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BOROUGH OF DARWEN



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1958.

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.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector



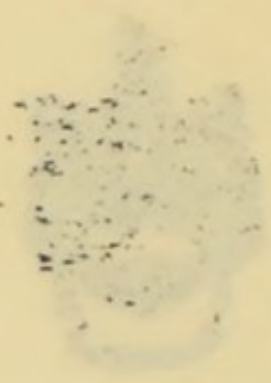
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of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Dept.
Darwen.*



With the Commission

of the

National Office of Health

Public Health Service

Washington

BOROUGH OF DARWEN

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary
Administration
OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1958.

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.A.P.H.I.,

Senior Public Health Inspector,

Members of the Public Health Committee.

1958-59.

COUNCILLOR P. S. HUNT, J.P., MAYOR.

Chairman:

*ALDERMAN T. V. KEELAN, C.C.

Vice-Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR MRS. M. ASPDEN.

Ald. J. BRAITHWAITE.	Coun. M. CLEARY.
Ald. Mrs. M. M. DUCKWORTH.	Coun. D. DAVIDSON.
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*Ald. F. TAYLOR, C.C.	Coun. H. F. HASLAM.
Ald. E. YATES, LL.B., J.P.	Coun. J. R. HINDLE.
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*Coun. A. CARTER.	*Coun. J. TAYLOR.

*COUNCILLOR T. WINTERBOTTOM.

JOHN CHADWICK FIELDING, LL.B., Town Clerk.

* Members of the Public Health Sub-Committee.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	{	R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire		
County Council		
Senior Public Health Inspector	{	EDMUND P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Insp. (Cert.), M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.P.H.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods		
Director of Public Cleansing		
District Public Health Inspectors	{	J. HANDBY, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I., Inter C.I.S.
		H. RAMSBOTTOM, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I.
		P. H. WATSON, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector's Articled Pupil	{	R. C. DAVIDSON.
Chief Clerk		J. BOLTON.
Clerical Staff	{	A. ALSTON.
		Miss M. DUCKWORTH.
		Mrs. O. B. PARRY.
		F. TOWNLEY.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name of Clinic or Centre.	Situation.	Day and Time.	By whom provided.
Child Welfare and Diphtheria Immunisation.	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.
Ante-Natal Relaxation.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Maternity and Child Welfare Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Speech Therapy	Civic Health Centre.	Monday and Thursday a.m. by appointment.	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.	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.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.	by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Ear, Nose and Throat.	Civic Health Centre.	Friday p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Orthopædic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Chiropodist.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m., By appointment.	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.	Tullyvallen Open Air School, Darwen.	By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	Royal Infirmary 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. By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis.	Civic Health Centre.	By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.



CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,

DARWEN.

June, 1959.

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 1958.

The births showed little change, but there was an appreciably greater number of deaths, mainly among the elderly. This trend is to be expected in view of the increasing proportion of elderly persons.

The infant mortality rate reached an even lower figure, but this happy breaking of records is coming to be expected. It is this year even below the low national level, and is coupled with a still-birth rate also below the national level, which reassures one that deaths are not merely being transferred from one column to another.

Measles was again prevalent but mild. No outbreaks of dysentery or food poisoning occurred.

I am happy therefore to present a satisfactory report.

During the year, the accustomed friendly co-operation with all my fellow officials and the warm interest and support of the Committee, made my work pleasant and rewarding.

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.

1958

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 1958	29,680
Number of Inhabited Houses—Census, 1951	10,634
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1958	10,700
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census, 1951	10,797
Rateable Value	£251,691
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£988

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 13,869 insured adult persons, the average per cent unemployed was 1.8. The corresponding figures for 1957 were:— Insured adult persons, 13,760; Average per cent unemployed was 0.9.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	215 ... 206 ...	421	Birth-rate per 1,000
	Illegitimate.....	13 ... 13 ...	26	Estimated home
				population mid 1958:
	Total...	228 ... 219 ...	447	Crude 15.1
				Adjusted 16.3
STILLBIRTHS:	Legitimate	8 ... 2 ...	10	
	Illegitimate	Nil ... Nil ...	Nil	Rate per 1,000 total
	Total...	8 ... 2 ...	10	Births 21.9
DEATHS:				Death-rate per 1,000
				estimated home
				population mid-1958:
		267 ... 240 ...	507	Crude 17.1
				Adjusted 16.7
MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION.	Respiratory T.B.			0.03
	Malignant Neoplasms, etc.			2.66
MATERNAL MORTALITY.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			1
	Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births			2.19

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(Infants under the age of 1 year.)

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate Infants	6 ...	3 ...	9
Illegitimate Infants	Nil ...	Nil ...	Nil
Total Deaths	6 ...	3 ...	9

Rate per 1,000 live births 20.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year.	Darwen.	England and Wales.
1949	29	32
1950	36	29.8
1951	24	29.6
1952	34	27.6
1953	24	26.8
1954	28	25.5
1955	23	24.9
1956	27	23.8
1957	26	23.0
1958	20.1	22.5

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	0.000

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	7
Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	15.7

Births. The number of live births registered during the year was 447, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 16.3 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.			
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	
1953	223	240	463	16.1	15.5	
1954	212	188	400	14.4	15.2	
1955	211	222	433	15.6	15.0	
1956	204	201	405	14.7	15.7	
1957	224	207	431	15.6	16.1	
1958	228	219	447	16.3	16.4	

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.
1949	18	3.99	Nil	Nil
1950	19	4.58	Nil	Nil
1951	17	3.76	1	58
1952	17	4.13	Nil	Nil
1953	16	3.45	Nil	Nil
1954	12	3.00	Nil	Nil
1955	18	4.15	Nil	Nil
1956	21	5.18	2	95
1957	29	6.72	Nil	Nil
1958	26	5.45	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.
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
1953	16	1	17	35	0.55	0.35
1954	13	Nil	13	31	0.42	0.36
1955	3	Nil	3	7	0.09	0.35
1956	7	1	8	19	0.26	0.37
1957	12	Nil	12	27	0.40	0.37
1958	10	Nil	10	21.9	0.33	0.36

Deaths. The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 507, representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 16.7

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.	
1949	525	14.6	11.7
1950	489	13.91	11.6
1951	571	16.4	12.5
1952	473	13.6	11.3
1953	438	12.7	11.4
1954	493	14.8	11.3
1955	464	14.0	11.7
1956	462	15.2	11.7
1957	436	14.4	11.5
1958	507	16.7	11.7

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
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	10	2	12
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	13	13
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	19	21	40
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	48	53	101
Coronary Disease, Angina	53	25	78
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	8	11
Other Heart Disease	29	56	85
Other Circulatory Disease	10	8	18
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12	5	17
Bronchitis	26	7	33
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	4	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	8	—	8
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations	4	1	5
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	16	12	28
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	3	5
All other Accidents	4	4	8
Suicide	6	5	11
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	1
Totals	267	240	507

General Provisions of Health Services.

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	30	...	...	13	15	2	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excluding Rubella)	307	15	86	91	110	2	2	1	...	...	...	2	...
Whooping Cough	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal)	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	1	...
Meningococcal Infection .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis: Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neona- torum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria— Contracted in: England and Wales .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Totals	352	15	90	104	127	5	3	4	4	...	...	10	...

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

Disease.	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	120	25	24	85	30
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) .....	...	1	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever .....	...	1	...	...	...
Measles (excluding Rubella)	664	509	61	395	307
Whooping Cough	93	25	119	36	4
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal).	21	10	14	18	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	19	5	3	2	4
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic .....	...	5	...	2	...
Non-Paralytic .....	...	2	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious .....	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	30	98	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	1	3	1	...
Malaria—					
Contracted in:					
England and Wales ..	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad	1	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning.....	1	324	3	..	2
Totals	950	1007	227	539	352

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 1958 :—

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 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—10 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65—75	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	11	3	2	1	1	...	...	...
	14		3		1		...	

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.	
1949	6	12	5	2	25
1950	15	13	4	6	38
1951	12	14	3	4	33
1952	11	10	2	3	26
1953	9	2	7	5	23
1954	5	6	—	2	13
1955	6	6	1	6	19
1956	9	5	2	—	16
1957	9	2	2	—	13
1958	11	3	2	1	17

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 & 1951 SECTION 47.

No action taken 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., R.S.P.H., M.A.P.H.I., Etc.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH 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. Two supplementary water supplies are also available when required from a borehole in the centre of the town and a mineshaft at Eccleshill piped to Sunnyhurst Reservoir.

Purification.—All water is sandfiltered and chlorinated.

Supply.—The approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied direct is 10,484.

SAMPLING.

Chemical. Six samples of water from public supplies were submitted for analysis during the year. All were satisfactorily reported upon.

Bacteriological. Six samples of drinking water from Public Supplies, and twelve samples of drinking water from seven private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination. The six samples from the Public Supplies were satisfactorily reported upon.

Eight samples from the Private Supplies were satisfactory reported upon, whilst four samples were unsatisfactorily reported upon.

Further samples of these supplies are being taken periodically. Users are advised on precautionary measures

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODA- TION.

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

Pails	131
Water Closets	12687
Waste Water Closets	1011
Cesspools	0
Total	13829

Conversions and Installations during 1958 :—

New Water Closets fixed	139
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets ...	87
Latrine Closets converted to Water Closets	0
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	0
Baths installed during the year	128
Showers installed during the year	0
Urinals installed during the year	0
Waste Water Closets dismantled	0
Water Closets dismantled	1

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 will gradually result in the total abolition of the 1010 waste water closets, though at the present rate of progress this will take another eighteen years.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river is still somewhat polluted by industrial waste effluents, though rather less than in previous years. 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	591
Number of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932)	166
Number of inspections of Schools	0
Number of inspections of Factories and Workplaces	221
Number of inspections of Municipal Hostel	52
Number of inspections of Bakehouses	13
Number of inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	0
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips	114
Complaints received and investigated	354
Number of re-inspections made	4023
Visits paid to houses (re cases of Infectious Diseases) ...	38
Number of rooms disinfected	37
Number of smoke observations taken	20
Number of drains, etc., tested	271
Total number of defects discovered	1124
Informal Notices served	1124
Statutory Notices served	70
Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year	1813

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective Drains	78
Choked and defective Sewers	0
Defective soil pipes and water closets	26
Defective downspouts, easing troughs, roofs and external walls	84
Defective plastering	104
Defective Roofs and Damp Walls	55
Dirty houses and Premises	0
Dangerous Buildings	0
Dirty and dilapidated closets	46
Accumulations of refuse	1
Defective or uneven gullies	26
Insanitary sinks	5
Defective fire ranges	26
Broken slop pipes	1

Defective Flushing Cisterns	13
Defective tippers of waste water closets	2
Choked waste water closets	38
Choked water closets	39
Insanitary yards	16
Defective internal floors	76
Insufficient ventilation	73
Burst water pipes	10
Defective wash boilers	6
*Miscellaneous nuisances	274

* The Miscellaneous Nuisances include such items as defective pointing, defective woodwork of doors, defective pointing and putty around windows, etc.

SHOPS: FOOD.

1020 Routine and special inspections were made of Meat, Fish, and other food shops and Market Stalls under the Food Hygiene Regulations. Advice was given as necessary, and various works of improvements initiated.

INSPECTIONS UNDER SHOPS ACT, 1950.

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.

Twenty smoke observations were taken during the year, and advice and instructions 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 one hundred and seventy houses were found to be infested with vermin including two houses infested with bugs. All of these had been disinfested by the end of the year, gaseous fumigation and spraying being the methods employed.

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, 116.57; Females, 13.04.

FACTORIES.

Two hundred and three 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.

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 completely mechanised, the tractor-drawn trailer tank for nightsoil collection, being now in use for one day per week.

**REFUSE
COLLECTION.**

Reference was made in a recent Annual Report to the great difficulties experienced by the Department in keeping the refuse collection frequency at a reasonable level during the winter months. Full particulars were given there of the various factors which have arisen during the past 20 years which affect the position. These factors do not change with the passage of time and the Cleansing Committee has the service continually under review so that no expedient to improve the frequency may go untried. All the four districts into which the town is divided for refuse collection purposes are now serviced by vehicles which have maximum capacity consistent with manoeuvrability in the narrower streets. These vehicles are of the "fore-and-aft" tipping type and are proving very successful.

**REFUSE
DISPOSAL.**

The system of controlled tipping continues to be operated at the Corporation-owned Bull Hill Tip — 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.

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	432	4½
Ferrous Metals—Baled Tins	Nil	Nil
„ „ Black Scrap	22	4
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	18½
Textiles—Rags, Carpets	9	7½
Waste Foods—Pigswill (after boiling)	137	10
	—	—
Total	603	4½
	—	—

The total value of the salvaged materials sold was £3,565.

The price of waste paper and container waste was maintained during the year, and there has been no difficulty in disposal. The former salvage depot in the old destructor works yard has now been closed, apart from the waste food plant, and a large Nissen type hut sited at Bull Hill Tip has replaced it.

SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the work done during 1958. It should be noted that the weights given below are estimated.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House Refuse to Tip (3833 loads)	6134	0	0
Market and Trade Refuse to Tip (339 loads)	509	0	0
Receptacles Emptied (House Refuse)	384233		
Receptacles Emptied (Trade Refuse)	22606		
Excreta	104	Loads.	
Excreta Pails Emptied	2739		
Sludge from Street Gullies	282	Loads	
Street Gullies Emptied	17185		
Sweepings : Bins from Street Orderly Trucks ...	3072		
Sweepings : Manulectric Trucks	974	Loads.	
Dust Bins added during the year	40		
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles	12820		
Length of Streets swept by Mechanical Sweeper	2261	Miles	
Length of Streets swept by Manulectric Trucks	2283	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)	64
(i) By Local Authority	64
(ii) By other Local Authorities	2
(iii) By other bodies or persons	4
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)	64
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above)	4

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)	166
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1944
(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	142
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	160
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(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	157

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	14
---	----

STATISTICS

(continued).

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	10
(b) By local authority in default of owners	7
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(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 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
(1a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	41
(1b) Number of dwelling houses in ownership of Local Authority dealt with in accordance with Section 3 (3a) of the Housing Subsidies Act 1956, as directed in Appendix II of Circular 33/56 with a view to demolition	1
*(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	19
* This figure includes two houses previously closed under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 and five houses demolished informally by owners upon vacation by tenants.	
(3) Number of houses demolished where action has been taken under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses closed as a result of Closing Orders made under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957	52
(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

STATISTICS
(continued).

(e) Houses closed informally by owners	0
(f) Proceedings under Sections 42 and 43 of the Housing Act, 1957.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders	0
4. Housing Act 1957 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	0
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0
5. Housing Acts, 1949-1954.	
(a) (i) Number of schemes submitted—	
(a) By private individuals to Local Authority	28
(b) By Local Authority to Ministry	0
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	28
(b) (i) Number of schemes approved—	
(a) Of private individuals	27
(b) Of the Local Authority	0
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	27
(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, but is gradually being reduced.

**OVER DARWEN
IMPROVEMENT
ACT, 1879.**

Orders under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879 had been previously made against eight houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, attaching a penalty to their continued letting. (See note under (c) (3) on page 26).

**GENERAL
OBSERVATIONS.**

The chief difficulty in housing work 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.

It is perhaps worthy of note here that since the last Report the Corporation have taken over another house at the request of the owner, in discharge of debt for default repair works, making a total of 35 houses so far taken over.

In addition a further 3 houses of varying types and sizes have been acquired by the Corporation at the instance of, and by agreement with, the owners, making a total of 117 houses so far taken over, of which 18 were in Housing or Industrial Redevelopment Schemes. They have all been, or are to be, repaired.

Inspection, survey and repair proceeded steadily throughout the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SAMPLING MILK.

Biological. Thirty-nine samples were submitted for guinea pig inoculation. Thirty-eight were reported as negative, and one sample was reported as positive.

Suitable action was taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and information was received that clinical examination had been carried out and three animals removed for slaughter.

Bacteriological. Fifty-eight samples were examined during the year. Forty-one were satisfactorily reported upon, seventeen were unsatisfactorily reported upon. The reports were passed on for appropriate action to the County Milk Production Officer.

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

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Public Abattoir was closed in June, 1941, 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 32.

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
41	Milk	41	...
1	Pork Sausage .....	...	1
3	Ice Cream .....	...	3
1	Patent Cornflour .....	...	1
1	Orange Squash .....	...	1
1	Butter .....	...	1
2	Margarine .....	...	2
1	Lamb Chops .....	...	1
1	Strawberry Jelly .....	...	1
1	Jelly Marmalade .....	...	1
1	Cheese Spread Celery Flavoured .....	...	1
1	Double Devon Cream .....	...	1
1	Potted Salmon with Butter .....	...	1
1	Baking Powder .....	...	1
1	Glycerine, Honey and Lemon .....	...	1
1	Aspirin Tablets .....	...	1
1	Rose Hip Syrup .....	...	1
1	Almond Flavour .....	...	1
1	Almond Marzipan .....	...	1
1	Mincemeat .....	...	1
1	Su'tanas .....	...	1
1	Christmas Pudding .....	...	1
1	Pure Honey .....	...	1
4	Scotch Whisky	4	...
2	Rum	2	...
2	Brandy	2	...
1	Gin	1	...
1	Tea .....	...	1

TABLE II—SAMPLES REPORTED NOT GENUINE

Cons. No.	No. of Samples	Description	Formal	Informal	Result	Action Taken
1	1	Milk	x	—	Deficient 3.3% fat.	Vendor cautioned
2	1	Beef Sausage	—	x	Meat Content 69% Contained 280 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as so) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned
3	1	Pork Sausage	—	x	Meat content 63% (Slightly poor in meat content).	No action advised
4	1	Pork Sausage	—	x	Contained 190 parts per million of sulphite preservatives (expressed as sulphite dioxide without declaration).	Vendor cautioned

It will be observed that the Pork Sausage (Sample No. 3) was slightly poor in meat content judged by the unofficial standard of 65% minimum meat content which, following the wartime precedent, we consider to be a reasonable one. But in the absence of a statutorily declared standard no action can be taken by the Local Authority, as, in a case taken, the Local Bench declined to fix a standard.

It is, and I think rightly, the generally held opinion of Public Health Inspectors and Public Analysts that a meat content standard should be fixed for both beef and pork sausages, since without it, it will not be possible even to attempt to secure that, when the public are buying these articles of food, they will be getting the right nutritional material in satisfactory proportions.

**TABLE III—SHOWING AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FOOD
CONDEMNED DURING 1958.**

Amount.	Nature of Food.	Amount.	Nature of Food.	Amount.	Nature of Food.
134 tins	Assorted Fruit	7 tins	Stewed Steak	1 tin	Lunch Tongues
48 tins	Assorted Vegetables	11 tins	Baked Beans	1 tin	Pork Tenderloin
6 tins	Ox Tongue	4 tins	Steak Puddings	1 tin	Minced Meat Loaf
11 tins	Luncheon Meat	2 tins	Sherry Trifle	1 jar	Red Cabbage
22 tins	Corned Beef	2 tins	Rice Pudding	1 jar	Chicken Fillets
9 tins	Ham	1 tin	Spam	9½ lbs.	Kraft Cheese
12 tins	Fish	1 tin	Chicken Fillets	37 lbs.	Cheddar Cheese
31 tins	Tomatoes	7 tins	Creamed Rice	1415 lbs.	Jersey Potatoes
18 tins	Soups	1 tin	Corned Mutton	2 qrts.	Shrimps
10 tins	Meat	1 tin	Danish	26 lbs.	Beef
2 tins	Cream		Luncheon Meat	10 lbs.	Lambs Liver
1 bottle	Cream	2 tins	Ham and Chicken	2 lbs.	Ox Tongue
		1 tin	Steak and Onions	13 lbs.	Ham

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Investigation and disinfection 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 low level the degree of infestation in the town. This has been maintained now for twelve 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.
831 (including 243 Hen Pens.)	Killed 164	prior to January, Full Test 143 60	1958 4097	24,277 28,374

SEWER TREATMENTS.

Date	No. of manholes treated.	Estimated kill
April	462	2110
October	441	1594

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