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Contributors

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Public Health Department

for the Year ended

31st December, 1958



NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:
COUNCILLOR E. J. THOMPSON

Vice-Chairman:
COUNCILLOR J. V. CARR

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer:
J. ROBERTS, A.R.V.A.

Health Committee:

Chairman
COUNCILLOR L. KENT

Vice-Chairman:
COUNCILLOR C. L. TYRER

Members:

Councillor MRS. C. CARR to 30th May, 1958
" MRS. E. CROUCHLEY
" E. J. GILLESPIE
" F. HOUGHTON
" C. S. JONES
" E. J. THOMPSON
" H. T. CONROY from 13th August, 1958

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Staff:

Medical Officer of Health:

A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

• Chief Public Health Inspector:

L. M. BOOTH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

N. G. WEIR, CERT.S.I., R.S.A. (SCOTLAND)
(to 30th June)

* J. ROBINSON, Cert. S.I.E.J. Board; M.A.P.H.I.
(from 8th October)

Clerk:

MRS. B. M. LIGHTFOOT

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

M. D. TICKLE

* Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspector (R.S.H.)

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS U.D.C.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1958

PREFACE

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM, AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure that I submit for your approval my Annual Report, as your Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1958, relating especially to the vital statistics and the general health circumstances of the Urban District, but including also certain details of the more personal health services which are provided by the Lancashire County Council as the "Local Health Authority" under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the "Scheme of Divisional Administration" approved by the Minister of Health thereunder.

The mid-year population estimate of the Registrar General, at 22,090, shows a slight increase, of 190, over the estimate for mid-year 1957, although to offset this the number of live births at 325, has decreased by 24, and the "natural increase" of population, which is the excess of live births over deaths, from 124 in 1957 to 76 this year. The "crude" live-birth rate, at 14.7/1000 population, is therefore less than in 1957 (15.9/1000), and the "adjusted" live-birth rate falls from 15.6/1000 to 14.4/1000 for the years in question. Unfortunately, also, it is necessary to record an increase in the number of still-born babies, which was 12 during 1958 as against 7 in 1957, giving comparable still-birth rates of 36/1000 total births and 20/1000 respectively. Illegitimate births, however, fell from 20 to 8 in the same period, from 5.7% to 2.5% of total live births.

The number of deaths assignable to the District, a total of 249, is 24 greater than last year, and gives a "crude" death rate of 11.3/1000 population, as compared with the total of 224 deaths and a crude death rate of 10.3/1000 a year ago. This figure and rate are the highest since 1953, and are in fact identical with the actual number and rate which occurred in 1952. The "adjusted" death rate, at 13.0/1000 population, shows a corresponding increase over last year's rate of 11.9/1000. Infant deaths, of children under 1 year old, increased from 9 to 13 during the period, and the rate per 1000 live-births from 26 to 40: of this increase of four infant deaths, three occurred during the first four weeks of life, in the neo-natal period, when a total of 11 young infants died, giving a neo-natal death rate of 34/1000 live-births as compared with one of 23/1000 in 1957. Once again, however, no maternal deaths were either registered in or assigned to the area.

Of the 13 infant deaths recorded above, no fewer than 7 resulted from prematurity, either alone or in conjunction with congenital malformations: all of these children died within the first four weeks of life, i.e. were "neonatal" deaths, and 6 lived less than 24 hours. No fewer than 9 out of the total 13 infant deaths took place within the first week of life.

Consideration of the over-all causes of death once again demonstrates the major part played by diseases of the heart and circulation, and the increasing incidence of cancer. Including, as we should in the former group the deaths resulting from "strokes," we find that some 128 deaths, or more than half of the total of 249, were from these causes, of which 52 were due to heart disease *other* than coronary thrombosis, 40 to coronary disease, 8 to heart disease associated with high blood pressure, and 4 to other forms of cardiac trouble. Strokes, resulting from vascular diseases of the nervous system caused 24 deaths. Next in descending order of magnitude comes cancer, responsible this year for no fewer than 49 deaths or almost one fifth of the total, of which cancer of the lungs and bronchi accounts for 13, cancer of the breast and uterus, 12, and of all other sites, for 23. This total of 49, of which 13 relate to disease of the lungs and bronchi, is so far as is known, the highest cancer mortality figure ever recorded for the area, although incidence of a similar order were noted in 1957 (47), 1952 (48) and 1950 (46), and never before have deaths due to "lung cancer" reached double figures: although 9 deaths were recorded last year, the numbers for the years 1950-56 inclusive were as follows:- 3, 2, 6, 4, 2, 1 and 4. It is thus all too clear that there has been a sharp and serious upward trend in the mortality from this disease during the last two years.

Next in order of frequency as a cause of death comes the heterogeneous group known as "other defined or ill-defined diseases," from which 22 persons died, followed in joint fourth place by bronchitis and pneumonia and, unusually, by deaths from accidents, of which there were 16 from each cause. This last group, of accidental deaths, has also shown a marked upward trend during the last year or two, for which accidents **not** associated with motor vehicles have largely been responsible: during the present year motor vehicles were involved in only one death. Deaths of this nature, affecting particularly the young, and being in a sense preventable are truly deplorable, and emphasize the need for intensive publicity and propaganda in order to bring home to the public generally the extent of the problem, and the relative ease with which potential dangers can be dealt with if ignorance is dispelled, and a climate of "potential accident awareness" promoted. In this connection exhibitions concentrating on certain types of accidents, such as the Home Safety Exhibition staged in the Town Hall from 24th to 27th September by the Newton-le-Willows Rotary Club, in conjunction with the Council of the Lancashire County Council, and the Gas and Electricity Undertakings, do indeed play a most important part.

The year has shown a remarkably low incidence of notifiable diseases generally, with a total of 158 cases as compared with almost four times this

number in 1957. Measles (71), Whooping Cough (1) and Scarlet Fever (26), have all been remarkably few, the numbers for last year being 397, 24 and 64 respectively, and the quinquennial means for these zymotic diseases of childhood in the years 1953-57 being 307, 73 and 86. Notifications of primary and influenzal pneumonia were of much the same order as usual, a total of 42, in comparison with 50 in 1957, and the five-year mean of 34. Tuberculosis, of which there were 12 cases, 10 being respiratory in type and 2 non-respiratory, was roughly only half as frequent as in 1957 (23 cases, of which 21 were respiratory), and appreciably less than the quinquennial mean of 20 per year for the period 53-57: nor were the deaths from this disease (2) above the average figure. No case of diphtheria occurred, nor yet of the enteric group fevers, ophthalmia neonatorum, puerperal pyrexia, encephalitis or meningococcal infection: there was however notified one case of food poisoning, one case of dysentery, and one of poliomyelitis. In addition to these, of course, it must be recorded that a small outbreak of food-poisoning was investigated at one of the educational establishments in the town, when some 74 persons, comprising both scholars and staff, suffered a minor indisposition lasting for some 12-24 hours due to the ingestion of a food poisoning organism C1. Welchii.

Consideration of general health and welfare needs of the community leads me to the conclusion that by and large it is well provided with the basic requirements for healthy living—a good, pure natural water supply, adequate for its present needs, effective supervision and control of food shops and premises, a reasonably satisfactory system of disposal of waste material, both excremental and otherwise, the former at present nearing completion, and a steadily increasing standard of accommodation: moreover there is but little economic distress and financial want. But still more and better houses are needed for people to live in with a reasonable degree of space, light and air, and with room in which to expand and develop both mind and body, so vital to those in the years of adolescence and early adult life. Housing is still to my mind an urgent social and public health challenge, and poor housing, the root cause of many social evils which arise in consequence: it should be regarded as one of the vital needs of every community, and accepted as a necessary charge thereon, because physical, intellectual, emotional and even spiritual health can only be prejudiced as the result of cramped and depressing dwelling conditions. Again, clean water and clean food have in a large measure been achieved, whereas clean air still remains a promise unfulfilled, and will do so until the weight of public opinion, brought about by patient and persistent education and propaganda, demands the implementation of measures to control both domestic and industrial sources of pollution, not omitting that caused by inefficient internal combustion engines. Although many problems have to be faced, none are insoluble, given the necessary climate of public feeling and a determination to succeed despite long standing customs and prejudices. In the sphere of more personal “public health” measures and preventive medicine, further effort, including research, and perhaps particularly research is needed to “bottom” the problems of still birth and prematurity which mar the sound record of achievement of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services: a better public response to all measures of

"active immunisation" is greatly to be desired, not least in regard to vaccination against small-pox and poliomyelitis: a more enlightened and thoughtful approach to accident prevention; and a greater public recognition of the great debt which, in general the younger generations owe to the older, coupled with a determination to see that individual and communal responsibility is accepted, so that the need for that loving care and protection which exists in the evening of life, equally as at its dawn, may be gladly and willingly met.

My thanks are due to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all members of the Health Committee, and of the Council, for deep and sustained interest which you have displayed throughout the year under review. I should also like to express my appreciation of the understanding and ever willing assistance which has been accorded me by my fellow-officers in the service of the Council, particularly by the Clerk and by the Collector, with both of whom I have been in consultation on many occasions. And finally, of course, I would convey my gratitude to Mr. Booth, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for his loyal and constant help in the work of the Health Department, to the Additional Inspectors Mr. Weir and Mr. Robinson, and to Mrs. Lightfoot for her very efficient work on the clerical side, and the willing and pleasant manner in which she carries out her duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of rural character. It is built up with dwelling houses, with Shops, Offices, Workshops, Factories, Churches, Mission Halls, Clubs, Hotels, and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering, including rolling-stock maintenance and repair, Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery manufacture, and Raincoat manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role in its activities.

2. STATISTICS—GENERAL

Area in acres: 3103.

| | | |
|---|-------|----------|
| Population: (Census, 1951) | ..... | 21,862 |
| (Estimated mid-1958) | ..... | 22,090 |
| Inhabited Houses: Rate Books (end 1958) | ..... | 7,065 |
| Rateable Value | ..... | £162,531 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ..... | £636 |
| Births assignable to District | ..... | 325 |
| Deaths assignable to District | ..... | 249 |
| "Natural Increase" | ..... | 76 |

3. VITAL STATISTICS

Births:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------------|-----|--------------|---|
| Live Births | 325 | Legitimate | 317 | Illegitimate | 8 |
| | | Male | 166 | Male | 5 |
| | | Female | 151 | Female | 3 |

Live Birth Rate "Crude"—14.7. "Adjusted"—14.4.

Still Births 12 Male 8 Female 4

Still Birth Rate 35.6 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

Deaths:

General: 249 Male 126 Female 123

Death Rates "Crude"—11.3 "Adjusted"—13.0

The "adjusted" death rate is the "crude" death rate after adjustment by a "comparability factor" supplied by the Registrar General.

Infant Deaths (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age)

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----|
| Total | 13 | Male | 7 | Female | 6 |
| Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 41 |
| Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | nil |
| Total Infant Mortality Rate | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 40 |

Neo-Natal Mortality

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age 11

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 33.8

Maternal Deaths Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate Nil

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLES

| Year | Live Births | | Deaths (All causes) | | Stillbirths | | Maternal Mortality | | Infant Mortality | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | Total | | Neo-natal | |
| | No. regst. | Rate per 1000 popn. | No. regst. | Rate per 1000 popn. | No. regst. | Rate per 1000 total births | No. of deaths regst. | Rate per 1000 total births | No of deaths regst. | Rate per 1000 live births | No of deaths regst. | Rate per 1000 live births |
| 1958 | 325 | *14.7 | 249 | *11.3 | 12 | 36 | nil | nil | 13 | 40 | 11 | 34 |
| 1957 | 349 | 15.9 | 225 | 10.3 | 7 | 20 | nil | nil | 9 | 26 | 8 | 23 |
| 1956 | 308 | 14.1 | 223 | 10.2 | 18 | 55 | 1 | 3.07 | 10 | 32 | 9 | 29 |
| 1955 | 306 | 14.0 | 221 | 10.1 | 4 | 13 | nil | nil | 9 | 29 | 6 | 20 |
| 1954 | 292 | 13.4 | 236 | 10.8 | 16 | 52 | nil | nil | 9 | 31 | 6 | 21 |
| 1953 | 366 | 16.7 | 253 | 11.5 | 13 | 34 | 1 | 2.64 | 18 | 49 | 14 | 38 |
| Avg 5 years 1953 1957 | 324 | 14.8 | 232 | 10.6 | 12 | 35 | 0.4 | 1.14 | 11 | 34 | 8.6 | 26 |

* Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 0.98) = 14.4 per 1000.

* Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.15) = 13.0 per 1000.

Comparison of Birth Rates, Death Rates, and Analysis of Morbidity and Mortality, with those for England and Wales

| | Newton-le-W. | | Lancs. Municipal Boroughs & Urban Dist. 1958 | England & Wales 1958 |
|---|--------------|--------|--|----------------------------|
| | 1957 | 1958 | | |
| Rate per 1,000 Population | | | | |
| Births— | | | | |
| Live | 15.9 | 14.7 | 16.49 | 16.4 |
| Still | 0.32 | * 0.54 | 0.39 | 0.36 |
| Deaths— | | | | |
| All causes | 10.3 | 11.3 | 13.99 | 11.7 |
| Tuberculosis (all forms) | nil | 0.09 | 0.10 | 0.10 |
| Respiratory | nil | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.09 |
| Non respiratory | 0.05 | nil | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Cancer (all forms) | 2.15 | 2.22 | 2.11 | 2.12 |
| Lungs & Bronchus | 0.41 | 0.58 | 0.42 | 0.44 |
| Other cancer | 1.74 | 1.63 | 1.29 | 1.68 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births | | | | |
| Maternal Mortality (total) | nil | nil | { 0.47 | 0.43 |
| Maternal causes (excluding abortion) | nil | nil | | 0.35 |
| Due to abortion | nil | nil | | 0.08 |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | | | | |
| Infant Mortality | 26 | 40 | 25.5 | 22.5 |
| Neo-natal mortality | 23 | 33.8 | 18.3 | 16.2 |
| Rate per 1,000 Population | | | | |
| Notifications— | | | | |
| Typhoid Fever | nil | nil | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Paratyphoid Fever | nil | nil | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Meningococcal Infection | nil | nil | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| Scarlet Fever | 2.92 | 1.17 | 0.93 | 0.86 |
| Whooping Cough | 1.95 | 0.05 | 0.70 | 0.74 |
| Diphtheria | nil | nil | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Erysipelas | 0.32 | 0.18 | 0.06 | 0.07 |
| Small Pox | nil | nil | nil | 0.00 |
| Measles | 18.13 | 3.21 | 4.84 | 5.75 |
| Ac. Pneumonia | 2.28 | 1.90 | 0.41 | 0.49 |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) | nil | 0.05 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| (Non Paralytic) | nil | nil | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Dysentery | nil | 0.05 | 1.22 | 0.84 |
| Food Poisoning | nil | nil | 0.26 | 0.20 |
| Tuberculosis, Respiratory | 0.95 | 0.45 | 0.49 | 0.59 |
| Meninges & C.N.S. | nil | nil | { 0.07 | 0.01 |
| Other | 0.09 | 0.09 | | 0.07 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | nil | nil | 0.05 | 0.24 |

* per 1,000 total births.

Deaths. The total number of deaths registered in the District was 169. Eight of these were non-residents, and have been transferred to the districts in which they usually resided. 88 residents of this area died in other districts.

An analysis of the causes of death is shown below:

| Cause of Death | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis (Respiratory) | 2 | — | 2 |
| Malignant Neoplasm— Stomach | 1 | — | 1 |
| Lungs, Bronchus | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Breast | — | 9 | 9 |
| Uterus | — | 3 | 3 |
| All other sites | 15 | 8 | 23 |
| Diabetes | — | 3 | 3 |
| Vas. Lesions of Nervous System | 8 | 16 | 24 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 21 | 19 | 40 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Other Heart disease | 23 | 29 | 52 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Pneumonia | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Bronchitis | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 1 | — | 1 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 2 | — | 2 |
| Gastritis, Enteritis | 1 | — | 1 |
| Nephritis & Nephrosis | 1 | — | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | 1 | — | 1 |
| Congenital malformations | 3 | — | 3 |
| Other defined or ill defined diseases | 11 | 11 | 22 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 1 | — | 1 |
| All other accidents | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Suicide | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Operations of War | 1 | — | 1 |
| All causes | 126 | 123 | 249 |

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The District's water supply continued to be obtained chiefly from the deep wells at the Council's Southworth Road Works, and Makerfield Bore-hole.

The water is of a high degree of purity and, though very hard is otherwise very satisfactory chemically.

18 bacteriological examinations of the raw water, and 9 of the water going into supply after treatment, were made. All highly satisfactory.

7064 dwelling houses, housing a population of 22,087 persons, are supplied with water from public mains. 1 house with 3 occupants draws supplies from a spring.

All new houses have been connected to the town's water mains.

Food—Inspection and Supervision of Supplies

(a) Milk Supply

Supervision of the distribution of Milk was continued and the following action was taken in relation to:—

| | | No. of Samples | No. satis- factory | No. unsatis- factory |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Raw Milk | | | | |
| (i) Tuberculosis— biological tests | .... | 14 | 14 (T.B. neg) | Nil |
| (ii) Methylene Blue reduction test | .... | 14 | 11 | 3 |
| (b) "Heat Treated" Milk | | | | |
| (i) Phosphatase test | .... | 28 | 28 | Nil |
| (ii) Methylene Blue reduction test | .... | 28 | 26 | 2 |
| (iii) Turbidity test | .... | 9 | 9 | Nil |

(b) Meat and Other Foods

Except for occasional slaughter by pig keepers of their own pigs for home consumption no slaughtering took place within the district.

All premises used for food preparation, butchers, grocers, ice-cream manufacturers and vendors, bakehouses, etc., were kept under observation and inspected regularly.

No case of food poisoning was notified.

(c) Adulteration

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and your Public Health Inspectors are sampling Officers.

26 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst, County Offices, Preston.

Rivers and Streams—Pollution of the several main streams running through the district from Ashton, Golborne, Haydock and St. Helens continues to varying degrees. Measures taken to deal with such pollution must of necessity be extemporary pending the completion of the Sankey Valley Sewerage Scheme, which should ease the position materially.

Drainage and Sewerage—Extensions have been made to all new houses. The connections from this District to the Sankey Valley trunk sewer have not yet been made.

5. HOUSING

2,370 houses and flats are owned by the Council, of which 1127 have been built in the post-war period.

During the year 84 houses have been erected by the local authority and 36 houses by other bodies or persons.

Closet Accommodation—Every privy and pail in the district has been converted to the water carriage system except for the few which are beyond reach of a sewer, below sewer level, or isolated by streams, railway lines or the canal.

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of privy middens | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11 |
| Number of closets attached to these middens | .... |  |  |  |  | 11 |
| Number of pail closets | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 32 |
| Number of chemical closets | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 |
| Number of houses on water carriage system | .... |  |  |  |  | 7022 |

There are no waste water closets and no dry ashpits in the district

Public Cleansing—A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage by motor vehicles, and disposal of the former by controlled tipping, are supervised by the Public Health Inspector.

No regular cleansing of cesspools is undertaken.

Scavenging, snow removal, gully emptying etc., are carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

Disposal of house refuse was by controlled tipping at the Swan Road site.

6. PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital Admissions

Hospital facilities for the treatment of cases of infectious diseases are provided at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Warrington, where isolation and treatment were provided for 11 cases, 8 of these being of Scarlet Fever, and at Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital where 2 cases of Scarlet Fever were isolated.

| Notifiable Diseases | Total cases Notified | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---|----|----|-------------|-------------|----|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Age Groups | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total cases at all ages | Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 25 and over | Age unknown | Total deaths |
| Scarlet Fever | 26 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 18 | 3 | 1 | — | — | nil |
| Measles | 71 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 42 | 2 | — | — | — | nil |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | nil |
| Dysentery | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | nil |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | nil |
| | | 0 | 5 | 15 | 45 | 65 and over | Age Unknown | | Total Deaths | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acute Pneumonia.... | 42 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 10 | — | | 3 | | | |
| Erysipelas | 4 | — | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | | nil | | | |
| Tuberculosis— Respiratory | 10 | — | — | 6 | 4 | — | — | | nil | | | |
| Other | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | | nil | | | |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—Comparative Table of Incidence

| Disease | 1953 Cases Deaths | 1954 Cases Deaths | 1955 Cases Deaths | 1956 Cases Deaths | 1957 Cases Deaths | 1953-57 Mean Cases Deaths | 1958 Cases Deaths |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 79 | 25 | 121 | 139 | 64 | 86 | 26 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 383 | 131 | 228 | 395 | 397 | 307 | 71 |
| Whooping Cough | 155 | 19 | 67 | 102 | 24 | 73 | 1 |
| Enteric Group Fevers | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 0.6 | 1 |
| Food Poisoning | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | — | — | — | — | 1 | 0.2 | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 1.4 | — |
| Poliomyelitis | — | — | — | 1 | — | 0.2 | 1 |
| Meningococcal Infection | — | — | 1 | 3 | — | 0.8 | — |
| Acute Encephalitis | — | — | — | 2 | — | 0.4 | — |
| Infective | — | — | — | — | — | 0.2 | — |
| Post Infectious | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Primary & Influenzal | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 33 | 24 | 21 | 42 | 50 | 34 | 42 |
| Erysipelas | 13 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 9.8 | 4 |
| Tuberculosis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Respiratory | 23 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 16.6 | 10 |
| Non-respiratory | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3.0 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 693 | 230 | 465 | 709 | 568 | 533 | 158 |
| | | | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5.6 | 5 |

7. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

- (1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

| Premises (1) | Number on Register (3) | Number of | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Inspections (4) | Written notices (5) | Occupiers prosecuted (6) |
| (1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 4 | 2 | 1 | — |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 52 | 33 | 3 | — |
| (3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises | 8 | 4 | — | — |
| Totals | 64 | 39 | 4 | — |

- (2) **Cases in which Defects were found**

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

| Particulars (1) | No of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7) |
|---|---|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Found (3) | remedied (4) | To H.M. Inspector (5) | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness (s.1.) | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Sanitary conveniences insufficient (s.7.) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unsuitable or defective | 5 | 5 | — | 1 | — |
| Totals | 7 | 7 | — | 1 | — |

8. PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(1) Laboratory Arrangements

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at its Monsall Laboratory, Monsall Green, Near Manchester, or alternatively at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston, whilst as regards water supplies, the arrangements previously in force with Messrs. Melling & Arden, Manchester, have been continued.

(2) Hospital Arrangements

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board: Warrington & District Hospital Management Committee)

As regards hospitals the District lies within the boundaries of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, which administers Newton-le-Willows War Memorial (General) Hospital in Bradlegh Road, Wargrave, with a nominal establishment of 10 beds. The former Isolation Hospital now accommodates an up-to-date and well equipped Out-patient department, including X-ray and physiotherapy facilities: and in addition, a modern specially designed Chest Clinic, under the direction of Dr. Black, Consultant Chest Physician for the Warrington area.

The great majority of persons requiring both general out-patient and in-patient investigation and treatment are dealt with by the Warrington Infirmary and by the General Hospital, Warrington, whilst cases of infectious disease requiring isolation are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Aikin Street, Warrington.

Expectant mothers requiring to be confined otherwise than in their own homes, whether on medical, obstetrical or environmental grounds, are normally admitted either to the maternity wards of the General Hospital Warrington (if obstetrical complications are likely) or to the Victoria Park, Maternity Home, Latchford, Warrington. But in the event of beds being unavailable at these hospitals, the bookings are then made with Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, St. Helens, The County Hospital, Whiston, or Billinge Hospital, depending on bed availability.

Child patients requiring attention in Children's Hospitals are admitted to the paediatric wards of the General Hospital, Warrington; the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool, and to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Manchester; also to the Leasowe Children's Hospital, Leasowe, Wirral, and the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital, Biddulph, Near Congleton, when specialised Orthopaedic care is indicated.

(3) Ambulance Arrangements

Local Health Authority Services (No. 10 Health Division, Lancashire County Council)

Full responsibility for the management and operation of the Ambulance Service rests with the County Council as the Local Health Authority, and the district is fortunately placed in containing a County Ambulance Station, sited in conjunction with the Fire Station in Borron Road, Earlestown (Telephone Newton-le-Willows 2013), from which three "Stretcher" ambulances, two dual-purpose vehicles and one sitting case car, have operated on behalf of all types of cases, i.e. emergency, infectious disease, and general.

There has been a very considerable increase in the public demand for ambulance transport, as is shown by the subjoined summary of cases conveyed from the Urban District. The Earlestown Ambulance Station, of course, also serves other parts of No. 10 Health Division.

Summary of Cases Conveyed

| | | |
|------------------|------|-------|
| Non Urgent Cases | .... | 8,426 |
| Emergency Cases | .... | 650 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 9,076 |
| | | <hr/> |

(4) Treatment Centres and Clinics

Child Welfare Clinics are held twice weekly at The Gables, Crow Lane West, on Monday and Thursday afternoons; and an Ante-Natal Clinic each Wednesday morning. Extensive repairs and rebuilding necessitated by damage due to mining subsidence, were completed during the early part of the year, and the premises were again taken into use on 29th and 30th May, on returning from temporary accommodation at Latham House.

Attendances at the Welfare sessions have been very satisfactory throughout the year, as is shown by the following figures.

Child Welfare Centre, "The Gables," Crow Lane West

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer: Dr. E. T. Smiddy (Thursday afternoon session)

Health Visitors: Miss Heap, Mrs. Burrows, Miss Atkinson and Mrs. Speakman.

| <i>No. of sessions during the year</i> | <i>No. of individual children who attended and were born in</i> | | | <i>No. of attendances by children at ages</i> | | |
|--|---|------|---------|---|-----|--------------|
| | 1958 | 1957 | 1956-53 | 0— | 1— | 2-4 incl. |
| 99 | 233 | 230 | 116 | 4,673 | 788 | 467 |
| Total | | 579 | | 5,928 | | |

Ante-Natal Clinic, "The Gables," Crow Lane West

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---|
| Consultant Obstetrician | ..... | Mr. Gordon Millington (Alternate Wednesday mornings) |
| Medical Officer | ..... | Dr. E. T. Smiddy |
| Health Visitor | ..... | Miss I. Heap |
| No. of individual women attending | | 162 |
| No. of attendances | ..... | 492 |

School Clinic, "The Gables," Crow Lane West

General

The work at this Clinic has continued, although on a considerably reduced scale, owing to changes brought about by the National Health Service Act, whereby the general medical care and treatment of the school-child becomes the responsibility of the family practitioner, such advice and treatment by the practitioner now given without cost to the parent. Despite this, the Education Authority still retains a duty to provide a comprehensive scheme of treatment for children of school ages.

Both general medical and specialist sessions are held as detailed below:—

Assistant Divisional School Medical Officer—Dr. E. T. Smiddy.

School Nurses and Health Visitors in attendance—Mrs. Speakman and Miss Atkinson.

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer's Session is held each Friday morning during school term.

The Nurse's re-dressing, etc., session is held each Tuesday morning during school term.

Dental

The School Dental Officer, Mr. A. E. Shaw, ably assisted by his Dental Assistant, Miss Entwistle, has continued the dental inspection of all school children in the district during periodic visits to schools, and afforded both conservative and radical treatment to those requiring it. Expectant and nursing mothers, and children of pre-school age are also eligible for advice and treatment, including where necessary the provision of dentures for the former group.

It is with great regret that one must record Mr. Shaw's departure from the Earlestown Clinic and district, where he was widely known and much appreciated for his excellent services as a dental surgeon, and his great charm of personality. He left, with some considerable regret, after nearly thirty years work among the children, to take up a higher post as Senior Dental Officer at Bolton.

Ophthalmic

Ophthalmologist—Mr. Barker.

School Nurse in attendance—Mrs. Speakman.

Sessions are held weekly each Monday morning.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon may only be consulted by appointment.

Orthopaedic

Orthopaedic Surgeon—Mr. Almond.

Orthopaedic Nurse—Mrs. Garrett.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends one half day session monthly, seeing both new and old cases by appointment: the Nurse attends one whole day weekly, for the purpose of supervising the treatment prescribed, for adjustment of splints, etc., and for the tuition of remedial exercises to improve defects and deformities in posture, stance, feet, etc. She also attends with suitable cases at the St. Helens Baths, to instruct in remedial exercises carried out in the water.

Speech Therapy

Therapist—Miss Cowan.

Sessions held each Thursday a.m. and p.m. (By appointment only).

(5) Midwifery Arrangements

The district has been covered by three fully trained whole-time domiciliary midwives, each of whom has a car available for her duties, and has under-gone a course of instruction in gas-air and trilene analgesia. She has available the necessary apparatus to enable a mother to secure at all events very considerable relief from the pains of labour. The trend towards hospital confinement has also continued, and as a result of these factors the number of babies actually born at home has been reduced.

Mrs. S. E. Butler, 46 Kingsway, Wargrave.

Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3210.

Miss G. J. McGuinness, 73 Common Road.

Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3778.

(Resigned September, 1958).

Miss E. Critchley, 73 Common Road.

Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3778.

(Commenced duty January, 1958).

(6) Health Visiting Arrangements

This work has been carried out by three whole-time and fully trained Health Visitors (whom combined with Health Visiting duties those of School Nurse), and by one part-time Health Visitor: these domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision of the children and the health education of the families, are of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above. The names and addresses of the Health Visitors engaged are:—

Miss I. Heap, Maynard, Belvedere Road, Earlestown.

Mrs. E. Burrows, 33 Regal Drive, Windle, St. Helens.

Miss E. Atkinson, 88 Whitefield Road, Walton, Warrington.

Mrs. Speakman, 36 Brooke Lane, Pemberton.

(Commenced duty July, 1958)

Mrs. M. Parker (Part time), Higher Astley, Vitriol Square, Earlestown.

(7) Home Nursing Arrangements.

Home nursing is now undertaken by four whole-time nurses, assisted by a state enrolled Assistant Nurse in suitable cases. The demand for nursing services has continued to grow, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, the staff have been kept very fully occupied throughout the year.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Nurses are:-

Mrs. M.M. Charnley, 3 Park Avenue North, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 2069.

Mrs. O. Falcon, 60 Grosvenor Gardens, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 2419.

Miss D. Johnson, 158 Park Road South, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3539.

Miss M. Littler, 69 Oak Avenue, Newton-le-Willows.
Telephone: Newton-le-Willows 3521.

Mrs. E. M. Ward, 138 Belvedere Road.

Nursing Equipment—Provision for Loans.

A wide variety of ancillary nursing equipment which may be required in the home—ranging from hospital type beds, wheel-chairs, dunlopillo mattresses and similar large items, down to smaller but none-the-less essential articles such as feeding cups, air rings, bed pans etc., is available on loan on the recommendation of the Nurse having charge of the case, at no cost to the patient except for damage not occasioned by reasonable “wear and tear”. Some of the larger items are available from small central stocks held at the Divisional Health Offices, whilst each nurse holds a small local supply of the less bulky and more frequently required articles.

(8) Home Help Arrangements.

This is a “permissive” service provided by the County Council through No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public although in the great majority of cases it is so. The aim is to provide domestic help when required by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, mental deficiency, an expectant mother, or to assist in the care of a child or children. The service has continued to expand during the year in question as the public have become more fully aware of the facilities provided, and in certain urgent cases “evening help” and night help have been made available.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time "helps"; no whole time workers are employed. The Home Help Organiser and Welfare Worker, Miss P. Butler, who is responsible for the immediate day-to-day operation of the scheme and is one of the Divisional Medical Officer's Staff. Responsibilities for Welfare Services under the National Assistance Act, 1948, have entailed still further expansion of this service.

During the current year the number of cases helped in the Urban District was 346, of which 287 were persons aged 65 or more. This help was provided by 84 Home-helps, all part-time workers, the majority of whom were employed from 20-30 hours per week. The total number of hours of help provided, based on the Divisional average, is estimated at 55,800, or 197 hours per case over 68 days, or 2.9 hours per day per case.

(9) Mental Health Arrangements.

The Urban District, being part of the Health Division, is covered for this purpose by two Duly Authorised Officers of No. 10 Health Division, and by a lady Mental Worker, who deal with all the aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts, and the Mental Treatment Act.

The names and addresses of these officers are:-

Mr. Griffin, Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory Winwick.
Telephone: Warrington 33144.

Mr. D. Ryan, Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick.
Telephone: Warrington 33144.

Miss M. V. Phillips, Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick
Telephone: Warrington 33144.

Any request for the services of the Duly Authorised Officer outside of normal office hours should be made through the Ambulance Station—Newton-le-Willows 2013.

(10) Arrangements for the Prevention of Illness, Care and after Care, (including Tuberculosis), and the provision of Convalescent Accommodation.

Responsibility for such arrangements rest with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis: "illness" includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the District is Miss Monks, who maintains supervision of patients in their homes, and arranges for their examination or re-examination, and for that of contacts (including X-ray investigation) at the Chest Clinic at Bradlegh Road Hospital, administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, and attended by Dr. Black, the Consultant Chest Physician, Warrington Area.

As regards Health Education—(a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness—it is pertinent here to emphasize that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the local health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

(11) Vaccination and Immunisation Arrangements.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, are available to all who desire it, either through the family doctor, who carries it out as part of his duties to the patient, or by attendance at the immunisation sessions held at the Child Welfare Centre, The Gables Crow Lane West, where this work is carried out by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

As regards the immunisation position, there are no grounds for complacency: the position has deteriorated slightly since 1957.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population under the age of 15 in an immunised state at 31st. December, 1958, was 61% as against a figure of 67% for the child population in Health Division 10 as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 138 persons, of whom 103 were infants under 1 year of age, underwent primary vaccination whilst 48 adults were re-vaccinated. If one deducts from the total of 353 live births belonging to the District in 1957, the 13 infant deaths, this means that out of the 340 survivors, 103 were vaccinated, or approximately 2 in every 7 children born.

In regard to smallpox vaccination, therefore, the position has worsened slightly: this may possibly be due to the public interest in and emphasis on poliomyelitis vaccination.

During the course of the year the several types of "Antigen" (i.e. inoculation material) continued to be available: in addition to the old established diphtheria toxoids, which protect against diphtheria only, inoculations against whooping cough also, using the "combined" antigen, and additionally against "lock jaw" (tetanus), using the "triple" antigen, were carried out in conformity with the parents' wishes.

The number of children protected by these various means were as follows.

(a) Against Diphtheria (Primary Inoculations) only.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Under 2 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| 2-5 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | nil |
| From 5 to 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28 |
| Over 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| Total Primary Inoculations | .... | .... | .... | .... | 46 |

Re-inforcement (Booster) Inoculations

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Under 5 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| From 5 to 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| Over 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | nil |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| Total | | | | | 18 |

(b) Against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough (Combined antigen)

Primary nil

Booster

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Under 5 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 |
| 5-14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 22 |
| Over 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | nil |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| Total | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28 |

(c) Against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus (Triple antigen)

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Under 2 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 217 |
| 2-5 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| From 5 to 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 |
| Over 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | nil |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| Total | | | | | 228 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| Booster | | | | | |
| Under 5 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| From 5-14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 |
| Over 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | nil |
| Total | | | | | 54 |

The grand totals of children protected by primary inoculations against diphtheria during the year are thus 274 (of which 222 were under 5 years of age), against whooping cough 228 (of which 221 were under 5 years of age), and against tetanus 228, (of which 221 were under the age of 5 years).

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The programme of "vaccination" against Poliomyelitis, which commenced during 1956, has continued throughout the year with a considerable measure of success.

In September the Ministry of Health decided to extend the scheme, which formerly related only to children born in the years 1947-56 inclusive, expectant mothers, the families of general practitioners, ambulance staffs, and certain other "priority group," to all persons born in the years 1933-46 inclusive.

Details of poliomyelitis vaccinations carried out during the year in Newton-le-Willows are as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|-----|
| No. of children who received two injections:- | | | | | |
| Under 5 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 326 |
| From 5 to 14 years of age | .... | .... | .... | .... | 525 |
| 15 to 25 years of age.... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 145 |
| Total | | | | | 996 |

(9) The Children Act, 1948.

In the main this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years, who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of the Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Childrens Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day to day operation of the Service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Newton-le-Willows Urban District lies administratively within the purview of the Area Children's Officer of the Leigh Area, who is assisted by Childrens Social Workers, the latter being responsible for all matters relating to "deprived children, e.g. the provision of accommodation, the inspection and report on prospective foster homes, infant life protection, supervision of

adopted children during the probationary period, the care and conveyance to suitable "places of safety" of children committed by the Courts to the care of the Authority as a "fit person" under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, and so on.

The Area Children's Officer and her Visitors work in close co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officer and his staff, and I am happy to say that in this District (included in No. 10 Health Division), the relationship is most effective and cordial.

The Leigh Area Children's Officer is:-

Miss J. W. Cole, 89/91, Railway Road, Leigh.
Telephone: Leigh 1658.

10. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1933.

NEGLECTED CHILDREN—PROBLEM FAMILIES

Very deep consideration has been given in recent years in an effort to improve the lot of children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes — a problem formerly left almost exclusively to the good offices and unflagging zeal of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children—the N.S.P.C.C.. So often, however, is it found that such children come from poor stock, both mentally and physically, from such poor homes, structurally and socially, and that their whole environment is so complex, that much more team work is required if the desired end is to be achieved: housing conditions, unemployment and financial stringency, marital disharmony, mental and emotional illness, improvidence and general social inadequacy are in various combinations and degrees at the root of parental neglect. Following an advisory memorandum issued jointly by the Home Office, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, which suggested the appointment by each Local Health Authority of a Co-ordinating Officer, (whose primary function should be to convene regular conferences of all persons and parties having responsibilities in these various fields) the County Council appointed the County Medical Officer of Health as its Co-ordinating Officer: and his responsibility has in turn been delegated to Divisional Medical Officers, within their respective Health Divisions.

11. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

So far as the Urban District is concerned, the Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case also, is on the divisional basis. The main provisions of Part III relate to accommodation for those requiring it, and to welfare services in general for persons handicapped by infirmities such as blindness, deafness, dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities.

The scheme of the County Council in regard to welfare services utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation. Receiving Ministerial approval last year, it is widely comprehensive of the needs of all aged and handicapped persons, including social welfare, home and workshop employment, occupational therapy, the disposal of the products of employment, training facilities in arts and crafts, and the need for holiday homes and hostels.

The County Council's policy in regard to aged persons is, of course, to assist them in every way to remain in their own homes as long as possible: thereafter, to provide supervision and help in specially designed old persons bungalows, where the Housing Authority are willing to accept this scheme and only finally to admit them to hostel care, or to other welfare accommodation. As a first step, the formation in every County District of a District Old Peoples' Welfare Committee, representative of all corporation bodies, both statutory and voluntary, concerned with the welfare of old people, is strongly advocated.

Mr. P. D. Parker, as Divisional Welfare Organiser, assists the Divisional Medical Officer in this newly developing field of socio-medical activity to promote the formation of District Old People's Welfare Committees, and to foster liaison and co-ordination between statutory and voluntary bodies concerned with the care of the aged and the handicapped.

Section 47 of the Act places on the Local County District Council responsibility for making applications to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to secure the removal to a suitable hospital or other institution of any aged and infirm person who is unable to devote to himself proper care and attention, and is not receiving such from other persons. The application is made following certification by the Medical Officer of Health that such removal is necessary. No action under this Section was required during the current year.

Section 50 of the Act is of importance in that it places on the District Council the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

The work of the Department was again affected by changes in staff, the Additional Inspector Mr. Weir, resigning in June to take up an appointment with Aspall U.D.C., being succeeded in October by Mr. Robinson who was District Inspector to Manchester County Borough.

Mr. Robinson was the third Additional Inspector to be appointed within the last two years and is the first of the three to hold the Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods. As a student, part of his practical training in the work of a Public Health Inspector was obtained in Newton-le-Willows, and it must be a source of satisfaction to the Council, as it is to me, that he has returned as a fully qualified inspector to give his services to a District which helped to train him.

During the past thirty-six months you have had the services of a full staff of two qualified inspectors for only twenty months, and the frequency of these changes in personnel, with the periods taken to fill the vacancies, have had an adverse effect on the amount of work performed in the local field of environmental hygiene.

It is with regret that I record the passing of Councillor Mrs. C. Carr who was a member of the Health Committee during the whole of my period of service with the Council and who was for thirteen years Vice Chairman of the Committee. Her interest in the work of the department never waned, and her genuine and kindly concern in the welfare of the staff was greatly appreciated.

1. GENERAL SANITATION

(a) Water Supply

Regular routine sampling for bacteriological examination of the raw water distribution at the Council's two Waterworks and of the chlorinated water continued and in every case the results were highly satisfactory.

b) Sanitary Accommodation.

All but 43 houses are served by water closets, the few which still have the conservancy system being remote houses and farms which are outside the reach of sewers.

A branch sewer to connect the Central Sewage Works with the Sankey Valley trunk sewer has been laid from the Works as far as the St. Helens Canal and work on the Haydock connection to this was almost completed.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collection is by motor vehicle, two "Chelsea" type Dennis Vehicles of 10 cu. yd. capacity and a Dennis "Dual Tip" of 18 cu. yd. capacity. A weekly collection was maintained as far as possible.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping and salvage and no complaints of the Swan Road Tip were registered.

Collection of waste paper was continued and 111 tons 6 cwt. 3 qrs. were disposed of producing an income of £836-10-9d.

2. INSPECTIONS DURING 1958.

Premises visited:—

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| No. of premises visited | 923 |
| No. of visits | 1805 |

Defects or nuisances:—

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| No. discovered | 458 |
| No. abated | 516 |

No. of notices served:—

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Informal | 168 |
| Statutory | 46 |

3. STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED. ETC.

Complaints received and investigated:—

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Defects and Nuisances | 137 |
| Rats and Mice | 94 |

(A) Analysis of Visits Made by Inspectors.

(a) General Sanitation.

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Water Supply | 66 |
| Drainage | 78 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 7 |
| Factories | 39 |
| Workplaces | 14 |
| Bakehouses | 9 |
| Refuse Collection & Disposal | 58 |
| Licensed Houses | 3 |
| Shops | 74 |
| Smoke observations | 5 |
| Rats and Mice | 142 |
| Schools | 5 |
| Miscellaneous | 31 |
| Total | 531 |

(b) Housing.

Under Public Health Acts.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| No. of houses inspected | 204 |
| Visits to above | 884 |

Under Housing Acts.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| No. of houses inspected | 86 |
| Visits paid to above | 277 |

Verminous Premises.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| No. of houses inspected | 8 |
| Visits paid to above | 8 |

Rent Act.

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| No. of houses inspected | 66 |
|-------------------------|----|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Miscellaneous Housing Visits | 52 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Total | 1585 |
|--------------|-------------|

hygiene.

| | | | | |
|------------|------|------|------|-----|
| and stalls | .... | .... | .... | 10 |
| premises | .... | .... | .... | 5 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 31 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 112 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 29 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 42 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 528 |
| carts | .... | .... | .... | 15 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 16 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 |

Sampling

| | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| 33 | 11 | 30 | 10 |
|----|----|----|----|

9543105

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| and | .... | .... | .... | .... | 168 |
| lied with |  |  | .... | .... | 144 |
| d | .... | .... | .... | .... | 46 |
| lied with | .... | .... | .... | .... | 46 |

(C) Analysis of Defects noted and remedied

| <i>Type of Defect</i> | <i>Recorded</i> | <i>Remedied</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chimney stacks, pots, flues | 11 | 11 |
| Brickwork and/or pointing | 38 | 35 |
| Doors and frames | 6 | 17 |
| Drain stoppages | 29 | 29 |
| Drains repaired or renewed | 5 | 5 |
| Dustbins | 20 | 23 |
| Firegrates | 7 | 2 |
| Floors | 25 | 29 |
| Paving | 2 | — |
| Rainwater pipes | 74 | 83 |
| Roofs | 73 | 92 |
| Water Supply | 14 | 15 |
| Plaster | 38 | 49 |
| Waste Pipes | 2 | 5 |
| Water Pipes | 19 | 17 |
| W.C. Structures | 19 | 22 |
| W.C. basins, cisterns etc. | 22 | 25 |
| Window frames, sashes, cords | 30 | 35 |
| Miscellaneous | 24 | 22 |
| Totals | 458 | 516 |

4. SHOPS AND OFFICES

| | <i>No. of Inspections</i> | <i>Results and any sub- sequent action</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Action taken under provision of: | | |
| (a) Shops Act 1950 relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences | 74 | Notices served and complied with in respect of sanitary conveniences at two shops |
| (b) Public Health Act 1936, relating to conditions in offices | 14 | No action necessary |

5. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The appointed day for full operation of the Clean Air Act was fixed as June, 1958.

There were 12 factory chimneys in the district and observations taken during the year numbered 5.

No legal proceedings were necessary and informal approach to one firm, where a short observation seemed to indicate that the amount of dark smoke emitted might exceed the permitted period, resulted in arrangements being made for disposal of waste products other than by burning.

Observations of the Colliery spoil banks on the district boundary indicated continuance of methods of control by the National Coal Board and no nuisance was either complained of or seen.

6. VERMIN CONTROL

(A) Insect Pests.

Of recent years there have been marked changes in this aspect of the work. Twenty years ago the few complaints of bug, flea, or cockroach infestations were received through the Housing Department workmen called upon to work in infested Council Houses; occupiers generally were reluctant to notify infestation, and the majority of these infestations were discovered whilst inspecting houses for other purposes. Action by the department was confined to the eradication of bugs, fleas and cockroaches, these being considered prejudicial to health.

Nowadays, and possibly due to the use of modern insecticides, infestations by the above named pests are few and it has been difficult to find samples of these insects to show to students.

Householders bring along all kinds of insects for identification, and seek advice and help to eradicate them from houses, and gardens however harmless they may be.

The department has been called on to identify various types of insect during the year including "burying" beetle (often mistaken for the Colorado beetle), cupboard beetle, and gnats; whilst it has been expected that we should eradicate bees, wasps, ants, silverfish, woodworm, and even caterpillars.

Generally it was found that the advice given enabled occupiers to deal successfully with their respective pests, and those which were treated by the department were:—

No. of houses found to be infested

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|---|
| (a) Council Houses (cockroaches) | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| (b) Other Houses (Cockroaches) | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| (Bugs) | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| (Fleas) | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| No. of visits to verminous premises | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| No. of verminous premises treated | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |

(B) Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The posts of rodent operative remained unfilled during the year and routine inspection of land and premises within the District to discover infestations was not carried out.

Inspections and treatments following receipt of complaints was undertaken mainly by the Student Inspector.

Action relating to rodent control during year:—

| | <i>Type of Property</i> | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----|
| | <i>Non-Agricultural</i> | <i>Agricultural</i> | |
| | <i>Dwelling houses</i> | <i>All other</i> | |
| (a) No. of properties in district | 690 | 460 | 18 |
| (b) No. of properties inspected | 58 | 30 | 6 |
| (c) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections).... | 507 | 152 | 12 |
| (d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:— | | | |
| Rats—major | — | 2 | — |
| minor | 36 | 18 | — |
| Mice—major | — | 4 | — |
| minor | 7 | 6 | — |
| (e) No. of infested properties treated | 43 | 28 | — |
| (f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments) | 43 | 28 | — |
| (g) No. of "Block" control schemes carried out | — | — | — |
| (h) Other Action | | | |

A test of 10% of the sewer manholes was made in April followed by a treatment of those showing signs of infestation and adjacent manholes.

In October the new technique of extended pre-baiting, using Warfarin as the poison with para-nitro-phenol as a preservative, was introduced. The immediate results were encouraging, but until more of the six monthly treatments using this method have been carried out comparison of the effects of the new technique with those of the old cannot be made.

7. HOUSING

| | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (a) | Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:— | |
| | Total number of houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 277 |
| | No. of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose | 1147 |
| | Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit: | |
| | No. found during year | 63 |
| | Total estimated number at end of year | 71 |
| | No. of unfit dwelling houses capable of being rendered fit | 168 |

| | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| (b) (i) | Houses Demolished:— | |
| | Under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957 | 14 |
| | Persons displaced | 106 |
| | Families displaced | 35 |

| | | |
|------|--|----|
| (ii) | Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health: | |
| | No. demolished | 17 |
| | Persons displaced | 55 |
| | Families displaced | 13 |

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (c) | Unfit Houses Closed:— | |
| | Under sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1947 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 | 3 |
| | Persons displaced | 7 |
| | Families displaced | 1 |

(d) Progress under 1954 Act Programme:—

Action under the 1954 Act Programme was almost completed only 30 remaining pending decisions. Of these 25 were included in Grafton Street Clearance Order in respect of which a Public Inquiry is to be held, and 5 were awaiting the statutory meeting with the owners.

Action in extension of the programme must continue as, contrary to expectations, the decay of property was not halted by the inducement of increased rents, and some houses which, it was expected, would be repaired, have been further neglected bringing them within the scope of section 16, Housing Act, 1957.

| | |
|---|-----|
| No. of houses demolished | 96 |
| No. of houses closed | 6 |
| No. of orders made but not yet complied with | 28 |
| No. of houses in which action is in hand | 30 |
| No. of house closed or demolished voluntarily by owners | 3 |
| No of houses made fit voluntarily by owners | 14 |
| No. of houses in respect of which undertakings to make fit have been accepted | 2 |
| Total number of houses included in Programme | 179 |
| <hr/> | |
| (e) Unfit houses made Fit and in which Defects were Remedied:— | |
| After informal action by local authority | 140 |
| After formal notice | 28 |

(f) Overcrowding

No new cases of overcrowding of dwellings was discovered during the year and three were abated leaving one on the register. This can be regarded as satisfactory, and although no survey of the district has been made, it is considered that undiscovered cases of overcrowding can be very few.

The number of modifications of overcrowding is increasing but inquiry almost invariably reveals bedroom deficiency rather than statutory overcrowding.

Revision of the standard, which was expected within a few years of the action taken following the Housing Act 1936, is overdue.

Revision of the overcrowding standards and introduction of a "bedroom" basis would provide a more satisfactory standard.

8. RENT ACT, 1957

Although the initial spate of enquiries and applications regarding certificates of disrepair eased off during the year, there being only 34 applications as against 78 in 1957, the follow-up action by tenants and landlords with regard to cancellations of certificates and non-compliance with undertakings kept work in connection with the Rent Act at the flood.

The following is a statement of action taken:—

| | |
|--|----|
| Applications received on Form I | 34 |
| No. of G. Forms checked at houses | 36 |
| No. of Certificates authorised—in full | 29 |
| —in part | 7 |
| No. of Certificates refused | — |

| | |
|---|----|
| Notices of proposal to issue Certificates (Form J).... | 36 |
| Undertakings accepted (Form K) | 13 |
| Undertakings refused | 1 |
| Certificates issued (Form L) | 22 |
| No. of applications for Cancellation of Certificates (Form M) | 13 |
| No. of notices to tenants of intention to cancel (Form N) | 13 |
| No. of cancellations | 11 |
| No. of refusals to cancel | 2 |
| No. of applications for Certificates that defects had not been remedied (Form O) | 19 |
| No of Certificates (Form P) issued.... | 19 |

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) **Milk Supply**—action taken with regard to the administration of the Milk and Dairies Act and Regulations

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:—

No. of distributors registered by the local authority and operating from:—

| | |
|---|----|
| (a) dairies in the district | 5 |
| (b) Shops in the district other than dairies | 66 |
| (c) Premises outside the district | 6 |

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54.

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1957 in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk 20

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised) and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949-53

No. of licences issued in respect of "Heat treated" milk:—

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Pasteurising plants | 0 |
| Sterilising plants | 0 |
| Retail distributors: | |
| (a) "Pasteurised" | 29 |
| (b) "Sterilised" | 75 |

No action was necessary under Regulations 19 and 20 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 nor under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods (excluding adulteration)**

There is no public abattoir nor private slaughterhouse in the district and meat and other foods were inspected on request and whilst engaged on routine inspections of food premises, etc.

The following food stocks or consignments were condemned during the year:—

| <i>Type of Food</i> | <i>Quantity</i> | <i>Weight</i> |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | <i>Condemned</i> <i>Tins</i> | <i>Lbs.</i> |
| Canned Meat | 81 | 475 |
| Canned Vegetables | 32 | 24 |
| Canned Milk | 14 | 7 |
| Canned Fruit | 50 | 47 |
| Canned Fish | 11 | 3 |
| Miscellaneous Canned Foods | 17 | 15 |
| Poultry | | 137 |
| Dried Fruit | | 11 |
| Bacon and Ham | | 15 |
| Potatoes | | 1670 |
| Total weight 1 ton 2 cwt. 1 qtr. 12 lbs. | | |

(c) **No. of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year**

| | |
|--|----|
| General grocers and provision dealers | 91 |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.) | 17 |
| Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.).... | 1 |
| Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.).... | 20 |
| Bakers and/or Confectioners | 11 |
| Fried Fish shops | 13 |
| Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. | 34 |
| Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments.... | 36 |
| Others | 7 |

(d) **No. of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, the Lancashire County Council Acts or other local Acts.**

| <i>Type of business</i> | <i>Legislation under which registration effected</i> | <i>No. of inspections of registered premises</i> | |
|---|--|--|--------------------|
| | | <i>No. registered at 31/12/58</i> | <i>during year</i> |
| Preservation of Food | Food & Drugs Act | 10 | 15 |
| Sale, Manufacture or Storage of Ice Cream | Food & Drugs Act | 78 | 42 |

Hawkers of food and
their premises:—

Lancashire County
Council General
Powers Act, 1951

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| (a) Fish, Fruit and Vegetables | 10 | 31 |
| (b) Preserved Foods | 9 | 25 |

(c) Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Sampling during the year:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Milk—No. of samples taken | 15 |
| No. adulterated | 0 |
| Articles other than Milk— | |
| No. of samples taken | 11 |
| No. adulterated | 0 |

| Articles | No. Taken |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Milk | 15 |
| Coffee | 1 |
| Desicated Cocoanut | 1 |
| Oatmeal | 1 |
| Ground Rice | 1 |
| Cheese | 1 |
| Butter | 1 |
| Margarine | 1 |
| Tea | 1 |
| Self raising flour | 1 |
| Salt | 1 |
| Sugar | 1 |

(f) Action under Food & Drugs Act 1955 and Regulations

Inspections made during the year numbered 855 and written confirmation of contraventions discovered was made in 46 cases.

10. ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

(a) Petroleum Acts and Orders

There were 25 licensed storage premises for petroleum spirit of which 19 were for private use and 6 were for the supply of petrol to the public.

2 premises were licensed to store carbide of calcium.

(b) Lethal Chamber

An electrical cabinet for the painless destruction of unwanted dogs and cats was maintained and a charge of one shilling per animal is made except to pensioners, who are exempt from payment.

71 dogs and 45 cats were dealt with and the income amounted to £5-14-0d.

(c) Shops Act, 1950

The Council is the Shops Act authority for the district and the Public Health Inspectors were appointed Inspectors for all the purposes of the Act.

Generally the Act is being observed but suspicion that mixed shops, legitimately open for the sale of exempted articles after general closing hours and on Sundays, might be dealing in non-exempted goods, necessitated the expenditure of a great deal of time outside normal working hours.

33 evenings and portions of 6 Sundays were spent on this work.

(d) Factories Act, Section 34

Factories requiring certificates of means of escape in case of fire numbered 14, 12 of which have been certified. Of the two outstanding one was new and the management of the other had been notified that alterations were necessary before the Certificate could be issued.

(e) Pet Animal Act, 1951

Licences were issued in respect of the two pet shops in the district, and the shops were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

The work has been helped along by the interest shown and the assistance given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, and all my fellow officers.

Special appreciation must be recorded of the efficient assistance rendered by the staff of the department, and of the continued help and support afforded by Dr. Crawford.

Yours faithfully,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



