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Contributors

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Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 1938

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



G. H. Potter,
Medical Officer of Health.

Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield



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Medical Officer of Health.

Ince-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.



*To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.*

SIR, MRS. WINSTANLEY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1938, compiled on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health. I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department and especially to the Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

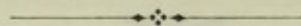
I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. H. Hotten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.



Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer—G. H. POTTER,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician to Ante-natal Centre—C. H. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Consultant Bacteriologist—W. E. COOKE, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon—E. A. HAIGH, L.D.S., R.C.S., (Eng.)

Sanitary Inspector—W. THORPE, Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute, and Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant—B. FRANCE.

Health Visitors—Miss E. L. Sayer, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I.

Miss M. C. Greenwood, S.R.N., S.C.M. Cert. R.S.I. (Resigned 14th March, 1938).

Miss A. Melia, S.R.N., S.C.M., Cert. R.S.I. (Appointed 22nd May, 1938).

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 2,320 acres.

Population (Census 1931) : 21,763.

Estimated mid-1938 (Registrar General) : 20,720.

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

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1938, according to Rate Books : 5,099.

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

Rateable Value : £61,000 (Reduced).

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £254/3/4 (Gross).

Ince is essentially an industrial area, the principal industry being coal mining. In addition, wagon works, railway work and cotton spinning mills give employment to both sexes. Unfortunately, however, unemployment and "short time" are prevalent in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births	Legitimate	189	196	385
	Illegitimate	8	4	12
	TOTAL...	197	200	397
<hr/>				
Still Births	Legitimate	14	9	23
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
	TOTAL...	14	9	23
<hr/>				
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	Legitimate	23	11	34
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
	TOTAL	23	11	34
<hr/>				
DEATHS...		161	118	279

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	19.1
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.4
Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability factor 1.25) per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.7
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.....	54.
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth :	
From Sepsis	Nil
From other causes	2.
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births, due to Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births due to other Puerperal causes	4.76
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :	
All Infants per 1,000 live births	85
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	88
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

TABLE A.

	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—							
1933—1937	18.6	12.8	0.66	1.12	5.71	5.39	85
1937 ...	18.2	14.3	0.66	1.38	2.61	2.50	81
1938 ...	19.1	13.4	0.57	1.06	5.03	4.76	85
Increase or Decrease in 1938 on—5 years' average 1933—1937	+0.5	+0.6	—0.09	—0.06	—0.68	—0.63	Nil
—on Previous year's average—	+0.9	—0.9	—0.09	—0.32	+2.42	+2.26	+4

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

TABLE B.

Year	Death Rate all causes	Birth Rate	Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Births
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
1937	14.3	18.2	81
Average for 10 years 1928—1937	12.9	19.3	95
1938	13.4	19.1	85

The Death Rate for England and Wales during 1938 was 11.6 per 1,000 population as against 12.4 per 1,000 population in 1937, and correspondingly the local Crude Death Rate shows a decrease from 14.3 per 1,000 in 1937 to 13.4 per 1,000 population in 1938.

Average Death Rate for 10 years, 1892—1901	23.3
Average Death Rate for 10 years, 1928—1937	12.9
Death Rate for 1938	13.4

The Birth Rate for England and Wales shows an increase from 14.9 per 1,000 population in 1937 to 15.1 per 1,000 in 1938, and similarly the local Birth Rate has increased from 18.2 per 1,000 population in 1937 to 19.1 per 1,000 in 1938.

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales have decreased from 3.23 per 1,000 live births and 3.11 per 1,000 Total (live and still) births in 1937 to 3.08 per 1,000 live births and 2.97 per 1,000 Total births in 1938.

The Local Rates show an increase from 2.61 per 1,000 live births and 2.50 per 1,000 Total (live and still) births in 1937 to 5.03 per 1,000 live births and 4.76 per 1,000 Total births in 1938.

The number of women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy or Childbirth is given by the Registrar General as 2; none being due to Sepsis, and 2 to other causes.

The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales has decreased from 58 per 1,000 live births in 1937 to 57 per 1,000 in 1938, but the local Rate shows an unwelcome increase from 81 per 1,000 live births in 1937 to 85 per 1,000 in 1938.

Average Infantile Death Rate for 10 years, 1892—1901	203
Average Infantile Death Rate for 10 years, 1928—1937	95
Infantile Death Rate for 1938	85

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

TABLE C.
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	7	7	—	—	—	—
Weakness from Birth	2	2	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	8	1	4	—	2	1
Congenital Deformity	8	6	—	2	—	—
Icterus Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—
Gastro Enteritis	1	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	3	2	1	—	—	—
Melaena Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	1	—	1	—	—	—
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—
Intestinal Obstruction	1	—	1	—	—	—
	34	21	7	2	2	2

Of the 34 deaths, 21 occurred during the first month of life, and 7 of these were certified as due to Premature Birth. 8 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 1938 as compared with the previous year.

TABLE D.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i> 1937	<i>No. of Deaths</i> 1938
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Measles	0	3
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	11	8
Scarlet Fever... ..	0	0
Influenza	10	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0
Phthisis	14	12
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	3
Cancer : Malignant Disease	29	22
Heart Disease	53	52
Bronchitis	22	19
Pneumonia	32	33
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Diseases of Parturition	1	2
Suicide	2	1
Accidents	12	12
Other Diseases	107	110
	300	279

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of Wigan Royal Infirmary, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A telephonic communication in the case of positive results is made to this department and to the medical practitioner concerned. A report on every examination is made to the Medical Officer.

During 1938, Dr. W. E. Cooke reported to the Authority on the following specimens: 409 Throat Swabs, 3 Nasal Swabs, and 1 Faeces (for culture).

Sputa from cases or suspected cases of Tuberculosis are generally sent for examination by the Tuberculosis Officer.

Water samples are submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to Liverpool University Public Health Laboratory.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

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 1938 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.

The arrangements made with the neighbouring authorities of Wigan and Hindley for the use of their Infectious and Non-Infectious Ambulances ensure that the ambulance facilities for the area are adequate. In an emergency and at times when the Council's own ambulances are in use, cases from the Ince area are removed to hospital without delay.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is chiefly carried out in the district by the Ince-in-Makerfield District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

Two nurses are employed by the Association, and their splendid work among the sick people of the township makes one wonder how we managed in the past without such an organisation.

The District Nurses do not nurse cases of infectious disease, nor do they act as midwives nor maternity nurses.

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

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.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Central Clinic, Ince Green Lane, on alternate Monday afternoons at 1.45 p.m., and is conducted by Mr. C. H. Walsh, M.B., F.R.C.O.G.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

As part of the School Medical Service, Minor Ailment Clinics are held daily and Dental Clinics on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon and Wednesday afternoon from 1.30—4-0 p.m. These clinics are held at the Central Clinic, Ince Green Lane, which is combined for the Maternity and Child and School Medical Services.

Orthopædic defects among pre-school and school children are dealt with under the Lancashire County Council Scheme. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends on the first and third Mondays in each month, at the School Clinic, Library Street, Wigan, and the Orthopædic Nurse attends each Monday morning.

Children requiring Artificial Light treatment attend at the Wigan Infirmary.

HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

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—Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat	...	...	...	...	} Cases treated at Wigan Infirmary.
l—Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...

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

The Local Authority makes grants of £10 per annum to the Wigan Infirmary, and £30 per annum to the Manchester and Salford Charities Fund.

There are no Nursing Homes in the district.

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.

All houses in the district have a direct piped supply of water from the mains, with the exception of the two houses known as Bank Top Houses on the Aspull boundary, whose water supply is derived from an adjacent spring. This spring water has been examined chemically and bacteriologically, and found to be exceptionally pure.

The piped supply of water to the township has been examined chemically and bacteriologically on several occasions during the year, and found to be quite satisfactory.

The water drawn from the Well at Golborne is 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.

A modern Softening and Filtration plant was installed at the Waterworks in 1934, to carry out this process, and the water as supplied to the township is softened to an average of 5 degrees of hardness.

The chief extensions to the water service during the year were the laying of new mains to the new housing estates.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type : storm water and sewage being 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.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

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

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1938).

Number of Privy Middens	117
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	190
Number of Pail Closets	76
Number of Freshwater Closets	5196
Number of Waste Water Closets	—
Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	4
Number of Movable Ashbins for Refuse	5077

During 1938, 30 houses were provided with moveable ashbins in place of fixed receptacles, and during the five years 1933—1937, 2,565 houses have been thus provided.

Under the General Conversion Scheme to the Water Carriage System, 29 conversions to fresh water closets of privy closets and pail closets were made during 1938, and during the five years 1933—1937, 1,542 privy closets and 9 pail closets have been converted to fresh water closets. Furthermore, 56 additional water closets were provided during the year, in cases of insufficient accommodation.

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

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

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street scavenging and removal of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority.

Privy middens and ashbins 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.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited	1048
Number of Nuisances discovered	3064
Number of Nuisances abated	2791
Number of Informal Notices served	570
Number of Statutory Notices served	174

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Houses with defective pointing to brickwork	...	...	...	119
" " defective eave or downspouts...	...	...	...	102
" " dirty inside walls and ceilings...	...	...	...	87
" " fractured or defective W.C. or yard drains...	...	...	...	6
" without handrails to staircases	...	...	...	116
" with defective doors or door casings..	...	...	...	225
" " defective W.C. apparatus	...	...	...	22
" " defective floors	...	...	...	179
" " defective or dilapidated brickwork	...	...	...	101
" " absence of or defective window cords	...	...	...	54
" " dilapidated yard pavement	...	...	...	39
" " dampness to walls	...	...	...	99
" " absence of or defective yard gates	...	...	...	16
" " defective cooking ranges	...	...	...	58
" " " fire-ranges	...	...	...	66
" " " chimney pots or stacks	...	...	...	28
" " " or inadequate water supply	...	...	...	23
" " " or dangerous ceilings	...	...	...	46
" " " or dilapidated slopstones	...	...	...	45
" " " or choked sink waste pipes...	...	...	...	10
" " " chimney flues	...	...	...	19
" " " stair steps	...	...	...	33
" " " or dangerous walls	...	...	...	15
" " " or absence of washboilers	...	...	...	23
" " " window fasteners	...	...	...	15
" " " threshers, doorsteps or weatherboards	...	...	...	71
" " " window frames	...	...	...	247
" " " or perished plaster	...	...	...	241
" " insufficient ventilation	...	...	...	247
" " insufficient closet accommodation	...	...	...	32
" " inadequate window area	...	...	...	151
" " leaky roofs	...	...	...	323
" " inadequate privacy to bedrooms	...	...	...	12
" " choked drains	...	...	...	149
" " miscellaneous defects	...	...	...	45

Legal proceedings were instituted during the year against the owner of property in Warrington Road and Spring Street, and an order was obtained from the Court, with costs, requiring compliance with Statutory Notices.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

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.

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 31 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.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing.

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.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

216 visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS.

34 Canal Boats were inspected during the year, the inspections being made on thirteen separate occasions, and no infringements were discovered.

There were no cases of overcrowding.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

The majority of the schools are provided with separate W.C's, each with its own cistern and flushing provision, but in certain schools there still remain forms of automatic flushing. It is desirable in the interests of hygiene that these should be replaced by water closets of the independently flushed type. Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all schools in the area.

Contacts of cases of infectious disease are excluded from school for the quarantine periods, and kept under observation by the staff of the Department, and every effort is made to prevent the spread of infectious disease among school children. Leaflets advocating Immunisation against Diphtheria have been distributed among the children, and during 1938, 235 school children were immunised by the School Medical Officer with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid (Parke, Davies & Co.), without preliminary Schick testing.

4. HOUSING.

During 1938, 72 houses were erected and tenanted by the Local Authority on the Church Street Housing Site. 25 of these houses were tenanted by people displaced under Clearance Area action, and 47 under action taken in pursuance of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, as individual unfit houses.

A further 10 houses have since been completed on the Church Street site, and work is well in hand on the erection of 140 houses on the Pennington Lane Site for the re-housing by the Authority 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.

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 20.

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

At the end of 1938, 488 houses were overcrowded, comprising 663 families, and 3,574 persons.

4,260 houses in the district have private sanitary accommodation within their own curtilage; the remaining inhabited houses (approximately 839) having combined accommodation (either water closet or other forms of sanitation), while all houses have an internal water supply, with the exception of the two houses at Bank Top, which are supplied from an adjacent spring.

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)	97
	(i) By the Local Authority	72
	(ii) By other Authorities	—
	(iii) By other bodies and persons... ..	25
(b)	With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
	(i) By the Local Authority	72
	(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)	816
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose approx. ...	3200
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head [1] above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... ..	261
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose approx. ...	500
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	41
(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	775

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	503
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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	202
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	178
	(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...	..	34
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	... ..	49

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...	... ..	488
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	... ..	663
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	... ..	3574
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	... ..	3
(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 1938, 23 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. 12 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 4 Licences in respect of the sale of Accredited 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 1938 as unfit for human consumption was as follows :

1. Tuberculous Carcases and Parts—Nil.
2. Unwholesome Food (not Tuberculous) : 82 lbs. Tinned Meats and Fruit; 63 boxes of Sweets.

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 1938 :

Soup powder	1	Fish Paste	1
Sugar	1	Vinegar	1
Baking powder	1	Sausages	2
Blackcurrant Jelly	1	Margarine	1
Butter	1	Ground Almonds	1
Flour	1	Gravy Browning	1
Cheese	1	Orange Jelly	1
Canned Pineapple Chunks ...	1	Cocoa	1
Coffee	1	Cornflour	1
Lard	1	Blancmange	1
Ground Rice	1	Turpentine	1
Egg Substitute	1	Milk	23
Ground Ginger... ..	1		

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According to the Analyst's Certificate, all the samples were genuine, with the exception of one sample of Sausage, which was adulterated with 80 parts of Sulphur dioxide per million.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

12 beds are provided for Infectious Cases in the Isolation Hospital, Amberswood Common, 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.

Patients are not required to contribute towards the cost of treatment in the Isolation Hospitals.

Uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever are usually discharged after four weeks' stay in hospital, and cases which can be satisfactorily isolated, are nursed, under supervision, at home.

276 cases of notifiable disease were notified during the year 1938, as against 217 cases in 1937.

There were no cases of Smallpox during the year, but owing to an outbreak of this disease in the Wigan County Borough, Chickenpox was made a notifiable disease for a period of six months, from 7th August, 1938. Ince contacts of the Wigan cases of Smallpox were kept under close observation by the Public Health Officers, and notified cases of Chickenpox were visited by them.

60 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 34 in 1937, and of the 60 cases, 21 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 130 cases were notified, compared with 90 in the previous year. Of the 130 cases, 125 were removed to hospital for treatment, and 8 fatal cases occurred, all among the patients removed to hospital, giving a fatality rate of 6%. In addition, late complications such as palatal paralysis, were common among the cases.

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.

Contacts of cases of Diphtheria have been excluded from school, and kept under close observation. Extensive swabbing of throats has been undertaken, and 3 carriers were discovered, and removed to the Isolation Hospital.

As stated earlier in the Report, 409 Throat Swabs and 3 Nasal Swabs were reported on to the Authority by Dr. W. E. Cooke, at the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Central Clinic. During 1938, 19 pre school and 235 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid (Parke, Davis & Co.) No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

One Infant School Department was closed for a fortnight during the year, on account of Diphtheria.

One case of Cerebro Spinal Fever occurred during the year, and was removed to Wigan Isolation Hospital for treatment. The patient, a girl aged 18 years, made an uneventful recovery.

No cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, and one case of suspected Enteric Fever was removed to Wigan Isolation Hospital, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

39 cases of Acute primary and Influenzal Pneumonia were notified, compared with 83 in the previous year, and 33 deaths were certified as due to this disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1938.

TABLE E.

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 1938.

DISEASES	Total Under											65 and over	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital belonging to district			
	Cases all ages	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45				45-65		
Smallpox
Scarlet Fever	60	2	6	7	25	12	2	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	...	130	...	7	11	4	65	27	5	7	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)
Acute <i>Primary</i> and <i>Influenzal</i> Pneumonia	...	39	4	6	...	3	6	4	4	4	5	3	33	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica
Acute Poliomyelitis
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Erysipelas	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox	...	39	1	4	3	5	23	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	276	1	5	19	20	116	49	12	17	10	8	3	41	149	8	...

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1938, 289 houses were disinfected, and 1,415 articles were dealt with by the Department.

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 and the disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to Hospital is dealt with there.

There is a Bath at the School Clinic for cases of school children whose uncleanliness demands action, but disinfestation was unnecessary in 1938.

CANCER.

22 deaths (8 male and 14 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 29 in 1937, giving a death rate of 1.06 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against 1.38 per 1,000 in 1937.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Ince residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act 1920 is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Lancashire County Council, and Ince cases attend at the County Dispensary in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan.

32 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1938, 19 being cases of Pulmonary, and 13 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 12 deaths from Pulmonary, and 3 from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

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.

No non-notified Tuberculosis deaths occurred in 1938.

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

TABLE F
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	1
5-10	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...
10-15	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	...
15-20	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
20-25	5	2	...	...	1	2	...	...
25-35	2	3	...	2	3	1	...	...
35-45	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
45-55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55-65	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
TOTALS	10	9	6	7	7	5	1	2
	19		13		12		3	

7. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Two Infant Welfare Clinics are held weekly at the new Central Clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-0 —4-0 p.m.

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 and Foodstuffs such as Cod Liver Oil and Malt are sold at the clinics at cost price. In addition the Council supplies Free Milk (with the Ministry of Health's sanction to the scale of income) in necessitous cases, to nursing and expectant mothers, and foodstuffs to sick and delicate children up to 5 years of age.

The Voluntary Ladies Child Welfare Committee afford us most valuable assistance in the work of the Clinics, and by financial grants, enable us to allow free milk, etc., in necessitous cases.

The Ante Natal Clinic is conducted by C. H. Walsh, Esq., M.B., F.R.C.O.G., and is held fortnightly on Monday afternoons at 1.45 p.m.

During 1938, 197 Expectant Mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 664 attendances, and 5 Mothers made 21 attendances for Post Natal advice.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, recommended by the Surgeon at the Ante Natal Clinics.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 99 first visits, and a total number of 480 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

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

Expectant and nursing mothers and young children can be admitted to Billinge Hospital, Wigan Infirmary and hospitals at Liverpool and Manchester. Even so, the hospital arrangements for ante-natal, natal, and post-natal conditions (excluding puerperal pyrexia) cannot be considered adequate, and a Maternity Unit is urgently needed in the area.

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

Number of First Visits to new Babies	...	...	...	...	...	398
Number of Supervision Visits—under one year	...	...	...	...	...	4523
Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years	...	...	...	...	...	4827
						———— 9350
Number of attendances at the Clinic during the year—						
(a) by children under one year of age	...	...	...	...	...	4895
(b) by children between the ages of one and five years...	...	...	...	...	...	1979
						———— 6874
Number of children who attended at the Clinic for the first time during the year—						
(a) Children under one year of age...	...	...	...	...	...	280
(b) Children between the ages of one and five years	...	...	...	...	...	8
						———— 288

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 1938, 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 1938 are classified as follows :

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

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.

