

**[Report 1952] / Medical Officer of Health, Darwen Borough.**

**Contributors**

Darwen (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1952

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BOROUGH OF DARWEN



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE SENIOR SANITARY  
INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

R. C. WEBSTER

B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health

E. P. McGLYNN,

C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector






*With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Dept.  
Darwen*





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BOROUGH OF DARWEN

# REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary  
Administration  
OF THE BOROUGH  
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

By R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

and E. P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

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1952-53

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County Council .....		
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		R. C. DAVIDSON.
		F. TOWNLEY.



## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name of Clinic or Centre.	Situation.	Day and Time.	By whom provided.
Child Welfare.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Child Welfare.	Greenfield Institute.	Tuesday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Wednesday, 2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays. 9-30 a.m. (Specialist).	Lancashire County Council.
Maternity and Child Welfare Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Diphtheria Immunisation.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ultra-Violet Light.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday, 2 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Clinics.	Civic Health Centre.	Minor Ailments. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Tuesday and Friday, 2 p.m., by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Ophthalmic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Orthopædic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.	Health Department, Victoria Street, Blackburn.	Alternate Tuesdays by appointment.	Blackburn Corporation.
Cardiac Clinic for Schoolchildren.	Tullyallan Open Air School, Darwen.	By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	40, Duke Street, Blackburn.	Thursday, 9-15 a.m. by appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Venereal Diseases	Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.	Males — Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Females — Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis.	Civic Health Centre.	By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.



CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,

DARWEN.

July, 1953.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1952.

The birth rate was somewhat lower than for the whole country and there has been a slight fall in the total population.

Measles was again very prevalent, and, as I have previously remarked, is not showing the decline in alternate years which we had come to expect. But it is probable that variations in birth rates in past years and the resultant variations in the number of young children may largely explain this. The diphtheria outbreak that began at the end of 1951 continued as expected for some months into 1952, and I think it worth repeating the comments I made in the 1951 report. This outbreak appears to have originated in a child whose parents had declined to have him immunised; his initial sore throat in November, 1951, was not recognised as diphtheria, and it was only in January, 1952, when palatal paralysis occurred (some six weeks after infection) that the true condition was discovered. It was indeed fortunate for this child that the palatal paralysis was not accompanied by the deadly late heart involvement, which caused so many deaths in former years. From this child the infection spread at first only among other non-immunised children. In the later stages of the outbreak cases were notified amongst a small number of immunised children, but of these some were carriers and not genuine cases of diphtheria. The lesson is plain, diphtheria is still a menace, and the present scarcity of cases is due not to the disappearance of the infection but to the protection given by immunisation. It was fortunate that this outbreak was due to a mild type of organism otherwise a considerable number of preventable child deaths would have grimly emphasised the danger. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that immunisation must not be neglected. This deadly disease can easily



become again a menace unless we maintain our precautions. The incidence of other infectious diseases was very low.

Infant mortality was rather higher than the previous year's remarkable figure, but happily the numbers of babies dying is now so small that even a single additional death makes a marked change in the rates calculated.

I thank you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your support and kindness throughout the year, and all the members of the Health Department for a year of good work, and friendly co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## PART I.

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

BY

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH





# Summary of Statistics and Social Conditions.

1952

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

Geographical Position ...	Lat. 53° 41' 25" N. Lon. 2° 28' 32" W.
Elevation above sea level .....	500 ft. to over 800 ft.
Geological formation...	Boulder clay and sand, over coal measures.
Area (in acres) .....	5,959
Population—Census, 1951 .....	30,827
Population — Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate for 1952 .....	30,560
Number of Inhabited Houses—Census, 1951 .....	10,634
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1952 .....	10,840
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census, 1951 .....	10,797
Rateable Value .....	£192,456
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	£763

The inhabitants are mainly of the artisan, or working class, and the principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

Of a total of 14,344 insured adult persons, the average per cent. unemployed was 2.7 and of 850 insured juveniles, the average unemployed was 0.625 per cent. The corresponding figures for 1951 were:—Percentage adult unemployment, .2 percentage juvenile unemployment, 0.45.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.	
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate .....	208	186	394	Birth-rate per 1,000
	Illegitimate .....	13	4	17	estimated home
					population mid-1952:
	Total .....	221	190	411	Crude ..... 13.4
					Adjusted ... 14.2
STILLBIRTHS:	Legitimate .....	6	5	11	
	Illegitimate .....	1	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total
					Births ..... 33
	Total .....	7	7	14	
DEATHS:					Death-rate per 1,000
					estimated home
					population mid-1952:
		245	228	473	Crude ..... 15.5
					Adjusted ... 13.6
MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION.	Respiratory T.B. ....				0.07
	Malignant Neoplasms, etc. ....				2.55
MATERNAL MORTALITY.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion .....				Nil
	Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births .....				Nil

**INFANTILE  
MORTALITY.**  
(Infants under  
the age of  
1 year.)

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Legitimate Infants ....	10	4	14	—
Illegitimate Infants ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	—
Total Deaths .....	10	4	14	34

**INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.**

Year.	Darwen.	England and Wales.	Smaller Towns 25,000 to 50,000.
1943	47	49	46
1944	46	46	44
1945	72	46	43
1946	34	43	37
1947	39	41	36
1948	31	34	32
1949	29	32	30
1950	36	29.8	29.4
1951	24	29.6	27.6
1952	34	27.6	25.8

**OTHER  
INFANT  
DEATHS.**

	Total.	Rate per 1,000 population.
Deaths from Measles (at all ages) .....	Nil	0.000
Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages) .....	Nil	0.000
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... Nil	Nil	0.000

**NEO-NATAL  
MORTALITY.**

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age .....	12
Mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births .....	29

**Births.**—The number of live births registered during the year was 411, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 14.2 per 1,000. The trend of this rate over the past ten years, in comparison with the rate for England and Wales, is shown in the following table—

Year.	DARWEN.				ENGLAND AND WALES.
	No. of Births.			Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
	Male.	Female.	Total.		
1943	213	212	425	14.9	16.5
1944	220	192	412	14.53	17.6
1945	205	183	388	13.72	16.1
1946	265	230	495	16.5	19.1
1947	303	274	577	19.0	20.5
1948	257	244	501	16.2	17.9
1949	213	238	451	14.6	16.7
1950	220	194	414	14.1	15.8
1951	235	214	449	15.5	15.5
1952	221	190	411	14.2	15.3



**Illegitimate Births.**—The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Rate per cent. of Live Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 year.	Death Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births
1943	28	6.58	Nil	Nil
1944	28	6.79	4	142
1945	32	8.25	3	93
1946	30	6.45	1	33
1947	21	3.64	Nil	Nil
1948	15	3.00	1	66
1949	18	3.99	Nil	Nil
1950	19	4.58	Nil	Nil
1951	17	3.76	1	58
1952	17	4.13	Nil	Nil

**Stillbirths.**—The table given below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Stillbirths.			Rate per 1,000 Births.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.		DARWEN.	ENGLAND AND WALES.
1943	22	2	24	53	0.84	0.51
1944	21	1	22	53	0.77	0.50
1945	13	Nil	13	32	0.46	0.46
1946	11	Nil	11	21	0.37	0.53
1947	14	2	16	27	0.53	0.50
1948	12	Nil	12	24	0.39	0.42
1949	14	Nil	14	30	0.45	0.39
1950	17	Nil	17	39	0.54	0.37
1951	12	1	13	28	0.40	0.36
1952	11	3	14	33	0.45	0.35

**Deaths.**—The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 473, representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 13.6

The trend of the death-rate of the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales:—

Year.	DARWEN.		ENGLAND AND WALES. Rate per 1,000.
	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	
1943	497	17.4	12.1
1944	429	15.1	11.6
1945	440	15.5	11.4
1946	496	16.6	11.5
1947	486	16.0	12.0
1948	461	14.9	10.8
1949	525	14.6	11.7
1950	489	13.91	11.6
1951	571	16.4	12.5
1952	473	13.6	11.3



The following is a copy of the information supplied by the Registrar-General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwen residents. The information does not include non-civilian deaths:—

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections .....	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases .....	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	8	4	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	10	—	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	—	9	9
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	22	21	43
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia .....	1	—	1
Diabetes .....	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	33	41	74
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	37	15	52
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	2	2	4
Other Heart Disease .....	45	64	109
Other Circulatory Disease .....	12	8	20
Influenza .....	1	1	2
Pneumonia .....	9	9	18
Bronchitis .....	14	13	27
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	4	—	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa .....	4	1	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	5	7	12
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations .....	1	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	20	18	38
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	3	2	5
All other Accidents .....	5	8	13
Suicide .....	4	—	4
Homicide and Operations of War .....	2	—	2
Totals .....	245	228	473

# General Provisions of Health Services.

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A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare Clinics, Ultra-Violet Light Clinics, Speech Therapy Clinics and other School Health Services.—Medical and Dental.

Ambulance service is provided by Lancashire County Council.

Hospital services are provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board, including general hospital facilities in Blackburn and a Maternity Home in the former Darwen Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bull Hill.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary undertake all Public Health laboratory work for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Government scheme now being officially carried out in this area by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.



# Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The numerical and age incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, is shown in the following table, which includes particulars of Darwen cases notified and accepted, cases removed to hospital, and deaths from infectious diseases. The so-called minor infectious diseases, other than measles and whooping cough, are not included in the table, as they are not notifiable in Darwen and, therefore, statistics as to their incidence are not reliable.

Disease.	Cases Notified and Accepted										Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.									Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Un- der 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over			
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	86	1	8	21	40	9	4	3	...	...	...	43	...
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup) .....	59	...	1	8	39	4	2	5	...	...	...	58	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Measles (excluding Rubella) .....	473	15	91	158	197	6	1	5	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	41	3	6	10	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal) .....	18	...	1	1	2	...	2	2	9	1	...	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection .....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis: Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neona- torum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Malaria— Contracted in: England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	681	20	108	198	300	19	9	16	9	2	...	106	2

The following table gives the comparative incidence of infectious diseases during the past five years:—

Disease.	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Scarlet Fever .....	134	75	24	75	86
Diphtheria .....	1	4	...	15	59
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ....	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	487	314	267	340	473
Whooping Cough .....	119	72	242	76	41
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal) .....	21	33	12	23	18
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	4	1	4	...
Meningoccal Infection .....	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	1	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	5	1	1	2	...
Erysipelas .....	4	3	2	6	2
Dysentery .....	1	...	22	157	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	5	...	...	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis .....	...	1	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis Non- Paralytic .....	...	...	1	...	...
Gastro-Enteritis .....	1	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever .....	...	1	...	...	1
Food Poisoning .....	...	...	6	...	...
Malaria (contracted Abroad) .....	...	...	...	1	...
Totals .....	775	513	578	699	681



**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tuberculosis Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, but the Area Tuberculosis Officer and Nurse maintain close co-operation with the Public Health Department, furnishing particulars about housing conditions, and environment generally. The necessary disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the age group incidence of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths from the disease, during 1952:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0—1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—2 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—5 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 .....	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
15—20 .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 .....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 .....	1	6	...	...	1	1	...	...
35—45 .....	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
45—55 .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 .....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65—75 .....	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
75 and upwards..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	11	10	2	3	3	1	...	...
	21		5		4		...	

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis placed on the Register during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1942	14	7	4	3	28
1943	15	5	5	...	25
1944	15	6	1	2	24
1945	7	5	5	3	20
1946	7	7	3	2	19
1947	23	5	13	8	49
1948	15	8	8	10	41
1949	6	12	5	2	25
1950	15	13	4	6	38
1951	12	14	3	4	33

**NATIONAL  
ASSISTANCE  
ACT, 1948.  
SECTION 47.**

Three persons were dealt with under this Section.

PART II.  
ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area  
(including Public Cleansing)

Housing, and

Inspection and Supervision of Food

BY

E. P. McGLYNN, Esq., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Etc.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC CLEANSING.





# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

## WATER.

**Reservoirs.**—Water is supplied on the constant system from the following reservoirs: Sunnyhurst Hey, Earnsdale and Bull Hill, of which the first two are open, and the last closed. All the water is from moorland gathering grounds. Water in the Bull Hill Reservoir is supplied from Bolton.

**Purification.**—All water is sandfiltered and chlorinated.

**Supply.**—The approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied direct is 10,672.

## SAMPLING.

**Chemical.**—Seven samples of water from public supplies, and five samples from private supplies were submitted for analysis during the year.

Seven samples from public supplies and four samples from private supplies were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst one sample from a private supply was unsatisfactorily reported upon. The usual precautions were taken to render its use safe.

**Bacteriological.**—Nine samples of drinking water were submitted for bacteriological examination, six from public supplies and three from three private supplies.

Six samples from public supplies and two samples from private supplies were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst one sample from a private supply was reported as doubtful. Further samples of this supply are being taken periodically.

## SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODA- TION.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough:—

Pails .....	144
Water Closets .....	11,525
Waste Water Closets .....	1,537
Cesspools .....	1
Total .....	13,207

### Conversions and Installations during 1952:—

New Water Closets fixed .....	313
Premises with one New Closet fixed .....	24
Premises with more than one New Closet fixed ...	8
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets	83
Latrine Closets converted to Water Closets .....	0
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets .....	2
Baths installed during the year .....	198
Urinals installed during the year .....	5
Waste Water Closets dismantled .....	0



Routine testing, inspection, repair and renewal of existing drains and sewers continued within the limits of availability of staff, material and labour.

It is hoped that closet conversions, on an increasing scale as labour and materials become available, will result in the total abolition of the 1,537 waste water closets.

## **RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

The river is seriously polluted by industrial waste effluents. In addition there is a certain amount of material dumped in the river by children and careless householders.

The river is frequently inspected and every effort made to prevent pollution wherever the sources are discoverable.

## **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

Number of houses visited .....	1,160
Number of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932) .....	136
Number of inspections of Schools .....	3
Number of inspections of Factories and Workplaces .....	126
Number of inspections of Municipal Hostel .....	52
Number of inspections of Bakehouses .....	13
Number of inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds .....	6
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips .....	113
Complaints received and investigated .....	520
Number of re-inspections made .....	5,190
Visits paid to houses (re cases of Infectious Diseases) .....	215
Number of rooms disinfected .....	151
Number of smoke observations taken .....	153
Number of drains, etc., tested .....	313
Total number of defects discovered .....	2,356
Informal notices served .....	2,356
Statutory notices served .....	86
Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year .....	2,535

## **LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.**

Defective drains .....	111
Choked sewers .....	4
Defective soilpipes and water closets .....	39
Defective downspouts, easing troughs, roofs and external walls .....	164
Defective plastering .....	324
Dirty houses and premises .....	0
Dangerous buildings .....	9
Dirty and dilapidated closets .....	55
Accumulations of refuse .....	3
Defective or uneven gullies .....	17
Insanitary sinks .....	9
Defective fire ranges .....	51
Broken slop-pipes .....	17
Defective Flushing Cisterns .....	17

Defective tippers of waste water closets .....	0
Choked waste water closets .....	44
Choked water closets .....	28
Insanitary yards .....	28
Defective internal floors .....	99
Insufficient ventilation .....	222
Burst water pipes .....	21
Defective wash boilers .....	9
Miscellaneous nuisances .....	702

## **SHOPS.**

Routine inspections are made and special inspections as occasion requires, but pressure of other work especially housing has limited visitation far below the level regarded as desirable.

## **SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

One hundred and fifty-three smoke observations were taken during the year, and advice and instruction to stokers on firing and use of fuel, to secure as far as possible the prevention of black or heavy smoking, were given. One of the main difficulties encountered in efforts towards smoke abatement is the variable quality and grade of the fuel supplied to manufacturers, who have little or no choice in particular supplies.

## **DISINFESTATION.**

During the year twenty houses were found to be infested with bedbugs and/or vermin, and of these, twenty had been disinfested by the end of the year, gaseous fumigation and spraying being the methods employed.

## **SCHOOLS.**

Two Schools have been converted from water closets with common flushing systems to water closets with independent flushing systems. All schools in the district are now provided with this type of accommodaton.

## **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The following are established in the district:—Two tripe boilers, one fat extractor, and one fat melter.

## **MUNICIPAL HOSTEL.**

This is the only common lodging house in the town and is municipally owned and managed. The average daily number of lodgers for the year was—Males 120.67. Females 14.35.

## **FACTORIES.**

One hundred and twenty-six routine and special visits were paid to factories with and without mechanical power during the year for purposes of the provisions as to health. Defects found (chiefly in connection with sanitary conveniences) were notified to occupiers and by the end of the year were either completed or in hand. Pressure of other work still reduces routine visiting far below the level considered desirable.

As previously, the fullest co-operation was maintained between the Department and H.M. Inspector of Factories.



**CHIEF  
SANITARY  
REQUIREMENTS  
OF THE  
DISTRICT.**

The chief sanitary requirements of the district are:—

- The conversion of pail and waste water closets;
- The paving, culverting, embanking and, as far as possible, purification of the river;
- The clearance of derelict and neglected sites;
- The paving of back streets and unmade roads;
- The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the purification and protection of the remainder;
- The conversion of latrine closets at factories.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

The whole of this important sanitary service is under the control of the Public Health Department. It comprises the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse and the cleansing of streets.

**VEHICLES.**

The refuse collection and disposal service is now completely mechanised, the new tractor-drawn trailer tank for night-soil collection being now in use for one day per week.

**REFUSE  
DISPOSAL.**

The system of controlled tipping continues to prove very successful. The Corporation-owned Bull Hill Tip is the only one now in use. It is situated near the Southern boundary of the Borough which makes the length of haul from the Northern half somewhat excessive. It is hoped to find a suitable tip-site nearer the centre of the town in order to lessen this.

**SALVAGE.**

The pre-separation of salvable material from household refuse is still conscientiously carried out by the bulk of householders.

The following is a summary of the materials sold during the year:—

	Tons.	Cwts.
Clean Waste Papers .....	202	17½
Ferrous Metals—Baled Tins .....	Nil	Nil
„ „ Black Scrap .....	21	15
Non-Ferrous Metals .....	Nil	Nil
Textiles—Rags, Carpets .....	8	8¼
Waste Foods—Pigswill (after boiling) .....	200	2
„ „ Household Bones .....	0	8¾
Total .....	433	11½

The total value of the salvaged materials sold was £2,537.



## SALVAGE (Continued).

A severe and unexpected slump in the demand for waste paper seriously hampered the Department from April onwards. Vast quantities of paper and cardboard which could neither be disposed of nor diverted flooded the Salvage Depot, and the situation was only slightly relieved later in the year when fresh contractors arranged to take the waste but at a greatly reduced price. The situation was not peculiar to Darwen, and great dissatisfaction was felt by Local Authorities throughout the country at the failure of the responsible Government Department to take the necessary measures to cope with or prevent these sudden dislocations of a service which Local Authorities instituted and carried on, despite great and recurring difficulties, and often at loss to themselves, to satisfy a national need. The smaller Local Authorities, especially, are simply not equipped to store large quantities of salvaged paper to await a favourable market; salvage for them must be a continuous stream flowing mainly by its own monetary impulsion from household to market—it can never safely nor economically be a reservoir with uncertain periods of release and under perpetual risk of bursting its banks. The Council, therefore, at the end of the year had under consideration the question of ceasing to salvage paper.

## SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the work done during 1952. It should be noted that the weights given below are estimated.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House Refuse to Tip (3,938 loads) .....	6300	16	0
Market and Trade Refuse to Tip (286 loads) ...	429	0	0
Receptacles Emptied (House Refuse) .....	339394		
Receptacles Emptied (Trade Refuse) .....	17413		
Excreta .....		108	Loads
Excreta Pails Emptied .....	4064		
Sludge from Street Gullies .....		264	Loads
Street Gullies Emptied .....	15926		
Sweepings: Bins from Street Orderly Trucks .....	6999		
Dust Bins added during the year .....	151		
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles .....	12436		
Length of Streets swept by Mechanical Sweeper ...	3314	Miles	



# HOUSING.

The table below gives particulars of action taken specifically under the provisions of the Housing Acts in contradistinction to action under the Public Health Acts.

## STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ) .....	143
(i) By local authority .....	138
(ii) By other local authorities .....	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	5
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above) .....	138
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above) .....	0
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	170
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	250
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 to 1932 .....	136
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	239
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	26
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	118
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers .....	90



**STATISTICS**  
(continued).

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	41
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners .....	16
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	17

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners .....	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	0

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	3

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	1

**STATISTICS**  
(continued).

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding—	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	0
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....	0
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	0
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	1
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	15½
5. Housing Act, 1949.	
(a) (i) Number of schemes submitted—	
(a) By private individuals to Local Authority	6
(b) By Local Authority to Ministry .....	0
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected .....	6
(b) (i) Number of schemes approved—	
(a) Of private individuals .....	6
(b) Of the Local Authority .....	0
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected .....	6
(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings provided .....	0

**OVERCROWDING.**

“Overcrowding” as to mixed sexes in families, not involving legal overcrowding is fairly common in two-bedroomed houses, and is a problem aggravated by the acute housing shortage.

**OTHER ACTION.**

Orders under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879, were made against twenty-two houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, attaching a penalty to their continued letting. Fifteen of these were vacated by the end of the year.

**GENERAL  
OBSERVATIONS.**

The chief difficulty is the inability to secure extensive repairs by informal action with the result that statutory procedure has to be invoked with all the additional work and time involved.

Inspection, survey and repair proceeded steadily throughout the year.

## APPEAL.

In November an appeal was heard at the County Court against two notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. The appeal was basically against the reasonableness of the cost of repairs having regard to the estimated value of the house when the works should be completed.

The appeal was successful and the notices were quashed.

Subsequently the Corporation applied for a Compulsory Purchase Order with the intention of itself executing the repairs on the houses. The owner, however, is resisting this having been under the erroneous impression upon winning the appeal that the tenants would be re-housed by the Corporation, the houses would become vacant and he would obtain possession with a view to sale. At the close of the year the matter was still in abeyance whilst the owner decided whether or not he would give an undertaking to the Minister to carry out in full by a specified date all the works specified on the notices against which he had originally appealed.



# Inspection and Supervision of Food.

## SAMPLING MILK.

**Biological.**—Thirty-nine samples were submitted for guinea pig inoculation. Thirty-eight were reported negative, and one reported positive. The report on the latter was passed on to the County Medical Officer and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The final report received from that Ministry showed that samples taken from the herd involved were certified non-tuberculous.

**Bacteriological.**—Forty-nine samples were examined during the year. Forty-six were satisfactorily reported upon, and three were unsatisfactorily reported upon. The reports were passed on for appropriate action to the County Agricultural Officer.

**CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK**—See Tables I and II below.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Public Abattoir was closed in June, 1942, in pursuance of a Ministry of Food Scheme for further centralising slaughtering.

Butchers' and other food shops, stalls and vehicles, and premises used for the preparation of human food are regularly inspected.

The amount of food examined, certified unfit, and either destroyed or utilised after sterilisation for animal feeding-stuffs, was as shown in Table III on Page 30.

No legal proceedings were necessary in respect of unsound food during the year.

## FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The Local Authority, by direction of the Minister, is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Public Analyst whose advice and help are always available and much valued.

The quality of the food sold in the district is generally good.

**CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF OTHER FOODS**—See Table I.

TABLE 1—SAMPLES REPORTED GENUINE

No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.
70	Milk .....	70	...
2	Rum .....	2	...
4	Whisky .....	4	...
1	Pork Sausage .....	1	...
1	Beef Sausage .....	...	1
1	Cooked Meat .....	...	1
1	Stewed Steak .....	...	1
3	Ice Cream .....	...	3
3	Cream and Iced Buns .....	...	3
2	Mincemeat .....	...	2
2	Christmas Pudding .....	...	2

**TABLE II—SAMPLES REPORTED NOT GENUINE**

Cons. No.	No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.	Result.	Action taken.
1	1	Milk	x	—	Deficient 13.3% Milk Fat.	Follow-up Samples genuine. Vendor prosecuted. Fined £5 with £8/0/3 costs.

**TABLE III—SHOWING AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FOOD  
CONDEMNED DURING 1952**

Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food.
69 tins	Milk	3 tins	Tomato Puree	10 boxes	Kippers
300 tins	Fruit	108 tins	Fish	4 boxes	Apples
57 tins	Vegetables	29 tins	Sardines and	42 pkts.	Sugar
68 tins	Luncheon Meat		Pilchards	12 bottles	Sweet Pickles
34 tins	Cooked Ham	4 tins	Shrimps	lbs. oz.	
62 tins	Meat	5 tins	Soups	18 8	Cheese
7 tins	Jellied Veal	10 tins	Salmon	12	Jellied Veal
1 tin	Chicken	2 tins	Jam	8	Butter
3 tins	Jellied Pork	3 tins	Mince meat	19 4	Ham
1 tin	Braised Liver	6 jars	Fruit	1 8	Fruit
5 tins	Rabbit	3 bottles	Fruit	44 0	Kippers
2 tins	Tomatoes	1 box	Pressed Beef	15 0	Bacon
½ crate	Rabbits	6 boxes	Fish		

#### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Investigation and disinfestation proceeded steadily throughout the year, and it has become increasingly obvious that the initial survey and co-ordinated treatments, and especially the comprehensive and radical treatment of the sewers, have reduced to a very low level the degree of infestation in the town. This has been maintained now for seven years, and it is expected that regular re-survey, sewer maintenance treatment and block control, will keep it there or still further reduce it.

The following table gives a summary of the work done throughout the year—

No. of premises inspected.	No. of premises found infested.	No. of treatments carried out.	Estimated kill of rats.	Cumulative total of rats killed since inception of service.
203	Killed 100	prior to January, 1952. 94	367	11,468 11,835

#### SEWER TREATMENTS.

Date.	No. of manholes treated.	Estimated kill
May	165	72
November	153	58



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