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Contributors

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Arban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1955



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF INCE-IN-MAKERFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

for

1955

of the

Medical Officer of Health

INCE-IN-MAKERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman:

Councillor S. C. BALDWIN

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor T. SHARPLES

Councillors:

G. BYRNE
W. CROOK
T. DOWNING
J. GOULDING, C.C. W. MOSLEY

C. H. HOPPER
P. JONES, C.A.
W. T. MILLER, J.P.
W. MOSLEY
W. R. SIMM
MRS, R. WINSTANLEY

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health:

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

T. HAILWOOD

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B.

Meat Inspector's Certificates—Royal Sanitary Institute.

Liverpool University

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

H. TOPPING

Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B.

Meat Inspector's Certificates—Royal Sanitary Institute.

Liverpool University

Pupil Sanitary Inspector:

G. A. PILKINGTON (from September 1955)

Clerical Staff:

Miss J. Robinson (to July 1955)

Ince-in-Makerfield Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1955 compiled in the 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 Inspectors 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.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. Potter

Medical Officer of Health

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2320 acres.

Population (Census 1951): 20,414

Estimated mid-1955 (Registrar General): 20,100

Total Number of Houses (Census 1951): 5402

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1955 according to Rate Books: 5,652

Rateable value: £70,525

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £272 (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	STA	FISTI	CS
-------	-----	-------	----

		Male	Female	TOTAL
T. D. W.	Legitimate	172	155	327
Live Births	Illegitimate	4	3	7
1	TOTAL1	176	158	334
		Male	Female	TOTAL
	Legitimate	11	5	16
Still Births	Illegitimate	1	0	1
	TOTAL	12	5	17
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Deaths of Infants	Legitimate	5	2	7
under 1 year of ag		1	0	1
	TOTAL	. 6	2	8
		Male	Female	TOTAL
Deaths of Infants	Legitimat	te 3	1	4
under 4 weeks of a	age Illegitima	te 1	0	1
	TOTAL	4	1	5
TOTAL DEATH	HS (all ages)	94	88	182
		4		

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population
mid-195515.9
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population11.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births48.0

**	Average 5 years 1950—1954	Year 1950	Year 1951	Year 1952	Year 1953	Year 1954	Year 1955		
djus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		
ted [liv	1	371	321	310	328	342	334	No. Regis- tered	Live
e birth	16.5	18-2	15.8	15.3	16.3	17.0	*16-6	Rate per 1000 pop'n	Live Births
rate (c te (com	1	257	239	1	201	231	182	No. Regis- tered	De (All C
ompara parabil	11.4	12-6	11.8	11.2	10.0	11.5	*9.1	Rate per 1000 pop'n	Deaths (All Causes)
bility f	13	œ	00	12	11	7	17	No. Regis- tered	Still
actor—or—1·3	27	21	24	37	32	20	48	Rate per 1000 Total Births	Still Births
*Adjusted [live birth rate (comparability factor—0.96)=15.9 per 1000] [Death rate (comparability factor—1.30) = 11.8 per 1000]	1	Nil	-	Ni	IIN	Nil	12	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Mate Mort
15-9 pe 1-8 per	0.61	Nii	3.04	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.70	Rate per 1000 Total Births	Maternal Mortality
r 1000] 1000]	1	17	10	14	14	10	œ	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	To
	37	46	31	45	43	29	24	Rate per 1000 Live Births	Infant M Total
	1	10	5	==	10	7	51	No. of Deaths Regis- tered	Infant Mortality
	1	27	16	35	30	20	15	Rate per 1000 Live Births	neo-Natal

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1955, as compared with the previous year.

Cause of Death No	o. of I	Deaths
	1954	1955
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	5
Tuberculosis, other	0	1
Syphilitic Disease	0	2
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0
Cancer	29	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	1
Diabetes	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	27	28
Coronary disease angina	26	12
Hypertension with heart disease	4	3
Other heart disease	43	23
Other circulatory disease	6	3
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	10	10
Bronchitis	24	23
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	9	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	2
Congenital malformations	2	1
Other diseases	22	20
Suicide and violent deaths	13	18
	231	182

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 by the Public Health Laboratories, Monsall, Manchester. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of water samples are carried out by the City Analyst, Liverpool. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1955 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 9 samples of Water, 114 samples of Milk and 30 samples of Ice Cream.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the motor ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at Hindley and Ashton-in-Makerfield.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No applications were received during the year under sub-section 3, section 47, of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY

The District is supplied with water from the Council's own deep wells at Golborne and the Rivington Reservoirs belong to Liverpool Corporation.

The water is naturally very hard, being caused by Calcium and Magnesium Bicarbonate salts, and is softened by lime treatment at the Golborne Waterworks. The water is found to be pure bacteriologically, the supply being constant and sufficient.

During the year one bacteriological examination of the raw water was made and found to be satisfactory, although hard. The piped supply of water was examined four times bacteriologically and four times chemically and found to be satisfactory. The analyst however, makes the observation that the results of analysis indicate that the water organically is pure, but the tendency to deposit calcium carbonate is undesirable in a public supply.

All houses in the District have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of the house known as Bank Top House on the Aspull boundary, whose supply is derived from an adjacent spring of pure water. It is not possible at a reasonable expense to connect this house to the Public water main.

No.	of houses	with a piped s	upply di	rect :	from th	e	
		public water	mains				 5651
No.	of houses	supplied from	Springs				 1
No.	of houses	supplied by sta	and pipe				 NIL

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the District, and two sewage disposal works are used to carry out normal treatment of sewage.

During the year, 262 inspections were made in connection with drainage and conversions.

No. of choked drains cleared by the Council	 183
No. of houses where new drainage was provided	 6
No. of conversions to freshwater closets	 NIL

The sanitary accommodation in the District at the end of the year was:-

No.	of	freshwater close	ets			 5913
No.	of	pail closets	0.070	10.22	d	 35
No.	of	privy middens				 50

PUBLIC CLEANSING

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

Street cleansing is under the control of the Surveyor, 14.56 miles of streets being cleansed by 6 men with 5 Street Orderly Carts.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Two S.D. Freighter Motor Vehicles were engaged regularly on the collection of household refuse and the emptying of the few privy middens and pail closets that still remain, a further S.D. Freighter Motor Vehicle being employed from the 1st December, 1955. On one half day per week they are employed in the collection of waste paper from shops. The staff engaged on these duties comprises 2 drivers and 12 labourers. The average interval between collections is 9 days for dust bin refuse and 4 weeks for privy middens. During the year, refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at two tips in the District, Platt Bridge and Canal Street. The tips are adequate for the District and entail minimum haulage.

Under the provisions of Section 75/3 of the Public Health Act, the Council provide and maintain dust bins for domestic refuse, the expense being met from the general rate fund. During the year 304 dust bins were replaced, 32 supplied to new Council houses and 3 to newly erected other houses.

There are 5683 dust bins, 50 privy middens and 35 pail closets within the District. The amount of refuse dealt with was as follows:—

No. of loads of refuse removed	3489
Approx. weight of refuse removed	6650 tons
Approx. No. of dust bins emptied	192,500
Approx. No. of privy middens emptied	650
Approx. No. of pail closets emptied	1500

Salvage

An incentive bonus scheme was adopted by the Council in 1951, and the workmen engaged on salvage collection are given a bonus at the rate of 33.33% on all waste paper above 4½ tons per month and 33.33% on all other materials salvaged. The collection of kitchen waste has been discontinued.

Total amount and value of salvage collected during 1955:

		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste	Paper	 60	7	3	473	12	0

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

To secure the abatement of nuisances discovered, the following action was taken during the year :-

No. of informal notices served	 	437
No. of informal notices abated	 	348
No. of statutory notices served	 	218
No. of statutory notices abated	 	141

Record of Nuisances found and remedied

No. of complaints received	 	807
No. of nuisances and defects found	 	1947
No. of nuisances and defects abated	 	1717
(a) as a result of informal action	 	1209
(b) as a result of statutory notice		508

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no licensed caravans or sites within the District, although there are 13 caravans which have been used as living accommodation over a period of at least 25 years, which are not licensed. They are situated on a site which is provided with pail closets, dust bins, stand pipes for water supply, and a communal wash-house.

The District is visited frequently by gypsy caravan dwellers who, with assistance from the land-owners, are quickly removed as tresspassers.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Council are members of the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. A time limit of 2 minutes in every half hour has been fixed for the emission of black smoke. There are 26 factory and works chimneys within the District. No formal action regarding smoke abatement was necessary during the year, co-operation with local works managers being readily obtained.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are none in the District.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year 8 Council houses and 24 other houses were found to be infested with bugs. These houses were treated with Zaldecide, a disinfectant containing 5% D.D.T., which has been found to be highly efficient. Periodical inspections of these houses are carried out to prevent re-infestation.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is only one registered offensive trade (tripe boiler) situate in the District. Many improvements have recently been made to the premises and the trade is carried on without offence.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered common lodging houses, but a Railwayman's Hostel belonging to the British Railways is situate within the District.

This hostel provides accommodation for 35 men and is mostly used by the railway employees working on the main line from London to the North. The premises are clean and generally kept in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES

The following table gives particulars of the inspections during the year under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1937, and an analysis of the defects which were found, with particulars of the action taken.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

	N	UMBER OF			
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts —					
Want of Cleanliness	8	8		1	_
Want of Ventilation	-	-	-		-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	_
Want of Drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	
Other Nuisances	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences — Insufficient	1	-	_	1	-
Unsuitable or defective	14	13	-	6	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences	_	_	-	-	-
TOTALS	23	21		8	

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspectins	No. of written Notices	No. of occup'rs pros'ted
Factories without Mechanical Power	5	11	_	-
Factories with Mechanical Power	63	94	-	-
Other premises	2	6	-	-
TOTALS	70	113	-	-

Under Part VIII of the Act, visits were made to premises occupied by six outworkers. The premises were satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS

The Leeds and Liverpool canal passes through the District, but the Council is not a Registration Authority under the Canal Boats Act. Most of the canal boats are registered in the County Boroughs of Blackburn and Liverpool. Five canal boats were inspected during the year. No infringements under the Act 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 interest 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.

A canteen is provided at each school for the taking of school meals, and these are in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL

The number of complaints received regarding the infestation of rats and mice was 99. A part time rodent operator is employed by the Council. He makes frequent inspections of various premises throughout the District and under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector deals effectively with all infestations discovered.

The sewers were treated twice during the year. 283 man-holes were baited on the first treatment 25 being found to be infested and 247 man-holes on the second treatment, 18 being found to be infested.

The treatment of infestations found at dwelling houses is carried out free of charge, but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises.

The types of bait and poison used during treatments were sausage rusk and zinc phosphide, bread mash and arsenic oxide, and warfarin.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by Local Authorities of Pet Shops. The main purpose is to enforce reasonable treatment and accommodation of pet animals during their sale or keeping for sale.

One person is licensed in the district to keep a Pet Shop. The premises are inspected regularly to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Rag flock and other filling materials to which this Act applies may only be manufactured, stored or used in the course of business on premises registered or licensed by the Local Authority. There are no premises used for such purposes within the District.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

24 licences to store Petroleum were issued for the year 1955 in respect of 24 premises. 28 inspections being made for this purpose.

One licence for the storage of Calcium Carbide was also issued.

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.

Most of the bad cases of overcrowding have been relieved, but the situation has not greatly improved owing to newly-married couples having to live with their parents. The problem is not one of inability to pay the rentals of houses but is the actual shortage of houses.

Schemes are in hand for the provision of 84 permanent houses to alleviate the housing position.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

Nui	iber of new nouses erected during the year:
	Traditional permanent houses: (i) By the Local Authority 29 (ii) By other Authorities
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)
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 218
	(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:
	(a) Number found during year 489 (b) No. (or estimated No.) at end of year 489
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation
	but capable of being rendered fit 419

2.	Rents Act, 1954):
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year : (a) Unfit houses
	(b) Other houses
	(2) Number of persons displaced
3.	Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—
	(1) Houses demolished or closed during year: No. of Persons
	(a) Housing Act, 1936— Houses Displaced
	(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) 9 34
	(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force
	(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)
	(b) Housing Act, 1949—
	(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)
	(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—
	(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)
	(2) Repairs during the year :
	(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts 348
	(b) Public Health Acts — action after service of formal notice —
	Houses in which defects were remedied (i) By owners

	(c) Housing Act, 1936 — action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit	
	(i) By owners	_
	(ii) By local authority in default of owners	_
	(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:	
	Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	_
-4.	Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—	
	(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	_
	(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	_
	(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary	
	occupation	-
5.	Housing Act, 1949 — Improvement grants, etc. :—	
	Action during year : No. of Schemes Private Local bodies Authorit	ty
	(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority NIL NIL	
	(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry NIL NIL	
	(c) Finally approved by Ministry NIL NIL	
	(d) Work completed NIL NIL	
	(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above NIL NIL	
6.	Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:	
	(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year approx. 30	0
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein approx. 40	0
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein approx. 40 (3) Number of persons dwelling therein approx. 200	
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein approx. 200 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during	
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein approx. 200 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the	0

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MEAT INSPECTION

There is no slaughter-house in the District. The meat supply for the District is obtained from the surrounding towns.

UNSOUND FOOD

The various food stuffs detailed in the following table were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. All were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed by incineration and by burying on the Council's Refuse Tip.

List of Unsound Food condemned during 1955

Article	Co	ntainer	We	Weight		
			LBS.	ozs.		
Apples	12	tins	72	0		
Apricots	1	tin		$15\frac{1}{2}$		
Apricots (dry)			12	0		
Beans	5	tins	3	$7\frac{1}{2}$		
Cheese Spread	1	packet		4		
Corned Beef	- 33	tins	161	4		
Cream	6	tins	1	8		
Chicken	5	tins	19	1		
Chicken Spread	1	tin		2		
Damsons	3	tins	3	0		
Frozen Egg	4	tins	49	0		
Fruit Salad	3	tins	2	141		
Cooked Gammon	4	tins	53	12		
Grapefruit	4	tins	5	0		
Cooked Ham	3	tins	30	14		
Evaporated Milk	38	tins	20	12		
Oranges	4	tins	2	12		
Peaches	1	tin		$15\frac{1}{2}$		
Pears	37	tins	33	9		
Peas	24	tins	16	4		
Pilchards	5	tins	1	111		
Pineapples	1	tin -	1	14		
Pork Luncheon Meat	178	tins	95	0		
Raisins			20	0		
Soup	12	tins	11	$6\frac{1}{2}$		

Article	Container	We	ight
		LBS.	ozs.
Stewed Steak	46 tins	27	- 8
Salmon	2 tins	1	15
Salmon Spread	1 jar		2
Sandwich Spread	12 jars	3	0
Strawberries	12 tins	11	8
Tongue	44 tins	229	0
Tomatoes	58 tins	28	10
Unsweetened Flour Mixture	10 packets	5	0

FOODS AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The Lancashire County Council are the "Authority" under this Act, and the following samples were taken by the County Sanitary Inspector.

A total of 110 samples was obtained, of these 52 were of milk and the 58 others comprised :—

1 Oranges	1 Condensed milk, full-cream
1 Apples	sweetened
2 Castor Oil	3 Custard powder
1 Liquid paraffin	1 Lentils
1 Compound Glauber salt	1 Peas, dried
tablets	1 Lemon curd
1 Aspirin tablets	1 Pepper, white
1 Cheese	3 Cakes
2 Margarine	1 Jam tart
2 Fruit, canned	2 Pudding mixture
1 Beans canned with pork	1 Pickled onions
sausages	2 Mixed pickles
2 Vinegar	1 Pickled cabbage
1 Pork and gravy, canned	4 Table jelly
3 Butter	1 Sweetmeat (chocolate coated
2 Pork sausages	raisins)
1 Chicken spread	1 Sweetmeat (chocolate coated
2 Golden raising powder	peanuts)
2 Gravy browning	2 Sponge cake and sponge pud-
-3 Tapioca	ding mixture, sweetened
1 Currants	1 Sponge cake and sponge pud-
1 Sultanas	ding mixture, unsweetened

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

	Sample Result of Analysis		Action taken
1	Pork sausages	Meat content only 53.5%	Vendor cautioned
1	Sponge cake and sponge pudding mix- ture sweetened	Contained some dead acari	Further sample ob- tained
1	Sponge cake and sponge pudding mix- ture unsweet- ened	Infested with live acari	Stock examined and remainder surren- dered
1	Sponge cake and sponge pudding mix- ture sweetened	Sample "caked" and some dead acari and insect excreta present. Available carbon dioxide only 0.17%	

MILK SUPPLY

During the year licenses under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 were issued to the following:--

Dealers of Sterilised Milk			114
Dealers of Pasteurised Milk			35
Dealers of Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Milk	9
Distributors			14

The 2 dairy farms in the District, having a total of approximately 90 cows, are now under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There is one milk sterilising plant situate in the district, which is licensed by the Lancashire County Council, where a considerable quantity of milk is sterilised. The premises are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

A total of 114 samples of milk were submitted for examination during the year with the following results:—

France of Mills	Methylene		Phosphatase		Tuberculosis	
	Blue Test		Test		Test	
Type of Milk	Satis-	Unsatis-	Satis-	Unsatis-	Satis-	Unsatis-
	factory	factory	factory	factory	factory	factory
Pasteurised	27	2	29	2	-	_
Tuberculin tes- ted Pasteurised	24	4	28	-	-	-

ICE-CREAM

There are 2 ice-cream manufacturing premises in the District which are of recent construction and contain modern equipment for the efficient heat-treatment and cooling of ice-cream. One of the manufacturers produces a loose ice-cream and the other a wrapped ice-cream. Samples are taken frequently for examination and the results have been very satisfactory.

138 inspections were made of the 60 premises, mostly mixed businesses, which are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream, modern refrigerators being provided in all cases for the storage of the ice-cream.

30 samples of the various ice products sold within the District were submitted for bacteriological examination and were classified as follows:-

Grade 1	 	 	 	21
Grade 2	 	 	 	9
Grade 3	 	 	 	0
Grade 4	 	 	 	0

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES

The Model Food Bye-laws have been adopted, and all food shops in the District are inspected regularly.

The following are the number of food premises, by type of business, in the district.

Type of Business			No.
Bakehouses	 	 	19
Butchers Shops	 	 	19
Fish and Chip Shops	 	 	23
Wet Fish Shops	 	 	4
Ice-Cream Manufacturers		 	2
Mixed Businesses	 	 	122
Greengrocers Shops	 	 	9
Food Hawkers Premises	 	 	5
Public Houses	 	 	39
Canteens and Snack Bars	 	 	33

The number of food premises registered by the local authority and the number of inspections made are :--

Type of Business .	No. Registered	No. of Inspections
Ice-Cream Manufacturing Premises	2	16
Shops registered for sale of Ice-Crear	m60	138
Butchers Shops	19	58
Food Hawkers Premises	5	10

10 hawkers of food products, fish, fruit and vegetables are registered under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, which was adopted by this authority in January 1952.

No formal action was necessary in respect of any food premises, the minor defects found at some of the premises being remedied after informally notifying the occupiers. The general standard of cleanliness and food handling at the food shops in the District is satisfactory.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

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

During 1955, cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment were removed to Whelley and Astley Hospitals.

20 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 94 in 1954, and of the 20 cases, 3 were removed to hospital for treatment.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, or in the previous year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local hospitals, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

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 1955, 206 pre-school and 59 school children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum pre-cipitated Toxoid. In addition, 158 children were given a secondary reinforcing injection.

203 pre-school children and 15 school children were immunised against Whooping Cough with Whooping Cough Vaccine only or a combined (Diphtheria Pertussis or Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) type of prophylactic.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1955.

Outbreaks of Measles and Scarlet Fever of mild type occurred during the early part of the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1955

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital

								B				-
DISEASES C.	Total Under Cases 1 all ages	1.	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25-45	45—65	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	
Smallpox	:	-:	.:	o:	. :	:	:	:	:	:	,:	
ncluding	:		,	,		::	::		:			
Membranous Croup	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	
Enteric or Typhoid Fever												
(excluding paratyphoid) .			:	:			:		:			
Paratyphoid Fever	:		:	::					:			
Measies (excluding	37	150	165	140	-	-						
Cough		13	15	13	. ,				:	:		
Acute Pneumonia												
nzal)	9 1	2	-	:	-	2	-	2	:	10	-	
хла		:	:	:	:	:	:	:		::		
Meningococcal intection	1 1			:.	:	:						
Acute Poliomyelitis	:	:		::		:	:	:		:	:	
Paralytic		:			::		:	:	:	:	:	
Non-Pararyuc	:		::					:		:	:	
Acute Encephantis		:	::				:	:		:	:	
	:	:	::	:			:					
Post-Infective	:		:		:		:.		:			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	
	:	:	:	:			:	:	:	:	:	
Dysentery	2	1		-			:	:	:	:	_	
rood Poisoning			:				:			:	:	
TOTALS 575	5 38	170	186	172	w	w	-	2	1	10	6	
				-		-	-	Name and depth of	-			-

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.

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 D.D.T. Emulsion.

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of all houses is carried out after death, removal to hospital or release from isolation of infectious cases. Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray, and all clothing, bedding etc., are dealt with by the steam disinfector at Platt Bridge.

The following table gives particulars of the disinfections carried out during the year :—

		No. of Cases	No. of Visits	No. of houses disinfected
Scarlet Fever		 20	40	20
Tuberculosis	***	 _	42	21
	Total.	 20	82	41

12 school disinfections were also undertaken.

CANCER

22 deaths (10 male and 12 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, as compared with 29 (22 male and 7 female) in 1954.

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.

TUBERCULOSIS

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, and Ince cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

18 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1955, 17 being cases of Pulmonary, and 1 case of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 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 in agegroups, and the total deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES

	TAI	BLE D.		
Age	R	espiratory	Non-Re	espiratory
Periods	M	F	M	F
0-4	 1	2	-	-
5—14	 _	_	-	-
15-24	 3	1	-	-
25-44	 1	5	_	_
45—64 65 & up- wards	 3	1	1	-
Totals	 8	9	1	0
		17		1
Deaths	 3	2	1	0
	-	5		1







