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Urban District of Lakes



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1958

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON, LTD.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Lakes.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1958.

Owing to the printing trade dispute at the time of publication, this edition has a minimum number of alterations to the text of the previous year's report.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Public Health Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Urban District in acres	49,905
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)...	5,440
Inhabited Houses	1,886
Rateable Value	£79,590
Product of a Penny Rate	£315
Rate in the Pound levied	20/4
of which the County Rate was	15/2

The Urban District of Lakes lies in the heart of the English Lake District and is the nucleus of the National Park. About three miles of the north-eastern shore of Windermere Lake is within the District and the inhabited areas are sited along three main valley systems which radiate from the Lake. To the west lie the Langdales, to the north the dales of Rydal and Grasmere, and to the north-east the Troutbeck Valley which leads over the Kirkstone Pass to the geographically detached dalehead of Patterdale and Glenridding at the head of Ullswater Lake. Your Council Offices are situated at Ambleside.

The valley bottoms lie between 150 and 300 feet above sea level in the major western portion, and in the Patterdale area at about 500 feet. The massive crags and fells rise steeply to altitudes of between two and three thousand feet, comprising some of the finest mountain scenery in Great Britain. Some of the valleys are wooded but the fellsides are majestically covered only by brackens and heather. The stone-built houses are scattered irregularly along the valleys, with only two large villages or townships of any size, Ambleside and Grasmere. The District is therefore essentially rural in character. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of the District is almost entirely confined to the Borrowdale Volcanic Series of lavas, tuffs and agglomerates with some igneous intrusions. The lavas are mainly andesites with rhyolites at various horizons. The fragmentary rocks resulting from explosive eruptions vary from fine-grained tuffs and ashes to coarse agglomerates and breccias. Lateral pressure has converted some of the tuffs into slates suitable for roofing. In the extreme south of the District the thin bands of the Coniston limestone and Ashgillian series are interposed between the Borrowdale series and the commencement of the Silurian Rocks which stretch away to the south of the County. Workable deposits of non-ferrous metals, particularly lead, are found in the north-eastern part of the District. These geological characteristics are

of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable in the valleys, and invigorating on the fellsides and uplands. The dales of Rydal, Grasmere and Troutbeck are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and, being open to the south, provide full access to sunshine. The Langdales are more exposed, and Patterdale, though sheltered, has a northerly aspect. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in the spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall averages 70 inches a year, but this figure is due more to the heaviness of the rain when it occurs rather than to an undue proportion of rainy days. Snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is predominantly a holiday centre for climbing, walking and enjoying the scenery of mountains and lakes, and there is a large influx of seasonal-visitors which raises the population to an estimated peak of approximately 8,000. This tourist trade has been imposed upon the basic characteristics of agriculture, mainly sheep-farming, and many of the small local industries are therefore ancillary to agriculture and the holiday trade. There are also slate quarries and lead-mines which provide a certain amount of local employment and stability to the District to help balance the fluctuating conditions of the seasonal trades.

Opportunities for local employment help to check the drift from the countryside. These industries together with the trade associated with the hotels and boarding-houses have provided a limited economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of public health.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
Madge, F. T. . .	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
McAdam, J. H. . .	M.A.P.H.I., Cert. S.I.B.	Public Health Inspector	Part	Building Surveyor
Gray, M. . .	—	Clerk	Part	—
Machell, B. M. . .	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

There were no staff changes during the year.

COMMITTEES.

The Minister of Health requires me to include a list of your Council's committees which are concerned with matters of public health.

The Health Committee deal with the principal matters, but there are other aspects of public health importance which are dealt with by the Water, Highways, and Housing Committees.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1957 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 49,917

	1957	1958
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	5,460	5,440
Live Births. Legitimate— males	19	19
females	28	22
Illegitimate— males	1	1
females	—	—
' Total	48	42
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	8.8	7.7
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	9.06	7.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.1	16.4
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. ..	.18	.18
Still Births. Legitimate— males	1	3
females	1	—
Illegitimate— males	—	—
females	—	—
Total	2	3
Total (live and still) births ..	50	45
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	40	66.6
Rate for England and Wales ..	22.4	21.6
Deaths. males	33	29
females	22	44
Total	55	73
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	10.07	13.4
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	9.06	11.2
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.5	11.7

	1957	1958
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year):		
Legitimate	—	2
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	—	48.8
Illegitimate	—	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
Total deaths under 1 year	—	2
Rate per 1,000 live births	—	47.6
Rate for England and Wales ..	23.0	22.5
Neo-natal Deaths (under 1 month):		
Total neo-natal deaths	—	2
Rate per 1,000 live births	—	47.6
Rate for England and Wales	16.5	16.2
Maternal Mortality:		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ..	0.47	0.43

Deaths from certain causes:—

	1957.	1958.
Cancer	10	10
Measles	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil

The main causes of death were:—

Heart Disease	35
Cancer	10

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The 1951 Census showed your population to be 6,096 persons, made up of 2,664 males and 3,432 females. That total was 4.7% above the figure of the 1931 Census.

The Registrar-General's estimates are difficult to reconcile with the Census findings. From 1951 to the present date he has kept his annual estimates around the 5½ thousand mark. For 1957 he estimated 5,460, a figure I view with considerable mental reserve.

However, a more commonsense look around suggests that your population is fairly stable, and a proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your district.

One fact is certain: you have not maintained your population by your own reproduction. You have relied upon the yearly immigration of people from other areas to keep up your numbers. That is why you have a predominantly elderly population. The 1951 Census showed that the nett immigration since 1931 amounted to twice your natural decline by excess of deaths over births. Only about 55% of the people in Westmorland were born in the County.

Birth Rate.

Your corrected birth rate of 7.9 per thousand of the population is your lowest achievement for a long time. For many years it has been deplorably low, a mere half to two-thirds of the national rate. If your native community is to survive you must raise your birth rate well above your death rate, and to do that you will have to recapture and hold the faith of your young people in country life.

Still Birth Rate.

The still birth rate was statistically insignificant.

Death Rate.

Your death rate was below the national rate for 1958. It fluctuates either side from year to year, but is never far from the national figures. I do not attach much significance to those variations. Heart diseases and cancer take the biggest toll.

Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.

There were two infant deaths. Your figures are too scanty to carry statistical significance on their own merits, but as they run parallel with the figure for England and Wales I feel that they do reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses and, above all, by the young mothers in their homes.

Maternal Mortality.

Your clean record has been happily maintained.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the year, and any variations are usually worth investigating.

1958 was a very good year for freedom from any appreciable amount of notifiable disease. The polio case was a visitor.

It is pleasing to record that the notification of infectious diseases has much improved in recent years, and I am very grateful to my colleagues in general practice for their prompt help in this respect. I look upon the control of notifiable diseases as one of the most important duties of our department. Patterns of thought change from time to time on these subjects, but the notifications provide the factual basis for controlling the spread of infections.

NOTIFIED DISEASES TABLE.

	Total	Ages										Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-			45-	65-
Measles	6	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Pneumonia ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
TOTAL	11	-	-	1	-	2	3	-	-	-	2	3	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. Its prevention is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council's functions are three-fold: to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

The number of tuberculous patients on the register at the year end were:—

Respiratory	...	15
Non-Respiratory	...	1

—

16

—

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Parts II and III.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Boards, Manchester and Newcastle, at Lancaster, Penrith and Carlisle. Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Disinfection facilities for clothing and bedding are not very satisfactory owing to the lack of a steam disinfecter. Reliance is therefore placed usually upon disinfection with formaldehyde in the patient's house. Disinfection of premises and other chattels is carried out locally and presents no special problems.

HOUSING.

Housing Acts.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your District, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

Housing Act, 1957.

There are 1,886 inhabited houses in your District. With an estimated population of 5,440 the average number of persons per house is 2.9. This figure is purely hypothetical since many of the better houses have only one or two occupants, and a number of the smaller houses are occupied or let furnished only in holiday times by absentee landlords.

It is probable that the dalesmen's houses have an average of at least four persons per house, which is not excessive for a normal-sized family, and there is probably little overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act. It is temporarily increased during the peak of the holiday season, but no certificates under Section 80 of the Housing Act, 1957, have been granted by your Council to authorise exceeding the permitted numbers.

General Progress of Slum Clearance and Improvements.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 800 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but about 15% of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards. In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of sub-standard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity the sooner it is swept away the better. For various reasons your own District has made far less progress in slum clearance than the County as a whole.

Rural slums may be more picturesque than city slums, escape into the beautiful countryside may be easier, but within the four walls of a house the distinction is not so evident.

The Housing Act offers financial grants to owners to recondition existing houses in a comprehensive manner, and I hope that owners of Class 4 and 5 houses will consider the possibilities of each house with a view to maintaining the architectural traditions of the District and making decent houses for our dalesfolk.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required your Council to declare their proposals for dealing with sub-standard houses. You resolved to deal with the estimated 87 unfit houses within the next ten years, which means speeding up your action. The Minister of Housing and Local Government approved the proposals, and they are now on deposit for public inspection.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

One closing order was made during the year, 9 such orders are on the register of local land charges.

Undertakings.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

One undertaking not to use a house for human habitation was accepted during the year.

Undertakings not to use houses for human habitation were in force on 36 premises.

Improvement grants for 7 houses were approved under the Housing Act, 1949.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 17.

No demolition orders were made during the year.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 44.

Five out of the six cottages at Township, Patterdale were cleared during 1956 and made room for a much needed road widening on a bad corner. The remaining cottage is well out of the way, but it is still occupied by the original tenant who was there when the clearance order was made by the West Ward Council some quarter of a century ago.

Three old houses in a very congested part of Pinfold Row, Ambleside, were made subject to a Clearance Order during 1957. After a public inquiry the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Order. They are outstanding.

Estimated Requirements for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 91.

In conjunction with your Building Surveyor, I estimate that the following figures will provide an approximate guide for your future planning of housing requirements:—

Replacement of condemned houses still occupied	...	15
Replacement of Class 5 houses (condemnable)	...	44
		—
		59
		—

I have the exact details of the location of the condemned and condemnable houses.

Your waiting-list for new houses during the year was 100, comprising 30 families without a separate home and 70 families who desire to change their present house.

In addition to these 59 houses required there is a demand from persons now resident outside the area for houses nearer their work within the Lakes Urban District. Self help is their only hope.

Local Authority Housing Schemes and Progress.

Since the end of the 1939-45 War and up to 31st December, 1958, your Council completed 93 houses. The Langdale Scheme is shelved.

The selection of centrally placed sites I feel will be particularly important for old people who need some community help in the time of their difficulties, but who enjoy the pride of their independence at other times.

Private Enterprise Building Progress.

During the same post-war period 30 houses were completed by private enterprise, 6 during the current year.

Tenants Selection.

The present method of selecting tenants for your Council houses is for all the applications to be considered and then selection is made according to need. No points system is in operation and there is no anonymity. This results in a considerable amount of personal canvassing by the more persistent applicants, and the occasional emergence of pressure groups.

Tenants for newly erected houses are chosen by the Housing Committee, while tenants for existing houses are chosen by the Health Committee. The seemingly illogical procedure is, however, neutralised by the happy coincidence of all the same councillors being on both committees, and also constituting the full Council. To the uninitiated it might seem a little confusing at first sight, but with patience it can be explained to housing applicants.

Housing Management.

Your Council now own 150 houses. Routine repairs and maintenance are carried out by local contractors. Your present estates do not justify the employment of direct labour, but in the years to come the number of your houses will be increased and the maintenance will require constant attention and you may be faced with considerable reconditioning of the rural houses.

The rents of your Council houses vary between 12/2d. and 31/5d. exclusive of rates. From these figures you will see that the present day building costs will not enable you to maintain low rents on your new houses unless there is a substantial increase in the rate of Government subsidy.

The rateable value of your Council houses vary between £12 and £24.

The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been rehoused from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rents and rates from the portion of their income which rightly belong to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can effect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

No action was necessary during the year.

Nuisances and Notices re Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

During the year the following action was taken:—

Preliminary Notices served	...	140
Statutory Notices served	...	0

In no case was it necessary to obtain an Abatement Order from the Court.

Certificates of Disrepair.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Section 26.

No certificates were issued during the year.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 58.

One informal action was taken during the year.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Movable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268-270.

Four licences were in force during 1958 for camping sites and eight for individual caravans.

An attempt is made to make licences reconcile with planning approval. Your Council imposes conditions upon the grant of licences and requires their annual renewal. As this District is the nucleus of the National Park, it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

Unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the entire District, but very little nuisance arises from casual campers except on White Moss common, where considerable fouling occurs in summer-time. Elsewhere the improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal cause little nuisance, but casual campers take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water Act, 1955.

General.

The public water supplies are installed in six areas of your Urban District: Ambleside, Grasmere, Hartsop, Chapel Stile, Glenridding and Little Langdale. The quality of the Ambleside and Grasmere supplies is satisfactory after treatment, but the Chapel Stile supply is variable. The results of laboratory examinations of the raw and treated waters are set out in Appendix "A".

The Grasmere supply is unfailing in quantity. The Ambleside supply is generally adequate except in periods of drought, when the grossly excessive consumption makes it necessary to purchase water from the Thirlmere aqueduct of Manchester Corporation.

The Chapel Stile supply runs very short in dry weather, but your Council has a chlorinated ancillary supply from the main beck.

The Hartsop supply completed in 1949, and the Little Langdale supply in 1951, seem to be meeting the local needs of those two small communities and the progress of the main Patterdale scheme is steadily bringing much needed relief.

Outside the areas of the public water supplies conditions are generally poor. There are a few small privately-owned systems of varying quality, and the rest of the District relies upon becks, small runners, superficial springs, and the surface drainage catchpits, unreliable in yield and many of undesirable quality.

No comprehensive survey has been made of individual private water supplies, and staff shortage precludes one.

Shortage of water is brought to my notice in times of over a fortnight's dry weather by the frequent complaints of distress from the village of Troutbeck and other outlying areas. It is ironical that a district with 70 to over 100 inches of rain in a year should be short of water, but the reason is that impervious volcanic rocks cause a rapid run-off and the storage capacity of privately-owned systems has been dictated more by economy than foresight. The quality of the average

private supply fluctuates widely, and I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and that if in doubt they should boil it.

General Provision of Baths and Sinks.

The 1951 Census showed that your District held 1,534 households, of whom 675 (or 44%) had no fixed bath. 165 of them had no kitchen sink. Comment is superfluous.

Water Schemes.

The Patterdale scheme was commenced in the days of the West Ward, before the parish was transferred to form a constituent of the Lakes Urban District in 1935. A scheme was drawn up to use water from a group of springs above Braesteads Farm in Grisedale to supply both Glenridding and Patterdale. The work was well advanced at the year end, and water was being supplied to the villages.

Your Council's scheme for Great Langdale seems to have been shelved since the Little Langdale system was constructed. The scheme is not likely to be resurrected unless the residents of Great Langdale press for it, and even then it seems probable that the cost would be prohibitive.

The Troutbeck water supply has been discussed several times, with a special revival of interest during the war years. This village is in the area of supply of Windermere Urban District. Your Council were taking steps to have it transferred to our own area of supply, but your two Councils could not agree on the price to be paid. Just another of the difficulties which bedevil making progress in Westmorland. Meanwhile this village is dependent for water upon a series of catch-pits, becks, and small installations which are very unreliable in yield, almost dry-out in time of drought, and whose quality is very variable. Your Council's consulting engineers prepared a scheme during 1949 for supplying the village from Woundale Beck. The approval of the County Council was obtained, but at the year end the scheme had not reached the stage of submission to the Ministry.

The cost of the Woundale scheme threw a chilling shadow. The Cumberland and Westmorland water survey report raised the alternative of pumping up water to Troutbeck from the Manchester aqueduct, which passes just below the village. The schemes never get beyond a sheaf of papers. So it goes on. I think that Troutbeck is the only village of any significant size in Westmorland which is now without a piped public water supply, and I wonder if I shall live long enough to see one?

Safeguarding of Purity.

A scheme for the general safeguarding of the purity of the public water supply was instituted during 1948. The elementary precautions of the medical examinations of workmen, and the regular laboratory examination of the water should protect a popular holiday area from serious water-borne diseases. Its efficacy will depend on how conscientiously it is carried out; that is up to your Council.

SEWERAGE.

Disposal Methods and Works.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 15.

Public sewerage systems are at present very limited in the District. Ambleside is the only area within your District which possesses a sewage disposal plant of any size. These works had not been functioning efficiently, due to disrepair, and certain shortcomings in design. The final effluent was very variable in quality during normal working and extremely bad during the bizarre weekly flushing technique, causing massive pollution of the river with untreated sewage.

Your Council's consulting engineers submitted to you during 1949 a scheme for major reconstruction of the works, but as the cost was very high an alternative proposal was made to effect certain improvements and urgent repairs which may at some future time be incorporated in the larger scheme. These repairs were completed in 1955, and included the very much needed extensions of the sludge drying-beds, and the replacement of the obsolete gas engines with automatic electric compressors for the ejector system bringing sewage from Waterhead.

Those works are not by any means the complete answer to the difficulties, and attention is being directed to modifying the techniques of using the storm tanks, desludging the sedimentation tanks, and scouring down the main outfall sewer. You can do that with what you have got, but I see no prospect of efficient secondary treatment with the existing troublesome filter beds. Replacement with a rotary filter has been recommended and the addition of humus tanks would be very desirable. Your Council have been urged by the River Board to improve the effluent, and the only way to do so seems to be to take further steps towards the gradual reconstruction scheme. Your Council still have a fair way to go in getting Ambleside sewage works into an efficient state.

Chapel Stile is sewered into a large septic tank which has an outfall into the river. It is not satisfactory in operation, and inadequate for

any further development. In spite of routine emptying by your Council, the tank overflows crude sewage into the river, and there is no room for secondary treatment. Chapel Stile really needs a complete new disposal works as the only practical alternative to polluting Great Langdale Beck.

Troutbeck has a short length of sewer which serves only a few houses and leads into a small septic tank belonging to your Council. It does not seem to give much trouble. It is hardly worthy to be classed as a disposal works and it would be unlikely to carry much additional load.

Patterdale is sewered by a short length of piping into a septic tank belonging to your Council in Robinson's field.

No public sewerage exists in Glenridding, Rydal and Little Langdale, nor in the more scattered rural hamlets and townships.

Grasmere has a very primitive sewerage system which serves only a small part of the township and is treated in a tank at Pavement End. The rest of Grasmere is served by many individual cesspools, cesspits and septic tanks, which are emptied from time to time by your Council. In general their effluent pass into the gravelly sub-soil and cause little nuisance except on the harder land bordering the valley bottom. A sewerage scheme for Grasmere will be needed some day.

Prevalence of Water-closets and Other Methods.

Water-closets have been installed mainly in the areas which are served by public sewers and in the better type of house where private sewage systems have been made. The 1951 Census showed that 289 households, or roughly a fifth of your houses, were without a water-closet. Since that date the only significant improvements have been made in Glenridding.

Langdales, Patterdale and Troutbeck are the worst parishes, and, as your District is the nucleus of the National Park and will receive an increasing number of holiday visitors from this country and overseas, it is most desirable that the extension of your sewerage schemes shall be followed by the conversion of earth-closets, privies and privy-middens to more modern hygienic water-closets.

Conversions.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

12 conversions to water-closets were made during the year but no grants were made by your Council for this purpose.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 87.

Public conveniences are situated at Ambleside, Glenridding, Grasmere and Waterhead. From time to time they suffer grievously at the hands of hooligans who do wanton damage to the fittings and exercise their perverted artistic talent on the walls. It seems a curious trend in public morals, but the sheer malicious damage of pipes, seats, pedestals, and other fittings, all public property, is so sad. Perhaps the answer lies somewhere in the field of preventive psychiatry.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section. 72.

Domestic refuse is collected from the whole of your District with the exception of a few detached and isolated dwellings. Your Council's own vehicle and staff are used for the work.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by partially controlled tipping on three sites at Grasmere, Patterdale and Brathay.

The whole matter of refuse disposal has always been a difficulty in your District. You need more labour to conduct your tips properly and you may need to acquire covering material. Controlled tipping ought to be universal in a National Park, and the creation of serious nuisances is indefensible. I think you should aim at centralising your tips, thus limiting the nuisances and favouring better supervision of the tip faces.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 77.

The work is undertaken by the Highways Department, and the streets are well maintained.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

General Powers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture,

preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact; the good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

We have now passed the stage of educational approach. A small minority of food traders have remained untouched by years of hygiene propaganda, unmoved by conscience, and unwilling to believe that the law need apply to them as they pursue their unsweet ways. They are being dealt with in no uncertain fashion whenever they are discovered.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home.

Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	2
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	...	1
Storage and sale only	...	39

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

The number of premises on the Register under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, used for the preparation of sausages, potted meats, pressed meat, and pickled foods was 9 at the year end. No particular difficulties have been encountered in these trades.

MILK.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Total number of registered Distributors	...	...	...	0
" " Dairies	...	...	...	5

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose method. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened customers for bottling. Milk-round vehicles are maintained generally in a clean condition.

Cleanliness of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No samples of milk were taken for cleanliness during the year.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No samples were sent for biological tests.

No notices were issued under the Milk and Dairies Regulations prohibiting persons from taking part in dairying activities.

Designated Milk Licences.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

Your Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited milks. The following licences were in force during the year:—

- 1 dealer's Licence for Pasteurised milk.
- 7 dealers' Licences for T.T. milk.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

There are no slaughterhouses and no knackers' yards in your District.

Condemnation of Meat.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

All slaughtering is carried out at the Kendal Abattoir where the meat is inspected by the Borough Inspectors. No meat was condemned after distribution in your District.

Condemnation of Other Foods.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following foodstuffs were condemned by your Inspector during the year:—

Tinned Fruit	...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned Meat	...	75 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Potatoes	...	1 cwt.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Minister of Health requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial at Ambleside Tip.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Council employ one part-time Public Health Inspector and his salary is apportioned between his sanitary inspection duties and his other duties in a proportion approved by the Ministry of Health. You receive through the County Council a grant of one-half of that apportionment of his salary allocated to sanitary inspection, and this should therefore be the basis upon which his time is devoted to the various duties.

The Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, involves a volume of detailed clerical work of an imperative nature which is hardly commensurate with the few powers conferred on your Council. The bulk of this work falls upon the same man.

It is difficult to arrange duties in combined appointments in a small local authority, particularly when an Inspector is single-handed, and there has to be considerable elasticity to cover all the responsibilities.

Your Inspector carries out his duties in a most able manner, and during the year he made 903 inspections on all types of work, but there is a limit to what one man can do in a day, and we are both anxious to maintain the efficiency of our Department in carrying out your Council's responsibilities.

Tabulated summary of work carried out by the Public Health Inspector:—

Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	207
New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	69
Building Byelaws (Town and Country Planning Act)...						225
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	20
House Refuse Removal	...	...	...	...	...	13
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	21
Surveys	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	117
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	160
Sewerage Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	40
						<hr/> 903 <hr/>

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 45 factories on the Register. 21 inspections were made and no written notices were served. No Legal Notices remained outstanding at the end of the year. No prosecutions were required. No references were made to H.M. Inspector and none were received from him.

No lists of outworkers were supplied to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District.

Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	10	3	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	35	18	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	45	21	—	—

No defects were found.

Form 572 (revised) was sent directly to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, giving details of your Urban District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937, in accordance with Section 127 of that Act.

Shops Act, 1950.

25 visits were made under the Shops Act for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and the maintenance of suitable temperature. Informal Notices were served whenever any contraventions were observed.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No action was taken during the year under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts, and any contraventions of Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1936, regarding rent book entries, were corrected informally.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was required.

Laboratory Services.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 196.

The Laboratory attached to Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal provided many of the necessary examinations of material obtained by the Department. This laboratory has given extremely valuable service to the southern part of the County.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47. Compulsory Removal.

It was not necessary during the year to deal with any cases requiring removal.

Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with, and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Byelaws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force for:—

Building.

Slaughterhouses.

Food handling.

Water misuse or contamination.

New Legislation.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, became operative 1st October, 1958.

Food Hygiene (Amendment) Regulations, 1957, became operative 31st December, 1957.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, became operative 1st August, 1958.

APPENDIX "A".

Laboratory Examination of the Public Water Supplies.

Nature of Test	Standards Max.	Ambleside Raw	Ambleside Treated	Grasmere Raw	Grasmere Treated	Glen- ridding	Great Langdale	Little Langdale	Hartsop
Pr. coli count 37°	3-10	0	0	5	0	17	4	25	25
Faecal coli/strep	0			+		+	0	+	+
Character	—	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction pH	—	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0	8.5	7.3	8.9	7.7
Ammonical Nitrogen	.041	.01	.01	.01	.01	Nil	.12	.01	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.066	.01	.01	.01	.01	Nil	.01	.01	0
Total Solids	1000	38	38.8	35.2	36.8	51.2	34.8	41.2	51.2
Hardness—Total	300	18	18	20	18	33	18	25	27
Carbonate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Carbonate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chlorides	30	9.3	9.5	8.6	8.0	8.4	9.2	8.0	9.0
Nitrates	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nitrites	—	Minute trace	Minute trace	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.2 Absorbed	1	.36	.24	.24	.20	0	.12	.16	0
Heavy Metals	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainfall 24 hours	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Date sampled	—	14.11.57	14.11.57	14.11.57	13.11.57	14.11.57	14.11.57	14.11.57	13.11.57
Laboratory	—	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool	Liverpool

Chemical analyses expressed in parts per million.



