

[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Ince-in-Makerfield U.D.C.

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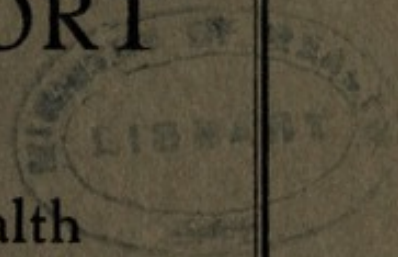
ANNUAL REPORT

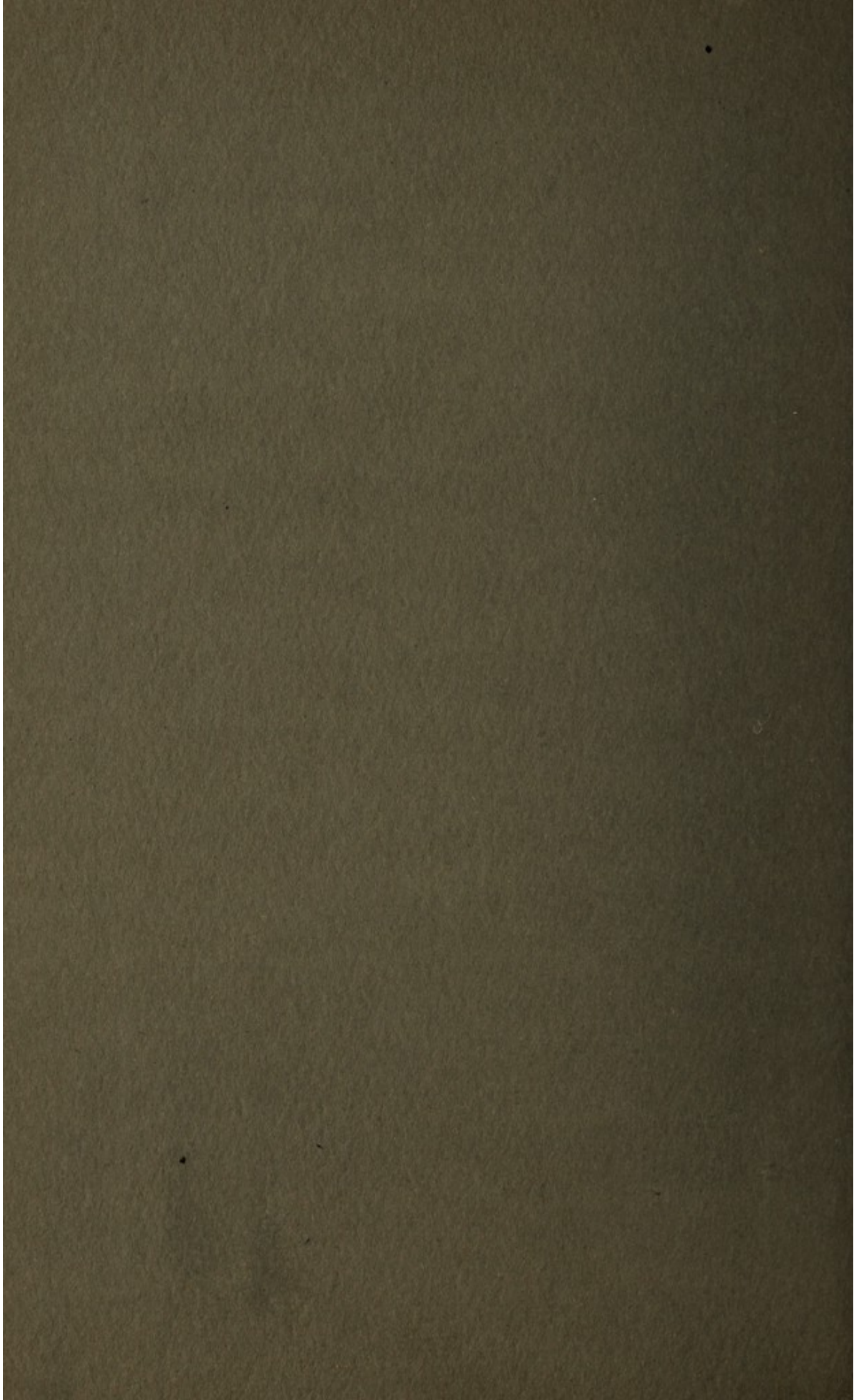
of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1947.





Urban District Council
of Ince-in-Makerfield



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1947
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.

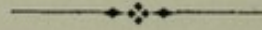
—resigned 31st January, 1948.

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 1947 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. H. Foster'.

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area : 2,320 acres.

Population (Census 1931) : 21,763.

Estimated mid-1947 (Registrar General) : 20,150.

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

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1947 according to Rate Books : 5,253.

Rateable value : £64,439.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £243 (nett).

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
<i>Live Births</i>	Legitimate	247	246	493
	Illegitimate	5	5	10
	TOTAL...	252	251	503
		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Still Births</i>	Legitimate	11	8	19
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	TOTAL...	11	8	19
		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</i>	Legitimate	22	13	35
	Illegitimate	0	1	1
	TOTAL...	22	14	36
DEATHS...		144	111	255

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1947.....24.9

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....12.6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.....36.0

No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth:	
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
From other maternal causes.....	2
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	3.83
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	71
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	70
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	100
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	39
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	6

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—				
1942—1946	20.1	11.9	0.51	1.61
1946	22.0	11.6	0.15	1.60
1947	24.9	12.6	0.59	1.93
Increase or Decrease in 1947 on—5 years' average 1942 — 1946				
—on Previous year's average—	+4.8	+0.7	+0.08	+0.32
	+2.9	+1.0	+0.44	+0.33

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—			
1942—1946	1.07	1.04	62
1946	Nil	Nil	59
1947	3.97	3.83	71
Increase or Decrease in 1947 on—5 years' average 1942 — 1946			
—on Previous year's average—	+2.90	+2.79	+ 9
	+3.97	+3.83	+12

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—3	4—6	7—9	10—11
		1 month	months	months	months	months
Premature Birth	8	7	1	—	—	—
Asphyxia at Birth	1	1	—	—	—	—
Congenital Deformity.....	3	3	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia & Bronchitis ...	10	—	5	2	1	2
Gastro Enteritis	6	1	3	2	—	—
Pneumococcal Meningitis ...	2	—	1	—	1	—
Icterus Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	2	1	1	—	—	—
Otitis Media	1	—	1	—	—	—
Accidental Asphyxia	1	—	—	1	—	—
Marasmus	1	1	—	—	—	—
	36	15	12	5	2	2

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1947 as compared with the previous year.

TABLE B.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths	
	1946	1947
Enteric Fever	0	0
Measles	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	1
Diphtheria	1	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Influenza	0	3
Poliomyelitis	0	1
Phthisis	3	12
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	3
Cancer	32	39
Heart Disease	52	55
Bronchitis	23	23
Pneumonia	13	18
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	6
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Diseases of Parturition	0	2
Suicide	3	0
Accidents	6	7
Other Diseases	95	84
	232	255

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 1947 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens : 56 Throat Swabs, 8 samples of Water, 112 samples of Milk, 11 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 1947.

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.

Orthopaedic defects among pre-school and school children are dealt with under the Lancashire County Council Scheme. The Orthopaedic 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 7 times bacteriologically during the year 1947, and twice chemically, and found to be satisfactory.

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

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of the house with one resident known as Bank Top House, on the Aspull boundary, whose supply is derived from an adjacent spring of exceptionally pure water. One sample of this water was 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 1947) :

Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	68
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens				97
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	35
Number of Freshwater Closets	...	...	...	5496
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	—
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	...	...	...	—
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	...	...	...	5267
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				5121

Under the General Conversion Scheme, the Local Authority pays half the cost of each conversion, with a maximum of £4 per conversion. 39 conversions were made during 1947.

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	...	...	...	3005
Number of Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	8179
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	3179
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	1302
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	569
Number of Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	17

Convictions were secured in all 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.

The Authority is represented on 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.

33 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with a Zaldecide containing 5% D.D.T. (Geigy). 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.

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

CANAL BOATS.

No Canal Boats were inspected during the year.

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 :

Traditional permanent houses :

(i) By the Local Authority	16
(ii) By other Authorities	—
(iii) 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) ...	673
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1855
(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	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(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...	672

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... ..	120
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	1
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	1
	(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	190
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	111
	(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	1
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
	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.	506
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	approx.	703
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	approx.	3736
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..		30
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..		12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...		56

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

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

During 1947, 17 samples of milk were examined by the biological test for Tuberculosis and were found satisfactory, 112 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. 68 samples were satisfactory and 44 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.

There were 25 Milk Purveyors (including 3 Cowkeepers) in the district. 17 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 1947, cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment were removed to the Astley Sanatorium of the Leigh Joint Hospital Board, by agreement.

114 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 21 in 1946, and of the 114 cases, 50 were removed to hospital for treatment.

20 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with 27 in the previous year. The 20 cases were removed to hospital for treatment.

15 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis and 2 cases of Polio-encephalitis of varying severity were notified during the year. Cases showing any residual paralysis are receiving orthopaedic treatment.

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 1947, 206 pre-school and 32 school children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 50 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

The Immunisation state of the child population at the end of 1947 is shown as follows :

	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 and under 15 years of age	Total under 15 years of age
Number of child population protected by artificial immunisation	626	1795	2421
Percentage of the number so protected to the number of children in the age group ...	32.8%	53.8%	46.2%

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1947.

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.

34 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 1947
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 1947.

DISEASES	Total Under Cases all ages	ages											Total removed and Deaths over	Total Deaths in Hospital to belong to district			
		1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65			65		
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	114	...	2	6	6	8	58	30	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup ...	20	...	...	...	1	1	12	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute <i>Primary</i> and <i>Influenza</i> Pneumonia...	31	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	1	6	2	8	1	18	3	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	15	3	5	2	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	14	2	...
Acute Polio Encephalitis..	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	6	2	...	...	...	2
Measles (excluding German Measles).....	313	22	40	49	52	58	88	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	18	3	5	2	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
TOTALS.....	524	29	55	60	65	71	167	40	6	11	3	14	3	21	93	...	...

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 1947, 164 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.

39 deaths (25 male and 14 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, compared with 32 in 1946.

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 1947, 20 being cases of Pulmonary, and 6 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, 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	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...
20—25	2	3	...	...	2	2	...	...
25—35	4	3	...	...	...	3	...	...
35—45	2	...	...	1	1	1	1	...
45—55	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
65 & up- wards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	12	8	1	5	6	6	3	...
	20		6		12		3	

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 1947, 321 Expectant Mothers attended the Clinic, making a total number of 984 attendances.

In addition, the Health Visitors paid 54 first visits, and a total number of 239 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 1947, 33 babies weighed $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth, 24*being born at home and 9 in hospital. Of the 24 babies born at home, none was removed to hospital, 4 died during the first 24 hours, and 20 survived at the end of one month. Of the 9 babies born in hospital, 4 died during the first 24 hours, and 5 survived at the end of one month.

The Nurses reported as follows on the Infant Welfare work—

Number of First Visits to new Babies	...	503
Number of Supervision Visits—under one year	2920	
Number of Supervision Visits—over one year and up to five years...	..	4241
	.....	7161

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

(a) Children under one year of age	... ..	438
(b) Children between the ages of one year and five years	... ..	—
	.....	438

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 1947 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.

