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*Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield*



ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1937  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH



*G. H. Potter,*  
*Medical Officer of Health.*





*Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield*



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**G. H. Potter,**  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Public Health Commission of the Commonwealth



ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 1913  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

W. J. FOSTER,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1914



# Ince-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.



To the Public Health Committee,

MRS. WINSTANLEY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the District during the year 1937.

## 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area : 2,320 acres.

Population (Census 1931) : 21,763.

Estimated mid-1937 (Registrar General) : 20,960.

Total number of Houses (Census 1931) : 4,630.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1937, according to Rate Books : 5,082.

Number of Families or separate occupiers (Census 1931) : 5,322.

Rateable Value : £61,384 (Reduced).

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £255/15/4 (Gross).

## 2. VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births	Legitimate	204	168	372
	Illegitimate	3	7	10
	TOTAL...	207	175	382
<hr/>				
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Still Births	Legitimate	9	8	17
	Illegitimate	—	1	1
	TOTAL...	9	9	18
<hr/>				
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	Legitimate	23	8	31
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
	TOTAL ...	23	8	31
<hr/>				
DEATHS...		167	133	300

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....	18.2
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....	14.3
Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability factor 1.25) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .....	17.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births .....	45.0
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth :	
From Sepsis .....	—
From other causes .....	1
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births .....	2.50
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :	
All Infants per 1,000 live births .....	81
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	83
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	2

TABLE I.

	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births.
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Cancer Death Rate	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live & Still Births)	
Mean of 5 years—							
1932—1936	18.8	12.3	0.67	0.99	5.18	4.89	85
1936 ...	17.9	10.8	0.32	1.07	2.60	2.42	67
1937 ...	18.2	14.3	0.66	1.38	2.61	2.50	81
Increase or Decrease in 1937 on—5 years' average 1932—1936	—0.6	+2.0	—0.01	+0.39	—2.57	—2.39	—4
—on Previous year's average—	+0.3	+3.5	+0.34	+0.31	+0.01	+0.08	+14

The Table below shows these Rates for ten years back, and Averages for the same period.

TABLE A.

Year	Death Rate all causes	Birth Rate	Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Births
1927	12.9	19.4	105
1928	11.8	20.6	88
1929	15.9	19.1	137
1930	12.2	18.8	121
1931	13.9	22.6	102
1932	12.0	19.5	84
1933	15.5	20.6	123
1934	11.5	18.0	82
1935	11.9	18.3	72
1936	10.8	17.9	67
Average for 10 years			
1927—1936	12.8	19.4	98
1937	14.3	18.2	81



The Death Rate for England and Wales during 1937 was 12.4 per 1,000 population as against 12.1 per 1,000 population in 1936, and correspondingly the local Crude Death Rate shows an increase from 10.8 per 1,000 in 1936 to 14.3 per 1,000 population in 1937.

Average Death Rate for 10 years, 1892—1901 .....	23.3
Average Death Rate for 10 years, 1927—1936 .....	12.8
Death Rate for 1937 .....	14.3

The Birth Rate for England and Wales shows a slight increase from 14.8 per 1,000 population in 1936 to 14.9 per 1,000 in 1937, and similarly the local Birth Rate has increased from 17.9 per 1,000 population in 1936 to 18.2 per 1,000 in 1937.

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales have decreased from 3.81 per 1,000 live births and 3.65 per 1,000 Total (live and still) births in 1936 to 3.23 per 1,000 live births and 3.11 per 1,000 Total births in 1937.

The Local Rates show a slight increase from 2.60 per 1,000 live births and 2.42 per 1,000 Total (live and still) births in 1936 to 2.61 per 1,000 live births and 2.50 per 1,000 Total births in 1937.

The number of women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy or Childbirth is given by the Registrar General as 1; none being due to Sepsis, and 1 to other causes.

The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales has decreased from 59 per 1,000 live births in 1936 to 58 per 1,000 in 1937, but the local Rate shows an unwelcome increase from 67 per 1,000 live births in 1936 to 81 per 1,000 in 1937.

Average Infantile Death Rate for 10 years, 1892—1901 .....	203
Average Infantile Death Rate for 10 years, 1927—1936 .....	98
Infantile Death Rate for 1937 .....	81

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

TABLE B.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death	Total at all periods up to 1 year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Premature Birth .....	9	8	1	—	—	—
Weakness from Birth .....	1	1	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	8	—	5	—	2	1
Congenital Deformity .....	3	1	—	2	—	—
Birth Injuries .....	3	3	—	—	—	—
Gastro Enteritis .....	2	—	—	—	2	—
Convulsions .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Septic Meningitis .....	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Miliary Tuberculosis...	1	—	1	—	—	—
	31	14	9	2	4	2



Of the 31 deaths, 14 occurred during the first month of life, and 8 of these were certified as due to Premature Birth. 3 deaths were due to Congenital Deformities and 8 were due to Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Finally, in the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1937 as compared with the previous year.

TABLE C.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i> 1936	<i>No. of Deaths</i> 1937
Typhoid Fever ... ..	0	0
Measles ... ..	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	3	0
Diphtheria ... ..	5	11
Scarlet Fever... ..	0	0
Influenza ... ..	2	10
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	1	1
Phthisis ... ..	7	14
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	2	4
Cancer : Malignant Disease ... ..	23	29
Heart Disease ... ..	48	53
Bronchitis ... ..	16	22
Pneumonia ... ..	19	32
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	3	2
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0	0
Other Diseases of Parturition ... ..	1	1
Suicide ... ..	1	2
Accidents ... ..	6	12
Other Diseases ... ..	96	107
	<b>233</b>	<b>300</b>

## 2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

*Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer*—G. H. POTTER, M.B., D.P.H., (whole time).

*Consultant Obstetrician to Ante-natal Centre*—C. H. WALSH, M.C.O.G.

*School Dental Officer*—E. A. HAIGH, L.D.S. (Eng.), (part time).

*Sanitary Inspector*—W. THORPE, Sanitary Insp. Cert. and Meat Insp. Cert. (whole time).

*Sanitary Inspector's Apprentice*—B. FRANCE.

HEALTH VISITORS AND NURSES—

<i>MISS E. L. SAYER—</i>	Whole time Health Visitor.
<i>MISS M. C. GREENWOOD—</i>	Whole time Health Visitor, (Appointed 1st August, 1937, Resigned 14th March, 1938).
<i>MISS S. PLUMPTON—</i>	Whole time School Nurse.
<i>MISS R. DRAPER—</i>	Whole time School Nurse.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED OR AVAILABLE.

12 beds and 1 cot are provided for Infectious Cases in the Isolation Hospital (East Ward), and if necessity arises, cases can also be sent to Hindley or Wigan Isolation Hospitals, by arrangement, without the payment of any retaining fee.

10 beds are provided for Smallpox in a pavilion in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital.

The Hospital Accommodation within or without the district available for the use of the inhabitants of the area may be classified as follows :—

a—General Medical	... ..	} Treated at Wigan Infirmary, or at Liverpool and Manchester Hospitals.
b—General Surgical	... ..	
c—Children	... ..	
d—Maternity	... ..	
e—Venereal Diseases	... ..	
f—Tuberculosis	... ..	Cases sent to Sanatoria by County Consultant Tuberculosis Officer.
g—Chronic Sick...	... ..	} Public Assistance Hospital at Billinge and the County Asylums.
h—Mental	... ..	
i—Mental Deficiency	... ..	Cases dealt with by Lancashire Asylums Board.
j—Orthopædic	... ..	Cases treated at Biddulph Hospital under Lancashire County Orthopædic Scheme.
k—Ear, Nose and Throat	... ..	} Cases treated at Wigan Infirmary.
l—Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	... ..	

Ince-in-Makerfield District Nursing Association, affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association, is now a well-established institution in the area. Two nurses are regularly employed by the Association, and their magnificent work among the sick people of the township makes one wonder how we have managed in the past without such an organisation.



The District Nurses do not undertake Midwifery Cases nor Monthly Nursing.

No contribution has yet been made by the Local Authority towards their upkeep, which depends upon a Provident Scheme of regular weekly contributions by the householders of the District.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children within the district, nor is there a Day Nursery.

The Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act, for the area, is the Lancashire County Council. Under the Scheme adopted by the Supervising Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Midwives Act, 1936, District No. 12 of the County Area comprises Ince-in-Makerfield, Hindley, and Abram.

5 Midwives have been appointed for Ince, 3 for Hindley, and 1 for Abram, and so far as Ince is concerned, this number is satisfactory and sufficient.

A Child Welfare Centre is established at the new Central Clinic, adjacent to the Council Offices, and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m., and an Ante-Natal Clinic is held there on alternate Mondays at 1-45 p.m.

A School Clinic is provided as part of the School Medical Service, but cases requiring Artificial Light treatment attend at the Wigan Infirmary.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

Infectious Cases are removed to Hospital in the Council's own horse ambulance, or in the motor ambulances of the Wigan Corporation and the Hindley Council.

During 1937 Non-Infectious, Accident, and Maternity Cases were dealt with by either the motor ambulances belonging to the Wigan Borough Police, or by the motor ambulance belonging jointly to the Urban Districts of Ince, Hindley, and Abram.

### 3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY—

The two sources of the Water Supply are the Council's own Deep Wells at Golborne, and the Rivington Reservoirs belonging to the Liverpool Corporation. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

Out of a total of 5,082 inhabited houses at the end of 1937 (according to the Rate Book), 5,078 houses are supplied directly, and 4 by Stand Pipe.

The water drawn from the well at Golborne has been analysed on several occasions, and certified to be a pure drinking water, but extremely hard. The Total Hardness is equivalent to 32 degrees, which is a very high figure, but fortunately the hardness is all temporary, i.e., it consists of the Bicarbonates of Lime and Magnesia, and the water can be very effectively softened by a lime process.



The township has been supplied during 1937 with the Well water softened to an average of 5 degrees of hardness, by means of the modern Softening and Filtration Plant, which was installed at the Golborne Waterworks in 1934.

#### SCAVENGING AND HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL—

This work is carried out by the Sanitary Authority. Privy Middens and Ash Bins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and one horse-drawn vehicle and two S.D. freighter motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The removal of House refuse is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector, but he is not responsible for the scavenging of the streets.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

The Drainage System is of the usual type : storm water and sewage carried away in a common sewer.

At the Sewage Works, Bacterial Filter Beds are in use, and no outstanding development has taken place during the year. Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

Work under the Scheme for General Conversion to the Water Carriage System is now well in hand, and during 1937 108 conversions to fresh water closets of privy middens and pail closets were made, and furthermore, 96 additional water closets were provided in cases of insufficient accommodation.

Under the General Conversion Scheme the Local Authority pays half the cost of each conversion with a maximum of £4 per conversion.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

#### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1937—

Number of Privy Middens .....	134
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens .....	228
Number of Pail Closets .....	85
Number of Freshwater Closets .....	5029
Number of Waste Water Closets .....	—
Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) .....	4
Number of Movable Ashbins for Refuse .....	4978

During 1937, 119 houses have been provided with movable ashbins in place of fixed receptacles.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1937—

Number of premises visited .....	1051
Number of Nuisances discovered .....	3056
Number of Nuisances abated .....	2447
Number of Informal Notices served .....	609
Number of Statutory Notices served .....	214

Legal proceedings were taken during the year against the owners of property in Peel Street and William Street, and in both cases, orders were obtained from the Court, with costs, requiring compliance with Statutory Notices.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT—

No special action has been taken with regard to smoke abatement.

21 factory and works chimneys are in actual use in the district, but no observations have been made, as a time limit for the emission of black smoke per hour has not been fixed by the Authority.

## SHOPS—

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops, and to sanitary conveniences.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS—

There are none in the District.

## ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS—

No Council houses were found to be infested, but during the year 39 other houses were discovered and were disinfested by spraying with Solution D.

The belongings of tenants from condemned houses, before removal to Council houses, are all fumigated in a special van with hydrocyanic acid gas, this work being carried out by a special contractor.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES—

Premises in Pennington Lane have been converted for Tripe Boiling, and this trade is being carried on there without offence, with the permission of the Sanitary Authority, and under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Offensive Trades are dealt with by the Authority under local Bye-laws, dated 1909.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES—

There are none in the district.

## WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES—

There were 56 workshops, 2 workplaces, and 21 Factories in the District during 1937, and 212 visits were paid to these premises, under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and their condition was found satisfactory.

## SCHOOLS—

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools in the district is quite satisfactory.



## CANAL BOATS—

48 Canal Boats were inspected during the year, the inspections being made on thirteen separate occasions, and 10 infringements were discovered.

There were no cases of overcrowding.

## 4. HOUSING.

20 houses were erected by the Local Authority during 1937 for the purpose of re-housing under the Housing Acts. A further 80 houses are now being built by the Authority for Slum Clearance purposes, and another site for 140 houses has been approved for the re-housing of Slum Clearance and Overcrowding cases. Suitable housing sites are difficult to find in the district, owing to mining subsidence and large areas of land being under water.

8 Clearance Areas comprising 34 houses were represented to the Ministry of Health during the year. One area comprising 4 houses was cleared prior to any action. A Ministry of Health inquiry was held in November, and all the Clearance Orders were confirmed with the exclusion of one house, which had been re-conditioned by the owner before the visit of the Inspector.

An appeal to the County Court was made during the year by the owner of 10 houses in East View, against Demolition Orders imposed by the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. After hearing all the evidence, and viewing the property concerned, the Judge decided that (1) the houses were not fit for human habitation; (2) they were not capable of being rendered so at a reasonable expense; and (3) whatever expense the appellant would go to, he could not make them fit for human habitation. His honour therefore dismissed the appeal with costs.

The township consists chiefly of low standard working-class houses, old in type and joined together in long streets. Although there are no real slums, certain parts of the district are badly congested, and a shortage of houses at reasonable rents causes overcrowding. The Local Authority is endeavouring to cope with this shortage by building new property, and private enterprise is given every encouragement.

Old houses are continuously in need of repairs, and mining subsidence is responsible for much damage to structure. Back-to-back houses becoming vacant, are broken through and converted into through dwelling houses, and badly arranged houses in yards are scheduled for clearance. The approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district is 36.

A large number of houses have been re-conditioned and brought up to standard by various owners at the request of the Sanitary Authority.

The Overcrowding Survey conducted under the Housing Act, 1935, shows that 485 houses were overcrowded at the end of 1937, comprising 658 families and 3,570 persons.

4,028 houses in the district have private sanitary accommodation within their own curtilage; the remaining inhabited houses (approximately 1,054) having combined accommodation (either water closet or other forms of sanitation), while all houses have an internal water supply, with the exception of 4, which are supplied by standpipe in common yards.

The Authority is a member of the Wigan and District Joint Town Planning Statutory Committee, constituted to deal with the question of Town Planning, as required by the Town Planning Act, 1925.



## HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ... ..	80
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	20
(ii) By other Authorities ... ..	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons... ..	60
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	20
(ii) By other bodies and persons... ..	—

### 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) ... ..	918
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. approx. ...	3500
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head [1] above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... ..	202
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. approx. ...	400
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	27
(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 ... ..	744

### 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 ... ..	452
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### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

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

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	292
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners ... ..	154
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made...	..	27
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	...	9

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

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

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year...	...	485
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	...	658
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	...	3570
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	...	23
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	...	—
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	...	—

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY—

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1937, 28 samples of milk were taken by the County Police and submitted for examination, all being found satisfactory.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district have been regularly inspected, and at all times their condition has been found satisfactory.

The total number of Cowkeepers on the Register is 2, and 25 Inspections of their premises were made during the year. The approximate number of cows in the district is 50.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

There are 20 Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) in the district. 13 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 3 Supplementary Licences in respect of the sale of Accredited and Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted during the year.



(b) MEAT—

There is no slaughter house in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized and destroyed by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

(c) 18 BAKEHOUSES and 1 BRAWN WORKS in the district are all kept in satisfactory condition.

The amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1937 as unfit for human consumption was as follows :—

1. Tuberculous Carcases and Parts—Nil.

2. Unwholesome Food (not Tuberculous) : 472 lbs. Beef; 2 Turkeys (23½ lbs.); 48 lbs. Cod Fish; 13 lbs. Imported Liver; 34 lbs. Tinned Fruit and Milk; 28 lbs. Cornflour; 8 lbs. Dessicated Coconut.

Food samples are taken for analysis under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, by the County Police, and by the kindness of the Police Superintendent for the Division, I am able to show the following list of samples taken in Ince during 1937 :

Arrowroot .....	1	Sausages .....	1
Baking Powder .....	2	Margarine .....	1
Sweets .....	1	Milk (Condensed) .....	1
Butter .....	2	Ground Ginger .....	1
Self-raising Flour .....	1	Rice .....	1
Cheese .....	1	Seidlitz Powder .....	1
Strawberry Jam .....	1	Tartaric Acid .....	1
Coffee .....	2	Tea .....	2
Lard .....	1	Milk .....	28

49

According to the Analyst's Certificates, all the samples were genuine.

## 6. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

217 cases of notifiable disease were notified during the year 1937, as against 222 in 1936.

83 cases of Pneumonia were notified, as against 50 in the previous year, and 32 deaths were certified as due to this disease.

34 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, as against 60 in 1936, and of the 34 cases, 19 were removed to hospital for treatment. There were no fatal cases.



A severe type of Diphtheria was prevalent throughout the whole district during the year, and 90 cases were notified, 85 of them being removed to hospital for treatment. 9 fatal cases occurred, all among the patients removed to hospital.

292 children (school and pre-school) and teachers, were immunised against Diphtheria by the Medical Officer with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid (Parke, Davis & Co.), without preliminary Schick testing.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Council Offices and at the Higher and Lower Ince Police Stations, and are always available to the Medical practitioners.

3 cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever occurred during the year, and were removed to the Wigan Isolation Hospital for treatment. Two cases proved fatal, one being an infant under 1 year of age, and the other a boy aged 8 years who had severe congenital heart disease. The third child, a boy aged 6 years, made an uneventful recovery.

No cases of Enteric Fever nor of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

All the Schools in the district were closed for a fortnight in January, 1937, on account of the prevalence of Influenza, and in December, the Infants' Department of Spring View Council School was closed for three weeks on the occurrence of the case of Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations for Ince patients are carried out at the Laboratory of Wigan Infirmary, and during the year Dr. W. E. Cooke reported to the Authority on the following specimens : 245 Throat Swabs; 1 sample of Ince water (bacteriologically); 1 sample of Ice Cream; and 1 Blood (for Widal Reaction).

29 deaths were certified as due to Cancer during the year, as against 23 in the previous year. Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Ince residents, at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Radium Clinic at the Wigan Infirmary.

#### DISINFECTION—

Number of Articles disinfected during 1937	...	...	...	787
Number of Houses disinfected during 1937	...	...	...	189

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray, and it is usual, in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

A Steam Disinfector is provided in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital for the disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to Hospital.

There is a Bath at the School Clinic for cases of school children whose uncleanliness demands action, but disinfestation was unnecessary in 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1937.

TABLE D.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1937.

DISEASES	Total Under											Total cases Hospital and Deaths removed to District	Deaths in Hospital							
	Cases all ages	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45			45-65	65 and over					
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Scarlet Fever	34		2	2	1	3	17	6	1	2							19			
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	90		1	3	4	7	34	24	10	6							11	85	9	
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—																	—	—	—
Acute <i>Primary</i> and <i>Influenzal</i> Pneumonia	83	5	7	8	6	4	17	4	3	10	6	9	4	32	1			1	—	
Puerperal Fever	—														1			—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1								1	—	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	1					2								2			3	2	
Encephalitis Lethargica	—														1			—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—																	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—																	—	—	
Erysipelas	6										1	3	2					—	—	
Measles	—																	—	—	
Whooping Cough	—																	—	—	
TOTAL	217	6	10	13	11	14	70	34	14	19	7	13	6	46	109	11				



## TUBERCULOSIS—

39 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1937, and there were 18 deaths from the disease in its various forms.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1925, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

TABLE E.  
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
1—5	...	2	4	1	...	...	1	...
5—10	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
10—15	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	6	2	1	2	2	...	...
20—25	1	2	...	1	1	1	...	...
25—35	5	2	...	2	1	1	...	1
35—45	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45—55	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
55—65	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	9	16	8	6	8	6	2	2
	25		14		14		4	

One non-notified tuberculosis death occurred in 1937.

## 7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The new Central Clinic was opened in the early part of 1937, and the commodious premises have made the work of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department pleasanter, and more satisfactory to both the Staff and the Mothers taking advantage of the facilities offered to themselves and their children.

Two Infant Welfare Centres are held weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-0 to 4-0 p.m., and the babies are weighed and advice is given to the mothers about themselves and their infants, by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

Dried Milk is sold at the Clinics at cost price, and valuable help is afforded us by the Voluntary Ladies Child Welfare Committee in the work of the Clinics. In addition, the Ladies, by financial assistance, enable us to allow free milk, etc., in necessitous cases. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Ladies for their splendid help in this important branch of our public health service.

The Council also supply Free Milk (with the Ministry of Health's sanction to the scale of income) in necessitous cases, to nursing and expectant Mothers. Other Foodstuffs, such as Cod Liver Oil and Malt are supplied in necessitous cases to sick and delicate children up to 5 years of age.

During the year 686 gallons of liquid Milk and 221 pounds of Dried Milk were supplied by the Council and the Voluntary Committee to Mothers and young children.

There are no Maternity Homes in the Township, nor is there any institutional provision for dealing with unmarried mothers or illegitimate children.

Subsequent to the resignation of A. Lloyd Potter, Esq., M.D., M.C.O.G., in September, 1937, the Ante-Natal Clinic is now conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.C.O.G., of Liverpool, and is held fortnightly on Monday afternoons at 1-45 p.m.

During 1937, 126 Expectant Mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 486 attendances, and 8 mothers made 11 attendances for Post Natal advice.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 66 first visits, and a total number of 307 visits to Expectant Mothers at their homes.

The Nurses report as follows on the Infant Welfare work :—

Number of First Visits to new Babies	...	...	...	...	...	369
Number of Supervision Visits—under one year	...	...	...	...	...	4441
Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years	...	...	...	...	...	4018
						8459
Number of attendances at the Clinic during the year—						
(a) by children under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	3937
(b) by children between the ages of one and five years...	...	...	...	...	...	1841
						5778
Number of children who attended at the Clinic for the first time during the year—						
(a) Children under one year of age...	...	...	...	...	...	259
(b) Children between the ages of one and five years	...	...	...	...	...	28
						287

In accordance with the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations of 1926, arrangements have been made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice, hospital treatment, and bacteriological examinations, where requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Health Visitors from the attendant Midwives. During 1937, 1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified, and was removed to Hospital for treatment, and progressed satisfactorily.

Maternal Deaths are investigated by the staff of the County Medical Officer, with the co-operation of the District Medical Officer.



Orthopædic treatment for children under five years of age is carried out under the Lancashire County Scheme at the Wigan Clinic, in close co-operation with the similar treatment of school children under the School Medical Service. X-ray and Sunlight cases receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary and Manchester Royal Infirmary, while operation cases are admitted to the Biddulph Grange Orthopædic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations of 1926, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitors, while cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Whelley Sanatorium or the Public Assistance Hospital, at Wigan.

Cases occurring during 1937 are classified as follows :

Ophthalmia Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Number Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part 1 of the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

No local action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, but the administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

I conclude this Report, which is the Ordinary Report required by the Ministry of Health, by tendering my thanks to the Officials of the Council, and the Staff of the Sanitary Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to the Members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I remain, Mrs. Winstanley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**G. H. Potter,**

*Medical Officer of Health*

*to the Ince U.D.C.*

G. H. Potter





