First Additional Sanitary Inspector.	A. Fowler, Cert R.S.I.
Second " " "	R. Fotts, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.
Third " " "	R.K. Taylor, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

In addition the Department has one full time male clerk who returned from the Services during the year.

A Redent Officer/Operator is also engaged under the Ministry of Food Scheme for infestation control.

Out side staff is of course employed on Scavenging, details of this appear elsewhere.

The department is responsible for the scavenging of the area and this calls for considerable supervision.

Two of the additional Sanitary Inspectors are engaged chiefly on the Housing Survey and some figures relating to this are given under Housing.

Laboratory Services and Hospitals.

The system is unchanged and swabs are still examined at the nearest General Hospital and can, in most cases, be delivered without delay and thus save valuable time.

Ambulances.

The ambulance service for accidents and general cases is provided by arrangement with the Municipal Borough of Chorley. For Infectious cases the ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital and is always available.

Nursing Service.

The Queen Alexandra Nursing Service operates in the District, and in some cases the Nurses are provided with a car to facilitate the work in country areas, this service is satisfactory and efficient.

The Midwifery Service operated by the Lancashire County Council covers the whole area.

The Local Hospital has clinics including V.D. and Skins.

Domestic and Home Help Scheme.

Although not connected in any way with the Nursing Service, I think Domestic and Home Help can be mentioned here. The Council has arranged under a County Scheme to operate a Domestic and Home Help Scheme in the area on behalf of the County Council. Unfortunately at the end of the year no 'Helpers' had been enrolled but the scheme is admirable and if only 'Helpers' of the right type can be found it will be possible to give assistance where it is most needed.

STATISTICS.

<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>Live Births.</u>			
Legitimate.	450	234	216
Illegitimate.	13	3	10
Total.	<u>463</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>226</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population is 18.2 compared with 19.1 for England and Wales.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
Chorley R.D.	18.2	15.2	19.3	18.3	15.8
England and Wales.	19.1	16.1	17.6	16.5	15.8

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
	16	7	9

The rate per 1,000 Births is 27.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
	27.0	42.0	33.5	38.0	50.0

<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Deaths.	269	129	140

Death rate per thousand of the population is 10.5 compared with 11.5 for England & Wales.

Infantile Deaths Under 1 Year.

The number per thousand live births is 36.

<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
36	50	33	52	43

Maternal Deaths.

There was 1 Maternal Death during the year giving a maternal death rate of 2.10 per thousand births.

<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
1	Nil.	2	2	2

<u>Deaths from:-</u>	<u>Year.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1942.</u>
Cancer.		38	42	51	32	43
Measles.		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough.		Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	2
Diarrhoea.(Infantile).		Nil.	Nil.	1	1	3

Infectious Diseases.

Arrangements for treatment of Infectious Diseases are as reported previously; infectious cases are admitted to the Heath Charnock Isolation Hospital under the Chorley & District Joint Hospital Board.

Purpural Septicaemias are admitted to Sharoo Green Hospital at Preston, under an arrangement with the County Council.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year, in fact the total number of cases is the lowest since 1939.

Of the 177 cases no less than 43 are dysentery whilst Diphtheria is down to 6 cases, the lowest since 1934 when there were only 4 cases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation against diphtheria was continued during the year, as previously the work was done by the family doctor, and in some cases immunisation was carried out at clinics. Unfortunately the whole area is not conveniently served by Child Welfare Clinics, its scattered nature being the cause, and immunisation in a scattered rural area is therefore more difficult. Assistance of School teachers has again been sought and willingly given without exception. The mention of schools makes one wonder why immunisation of children of school age does not become part and parcel of the other medical work done at schools.

During the year the number of children immunised was 393 of whom 135 were under school age, and 258 were between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

At the end of 1946 it was estimated that 25.98% of children under school age were immunised, and 71.56% of children between 5 and 15 years.

The total of these two gives 51.3% of all children under 15 years.

Whooping Cough.

Again whooping cough vaccine has been available throughout the year but little has been used.

Notifiable Diseases.

The notifiable diseases are tabulated overleaf, and for the purposes of comparison the total for the past seven years are given on a separate sheet.



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Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.													Total Deaths	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Age Periods - Years.													Total cases removed to Hospital from the District	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District.
		1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over.			
	(a)													(b)	(c)	(d)
Smallpox	-													-		
Scarlet Fever	61	1	2	5	7	9	26	7	1	2	1	-	-	-	58	-
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	6		1				1	1	2	1				-	6	-
Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella)	10	1	3	4	4	6	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	16	2	4	4	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia (primary and Influenzal)	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	5	4	-	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Polyomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poli-encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	10	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	1	9	10	14	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Any other Diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	177	4	10	13	14	17	55	11	4	13	17	18	1	2	66	-

TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE PAST

7 YEARS.

Notifiable Disease.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	61	55	69	74	90	82	177
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup).	6	24	13	31	47	44	34
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding paratyphoid).	-	-	1	1	2	6	4
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding Rubella).	10	277	84	306	140	70	530
Whooping Cough.	16	56	94	50	64	67	51
Acute Pneumonia (primary and Influenzal)	11	14	19	34	16	13	24
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	7	3	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis lethargica.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	10	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	4	1	3	4	-
Erysipelas	2	6	6	8	6	6	8
Malaria: Contracted in England and Wales.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contracted Abroad.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Any other diseases notifiable in District e.g. Chicken-Pox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Any other Diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	177	435	290	507	367	296	832

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1946.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0- ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1- ...	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5- ...	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	-
10- ..	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
15- ..	2	-	2	-	1	-	1	-
20- ..	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
25- ..	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
35- ..	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-
45- ..	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55- ..	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals ...	(13	7)	(9	4)	(5	1)	(3	-)
	20		13		6		3	

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING THE PAST 7 YEARS.

Age Periods.	1946.		1945		1944		1943		1942		1941		1940	
	New Cases	Dths.	New Cases	Dths.	New Cases	Dths.	New Cases	Dths.	New Cases	Dths.	New Cases	Dths.	New Cases	Dths.
Years														
0											3	1		
1	2		1				3		4		6		3	
5	5	1	7		3		6	1	4		9		5	
10	2	1	2		9		4		1		3		3	2
15	4	2	2		1		3		5	1	1	2	3	2
20	5	-	7	1	4		6	1	4	1	1	2	1	
25	6	1	6		5	1	5	4	8	2	7	2	9	2
35	2	2	3	2	3	1	6	1	3		4	2	3	2
45	5		3	2	2	2	4	1	6	2	2		2	
55	2	1			5	1	5	2				1	4	1
65 and Upwards		1	2	2					1		1			
Ages Unknown				3										
Totals.	33	9	33	10	32	5	42	10	36	6	37	10	33	9

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

As you are already aware the bulk of the water supplied in the area is obtained from Manchester Corporation and is under constant supervision and examination.

At the end of 1946 out of a total of 7494 houses in the District 6,653 were supplied with water from the Council's mains. In some cases the pressure is low and supply poor, the scheme planned for general improvement on the Western side of the District, along with main extension will remedy these troubles in the parts worst affected.

The scheme for the Parishes of Brindle and Houghton was completed during the year and it is to be hoped that an early start can be made with the work.

In these two parishes practically 400 houses are at present dependant on private supplies which can not be considered satisfactory.

The completion of these two schemes will ensure an abundant supply of wholesome water to all except isolated premises in the area.

The following table gives the number of houses in each parish provided with water from the Council's mains, the remainder are dependant upon private supplies such as wells, springs and piped private supplies.

PARISH.	FROM PUBLIC MAINS.	
	No. of Dwelling Houses.	No. of Population.
Anderton.	277	969
Anglezarke.	13	40
Bretherton.	195	766
Brindle.	84	380
Charnock Richard.	328	1312
Clayton-le-Woods.	414	1154
Coppull.	1450	5041
Croston.	587	1859
Guerdon.	45	236
Eccleston.	593	1411
Buxton.	548	1473
Heapey.	140	476
Heath Charnock.	407	1253
Hoskin.	199	653
Houghton.	52	188
Mawdesley.	158	561
Rivington.	52	236
Ulnes Walton.	116	593
Wheelton.	316	1037
Whittle-le-Woods.	714	700
Total for whole District	6653	20,336

Sewerage.

The District remains badly served as regards sewers. No work of importance was carried out during the year, but hopes for the next year are high, as it is expected the work of sewerage Euxton and the Lancaster Lane end of Clayton-le-Woods will be commenced. This work when completed should remove once and for all the troubles due to small scale septic tank effluents polluting ditches and streams in Lancaster Lane, Wigan Road and Moss Lane, Clayton-le-Woods, Wigan Road, Balshaw Lane and Runshaw Lane, Euxton, and also from untreated drainage from a large number of old properties in Euxton. Closet conversions in Euxton will also be possible, the difficulty of getting labour and materials will however, restrict this somewhat.

Consideration was also being given during the year to a large scheme involving the parishes of Coppull, Charnock Richard, Heskin, Eccleston and Croston, a total of two fifths of the population of the District. This scheme is good as it will bring sewers to Heskin and Charnock Richard for the first time, and will take the obsolete sewage disposal works from the middle of Coppull, Eccleston and Croston.

A scheme for Whittle-le-Woods and Wheelton is also in preparation and when carried out will considerably increase the sewered area of Whittle-le-Woods and Wheelton, and do away with the objectionable disposal works at Wheelton and improve the disposal works at Whittle-le-Woods.

Unfortunately many years must elapse before these schemes can be carried out and in the meantime untreated drainage and small scale septic tank effluents will continue to pollute ditches and water courses. It is hoped, however, that the Council and the Government will see there is no avoidable delay, the sooner these main schemes are in hand the sooner will it be possible to consider drainage of places Bretherton, Mawdesley, and Houghton.

The position as regards sewers in the various parishes to-day is :-

Anderton.	Thickest aggregation of houses sewered, sewage treated by Adlington U.D.C. by arrangement.
Anglezarke.	Not sewered.
Bretherton.	Not sewered.
Brindle.	Partly sewered, disposal poor.
Charnock Richard.	Not sewered.
Clayton-le-Woods.	Partly sewered.
Coppull.	Practically the whole of the parish served by sewers.
Croston.	Partly sewered.
Cuerden.	Dowhurst Row drained to private disposal works.
Eccleston.	Large part served by sewers.
Euxton.	Daisy Hill and Pincock areas only sewered.
Heapey.	Partly sewered.
Heskin.	Not sewered.
Houghton.	Not Sewered.
Mawdesley.	Not sewered.
Rivington.	Not sewered.
Ulnes Walton.	Not sewered.
Wheelton.	Partly sewered.
Whittle-le-Woods.	Partly sewered.

Sanitary Accommodation.

No large scale conversion scheme was possible in 1946 and the number of pail type and privy type closets still remains very high, the numbers being approximately 2,350 pail closets, 910 houses served with closets attached to privy middens.

The conversions carried out during the year were:-

Pail closets to water closets	25
Privy closets to water closets	15
Privy closets to pail closets.	4

The return of the basic petrol allowance and the reintroduction of motor coach travel since the end of hostilities has resulted in very large numbers of people using country inns and Hotels. A survey was made during the year of the Sanitary accommodation at licensed premises when it was found that the number of conveniences was inadequate in 25 out of the 66 cases, and in 27 cases the type was unsuitable. In most cases the owners would I think, carry out the necessary alterations but bound up with such improvements are usually alterations to the licensed premises and because of the total cost Licences to carry out the work are not easy to obtain. However, great improvements were carried out at two inns, and this work must be persisted in until every place has an adequacy of suitable accommodation.

A survey of accommodation at cafes was made at the same time, these places are mostly small and have not got separate accommodation for the sexes and have been classed as inadequate for this reason. The standard of accommodation at cafes must be improved when opportunity presents itself.

Rodent Control.

The work of rodent control under the scheme operated by the Ministry of Food was carried out continuously throughout the year. No major infestations were dealt with, possibly because the District was kept under constant reinspection, an expensive plan but the only one which enables a fair assessment of the situation to be made.

A scheme for free treatment of private houses was operated part of the year, this did not give rise to a large number of notifications as was expected.

Council properties - sewage disposal works and refuse tips were again treated regularly and infestation kept down to a few rats at any time.

Co-operation with the Post Officer of the Lancashire War Agricultural Executive Committee was maintained.

Camping.

No camping licences were issued during the year, Van dwellers mostly of the wandering type have passed through the District after short stays, and have demanded some supervision but no difficulties were experienced.

There still remain in the District a few Caravans which have been occupied for long periods, the sites of which are in several cases rated.

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken during the year.

Schools.

The County Council administer the School Medical Services and issue separate reports.

The number of Schools was not changed during the year. Each has a piped water supply which is generally satisfactory, but unfortunately the Sanitary Accommodation can not be so described, only in 13 cases are water closets provided,

the remainder have pail type closets. The Education Act gave great hope of improvements and the abolition of objectionable closets in schools, unfortunately no actual work has yet been carried out.

Details of the water supply, sanitary accommodation and means of storage of refuse at Schools are given below.

Parish.	School.	Water.	Sanitary Conveniences	Refuse Storage.
Anderton.	St. Josephs	Mains.	W.Cs.	Bins.
Anglezarke	White Coppice	Mains	Pails	Bins.
Bretherton.	Endowed	Mains	Pails	"
Brindle.	C.E. School.	Chesham Estate	Pails	Bins
"	Gregson Lane.	Thirlmere	W.Cs.	Bins.
"	St. Josephs.	"	"	"
Clayton-le-Woods.	St. Pades	Thirlmere	Pails	Bins.
" " "	Clayton Bottoms	"	"	"
Charnock Richard.	C. of E. School.	"	"	"
Coppull.	Council School	"	W.Cs.	"
"	St. Oswalds.	"	"	"
"	Coppull Moor	"	Pails.	"
"	Chapel Lane.	"	W.Cs.	Ashpit.
Croston.	C.E. Boys.	"	Pails.	Bins.
"	C.E. Girls.	"	W.Cs.	"
"	Croston Methodist.	"	W.Cs.	"
Eccleston.	C.E. School.	"	Pails.	"
Buxton.	C.E. School.	"	Pails.	"
"	St. Marys.	"	Pails.	"
Heath Charnock.	Council School.	"	W.Cs.	"
Heskin.	Pemberton's Grammar School.	"	Pails.	Ashpit.
Hoghton.	C.E. School.	Hoghton Estate	"	Bins.
Mawdesley.	C.E. School.	Mains.	"	"
"	Methodist	"	"	"
"	S.S. Peter & Paul.	Well (Piped)	"	"
Rivington.	Grammar School.	Mains.	W.Cs.	"
"	C. of E. "	"	"	"
Ulnes Walton.	Council "	"	"	"
Wheelton.	Council "	"	Pails.	"
"	C.E. School	"	"	"
Whittle-le-Woods.	C.E. School.	"	W.Cs.	"
" " "	St. Chads.	"	Pails.	"



Scavenging.

There was no change in the method of Scavenging during the year, approximately half the area being scavenged by direct labour and the remainder by contract. A decision was, however, made that from April 1947 the whole of the scavenging should be done by direct labour and vehicles were ordered for this. Suitable labour for this work is most difficult, if not impossible to obtain, due to the nature of the work. The fact that there are still in the area approximately 2,100 pail type closets and approximately 1,000 privy middens will be a guide as to what has to be done. Emptying of pail closets is actually very expensive and until such times as sewers are available for the built up areas in all parishes, and large scale conversion possible, this will have to continue.

Salvage work was continued throughout the year but the material collected was small compared with the peak period.

Housing.

The completion of new houses, the only key to the Housing problem, incidentally a problem which has been with us for many, many years, but which has become acute since 1939, commenced. The year is notable for this if for nothing else. Unfortunately the numbers completed were not sufficient to make any impression on the number of persons waiting for and needing houses, marriages continued to take place and the newly weds are forced to live with their in-laws, often in houses most unsuitable, and as a result the number on the waiting list was no less at the end of the year than before the new houses were occupied. In all 78 new houses were completed, 67 of these by the Local Authority and 11 by other persons.

Of the 67 completed by the Local Authority 50 were Arcos type prefabricated houses at Coppull. A lot has been said about 'prefabs' not all of which has been complimentary, but if in an emergency we are prepared to forego a little of the usual British solidness we are well compensated by seeing young couples comfortably housed with an opportunity of living their lives on their own lines and not those dictated by being obliged to live under some-one-else's roof. 50 young families in Coppull have the opportunity through these houses of getting the joy and happiness that can come from family life, and will be better citizens in the bargain.

With regard to new permanent houses the general arrangement, the inclusion of outbuildings and the quality is better than associated with Council houses in the past, this is good, and if the Local Authority is to continue to build the majority of houses the standard must be maintained or improved.

The cost of new houses is great and the erection of blocks of four houses is understandable from this angle, however, when conditions are easier if a change from semi-detached is to be made consideration should be given to the detached houses rather than blocks of more than two.

In existing houses it was not possible to do more than deal with defects giving rise to nuisances, the position as regards material and labour made it very difficult to get even this work done and the delay was great in most cases. Thorough reconditioning of houses was not attempted and improvement of sound houses lacking such things as baths, constant hot water systems, separate wash houses is impossible, if attempted it would cripple the building of new houses which must not be interfered with until such times as there are sufficient houses for every family to live separately.

The survey recommended by the Hobhouse Report was commenced in a part of the area where old property predominates, this should be borne in mind when the figures below are considered. Furthermore to assist you to place the proper value on the figures given, the standard adopted is that recommended by the Technical Sub-Committee of the Joint County Committee, which recommends separate baths, constant hot water system, separate wash houses, pantries and outhouses for cycles etc., in addition to a dry, well lighted and ventilated structure, unfortunately the law does not provide for these matters at the moment but it is hoped that it will be altered to do so in the future.

History

The first
history of
the world
was written
by the
ancients
in the
year 4000
B.C.

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1300 houses were inspected and recorded, and categorised as follows:-

Category.

1.	Satisfactory in all respects.	187
2.	Minor defects only.	310
3.	Houses needing structural alterations.	472
4.	Houses suitable for reconditioning under the Rural Workers Act.	2
5.	Houses which should be demolished.	<u>299</u>
		<u>1300</u>

The numbers in categories 3 and 5 indicate the immensity of the task of altering existing houses to make reasonably convenient and comfortable, and replacing wornout or otherwise unsuitable houses, and this work will have to be carried out otherwise we shall find two sets of persons, the fortunate in modern houses and the unfortunate in old houses lacking the amenities which add to the joy of living.

Inspection of Food.

None of the private slaughter houses in the District are in use owing to the concentration of centralised slaughtering and as a result routine meat inspection is not being carried out. Some work has however been done at retail premises and food depots.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

At the end of the year there were 421 registered dairy farms in the District, and at these it is estimated 4,000 cows are kept.

451 inspections of premises were made during the year, the highest number for some years. Some improvements to buildings were carried out during the year and several new dairies erected.

Designated Milk.

There are no pasteurising plants operating in the area.

Two supplementary licences to retail pasteurised milk in the District were granted.

One bottling licence in relation to Accredited milk was issued during the year.

Ice Cream.

A definite attempt to improve premises used for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream was made in the second half of the year. All persons concerned were interviewed and the nature of the product discussed with them, it is too early to say what the results of the drive will be but the willingness to co-operate, of all persons in the trade, indicate an all round improvement.

Disinfections.

70 Disinfections were carried out during the year and disinfection was carried out at three houses.

Petroleum Licences.

64 Licences to store petroleum spirit and to store calcium carbide were issued during the year.

Total Inspections.

The total number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 4,317.

Notices.

834 informal notices were served in connection with defects and nuisances and 816 were complied with.

No Statutory Notices were served during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

N. Rigby

Medical Officer of Health.

