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Contributors

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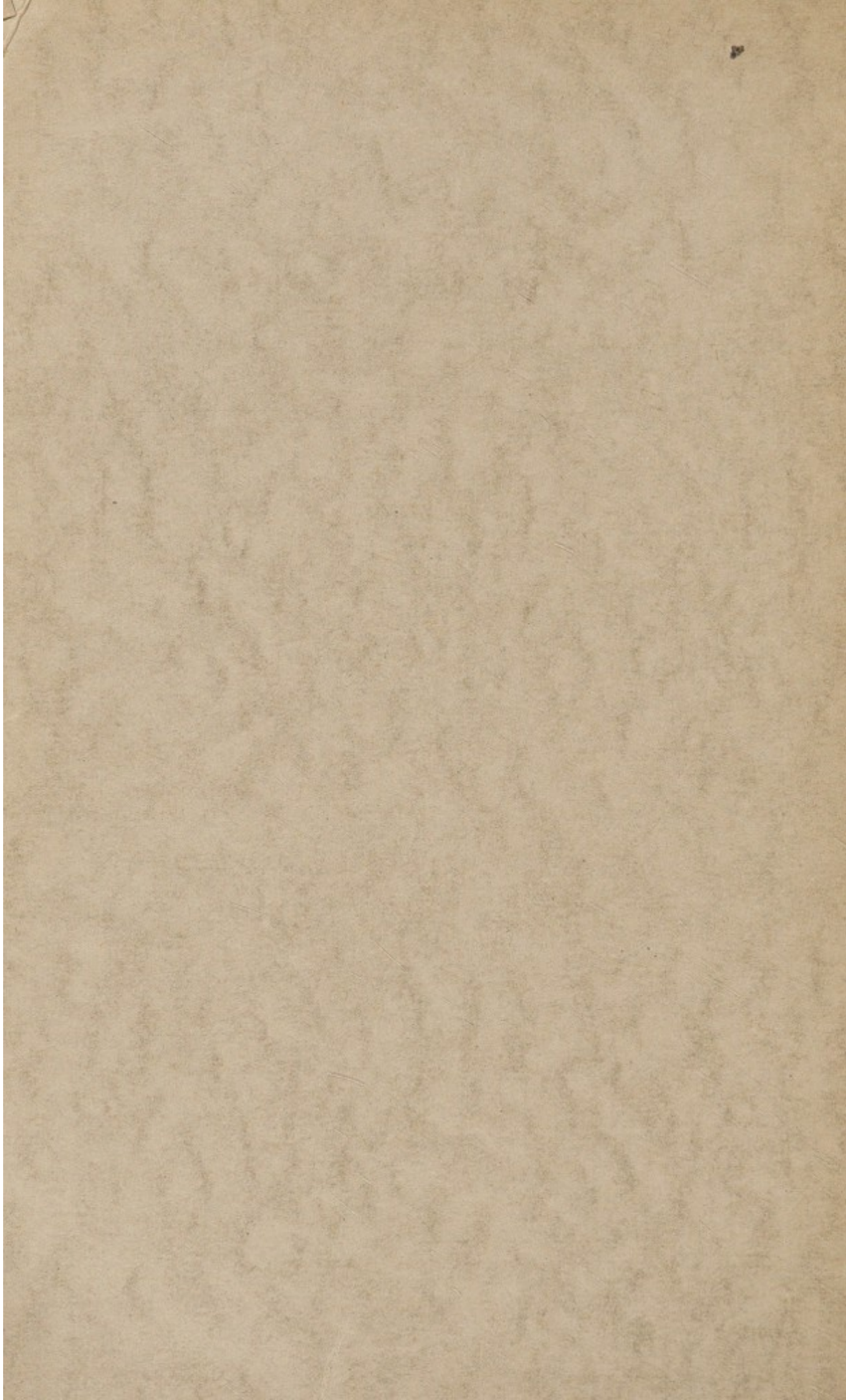
INTERIM REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending

31st. December, 1945.



Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Morecambe and Heysham.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Morecambe and Heysham.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my annual report on the health of the borough during the year 1945.

The form of the report and the matters dealt with are in accordance with directions received from the Ministry of Health this year.

During 1945 the Health Department was still handicapped by shortage of staff and this entailed the omission of certain work regularly carried out in normal times.

As a consequence of the coming into force of the Education Act, 1944, reports on the health of the school children will in future be made to the County School Medical Officer and incorporated in the reports presented by him to the County Council. I have, therefore, added to this report a very short summary of the conditions found amongst our school children and the work done for them.

The two major defects of the borough in the field of public health are, as they have been for some years, an inadequate sewage system and a grave lack of houses. The first is not only a menace to the public health, which good fortune alone has hitherto held at bay, but in some degree, also, it adds to the difficulty of solving the housing problem. The shortage of houses is both injurious to health and the cause of a very great deal of suffering and unhappiness. It is earnestly to be hoped that the committees of the Council struggling with these two problems may find soon some release from the restrictions, shortages and other war-engendered circumstances that make their work so difficult.

I wish to express my appreciation of the support given to the work of the Health Department by the members of those committees concerned with it, and my gratitude to the staff of the department and to my fellow officials for their ready assistance and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. LYLE,

Medical Officer of Health

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE BOROUGH**

Area in acres (not including foreshore)	3,665
Population at 1931 Census	24,542
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year, 1945	36,400
Number of inhabited houses Census, 1931	5,749
Number of inhabited houses, 1945 (according to rate books)	10,697
Rateable value	£294,608
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,207

Since 1939 there has been a growth of the industrial section of the population, and although some part of this will be a temporary increase, and will decline as production for the purposes of war declines, it is probable that in the future industry will play a somewhat larger part in the social life of the borough than it used to do.

Although some industrial development is not unlikely, the main business of the town will continue to be that of catering for and entertaining visitors, and there would be very strong opposition to anything likely to injure its essential character as a health and holiday resort. In this character it serves a purpose, the value of which is recognised more and more clearly with every enquiry into the social circumstances of an industrial people : for such a people rest, recreation and a change of environment are a sociological necessity.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.

	Male	Female
Live Births—		
Legitimate	209	220
Illegitimate	20	17
	229	237
Still Births—		
Legitimate	5	2
Illegitimate	—	—
	5	2

Deaths.

Total Male Deaths		257
Total Female Deaths		303
		560
Total (Male and Female)		
Infant Deaths (under one year of age)	Male	Female
Legitimate	6	8
Illegitimate	3	1
	9	9

Puerperal Deaths.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or from other maternal causes in 1945.

	Male	Female
Deaths From Cancer.		
Cancer of buccal cavity, œsophagus, uterus	3	2
" " stomach and duodenum	1	12
" " breast	—	9
" " all other sites	33	32
	37	55

Deaths From Infective Diseases.

	Male	Female
Whooping Cough	—	1
Diphtheria	—	1
Measles	—	1
Acute Encephalitis	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	9	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—

Deaths From Diarrhœa of Children Under Two Years of Age.

	Male	Female
	1	—

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Birthrate	Crude Deathrate	Deathrate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Deathrate from Cancer	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total (live & still) Births	
Estimated Population : 36,400							
Mean of 5 yrs., 1940-1944	11.4	15.2	0.36	2.04	3.83	3.75	45
Year :—							
1944	12.8	16.1	0.43	2.48	4.25	4.19	34
1945	12.8	15.3	0.38	2.52	—	—	38
Increase or Decrease in 1945 —							
On 5 years average, 1940-1944	+1.4	+0.1	+0.02	+0.48	—3.83	—3.75	—7
On previous year . . .	—	—0.8	—0.05	+0.04	—4.25	—4.19	+4

The Still Birthrate for 1945 was 14 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

The Deathrate of legitimate infants under one year of age was 32 per 1,000 legitimate live births, while the rate for illegitimate infants was 108 per 1,000 illegitimate live births, giving a deathrate of 32 for all infants per 1,000 live births.

Table of Deaths From All Causes.

	Male	Female	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	...	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	...	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	...	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria	—	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of Respir. System	9	5	14
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	3	3
8. Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	2
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	1	1
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Enecephalitis ...	—	1	1
13. Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph. and Uterus	3	2	5
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	12	13
15. Cancer of Breast	—	9	9
16. Cancer of all Other Sites	33	32	65
17. Diabetes	1	3	4
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	40	43	83
19. Heart Diseases	83	119	202
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	5	7
21. Bronchitis	12	15	27
22. Pneumonia	5	2	7
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	4	7
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	4	—	4
25. Diarrhœa Under 2 Years	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis	2	—	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	7	9
28. Nephritis	8	9	17
29. Puerperal & Post-Abortion Sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	1	3	4
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases	4	5	9
33. Suicide	4	—	4
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
35. Other Violent Causes	4	4	8
36. All Other Causes	30	16	46

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1945 COMPARED

HEART AND CIRCULATORY DISEASES	CANCER
RESPIRATORY DISEASES (excluding tuberculosis)	INTRA-CRANIAL VASCULAR LESIONS
TUBERCULOSIS—ALL FORMS	
NEPHRITIS	
DIGESTIVE DISEASES	
VIOLENCE	
PREMATURE BIRTH—INFANTILE DISEASES—CONGENITAL DEFECTS	
INFECTIVE DISEASES (excluding tuberculosis)	
ALL OTHER CAUSES	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory and Hospital Facilities.

There was no change in these during 1945. For laboratory investigations we rely mainly on the County Laboratory in Preston, the Pathology Department of the Preston Royal Infirmary and the Joint Isolation Hospital, Slyne Road.

Ambulance Services.

The administration of an efficient accident ambulance service has been a matter of continual difficulty since the end of the war and the disbandment of the Civil Defence Services.

In a town as crowded with pedestrians and with vehicular traffic as this is from April until October each year a swift and competent service to deal with accidents is a prime necessity. Such a service was easily provided at a reasonable cost when the Corporation owned and controlled its own Fire Brigade and ran the accident ambulance as a part of that Brigade.

Unfortunately when the Home Office merged the local Fire Brigades in a national service, they refused to accept any responsibility for ambulances hitherto incorporated in the local brigades, and we had to transfer our ambulance and mortuary vehicles to the Civil Defence Service. This arrangement worked very well while it lasted, but of course it came to an end in 1945 with the ending of the war.

The cost of running an accident ambulance service as an entity distinct from any other municipal or government service was too extravagant to be accepted with equanimity, and repeated efforts were made to induce the Home Office to change their policy of excluding such services from the work of the N.F.S. While these negotiations were slowly proceeding the accident and mortuary vehicles were serviced largely by volunteers, ex-members of the Civil Defence Service and members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and it is to those volunteers that the town owes it that the service never failed.

Eventually a compromise with the N.F.S. was achieved, which, for the time being, is fairly satisfactory; but it is to be hoped that before long an administration of Fire Brigades less rigidly centralised than that evolved to meet the emergencies of war will enable us to conduct an accident ambulance service, an essential life-saving service, with less difficulty and expense.

Sickness ambulance services are provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the ambulance of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board. In 1945 the Council decided to assist the former by an annual grant of £250.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

With the coming into force of the Education Act, 1944, the County Council became responsible for all the publicly administered clinics serving the borough. These comprise the Maternity

and Child Welfare, Ante-natal and School Clinics which are held within the borough, and the Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Clinics, which are held in Lancaster.

The number of cases from Morecambe and Heysham attending the Venereal Diseases Clinic in 1945 was as follows :

Gonorrhœa		Syphilis		Non V. D.		Totals	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
6	6	10	6	11	8	27	20

Nursing Homes.

There were five registered nursing homes. There were no important causes of complaint in any of these.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There were no changes during the year in the source of supply. The purity of the water, checked by 10 chemical and 10 bacteriological analyses, was satisfactory. Chlorination was not required.

The following figures of consumption show an increase over 1944 for both Morecambe and Heysham :—

Morecambe, 1945	426,132,000	gallons.
1944	399,230,000	„
Increase	26,902,000	„
Heysham, 1945	147,268,000	„
1944	145,645,000	„
Increase	1,623,000	„
Average daily consumption—Morecambe	1,167,000	gallons.
Heysham	403,000	„
Total	1,570,000	„

All dwelling houses are supplied direct from public mains.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Closet Accommodation :—

No. of houses on water carriage system	10,697
„ „ fresh water closets	12,000
„ „ waste water closets	36
„ „ middens	5
„ „ closets attached to middens	5
„ „ dry ashpits (excluding middens)	2
„ „ movable ashbins	11,500

The following notes on the work done during 1945 and on the prospects of the main sewerage scheme at the end of the year have been supplied by Mr. Kilvington to whom my thanks are due.

CLEANSING OF DYKES.

“ The main dykes within the borough have again been cleaned out as far as the labour conditions allowed. The weather generally was drier than usual, consequently there were no serious cases of dyke flooding and very few cases of surcharge in the foul sewers. The latter were rodded and cleaned wherever it was necessary.

“ The construction of the small sewage disposal plant for the Westgate Estate is now completed and in commission. The effluent from these works is piped to the new main dyke to the River Lune. The sewage from this estate previously drained to a septic tank and thence to the main dyke. The new works comprise pumping unit, settling tanks, percolating filters in duplicate and humus tank, and it is anticipated that there will be no further nuisance.

New Sewerage Scheme.

“ New sewerage activities have been confined entirely to preparatory work in anticipation of an early re-commencement of construction. Recently revised plans and revised loan sanction applications have been transmitted to the Ministry of Health and, on receipt of their approval, revised Bills of Quantities will be prepared.

“ The Consulting Engineer warned the Sewage and Sewage Disposal Committee in December last that it might possibly be twelve months before actual re-commencement of work. The intention is that as many sections of the works as possible should be executed at one and the same time, thereby reducing the length of time when the whole of the new scheme will be brought into commission.

“ It would, for instance, be of little avail if the new Pump House at the Schola Green Lane site was completed and ready for working, but none of the proposed incoming trunk sewers were capable of being used. Similarly in the Bare Lane and Torrisholme area where there is an almost total prohibition on the building of houses, this prohibition can only be lifted when the new subsidiary pumping station at Bare gravity main and the new trunk sewer through Westgate are all ready for use.

“ The intention to execute most of the different contracts simultaneously will, however, be conditioned by the priorities of labour and materials which the Government may grant us. It is equally difficult to ascertain the probable future constructional costs until actual tenders are received. The Consulting Engineer suggested a further £550,000 for completing the works, which, with moneys already spent, makes a total estimated cost for the whole work of £700,000.”

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1945.

Number of houses inspected (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	130
Number of :—	
Visits of inspection	157
Factory inspections	6
Visits of inquiry concerning infectious disease	81
Houses disinfected	145
Schools disinfected	1
Rooms fumigated	255
Visits to food premises	136
Visits to ice cream premises	36
Slaughterhouse inspections	521
Farm inspections	13
Dairy inspections	23
Visits to retail purveyors of milk	107
Visits to camps	33
Visits for testing and inspecting drains, dykes, etc. ...	73
Visits to stables and piggeries	20
Defects and Nuisances dealt with :—	
Number of complaints received	448
„ „ nuisances discovered	453
„ „ nuisances abated	370
„ „ informal notices served	264
„ „ formal notices served	23
Legal proceedings taken	—
Summary Nuisances dealt with :—	
Choked drains	109
„ gullies	34
„ street gullies	4
„ water closets	12
„ combined drain	1
„ waste pipes	4
„ sink	1
„ sewers	2
Defective drains	25
„ water closets	13
„ back boiler	1
„ sink	1
„ soil pipes	9
„ sewers	2
„ gullies	6
„ plaster	5
„ wall to water closet	1
„ house roofs	12
„ rain water down spouts	10

„ flues and fireplaces	5
„ yard surfaces	13
„ floors	10
„ combined drain	1
Absence of larder	1
Accumulation of refuse	3
Ant infestations	3
Accumulation of refuse on camping ground	1
Burst water supply pipes	3
Dampness	16
Dangerous skylight	1
Dirty houses	4
Camping ground	1
Flooding of land	2
Flooding of garden	1
Moth infestations	6
No water supply to water closet	1
No sanitary accommodation on camping ground	1
Offensive condition of premises	2
„ smells	13
„ ashpit	1
„ condition of public convenience	1
Overflowing cesspools	3
„ septic tank	1
Poor water pressure	1
Surcharge in drain	1
Water in cellars	30
„ under floor	1

It was not possible during 1945 to carry out any work under the Shops Acts or that part of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices. This work is about to be taken in hand again.

Camping Sites.

There are four camping sites in the borough licensed by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and all four were in use.

The inadequacy of legislation controlling camping has been referred to in previous reports. Such action as legislation allows was taken during the year to deal with unlicensed camping and a number of unsatisfactory and unlicensed sites were closed.

On the whole, the licensed camps were reasonably conducted.

Swimming Baths.

The municipally owned Super Swimming Stadium was the only one open during the year. It is a fine asset to the borough, not only as a holiday attraction, but also as a means of healthy recreation and education for the resident youth. The efficiency of the filtration and chlorination plants is assured by frequent chemical examinations of the water.

Disinfestation.

The number of houses found to be infested was 116 and all of these were dealt with. Spraying with a preparation of lethane in paraffin was found to be very effective and an advance on methods previously used.

Offensive Trades.

There are three premises in which offensive trades are conducted : in two of these the trade is tripe dressing and in the third it is gut scraping.

All were satisfactorily conducted.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Fifty-one inspections were made during the year. No legal action was necessary.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

This work goes on continuously. Not only are visits paid when notification is received of the presence of rats or mice, but Corporation property, dykes and likely places of harbourage are constantly inspected.

The results of this work during the past few years have been very good, and the number of complaints, particularly of the presence of rats, have fallen away most remarkably.

It is hoped that before long we shall be able to take in hand a much more thorough cleaning of all the miles of dykes in the borough than they have ever had before, and their maintenance in a better condition. It is agreed that the importance of having this work adequately done is greater than that of trying to settle difficult details of actual responsibility. One of a number of benefits to be looked for will be a still better control over rat infestation.

During the year the rat-catchers carried out the following work :—

Number of premises visited	442
„ „ visits to above premises	2940
„ of tins of poison issued	210

HOUSING.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	130
Number of inspections made for above purpose	157
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit for habitation by informal action	45
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	23
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners after service of formal notice ...	21
All notices were served under the Public Health Acts : none were served under the Housing Act, 1936.	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

One licence was issued during the year for the bottling of accredited milk and one for the distribution of pasteurised milk.

No. of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
" " " licensed to sell Accredited Milk	—
" " " licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk	1
" " " licensed to bottle	1

During the year 69 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, 34 of these for biological test for the presence of B. Tuberculosis. In no sample was B. Tuberculosis found.

In the 35 samples taken for other bacteriological analysis the results were as follows :—

No. satisfactory ... 13. No. unsatisfactory ... 22.

In addition to the above, nine samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Lovibond Phosphatase test. All samples were shown to have been adequately pasteurised.

Samples of undesignated milk are subjected to the methylene blue test and the B.Coli count.

Ice Cream.

Ice cream carefully made of good materials, even in these days of rationed supplies, can be, and ought always to be, a valuable food. Unfortunately a great deal of ice cream as it actually is made has practically no food value whatsoever, and, in addition, is so heavily contaminated as to be dangerous to health.

Not only have epidemics of such diseases as Enteric Fever, Dysentery and Scarlatina been traced to contaminated ice cream, but it is certain that much sickness never directly traced to ice cream has its source there.

It is regrettable that the legislation of this country allows so little control over the manufacture of this product. It is not that standards are difficult to devise or to impose. In this matter we are backward and lag far behind the practice of many other countries. In New Zealand, in Australia, in most of the States of the U.S.A., and, before the war at any rate, in several of the European countries, standards of purity and food value have been incorporated in legislation and enforced on manufacturers.

Until some such legislation is enacted in this country, and the Association of Municipal Corporations are trying to bring this about, the action that local authorities can take to protect the public is far from adequate.

In Morecambe and Heysham there are manufacturers who, of their own goodwill, try to manufacture a satisfactory product, but the greater part of the ice-cream sold is not fit to eat.

Action under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Of the 37 food samples taken during the year, 24 were of milk. Analysis of the milk samples gave the following results:

No. satisfactory.	Deficient in solids	Deficient in fat.	With added water
20	1	2	1

On the advice of the Public Analyst those persons concerned in the production of unsatisfactory milk were warned and further samples were taken.

The articles other than milk sampled and analysed were as follows :—

Article.	Number examined.	Number found unsatisfactory.
Baking powder	1	—
Cocoa	1	—
Gravy Browning	1	—
Sauce	1	—
Semolina	2	—
Pepper	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Flour	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	—
Mustard	1	—
Soup Powder	1	—
Cake Flour	1	—

All analyses were carried out by the Public Analyst at the County Laboratory, Preston.

Meat Inspection.

No of animals inspected at the slaughterhouse :—

Beasts	2,547
Calves	3,824
Pigs	19
Sheep	8,868

Total	<u>15,258</u>
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Meat condemned:

Bovine Carcasses & Organs	Generalised Tuberculosis ...	18
„ Forequarters	Tuberculosis	1
„ Hindquarters	„	2
„ Lungs	„	368
„ Livers	„	117
„ Heads & Tongues	„	193
„ Stomachs	„	56
„ Skirts	„	91
„ Hearts	„	46
„ Udders	„	19
„ Spleens	„	122
„ Intestines	„	4
„ Fat	„ lbs.	619
„ Carcasses & Organs	Insufficiently bled	1
„ „	Fevered	2
„ „	Malnutrition	1
„ Forequarter	Bruising	1
„ Beef	Bruising lbs.	611
„ Livers	Cirrhosis & Distomatosis	1005
„ „	Abscesses	175
„ Intestines	Oesophagostomum Col'bianum	30
„ Udders	Mammitis	36
Calf Carcasses & Organs	Abscesses	7
„ „ „	Malnutrition	7
„ „ „	Tuberculosis	1
„ „ „	Fevered	1
„ Livers	Abscesses	15
„ Vells	Inflamation	2
Veal	Decomposed lbs.	16
Pig Head	Tuberculosis	2
„ Pluck	„	2
„ Mesentery	„	1
Pork Trimmings	Decomposed lbs.	38
Sheep Carcasses & Organs	Emaciation	18
„ „ „	Suffocation	3
„ „ „	Pyæmia	3
„ „ „	Pleurisy	1
„ „ „	Inflammation	3
„ „ „	Dropsy	1
„ „ „	Fevered	2

„ Forequarters	Abscesses	4
„ Hindquarters	Abnormal Parturition	2
„ „	Abscesses	1
„ Heads	„	6
„ Plucks	„	9
„ Lungs	Strongylus	16
„ Livers	Distomatosis	1756
„ Intestines	Oesophagostomum Col'bianum	133
„ Fat	Decomposed lbs.	143
„ Feet	Decomposed sets	272
„ Mutton	Bruising lbs.	53

Unsound Food (other than meat) surrendered :—

Fish	176 stones
Ham	42 lbs.
Bacon	207½ „
Butter	61½ „
Cheese	13 „
Margarine	24½ „
Tea	30 „
Sugar	97 „
Apples	392 „
Oranges	1 case
Pears	2070 lbs.
Dates	170 „
Sultanas	69 „
Currants	26 „
Oats	128 „
Barley	50 „
Peas and Green Lentils	7 cwts.
Soya Flour	1 cwt.
Radish	23 boxes
Rhubarb	1 box
Carrots	100 bags
Eggs	37½ doz.
Crabs	1 barrel
Shrimps	80 lbs.
Lobster	84 „
Pickles	51 jars
Ice-cream	4 galls.
Ice-cream bricks	242
Fish Cakes	70 lbs.

Tins of Meat 269; Fish 127; Milk 140; Vegetables 22;
 Soup 3; Syrup 7; Beans 35.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital treatment for infectious diseases, other than smallpox, is provided at the Slyne Road Hospital, Lancaster. The hospital is controlled by a Joint Board on which the Morecambe and Heysham Council is represented.

By agreement with the Joint Board of the Fylde Preston and Garstang Smallpox Hospital, cases of smallpox from Morecambe and Heysham would be removed to that hospital.

During 1945 the main feature of the notifications was the number of cases of measles—398 as compared with 28 in 1944. All but a few of these (15) in which there were exceptional difficulties were treated at home. There was one death. Most of the cases occurred during April, in which month there were 233 notifications: March had 59 cases and May, 60.

The number of whooping cough notifications was smaller than in the previous year, 27 as against 64.

Of the 11 cases of diphtheria notified two were adults aged 24 and 34, and 9 children of 14 or under. There was one death.

Of these 9 children, 5, including the child who died, were unimmunised and 4 had completed a course of immunisation.

The story of one family has some interest. In this family there were 5 children under 14 years of age. Of these, 4 were immunised and one was not. The unimmunised child fell ill and for 10 days was kept at home with a septic throat and quinsy. The family were living under crowded conditions and during this 10 days the sick child was in close and constant contact with the rest of the family. On the 10th day it was found that the sick child had diphtheria. Under these conditions it is not very surprising that the defences of three of the four immunised children were broken through and that they contracted diphtheria. The fourth immunised child remained well. The unimmunised child died: the others recovered.

These unusual circumstances accounted for 3 of the 4 immunised children who contracted diphtheria during the year. The fourth case in a previously immunised child was that of a visitor to the borough who had been immunised 5-6 years before and had not had the reinforcing dose that is necessary after 4-5 years if protection through childhood is to be maintained.

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (other than Tuberculosis)
NOTIFIED DURING 1945.**

Notifiable Diseases.	Age Period in Years													Total Cases	Cases removed to hospital	Deaths in hospital
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over				
Scarlet Fever			3	6	4	32	13	4	9	1				72	61	
Diphtheria						3	6		2					11	11	1
Measles (excluding German Measles)	9	17	34	51	44	203	13	7	16	4				398	15	
Whooping Cough	3		6	4	4	9							1	27		
Acute Pneumonia (Primary & Influenzal)		1					1		2		5	2		11		
Puerperal Pyrexia									1	1				2		
Cerebro-spinal fever													1	1	1	1
Acute encephalitis lethargica													1	1	1	
Dysentery						1		1	1					3	2	
Erysipelas													2	1	3	2
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...									4	1				5		
Totals	12	18	43	61	52	248	33	12	35	7	8	5	534	93	2	

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The parents of all infants who are immunised are, when the child reaches school age, advised that a reinforcing dose should be given, and an appointment is offered to them so that this may be done. The parents of children first immunised at a later age are sent a similar notification and appointment after 4-5 years.

The figures in the table that follows are those of children immunised under the local authority's scheme only, and they should not be taken as giving the percentage of children in the borough immunised.

In Morecambe and Heysham many children are immunised by their own family practitioners and it has not been possible to obtain the numbers of such children. A recent visit to the parents of each child reaching 12 months of age in one quarter of the year gave the following figures:—

Births 94. Removals from the town 20, unable to trace the family or to gain admission 3. This left 71 children of known address in the town. Of these 71, 26 had been immunised under the scheme or had accepted appointments which were about to be kept. Of the remaining 45, the parents of 6 did not wish to have their children immunised, the mothers of 2 were in hospital, the parents of 13 asked for appointments and 24 had been privately immunised. That is to say that, although out of 94 children at about one year of age the health department's records would shew only 39 immunised, yet in fact only 71 of those 94 were known to be living in the borough, and rather over one-third of these had been immunised by the family's own doctor.

It is my own belief that over 85% of school children in the borough are immunised and somewhere about 70% of pre-school children.

I.—IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children who had completed full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31 December 1945

Age at 31.12.45 i.e. Born in Year ...	Under 1				5 to 9		Total under 15	
	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1936-1940		
Number Immunised	2	166	187	242	191	1046	3142	
Estimated mid-year population 1945	1950						3970	

II.—DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION.

NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
Age at date of Notification	Number of Cases Notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at date of Death	Number of Deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	—	—	3	—	—
4	—	—	4	—	—
5 to 9	3	1	5 to 9	—	—
10 to 14	6	3	10 to 14	1	—
Totals	9	4	Totals	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
Years.	Respira- tory.		Non- Respira- tory.		Respira- tory.		Non- Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5—10	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1
15—20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	5	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	4	1	1	2	1	—	—
35—45	3	2	—	1	—	2	—	—
45—55	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—
65 and upwards	4	1	—	1	3	1	—	—
Totals	19	13	7	6	8	5	1	2
	32		13		13		3	

SEVEN YEARS' TABLE OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—

Year.	Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1939	7	16	9	5
1940	17	15	6	4
1941	27	19	13	3
1942	20	7	12	3
1943	25	10	12	1
1944	24	15	10	6
1945	19	13	8	5
Totals	139	95	70	27

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—

Year.	Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1939	7	3	1	—
1940	6	3	1	1
1941	6	4	1	—
1942	5	8	—	3
1943	4	6	3	2
1944	7	6	4	2
1945	7	6	1	2
Totals	42	36	11	9

In 1945 there was a small decrease both in the number of new cases notified and in the number of deaths as compared with 1944.

PORT SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The general administrative arrangements were unchanged and the usual work was satisfactorily carried out.

There were 35 vessels from foreign ports. All were oil tankers and were boarded and inspected.

There were no cases of infectious disease landed from any vessel.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Cleansing Superintendent has kindly supplied the following note on the work of his department during the year.

During the year our main task was to provide the best service possible under difficult conditions. In May the end of the war in Europe caused an increase in the visiting population which added to our difficulties.

Shortage of staff was always a problem and this was aggravated by the high rate of sickness and absenteeism which prevailed during the busy summer months. In the latter part of June this reached the high figure of 11.2%. The rate for December was 4.4%.

In July a scheme for the provision of overalls for the workmen was commenced.

Street Cleansing.—Street litter showed a considerable increase over the previous year and all possible steps were taken to deal with this nuisance.

Refuse Collection.—This was carried out by the Pagefield Container system and S. & D. Freighters. The Scammell vehicle was used to give extra service where required.

The Pagefield was 12 years old and becoming unreliable and it was decided to purchase 3 S. & D. Freighters as replacements, for delivery in 1946.

Refuse Disposal.—By controlled tipping plus salvage. Kitchen waste and fish offal are processed in a special plant and converted into feeding stuffs and fertilisers. The salvage figures show a slight decrease on the previous year but compare very favourably with other towns.

Public Conveniences.—During the year all public conveniences, except those in the Swimming Stadium buildings, were placed under the control of this department.

Staffing was satisfactory and the total receipts for the year amounted to £3,848.

Salvage Sales—1945.

	Weight.				Value.		
	T.	C.	Qrs.		£	s.	d.
Paper	278	4	3	...	1766	0	0
“Black” Scrap	6	7	3	...	10	10	0
Baled Scrap	24	14	2	...	44	15	0
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	10	2	...	36	10	0
Textiles	22	15	2	...	286	0	0
Bottles and Jars		2	1	...	1	0	0
Miscellaneous		15	0	...	2	5	0
Bones	6	3	0	...	21	0	0
Fertiliser	41	6	1	...	747	0	0
Processed Kitchen Waste	60	16	0	...	247	10	0
	442	15	2	...	£3162	10	0

CERTAIN STATISTICS EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Routine Medical Inspections in Schools :

Entrants	Second Age Group	Third Age Group	Total
455	361	252	1058

No. of parents present at above inspections—777.

Other Inspections :

	In Schools.	In Clinics.	Total.
Special Inspections ...	25	1218	1243
Re-Inspections	46	923	969
Totals ...	71	2141	2212
No. of parents interviewed	40	536	576

Children treated for defects found :

1. Minor ailments (excluding uncleanliness)	1030
2. Errors of refraction (including squint) ...	97
3. Defects of nose and throat	65
4. Orthopædic and Postural defects	25
5. Dental defects	781

Verminous conditions :

No. of examinations of children in school ...	12437
No. of individual children found unclean ...	408
No. of interviews with parents	228
No. of visits to homes	276

It should be appreciated that the 408 children in this table are not 408 different children. There are families which offend more than once and those children keep re-appearing amongst the numbers.

Of the children of the borough as a whole it is fair to say that they are healthy and are well looked after by their parents. The interest that parents take in the examinations of their children, and their readiness to co-operate in remedying any defects that may be found are admirable. There is general agreement that the dinners provided in the schools are well designed and prepared, are, thanks very largely to the teachers, well served, and are a very valuable help to the mother in these days of scarcity.

