#### [Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Lees U.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

Lees (England). Urban District Council.

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LEES. URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. 1956

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

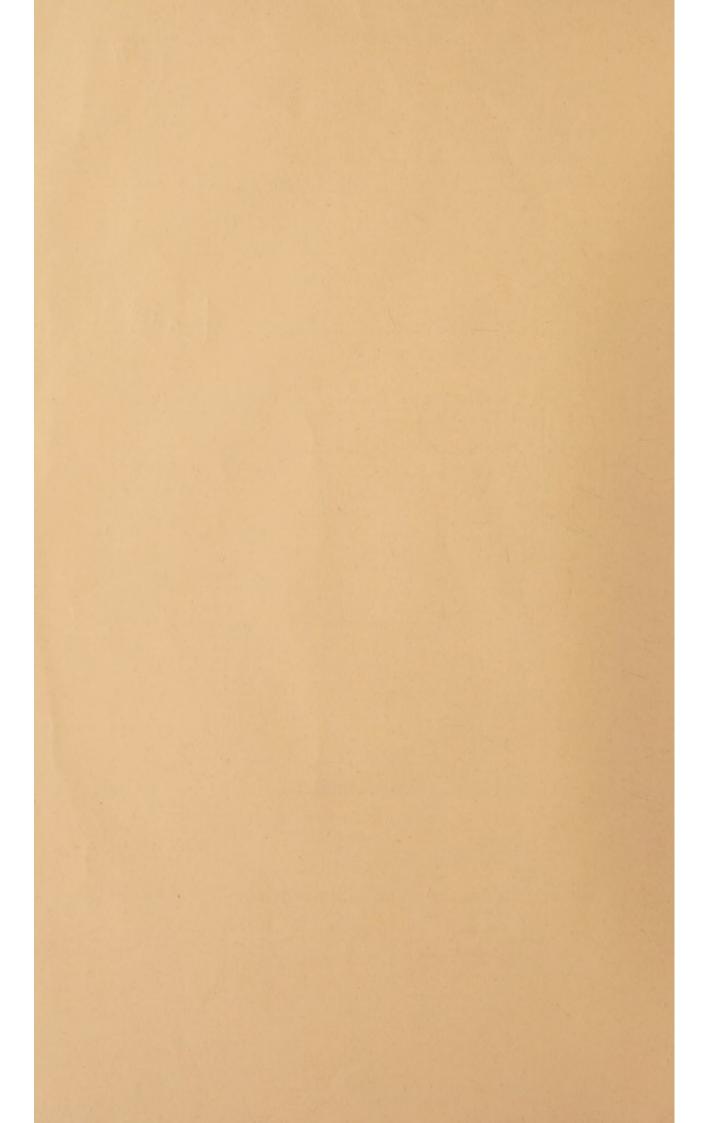
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

For the year ended 31st December, 1956.



## UABAN DISTAICT OF LEES.

Chairman of the Council 1956 - 1957.

Councillor H. Travis J. P.

#### Health Committee 1956 - 1957.

Councillor H. K. Dyson, Chairman.

Councillor J. Gartside.

Councillor S. Pearson.

Councillor F. Ward.

Councillor F. Rowland.

Councillor H. Slack.

Councillor H. Hirst.

Councillor O. Bevan.

Councillor H. Travis J. P.

Councillor J. Dunkerley.

Councillor J. G. Gartside.

Councillor A. E. Hardy.

Councillor J. Albison.

Councillor H. Sherwin.

Councillor J. A. B. Taylor.

Medical Officer of Health.

T. P. O'GRADY, M.B., B.Ch. B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

VERNON K. HALLOWS, M.A.P.H.I.

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Council Offices, Cross Street, LEES, Nr. Oldham.

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health of the district for 1956.

There were 48 births and 49 deaths during the year.

Only 22 cases of infectious disease were notified during the whole year as compared with 79 in 1955. The seven food poisoning cases were part of a larger outbreak which originated outside this district. The annual increase in food poisoning outbreaks generally which has occurred of late years is sufficient indication that constant and regular supervision of food premises is an essential measure towards the health of the community.

It is a disappointment to have to refer to the complete absence of any progress in respect of slum clearance. Indeed, not one additional new house or flat was erected during the year, nor does there appear to be any immediate plan, short-term or long-term, for dealing with the problem. Housing conditions in Lees as evidenced by the fact that at the year-end there were 170 dwelling houses in the district which were unfit for habitation on health grounds are certainly not such as to excuse neglect of this most important health factor. Good housing is the foundation of a physically and psychologically healthy community and without it all other health measures are at the best, make do and mend measures.

From our previous experience of dysentery and growing knowledge about how this disease spreads, it is increasingly obvious that the conversion of pail and waste water closets to a fresh water system is a health matter of some considerable importance.

As regards atmospheric pollution, it is clear that by reason of its situation, any effective action by this Authority must be planned in conjunction with its industrial neighbour. Personally, I can see little prospect of any immediate progress towards smoke control areas, but there is no reason why the smoke pollution from factories should not be diminished.

Finally Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the members of your Committee for your unfailing courtesy and co-operation throughout the year. I acknowledge gratefully the ever-willing help and co-operation given by Mr. Hallows, and I thank Mr. Cropper Clerk of the Council, for his willing assistance.

Yours sincerely,

T.P. O'GRADY

Medical Officer of Health.

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# SECTION A

# General Statistics.

Area in Acres	288
Population - Census 1951	4,160
Registrar-General's Estimate 1956	4,040
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1956	1,524
Rateable Value	£38,397
Sum represented by a penny rate	£139

## Vital Statistics.

		1956	1955	1954	1953
Live Births	No. Crude Rate Adj. Rate	48 11.9 13.2	59 14.4 16.0	56 13:7 15.2	73 17.7 18.0.
Stillbirths	No. Rate	2 40	1	2 34	O.
Deaths	No. Crude Rate Adj. Rate	49 12:1. 12.6	68 16.6 15.9	57 13.9 13.3	55 13:3 12.1
Infant Mortality.	No. Rate.	1 21	1	2 36	3 141
Mechatal Mortality.	No.	0	1	2	1
or our roll.	Rate.	Nil	17	36	14

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Tuberculesis - Respiratory - Other Forms. Infective & parasitic disease Malignant neoplasms - Stomach	M.	F.	1956 Total.	1955 Total 2	1954 Total	1953 Total
Tuberculesis - Respiratory - Other Forms.  Infective & parasitic disease Malignant neoplasms - Stomach Lung & Bronchus	M.	F.		Total		
Tuberculesis - Respiratory - Other Forms.  Infective & parasitic disease Malignant neoplasms - Stomach Lung & Bronchus	- 1 - 1	-	-		-	10001
- Other Forms. Infective & parasitic disease Malignant neoplasms - Stomach Lung & Bronchus	1 1 1		-	2	-	-
Infective & parasitic disease Malignant neoplasms - Stomach Lung & Bronchus		-	-	-		
Malignant neoplasms - Stomach Lung & Bronchus	-					_
Malignant neoplasms - Stomach Lung & Bronchus			-	1		
Stomach Lung & Bronchus						
Lung & Brenchus	-	3	3	2	2	3
	1	_	1	1	-	
DA COID U	_	_	_	-	_	2
Uterus	_	1	1		-	4
	3	6	9	3	5	3
Vascular lesions of	-		7	2	2	2
	2	4	6	9	4	0
	5	6	11		6	2
Typertension with heart disease	2	0	TT	14	5	-
	-	-	-	3		-
	4	4	8	11	15	25
Phoumonia	2	-	2	5	7	5 2
	-	-	-	1	1	2
	2	-	2	4 2	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-	2	1	1
	1	1	2	-	1 2 3 1	2
Wephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	1	3	-
lyperplasia of prostrate	-	-	-	1	1	-
Congenital malformations	-	1	1	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined						
diseases.	-	2	2	5	6	4
Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-	-	_	1
	1		1	1	1	1
Suicide.	-	-	-	2	_	-
Totals. 2	71	28	49	. 68	57	55
DISTRIBUTION OF	DI	EATHS				
Years				3055	2051	
	M.	T	1956	1955	1954	1953
	DE.	r.	Total	Total	Total	Total
Under 1		7	7	-		
1 - 2	-	1	1 .	1	2	5
	-	-	-	-	1	-
	-	-	-	-	1	1
5 - 9	-	***	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.5	-	-	-	-	-	1
15 - 24	-	-		3	_	1
	+		1773	2		1
25 - 44 45 - 64	1	8	14	3 19	14	15
			14 33	19 45	14 39	1 1 15 35
25 - 44 45 - 64		8		19 45		15 35
25 - 44 45 - 64	4	8		19 45 68		15 35 55

0 1.0 "

#### SECTION B

#### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The number of cases of notifiable disease dropped sharply by comparison with 1955. No case of measles was notified and dysentery notifications dropped from 28 to only 1. There were, however, 7 cases of food posioning 4 of which were part of a larger outbreak affecting most of the surrounding districts. This number of food poisoning cases is the largest for some years.

Again there were no cases of diphtheria or polionvelitis and there were only 2 notifications of tuberculosis.

#### Tuberculosis.

Ages		New C	ases			D	eaths			
1200	Respir	atory	Respira		Respira	tory	Respire	on atory.		otal ases
	М	F	М	F	М	F	М	F	M	F
0- 1- 2- 3- 4- 5- 10- 15- 25- 45- 65-		1111111111	1		1111111111	111111111	1111111111	11111111	1 2 5 4 1	1 - 7 4 1
Totals	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	13
		1		1		_	-	-	26	

The import of onces of modification discuss orthography by confirming the confirmation of the confirmation

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								-
	7				197		-	
								-27
				-4-				
						-		
				-				
					-	-		
		10						
		-1		 				
				7				

					0	Cases	Notified	fied				bevra	sitea	Yea	rly T	Yearly Totals.		
	0	1	C	2	77	5 10	10	15	52	45	65			19	1956	1955	1954	1953
Scarlet Fever	1	62	C3	1	- 1	cv .	1	1	1	1	1	Н	1		7	77	Н	7
Measles	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1		1	56	131	23
Whooping Cough	1	1	Н	Н	- 1	1	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1		CV.	Н	6	8
Polio-paralytic	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	ı		1	F	- 1	~
Polio-Von-paralytic	1	ı	1	1	1	1.	1	1	1	1	ι	1	1		1	1	- 1	. 1
Dysentery	ı	1	1	Н	ı	1	1	1	ı	1	1	1	1		Н	28	9	2
Food Poiscning	1	m	ı	1	1	Н	1	Н	Н	Н	1	1	1		7	1	Н	- 1
Erysipelas	ı	1	1	1	1	1	ı	1	1	1	ı	1	ı		ı	- 1	Н	- i
Acute pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	Н	1	1	1	1	1	1	ı		-	m	. 1	- 1
Puorperal pyrexia	ı	ı	1	1	1	ı	1	CV	1	1	ı	Н	- 1		CV.	- 1	. 1	- 1
Totals.	1	10	~	C2	- 1	7	1	4	Н	Н	1	2			8	75	150	7.7

#### SECTION C

The Lancashire County Council, under the National Health Service Act, is the responsible authority for the provision and maintenance of personal health services. These services e.g.,

Maternity & Child Welfare Services
Midwifery Services
Mental Health Services
Home Help Services
Ambulance Services
Care of School Children
Care of the Aged
General Welfare Services.

are administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme by Divisional Health Committee No. 14 through the Divisional Medical Officer, "Tylon", Middleton Road, Chadderton (Tel: MAIn6251).

Ante-natal clinics are held fortnightly in the district and child welfare clinics weekly. No school clinic facilities are available so school children attend in other parts of the Division. One midwife is resident and employed to serve in the district as is one district nurse. Home helps are available for emergencies. A charge is made for home help services dependent on the means of the person helped.

Hospital facilities are provided and maintained through the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committees without regard to local authority boundaries.

The examination of pathological specimens and samples of milk, ice-cream, water and other foods is undertaken, without charge to the authority, by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester 10.

The Urban District Council is responsible for those matters likely to affect or be concerned with the maintenance of high standards of environmental health. These include:

Inspection of houses re fitness for human habitation.
Control of infectious disease (Including food poisoning).
Control of slaughtering facilities and inspection of meat.
Control of food and food preparing premises.
Provision of suitable water supplies.
Detection and prevention of nuisances,
Prevention of atmospheric pollution.
Control of rodent and insect infestations.
Collection and disposal of refuse.
Provision of sanitary accommodation and public conveniences.

watering distributed Of plants of restant and employed to serve in the district as in the companies as the control of Hospital Facilities for provided and maintained through the ..

# Report of the Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report upon the sanitary administration of the district and the work done during the year 1956.

Although the Department was without a head from the time of the departure of Mr. G. Oakes until my arrival in December, essential works were continued ably by Mr. N. Morton, the pupil assistant, and meat inspection duties were carried out by an inspector from the Chadderton Urban District to whom our thanks are due for such willing co-operation.

Details of the work accomplished are given in the following pages.

May I express my thanks for your pleasant welcome to me at the end of the year and also my thanks and appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health and officials for the help in settling in that was so unhesitatingly given.

Vernon K. Hallows Public Health Inspector. and the said

#### SECTION D

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole district is drained and sewered but the authority possesses no sewage disposal works. Sewage is conveyed to sewers of the Oldham County Borough via three main junctions, the respective flows being measured by Lea recorders, and is treated by that authority at their disposal works in Slacks Valley, Chadderton.

#### Public Cleansing,

A weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year, collection being direct from household bins to a motor vehicle and disposal by tipping. Tins are recovered for salvage whilst the refuse is being hand levelled at the tip face and some paper is removed for incineration on the tip top.

Dustbins are replaced by the Council, the cost being borne by the general rate funds. 124 dustbins were supplied during the year as replacements.

Number of moveable dustbins in the district is 1500.

#### Rodent Control.

No full-time rodent operative is employed, the necessary works being carried out by members of the road gang who have attended Ministry courses of instruction in rodent destruction. The sewer system receives a twice yearly treatment irrespective of other matters and complaints of rodent infestation handled as the circumstances permit. 33 infestations were successfully treated thoughout the year.

#### Sanitary Accommodation.

All houses in the district are on the water carriage system although not all possess a fresh water closet. 60 waste water closets still remain and progress in their elimination seems practically nil. Not one was converted during the year under review.

Number	of	waste water closets	60
Number	of	conversions	Nil
Number	of	fresh water closets	1537
Number	of	houses on water	
		carriage system.	1524

#### Smoke Abatement.

The authority co-operates in the joint scheme for the investigation of atmospheric pollution formed by 17 local authorities and has one lead perozide guage for the determination of sulphur pollution erected in the Cemetery grounds.

Smoke emissions from factory chimneys during the year did not call for any action other than warnings, but electrification of workplaces continues to be the greatest help in reducing smoke emissions. ---

#### Water Supply.

The district is served by upland surface water from the Oldham County Borough supply. Filtration and chlorination by the cloramine process takes place at the source of the supply and 17 bacteriological and 4 chemical tests taken by the supplying authority were all reported as satisfactory during the year. Two bacteriological samples taken in the district were also reported as satisfactory.

#### Sanitary Inspections.

915 visits were made to 366 premises during the year consisting of

265 dwellinghouses

86 shops and business premises

10 factories 5 schools.

In the dwellinghouses 217 defects or nuisances were found and during the year 204 of these matters were remedied. It was found necessary in 7 cases to serve formal notices to ensure that the repairs were carried out, but otherwise 34 informal notices and personal visits obtained the desired results.

4 houses were found to be verminous but each infestation responded to DDT treatment and was satisfactorily cleared.

No legal action was called for during visits to the shops and

generally conditions are satisfactory.

There are 5 schools in the district, one being a private school. Although each is drained and has a water supply, two schools still possess and have to make use of obsolete trough-type closets, four schools have unsatisfactory washing facilities and three schools have unsatisfactory drinking water facilities.

There are 24 factories with mechanical power, 3 factories without mechanical power, and 1 other premises requiring visiting for the purpose of the Factory Acts. 8 visits were made to factories with mechanical power and 2 visits to factories without such power. No notices or prosecutions under the Act were found necessary.

#### Rodent Control Work,

	Local Authority	Dwelling houses		
Number of properties in the district	11	1412	286	6
Number of properties inspected	3	76	3	-
Number of properties found infested by: Rats - Major - Minor Mice - Major Minor.	3 -	- 25 - 2	- 2 - 1	
Number of infested properties treated by local authority.	3	27	3	-

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#### SECTION E

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The majority of the shops in the district sell foodstuffs of one type or another. Out of 90 shops there are no less than 72 selling food for human consumption. The various trades are represented as under:

General grocers	21
Greengrocers	5
Fishmongers	1
Butchers	8
Fish Fryers	7
Bakers/Confectioners	10
Sugar confectioners	6
Inns, clubs, etc.	12
Others.	2
	Contraction of the last

Total.... 72

During the year it was found necessary to issue condemnation certificates in respect of 214 lbs of food from the above shops. Shopkeepers fortunately show no hesitation in calling for a second opinion when food appears bad. There were the foods concerned:

Bacon	35½ 1bs
Cheese	15 lbs
Chocolate	33 1bs
Coccnut	4 lbs
Fish Cakes	1_1b
Boiled Ham	23 lbs
Luncheon Meat	9½ 1bs
Pork Pies	15 lbs
Sausages	18 lbs
Tomatoes	6 lbs
Tongue	3 1bs
Tirned Food (54 tins.	11 5 1bs

Sampling of foods is carried out by officers of the Lancashire County Council staff and Dr. S.C. Gawne, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., informs me that during the year 7 samples of foodstuffs were obtained in the district.

2	samples	Sauce
1	11	Oatmeal
1	11	Glucose "D"
2	11	White pepper
1	"	Pepper compound.

44 samples of milk (including 6 samples of Channel Islands milk) were taken during the year and all bar one were found to be genuine. The one sample was reported by the County Analyst to contain 2.3% of extraneous water. The vendor of the milk was cautioned and further samples of his milk taken.

There are 33 distributors of milk in the district. Only heat treated milk may be retailed and 24 of the distributors sell only sterilized milk.

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The one slaughterhouse continued to be used throughout the year, the record being as under.

	Cattle excl.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number killed	39	43	-	-	-
Number inspected.	39	43	-	-	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis Whole carcases condemned	-		-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was ornderned	6	9	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis.	15.39	20.9	-	-	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	9	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.12	20.9	-	-	-
Cysticercosis only. Whole carcases condemned	-	-	_	-	-
Carcases pf which some part of organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	
Carcases refrigerated	-	-	-	-	-

The following amounts of meat were found to be unfit for food at the slaughterhouse.

Tuberculosis	Carcase meat Offal	801bs 1281bs
Other disease	Carcase meat Offal	81bs 641bs.

The condemned meat is disposed of by incineration in nearby mill boilers.

The con alsouthers once continues to be used throughout the

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## SECTION F.

### HOUSING,

Number of new houses erected during the year:	
(i) By the local authority Nil	
(ii) By other bodies or persons. Nil.	
Inspection of dwelling-houses.	
Number inspected formally or informally for housing defects.	189
Total inspections made	400
Number found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.	53
Number made fit following informal action	40
Number so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation at year end.	170
Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
Number in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
Number in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	7
By owners By local authority in default	Nil Nil
Proceedings under Housing Acts.	
Number in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.	3
Number which after service of formal notices were rendered fit By owners By local authority in default	2
Number demolished	4
Number closed in pursuance of an	**
undertaking given by the owner.	Nil
Parts of buildings closed	Nil
Number of clearance areas represented	Nil
Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.	
Number closed	2
Proceedings under Housing Acts 1949/54	
Number of applications for improvement grants made by private individuals.	5
Number of dwellinghouses affected	5
Number of applications approved	4
Any other action under the Acts.	Nil.

Any other action under the Acts.



