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BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON
1951



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1951

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON

1951

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

ALDERMAN J. L. GRADWELL, J.P.
(deceased 19-11-51)

Vice-chairman:

COUNCILLOR R. SCOTT

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR—COUNCILLOR W. STUART, J.P.

ALDERMAN MRS. C. REDFERN

ALDERMAN A. WOLSTENCROFT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR L. BOYER

COUNCILLOR F. EVANS

COUNCILLOR F. HUNT

COUNCILLOR W. WELLENS

BOROUGH OF MIDDLETON

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

T. SEYMOUR JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(to 10th November, 1951)

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(from 12th November, 1951)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

T. TURNER, M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

S. HACKING, C.R.S.I.

G. ELLIOTT, C.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

Miss E. M. HOWARTH

Miss E. DEAN

Mr. R. LAMB (Serving with H.M. Forces)

Health Office,
5, Suffield Street,
Middleton.
September, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your information the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1951. Although Dr. T. S. Jones was responsible for the work up to November, it falls to me to present this report.

Statistically, it will be noted that the overall population declined as a result of a slight reduction in the number of live births and a greater increase in the number of deaths. In fact, the death rate was higher, albeit fractionally, than at any time since 1929. This increase was due to four main causes, i.e. cerebral haemorrhage, heart disease, cancer and influenza. The first three are probably associated with the fact that our population is living at an ever increasing tempo and also living longer and the fourth cause was due directly to the epidemic that involved the country early in the year. A more pleasing feature was the reduction in the infant mortality rate to 29 which is slightly below the rate for England and Wales and is the lowest ever recorded in Middleton.

May I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the help and ready co-operation given by all members of the Department.

Finally, may I thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and consideration.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

GENERAL STATISTICS

TABLE I.

Area of the Borough (acres)	...	...	...	5,170
Population at Census, 1951	...	...	...	32,602
Registrar-General's estimated resident population (mid-year 1951)	...	...	...	32,560
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	...	6.30
Number of Inhabited Houses (estimated)	...	...	...	10,857
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1951	...	...	...	£178,989
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1950-51)	...	...	...	£727 5 6

VITAL STATISTICS

TABLE II.

	Total	M.	F.		
Live Births:—					
Legitimate	504	238	266	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1951	} Crude 16.1 Adjusted 15.7
Illegitimate	19	15	4		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Total	523	253	270		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
Still Births	8	3	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
				15	
Deaths	485	233	252	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	} Crude 14.9 Adjusted 15.2
Deaths from puerperal causes:—				Death-rate per 1,000 Deaths total (live and still) births	
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	1			1.88	
Other maternal causes	1			1.88	
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
Total maternal mortality	2			3.77	

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	29
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	27
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	52

Neonatal Mortality:—

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	...	...	...	11
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	21

Deaths from Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	157
„ „ Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	82
„ „ Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	74
„ „ Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	29

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population for the year 1951 is 32,560, which is 310 less than the estimated population for 1950 and 42 less than the Census population for 1951.

BIRTHS.

523 live births were assigned to the Borough, representing an annual birth rate of 16.1 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the figure of 15.5 for England and Wales and 16.7 for the 148 smaller towns. The annual birth rates for the past 40 years are shown in Table IV.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths for Middleton during 1951 was 485, giving a crude death rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 12.5 for England and Wales and 12.5 for the 148 smaller towns.

The age and ward incidence are shown in Table III.

TABLE III.**Age and Ward Incidence of Deaths occurring in 1951.**

Ward	Under										75 and		Total
	1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	up.	wards			
North	2	—	—	2	1	2	23	26	42	...	98
Central	1	—	1	—	1	3	10	20	18	...	54
South	5	1	—	—	3	6	35	46	35	...	131
East	3	2	—	3	1	5	24	28	22	...	88
Parkfield	2	—	—	—	—	1	18	26	15	...	62
West	2	—	—	1	—	2	20	9	18	...	52
Total	15	3	1	6	6	19	130	155	150	...	485

Two maternal deaths occurred during 1951. The maternal mortality rate was 3.77 per 1,000 (live and still) births compared with 1.81 in 1950.

Infant mortality showed 29 per 1,000 live births as compared with 39 in 1950. The comparative rate for England and Wales is 29.6 and for the 148 smaller towns 27.6.

The cancer death rate of 2.52 was the highest ever recorded, and the tuberculosis death rate was 0.40 as compared with 0.37 in 1950.

Comparative death rates for various diseases for the past 40 years are shown in Table IV and the classified causes of death for 1949, 1950 and 1951 are given in Table V.

TABLE IV.

Year	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Zymotic Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Tuberculosis Death Rate
1912....	21.4	15.1	0.6	117	0.74	1.7
1913....	21.0	12.8	0.28	98	0.66	1.0
1914....	19.8	14.6	1.6	126	1.18	1.5
1915....	17.5	16.1	0.64	93	1.2	1.47
1916....	15.8	14.2	0.81	79	1.1	1.59
1917....	14.5	15.3	0.93	114	1.52	1.76
1918....	13.0	17.2	0.90	80	1.37	1.49
1919....	14.0	14.0	0.54	76	1.29	0.90
1920....	22.6	12.3	1.00	90	1.2	1.25
1921....	19.4	13.3	0.69	78	1.2	1.21
1922....	17.5	13.1	0.38	72	1.34	1.14
1923....	14.7	12.3	0.51	72	1.24	0.87
1924....	15.2	12.6	0.34	54	1.68	0.93
1925....	13.3	14.1	0.58	95	1.38	0.90
1926....	15.3	12.6	0.21	57	1.30	0.91
1927....	14.2	13.0	0.41	63	1.55	0.55
1928....	14.6	11.2	0.07	63	1.17	0.75
1929....	14.1	17.1	1.08	96	1.28	0.91
1930....	14.7	11.4	0.23	46	1.59	0.67
1931....	13.2	14.8	0.40	99	1.69	0.67
1932....	14.0	12.9	0.51	80	1.47	0.65
1933....	12.8	14.2	0.27	61	1.89	0.62
1934....	13.7	12.6	0.24	53	1.76	0.48
1935....	12.7	14.2	0.06	35	1.54	0.89
1936....	14.3	14.4	0.30	52	1.88	0.72
1937....	13.2	12.9	0.03	51	1.27	0.30
1938....	13.6	12.5	0.23	59	1.96	0.50
1939....	15.2	13.6	0.10	46	1.77	0.36
1940....	14.8	14.0	0.10	56	1.27	0.43
1941....	15.7	13.7	0.10	41	2.13	0.77
1942....	15.8	13.5	0.17	57	2.01	0.45
1943....	17.2	13.9	0.21	61	1.91	0.35
1944....	21.3	14.8	0.25	53	2.07	0.57
1945....	15.6	13.4	0.00	38	2.05	0.53
1946....	18.8	11.9	0.19	49	2.09	0.69
1947....	22.5	13.0	0.16	54	2.18	0.49
1948....	18.2	12.5	0.09	39	2.14	0.40
1949....	16.3	13.5	0.00	32	2.07	0.40
1950....	16.3	12.2	0.15	39	1.92	0.37
1951....	16.1	14.9	0.00	29	2.52	0.40

TABLE V.

Causes of Death, 1949, 1950 and 1951

	1949	1950	1951
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ...	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	12	12	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	—	2
Syphilitic Diseases ...	1	2	2
Influenza ...	3	1	16
Measles ...	—	1	—
Other Infectious Diseases ...	—	2	—
Cancer ...	67	63	82
Leukaemia ...	—	1	—
Diabetes ...	3	3	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	53	43	74
Heart Disease ...	149	140	157
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	23	12	14
Bronchitis ...	26	26	29
Pneumonia ...	16	10	16
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	6	3	3
Peptic Ulcer ...	2	4	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	5	—	—
Nephritis ...	13	5	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	—	2	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	1	2
Congenital malformations ...	7	3	6
Suicide ...	5	5	4
Road Traffic Accidents ...	—	1	5
Other Accidents ...	6	8	6
All other causes ...	38	50	44
	<hr/> 436	<hr/> 401	<hr/> 485

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. STAFF.

Full details of the Staff of the department are given at the beginning of this report.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The complete facilities of the Public Health Laboratory (directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health) at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, were available and were fully utilized.

During 1951 the following specimens were submitted for examination:—

TABLE VI.

Nose and Throat Swabs	...	...	...	39
Faeces	...	...	...	703
Urine	...	...	...	8
Milk samples:—				
(a) Methylene Blue	...	...	...	49
(b) Guinea Pig inoculation—				
B. Tuberc.	...	...	...	49
				— 98
				—
...	...	...		848
				—

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Lancashire County Council and now has two Ambulances and one Sitting Case Car, under the control of an Ambulance Superintendent. The demands upon the service have steadily increased. A new Ambulance Station is envisaged in the near future.

4. HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.

There are no Hospitals situated in the Borough, which is, however, well served by numerous institutions in the surrounding areas, especially Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale.

5. NURSING SERVICES IN THE HOME.

The Home Nursing Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council who employ several nurses within the borough. The District Nurses' Home is situated at 32 Mellalieu Street (Telephone No. MID 2334). The services of a home nurse are provided at the request of the General Practitioners.

6. MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICE.

The Lancashire County Council employs 3 midwives for service within the borough. The Ante-Natal Clinic is held weekly on Monday afternoons at Durnford Street Health Centre.

Two maternal deaths occurred during the year.

7. HOME HELP SERVICE.

Home Helps are employed by the Lancashire County Council to attend households in case of confinements, illness, old age and infirmity where such help is found to be necessary. Applications for the services of a Home Help can be made at the Divisional Health Office, Tylon, Middleton Road, Chadderton. (Telephone No. MAI 6251).

8. CHILD WELFARE.

Child Welfare Centres are held weekly at Durnford Street Health Centre, Rhodes and Moorclose. Dental, Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic and Sunlight treatment are available where required.

9. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Weekly sessions are held at the Durnford Street Centre for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccinations are performed at this centre by special arrangement. Medical Practitioners perform either of these services at the patient's home or at their own surgeries.

TABLE VII.

INFANT DEATHS, 1951.

Cause of death	Days		Weeks		Months			
	Under			Total				Total
	1	1-7	1-4		1-3	3-6	6-12	
Prematurity ...	3	1	—	4	—	—	—	4
Non Pulm.								
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	2
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other Resp. Causes	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital								
Malformations	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	4
Other Causes ...	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	2
Total ...	5	3	3	11	3	—	1	15

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA, ETC.

Sewage Disposal.

Sewage up to three times dry weather flow is treated at the Manchester Corporation Works at Davyhulme.

Between three and six times dry weather flow passes through storm tanks at the old Middleton Disposal Works, Kelvin Avenue, Rhodes.

Volumes in excess of six times dry weather flow are discharged to the River Irk by means of a storm over-flow.

5,043 yards of sewers were laid during the year and in addition, a new storm over-flow was constructed on the Boarshaw Sewer.

The only areas without proper drainage system are the villages of Birch and Bowlee with the exception of isolated farm-houses.

Water Supply.

The town is supplied with water by the Heywood and Middleton Joint Water Board. The supply is upland surface water, of good quality. Details of the catchment area and reservoir installations have been given in previous reports.

No. of houses supplied by the Joint Board	11,149
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No. of baths in Borough	6,296
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During the year the following examinations were made, and the results were satisfactory.

(a) Raw Water—Bacteriological	...	...	...	21
Chemical	...	...	...	21

(b) Water going into supply where treatment is installed—				
Bacteriological	...	...	...	25
Chemical	...	...	...	25

Chlorination of the water is in operation, the dosage being 0.2 parts per million.

Supplies are collected from moorland gathering grounds, stored in impounding reservoirs, subjected to chalk addition and sedimentation, passed through sand filters and chlorine added when entering supply pipes.

The Analyst declares the water as supplied to the consumer to be "free from lead."

As a precaution against contamination, chalk is added at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains per gallon and when necessary Soda Ash is added at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ grain per gallon.

Existing water mains have been extended by 1,151 yards during the year for housing development at Hollins Estate, Mainway and Alkrington.

Well Water.

A small number of outlying farms have independent water supplies from wells.

SANITARY SERVICES

Closet Accommodation.

The following is a list of the types of closets existing in the Borough at the end of the year:—

TABLE VIII.

Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	63
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	193
Waste-water closets	...	...	...	...	...	2,780
Fresh-water closets	...	...	...	...	...	7,199

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The weight of refuse collected during the year was 7,213 tons. Of this 6,806 tons were dealt with by the Separation and Salvage Plant and 407 tons were disposed of by Controlled Tipping.

Refuse Collection.

The number of vehicles engaged on this work is six, viz.: four "S & D" Freighters and two "Karrier Bantams." All the vehicles are fitted with steel sliding shutters to the bodies to minimise nuisance from dust.

There are approximately 7,720 moveable ashbins, 1,295 ash-pits 345 wall-type dustbins and 193 pail closets in the Borough. Ashbins and pail closets are emptied weekly and ashpits fortnightly.

The majority of the pail closets are in connection with premises in the villages of Bowlee and Birch which are not sewered.

The net cost of Refuse Collection for the financial year ended 31st March 1952, was £10,000.

Refuse Disposal.

Of the refuse collected, 6,806 tons were dealt with at the Separation and Salvage Plant and 407 tons were dealt with by tipping.

The cost of Refuse Disposal for the year amounted to £1,050.

TABLE IX.

Income from Sales of Salvage.

		T.	C.	Q.	Lb.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	... ..	186	17	1	0	2,626	18	9
Kitchen Waste	... ..	49	4	3	0	142	8	8
Textiles	... ..	12	5	0	1	158	1	1
Baled Destructor Scrap	...	222	18	2	0	700	16	10
Mixed Scrap	... ..	25	0	3	0	98	19	3
Non-ferreous Metals	... ..	0	15	3	20	81	18	4
Screened Fuel	... ..	265	13	2	0	197	7	6
Total		762	15	2	21	4,006	10	5
Screened Dust	... ..	3,965	8	1	0	— used for land reclamation		

TABLE X.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tables give details of the various inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Inspections
made, etc.

Drainage work	...	...	...	...	511
Refuse removal	...	...	...	...	14
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	21
Stables, piggeries, etc.	...	...	...	...	53
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	...	18
Houses let in lodgings	...	...	...	...	—
Houses	...	...	...	...	1,576
Manure dumps	...	...	...	...	7
Investigation of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	249
Verminous conditions and disinfestation	...	...	...	...	25
Conversions	210
Water supply	84
Miscellaneous visits and re-visits	509

Total	3,277
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Housing Act, 1936.

Housing defects	71
Measured for permitted number	1
Investigations overcrowding	14
Miscellaneous visits and re-visits	61

Total	147
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Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Samples taken—Milk designated, for Bacteria	}	49
Milk ordinary, for Bacteria		

Food preparing etc. premises	...	...	...	193
Dairies	...	...	...	3
Markets and shops	...	...	...	135
Unsound food	...	...	...	112
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	195
Fish and chip shops	...	...	...	68
Ice Cream shops	...	...	...	197
Fishmongers	...	...	...	75
Greengrocers	...	...	...	3
Milk Vehicles	...	...	...	3
Milk Shops	32
Grocers' Shops	19
Miscellaneous visits and re-visits	60

Total	1,144
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Factories Act, 1937.

					Inspections made, etc.
Factories	234
Bakehouses	79
Outworkers	37
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>350</u>

Shops Acts.

Hours of closing	...	...	...	...	33
Health, etc. (Sec. 10)	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Diseases of Animals Acts.	43
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Rat infestation	505
Mice infestation	...	...	...	...	207
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>712</u>

Miscellaneous Visits.

Re-inspection where notices in force	...	...	...	...	1,475
Interviews with owners, builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	354
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	109
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	180
Meetings	39
Tip and salvage depot	710
Total	<u>2,867</u>

Total Number of Visits	8,573
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Complaints.

Number of complaints during the year	778
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Notices.

Informal notices served	599
Informal notices complied with	601
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	23
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	19

TABLE XI.**Work carried out in compliance with Notices.**

Drains cleared	145
Drains repaired or re-constructed	23
Rainwater pipes repaired	32
New water-closets installed	43
Water-closets repaired	93
Eaves-gutters repaired	55
Sinks provided	1
Bins provided	135
Roofs repaired	65
Other nuisances abated	123
Plasterwork repaired	45
Skirting boards repaired	1
Rising dampness remedied	15
Fire-ranges repaired	8
Floors repaired	3
Sash-cords repaired	13
Dampness remedied	109
Waste pipes remedied	12
Doors repaired	11
Wash boilers repaired	2

TABLE XII.**FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

Defects found	23
Notices served:—	
(a) Sanitary defects	13 Remedied, 13
(b) Other defects	10 „ 9

TABLE XIII.**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**

(a) No. of Council houses found to be infested	1
„ „ „ disinfested ...	1
(b) No. of other houses found to be infested ...	7
„ „ „ disinfested ...	7

HOUSING.

TABLE XIV.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year		<i>Prefabricated houses</i> <i>Temporary Permanent</i>		<i>Traditional permanent houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
1.	By the local authority ...	—	—	93	6
2.	By other local authorities ...	—	—	—	—
3.	By other bodies or persons	—	—	20	—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	129
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose ...	198
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	63
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	132
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	63
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	66

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ...	49
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil		
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:—			
	(a) By owners ...	Nil		
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	Nil		

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	66
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a)	By owners	...	19
(b)	By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	18
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	5
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part 4 - Overcrowding.

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	9
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	9
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	66
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	1
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	4
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	35

5. HOUSING ACT, 1949:—

		Schemes of private bodies or individuals.	Schemes of local authority
(a) (1) Number of Schemes submitted:—			
(a)	by private individuals to local authority	...	1
(b)	by local authority to Ministry	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	...	1

(b) (1)	Number of Schemes approved by Ministry	...	...	...	...	1	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	...	...	...	...	1	—
(3)	Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes	...	...	...	...	—	—
(c)	Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	...	...	...	...	Nil	—
(d)	Any other action taken	...	...	...	...	Nil	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

TABLE XV.

(a) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Canned Cooked Ham	...	...	—	6	1	10	5		
Canned Luncheon Meat	...	...	—	—	3	2	10		
Meat	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	13	0
Sausages	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	0	6
Poultry	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	16	0
Canned Chicken	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	9	4
Canned Fish	...	...	...	...	—	1	3	14	11
Fish	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	6	0
Edible Compound Fat	...	...	2	6	2	18	0		
Black Currants	...	...	3	6	3	27	0		
Canned Fruit	...	...	—	3	3	20	11		
Jam	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	14	0
Dried Eggs	}								
Cereals		...	...	...	—	2	0	27	4
Starch, etc.									
Evaporated Milk (49 tins)	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Full Cream Evaporated Milk (78 tins)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Skimmed Milk (21 tins)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE XVI.

(b) MILK SUPPLY.**Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

No of registered distributors operating from:—

(a) Own dairies in the district	...	...	...	2
(b) Dairy Farms in the district	...	...	...	56
(c) Shops in the district other than dairies	...	...	...	71
(d) Premises outside the district	...	...	...	15

Forty-two samples of ordinary milk and four samples of designated milk were taken from producers and retail purveyors of milk for examination by the methylene blue tests, with the following results:—

TABLE XVII.

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

Two samples of designated milk were taken for the phosphatase and methylene blue test, with the following results:

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

One sample of designated milk was taken for the turbidity test, with the following result:—

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Forty-two samples of ordinary milk were submitted for biological test for Tubercle Bacilli, four were found to contain Tubercle Bacilli and the remainder were satisfactory.

Four samples of designated milk were submitted for biological test for Tubercle Bacilli and were found to be satisfactory.

TABLE XVIII.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949:—

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences)	
issued by the local authority during the year, in respect	
of:—	
“Tuberculin Tested” Milk:	6
“Accredited” Milk:	—

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised)
Milk Regulations, 1949:—

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat Treated Milk":			
Pasteurising Plants	—	Sterilising Plants	—
Retail distributors	...	(a) "Pasteurised"	8
		(b) "Sterilised"	72

(c) FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

It is satisfactory to note that no outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred in the borough during the year.

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Table XIX shows the number of cases occurring amongst the individual diseases, the number removed to hospital and the deaths occurring in hospital.

Total Cases Notified.

TABLE XIX.

Infectious Diseases.				No.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	16	4	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	4	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	619	1	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	84	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	15	2	1
Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	59	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	3	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	2	2	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	35	16	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	8	7	1
				—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	847	35	3
				—	—	—

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever was a very mild disease, only 16 cases being notified during the year.

Diphtheria.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified during the year. This was a mild case in an immunised child.

It is estimated that at the end of 1951, 56.34% of children under 5 years of age and 81.47% of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years had been immunised against diphtheria.

Measles.

Six hundred and nineteen cases of Measles were notified in the borough as compared with 300 in 1950. 418 cases occurred in the first quarter of the year the highest incidence being in the 3—10 year age group. The whole of the borough was affected. One case was removed to hospital.

Whooping Cough.

Eighty-four cases of Whooping Cough were notified, compared with 313 the previous year. The highest incidence was in the North, Central and East Wards of the Borough.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

No case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified during the year.

Dysentery.

Fifty-nine cases of Dysentery occurred during the year, as compared with 131 the previous year. Further investigation of these cases usually revealed that other members of the family,

including the parents were affected. It is essentially a disease which is spread by unhygienic personal habits.

Meningococcal Infection.

Two cases of Meningococcal Infection occurred, one a boy of three years and the other a boy of nine months-of-age. Both cases were removed to hospital where they recovered.

Paratyphoid Fever.

Four cases of Paratyphoid Fever were notified during the year. The first case was a girl aged 16 years who was removed to Monsall Hospital. On investigation of this case it was found that the girl had recently returned from a holiday spent with another family in the district and later three members of this family were notified as cases, the mother and two girls aged six and 11 years. No further cases developed and all the notified cases recovered.

Tuberculosis.

There were 35 new cases of Pulmonary and eight new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year. This is a frightful blot on any public health record, especially when it is appreciated that given a truly preventive outlook, the majority of these cases should never have been infected. Providing the public will utilise the facilities available, e.g. Mass Miniature Radiography Units and Chest Clinics, early diagnosis should be possible. Then, if local authorities would ensure immediately that these patients' families were really satisfactorily and economically housed and safeguards made to ensure that a reasonably high standard of living could be maintained; with effective isolation of the patient, primarily in a sanatorium until free from infection, risks of further spread could be minimised. With the aid of modern curative techniques a reasonably optimistic view of this otherwise dread disease might at last be justified, but the emphasis must remain on provision of a healthy environment.



