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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

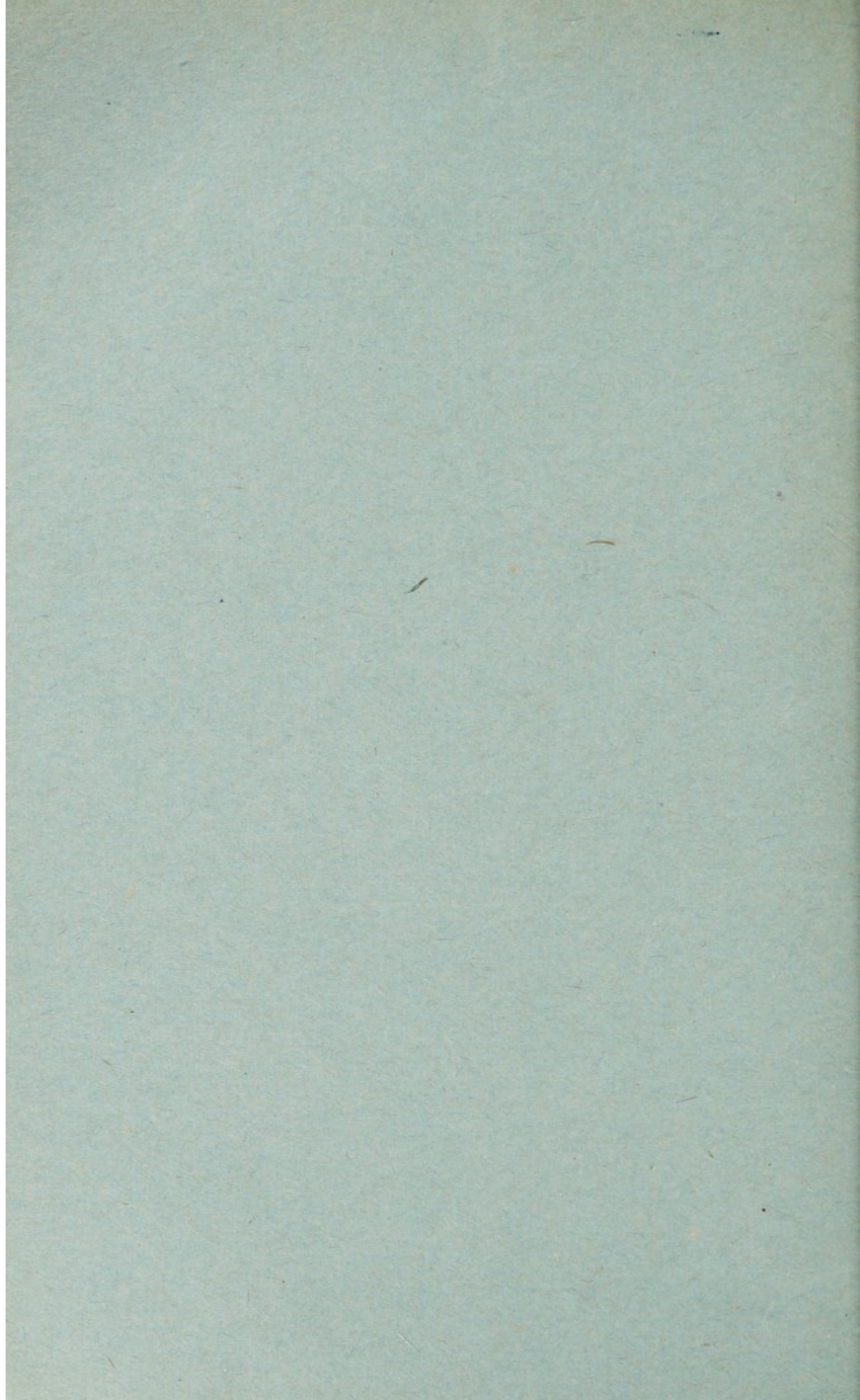
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1950.

NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, LTD., PRINTERS.





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Northwich Rural District Council.

Health Report for 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the district during the year 1950.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | 57,547 acres |
| Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34,970 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) including "squatters" huts at Hartford Manor Camp | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11,004 |
| Rateable value (1st October, 1950) | ... | ... | ... | ... | £182,512 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate (March, 1950) | ... | ... | ... | ... | £668 13 5 |

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|-------|
| Live Births | { | Legitimate .. | 680 | 350 | 330 | } Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population | 19·98 | |
| | | Illegitimate .. | 19 | 12 | 7 | | | |
| Still Births | { | Legitimate .. | 22 | 9 | 13 | } Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births | 30·51 | |
| | | Illegitimate .. | — | — | — | | | |
| Deaths.. | .. | .. | .. | 404 | 215 | 189 | Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population | 11·55 |
| | | | | | | | After adjustment by the Comparability Factor | 11·55 |
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:— | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | All infants per 1000 live births | 37·19 |
| | | | | | | | Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births | 38·23 |
| | | | | | | | Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births | — |
| | | | | | | | Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 74 |
| | | | | | | | Measles (all ages) | — |
| | | | | | | | Whooping Cough | 1 |
| | | | | | | | Acute Poliomyelitis | 1 |

The following table compares the main statistics for 1950 with the years 1939—1949:—

| | Popu- lation | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Infant Death Rate | No. of Deaths from Cancer | No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis |
|-------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1939. | 29,020 | 15.67 | 11.00 | 41.14 | 52 | 9 |
| 1940. | 30,030 | 15.25 | 12.70 | 58.18 | 52 | 7 |
| 1941. | 30,850 | 15.59 | 10.98 | 36.58 | 42 | 11 |
| 1942. | 29,800 | 16.17 | 10.36 | 45.64 | 43 | 9 |
| 1943. | 28,900 | 16.47 | 10.72 | 37.81 | 40 | 11 |
| 1944. | 28,730 | 18.16 | 10.47 | 30.65 | 52 | 14 |
| 1945. | 28,460 | 17.39 | 11.59 | 50.50 | 55 | 18 |
| 1946. | 29,640 | 18.04 | 11.57 | 28.03 | 48 | 13 |
| 1947. | 30,650 | 20.22 | 11.97 | 29.03 | 56 | 5 |
| 1948. | 31,790 | 18.71 | 10.09 | 23.56 | 42 | 4 |
| 1949. | 32,660 | 18.21 | 9.76 | 42.01 | 70 | 5 |
| 1950. | 34,970 | 19.98 | 11.55 | 37.19 | 74 | 11 |

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1950.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

| | MALES. | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|---|--------|---------|-------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 2. Other forms of Tuberculosis | 2 | — | 2 |
| 3. Syphilitic Disease | — | — | — |
| 4. Diphtheria | — | — | — |
| 5. Whooping Cough | 1 | — | 1 |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections | — | — | — |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis | 1 | — | 1 |
| 8. Measles | — | — | — |
| 9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases | 1 | — | 1 |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 15 | 3 | 18 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast | — | 9 | 9 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus | — | 5 | 5 |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 23 | 10 | 33 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia | — | — | — |
| 16. Diabetes | — | — | — |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system | 16 | 23 | 39 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina | 24 | 10 | 34 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 20. Other heart disease | 40 | 56 | 96 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| 22. Influenza | 1 | — | 1 |
| 23. Pneumonia | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 13 | 9 | 22 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system | — | 3 | 3 |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 2 | — | 2 |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 1 | — | 1 |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | 2 | — | 2 |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | — | — | — |
| 31. Congenital malformations | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 12 | 26 | 38 |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents | 8 | — | 8 |
| 34. All other accidents | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| 35. Suicide | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war | — | 1 | 1 |
| | 215 | 189 | 404 |

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
THE AREA.

(1) Staff.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. | Medical Officer of Health. | (Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board). |
| Sister I. D. Rogerson | Trained Nurse (part-time) Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation. | (Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts and the County Council). (Resigned July, 1950). |
| Clerical Staff. | 1 person (whole-time). | (Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts). |
| J. S. Carrie, Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat & Food Inspection. Cert. Sanitary Science. Cert Smoke Inspection & Boiler House Management. Hon. Cert. Hygiene R.I. Public Health & Hygiene. | Chief Sanitary Inspector. | (Northwich Rural Dis- trict only). |
| H. R. Worsley. | Assistant Sanitary Inspector. | -do- |
| W. P. Musgrave | Assistant to Sanitary Inspector. | -do- |
| Clerical Staff. | 2 persons (whole-time). | -do- |

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Northwich Rural District Council, proved adequate during the year.

(3) Environmental Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Rural District are recorded later in this report.

(4) The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Rural Area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, etc., etc.

(5) Davenham Isolation Hospital, under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, provided Hospital treatment for the area's Infectious cases and during the year admitted 83 patients from the Northwich Rural District.

(6) The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following Services:—

(a) **Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.**

The work done during the year 1950 in Northwich Rural District is detailed as follows:—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of children who have completed treatment during 1950 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 358 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Vaccinations.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of children who have been vaccinated during 1950 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 273 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

| | |
|---|----|
| No. of children who have been treated during 1950 | 49 |
|---|----|

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme was curtailed during the year owing to the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis in the country. It was thought advisable to discontinue mass immunisation from July until the end of October.

In addition, a certain number of children received the protective treatment at their own Doctors' Surgery and at home. The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free service under the National Health Service Act.

(b) **Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.**

1950 has seen a further increase in calls on the Service, without any corresponding increase in staff. A simple example of this can be cited as follows:—

| |
|--|
| 1036 patients were removed in 9 weeks during Nov./Dec., 1949 |
| 1078 patients were removed in 6 weeks during Nov./Dec., 1950 |

At the close of 1950, some 19 private taxi firms were employed regularly in carrying patients on behalf of the Service.

Two new ambulances were put into service in the area during the year, 1 Humber Pullman and 1 Morris. Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining replacements for parts in the old vehicles and at the end of the year two 14 years old Austins had to be taken off the road.

The Ambulance Staff at the close of the year was:—

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1 Supervisor. | 6 Drivers. |
| 1 Senior Driver. | 2 Attendants. |

The above team travelled 152,674 miles during the year under all kinds of road conditions and, I think, should be congratulated on covering such a high mileage without serious mishap or breakdown.

Several long distance journeys have been undertaken in the year and in two cases, one to London and one to Durham, the services of the British Railways were used. I would like to state how co-operative the Staff of British Railways were on both occasions.

(c) **Prevention of Illness — Care and After Care.**

The work of the Committee under this Section has dealt mainly with Tuberculosis After Care, in addition to the Care of the Sick and Aged and, to a lesser degree, with the After Care of mental cases.

Most of the 230 cases on the Northwich Rural Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were visited by Health Visitors at my request. Quarterly visits have also been carried out by the Health Visitors.

One chalet has been provided for a Tubercular patient during the year and other medical equipment and comforts were provided where necessary.

(d) **Domestic Help Service.**

The Domestic Help Service in the area has expanded considerably during 1950 and Helps have been provided as follows:—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| March Quarter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| June Quarter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| September Quarter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| December Quarter | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 |

The Domestic Helps in the local households have usually been needed for confinements, for elderly infirm patients unable to gain admission to Hospital, and for sickness of the housewife, e.g. Tuberculosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, etc.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.—During the year the main laying in connection with the provision of a piped water supply to the Parish of Utkinton was completed.

New extensions to distribution mains have been carried out by the Water Board during the year to meet the housing developments carried out by the Council. These works have been carried out on housing schemes in the Parishes of Barnton, Cuddington, Lostock Gralam, Moulton, Rudheath and Weaverham.

Water Samples.—The Water Board has submitted to me for information, 33 copies of the Analyst's Reports of samples of water taken in the Northwich Rural District; all have been reported upon as satisfactory.

In addition, the Public Health Department have taken 6 check samples, all of which were reported upon as satisfactory by the Public Health Laboratory.

There is no change to report on my 1949 report as to the availability of the supply, either direct to the houses or by means of standpipes.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The following statement, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Birtwistle, the Engineer and Surveyor of the Council, sets out in some detail the main drainage schemes and activities of the Council during 1950:—

“Delamere Area.—The Council hoped to be in a position to proceed with the minor drainage scheme for Station Road area, and also with the construction of a new sewage disposal installation to serve the Council houses adjoining Delamere Schools. Protracted negotiations, however, with various Authorities concerned, and in particular the Water Board, did not progress sufficiently to enable a start to be made on the work during the year. It is hoped, however, that early approval will be received in respect of the Delamere Schools works and that approval to proceed with the Station Road scheme will also not be long delayed.

Cotebrook Village, Utkinton.—The scheme prepared and submitted to the Ministry was the subject of an enquiry, and it is hoped that during 1951 the work will be proceeded with, although here again there may be some modifications necessary when observations of the Water Board have been received.

Weaverham Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Works.—During the year the whole of the sewerage works were completed, and also the extensions to the Owley Wood Disposal Works and the com-

pletion of the erection of the new works in Well Lane. This enabled the old tanks in Well Lane to be demolished and the site has been completely obliterated and has reverted to agricultural use.

Little Budworth.—Enquiries have been made to the Ministry of Works whether there is any possibility of the Sewage Disposal Works built in connection with Oulton Park Camp being made available to the Council for treatment of the sewage from Little Budworth Village. It is expected that during 1951 the Ministry will be in a position to give the Council definite information regarding this proposal.

Moulton.—The Council have authorised the preparation of a scheme which will enable the sewage disposal field at Moulton to be abandoned by the piping of the whole of the sewage down to the Pumping Station at Peckmill, Mereheath. From this point the sewage will be pumped to the gravity system in Davenham, and will be treated at the Davenham Sewage Disposal Works, which will be extended to enable the additional flow to be dealt with.

Generally.—New sewers of considerable length, both foul and surface water, have been laid on the major housing sites at Barnton, Weaverham, Cuddington, Lostock Gralam and Rudheath, and small extensions have been carried out at Acton and Wincham to deal with the small groups of houses built in those Parishes.”

Rivers Pollution.—There is no change to report on my 1949 Report.

Closet Accommodation.—This year, 21 conversions have been carried out under the Council's closet conversion scheme.

The Council hope to proceed in 1951 with the conversion of the outstanding pail closets in the Parishes of Rudheath, Cuddington and Weaverham.

Under the following headings, Mr. J. S. Carrie, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

“Night Soil Collection.—Collection has now been extended and serves the undernoted Parishes:—

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Marston | Delamere |
| Wincham | Little Leigh |
| Acton | Rudheath (part) |
| Crowton | Darnhall (part) |
| Cuddington | Wimboldsley (part) |
| Weaverham | Stanthorne (part) |
| Anderton | Lostock Gralam (part) |
| Comberbach | Bostock (part) |
| Oakmere | |

Public Cleansing Services.—The Council now operates a comprehensive house refuse collection service throughout their area, collection taking place fortnightly. Their scavenging fleet consists of the following:—

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 2 S.D. Freighters | 1 Dennis nightsoil and Cesspool Emptier |
| 1 International | |
| 1 Bedford | 1 Aveling-Barford Calf-Dozer for operation of Controlled Tipping |
| 2 Dennis Freighters | |

The labour force employed consists of:—

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 General Foreman | 1 Calf-dozer Operator |
| 6 Drivers | 19 Scavenging Loaders |

During the year 3,725½ loads of refuse have been removed and disposed of in the reclamation of land. As Industrial development still proceeds in the area, accompanied by an influx of workers from the Merseyside areas, who are being accommodated on the Authority's rapidly extending housing estates, the Council will need to keep under observation the requirements of their scavenging fleet so as to maintain an adequate collection service.

Salvage of Waste Materials.—Salvage of waste materials has been well maintained. A drop of 25% in price levels has reflected itself in a reduction of income.

The total income for sales amounted to £1,273 12s. 6d. during the year. The following materials were salvaged:—

| | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | lbs. |
|-------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| Paper | 177 | 11 | — | 7 |
| Scrap Iron | 1 | 19 | — | — |
| Textiles | 12 | 10 | — | 3 |
| Bones | — | 7 | 2 | — |

Destruction of Rats & Mice.—During the year 405 premises were treated, involving 2126 operational visits. The contract figures for the year amounted to £482, and the amounts received in connection with isolated clearances totalled £43 10s. 4d. These figures show an increase over last year of £70. The Council again operated jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the treatment of rats in sewers and will receive appropriate grants."

Recreational Sites & Playing Fields.—Under this heading Mr. Birtwistle reports:—

"The Council, during the year, has taken considerable interest in the provision of space for recreational facilities, and particularly in the Parishes where large housing development is taking place, and on the new layouts prepared for the year's development at Cuddington, Weaverham, Lostock Gralam, Barnton and Rudheath, provision has been made to reserve open

spaces of various sizes to be available for playing purposes. It is intended that the smaller greens shall be used by the small children, who will thus not have to travel very far from their homes to find a play area. The bigger areas the Council have in mind will be suitable sites on which to provide playing equipment for the larger children, and the Council has received enquiries from the Weaverham Parish Council for authority to provide equipment on these areas and maintain them, and it is expected that other Parish Councils will probably adopt the same procedure.

The Council has also given considerable assistance to the Weaverham Parish Council in providing layouts and obtaining information and prices for the complete development of the land adjoining the Housing Estate in Withen's Lane, which the Parish Council is acquiring and propose to develop as a Village Hall site and recreation ground."

Swimming Baths & Pools.—There are no public swimming baths in the Council's District, but the following private baths have been in use during the year:—

Fourways Cafe, Oakmere

I.C.I. Bath, Acton

I.C.I. Marbury Hall Club.

} Not available to general public.

Samples were taken from two of the above during 1950 and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following result:—

| | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| 12th July, 1950 | Sample of swimming-bath water from Marbury Hall Club. | "Satisfactory" |
| 12th July, 1950 | Sample of swimming-bath water from Fourways Club, Oakmere. | "Unsatisfactory" |
| 31st July, 1950 | -do- | "Satisfactory" |

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

Camping Sites. — The following camping sites continued in operation during the year:—

1. Allways Cafe, Allostock.
2. S. Worth, Crabtree Garage, Oakmere.
3. Mrs. Speachley, Eddisbury Hill.
4. L. K. Beckwith, Eddisbury Hill.
5. Sandy Lane, Weaverham — 2 sites.

During the year approval was given to the development of a new site for Mr. S. Worth at Wash Lane, Allostock.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

| Nature of Inspections made. | Num-ber. | Informal Notices. | | Statutory Notices. | |
|---|----------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | | Issued | Com-plied with | Issued | Com-plied with |
| 1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection) .. | 347 | 58 | 55 | 13 | 11 |
| 2. Dwelling Houses (overcrowding) | 118 | 67 | 50 | .. | .. |
| 3. Movable Dwellings : | 5 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. |
| 4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings .. | 704 | 46 | 43 | .. | .. |
| 5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools .. | 298 | 66 | 62 | .. | .. |
| 6. Ditches and Watercourses, | 12 | 6 | 6 | .. | .. |
| 7. Offensive Accumulations | 20 | 12 | 12 | .. | .. |
| 8. Keeping of Animals | 18 | 14 | 14 | .. | .. |
| 9. Provision of Ashbins | 231 | 231 | 136 | .. | .. |
| 10. Supervision of Refuse Collection | 161 | 1 | 1 | .. | .. |
| 11. Supervision of Refuse Tips | 87 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 12. Slaughterhouses | 18 | : | .. | .. | .. |
| 13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared | 214 | 6 | 6 | .. | .. |
| 14. Dairies and Cowsheds | 119 | 25 | 25 | .. | .. |
| 15. Factories, etc. | 68 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. |
| 16. Protection and sampling of Water Supplies.. | 30 | 6 | 6 | .. | .. |
| 17. Canal Boats | 19 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 18. Infectious Diseases, Investigations and Disinfections | 87 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 19. Schools, Inspection and Disinfection .. | 8 | 2 | 2 | .. | .. |
| 20. Disinfection of Premises | 108 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 21. Deratisation of Premises | 2126 | 405 | 405 | .. | .. |
| 22. Smoke Observations | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| 23. Miscellaneous Disinfestations.. .. | 20 | 20 | 20 | .. | .. |
| 24. Properties--Inspections under Rural Housing Survey | 941 | .. | .. | .. | .. |
| Totals | 5762 | 969 | 847 | 13 | 11 |

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

| Premises. | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | In- spections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 12 | 1 | — | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 116 | 67 | 2 | — |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-work- ers' premises) | 61 | — | — | — |
| Total | 189 | 68 | 2 | — |

SECTION D.
HOUSING.

New Houses.—The provision of new houses during 1950 shows a total of 642 houses and 5 shops. The Parishes in which the houses have been erected are as shown in the following table:—

| Parishes. | Erected by the COUNCIL. | Erected by PRIVATE ENTERPRISE |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Acton | 6 | — |
| Allostock | — | — |
| Anderton | — | 2 |
| Barnton | 113 | — |
| Bostock | — | — |
| Byley | — | — |
| Comberbach | — | 2 |
| Crowton | — | 1 |
| Cuddington | 140 | 4 |
| Darnhall | — | — |
| Davenham | — | 3 |
| Delamere | — | — |
| Hartford | — | 7 |
| Lach Dennis | — | — |
| Little Budworth | 2 | — |
| Little Leigh | 4 | — |
| Lostock Gralam | 40 | — |
| Marbury | — | — |
| Marston | — | — |
| Marston | — | 4 |
| Moulton | 4 | 1 |
| Nether Peover | — | 3 |
| Oakmere | — | — |
| Rudheath | 22 | — |
| Rushton | — | — |
| Sproston | — | — |
| Stanthorne | — | — |
| Tarporley | 4 | 1 |
| Utkinton | — | — |
| Weaverham | 265 | 6 |
| Whatcroft | — | — |
| Wimboldsley | — | — |
| Wincham | 8 | — |
| Total | 608 | 34 |

Weaverham 5 Shops

During the year I.C.I. continued the conversion of hutments in Marbury Hall Park.

The Council's conversion scheme at Delamere Park also proceeded satisfactorily and was completed by the end of the year, by which time 350 living units had been provided. This development has proved to be a very useful addition to the Council in meeting part of their housing requirements.

Hartford Manor Camp, which houses squatters, has been further reduced as occupants of huts moved out into other accommodation. It is hoped that early in 1951 the demolition of the Camp will be completed.

Rural Housing Survey. — The table given in my last year's report, giving the numbers and location, remains unaltered. However, with a view to formulating a house building programme 1951/71, a rapid survey of the district has been carried out with the following provisional results:—

Provisional Estimate of Number of Houses likely to become unfit within the next twenty years.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Acton | ... | ... | 4 | Marston | ... | ... | 47 |
| Allostock | ... | ... | 5 | Marton | ... | ... | — |
| Anderton | ... | ... | 16 | Moulton | ... | ... | 25 |
| Barnton | ... | ... | 126 | Nether Peover | ... | ... | 9 |
| Bostock | ... | ... | — | Oakmere | ... | ... | — |
| Byley | ... | ... | 4 | Rudheath | ... | ... | 12 |
| Comberbach | ... | ... | 39 | Rushton | ... | ... | 31 |
| Crowton | ... | ... | 15 | Sproston | ... | ... | — |
| Cuddington | ... | ... | — | Stanthorne | ... | ... | — |
| Darnhall | ... | ... | — | Tarporley | ... | ... | 36 |
| Davenham | ... | ... | 5 | Utkinton | ... | ... | 5 |
| Delamere | ... | ... | 9 | Weaverham | ... | ... | 45 |
| Hartford | ... | ... | — | Whatecroft | ... | ... | 4 |
| Lach Dennis | ... | ... | — | Wimboldsley | ... | ... | 4 |
| Little Budworth | ... | ... | 3 | Wincham | ... | ... | 69 |
| Little Leigh | ... | ... | 16 | | | | — |
| Lostock Gralam | ... | ... | 49 | | | Total | 578 |
| Marbury | ... | ... | — | | | | — |

There are, in addition, 350 premises at Delamere Camp — estimated "life" 10 years, and 14 temporary hutments at Hartford Manor Camp — Total 364.

Unfit Houses.—During the year 6 houses have been demolished by statutory action.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.—193 samples of milk, as against 135 during 1949, were submitted to the Laboratory during 1950, with the following results:—

| GRADE. | METHYLENE BLUE TEST. | | PHOSPHATASE TEST. | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| | Satis. | Unsatis. | Satis. | Unsatis. |
| "Ordinary" ... | 49 | 17 | — | — |
| "Accredited" (Raw) | 12 | 2 | — | — |
| "T.T." (Raw) | 18 | — | — | — |
| "Pasteurised" | 58 | 1 | 58 | 1 |
| "T.T. Pasteurised"... | 36 | — | 36 | — |

49 samples were submitted to Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli — 45 with negative results and four with positive results. The positive results implicated three producers. The Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries dealt with the animals concerned and the retailers involved have subsequently handled pasteurised milk only.

Included amongst the above figure of 193 samples were 4 samples of school milk, all of which complied with the prescribed tests.

The total number of licences held under the Milk (Special Designations) Order for the year:—

Authorising dealers to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" —

- (a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ... 23
 (b) in respect of licence to bottle ... 3

Authorising dealers to use the special designation "Pasteurised" —

- (a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ... 24
 (b) in respect of licence to bottle ... 3

| | |
|--|----|
| Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation "T.T." | 10 |
| Supplementary licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" | 10 |

Meat.—No regular slaughtering has taken place in the district as all the sixteen licensed slaughter-houses are closed due to the operation of the Ministry of Food's Order.

Slaughter of Animals Act — 37 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under this Act, 1 of which was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Other Foods.—The following is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during the year:—

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 42 lbs. Frozen Liquid Whole Egg | 3 tins Grape Fruit Marmalade |
| 2 tins Pork and Gravy | 1 tin Sliced Peaches |
| 1 tin Chicken Soup | 2 tins Carrots |
| 1 tin Mixed Vegetables | 1 tin Grape Fruit |
| 1 tin Herring Roe | 1 tin Pineapple Juice |
| 4 tins Sardines | 1 tin Plum Jam |
| 1 tin Mushroom Soup | 4 tins Chef Soup |
| 300 lbs. Hind Quarter Beef | 9 Jars French Mayonnaise |
| 2 tins Minced Beef Loaf | 2 tins Orange Juice |
| 107 tins Evaporated Milk | 1 tin Spinach |
| 11 tins Peas | 50 lbs. Bacon |
| 2 tins French Meat Paste | 1 Sheep's Carcase (30½ lbs.) |
| 4 tins Pork | 1 Hind Quarter of Sheep's Carcase (14 lbs.) |
| 1 tin Chopped Ham | 1 tin Spaghetti |
| 3 tins Beans | 8 lbs. Cheese |
| 14 tins Bristlings | 1 jar Lime Preserve |
| 2 tins Beetroot | 18 tins Luncheon Meat |
| 6 tins Plums | 1 tin Potted Meat |
| 2 tins Sliced Apples | 1 tin Prune Puree |
| 2 tins Grape Fruit Juice | 10 tins Tomato Soup |
| 9 lbs. Boiled Ham | 5 tins Crawfish |
| 2 tins Veal and Ham Loaf | 1 jar Kraft Sandwich Spread |
| 1 tin Stewed Steak | 8 Packets Figs |
| 1 tin Pickled Cabbage | |
| 1 tin Grapes | |

Food & Drugs Act, 1938.—The Council has on Register the following food preparing premises:—

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 16 Cafes | 33 Canteens |
| 13 Fried Fish Shops | 33 Ice Cream Premises |
| 23 Butcher's Premises | 16 Hotels as Catering Establishments |
| 15 Bakehouses | |

Periodic visits have been paid throughout the year and a high hygienic standard maintained.

Ice Cream.—5 premises hold licences for the sale and manufacture of ice cream, and 28 premises for the sale only of ice cream received from other licensed manufacturers.

The Health Department took 61 samples of ice cream during the year, an increase of 38 samples over the previous twelve months.

RESULTS.

56 Hot Mix — Grade 1 — 44 samples.
 „ 2 — 7 „
 „ 3 — 3 „
 „ 4 — 2 „

5 Cold Mix — Grade 1 — 4 samples.
 „ 3 — 1 „

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Rural District during the year 1950:—

| Name of Sample. | Number obtained. | Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality. |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Boracic Ointment | 1 | — |
| Borax | 1 | — |
| Brisling | 1 | — |
| Camphorated Oil | 1 | — |
| Castor Oil | 1 | — |
| Coffee | 2 | — |
| Fish Pastes | 2 | — |
| Gelatine (dessert) | 1 | — |
| Ginger (ground) | 1 | — |
| Glauber Salts | 1 | — |
| Glycerine | 1 | — |
| Gravy Browning | 2 | — |
| Iodine (tincture) | 1 | — |
| Meat Pastes | 2 | — |
| Milk (Fresh) | 32 | 1 |
| Mustard | 1 | — |
| Onion (Dried) | 1 | — |
| Sauce | 1 | — |
| Total | 53 | 1 |

Particulars of Non-standard Sample.

| No. | Sample. | Analysis. | Remarks. |
|-----|---------|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Milk | 6.6% deficient in fat. | Retail sale of bottle. Seller cautioned. |

It is of interest to note that in May of this year the Minister of Food confirmed this Council's application to administer bye-laws in connection with the "Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air."

SECTION F.

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

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of Measles and Whooping Cough, was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950.

| DISEASES. | Total Cases Notified | Cases Admitted to Hospital | TOTAL DEATHS |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 46 | 42 | — |
| Pneumonia | 19 | 2 | 12 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | 1 | — |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| Dysentery | 2 | — | — |
| Measles | 240 | 4 | — |
| Whooping Cough | 139 | — | — |

The 6 cases of Poliomyelitis were admitted to the following hospitals:—

3 were admitted to Davenham Isolation — 1 later transferred to Booth Hall, Manchester.

2 were admitted to Chester City Hospital — 1 later transferred to Clatterbridge Hospital.

1 was admitted to Warrington — this patient later died.

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local Doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department where needed.

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1- 5 years ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 5-15 " ... | — | — | — | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| 15-25 " ... | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 25-35 " ... | 6 | 3 | — | 2 | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| 35-45 " ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| 45-55 " ... | 6 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 55-65 " ... | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 and upwards ... | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| TOTALS ... | 18 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 2 | — |

During 1950, 17 cases were admitted to and 16 discharged from Sanatorium.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 |
| 183 | 197 | 215 | 243 | 257 | 272 | 238 | 244 | 229 | 229 | 232 | 230 |

(3) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

As only 10 rural patients, suffering from Scabies, sought treatment in the first 6 months of 1950, the Scabies Centre at Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, was disbanded on 22nd July, 1950. Since this date there have been no requests from the local Doctors for treatment for any of their patients.

(4) DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

The disinfection of 118 premises was carried out during the year, as follows:—

| | | |
|--|----|--------|
| For vermin (using D.D.T. and Gammexane) ... | 10 | houses |
| For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding) | 19 | „ |
| For Cancer | 2 | „ |
| For Infectious Diseases | 87 | „ |

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1951.

