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BOROUGH OF DARWEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Annual Report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1972

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B O R O U G H O F D A R W E N

ANNUAL REPORT

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year

1972



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Members of the Health and Housing Committee

1972 - 1973

COUNCILLOR P.H.M.W. CLEAR, MAYOR

CHAIRMAN

ALDERMAN MISS C. MARSDEN

VICE-CHAIRMAN

ALDERMAN P.S. HUNT

ALD. A. BARNES

ALD. C.W. JONES, J.P.

ALD. A. PRESTON

ALD. E. YATES

COUNC. D.W. ALDER

COUNC. W.F. BIRCH

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COUNC. J.C. STARBUCK

COUNC. J. SWANTON

COUNC. C. TALBOT

JOHN CHADWICK FIELDING, LL.B.,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| Medical Officer of Health | P.M. Sammon, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council | |
| Deputy Medical Officer of Health | Sheila M. Hutchinson, |
| Senior Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council | L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H. |
| Chief Public Health Inspector | H. Ramsbottom, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods. |
| Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector | P.H. Watson, M.A.P.H.I., C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods. |
| District Public Health Inspectors | T. Gregson, M.A.P.H.I., C.P.H.I.E.B., Dip. Insp. Meat and Other Foods., Dip. Air Pollution Control |
| | B. Taylor, Dip. P.H.I.E.B., Dip. Air Pollution Control. (Resigned November, 1972) |
| Technical Assistant | F. Townley |
| Student Public Health Inspector | P.H. Banks |
| Clerical Staff | Miss M.A. Hoyle Miss G. Bradshaw |
| Rodent Operator | H. Brady |
| Municipal Hostel, Warden | R.W. Kilpatrick |
| Matron | Mrs. P. Kilpatrick |
| Mortuary Attendant | A. Bowcock |

CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES

| NAME OF CLINIC | SITUATION | DAY AND TIME | BY WHOM PROVIDED |
|---|------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Child Welfare & Diphtheria Immunisation, etc. | Civic Health Centre | Monday 2 p.m. | Lancashire County Council |
| | St. Chad's Clinic | Wednesday 10 a.m. | |
| | Spring Vale Clinic | Tuesday 2 p.m. | |
| Ante-Natal | Civic Health Centre | Monday 2 p.m. (Specialist) | Lancashire County Council |
| Ante-Natal Relaxation | Civic Health Centre | Wednesday 2 p.m. | Lancashire County Council |
| Dental | Civic Health Centre | Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4. 30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday evening | Lancashire County Council |
| School Clinic | Civic Health Centre | Minor Ailments Friday a.m. | Lancashire County Council |
| Ophthalmic | Civic Health Centre | Tuesday a.m. | Lancashire County Council |
| Cytology | Civic Health Centre | Tuesday Fortnightly | Lancashire County Council |
| Ear, Nose and Throat | Civic Health Centre | Tuesday p.m. (by appointment) | Lancashire County Council |
| Orthopaedic | Civic Health Centre | Wednesday 10 a.m. (by appointment) | Lancashire County Council |
| Chiropodist | Civic Health Centre | Monday to Friday a.m. and p.m. Except Wednesday a.m. only (by appointment) | Lancashire County Council |

| NAME OF CLINIC | SITUATION | DAY AND TIME | BY WHOM PROVIDED |
|--|---|--|---|
| Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers | Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn. | 1st Tuesday in every month 11 a.m. (by appointment) | Blackburn and District Hospital Management Committee |
| Tuberculosis Dispensary | Royal Infirmary, Blackburn. | Tuesday 8.50 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesday 10 to 11.15 a.m. and 1.40 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Friday 8.50 a.m. to 12 noon. | Manchester Regional Hospital Board |
| Venereal Diseases | Royal Infirmary, Blackburn. | Males and Females Monday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wednesday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. | Manchester Regional Hospital Board |
| B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis | Civic Health Centre also Royal Infirmary, Blackburn | By appointment By appointment | Lancashire County Council Manchester Regional Hospital Board |
| Family Planning | Civic Health Centre | Wednesday Evening (by appointment) | Family Planning Association |

CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,
DARWEN.

August, 1973.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1972.

In the year there were 487 live births giving a birth rate of 18.1 as opposed to the national average of 14.8. In other words, the birth rate in Darwen has remained at a similar level to that occurring in the previous few years. The number of deaths was 421, giving a death rate of 14.3 as opposed to the national average of 12.1, the picture being similar to that in recent years, the rate in Darwen being higher than the national average. It will be noted that the illegitimate birth rate reached double figures for the first time, though it has been near that level previously. The infantile mortality rate was 22.00 as opposed to 18.00, the figure for England and Wales.

The incidence of infectious diseases does not call for any special comment. The incidence of Measles was again fairly high in 1972.

In a number of neighbouring authorities there has been a slight increase in the notification rate of new cases of Tuberculosis, but this is not reflected in respect of the Borough. In the year 6 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. H. Ramsbottom, Mr. P.H. Watson and all the staff of the Public Health Department for their help. In turn I am sure all the staff will wish to record the help and encouragement given to the Department by the members and officials of the Borough.

Yours sincerely,

P.M. Sammon

Medical Officer of Health

PART 1

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

By

P. M. Sammon, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

SUMMARY of STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS

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, 1971 | 28,875 |
| Population - Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate for 1972 | 29,300 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1972 | 11,038 |
| Rateable Value | £986,631 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | £8,850 |

The principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

| | | <u>MALES</u> | <u>FEMALES</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | |
|---|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| LIVE BIRTHS | { Legitimate | 225 | 212 | 437 | Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid 1972 Crude 16.6 Adjusted 18.1 |
| | { Illegitimate | 26 | 24 | 50 | |
| | { Total | 251 | 236 | 487 | |
| STILL BIRTHS | { Legitimate | 2 | 5 | 7 | |
| | { Illegitimate | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| | { Total | 3 | 5 | 8 | |
| DEATHS | { | 216 | 205 | 421 | Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid 1972 Crude 14.4 Adjusted 14.3 |
| MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION | { Respiratory T.B. | | | | 0.07 |
| | { Malignant Neoplasms, etc. | | | | 2.35 |
| MATERNAL MORTALITY | { Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion | | | | Nil |
| | { Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births | | | | Nil |
| | | <u>MALES</u> | <u>FEMALES</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> | |
| INFANTILE MORTALITY (Infants under the age of one year) | { Legitimate | | | | |
| | { Infants | 4 | 5 | 9 | |
| | { Illegitimate | | | | |
| | { Infants | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| | { Total Deaths | 4 | 6 | 10 | |
| Rate per 1,000 Live Births | | | | | 21 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

| YEAR | DARWEN | ENGLAND AND WALES |
|------|--------|-------------------|
| 1963 | 30.7 | 20.9 |
| 1964 | 23.7 | 20.0 |
| 1965 | 10.5 | 19.0 |
| 1966 | 27.7 | 19.0 |
| 1967 | 19.0 | 19.0 |
| 1968 | 21.0 | 18.3 |
| 1969 | 18.0 | 18.0 |
| 1970 | 24.0 | 18.0 |
| 1971 | 22.0 | 18.0 |
| 1972 | 21.0 | 17.0 |

OTHER INFANT DEATHS

TOTAL RATE PER 1,000
POPULATION

| | | |
|--|-----|------|
| Deaths from Meales (at all ages)... | Nil | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages) ... | Nil | Nil |
| Deaths from Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases (under two years) .. | 1 | 0.30 |

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

| | | |
|--|-------|----|
| Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age | | 6 |
| Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births | | 12 |

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

| | |
|---|---|
| Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births | 5 |
|---|---|

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

| | | |
|--|-------|----|
| Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Stillbirths | | 26 |
|--|-------|----|

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 481, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 18.1 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 | |
|------|------------------|--------|-------|-------------------|----------------|
| | NUMBER OF BIRTHS | | | RATE PER 1,000 | RATE PER 1,000 |
| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | | |
| 1963 | 255 | 266 | 521 | 19.6 | 18.2 |
| 1964 | 258 | 249 | 507 | 19.3 | 18.4 |
| 1965 | 246 | 228 | 474 | 18.1 | 18.1 |
| 1966 | 269 | 237 | 506 | 19.4 | 17.7 |
| 1967 | 260 | 255 | 515 | 19.9 | 17.2 |
| 1968 | 245 | 222 | 467 | 18.0 | 16.9 |
| 1969 | 236 | 215 | 451 | 17.5 | 16.3 |
| 1970 | 239 | 229 | 468 | 18.3 | 16.0 |
| 1971 | 251 | 242 | 493 | 18.8 | 16.0 |
| 1972 | 251 | 236 | 487 | 18.1 | 14.8 |

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS. The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years:-

| YEAR | NUMBER OF BIRTHS | RATE PER CENT OF LIVE BIRTHS | NUMBER OF DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR | DEATH RATE PER 1,000 ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS |
|------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1963 | 35 | 6.71 | 1 | 28 |
| 1964 | 34 | 6.70 | 2 | 59 |
| 1965 | 32 | 6.75 | Nil | Nil |
| 1966 | 32 | 6.32 | Nil | Nil |
| 1967 | 49 | 9.51 | 3 | 61 |
| 1968 | 46 | 9.85 | Nil | Nil |
| 1969 | 41 | 9.09 | Nil | Nil |
| 1970 | 35 | 7.40 | 1 | 28 |
| 1971 | 34 | 6.89 | 1 | 29 |
| 1972 | 50 | 10.20 | 1 | 20 |

STILLBIRTHS - The table below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years.

| YEAR | NUMBER OF STILLBIRTHS | | | RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS | RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION | |
|------|-----------------------|--------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | LEGITIMATE | ILLEGITIMATE | TOTAL | | DARWEN | ENGLAND & WALES |
| 1963 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 24.3 | 0.44 | 0.32 |
| 1964 | 7 | 3 | 10 | 19.3 | 0.34 | 0.31 |
| 1965 | 13 | 1 | 14 | 28.7 | 0.48 | 0.29 |
| 1966 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 19.4 | 0.34 | 0.28 |
| 1967 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 12.0 | 0.20 | 0.26 |
| 1968 | 10 | Nil | 10 | 21.0 | 0.34 | 0.24 |
| 1969 | 4 | Nil | 4 | 9.0 | 0.14 | 0.21 |
| 1970 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 16.9 | 0.28 | 0.21 |
| 1971 | 9 | Nil | 9 | 18.2 | 0.30 | 0.20 |
| 1972 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 16.5 | 0.27 | 0.18 |

DEATHS - The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 421 representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 14.3

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 |
|------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | TOTAL DEATHS | RATE PER 1,000 | RATE PER 1,000 |
| 1963 | 451 | 15.3 | 12.2 |
| 1964 | 377 | 13.0 | 11.3 |
| 1965 | 417 | 13.9 | 11.5 |
| 1966 | 470 | 15.9 | 11.7 |
| 1967 | 417 | 14.4 | 11.2 |
| 1968 | 421 | 14.5 | 11.9 |
| 1969 | 405 | 14.1 | 11.9 |
| 1970 | 428 | 14.6 | 11.7 |
| 1971 | 452 | 15.0 | 11.6 |
| 1972 | 421 | 14.3 | 12.1 |

The following is a copy of the Eighth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases supplied by the Registrar General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwen residents.

The information does not include non-civilian deaths:-

| B LIST NUMBER | CAUSE OF DEATH | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|------------------|--|-------|---------|-------|
| B. 1 | Cholera | - | - | - |
| B. 2 | Typhoid Fever | - | - | - |
| B. 3 | Bacillary Dysentery and Amoebiasis ... | - | - | - |
| B. 4 | Enteritis & Other Diarrhoeal Diseases . | 1 | - | 1 |
| B. 5 | Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... | 2 | - | 2 |
| B. 6 (pt) | Late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis | - | - | - |
| B. 6(rem) | Other Tuberculosis | - | - | - |
| B. 7 | Plague | - | - | - |
| B. 8 | Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| B. 9 | Whooping Cough | - | - | - |
| B. 10 | Streptococcal Sore Throat and Scarlet Fever | - | - | - |
| B. 11 | Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - |
| B. 12 | Acute Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| B. 13 | Smallpox | - | - | - |
| B. 14 | Measles | - | - | - |
| B. 15 | Typhus and Other Rickettsioses | - | - | - |
| B. 16 | Malaria | - | - | - |
| B. 17 | Syphilis and its Sequelae | - | - | - |
| B. 18 | All Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases | - | - | - |
| B. 19 (1) | Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc . | - | 1 | 1 |
| B. 19 (2) | Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| B. 19 (3) | Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| B. 19 (4) | Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine | 6 | 10 | 16 |
| B. 19 (5) | Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx | - | - | - |
| B. 19 (6) | Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus . | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| B. 19 (7) | Malignant Neoplasm, Breast | - | 5 | 5 |
| B. 19 (8) | Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus | - | - | - |
| B. 19 (9) | Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate | 4 | - | 4 |
| B. 19(10) | Leukamia | - | 1 | 1 |
| B. 19(11) | Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc | 6 | 9 | 15 |
| B. 20 | Benign Neoplasms & Neoplasms of Unspecified Nature | - | - | - |
| B. 21 | Diabetes Mellitus | - | 5 | 5 |
| B. 22 | Avitaminoses & Other Nutritional Deficiency | - | - | - |
| B. 46 (1) | Other Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases | - | - | - |
| B. 23 | Anaemias | - | 2 | 2 |
| B. 46 (pt) | Other Diseases of Blood and Blood Forming Organs | - | - | - |
| B. 46 (3) | Mental Disorders | - | - | - |

| B LIST NUMBER | CAUSE OF DEATH | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|------------------|---|-------|---------|-------|
| B. 24 | Meningitis | - | - | - |
| B. 46 (4) | Multiple Sclerosis | - | 1 | 1 |
| B. 46 (5) | Other Diseases of Nervous System | 2 | - | 2 |
| B. 25 | Active Rheumatic Fever | - | - | - |
| B. 26 | Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| B. 27 | Hypertensive Disease | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| B. 28 | Ischaemic Heart Disease | 64 | 47 | 111 |
| B. 29 | Other Forms of Heart Disease | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| B. 30 | Cerebrovascular Disease | 17 | 22 | 39 |
| B. 46 (6) | Other Diseases of the Circulatory System | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| B. 31 | Influenza | 1 | - | 1 |
| B. 32 | Pneumonia | 31 | 30 | 61 |
| B. 33 (1) | Bronchitis, Emphysema | 23 | 10 | 33 |
| B. 33 (2) | Asthma | - | 1 | 1 |
| B. 46 (7) | Other Diseases of the Respiratory System | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| B. 34 | Peptic Ulcer | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| B. 35 | Appendicitis | - | 1 | 1 |
| B. 36 | Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ... | 1 | - | 1 |
| B. 37 | Cirrhosis of Liver | - | - | - |
| B. 46 (8) | Other Diseases of the Digestive System | 1 | - | 1 |
| B. 38 | Nephritis & Nephrosis | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| B. 39 | Hyperplasia of Prostate | - | - | - |
| B. 46 (9) | Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| B. 46(11) | Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System . | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| B. 40 | Abortion | - | - | - |
| B. 41 | Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium | - | - | - |
| B. 46(10) | Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue | - | - | - |
| B. 42 | Congenital Anomalies | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| B. 43 | Birth Injury, Difficult Labour and Other Anoxic and Hypoxic Conditions | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| B. 44 | Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality . | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| B. 45 | Symptoms & Ill-Defined Conditions ... | - | - | - |
| BE. 47 | Motor Vehicle Accidents | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| BE. 48 | All Other Accidents | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| BE. 49 | Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries . | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| BE. 50 | All Other External Causes | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | TOTALS | 216 | 205 | 421 |

A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare 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 at Bull Hill.

Laboratory Facilities

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn Royal Infirmary undertake the examination of pathological specimens for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

The bacteriological examination of food, water and other non-personal specimens is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Preston, acting for the Medical Research Council of the Ministry of Health

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

| | MEASLES (EXCLUDING RUBELLA) | | DYSENTERY | | SCARLET FEVER | | DIPH- THERIA | | ACUTE MENINGITIS | | ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------|----|------------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|------------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | PARALYTIC | | NON PARALYTIC | |
| Under 1 Year | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 " | 21 | 14 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 Years | 16 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 " | 25 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 4 " | 20 | 8 | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 - 9 " | 54 | 59 | | 1 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 " | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 - 24 " | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 25 and over | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age unknown | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 141 | 114 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

[illegible]

| | TETANUS | | INFECTIVE JAUNDICE | | WHOOPIG COUGH | |
|--------------|---------|---|-----------------------|---|------------------|---|
| | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 1 Year | | | | | | |
| 1 Year | | | | | | |
| 2 - 4 Years | | | | | | |
| 5 - 9 " | | | | 1 | | |
| 10 - 14 " | | | 1 | | | |
| 15 - 19 " | | | | | | |
| 20 - 24 " | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| 25 - 34 " | | | 1 | | | |
| 35 - 44 " | | | | | | |
| 45 - 54 " | | | | | | |
| 55 - 64 " | | | | | | |
| 65 - 74 " | | | | | | |
| 75 and over | | | | | | |
| Age unknown | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | - | - | 3 | 2 | - | - |

CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL AND DEATHS FROM
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

| | HOSPITAL | | TOTAL DEATHS |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | CASES REMOVED | DEATHS IN HOSPITAL | |
| DYSENTERY | 3 | - | - |
| MEASLES | 4 | - | - |
| FOOD POISONING | 1 | - | - |
| INFECTIVE JAUNDICE | 2 | - | - |

The following table gives the comparative incidence of Infectious Diseases during the past five years:-

| DISEASE | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Smallpox | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 25 | 11 | 3 | 15 | 22 |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - |
| Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paratyphoid Fever | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles (excluding Rubella) . | 46 | 481 | 100 | 350 | 255 |
| Whooping Cough | 12 | - | 6 | 13 | 1 |
| (A) Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenza) | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| (A) Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS:- | | | | | |
| Paralytic | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-Paralytic | - | - | - | - | - |
| ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS:- | | | | | |
| Infective | - | - | - | - | - |
| Post Infectious | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | 125 | 39 | 14 | 4 | 17 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | - | - | - |
| (A) Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - |
| Leptospirosis | - | - | - | - | - |
| Acute Meningitis | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Anthrax | - | - | - | - | - |
| Yellow Fever | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | 17 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 |
| Tetanus | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Jaundice | 9 | 34 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| TOTALS:- | 236 | 569 | 133 | 392 | 305 |

(A) Notified to 30th September, 1968.

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 1972.

| AGE PERIODS | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | RESPIRATORY | | NON-RESPIRATORY | | RESPIRATORY | | NON-RESPIRATORY | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Under 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 Year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 - 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 - 14 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 19 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 - 24 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 - 34 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 - 44 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 54 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 55 - 64 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| 65 - 74 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 75 and upwards | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS:- | 5 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| | 5 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | |

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

| YEAR | RESPIRATORY | | NON-RESPIRATORY | | TOTAL |
|------|-------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| | MALE | FEMALE | MALE | FEMALE | |
| 1963 | 11 | 2 | - | - | 13 |
| 1964 | 8 | 1 | - | - | 9 |
| 1965 | 3 | 2 | - | 2 | 7 |
| 1966 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 4 |
| 1967 | 3 | 2 | - | 2 | 7 |
| 1968 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 |
| 1969 | 2 | - | 1 | - | 3 |
| 1970 | 3 | 4 | - | 4 | 11 |
| 1971 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 1972 | 5 | - | - | 1 | 6 |

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE
ACT, 1948 and 1951
Section 47

No action taken under this Section

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Environmental Health Service for the year 1972 which will be the final one submitted to the Darwen Health Committee.

From the 1st April, 1974, Darwen will amalgamate with Blackburn County Borough and part of Blackburn Rural District Council and a small area of Turton Urban District Council to form the new District 10 of the Local Government Re-organisation proposals which will be known as Blackburn.

Thus after about 96 years as a Borough, Darwen will lose its independent status in the interests of progress.

Not that Darwen has been lacking in progress in the Environmental Health field and the Authority will bow out with an excellent record due to the interest and support of past and present members of the Health Committee and the activities of our predecessors.

Over the years the primitive conditions under which people lived have been improved tremendously and although we are not yet at the stage where every dwelling has a bathroom and internal W.C. rapid progress is being made at the present time by way of improvement grants towards this ideal.

Long gone are the days when pail closets were in common use and with the advent of sewers Darwen in common with other East Lancashire towns pioneered the waste water closet type of sanitary convenience which whilst looked upon today as an insanitary appliance was a great step forward at the time. It is interesting to note that in the year 1913 when the population was 40,824, that there were 4,688 pail closets, 2,513 waste water closets and only 3,405 water closets in the Borough.

Under the provisions of the Darwen Corporation Act Provisional Order 1912 rapid progress was made in the subsequent years towards the conversion of all pail closets to the water carriage system.

Gone too are the days of back to back houses, underground dwellings, the ash pits and the horse manure midden steads.

With regard to redevelopment the first large scale clearance scheme took place at the turn of the century when hundreds of old dwellings on the Green were demolished.

Some thirty years later further large scale improvement work was carried out in the centre of the Borough.

Since then over the years further clearance work has been carried out and several thousand properties have been demolished where it was considered that either due to disrepair or bad arrangement clearance was necessary.

In the 1971 report reference was made to the decision of the Council to declare and carry out modernisation by way of General Improvement Areas.

During the year rapid progress has been made in this direction and eight General Improvement Areas were declared. In November 1972 the Council recommended the declaration of a further eight areas.

These together with the Ellenshaw General Improvement Area previously declared and the Corporation's Marsh House Lane Estate General Improvement Area brought the total to eighteen General Improvement Areas involving a total of approximately 6,000 houses.

Work proceeded steadily by way of clearance in accordance with the Corporation's phased programme and since 1954, 1,562 houses had either been dealt with or were in the process of clearance by the end of the year.

The remainder of the current programme at the present rate will take approximately 5 to 6 years.

During the year the Corporation have continued the Smoke Control programme within the financial limits set by the Council.

While a total of 40% of properties covered by Smoke Control at the end of the year may appear somewhat disappointing, it is expected that this figure will rise very sharply in the immediate future. This is due to a variety of reasons but due in the main to the general public becoming more smoke control minded and carrying out work before their own locality is 'officially declared'.

The present date for completion of the smoke control programme is approximately 1980 but I would be very much surprised if it is not finished well in advance of that time.

The average number of lodgers in the Municipal Hostel continues to fall working out at a figure of 81.98 and here again it is interesting to compare this figure with the year 1913 when the average was 125.8.

The only change on the staff side was the departure of Mr. B. Taylor in November, a member of the Inspectorial Staff who was appointed District Public Health Inspector with Blackburn Corporation.

He was replaced by Mr. C.R. Walsh a local resident who was at that time working for Haslingden Corporation.

In conclusion I would like to thank Dr. Sammon and Dr. Hutchinson for their help and also the staff and employees of the Department, particularly my Deputy Mr. P.H. Watson for their keenness and co-operation and finally to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee both past and present, for their continued support and encouragement over the years.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen
Your Obedient Servant,

H. Ramsbottom

Chief Public Health Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The town is served by the Fylde Water Board. Water is supplied as follows.

- (a) The high level Sunnyhurst storage reservoir which was constructed in 1875. Situated over 900 ft. above sea level it has a capacity of 92 million gallons.
- (b) The lower level Earnsdale impounding reservoir constructed in 1863. Situated over 700 ft. above sea level it has a capacity of 100 million gallons.

When reservoir stocks are depleted to a level below the control line, the difference is made up by bringing water from the Fishmoor Treatment Plant at Blackburn.

Work completed in recent years to improve the Darwen supply system consists of:-

- (a) The construction at Sunnyhurst of a reinforced concrete clear water tank of 0.8 million gallons capacity, covered with an aluminium roof.
- (b) The construction of a similar type of tank at Earnsdale of 0.9 million gallons capacity.
- (c) The Earnsdale pump house, which is a brick built super-structure on a reinforced concrete sub-structure.
- (d) The renovation of two existing slow sand filters at Sunnyhurst.
- (e) The construction of a new building at Sunnyhurst to house lime dosing equipment, and a further building to house the ozone treatment plant, together with mess room accommodation.

Extension of Water Mains during 1972

Extension of Water Mains during the year was as follows

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| (a) to existing dwellings | 973 metres |
| (b) to new dwellings | 1.51 k.m. |
| (c) to other development | 138 metres |

Dwelling houses connected

| | |
|--|------------|
| (a) New connections to existing houses | 6 |
| (b) To new houses | <u>220</u> |
| Total | 226 |

Rainfall on the Watershed for 1972 was 1333.9 m.m. (approximately 53") which was 10" higher than the previous year.

No new sources of supply have been brought into use during the year.

The Board are responsible for Plumbo-Solvent action and precautions are taken for removal of organic matter and the adjustment of pH value.

Typical analysis of sample water recently taken from the two reservoirs are as follows:-

| | <u>Sunnyhurst</u> High Level Supply | <u>Earnsdale</u> Low Level Supply |
|--|---|---|
| Appearance | Clear & Bright | Clear & Bright |
| Colour (Hazen p.p.m. Pt) | 7 | 5 |
| Turbidity (p.p.m. Silica) | 0.5 | Nil |
| Odour | Nil | Nil |
| Taste | Normal | Normal |
| Reaction pH Value | 6.7 | 7.8 |
| Electrical Conductivity umho/cc | 115 | 105 |
| | p.p.m. | |
| Residual Chlorine | 0.15 | 0.10 |
| Free & Saline Ammonia as N ₂ | 0.03 | 0.07 |
| Albuminoid Ammonia as N ₂ | 0.10 | 0.01 |
| Nitrous Nitrogen as N ₂ | 0.002 | 0.004 |
| Nitric Nitrogen as N ₂ | 0.56 | 0.66 |
| Oxygen absorbed 4 hrs @ 27°C | 0.94 | 0.47 |
| Free Acidity as CO ₂ | - | - |
| Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃ | 8 | 12 |
| Total Hardness as CaCO ₃ | 41 | 38 |
| Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃ | 33 | 26 |
| Excess Alkalinity as Na ₂ CO ₃ | Nil | Nil |
| Calcium as CaCO ₃ | 29 | 32 |
| Magnesium as CaCO ₃ | 12 | 6 |
| Total Solids dried at 180°C | 96 | 82 |
| Chloride as Cl | 14 | 15 |
| Sulphate as SO ₄ | 30 | 28 |
| Lead as Pb | - less than 0.05 - | - |
| Manganese as Mn | 0.04 | 0.02 |
| Copper as Cu | - | - |
| Iron as Fe | 0.16 | 0.02 |
| Aluminium as Al | 0.10 | 0.06 |
| Fluoride as F | - less than 0.10 - | - |

During the year the Fylde Water Board took a total of 104 samples from the reservoirs.

81 examinations of the water supply were carried out by the Water Board from the taps of domestic users during the year.

In addition occasional samples are taken by the Health Department after complaints.

The approximate number of dwelling houses supplied direct with public water is 11,038

In an effort to encourage owners of property to install separate service pipes where the pressure is low, the Corporation and the Fylde Water Board pay half the cost of the installation.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

There are still a number of dwellings in the town which because of their situation have to rely on private water supplies and these are sampled at regular intervals. Users are advised on precautionary measures while steps are being taken for permanent purification. In addition every effort is made to change these private supplies to the public supply where practicable.

CORPORATION

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

| | TOTAL | SATISFACTORY | UNSATISFACTORY |
|----------------|-------|--------------|----------------|
| Private supply | 4 | 3 | 1 |

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

| | TOTAL | SATISFACTORY | UNSATISFACTORY |
|----------------|-------|--------------|----------------|
| Mains supply | 4 | 4 | Nil |
| Private supply | 27 | 12 | 15 |

FYLDE WATER BOARD

EXAMINATION OF WATER FROM DOMESTIC USERS

| TOTAL | SATISFACTORY | UNSATISFACTORY |
|-------|--------------|----------------|
| 81 | 81 | Nil |

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

| | TOTAL | SATISFACTORY | UNSATISFACTORY |
|------------|-------|--------------|----------------|
| Reservoirs | 104 | 104 | Nil |

EXAMINATION OF WATER FROM THE PUBLIC BATHS

| TOTAL | SATISFACTORY | UNSATISFACTORY |
|-------|--------------|----------------|
| 26 | 20 | 6 |

The method of treatment is continuous filtration and chlorination with a turnover period of 3 hours for the large pool and $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the small pool.

The unsatisfactory samples were due to temporary faults in the treatment of the water which were quickly rectified.

PRIVATE SWIMMING BATHS

The small private swimming school continues to be extremely well conducted.

By arrangement with the owner of the baths seven samples were taken by the Corporation during the year, two received adverse reports and corrective measures were immediately taken.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

During the year a further 8 waste water closets were converted to the fresh water system. The total now remaining is 431.

It is interesting to note that in 1949, 18% of premises in the Borough used waste water closets and the figure is now approximately 4%.

It is expected that there should be a marked reduction in this total with the impact of improvement grants.

Apart from farms, pail closets total 28 in all, of which 5 are for country cottages the rest being used in the Parks and isolated sites.

The number of septic tanks is now 31.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough:

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Pails | 28 |
| Water Closets | 14,806 |
| Waste Water Closets | 431 |
| Total | 15,265 |

Conversions and Installations during 1972 :-

| | |
|---|-----|
| New Water Closets fixed | 220 |
| Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets | 8 |
| Pail Closets converted to Water Closets | Nil |
| Waste Water Closets dismantled | Nil |
| Water Closets dismantled | 90 |

RIVERS AND STREAMS

During the year there has been a marked improvement regarding the pollution of the River Darwen.

The improvement has been due to the diversion of more trade effluent into the sewer and the Inspectors of the Rivers Board are hopeful that more trade effluent will be diverted to the sewer in the near future.

Samples are also taken regularly from the outfall of Darwen Sewage Works.

CLEAN AIR

During the year the Corporation have continued the smoke control programme within the limits set by the Council.

In 1972 Smoke Control Areas Nos. 9, 10 and 11 came into operation bringing a further 858 houses under smoke control.

It is expected that the No. 12 Area which is by far the largest area so far attempted involving a total of 954 houses will be confirmed early in 1973. This covers the Harwood Street/Avondale Road Area.

This will be followed by the No. 13 Area which includes a large area of the South East Ward from Hoddlesden to Turncroft and comprises 660 houses and this in turn will be followed by No. 14 Area which will involve 696 houses in the Belgrave Road Area and then by 673 dwellings in the Snape Street Area.

At the end of the year the total area of the town covered by smoke control was approximately 40% but as future areas are declared the figure is expected to rise sharply as more and more houses will be found to comply with the requirements thus enabling the Corporation to accelerate the smoke control programme.

List of Smoke Control Areas confirmed as at 31st December, 1972

| Smoke Control Area | Date of Operation | Acreage | Private Dwellings | Commercial Premises | Industrial Premises | Other |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------|
| 1 (1962) | 1/10/63 | 394 | 535 | 3 | 6 | 10 |
| 2 (1966) | 1/7/67 | 121 | 425 | 3 | 4 | 30 |
| 3 (1967) | 1/8/68 | 206 | 416 | 2 | 6 | 27 |
| 3a (1967) | 1/10/68 | 12 | 259 | 10 | 7 | 38 |
| 4 (1969) | 31/10/69 | 253 | 432 | 9 | 8 | Nil |
| 5 (1969) | 1/7/70 | 90 | 267 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 (1970) | 1/7/70 | 90 | 150 | 2 | Nil | 1 |
| 7 (1970) | 1/7/71 | 5.96 | 290 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 8 (1970) | 1/11/71 | 25.71 | 314 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 9 (1971) | 1/10/72 | 75 | 396 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 (1972) | 1/7/73 | 31.6 | 195 | 0 | 9 | Nil |
| 11 (1972) | 1/7/73 | 24.5 | 267 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Constant surveillance in the District is necessary to ensure that all new premises coming within the scope of the Act and changes of occupancy are noted, as not once during the past year has an approach for registration been made by affected employers without prompting.

No accidents necessitating action by the Department have been reported or discovered during the year.

Informal action has been necessary in a number of cases but some little delay in carrying out work has been experienced especially in the case of multiple stores where local management need approval by higher authority. Again the heavy commitment of the building and allied trades to work on new building sites and house improvements in the Borough reduces the number of workmen available for casual maintenance work.

A total of 167 official visits were made to premises throughout the year although many registrable premises concerned with for example, the food trade are visited for other reasons and any minor infringements of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act are quickly rectified.

One application was made for exemption to the temperature requirements of the law, but the application was withdrawn before final consideration.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

| Class of Premises | No. of Premises Registered | No. of Persons Employed |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Offices | 43 | 199 |
| Retail Shops | 78 | 385 |
| Wholesale Shops and Warehouses | 6 | 41 |
| Catering Establishments and Canteens | 17 | 92 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | Nil | Nil |
| | <u>144</u> | <u>717</u> |

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. | 168 | 129 | Nil | Nil |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) | 23 | 37 | Nil | Nil |
| Total:- | 191 | 166 | Nil | Nil |

PART V111 of the Act - Outwork

There were no out-workers registered during the year within the Borough.

In all a total of 84 visits were made to Factories throughout the year and the defects found mainly in connection with the cleanliness of sanitary conveniences were quickly remedied and did not require official action.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The only offensive trade left in Darwen is a local fat melter and refinery.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL

This building was built in 1897 as a model lodging house for casual workers and others coming into the town. It is now a permanent hostel providing communal living accommodation for nearly 150 occupants.

The average daily number of lodgers for the year was:

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Males | 81.98 |
| Females | 7.96 |

340 visits were made to the Hostel throughout the year.

Average daily number of lodgers over the past five years are as follows

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1971 | 79.76 | 7.75 |
| 1970 | 78.58 | 7.55 |
| 1969 | 84.20 | 10.90 |
| 1968 | 97.21 | 13.01 |
| 1967 | 94.11 | 12.08 |

Apart from normal maintenance work some slight improvements were carried out during the year particularly to the females' accommodation mainly in connection with washing facilities and the preparation of food.

In addition the outdated television sets were replaced, a new colour television set being provided for the mens' recreation room and a new monochrome set for the ladies' room.

RODENT CONTROL

Rat eradication continues to be one of the less frustrating activities of the Department because when they are discovered the predictability of their habits enables speedy disinfestation to be carried out. No major infestation has occurred within the Borough during the year and the erratic domestic outbreaks have inevitably resulted from drainage defects although, in contrast, sewer testing in the localities of infestation has given negative results. There are still a number of culverts in town which have no direct access points along their routes and it is suspected that rats may use these underground conduits to progress from one district to another. Originally the culverts drained overflow water from cotton weaving mill lodges and as the lodges have become disused they have been infilled leaving the water courses inaccessible. It is hoped that during the next few years a proper survey of these systems can be carried out and access points provided to enable treatments to be carried out in conjunction with the bi-annual sewer checks.

As in many other areas, the domestic mouse proves a more difficult pest to cope with, disinfestation being more time consuming and therefore more costly. Domestic complaints are dealt with often as block control exercises and although initially take longer to control, in the long term prove a more satisfactory way of dealing with the problem than treating each property separately.

It has been found that dwellings with isolated complaints are generally best dealt with by the age old method of trapping, which is quick, effective and provides a carcass, preventing additional complaints of foul smells from poisoned rodents which fade away to die and decompose in some inaccessible place.

The central part of town appears to have had more than its fair share of attention by mice caused by the preparation for and development of the new market complex which has caused much unavoidable disruption especially in the region of the existing market. Food traders have to be persistently reminded to exercise scrupulous care in the storage of refuse prior to disposal and food protection during storage to enable rodent control activities to proceed without hindrance.

PEST CONTROL

The control of insect pests continues with cockroaches heading the league table of complaints. As in the case of mouse infestation, block control of dwellings is proving successful in dealing with these pests and house improvement schemes are indirectly helping in the war against house pests by aiding the proofing of properties against re-infestation by the use of correct building practices.

Seasonal complaints are made about wasps, swarms of bees, golden spider beetles and flies. The drying out process of new property brings its crops of complaints of psocids and plaster beetles and a number of complaints of house moths occurred during the summer.

One or two complaints of body lice have been dealt with during the year.

Summary of work carried out in connection with Rodent Control

| NO. OF PREMISES INSPECTED | NO. OF PREMISES FOUND INFESTED | NO. OF TREATMENTS CARRIED OUT |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 389 | 296 | 296 |

SEWER TREATMENTS

The test baiting of sewers in town is selectively carried out as a matter of routine twice a year, once in April and once in October. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Pests Division) is kept au fait with the progress made in this field. The number of manholes being test baited is increasing annually because of new building works many of which are on Private Sewers serving new privately built dwellings. The total number of manholes baited in 1972 was 500 during the bi-annual sewer treatments carried out.

LICENSED PREMISES

The Breweries continue to upgrade local hostelries enabling licensees to prepare solid as well as liquid refreshment in hygienic surroundings. The employment of casual untrained staff has its problems especially with regard to smoking but the majority of publicans co-operate with the Department and try to exercise proper supervision of their employees.

It is pleasing to note that high up in the priority list of public house improvements is the modernisation of sanitary accommodation.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT

The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the purification of the remainder.

Derelict sites not included in Operation Eyesore should be given attention at an early date to discourage the dumping of rubbish and old vehicles. Weeds tend to flourish, although these are now being systematically reduced and it is hoped that the measures now being taken will reduce the annual weed growth to a minimum.

Further purification of the River Darwen.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

| | |
|---|-------|
| Number of houses visited | 1,282 |
| Number of inspections of factories and workplaces | 166 |
| Number of inspections of bakehouses | 23 |
| Number of inspections of refuse tips | 31 |
| Complaints received and investigated | 318 |
| Number of re-inspections made | 4,309 |
| Visits paid to houses (re cases of infectious diseases) ... | 60 |
| Number of smoke observations taken | 19 |
| Number of drains tested | 426 |
| Total number of defects discovered | 290 |
| Informal notices served | 290 |
| Statutory notices served | 69 |
| Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year | 367 |

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED

| | |
|--|-----|
| Defective drains | 118 |
| Choked and defective sewers | 37 |
| Defective soil pipes and water closets | 2 |
| Defective downspouts, gutters, roofs and external walls .. | 35 |
| Defective plastering | 8 |
| Defective roofs and damp walls | 21 |
| Dirty houses and premises | 0 |
| Dirty and dilapidated closet buildings | 0 |
| Accumulations of refuse | 2 |
| Defective fire-ranges | 1 |
| Choked waste water closets | 10 |
| Choked water closets | 15 |
| Insanitary yards | 1 |
| Defective internal floors | 3 |
| Insufficient ventilation | 0 |
| Burst water pipes | 2 |
| Defective or uneven gullies | 4 |
| Defective flushing cisterns | 5 |
| Miscellaneous nuisances | 30 |

H O U S I N G

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 and flats erected during the year:

| | | |
|-------|--|-----|
| (a) | Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) | 220 |
| (i) | By Local Authority | 12 |
| (ii) | By other Local Authorities .. | Nil |
| (iii) | By other bodies or persons .. | 208 |
| (b) | With State assistance under the Housing Acts:- | |
| (i) | By the Local Authority (included under (a)(i) above) | Nil |
| (ii) | By other bodies (included under (a)(iii) above) | Nil |

Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 194 |
| (2) | Number of inspections made for both purposes | 444 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 53 |

STATISTICS Continued

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit by informal action | 7 |
|--|---|

Action under statutory powers during the year.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit by Statutory action | 2 |
|---|---|

Proceedings under Section 16 and 17 of the
Housing Act, 1957.

| | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 3 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

HOUSING ACTS, 1961, 1964 and 1969. STANDARD GRANTS

| Action during the year: | Number of dwellings or other buildings affected | |
|---|---|--------|
| | Owner Occupied | Others |
| (i) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement | | |
| to (a) full standard | 266 | 4 |
| (b) reduced standard | Nil | Nil |
| (ii) Total application approved by local authority for improvement | | |
| to (a) full standard | 253 | 3 |
| (b) reduced standard | Nil | Nil |
| (iii) Work completed | 237 | 3 |

HOUSING ACT, 1969

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

In conjunction with the declaration of the General Improvement Areas full publicity was given to the increased Improvement Grant and a separate Improvements Office was established in May, 1972.

The response at the end of the year was most encouraging and it was becoming clear that residents both in and out of General Improvement Areas were anxious to take full advantage of the grant scheme.

| Action during year | No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of | | |
|---|--|--------|-----------------|
| | Owner occupied | Others | Local Authority |
| (i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority | 794 | 11 | --- |
| (ii) Approved by local authority | 598 | 10 | --- |
| (iii) Submitted by local authority to Department of the Environment | Nil | Nil | 365 |
| (iv) Finally approved by Department of the Environment | Nil | Nil | 365 |
| (v) Work completed | 109 | 8 | 47 |
| (vi) Additional separate dwellings included in (v) above | Nil | Nil | Nil |

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREAS

Following the resolution of the Council in November, 1971 to declare and carry out work on modernisation within the town by way of General Improvement Areas as quickly as possible a great deal of work had been done by the 31st December, 1972 to implement this decision.

The National Building Agency who had been appointed as consultants by the Council to work in co-operation with the Corporation's own staff carried out detailed surveys of the areas, met statutory bodies, prepared outlines of final plans, arranged public meetings, collected and collated information from the occupiers within the areas regarding environmental improvements.

In addition in some areas residents committees were formed to liaise with the Local Authority and the Consultants in order to arrive at a final agreed plan.

As a result eight General Improvement Areas had been declared by the end of June and contracts for environmental improvements had been let for some of the areas by the end of the year and work was actually in progress on four schemes.

The areas declared were as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Kay Street GIA | 566 |
| Snape Street GIA | 615 |
| Melita Street GIA | 303 |
| Newton Street GIA | 418 |
| Belgrave Road GIA | 237 |
| Maria Street GIA | 321 |
| Queen Street GIA | 385 |
| Bedford Street GIA | 185 |

In addition, a further General Improvement Area, the Ellenshaw Area a total of 97 premises had previously been declared making 3,107 premises in all.

Due to the extension of the time limit for the enhanced grant work until June, 1974, the Council considered the declaration of further areas and in November, 1972 the Health and Housing Committee recommended that eight further areas be considered and that the services of the National Building Agency be retained for the work.

The areas to be undertaken were as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Radford Street GIA | 231 |
| Ratcliffe Street GIA | 481 |
| Everton Street GIA | 194 |
| Hoddlesden GIA | 172 |
| Lynwood Avenue GIA | 300 |
| Park Road GIA | 360 |
| Walmsley Street GIA | 355 |
| Earnsdale Road GIA | 578 |

At the same time as housing in the private sector was being considered the Council resolved that a Corporation estate namely Marsh House Lane Estate comprising 122 houses should also be declared a General Improvement Area.

OVERCROWDING

The problem of overcrowding in the legal sense is not as acute as it was some years ago although the migration of families from the North and West who take up residence in unsatisfactory accommodation as a preliminary to better things are discovered from time to time because their numbers aggravate anti-social conditions in the area in which they live. The Housing Department is made aware of these cases and assists in relieving the circumstances as necessary.

CLEARANCE AREAS

Work continues to proceed steadily in accordance with the Council's clearance programme and it is expected that the Ashton Street No. 2 Area and the Ellenshaw No. 2 Area will be confirmed by the Ministry during the next year, a total of 166 houses.

A third area, Exchange Street No. 1 was confirmed in May, 1972 and demolition work was proceeding at the end of the year. In addition a small area in Kay Street, a small one in Peabody Street and an area in the Tockholes Road district have been submitted to the Ministry for confirmation.

This will make a total of 600 houses dealt with by way of clearance since December 1966 and a total of 1,562 houses since 1954.

Further clearance work to be done during the next 12 months will probably include the remaining portion of Exchange Street and Chapels area and a small area in Duckworth Street.

Premises dealt with or in progress by way of Clearance since December, 1966 at 31st December, 1972

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| Exchange Street No. 1 | 23 | Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order |
| Ellenshaw No. 2 | 111 | Submitted to Department of the Environment for confirmation |
| Ashton Street No. 2 | 55 | Submitted to Department of the Environment for confirmation |
| Kay Street | 31 | Submitted to Department of the Environment for confirmation |
| Tockholes Road | 47 | Submitted to Department of the Environment for confirmation |
| Peabody Street | 7 | Submitted to Department of the Environment for confirmation |
| Ashton Street | 126 | Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order Premises demolished |
| Ellenshaw No. 1 | 72 | Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order Premises demolished |
| Brunswick Street | 15 | Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order Premises demolished |
| Malta Street | 25 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Hannah Street | 13 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Bolton Road | 24 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Gregson Street | 4 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Kay Street | 19 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Dover Street | 7 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Charles Street | 6 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Corporation Street | 4 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Chapels Brow | 4 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Howarth Street | 2 | Acquired by agreement and demolished |
| Total | <u>595</u> | |

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Three premises are used for multiple occupation.

Summary of Results of Survey

| | Results | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | Positive | Negative | No Result |
| Total No. of houses | 211 | 15 | 84 |
| Unimproved | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Unimproved - King Street | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Unimproved - William Street | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Unimproved - Threlkirk Street | 2 | 0 | 0 |

Summary of Results for Sampled Houses

| | No. of Houses | Results | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| | | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Total |
| Total | 100 | 75 | 25 | 100 |
| Unimproved | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Unimproved - King Street | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Unimproved - William Street | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Unimproved - Threlkirk Street | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |

The results of the survey are summarily reported on page 40 of the report, and are also summarized on the Summary of Results of the Survey.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Local Authority is a designated Food and Drugs Authority.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963

The following licences have been issued under these Regulations.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Untreated Milk | 17 |
| Pasteurised Milk | 25 |
| Sterilised Milk | 77 |
| Ultra Heat Treated Milk .. | 18 |
| Total | <u>137</u> |

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

| | Results | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| | Positive | Negative | No Result |
| Total No. of samples submitted 104 | | | |
| Tuberculosis | Nil | 19 | 85 |
| Brucellosis Ring Test | 3 | 99 | 2 |
| Brucellosis Culture Test | Nil | 7 | 97 |
| Brucellosis Biological Test | Nil | 24 | 80 |

Samples of Milk for Statutory Tests

| | No. of Samples | Results | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory | Void Samples |
| Raw Milk: | | | | |
| Methylene Blue Test | 102 | 83 | 18 | 3 |
| Heat Treated Milk: | | | | |
| Methylene Blue Test) | 2 | 2 | Nil | Nil |
| Phosphatase Test) | | | | |
| Turbidity Test | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Colony Count Test | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

The eighteen samples unsatisfactorily reported on were passed on for appropriate action to the Divisional Milk Officer.

Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

| Type of Business | Number Registered at end of year | Number of Inspections of registered premises during year |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Preserved Food Manufacturers | 18 | 57 |
| Ice Cream Manufacturers | 1 | 3 |
| Ice Cream Retailers | 119 | 87 |

Bacteriological samples of cooked meats and chicken were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory.

Action taken under the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations,
1959 and 1963

Routine inspections of ice-cream manufacturers was carried out. Twenty-four samples of ice-cream were taken and two were reported as unsatisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Samples taken by the Department

| No. of Samples | Description | Formal | Informal |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 2 | Beefburgers | | 2 |
| 2 | Beef Sausage | | 2 |
| 1 | Chocolate Fudge | | 1 |
| 1 | Chopped ham and pork | | 1 |
| 1 | Cherry brancy fudge | | 1 |
| 1 | Chicken Spread | | 1 |
| 1 | Cooking Fat | | 1 |
| 4 | Cream Cakes | | 4 |
| 2 | Cream doughnuts | | 2 |
| 1 | Double Cream | | 1 |
| 1 | Dried creamed potatoes | | 1 |
| 2 | Fishcakes | | 2 |
| 1 | Fudge | | 1 |
| 4 | Hamburgers | | 4 |
| 1 | Ice-cream | | 1 |
| 2 | Jam doughnuts | | 2 |
| 1 | Luncheon Meat | 1 | |
| 1 | Meat and potatoe pie | | 1 |
| 1 | Meat extract cube | | 1 |
| 2 | Meat pies | | 1 |
| 17 | Milk | 5 | 12 |
| 1 | Parmesan Tripe | | 1 |
| 1 | Pork chipalatas | | 1 |

Samples taken by the Department continued

| No. of Samples | Description | Formal | Informal |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 5 | Pork Sausage | | 5 |
| 1 | Prawn, chip and mushroom meal .. | | 1 |
| 1 | Pressed Beef | | 1 |
| 2 | Steak Puddings | | 2 |
| 2 | Steak Pies | | 2 |
| 6 | Sweets | | 6 |
| 3 | Vitamin Syrup | | 3 |
| 1 | Walnut Fudge | | 1 |
| 1 | White Rum with Coke | | 1 |

All were reported genuine with the exception of:

Four samples of Milk reported low in solids not fat.

Three samples comprising one each of cherry brandy, walnut and vanilla fudge which were affected with mould.

Two samples of sausage contained preservative without the necessary declaration that such preservative was present.

One sample of Double Cream which was found to be pasteurised but not so labelled.

One sample of pork sausage low in lean meat content i.e. only 23.5% as opposed to the 32.5% required.

Two samples of vitamin syrup found to be deficient in vitamins as compared with declaration on label, also label incorrect in other respects.

Further sample of vitamin syrup incorrectly labelled.

One sample of meat and potato pie with a low meat content i.e. 9.5% instead of the necessary 12.5%.

One sample of Parmesan tripe with a meat content only of the order of 60%. The commodity should have been labelled tripe in sauce.

One sample of pork chipalatas which contained preservative without the necessary declaration that preservative was present.

One sample of chocolate fudge which was mouldy and which was not considered suitable for the description of chocolate.

One sample of prawn, chip and mushroom meal found to have been cooked in rancid fat which required changing.

One sample of jam doughnut which did not contain jam.

During the year there were no legal proceedings with regard to offences in the preparation, storage, handling or sale of food.

Other action taken following complaints regarding food.

1. Complaint of foreign material in a Chicken and Fried Rice Meal supplied by a local Chinese Restaurant.
The foreign body weighed one third of a gramme and consisted of a mass of fibrous material matted into a lump measuring $3 \times 2 \times \frac{1}{3}$ centimetres. The Laboratory report showed that it consisted of a mass of fibrous sphagnum together with some decomposed grasses and a few mushroom spores. Several whole rice grains were also present. The Analyst observed that such material commonly occurs in small quantities in mushroom, including canned mushrooms since they are often grown upon it.
2. Small area of discolouration on slice of bread.
Examination revealed slight vegetable oil staining.
3. Steak pudding, chips and peas dinner containing foreign body.
Found to be wireworm which had escaped detection during preparation.
4. 'Foreign body' in packet of chips (part of an insect carcase).
Subsequent inspection of the food did not reveal any infestation of insects.
5. Mouldy 'Baps' (small tea cakes).
Result of faulty control i.e. a delivery man who was responsible for such control failed to remove the goods from display after they had exceeded their shelf life.
6. Mouldy loaf.
The loaf was only manufactured on the day previous to the complaint and appeared to have been wrapped whilst still warm.
7. Portion of caterpillar in packet of Dried Minestrone Soup.
The caterpillar measured 11 m.m. in length and had obviously been through the drying process.
8. Mouldy Sausages.
Sausages found to be several days old at time of purchase and had exceeded their shelf life. The storage and stock control arrangements at the shop were unsatisfactory.
9. 'Nibbled' bar of white chocolate.
Found to be due to a mouse. Inspection of the shop revealed a slight mouse infestation. A treatment for mice had been commenced prior to the complaint.

In all these cases the firms concerned were formally warned by letter to take every care to prevent a recurrence.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1972

| Type of Business | Number |
|--|--------|
| General grocers and provision dealers | 79 |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game etc.) | 26 |
| Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game etc.) | 3 |
| Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc. | 29 |
| Bakers and/or confectioners | 37 |
| Fried fish shops | 23 |
| Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc. | 41 |
| Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments | 102 |
| Basement Bakehouses | 1 |
| Others | Nil |

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Food premises in general maintain a high standard and the regular visits of the Department's Inspectors help to remind food handlers of the importance of the Regulations.

Minor infringements were quickly remedied by informal action and no prosecutions were instituted during the year.

A total of 651 inspections with 863 re-inspections were carried out throughout the year.

UN SOUND FOOD

Sixteen visits were made regarding the certification of food not fit for human consumption. These were in the main due to voluntary surrender by shopkeepers and warehouses, but in some cases were detected during routine inspections or as a result of complaints.

The following foods were surrendered as unfit.

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Cod | 23 portions |
| Fish Fingers | 15 packets |
| Kippers | 18 oz. |
| Fish Cakes | 54 |
| Plaice | 46 packets |

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Beefburgers | 30 |
| Chicken Pie | 1 |
| Steak Pie | 1 |
| Rissols | 2 |
| Chicken | 114 lb. 7 oz. |
| Turkey | 29 lb. 8 oz. |
| Corned Beef | 24 lb. 8 oz. |
| Ham | 22 lb. 12 oz. |
| Bovine Shoulder Steak | 20 lb. |
| Peas | 3 lb. |
| Sprouts | 2 lb. |
| Beans | 3 lb. 8 oz. |
| Potatoes | 172 lb. 4 oz. |
| Vol-au-vents | 10 |
| Yorkshire puddings | 1 lb. 8 oz. |
| Assorted cakes | 27 packets |
| Ice-cream | 81 packets |
| Assorted confectionery | 32 lb. 8 oz. |
| Dried full cream milk | 5 lb. 6 oz. |

NUISANCE FROM NOISE

As in previous years factory noise complaints were minimal due to the co-operation from industrial management.

Even so there were 4 complaints of noise from factory premises three of which were abated by informal action. In the case of the fourth complaint there was insufficient evidence to take further action.

Other complaints received were from a variety of sources including noise from a launderette, dogs, music and vehicles.

Although the total number of complaints under this section are few in number nevertheless a great deal of time is consumed in investigating the complaints at all times of the day and in many cases during the evening.

TIPS

Conditions at private tips continue to show a big improvement and the number of burning complaints show a marked decrease.

Constant surveillance reduces complaint to the minimum.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING

A total of 60 visits were made during the year regarding the investigation of infectious diseases.

Five cases of Food Poisoning were also reported during the year. These were later confirmed as 3 cases of Salmonella Virchow, 1 case of Salmonella Dublin and 1 case of Salmonella Typhimurium.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950 (Movement of Animals)

The duties under this section of the Act are carried out by the Lancashire County Council who issue all the necessary licences controlling the movement of animals.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

Ladies hairdressing continues to be a popular business. There are 70 hairdressing premises registered under the provisions of the Darwen Corporation Act, 1948.

Premises are inspected prior to opening and work done to comply with the Regulations.

Re-inspections are carried out from time to time but very little trouble is experienced with this type of business after the initial alterations are carried out.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One premises is licensed under this Act. This was satisfactorily conducted throughout the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Three premises are licensed under the provisions of this Act. All were satisfactorily maintained during the year for the welfare of animals.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964

One establishment was licensed under this Act. Premises are only licensed after the receipt of a satisfactory veterinary report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary during the year under Section 17 of the 1948 Act.

One body was buried under the provisions of Section 50 of the 1948 Act, which requires the Local Authority to dispose of the bodies of persons who have died in its area if it appears no suitable funeral arrangements would otherwise be made.

MORTUARY

Fifty-three bodies were received at the Mortuary during the year and post-mortem examinations were carried out on all of them.

