

**[Report 1947] / Medical Officer of Health, Newton-le-Willows U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Newton-le-Willows (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1947

**Persistent URL**

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NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT.

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1947

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ANNUAL REPORT.

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of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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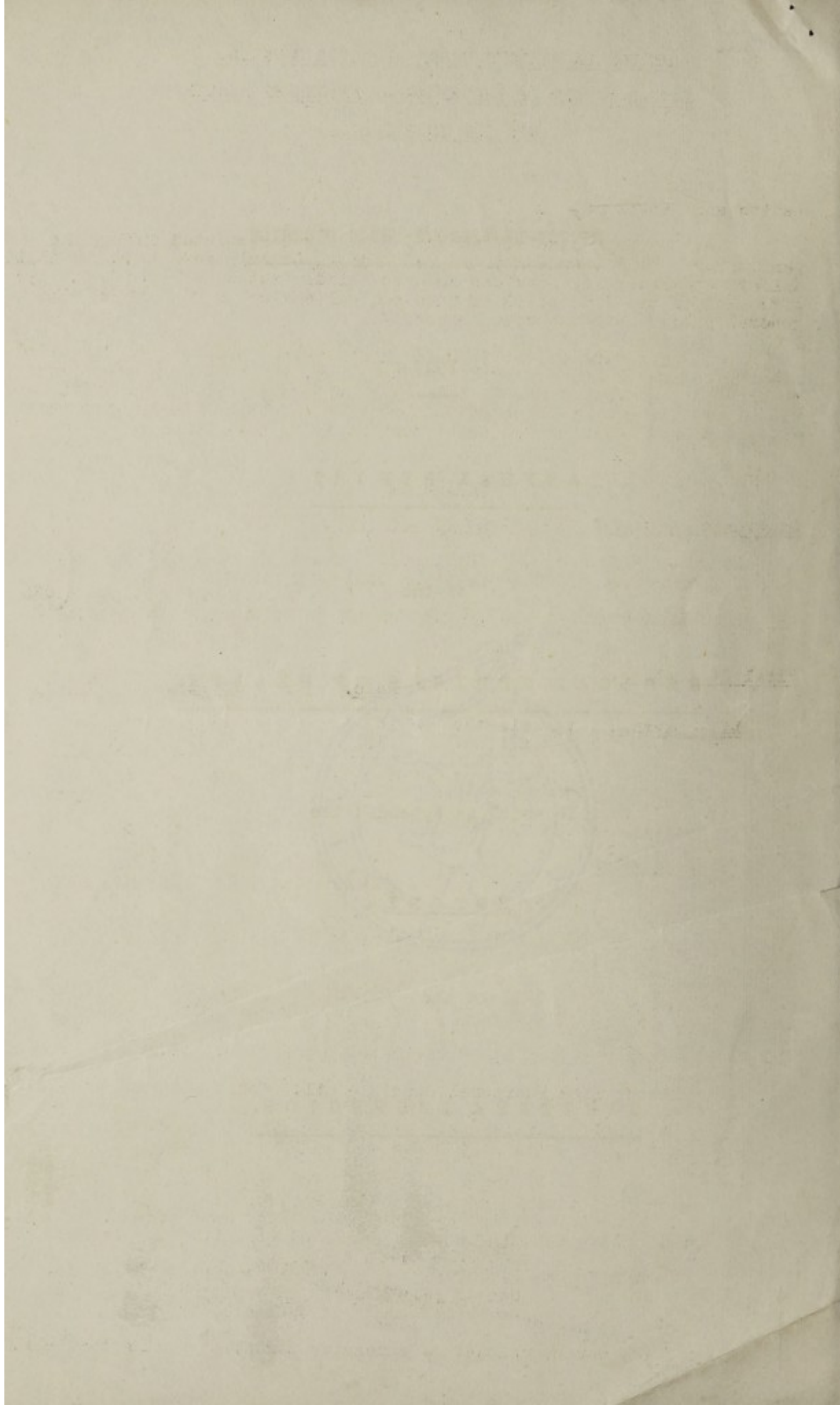
To which is appended the

REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

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NEWTON LE WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

No Medical Officer of Health was appointed during the year, Dr. W. C. Latham continuing as Medical Superintendent of the Child Welfare and Maternity Services and very kindly acted as Medical Officer of Health on the few occasions when medical advice in connection with general public health became necessary.

Owing to shortage of nursing staff prepared to "Live in" a heavy burden of night duty fell to the few, and it became necessary to close the Isolation Hospital in May. Arrangements were made with the County Borough of Warrington to receive infectious cases from our area, and these have proved to be very satisfactory.

SECTION A.

Statistics & Social Conditions of the Area.

Area - 3103 acres. Estimated population at mid 1947 - 21,260.  
 Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947 according to Rate books) ..... 6,026  
 Rateable value - £102,982. Sum represented by penny rate £412

Vital Statistics.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Live Births.</u>	Legitimate.	185	194	379
	Illegitimate.	12	8	20
	Total.	197	202	399

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population 18.7.

Still Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	8	8	16

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births. 38.5.

Deaths.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total deaths.	132	132	264

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population. 12.4.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis - nil. Other maternal causes 1.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 2.50;  
 per 1,000 total births 2.40.

Death Rate of Infants (under 1 year of age) :-

All infants per 1,000 live births.	57
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births.	58
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births.	50

Deaths from - Diphtheria	1	Measles	Nil
Cancer (all ages)	34	Diarrhoea	6
Whooping Cough.	Nil.	(under 2 yrs)	

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.



SECTION B.General provision of Health Services for the area.

Medical Officer of Health. (Acting) W. C. Latham.  
 Chief Sanitary Inspector. Full time. L. M. Booth, M.R.San.I.,  
 M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B..  
 Additional Sanitary Inspector. Full time. K. Hilton, M.S.I.A.,  
 Cert. S.I.B..  
 Both Sanitary Inspectors hold the Certificate of the Royal  
 Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.  
 Health Visitor. Full time. Miss I. Heap, S.C.M., S.R.N.,  
 R.S.I., (Health Visitor).

Laboratory facilities.

Pathological specimens are submitted to:-

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.
- (b) E.M.S. Laboratory, St. Helens.

Samples for bacteriological, biological and chemical  
 examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.  
 Food and Drugs samples to the County Analyst, Preston.

Ambulance facilities.

The Council owns and maintains two ambulances for non-  
 infectious, accident, and maternity cases.

Consultation and Treatment Centres and Clinics.

- (a) The Council is a Maternity and Child Welfare Authority and Clinics  
 are held at Cross Lane, on Mondays and Tuesdays (Child Welfare)  
 and Wednesday (Ante Natal).
- (b) The School Clinic at the Gables, Crow Lane West, is controlled  
 by the County Council.

Hospitals.

- (a) Infectious Diseases. The Isolation Hospital, Bradlegh Road was  
 opened in 1912 by the Council and maintained until May of this  
 year. Infectious cases are now conveyed to the Isolation Hospital  
 Warrington.
- (b) General. The War Memorial Cottage Hospital, maintained by public  
 subscriptions, is within the area.

SECTION C.Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.Age Groups.

DISEASE.	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-35	Over 35	Total	Total deaths	Cases removed to hosp
Sc. Fever.	-	3	3	8	12	5	3	34	-	26
Diphtheria.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	12
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	18	52	89	69	1	2	-	231	-	3
Wh. Cough.	8	17	16	12	1	-	-	54	-	-
C.Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	6*
Ac. Poliomyelitis.	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	4	-	6*

(Continued overleaf)



## Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases. (Contd.)

DISEASE.	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-35	Over 35	Total	Total deaths	Cases removed to hospt.
Polio-encephalitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Dysentery.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3*
Ophth. Neon.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	10	-	-
Ac. Pneumonia.	4	4	2	6	3	8	24	51	12	2
Totals.	34	77	110	97	19	21	34	392	13	59

\* Includes cases subsequently re-diagnosed as non-infectious cases.

Immunisation.Diphtheria.

Number of children immunised during the year - under 5 years - 224  
 - 5/15 years. - 3  
 - Total - 227

Immunisation state of child population as at 31st December, 1947.

Not protected by artificial immunisation -  
 under 5 years. 770 - 45.29%  
 5/15 years 1756 - 57.19%  
 Total. 2526 - 52.9%

Tuberculosis.New cases and mortality during 1947.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
15	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
25	2	3	-	-	3	2	-	-
35	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	2	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.	7	6	3	2	8	5	2	-
	13		5		13		2	

SECTION D.Housing.

I am indebted to the Surveyor for the following information:-

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(1) By the local authority. 58 (Traditional Permanent)  
 (2) By other Local Authorities. -  
 (3) By other bodies or persons. 1 ( " " )

Total.

59

SECTION E.Maternity and Child Welfare.

This work is carried out by the local authority.

(a) Ante-natal work.

No. of women who attended ante natal clinics during the year

..... 186

Total number of attendances ..... 659

Abnormal cases may be referred to the Liverpool Maternity Hospt.

(b) Hospitals and other institutions available for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

(1) Maternity. Warrington General Hospital. Victoria Park Home, Warrington. Liverpool Maternity Hospital. St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester. Home of the Good Samaritan, Warrington.

Peasley Cross Hospital, St. Helens.  
(2) Children. Liverpool Childrens' Hospital. Manchester Childrens' Hospital.

(c) Arrangements for:-

(1) Home Helps. - One employed part time.

(2) Supply of food and milk to expectant and nursing mothers and milk for infants - Proprietary brands available at cost price.

(d) Arrangements for dental treatment and for orthopaedic treatment of children under 5 years are made with the Lancashire County Council.

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Other matters are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report which is appended.

Yours faithfully,

W. C. LATHAM,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the work of my branch of the Health Department for the year 1947.

There were no changes in staff during the year and this expedited the work of the department. I desire to record my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, to Officials of the Council, and to the members of the staff, all of whom have assisted so readily throughout the year.

1. HOUSING.

(A) Overcrowding.

(a) 1.	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
2.	Number of families dwelling therein. ....	6
3.	Number of persons dwelling therein. ....	45
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c) 1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases. ....	81

The Council's Points Scheme of House Letting is gradually reducing the number of cases which are in urgent need of new homes, and more priority should now be given to those who must continue to live in overcrowded conditions because they happen to be the tenants of the houses they are living in.

The above figures refer to cases of overcrowding which have come to the notice of the Department. Many more cases are likely to exist and it is intended to compile a complete list during 1948.

(B) Fitness of Houses.

Action taken was under the Public Health Acts rather than the Housing Act, and though requirements were again limited to essentials, there has been a slight improvement in obtaining compliance with notices.

Much property continues to deteriorate and many owners are now anxious to dispose of their liabilities.

The housing shortage still prevents any demolition of unfit dwellings.

2. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were inspected periodically.

No. of dairy farms.....	12
Approx. number of cows in district	150
No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms).....	12
No. of inspection during the year. ....	31
No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers). ....	88

Action taken by local authority as to:-

1. Tuberculous milk.

No. of samples submitted for biological test	24
Result - Positive 1. Negative 23.	



## 2. Bacteriological examinations.

Standard adopted... Count 200,000 per c.c.,

No bacillus coli in .01 c.c.

No. samples 32. No. satisfactory 24. No. unsatisfactory 8.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

Routine visits and inspections were made periodically with special visits when necessary.

There is no slaughterhouse within the district.

Foodstuffs condemned:-

<u>Nature.</u>	<u>Quantities.</u>		
	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Bacon and ham.	1	0	22
Wet Fish.	4	0	16
Sundries.	-	3	12
Total.	6	0	22

Meat (canned)	81 tins.	Vegetables (canned)	190 tins.
Fish (canned)	13 tins.	Milk (canned)	178 tins.
Jam & Fruit (canned)	102 tins.		

(c) Adulteration.

The council is a Food & Drugs Authority.

19 informal and 20 formal samples were taken and submitted to the County Analyst at Preston.

Samples taken were:-

Informal.

Sponge Pudding Mixture.	6
Custard Powder.	1
Gravy Powder.	1
Gravy Browning.	1
Mustard.	1
Baking Powder.	1
Mixed Spice.	1
Malt Cup.	1
Lemon Crystals.	1
Saccharines.	1
Sultanas.	1
Canned Peas.	1
Dried Egg.	1
Castor Oil.	1

Total.	19
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The Mustard was found to be .03% deficient in Allyl Isothiocyanate. No action was advised by the Public Analyst.

There was an offence in respect of the Lemon Crystals in that a poster in the shop indicated that they contained vitamin C yet the packets did not bear a statement of the amount of vitamin. The poster was withdrawn.

Formal.

Milk 20.

With one exception these were genuine.

The adulterated sample was 3% deficient in fat. Further samples were obtained and the vendor warned.

### 3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES - CONTROL.

Enquiries were made upon notification. Disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. In other cases bedding was treated as routine but rooms were dealt with only on request.

Visits by Inspectors .....	86
Disinfections.....	50
No. of rooms disinfected. ....	84

### 4. VERMIN CONTROL.

The following special visits were made:-

Visits to verminous premises .....	60
Verminous premises treated. ....	21
Rooms treated. ....	41

The department used D.D.T. in its liquid and its powder form during the year with excellent results.

Tenants were advised on cleanliness, care of furniture and furnishings and it was stressed that their efforts were essential both in getting rid of infestation and in preventing re-infestation.

### 5. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE; NOTICES SERVED ETC..

Complaints received and investigated 350.

#### Analysis of visits made.

#### (a) General Sanitation.

Water supply.	116
Drainage.	181
Stables and Piggeries.	13
Fried Fish shops.	3
Common Lodging Houses.	11
Factories.	41
Bakehouses.	3
Public Conveniences.	10
Refuse collection and disposal.	111
Licensed houses.	9
Miscellaneous.	147
Total.	<hr/> 645 <hr/>

#### (b) Housing.

##### Under Public Health Acts.

No. of houses inspected .....	412
Visits paid to above .....	1011

##### Under Housing Acts.

No. of houses inspected .....	3
Visits paid to above .....	3

##### Overcrowding.

No. of houses inspected .....	6
Visits paid to above .....	6



Verminous Premises.

No. of houses inspected	.....	18
Visits paid to above	.....	30

Miscellaneous Housing visits.

(including Points Scheme) ..... 149

Total. .... 1638

(c) Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	.....	85
Visits re disinfection	.....	21

Total ..... 106

(d) Meat & Food Inspection.

Inspection of meat - slaughtering	6
" " " - shops and stalls.	12
" " " - other premises.	3
Visits to butchers.	7
Fishmongers etc.	4
Grocers.	19
Greengrocers and fruiterers.	4
Cowsheds.	31
Dairies & Milk shops.	27
Ice Cream premises.	4
Food preparing premises.	18
Market Stalls.	446
Street vendors & hawkers' carts.	7
Restaurants.	8
<u>Visits in connection with Sampling.</u>	
Milk - Bacteriological.	32
Milk - Tubercle bacilli	24
Food & Drugs Samples.	39
Water Sampling.	28

Total. 719

Total inspections and visits. 3180

Notices Served.

No. of informal notices served.	299
No. of informal notices complied with.	257
No. of statutory notices served.	26
No. of statutory notices complied with.	24

Analysis of Defects noted and remedied.

Type of Defect.	Recorded.	Remedied.
Choked drains etc.	61	53
Dustbins.	64	82
Yards & passages.	1	5
Water supply.	51	43
Roofs.	73	37
Eavesgutters.	49	38
Downspouts.	25	14
Brickwork and/or pointing.	78	38
Doors etc.	3	2
Chimneys and flues.	15	15

Analysis of Defects noted and remedied. (contd.)

Type of Defect.	Recorded.	Remedied.
Plastering.	126	79
Floors.	31	14
Windows.	50	33
Doors and/or frames.	22	3
Fireplaces.	34	17
Woodwork.	3	2
Cooking accommodation.	4	1
Washing accommodation.	10	7
Sinks etc.	28	17
W.C.'s Basins etc.	56	46
Miscellaneous.	40	51
Total.	824	597

6. AMBULANCES.

The council maintains its own ambulance service and the ambulances ran 9,611 miles in response to 1430 calls.

Type of case.	No. of calls.
Infectious disease.	49
Accidents on the streets.	16
Accidents at places of employment.	9
Accidents at home.	9
Maternity cases.	43
Ambulant cases.	854
Admissions to Hospitals.	124
Discharges from Hospitals.	93
X-ray and consultations.	233
Total.	1430

7. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse Collection was carried out satisfactorily during the year and a weekly collection was maintained.

The Wharf Road Tip was completed and a new tip established at the Sand Pit, Southworth Road.

Salvage has been maintained and is likely to remain a prominent feature of refuse collection and disposal for some years.



The following materials were salvaged during the year:-

Material.	Weight.		Qrs.	Income.		D.
	Tons.	Cwt.		£	s.	
Paper.	102	12	0	711	19	10
Bottles 831 doz.	8	2	2	56	8	3
Jars. 618 doz.	3	0	0	7	16	5
Rags.	1	11	0	15	10	0
Ferrous Metals.	1	18	2	4	16	3
Non-ferrous Metals.		6	0	4	16	0
Glass cullet.	6	17	0	6	13	1
Bones.		8	3	2	5	7
String.		2	0	1	0	0
Total.	124	17	3	£811	5	5

## 8. WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity although it was found necessary to consider provision of an additional source of supply.

### Supply from public mains.

#### Direct to houses.

No. of dwellings. 5,982  
No. of population. 21,128

#### By means of stand pipe.

1  
6

### Private supplies - wells, springs etc.

3 dwellings, housing 12 people.

### Examinations of Piped Supplies.

- (a) Raw water. Bacteriological examinations - 12. All satisfactory.  
Chemical analysis - 4. All satisfactory.  
"A hard water of a high degree of purity!"
- (b) Water going to supply. Bacteriological examinations - 12. All satisfactory.

There was no contamination of the supply and no liability to plumbo solvent action.

## 9. FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Workshops.	49	24	Nil.
Factories.	52	21	Nil.
Building Operations.) Electrical Stations.)	3	6	Nil.
Totals.	104	51	Nil.

### No. of cases in which Defects were found.

	Found.	Remedied.
Cleanliness.	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences. ) Unsuitable or defective.)	1	1
Total.	2	2

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.