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Urban District Council
of Ince-in-Makerfield



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1946.



Urban District Council
of Ince-in-Makerfield



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1946
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health and Divisional 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 Clinic—
C. H. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Consultant Bacteriologist—J. L. DALES, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., D.T.H.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon—H. B. BARKER, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

County Dental Surgeon—T. N. ASHALL, L.D.S. (Liv.)

Sanitary Inspector—A. E. SNODGRASS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.

Health Visitors—

MISS E. L. SAYER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.

MISS F. M. GILLEN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.

INCE-IN-MAKERFIELD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Sir, Mrs. Winstanley, and Gentlemen,

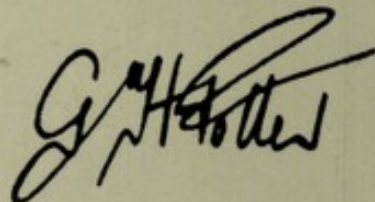
I have the honour to present an Interim Report on the health of the District for the year 1946 compiled in the abbreviated form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

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,



1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area : 2,320 acres.

Population (Census 1931): 21,763.

Estimated mid-1946 (Registrar General): 19,900

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

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1946 according
to Rate Books : 5,237.

Rateable value : £63,710.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £265 (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.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
Live Births	{ Legitimate	205	215	420
	{ Illegitimate	8	10	18
	TOTAL...	213	225	438
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Still Births	{ Legitimate	4	3	7
	{ Illegitimate	0	1	1
	TOTAL...	4	4	8
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	{ Legitimate	13	10	23
	{ Illegitimate	1	2	3
	TOTAL...	14	12	26
DEATHS...		126	106	232

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1946.....22.0

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....11.6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.....17.0

No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth:	
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
From other maternal causes.....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.	
due to Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births	
due to other causes	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	59
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	54
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	166
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	32
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	2

TABLE 1.

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Cancer Death Rate
Mean of 5 years—				
1941—1945	19.6	12.4	0.62	1.66
1945	17.6	11.4	0.46	1.49
1946	22.0	11.6	0.15	1.60
Increase or Decrease in 1946 on—5 years' average 1941 — 1945				
—on Previous year's average—	+ 2.4	—0.8	—0.47	—0.06
	+ 4.4	+ 0.2	—0.31	+ 0.11

Maternal Mortality Rate

	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live & Still Births)	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
Mean of 5 years—			
1941—1945	1.07	1.04	69
1945	2.91	2.83	58
1946	Nil	Nil	59
Increase or Decrease in 1946 on—5 years' average 1941 — 1945			
—on Previous year's average—	—1.07	—1.04	—10
	—2.91	+ 2.83	+ 1

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

TABLE A.
ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death	TOTAL	Under 1 month	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Premature Birth	6	6	—	—	—	—
Inanition at Birth	4	4	—	—	—	—
Congenital Deformity.....	5	4	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia & Bronchitis ...	4	—	2	2	—	—
Gastro Enteritis	2	—	1	1	—	—
Asphyxia at Birth	2	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumococcal Meningitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—
Icterus Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—
	26	17	5	3	1	—

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1946 as compared with the previous year.

TABLE B.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths	
	1945	1946
Enteric Fever	0	0
Measles	1	0
Whooping Cough	1	1
Diphtheria	3	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Influenza	1	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	0
Phthisis	9	3
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	1
Cancer	29	32
Heart Disease	45	52
Bronchitis	14	23
Pneumonia	16	13
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4	2
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Diseases of Parturition	1	0
Suicide	1	3
Accidents	6	6
Other Diseases	87	95
	222	232

2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1946 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens : 56 Throat Swabs, 12 samples of Water, 52 samples of Milk, 9 samples of Ice Cream.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Infectious Cases were removed to Hospital in the motor ambulance of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board during the year 1946.

During the same year Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by the motor ambulances belonging jointly to the Urban Districts of Ince, Hindley and Abram, by the motor ambulances belonging to the Wigan Borough Police, or by the Public Assistance Ambulances.

The arrangements made with the neighbouring authorities of Wigan, Hindley, and Leigh Joint Hospital Board for the use of their Infectious and Non-Infectious Ambulances, ensured that the ambulance facilities for the area were adequate.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing is carried out in the area by the two Nurses employed by the Ince-in-Makerfield District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the Lancashire County Nursing Association.

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, 1936, for the area, is the Lancashire County Council.

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, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 2-0—4-0 p.m.

As part of the School Health Service, Minor Ailment Clinics are held daily and Dental Clinics on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. These clinics are held at the Central Clinic, Ince Green Lane, which is combined for the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health 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 Orthopaedic Nurse attends each Monday morning.

Children requiring Artificial Light treatment attended at the Infirmary.

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.

The piped supply of water to the township after chlorination and softening treatment was examined 9 times bacteriologically during the year 1946, and once chemically, and found to be satisfactory.

One examination of the raw water was made during the year, and found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of the house with six residents known as Bank Top House, on the Aspull boundary, whose supply is derived from an adjacent spring of exceptionally pure water. Two samples of this water were taken during the year, and found to be satisfactory.

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 1946) :

Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	88
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens				135
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	28
Number of Freshwater Closets	...	...	...	5437
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	—
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	...	...	...	—
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	...	...	...	5228
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				5086

Under the General Conversion Scheme, the Local Authority pays half the cost of each conversion, with a maximum of £4 per conversion. 12 conversions were made during 1946.

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	...	...	...	1995
Number of Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	6622
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	2317
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	1196
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	121
Number of Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	2

Convictions were secured in both cases where legal proceedings were instituted.

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.

During the year, the Authority joined the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. Contact is maintained between the Officers of the Public Health Department and local Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

38 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with a 5% D.D.T. (Geigy) "Neocid" Solution prepared in the Department by the dilution of the concentrated solution in Kerosene. This method has proved highly efficient.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or reinfestation 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 By-laws, dated 1909.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES.

103 visits were paid to factories under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS.

2 Canal Boats were inspected during the year. No infringements of the Acts were found.

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.

4. Housing.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are old in type, and congested in certain areas.

Mining subsidence is responsible for much damage to structure, and old houses are continuously in need of repairs, which are rendered difficult by the shortage of labour and building materials.

The worst cases of pre-war overcrowding were relieved, but the situation is bad again, owing to servicemen's families having to live with their parents, due to an actual shortage of houses.

Schemes are in hand for the provision of 430 permanent houses to alleviate the housing position.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under [b])	—
(i) By the Local Authority	—
(ii) By other Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	—
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	—
(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) ...	815
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1238
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head [1] above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	24
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	24
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(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...	811

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... ..	178
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	7
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	5
	(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	76
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	28
	(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	—
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
	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	... ..	approx. 488
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	approx. 663
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	approx. 3574
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	50
(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 1946, 8 samples of milk were examined by the biological test for Tuberculosis and were found satisfactory, 52 samples of milk were also submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of the heat-treated milk. 40 samples were satisfactory and 12 unsatisfactory.

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

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

During the year, one new cowshed was in course of erection at a local farm, with the co-operation of the Lancashire County Agricultural Executive Committee.

There are 22 Milk Purveyors (including 3 Cowkeepers) in the district. 16 Licences for the sale of Pasteurised Milk have been issued to retail distributors, and 1 Licence in respect of the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk was granted during the year.

The approximate number of cows in the district is 90.

(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 by the Sanitary Inspector.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

During 1946, cases of infectious disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Astley Sanatorium of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, by agreement.

21 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 64 in 1945, and of the 21 cases, 13 were removed to hospital for treatment.

27 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with 31 in the previous year. The 27 cases were removed to hospital for treatment. One case died in hospital.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Town Hall, 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.

As stated earlier in the Report, 56 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by 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 1946, 195 pre-school and 78 school children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 41 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1946.

Measles of a mild type was prevalent during the year.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

77 cases of Scabies were treated during the year, at the Cleansing Station, established at the Isolation Hospital.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with Lethane Oil or D.D.T. Emulsion.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1946
TABLE C.

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 1946.

DISEASES	Total Under											Total removed persons to Hospital 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	65 and over	Deaths
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	21	...	1	1	2	4	10	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	13
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup ...	27	...	...	...	...	3	14	8	1	1	...	...	...	1	27
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary and <i>Influenza</i> Pneumonia...	28	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	6	2	8	7	13	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio Encephalitis..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Measles (excluding German Measles).....	30	...	5	2	5	6	11	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	68	9	9	9	15	12	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
TOTALS.....	178	9	15	13	22	27	52	9	5	7	2	9	8	16	43

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 1946, 83 houses were disinfected 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.

The Steam Disinfector at the Sewage Works, Platt Bridge, was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to Hospital.

CANCER.

32 deaths (15 male and 17 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 29 in 1945.

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.

26 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1946, 19 being cases of Pulmonary, and 7 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 3 deaths from Pulmonary, and 1 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, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

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

TABLE D.
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	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
20—25	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
25—35	2	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
35—45	2	3	...	2	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
55—65	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
65 & up- wards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	9	10	2	5	1	2	1	...
	19		7		3		1	

7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Central Clinic on Tuesdays, Wednesdays 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.

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.

During 1946, 268 Expectant Mothers attended the Clinic making a total number of 837 attendances.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 77 first visits, and a total number of 351 visits to expectant mothers at their homes.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant and nursing mothers, and children under 5 years, by the County Dental Surgeon.

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

In pursuance of Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health, Ince has joined in the Scheme of the Lancashire County Council, for the care of Illegitimate Children in the area.

Expectant and nursing mothers and premature infants can be admitted to Billinge Hospital, Wigan Infirmary, and hospitals at Liverpool and Manchester. No arrangements have been made for the provision of emergency units or home helps.

In accordance with Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, dealing with the Care of Premature Infants, all notifications of birth received, indicate the birth weight of the infant, and the period of gestation. The Health Visitors pay particular attention to all premature babies.

During 1946, 25 babies weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth, 13 being born at home and 12 in hospital. Of the 13 babies born at home, 2 were removed to hospital, none died during the first 24 hours, and 9 survived at the end of one month. Of the 12 babies born in hospital, 2 died during the first 24 hours, and 10 survived at the end of one month.

The Nurses reported as follows on the Infant Welfare work—

Number of First Visits to new Babies	...	436
Number of Supervision Visits—under one year	2761	
Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years...	..	5421
	.....	8182

*Number of Children who attended at the Clinic
for the first time during the year—*

(a) Children under one year of age	... ..	321
(b) Children between the ages of one year and five years	... ..	2
	.....	323

In accordance with the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, arrangements were made with the Wigan Infirmary for the provision of consultant advice, and bacteriological examinations, when requested by the medical practitioner, while home nursing of these cases is taken over by the Home Visitors from the attendant Midwives. Cases requiring hospital treatment are removed to Astley Sanatorium. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year.

Maternal Deaths are investigated by the County Medical Officer, with the cooperation of the District Medical Officer.

Orthopaedic 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 Orthopaedic Hospital.

Under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases is undertaken by the Health Visitors, while cases requiring hospital treatment can be sent to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.

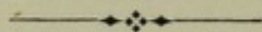
Cases occurring during 1946 are classified as follows—

—*Ophthalmia Cases*—

Number Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Health Visitors act as Infant Protection Visitors for the discharge of the functions of the Local Authority under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.



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

Mrs. Winstanley and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report on the Sanitary Inspection of the Area for the year 1946 in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

During the year under review there has still been difficulty in obtaining abatement of nuisances due to labour shortage and difficulty in obtaining materials in the jobbing builder and property repairer class of industry. This difficulty is holding up many sanitary improvements and general property repair.

A notable feature has been a reduction in the number of complaints of vermin in houses, probably due in some measure to an awakening of the public conscience in this matter and the retail marketing of D.D.T. and other similar preparations.

1. NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED.

To secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions dangerous to health, the following action was taken during the year :

Number of Informal Notices Served.....	1196
,, ,, Informal Notices complied with.....	523
,, ,, Statutory Notices Served.....	121
,, ,, Statutory Notices complied with.....	33

2. RECORD OF NUISANCES FOUND AND ABATED AND WORK DONE.

Number of Nuisances and Defects found.....	6622
,, ,, Nuisances and Defects abated.....	2317
(a) as a result of informal action	2181
(b) as a result of statutory notice	136

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Number and Nature of Inspections.

During the year 1946 the following inspections were made to the premises detailed.

Nature of Inspection	Primary Inspection	Re- Inspection	Total Visits
Houses under Public Health Acts...	813	404	1217
Vermin	103	15	118
Water Supply	37	—	37
Tents, Vans Sheds	9	—	9
Houses Let-in Lodgings.....	2	—	2
Schools	36	—	36
Ashes Accommodation	223	—	223
Accumulations	41	34	75
Animals or Birds	3	—	3
Stable Premises	5	—	5
Piggeries	13	—	13
Rats and Mice	130	1	131
Drainage — Inspected	281	13	294
Closets — Water	180	22	202
Closets — Pails or Privies.....	97	176	273
Cesspools	1	—	1
Urinals	9	—	9
Sewers and Street Gullies.....	7	—	7
Cowsheds	10	—	10
Milk Shops and Dairies.....	46	—	46
Ice Cream Premises	17	—	17
Meat Shops	18	—	18
Meat Inspection	11	—	11
Food Preparing Premises	15	—	15
General Food Premises.....	37	—	37
Shop Acts	1	—	1
Offensive Trades	20	—	20
Factories (with mechanical power)...	39	3	42
Factories (without mechanical power)	11	1	12
Workplaces	6	—	6
Outworkers	4	1	5
Bakehouses — Factory	9	3	12
Bakehouses — Non-Factory	5	1	6
Petroleum Act	32	—	32
Infectious Diseases	95	12	107
Disinfection	157	1	158
Housing — Section 9	2	19	21
Section 11.....	—	16	16
Other Visits	24	1	25
Overcrowding	59	1	60
Rent Restrictions Acts	3	—	3
Building Licences	103	—	103
Smoke Abatement—Premises visited.	2	—	2
Refuse Collection	55	—	55
Rivers Pollution Acts	4	—	4
Miscellaneous Visits	87	—	87
Interviews—Owners, tradesmen etc...	60	—	60
Samples : Foods and drugs—Formal...	12	—	12
Samples : Foods and drugs—Informal	97	—	97
Water — Bacteriological	9	—	9
Water — Chemical	2	—	2
Clean Milk — T.B. Exam.	7	—	7
Clean Milk — Bacteriological	55	—	55
Ice Cream Samples	9	—	9
Canal Boats	2	—	2
	<hr/> 3115	<hr/> 724	<hr/> 3839

During the year complaints were received relating to the following matters :

<i>Complaint</i>	<i>No.</i>
General Disrepair— Various	216
Defective fireplace	18
" rainwater pipe	7
" windows	35
" chimneys	8
" doors	11
" plasterwork	66
" floors	16
" roofs	78
" eavesgutters	9
Dampness	11
Waterclosets	116
Choked drains	96
Ashes accommodation	4
Privies and pails	1
Rats	8
Vermin	14
Foul and obnoxious odours	1
Accumulations	1
Dirty premises	2
Water supply	26
Dangerous buildings	4
Smoke nuisance	1
Overcrowding	51
Miscellaneous	14
Wash boilers	11
Gas pipes	1
Ceilings	6
Water boilers	1
Ovens	6
Defective sink waste pipes.....	12
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	851

Complaints referred to other Departments :

<i>Complaint</i>	<i>No.</i>
Choked drains and W.C's.....	217
Burst water pipes	8
Choked street gullies	5
Defects in Council houses	5
Leaking eavesgutters	1
Boilers	1
Dangerous buildings	1
Taps	3
Gas escape	1
A.R.P. shelters	1
Sewers	1
Public footpaths paving	1
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	245

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Number of inspections <i>re</i> drainage defects and reconstructions.	294
„ „ choked drains cleared by Council.....	197
„ „ houses where new drainage was provided.....	26

One new sink was fixed in a dwelling house.

All reconstructed house drainage work is subject to inspection, and the smoke or other appropriate test applied wherever facilities exist.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Supervision of the water courses in the district is undertaken jointly with the Surveyor, Mr. Paul Fairclough, who undertakes the clearing and maintenance of the Ince Brook.

During the year four visits have been made by the Sanitary Inspector for this purpose.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Despite the prevailing difficulties concerning building materials and labour, the Council embarked on a conversion scheme for fifty privy closets in the Platt Bridge area of the district during the year. This was done, having regard to the dangerous and dilapidated condition of the existing privy structures. At the end of the year 12 conversions had been completed, 12 were in progress and orders for the remainder were in the hands of contractors.

Under the general conversion scheme for the district the Council make a contribution of £4 towards each conversion.

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

Number of Notices served <i>re</i> closet conversions.....	45
„ „ Notices complied with	12

Table giving particulars of Conversions during the past seven years.

	Prior to	1938	1939	1944	1945	1946
Number of closet conversions		3857	32	8	8	12
„ „ privy middens abolished.		860	19	4	4	6
„ „ privy closets abolished...		1818	35	7	8	12
„ „ pail closets abolished.....		39	5	—	—	—
„ „ additional W.C's provided		781	—	1	—	8
„ „ ashpits abolished		56	—	—	—	—
„ „ wallbins abolished		—	30	—	—	—
„ „ dustbins supplied		3704	6	20	—	433

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street scavenging and removal of house refuse are undertaken by the Local Authority.

Street cleansing is under the control of the Surveyor, (Mr. Paul Fairclough), and is carried out by 6 men and 5 street orderly carts.

Length of streets cleansed.....	13.1 Miles.
Area of roadway cleansed.....	13,896 sq. yards.

The removal of house refuse is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Privy middens and dustbins in the district are emptied regularly by day throughout the year.

One horse-drawn vehicle and two S.D. Freighter motor vehicles provide a weekly service for this purpose. There is no refuse destructor in the district and refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on three sites.

The staff engaged on these duties comprises one foreman and 13 men.

Number of new dustbins supplied to dwelling houses.....	433
„ „ dustbins in the district.....	5228
Approx. total weight of refuse removed.....	200,000 tons
Number of visits paid by Sanitary Inspector <i>re</i> refuse accommodation and collection.....	278
„ „ Notices served <i>re</i> defective dustbins.....	55
	(concerning 253 defects)
„ „ Notices abated	15
„ „ defects abated	103
„ „ domestic animals destroyed at owner's request..	319

SALVAGE COLLECTION.

Since 1940 the Local Authority has contributed their share towards the National Salvage campaign, which has also provided an additional source of revenue to the Council besides supporting the national effort. Since the cessation of hostilities difficulty has been experienced in finding markets for certain types of salvage and at the end of the year collections were confined to waste paper etc., kitchen waste and textiles.

Salvage is collected by means of trailers attached to the refuse vehicles during normal collections and special collections are made twice weekly for waste paper and kitchen waste respectively. At various times during the year difficulty has been experienced by the pilfering of kitchen waste from the street communal waste bins. The Council consider this a very serious matter and are prepared to instigate legal proceedings in those cases where evidence can be procured.

Total amount and value of salvage collected during 1946.

	£	s.	d.	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.
Waste paper and cardboard.....	260	6	5	43	4	0
Kitchen waste	91	4	0	91	4	0
Textiles	8	1	6	1	10	0
Bottles and jars	3	14	6	0	10	3
Cullet	0	5	0	0	0	1
	363	11	5	136	9	0

In addition, bonuses of £24 - 1 - 11 have been received from the Board of Trade in respect of increased collections of waste paper and kitchen waste.

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.

There are no registered houses-let-in-lodgings in the district but, owing to the general housing shortage, there are a number of houses occupied by members of more than one family, which require investigation under the Council's Bye-Laws.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered common lodging houses, but a Railway-man's Hostel belonging to London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company is situate within the district.

This provides accommodation for 35 men and is mostly used by railway employees working on the main line from London to the North.

The premises are clean and generally kept in satisfactory condition.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There are situated in the district 19 caravans which have been used as living accommodation over a period of years. One site containing 13 vans is provided with pail closets and stand pipes for water supply. The remaining vans are in isolated units and facilities for water supply and closet accommodation are generally unsatisfactory. None of the vans or sites have been licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936 and require further investigation.

Periodically during the year, small parties of travelling gypsies pass through the district and usually camp for one or two nights. They are kept under observation in co-operation with the Lancashire County Constabulary.

Number of visits to caravans..... 9

CANAL BOATS.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal passes through the district, but the Council is not a registration authority under the Canal Boats Acts. The County Borough of Wigan is the nearest registration authority.

Number of visits to canal boats..... 2

No infringements under the Acts or Overcrowding were found

Most of the boats passing through the district are registered in the County Boroughs of Blackburn and Liverpool.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year the Council became members of the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

Two visits were made to the largest boiler installations in the district in pursuance of the educational policy of the Regional Committee. Most of the chimneys in the district are in connection with exempted trades, but occasionally serious nuisance is experienced from railway smoke. More attention needs to be paid to this question when adequacy of staff and other duties permit.

SHOPS ACTS.

No offences or contraventions of the Shops Acts 1912/43 were reported during the year.

There are within the district several hundred shops of various descriptions. One very necessary duty which requires to be performed when adequacy of staff and other duties permit, is to compile a register of all shops in the district and investigate them with regard to the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, concerning light, ventilation, temperature and sanitary and washing accommodation.

The provisions of the Orders concerning Shop Hours made under the Defence (Emergency) Regulations, 1939 are still in operation and their prescribed times of closing bring shop assistants and young persons well within the maximum hours of employment permitted by the principal Acts.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) REGULATIONS, 1928.

During the year 25 licences to store petrol have been issued in respect of 22 premises. Three new petrol storage tanks were erected during the year.

Number of visits to petrol storage tanks..... 32

One licence for the storage of calcium carbide was issued during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council have adopted the Ministry of Food Rodent Control Scheme under the Infestation Order, 1943. In June this year they accepted the Ministry's Private Dwelling Scheme under N.S./12/1946, and a survey of all the dwelling houses in the district was in progress at the end of the year.

Regular sewer treatments have always been undertaken. One such treatment has been completed this year and another will be completed before 31st March, 1947.

Since the original survey of the district was undertaken in 1944, one reservoir and nine major areas of infestation have been eliminated and only one reservoir and one major area of infestation remain. Other subsequent major areas have been found and dealt with.

N.S./12/1946. PRIVATE DWELLING SCHEME.

Total numbers of visits made by Rodent Operator..... 1820

Nine informal intimations of infestation under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 and Infestation Order, 1943 have been served on owners and occupiers of premises and have been complied with

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector *re* Rodent Control 131

Details of work executed during the year :

	Reservoir	Major	Minor
No. of Infestations treated	3	10	19—5 mice
No. of Infestations treated more than once	1	4	—
No. of Infestations where Post-Bait takes occurred.....	—	—	—
Estimated total kill (Ministry formula)...	609	244	49
Total No. of bodies recovered.....	63	62	21
No. of Infestations cleared.....	1	2	19
Infestations reduced to "Major".....	—	—	—
Infestations reduced to "Minor".....	—	—	—
Bait used :	Sausage Rusk, Bread Mash, Sugar Meal.		
Poison used :	Zinc Phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, Red Squill.		
Total number of bodies recovered.....			146
Total estimated number of rats killed.....			902

Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

A three day treatment was given, baits being laid on alternate days. 381 of the 484 manholes in the district were baited. 134 manholes showed a prebait take of which 21 were complete takes. At the conclusion of the sewer treatment, extensive treatments were undertaken at both sewage works, resulting in an estimated kill of 172 rats.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

Since the commencement of the Control of Civil Building in 1945, the Sanitary Inspector has undertaken the duties of Licensing Officer to the Council.

This work has added considerably to both the inspectoral and clerical work of the department, as each application necessitates individual investigation and consideration.

With the continued restriction on building labour and materials the number of permits and licences required by builders and contractors to execute their normal work tend to increase.

The operation of the Control of Building Operation (No. 8) Order, 1947 on the 1st February, 1947 will further increase the work and responsibilities of the department in this matter.

Number of Licences issued in respect to dwelling houses	189	Value £8,390
„ „ Licences issued in respect to other premises	57	Value £3,065
„ „ Certificates of Essential Repair issued.....	134	
„ „ Visits made <i>re</i> Building Licences.....	103	

The majority of the licences issued were to comply with notices served by the Council.

FACTORIES.

Inspection of Factories under Factories Act, 1937 :

Number of Visits to factories with mechanical power.....	32
„ „ „ „ „ without „ „	71

Two notices were served under Section (7) of the Act concerning ten defects to unsuitable and defective sanitary conveniences.

One notice and one defect to sanitary conveniences was abated during the year.

OUTWORKERS.

During the year five inspections were made at outworkers premises.

Two lists of outworkers were received from other Local Authorities.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

There were 10 inspections of 6 registered cowsheds and 46 inspections of dairies and milkshops during the year.

52 samples of milk from registered farms, dairymen and other sources of supply were obtained. The following table provides the details of results.

CLASS OF MILK	No. of samples	METHYLENE BLUE		B. COLI		T.B.		PHOSPHATASE		NO. OF TESTS APPLIED
		Sat.	Un-sat.	Sat.	Un-sat.	Sat.	Un-sat.	Sat.	Un-sat.	
Sterilised	4	4	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	12
Pasteurised	13	11	1	7	1	1	—	13	—	34
Raw Milk	35	30	5	24	11	7	—	—	—	77
Totals	52	45	6	35	12	8	—	17	—	123

There are 90 dairy cattle at three farms within the district.

Veterinary Inspection of dairy cattle at farms within the district is carried out twice yearly by the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Mr. Blackie, of Wigan).

The duties under the Diseases of Animals Acts are undertaken by the Lancashire County Constabulary. Supt. G. Thwaite has kindly supplied the following report :

One Cow was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938 and premises disinfected.

One case of suspected Swine Fever was reported but not confirmed.

Contacts to two cases of Swine Fever outside the district were kept under observation.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

During the year 18 inspections were made of meat shops, 15 of food-preparing premises, 37 of general food premises and 18 of bake-houses.

Total number of inspections..... 88

No defects were found or notices served in respect of these premises.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There is no slaughterhouse in the district.

Under the Ministry of Food, Meat and Livestock Control, butchers shops are supplied from the Slaughtering Centre and W.M.S.A. Depots in the County Borough of Wigan.

During the year 9 pigs were slaughtered on private premises, previously approved, under licence from the Ministry of Food. All these were inspected at time of slaughter and found to be sound and fit for human consumption. 11 Visits were paid for this purpose. The Slaughtering of Animals Act, 1933, was complied with in each case.

ICE CREAM.

There are, one registered manufacturer, 3 registered retail premises and 2 registered retail vendors in the district. Ice cream is also sold at one cinema.

Number of inspections of ice cream premises..... 17

9 samples of ice cream and ingredients were taken during the year. Five samples were found to be unsatisfactory, two samples being from manufacturers outside the district. The results of these samples were communicated to the Local Authority concerned.

Two samples of ice cream and one of ingredients, taken at the manufacturer's premises had a high plate count and B. Coli present. This manufacturer is at present endeavouring to obtain new premises within the district.

There is no legal standard for this commodity at present.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

During the year 88 visits have been paid to food shops in the district and the foodstuffs detailed in the following table have been condemned.

Article	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Bacon and Ham.....		1	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beef	1	0	16
Butter			11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cheese			5
Cooked Pork			16
Dates	1	3	11
Fish		2	18
Marmalade			6
Sausages			8
Sultanas		3	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned Meat	1	1	18
	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15$\frac{3}{4}$</u>
		Tins	
Canned Fish		24	
„ Fruit		12	
„ Meat		2	
„ Milk		415	
„ Soup		32	
„ Vegetables		113	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 — ADULTERATION.

Lancashire County Council are the authority under the Act in this district, and the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. F. Hall) has kindly supplied the following report :

	Milk	Other foods
Total number of samples taken	126	9
" " " " found genuine	104	9
" " " " " adulterated ..	22	—

Legal proceedings were instituted against one vendor in respect of 8 adulterated samples of milk. A fine of £20 with £13 - 13 - 0 costs was imposed. A letter of caution was addressed to another vendor in respect of one other adulterated sample of milk.

In the case of other adulterated milk samples, investigations were undertaken at the sources of supply outside the district.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

The following table gives details of legal proceedings instituted during the year.

No.	Date	Offence	Result
1.	22nd October, 1946	Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance or prejudicial to health. (Structural defects).	Magistrates Order 28 days £3 - 12 - 0 Costs
2.	19th December, 1946	as above	Magistrates Order 28 days £1 - 0 - 0 Fine £3 - 12 - 0 Costs

In concluding this, my first report, I desire to express my best thanks to you and the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. G. H. Potter) for your confidence and support to me in carrying out my duties. I also wish to accord my appreciation of the courtesy always extended to me by all the officials of the Council, and the loyal service given to me at all times by the Clerical and Outdoor Staff of the Department.

I am,

Yours obediently,

A. E. Snodgrass,

Sanitary Inspector.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1921
AS SHOWN IN THE BALANCE SHEET AND
STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS
AND THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 1922 AS SHOWN IN THE
BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF
PROFIT AND LOSS ARE CORRECT AND
TRULY REPRESENT THE STATE OF
AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY AT THE
RESPECTIVE DATES.

WITNESSED AND SIGNED BY THE
MANAGING DIRECTOR
AND
THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY 1923

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto
set my hand and the seal of the
Company at London this 15th day of
January 1923

MANAGING DIRECTOR
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

THE COMPANY'S SECRETARY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto
set my hand and the seal of the
Company at London this 15th day of
January 1923

THE COMPANY'S SECRETARY



