

**[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Oldham County Borough.**

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Oldham (England). County Borough Council. nb2004302054

**Publication/Creation**

1955

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**COUNTY BOROUGH OF OLDHAM**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH**

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**1955**

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Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Oldham.

November, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of Oldham and the work of the Health Department for the year 1955.

The year has been difficult and strenuous and the senior staff have had to bear exacting responsibilities. There have been many staff changes during the year and the recruitment of staff continues to present serious problems. These were most marked in the Sanitary Department, one sanitary inspector having left at the end of the previous year and two leaving in January. These resignations reduced the staff to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, his deputy and 6 inspectors, i.e. 5 inspectors below establishment. This position was reported to the Health Committee, and the Establishment Committee were requested to give special consideration to the problem, and in April, to implement a recommendation of the North Western Provincial Council that allowed employing authorities under special circumstances to make an annual discretionary payment of £60 to the inspectors. It was not until November that the Establishment Committee accepted this latter recommendation which became operative on the 5th January, 1956.

The services provided under the National Health Service Act have been maintained and certain services have been further developed and extended. In February, the new Rules of the Central Midwives Board permitted midwives to administer triline on their own responsibility. The necessary machines were obtained and after being demonstrated to the midwives, were put into use. In July an Assisted Purchase Scheme for midwives using their own cars for official duties was approved and 5 midwives applied for loans. This facility which greatly assists the midwives is much appreciated and increases the efficiency of the service. The grave shortage of staff in the Health Visiting Service persisted and routine visits again had to be curtailed owing to the prevalence of dysentery. It is to be regretted that the number of children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough shows a fall compared with the previous year. This was largely due to staffing difficulties. The percentage of infants under one year of age vaccinated against smallpox continues to be low, being only 31.61%. The demands on the Home Nursing, the Ambulance and the Domestic Help Services continue to increase.

Further progress was made in the fight against tuberculosis. B.C.G. vaccination which previously had only been available to selected contacts of known cases of tuberculosis was offered to children who would reach 13 years of age during the year. Out of 527 children offered this protection, acceptances were received for 307—an acceptance rate of 58.25%. It is hoped that this rate will increase in future years.

On the 28th January, the Arthurs Industrial Centre for the mentally handicapped was officially opened by King Peter II of Yugoslavia. On his arrival at the Town Hall, King Peter was received by His Worship the Mayor (Alderman H. H. Webster, J.P.) who presented him to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and the officials. Prior to his leaving for the Centre, King Peter laid a wreath on the War Memorial. After the formal opening, His Majesty toured the workshops and inspected a display of handicrafts. This was followed by an official luncheon. Those present included Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, Dr. Isobel Wilson of the Board of Control, representatives of the University and the Manchester Regional Hospital Board and local guests. It was a privilege to welcome our guests and we



were greatly honoured by their presence. Our special thanks are due to Mrs. B. Hindley, J.P., of Read Hall, who entertained King Peter at her home. It was indeed a great disappointment that Alderman Arthurs, who had done so much to bring our Centre to fruition, and who was so enthusiastic in his work for the mentally handicapped, could not attend the proceedings owing to sudden illness from which he never recovered. It is fitting that the Centre should for all time bear his name.

On the 1st April, the Boundary Park General Hospital and the Boundary Park General Hospital Annexe, both under the control of the Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee, became one hospital unit. The unification of these two hospitals was long overdue and will greatly increase the efficiency of our hospital service. It is interesting to record that in February, 1947, after protracted discussion and opposition, the Council accepted a recommendation that appropriation and administration of the Westwood Park Institution by the Health Committee would assist the smooth transfer of the hospitals and the Institution to the new Regional Hospital Board. Unfortunately it was too late and the Ministry of Health at this late stage was not prepared to accept this amendment to the administrative scheme owing to the proximity of the Appointed Day of the National Health Service Act, which was expected to be 1st April, 1948.

The birth rate of 14.61 per thousand of the population shows a slight rise and compares with 14.26 for the previous year and 15.0 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 15.16 compares with 15.10 for the previous year and 11.7 for England and Wales. This is a more accurate rate for the Borough as the revised procedure of the Registrar General in connection with the transfer of births, deaths and stillbirths ceased to operate from the 1st April when the Boundary Park General Hospital and the Boundary Park General Hospital Annexe, hitherto classified as a chronic sick hospital, became the Oldham and District General Hospital.

It is gratifying to record that for the third consecutive year no maternal deaths occurred. This is a great achievement and a fitting reward to those who work in the domiciliary and hospital maternity services.

The infant mortality rate of 30.70 per thousand live births compares with 24.9 for England and Wales and 26.81 for the previous year. This figure can and should be reduced. The total deaths numbered 54 and of these 5 were associated with accidents—3 due to regurgitation of food, 1 smothered in bed and 1 from cyanide poisoning (gas).

There were 18 deaths due to tuberculosis (all forms) and the death rate of 0.15 compares with 0.22 for the previous year. This is a substantial fall and compares with a rate of 0.14 for 1953. Advances in the treatment of tuberculosis and more accurate diagnosis of the early case should result in this rate being maintained or further reduced.

Full details of the incidence of infectious diseases are given in the body of the report. Dysentery was prevalent during the first six months of the year and was rampant in February, March and April when over 1,000 cases were notified. Measles was also prevalent during the first three months of the year when 750 cases were notified and three deaths registered during the year. These two epidemics seriously affected the routine work of the department.

In May, the Council's Slum Clearance Proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. These are fully detailed in the report. It has not been possible to undertake a total survey of all sub-standard houses in the Borough but it must be said that the number of houses requiring demolition is greatly in excess of 11,169, the figure given in the report. With depleted staff and only 200 new houses a year available for re-housing, there can be no rapid acceleration of slum clearance and unless there is some radical change of policy, only the fringe of this problem can be tackled in the years ahead.



During the year we were honoured by the Royal Sanitary Institute (now the Royal Society of Health) holding a Sessional Meeting in Oldham on the 8th July. This was the second to be held in the Borough. The delegates assembled in the Town Hall and after a welcome by His Worship the Mayor, the following papers were given:—

"Care of the Mentally Ill—Trends Old and New."

by Dr. J. T. Chalmers Keddie, Medical Officer\* of Health.

"Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Practical Problems."

by Mr H. V. Cass, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The Chairman was Dr. F. T. H. Wood, O.B.E. (Vice President).

The delegates were entertained to lunch by the Health Committee, after which the following visits were made:—

- (1) Messrs Ferranti Ltd. for lecture/demonstration on the Ferranti fridge-heater domestic heat pump.
- (2) (a) Oldham Industrial Co-operative Society, milk pasteurisation plant.  
(b) The Park Cake Bakeries.
- (3) The Arthurs Industrial Centre for Mentally Handicapped Persons, and discussion on "Community Care of the Mental Defective" opened by Mr. T. P. McKniff, Lay Administrative Officer.

About 280 delegates attended the meeting which was most successful. The arrangements made were much appreciated by the Council of the Institute and I wish to record my thanks and appreciation for the facilities and hospitality provided by the Directors of the above firms.

There were numerous staff changes during the year. In February, Dr. A. J. I. Kelynack left to take up the appointment of Deputy Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Bromley and the Urban Districts of Orpington, Chislehurst and Sidcup. He was succeeded by Dr. H. Bailey. In August, Dr. G. P. Donnelly left to take up a post in Ireland. He was succeeded by Dr. W. R. Falconer. In April, Mr. A. White, Senior Mental Health Visitor and Duly Authorised Officer, left the service to enter private business. Mr. White joined the service in June, 1948, and had been associated with the development and extension of the Mental Health Service. Miss Margaret Dixon, Superintendent of the Home Nursing Service, left in December prior to her marriage.

In March, Alderman J. A. Arthurs, J.P., Chairman of the Mental Health Sub-Committee and a member of the Health Committee for many years, died after a short illness. In May, Councillor Mrs. G. Morrell ceased to be a member of the Council. She had been a co-opted member of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee since 1942 and on being elected to the Council, joined the Health Committee in November, 1946. Both these members had seen many changes and improvements in the Health Services. Councillor Barker also ceased to be a member of the Health Committee which he joined in 1951, and during the years 1952/1954 was Chairman of the Home Nursing Sub-Committee. I wish to record my appreciation of the courtesies these members always gave to myself and to the members of my staff.

I wish to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement. My thanks are also due to all members of the staff for their loyal service during a very busy year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. CHALMERS KEDDIE,

Medical Officer of Health,



## THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

(from 23rd May, 1955)

### *Chairman:*

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P., F.C.C.S.

### *Deputy Chairman:*

Alderman J. Bradley

### *The Mayor:*

Councillor Herbert Holt, M.B.E., J.P.

Councillor J. H. Broadbent	Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell
Alderman Miss A. A. Kenyon, J.P.	Councillor W. Wheeler
Councillor J. McQuillan	Councillor J. Baxter

### *Non-Council Members:*

M. Strang, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.	Sir Frank Lord, O.B.E., M.A., J.P.
Mrs. E. Daws	Mrs. L. M. Whittaker
Mr. P. C. Steptoe, M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.	

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

### *Chairman:*

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P., F.C.C.S.

### *Deputy Chairman:*

Alderman J. Bradley

The Mayor	Councillor J. McQuillan
Councillor J. H. Broadbent	Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell
Alderman Miss A. A. Kenyon, J.P.	Councillor W. Wheeler
Councillor F. Baxter	

### *Non-Council Members:*

M. Strang, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.	Sir Frank Lord, O.B.E., M.A., J.P.
Mrs. L. M. Whittaker	Mrs. E. Daws
Mr. P. C. Steptoe, M.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.	

## HOME NURSING SUB-COMMITTEE

### *Chairman:*

Councillor J. H. Broadbent

The Mayor	Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P.
Alderman J. Bradley	Councillor J. McQuillan
Alderman Miss A. A. Kenyon, J.P.	Councillor W. Wheeler
Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell	Councillor F. Baxter

### *Non-Council Members:*

Miss M. Lees, J.P.	Miss E. Goode
Miss F. Brierley	M. Strang, Esq., M.B., Ch.B.
Mr. T. E. C. Crozier	Miss A. Wrigley



**MENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE***Chairman:*

Alderman Miss A. A. Kenyon, J.P.

The Mayor

Alderman J. Bradley

Councillor J. H. Broadbent

Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P.

Councillor J. McQuillan

Councillor W. Wheeler

Councillor F. Baxter

*Non-Council Members:*

Miss I. M. Brislee

Rev. G. M. Wylie

Sir Frank Lord, O.B.E., M.A., J.P.

Mrs. M. Rose, J.P.

## STAFF

### THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer:*

J. T. Chalmers Keddie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Senior Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Senior School Medical Officer:*

John Starkie, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officers of Health and Assistant School Medical Officers:*

Edna Circuitt, M.B., Ch.B., ~~M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.~~, D.P.H.

Arthur J. Kelynack, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (to 19-2-55)

Anthony Loftus, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H. (to 31-12-55)

James K. Heagney, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Gerald P. Donnelly, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (to 22-8-55)

Horace Bailey, M.B., Ch.B. (from 1-4-55)

William R. Falconer, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 2-8-55)

*Principal School Dental Officer:*

James Fenton, L.D.S.

*Assistant Dental Officers:*

J. D. Franks, L.D.S.

J. H. Woolley, L.D.S.

*Consultants:*

A. H. Barber, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.P. .... Obstetrician

R. M. Maher, B.Sc., M.D., B.S., M.R.C.P. .... Physician

D. Hilson, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., D.C.H., M.R.C.P. .... Pædiatrician

Arthur Pool, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. .... Psychiatrist

G. S. Robertson, M.B., Ch.B. .... Mental Deficiency

J. N. Appleton, M.B., Ch.B., D.L.O., F.R.C.S. .... Aural Surgeon

G. Mason-Walshaw, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.F.A., D.A. .... Anæsthetist

*Chest Physician:*

Henry S. Bagshaw, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Public Analyst:*

T. W. Lovett, F.R.I.C.

*Deputy Public Analyst:*

J. G. Sherratt, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.



*Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

Harold V. Cass

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

John Brook

*Sanitary Inspectors:*

J. Crosdale, J. McKenna, H. Shaw, D. Eckersley, J. Smith (to 13-1-55),  
C. Buckley (to 13-1-55), A. P. Mellor, E. Brooks

*Lay Administrative Officer:*

T. P. McKniff

*Chief Clerk:*

Miss M. Royle

*Ambulance Officer:*

E. G. Crapper

*Mental Health Visitors and Duly Authorised Officers:*

Albert White (Senior) (to 21-5-55)

Walter Davies, Dip. S.C. Studies (Senior) (from 1-8-55)

W. Davies (to 22-2-55), Miss J. J. Halliday, B.A. (to 23-9-55),

Paul Hudson, B.A. (from 21-11-55), Miss A. Kelly (from 8-12-55)

*Mental Health Visitor:*

Mrs. B. Lees

*Psychologist:*

Dennis G. Pickles, M.A. (Cantab.)

*Supervisor of Occupation Centre:*

Mrs. J. L. Worfolk, Dip. Nat. Ass. Mental Health

*Senior Handicraft Instructor, Industrial Centre:*

F. Davies (to 21-8-55)

N. Bloomfield (from 22-8-55)

*Superintendent Health Visitor and Superintendent School Nurse:*

Miss A. W. Moordaff, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.

*Deputy Superintendent Health Visitor and Deputy Superintendent School Nurse:*

Miss C. Williamson, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

*Health Visitors/School Nurses:*

Miss M. Gasquet (Senior) (to 4-6-55), Mrs. H. Emmott (Senior),  
Mrs. C. Smith, Miss W. McDonnell, Mrs. B. Toolan (to 14-2-55),  
Miss I. Oldham (to 31-3-55), Miss A. Taylor, Mrs. M. M. Turner  
(to 12-3-55), Mrs. C. Reeves (from 3-1-55), Mrs. S. Clayton  
(from 13-6-55), Mrs. I. Hartley (from 13-6-55)



*School Nurses:*

Miss E. E. Williams, Miss T. Dolan, Mrs. M. Cordon, Mrs. D. Spencer

*Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives:*

Miss M. M. Nugent, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*Assistant Superintendents:*

Miss M. Bishop (Senior) (from 1-1-55)

Miss J. Critchley (from 1-4-55)

*Municipal Midwives:*

Miss B. Holland, Mrs. A. M. Walshe (to 24-9-55), Mrs. E. Kidder, Mrs. E. Lees, Mrs. E. C. McMahon, Miss J. Critchley (to 31-3-55), Miss A. Pearson, Mrs. A. Quinn, Miss F. M. Sewell (to 4-8-55), Mrs. D. Chadwick (to 21-5-55), Mrs. M. Kirwan, Mrs. K. Springis, Mrs. M. J. Sweeney (née Connolly), Miss M. Hadfield, Miss M. Entwistle (from 1-4-55 to 30-9-55), Miss I. L. Lindsay (from 1-8-55), Mrs. A. M. Leckey (from 16-2-55), Mrs. J. Thomas (from 14-9-55)

*Superintendent of District Nursing:*

Miss M. Dixon, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (to 3-12-55)

*District Nurses:*

Miss J. A. Baker, Mrs. A. Schofield, Mrs. E. Newton (to 31-12-55), Mrs. J. Cox (to 23-6-55), Miss H. Hollinshead, Miss E. Dumville, Miss A. A. Murray, Miss A. Tulley, Mrs. W. Woolfenden (to 19-5-55), Mrs. M. Schofield, Mr. F. P. Earnshaw, Mr. E. L. Taylor, Mr. W. Higgins, Mrs. M. S. Cagney (from 23-5-55), Mrs. J. Tweeddale (from 21-2-55), Mrs. M. M. Kehoe (from 9-8-55), Miss M. Mee (from 28-11-55)

*Domestic Help Organiser:*

Miss E. M. Kenworthy

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**OLDHAM CREMATORIUM**

*Medical Referee:*

J. T. Chalmers Keddie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Deputy Medical Referees:*

John Starkie, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Arthur J. I. Kelynack, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (to 19-2-55)

William R. Falconer, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 10-8-55)

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## General Statistics

Area in Acres .....	6,390
Enumerated Population (Census 9-4-51) .....	121,212
Registrar General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1955) ...	120,400
Density of Population, i.e., number of persons per acre .....	18.84
Number of houses in the Borough, 31st December, 1955:	
(a) Permanent .....	43,676
(b) Temporary (prefabricated) .....	350
	44,026
Number of new houses erected in 1955:	
(a) Permanent:	
(i) by local authority .....	343
(ii) by other bodies or persons .....	58
	401
(b) Temporary (prefabricated):	
(i) by local authority .....	—
(ii) by other bodies or persons .....	—
	—
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955) .....	£761,205
Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1955) .....	£3,022
Total number of persons on doctors' lists at 31-12-55 .....	118,975
Number of marriages during the year .....	1,004
Persons married per thousand of population .....	8.34

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live Births (Males, 900; females, 859) .....	1,759
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....	14.61
Stillbirths (Males, 29; females, 24) .....	53
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 births .....	29.25
Deaths (Males, 889; females 936) .....	1,825
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....	15.16
Maternal Deaths .....	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 births .....	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year .....	54
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births .....	30.70
Other Death Rates per 1,000 of estimated population:	
Tuberculosis:	
(a) All forms .....	0.15
(b) Pulmonary .....	0.13
Other respiratory diseases .....	2.52
Cancer .....	2.41
Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria .....	0.02



## SECTION I.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Oldham is situated in the County of Lancaster on the south-western slopes of the Pennines. Its highest point is 1,225ft. and its lowest 350ft. above sea level.

The principal industries in the Borough are textile spinning and weaving (especially cotton spinning) and textile engineering, with substantial general engineering and building and civil engineering. Other numerous light industries have been established over a number of years. The Woodpark Colliery was closed in March and there is now only one colliery in the Borough.

## Area and Population

The area of the Borough on the 1st January, 1955, was 6,390 acres.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough at the middle of 1955 is 120,400, which compares with 120,340 for the previous year.

At the 1951 census the population of the Borough was 121,212.

## Rateable Value

The rateable value on the 1st April, 1955, was £761,205, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £3,022.

## Unemployment

Mr. S. Deeves, Manager of the Local Employment Exchange, has kindly supplied particulars of unemployed on the registers at the Oldham Employment Exchange and Oldham Youth Employment Bureau during the year 1955, together with the following information relating to employment in industry during this year.

"With the exception of the cotton industry the year can be regarded as one of full employment in the area. The percentage of persons registered as wholly unemployed in relation to the insured population averaged approximately 0.6 per cent. Short-time working in the cotton industry reached its peak in August and from that date the number of short-time workers continued to decline each month until the end of the year."

1759  
53  
1812



Oldham Employment Exchange and Oldham Youth Employment Bureau  
UNEMPLOYED REGISTERS during the Year 1955.

DATE	WHOLLY UNEMPLOYED				TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED			
	Men 18 and over	Women 18 and over	Boys under 18	Girls under 18	Men 18 and over	Women 18 and over	Boys under 18	Girls under 18
10th January, 1955	176	118	6	3	30	105	—	1
14th February, "	223	161	10	2	11	83	2	—
14th March, "	178	110	5	1	15	68	2	3
18th April, "	163	101	11	—	97	233	1	32
16th May, "	148	96	7	—	108	395	3	21
13th June, "	161	94	3	1	209	477	3	24
11th July, "	166	115	7	6	446	631	7	27
15th August, "	201	96	7	9	503	739	13	61
12th September, "	219	99	11	5	354	361	16	71
10th October, "	200	137	18	7	170	311	3	5
14th November, "	215	124	5	4	89	210	1	3
12th December, "	219	117	5	2	14	84	1	2

The boundary of the area of the Oldham Employment Exchange is not identical with that of the Oldham Borough.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Births

#### Births Registered

##### (a) LIVE BIRTHS:

There were 2,581 live births (1,304 males and 1,277 females) registered in the Borough during the year. After correction for inward (38) and outward (860) transferable births, the net total of births is 1,759 (900 males and 859 females).

The illegitimate live births numbered 94, or 5.34 per cent of the total live births.

##### (b) STILLBIRTHS:

During the year 76 stillbirths were registered. After being adjusted by inward and outward transfers the number is 53. The stillbirth rate is 29.25 per thousand total births, which compares with 25.55 for the previous year and 23.2 for England and Wales.

#### Births Notified

During the year, 1,770 notifications of birth were received relating to 1,723 live births and 47 stillbirths. In addition, 875 notifications were received which were transferred to other authorities concerned. The 2,569 live births and 76 stillbirths were notified as follows:—

Midwives .....	2,644
Doctors .....	1

In addition to the above, 1 birth, not notified, that of a baby found dead on the district, was brought to the notice of the department following a Coroner's inquest.

### Marriages

There were 1,004 marriages during the year, the rate per thousand of the population being 8.34. In 1954 the number of marriages was 856 and the rate 7.11.

### Deaths

During the year, 2,135 deaths (1,059 males and 1,076 females) were registered in the Borough. After correction for inward (95) and outward (405) transferable deaths, the net total deaths is 1,825 (889 males and 936 females), an increase of 8 on the total for 1954.

Of the 1,825 deaths, 691 (37.86 per cent) occurred in one or other of the following hospitals.

Oldham & District General Hospital .....	330
Boundary Park General Hospital Annexe (up to week ended 9-4-55) ...	178
Oldham Royal Infirmary .....	113
Westhulme Hospital .....	4
Strinesdale Sanatorium .....	4
Woodfield Maternity Home .....	1



Dr. Kershaw's Cottage Hospital .....	12
Manchester Royal Infirmary .....	6
Christie's Hospital, Manchester .....	1
Crumpsall Hospital .....	10
General Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne .....	5
Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale .....	7
Withington Hospital, Manchester .....	2
St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester .....	1
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury ...	3
Ancoats Hospital, Manchester .....	3
Racefield Pulmonary Hospital, Chadderton .....	1
Wolstenholme Hall Hospital, Rochdale .....	1
Wrightington Hospital, Wigan .....	1
Jewish Hospital, Manchester .....	1
Other Hospitals .....	7

Of the total deaths, 1,222 (66.95 per cent) occurred in persons aged 65 years or over.

The following are the chief causes of death in accordance with the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948:—

Tuberculosis .....	18
Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	290
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	279
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	175
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	49
Other Heart Disease .....	291
Other Circulatory Disease .....	102
Pneumonia .....	82
Bronchitis .....	203
Suicide .....	25
Motor vehicle, other accidents, homicide and operations of war .....	59

These groups of diseases account for 1,573 deaths occurring during the year, or 86.19 per cent of the total deaths registered.

#### Transfer of Births, Deaths and Stillbirths

In accordance with the revised memorandum on Transfer of Births, Deaths and Stillbirths which was issued from the General Register Office in October, 1952, all deaths occurring in the Boundary Park General Hospital Annexe, which is a chronic sick hospital accepting patients from Oldham and the adjacent county districts, were regarded as non-transferable. This procedure ceased on the 1st April when the Annexe and Boundary Park General Hospital were combined and became known as the Oldham and District General Hospital.

The Secretary of the Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee has kindly supplied me with the following figures of deaths of persons admitted from outside areas which occurred in the Annexe prior to the change.



During the period 68 deaths of persons admitted from outside areas occurred in the Annexe within the following periods from admission:—

Within 4 weeks .....	38
4 weeks to 3 months .....	9
3 months to 6 months .....	6
6 months to 9 months .....	1
9 months to 12 months .....	2
Over 12 months .....	12
	—
	68
	—

The 68 deaths occurred in the following age groups:—

Years .....	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75+
	—	—	3	10	19	36

During the year notification was received of 15 deaths of Oldham residents which occurred in outside mental or mental deficiency hospitals. All these deaths occurred 12 months or more after admission.

Table of Causes of Death at different periods of life during the year, 1955.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
ALL CAUSES ... ..	M	989	27	3	2	5	7	12	28	72	193	275	264
	F	936	27	3	...	2	6	4	17	48	146	295	388
1 Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	M	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	2	1
	F	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	...
2 Tuberculosis—Other forms	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
3 Syphilitic Disease ... ..	M	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Diphtheria ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Meningococcal Infections ...	M	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Measles ... ..	M	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
	F	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
10 Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	10	8	7
	F	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	12	13
11 Malignant Neoplasm—Lung	M	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	18	13	4
Bronchus ... ..	F	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...
12 Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	9	7	6
13 Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	9	4	1
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	M	68	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	8	15	21	20
	F	56	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	7	14	14	18
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
16 Diabetes ... ..	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	F	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	1
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	M	113	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	17	37	50
	F	166	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	18	70	69
18 Coronary Disease, Angina ...	M	103	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	11	29	37	18
	F	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	14	33	23
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	M	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	9	11
	F	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	14	9
20 Other Heart Disease ... ..	M	115	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	4	17	39	50
	F	176	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	19	39	109
21 Other Circulatory Disease ...	M	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	16	22
	F	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	10	34
22 Influenza ... ..	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
23 Pneumonia ... ..	M	41	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	10	10	13
	F	41	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	6	15	12
24 Bronchitis ... ..	M	119	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	9	30	48	28
	F	84	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	12	31	36
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..	M	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	5	3
	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	M	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	5	4	2
	F	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
27 Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	M	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	M	7	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	2
	F	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	...
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31 Congenital Malformations ...	M	7	5	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	F	5	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
32 Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ... ..	M	71	14	...	...	...	1	2	...	3	10	13	28
	F	86	18	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	11	15	38
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M	10	...	...	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	...	1
	F	7	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	1
34 All other Accidents ... ..	M	13	2	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	1	2	1
	F	27	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	12
35 Suicide ... ..	M	13	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	6	2	...
	F	12	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	5	2	...
36 Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	M	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



### Maternal Mortality

No deaths due to pregnancy or childbirth occurred in the Borough. The maternal mortality rate was nil, the same as in the previous year.

No maternal deaths were registered or reported which were due to associated conditions.

Deaths Due to Pregnancy or Childbirth .....	0
Deaths Due to Associated Conditions .....	0

### Infant Mortality

There were 79 deaths (39 males and 40 females) of infants under one year of age registered in the Borough. After correction for inward (5) and outward (30) transferable deaths, the net total of infant deaths is 54 (27 males and 27 females), an increase of 8 on the total for the previous year. Of the 54 infant deaths, two were those of illegitimate children and 36 occurred in infants under four weeks old, equivalent to a neo-natal mortality of 20.47 per 1,000 live births.

The following table shows the neo-natal and infant mortality during the last five years together with five-year averages from 1935:—

Year	Infant Deaths under 1 month	Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 births	Infant Deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 births
Average 5 yrs.—1935-1939	60	35.75	107	64.68
Average 5 yrs.—1940-1944	47	26.86	109	62.48
1945 .....	47	24.75	96	50.55
1946 .....	47	22.05	92	43.15
1947 .....	69	26.45	147	58.03
1948 .....	55	24.57	104	46.47
1949 .....	51	25.94	82	41.71
Average 5 yrs.—1945-1949	54	24.75	104	47.98
1950 .....	35	18.73	66	35.31
1951 .....	46	23.72	79	40.74
1952 .....	49	27.34	77	42.97
1953 .....	36	19.04	59	31.20
1954 .....	31	18.06	46	26.81
Average 5 yrs.—1950-1954	39	21.38	65	35.41
1955 .....	36	20.47	54	30.70



INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1955. Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year.

INDEX	CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 day	1-2 days	2-3 days	3-4 days	4-5 days	5-6 days	6-7 days	Total under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Classification	ALL CAUSES—Certified ... Uncertified	17	5	6	1	1	1	...	31	1	2	1	35	3	3	3	1	45
✓ 45/3	Dysentery (Sonne) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
✓ 057	Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
340/3	Meningitis with Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
331	Sub-dural Haemorrhage ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	5
✓ 491	Broncho-Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
✓ 754/4	Paroxysmal Tachycardia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
392	Otitis Media with Mastoiditis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
570	Intussusception ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
✓ 571	Acute Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
✓ 751	Spina Bifida (Hydrocephalus)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
✓ 751	Meningo-myelocoele & Hydrocephalus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
✓ 754/4	Congenital Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
✓ 759/3	Congenital Malformations ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
✓ 760/5	Intracranial Haemorrhage— With Immaturity ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
✓ 760	Without Immaturity	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3
✓ 762/5	Congenital Atelectasis— With Immaturity ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
✓ 762	Without Immaturity ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
✓ 763/5	Haemorrhagic Pneumonia with Immaturity ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
771/5	Haemorrhagic Disease of Newborn with Immaturity ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
773/5	Asthemia with Immaturity ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
773/5	Hydramnios, Twin Pregnancy with Immaturity ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
✓ 776	Immaturity (Unqualified) ...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
✓ E921	ACCIDENTS: Asphyxia—Inhalation of Regurgi- tated Food ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
✓ E924	Asphyxia—Smothering whilst in bed with mother ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
✓ E893	H.C.N. Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
	TOTALS ...	17	5	7	1	1	1	...	32	1	2	1	36	8	5	3	2	54



# VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE BOROUGH FOR THE YEAR AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS		Total deaths regis- tered in the Borough	Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths after correction				
		Births Regis- tered	Nett after correction		Of non- residents regis- tered in the Borough	Of resi- dents not regis- tered in the Borough	At all ages		Under 1 year		
			Number				Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 nett births
1930-1939 Average 10 years	—	2016	1734	12.9	2314	380	72	14.7	126	72	
1940	118,400	2092	1542	13.02	2359	510	101	16.47	105	67	
1941	116,860	2317	1649	14.11	2376	533	86	16.50	107	64	
1942	114,300	2576	1707	14.93	2163	513	65	15.00	110	64	
1943	112,300	2885	1845	16.43	2292	542	77	16.27	114	61	
1944	112,700	3268	2023	18.03	2168	525	83	15.39	108	53	
1945	111,350	2911	1899	17.05	2145	486	71	15.54	96	50	
1946	116,240	3420	2132	18.34	2148	525	70	14.56	92	43	
1947	117,900	4076	2533	21.48	2213	524	74	14.95	147	58	
1948	120,600	3477	2238	18.56	2146	516	60	14.01	104	46	
1949	120,600	2950	1966	16.30	2302	562	59	14.92	82	42	
1940-1949 Average 10 years	—	2997	1953	16.82	2231	524	75	15.36	106	55	
1950	119,500	2946	1869	15.64	2114	563	107	14.38	66	35	
*1951	119,450	2913	1939	16.23	2139	453	112	15.05	79	41	
1952	119,800	2632	1792	14.96	1973	424	123	13.96	77	43	
1953	119,100	2707	1891	15.88	1999	244	93	15.52	59	31	
*1954	120,340	2479	1716	14.26	1980	262	99	15.10	46	27	
1955	120,400	2581	1759	14.61	2135	405	95	15.16	54	30	

\* Borough Extension.

1956 119,800 2727 1809 15.14 2122 502 88 1708 14.29 49 27

1957 119,800 2787 1915 16.12 2153 491 97 1759 14.81 51 27

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate		Death Rate from Phthisis	Death Rate from other Tubercular Diseases	Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)		
			Year 1955	Average Five Years 1950-1954			Maternal causes excluding abortion	Due to Abortion	Total maternal mortality
England & Wales	15.0	11.7	24.9	28.0	*	*	.54	.1	.64
Birkenhead	16.67	13.38	27.91	34.8	.16	.01	...	...	...
Burnley	14.96	15.07	22.86	34.39	.09	.03	.82	.82	1.63
Bury	14.40	14.40	37.0	31.0	.19	.02	...	...	...
Halifax	14.29	15.73	21.69	31.41	.15	.01	...	.70	.70
Liverpool	19.6	11.9	36.0	35.0	.24	.02	.51	.06	.57
Manchester	16.91	12.68	28.37	33.49	.19	.02	.50	.25	.75
Oldham	14.61	15.16	30.70	35.4	.13	.02	...	...	...
Preston	15.60	13.42	29.0	32.0	.16	...	1.07	...	1.07
Rochdale	14.3	14.2	16.6	39.0	.10	.01	.77	...	.77
Salford	15.95	12.30	30.0	34.89	.22	.02	.71	...	.71
St. Helens	16.04	11.04	32.87	39.87	.21	.04	3.25	.54	3.79
Stockport	14.61	13.79	33.47	34.58	.13	.01	.47	...	.47
Wallasey	15.90	12.28	25.40	28.21	.20	.03	1.24	...	1.24
Wigan	13.79	11.06	33.3	38.4	.12	.01	...	...	...

\* Not available



## SECTION II

## HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

## MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

The hospital and specialist services are provided through the Manchester Regional Hospital Board and a full consultant service is available through the Oldham Hospital Group.

A domiciliary specialist service has been established by the Board and all practitioners are fully aware of the facilities available.

## UNITED MANCHESTER HOSPITALS

This is the designated teaching group for the area and comprises the following:—

- Manchester Royal Infirmary,
- The Manchester Royal Eye Hospital,
- St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children,
- The Dental Hospital of Manchester,
- The Manchester Foot Hospital.

These hospitals and other hospitals in the Manchester and Salford area are utilised by Oldham residents for the more specialised services.

## OLDHAM AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## GROUP 11

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P., F.C.C.S., and Dr. J. T. Chalmers Keddie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who had been appointed members of the Committee for the period ended 31st March, 1955, were re-appointed for a period of three years.

The following have been appointed as members of the Management Committee:—

For the period ending:

31st March, 1956—

Alderman J. A. Arthurs, J.P.

Alderman J. Bradley, J.P. (from 1-7-55)

Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell

Alderman Miss A. A. Kenyon, J.P.

Councillor A. Tweedale, J.P.

31st March, 1957—Alderman Sir Frank Lord, O.B.E., M.A., J.P.  
(Chairman)

31st March, 1958—Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P., F.C.C.S.

Dr. J. T. Chalmers Keddie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Alderman Sir Frank Lord, O.B.E., M.A., J.P., ceased to be a member of the Council on the 23rd May, 1955.



I am indebted to Mr. F. W. Barnett, Secretary of the Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee, for the details contained in the following report:—

The Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee is responsible for the following hospitals, dispensaries and clinics and, as the agent of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, undertakes their day to day administration:

**Oldham Royal Infirmary:** This is a general hospital of 190 beds with surgical, orthopædic, ophthalmic and aural beds, a limited number of medical and gynæcological beds and a children's ward. The hospital serves as the casualty hospital for the area and provides full out-patient facilities. There is a rehabilitation unit associated with the orthopædic department to which other cases can also be referred.

**Oldham and District General Hospital:** On the 1st April, 1955, the former Boundary Park General Hospital and Boundary Park General Hospital Annexe were amalgamated and became Oldham and District General Hospital with a total bed complement of 975. There are 387 beds available for medical, surgical, orthopædic, pædiatric, gynæcological and maternity patients, the latter being accommodated in a large maternity unit. Of the remaining 588 beds, 360 are within the geriatric unit and 228 are for psychiatric patients. There are 8 private beds available in the general part of the hospital and 2 for obstetric cases in the maternity unit. There are also 6 amenity beds in the maternity unit, all of which are in single wards.

Full out-patient facilities are provided, including special ante-natal, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, psychiatric and geriatric departments.

Certain premises continue to be used by the Welfare Services Committee as accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act.

**Strinesdale Sanatorium:** The Sanatorium provides accommodation for 57 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis—55 being in the main ward and 2 in separate chalets.

**Chadderton Hospital:** This hospital, which is situated in Chadderton, provides 52 beds for female patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

**Westhulme Hospital:** This hospital provides accommodation for patients suffering from infectious diseases. According to Ministry of Health standards the accommodation available is 85 beds.

Throughout the year only two wards, with a total accommodation of 43 beds, and a cubicle ward of 14 beds, were in use.

**Woodfield Maternity Home:** This is a general practitioner maternity home with 20 amenity beds.

**Dr. Kershaw's Cottage Hospital, Royton:** This is a general practitioner hospital situated in Royton and provides accommodation for 20 patients.

**The Orthopædic Clinic, Gainsborough Avenue:** This clinic also provides facilities for physiotherapy and artificial sunlight. Cases are referred for treatment from the school clinics, child welfare centres and by private practitioners.



### THE HARGRAVES CONVALESCENT HOME

This home, providing 28 beds, usually known as "The Nook," is situated in Saddleworth and is administered by the Huddersfield Hospital Management Committee, 21 beds being available for patients from the Oldham hospitals.

### EMERGENCY MATERNITY UNIT

An Emergency Maternity Unit operates from the Oldham and District General Hospital and is available to all general practitioners in the area.

### PATHOLOGICAL SERVICES

The majority of the pathological and bacteriological work of the Public Health Department is undertaken in the laboratories at Oldham and District General Hospital and Oldham Royal Infirmary. Certain examinations, e.g., ice cream and water, are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

### NURSING HOMES

There are no registered nursing homes in the Borough.

### OLDHAM AND DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES CONTRIBUTORY ASSOCIATION

The following information is given by courtesy of Mr. Edgar Ormerod, Secretary Administrator of the Association:—

The Oldham and District Health Services Contributory Association is a voluntary association whose object is to enable contributors to provide by means of a small weekly payment, convalescent treatment, physiotherapy in the home and also to obtain financial assistance towards expenses for surgical appliances, dentures, optics and the like. Assistance is also given towards payment for home help, and the provision of sick room and invalid equipment. There is no income limit for contributors. The rates of contribution are 2d. per week for a single person and 4d. per week for a married person. The contributions entitle the member, his wife, and his or her children up to school-leaving age to receive the benefits of the scheme, but do not entitle any other person or persons dependent on the member to receive the benefits. Such persons may become members of the scheme by payment of the recognised contribution.

During the year the Association provided the following benefits to members resident in the Borough and the adjacent districts:—

Convalescent Home Service .....	177
Sick Room Requisites—Patients Supplied .	1,127
Grants Paid:	
(i) Optical Benefits .....	5,507
(ii) Surgical Appliances .....	121
(iii) Dental .....	1,425
(iv) Home Help .....	15

The Association also provides a Mobile Physiotherapy Service, operating two vans. The following figures relate to the work of the Unit during the year:—

Number of new patients registered .....	256
Number of visits made during the year .....	4,477
Number of treatments given during the year .....	11,158
Number of patients on waiting list at 31-12-55 ...	48

The local health authority make an annual grant of £25 to the Association for the facilities provided in connection with the loan of nursing equipment and convalescence.



## SECTION III

### LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

#### HEALTH CENTRES

##### (Section 21)

A communication was received from the Ministry of Health stating that a scheme for the erection of a health centre would be considered at a cost not exceeding £10,000. The plan forwarded to the Ministry had been considered by their medical and technical officers and a revised plan was received embodying improvements which were considered to be desirable.

The plan was circulated and fully discussed with the officials and representatives concerned and a revised plan embodying the suggested improvement and other improvements considered advisable was prepared for informal submission to the Ministry for the criticism and comments of their officers.

#### CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

##### (Section 22)

##### Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

Ante-natal Clinics are held at the Central Clinic, 29, Queen-Street, each afternoon from Monday to Friday with the exception of Wednesday afternoon when new cases attend for booking and examination by the midwife. A medical officer attends each session fortnightly. No clinics are held in the homes of the midwives.

Expectant mothers are advised on all aspects of ante-natal and post-natal care, and lectures and talks are arranged by the Supervisor of Midwives. The advantages of inhalational analgesics are fully explained and apparatus is available at the clinic for demonstration purposes.

A post-natal clinic is held weekly on Thursday mornings, attendance being by appointment. The Consultant Obstetrician, Mr. A. H. Barber, attends the clinic each Wednesday morning to see cases referred for specialist advice or treatment from the ante-natal and post-natal clinics.

By arrangement with the Principal of the Women's Institute, which is under the control of the Education Committee, a sewing teacher attends the booking session each week to instruct mothers in the making and repairing of children's clothing.



The following table gives details of the sessions held and attendances made at the clinics:—

(1)	No. of clinics provided at end of year (whether held at Child Welfare Centres or other premises) (2)	No. of sessions now held per month at clinics included in col. (2)		No. of women in attendance		Total No. of attendances during the year	
		Medical Officers' Sessions	Mid-wives' Sessions	No. of women who attended during the year (4)	No. of new cases included in col. (4) (5)	Medical Officers' Sessions	Mid-wives' Sessions
(1)	(2)	(3)		(4)	(5)	(6)	
(a) Ante-Natal Clinics	1	8	12	1,311	996	2,227	3,496
(b) Post-Natal Clinics	1	4	—	127	111	127	—

#### Relaxation Exercises

A special class in association with the ante-natal clinic is held weekly each Wednesday evening. A fully qualified physiotherapist attends each class.

#### Provision of Maternity Outfits

Maternity outfits, sterilised and packed ready for use, are available free to expectant mothers whether or not they have booked a municipal midwife for their confinement and can be obtained at the ante-natal clinic.

#### Dental Inspection and Treatment

Special arrangements exist for the dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children and by agreement with the Education Committee, the resources of the School Dental Service are available on a user basis. The Principal School Dental Officer, Mr. J. Fenton, L.D.S., under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, is responsible for the organisation and development of the service and has direct access to the appropriate Sub-Committee.

It is to be regretted that the arrangement for a Dental Officer to make a regular weekly visit to the Queen Street Ante-Natal Clinic had to be discontinued in May as it was not possible to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. J. D. Franks, Dental Officer.

Mr. Fenton, with the full approval of the Education Committee, holds an appointment under the Manchester Regional Hospital Board as Visiting Dental Officer to the Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee and attends the Oldham and District General Hospital for two sessions per week where he is able to treat mothers and young children requiring hospital facilities.



I am indebted to Mr. James Fenton, Principal School Dental Officer, for the following report:—

### Expectant and Nursing Mothers

"The dental service provided for expectant and nursing mothers has been maintained during the year. These patients are entitled to free dental treatment (excluding dentures) under the General Dental Practitioner Service and also through the Dental Service of the Local Health Authority which provides free dentures, but the dental condition of those examined does not indicate that they have regularly availed themselves of these services. An intensive dental propaganda campaign might stimulate more interest in dental health, but with the present staff available this is impossible.

Following the resignation of Mr. J. D. Franks, Dental Officer, in April, the arrangement for a Dental Officer to make a weekly visit to the Queen Street Ante-Natal Clinic for routine dental inspection could not be continued. Alternative arrangements were made for the mothers to be offered an appointment to attend the dental clinic for dental inspection if they so desired. It was found that the most convenient day for these inspections would be Saturday morning. The result of the new arrangement has been a considerable drop in the total number of mothers examined, but the number receiving treatment is only slightly reduced. Under the old arrangement a considerable number of broken appointments occurred. Patients who are willing to attend the dental clinic for dental inspection are obviously interested in their dental health and will keep appointments made for treatment.

**Inspection.**—During the year, 493 patients received a dental inspection and 338 (68.51 per cent) were found to require treatment. Of the patients not requiring treatment, 49 were edentulous and wearing full dentures. Of the patients requiring treatment, 195 (57.69 per cent) accepted treatment at the dental clinics and 62 patients (18.34 per cent) stated a preference to attend a dental practitioner of their own choice. Unfortunately, 81 patients (23.96 per cent) who were advised to have dental treatment, refused to take any action. The absence of pain often influences many of these patients in reaching this decision and they prefer to attend as and when pain develops and then usually for the extraction of the offending tooth. The policy results in the patient requiring dentures at a comparatively early age.

It is interesting to record that 98 patients had attended dental practitioners and received conservation treatment, i.e., fillings, and that 5 patients had received fillings through the School Dental Service, but did not continue with this type of treatment after leaving school. Financial barriers cannot be the entire reason for this state of affairs, since everyone is entitled to free dental treatment under the National Health Service up to the age of 21 years.

**Treatment.**—Details of the treatment carried out are given in the appended returns and the amount of work undertaken is approximately the same as in the previous year.

681 permanent teeth were extracted as compared with 619 last year.



78 permanent teeth were filled. It is disappointing to report that the number of teeth filled has dropped this year. Should the staffing situation improve, every effort will be made to increase this very important side of the work. Unfortunately, many of these patients are not interested in conserving their teeth and do not place great value in the retention of their natural teeth.

53 scalings were performed and this is often associated with attendant gum treatment.

Six X-rays were taken to assist in correct diagnosis and treatment—use being made of the X-ray Unit installed at the Cannon Street Clinic.

36 complete and 11 partial dentures were supplied during the year. It is interesting to note that the number of dentures supplied has fallen and would appear to be as a result of the discontinuation of the weekly visit by a Dental Officer to the Ante-Natal Clinic. Previously all patients were examined and the Dental Officer was able to discover ill-fitting dentures and suggest their replacement. Under the new arrangement only patients complaining of their dentures have been referred to the dental clinics. In future all edentulous patients will be advised to attend the dental clinics for examination.

The services of a dental mechanic to the profession have been used to assist in the construction of dentures.

A general anæsthetic was administered on 47 occasions when teeth were extracted. The services of Dr. G. Mason-Walshaw, the anæsthetist employed in the School Health Service, are utilised when required. The employment of a highly competent and experienced anæsthetist is essential in this work.

The services of Mr. W. C. Mellor, F.D.S., R.C.S., Consulting Dental Surgeon to the Oldham Hospital Group, are available if required.

#### Pre-School Children

During the year, 304 children received a dental inspection compared with 267 in the previous year.

These children are usually referred from the infant welfare centres and are often suffering from toothache which necessitates the extraction of teeth.

The number of children between the ages of 2 and 3 years who develop toothache is extremely high. The average child does not complete eruption of its temporary teeth until two years of age. The incidence of caries has increased in recent years and it is common to find that the upper front teeth are hopelessly carious by the age of two years. This condition is invariably associated with the use of "dummies" and it is common practice for mothers to dip these rubber dummies in some form of carbohydrate, e.g., syrup, condensed milk, etc.

714 teeth were extracted and 35 fillings were inserted in temporary teeth. Here again under more favourable staffing conditions conservation of deciduous teeth would be encouraged.

249 children received general anæsthetics for the extraction of teeth.



The very young children who require a general anæsthetic are referred to the Oldham and District General Hospital and are usually treated as out-patients. The Principal School Dental Officer in his capacity as Visiting Dental Officer to the hospital is able to arrange and carry out the necessary treatment.

The following figures indicate the ages of the 304 children examined during the year:—

Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
0	6	31	129	136	2

Details of the work undertaken for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children are shown in the following tables:—

	Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Children 5 years & under
<b>(a) Provided with Dental Care:</b>		
Examined .....	493	304
Needing Treatment .....	338	275
Commenced Treatment .....	195	275
Made Dentally Fit .....	125	273
<b>(b) Dental Treatment Provided:</b>		
Extractions .....	681	714
Anæsthetics:		
Local .....	163	34
General .....	47	249
Fillings .....	78	35
Scalings or scaling and gum treatment ...	53	—
Silver Nitrate Treatment .....	—	—
Dressings .....	15	18
Radiographs .....	6	1
Crowns or inlays .....	—	—
Dentures Provided:		
Complete .....	36	—
Partial .....	11	—

### Supply of Welfare Foods

#### Distribution

The responsibility for the local distribution of welfare foods supplied by the Ministry of Food was transferred to local health authorities as part of their duties under the National Health Service when the local offices of the Ministry of Food closed at the end of June, 1954.

The central storage and distribution centre for infant welfare foods is in premises owned by the Corporation and situated in Greaves Street. This centre is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday.

The infant welfare centres are used as distributing points. Two full-time clerks and three part-time assistants are engaged in the distribution and supply of infant welfare foods.

### Care of Premature Infants

All infants weighing 5½lb. or less at birth are regarded as premature babies irrespective of the period of gestation.

Premature infants born on the district, where the home conditions are unsatisfactory, are removed to hospital by ambulance in a special cot and are accompanied by the midwife. In other cases arrangements are made by the Supervisor of Midwives for the home nursing of these infants and, if necessary, suitable equipment is supplied.

One district midwife specially trained and experienced was employed whole-time on the nursing care of premature babies. Where possible this midwife is in attendance at the confinement and continues in attendance until the baby weighs 6lb. or the mother is able to care for the baby herself without supervision. She also attends all premature babies discharged from the Oldham and District General Hospital and the Woodfield Maternity Home.

### Premature Births

The following table gives details of premature births notified during the year relating to Oldham residents (including transferred notifications):

	Premature Live Births	Premature Stillbirths
(a) In Hospital .....	87	23
(b) At Home .....	49	2
(c) In Private Nursing Homes .....	—	—
	—	—
	136	25
	—	—



Weight at Birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS												PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before the 28th day		
	Total	Died Within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died Within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died Within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died Within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died Within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days
3lb. 4oz. or less (1,500 gms. or less)	16	13	...	5	1	3	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	10	1
Over 3lb. 4oz. up to and including 4lb. 6oz. (1,500-2,000 gms.)	17	2	13	7	1	6	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	8	1
Over 4lb. 6oz. up to and including 4lb. 15oz. (2,000-2,250 gms.)	17	1	14	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Over 4lb. 15oz. up to and including 5lb. 8oz. (2,250-2,500 gms.)	37	...	36	26	...	25	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	...
Totals	87	16	63	44	2	40	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	23	2



### Care of Unmarried Mothers and Their Children

No Mother and Baby Home is provided but full use is made of the services available through voluntary organisations. An annual grant is made to the Oldham Council for Moral Welfare for which the services of their social worker are available. The grant made this year was again £150.

Cases are referred to the social worker for investigation. She advises the expectant mother on the social aspects of her problem and arranges admission to a suitable home or hostel where necessary. In certain cases where it has not been possible for her to make this provision through the homes available to her, the Department has made every endeavour to obtain suitable accommodation.

Under these arrangements 3 cases received ante-natal and post-natal care, 3 cases ante-natal care only, and 3 cases post-natal care only. The 3 ante-natal and post-natal cases were admitted to the following homes, and in the case of the two admitted to Liverpool confined in a hospital in the area of the home, and in the case of the one admitted to Kendal confined in the home itself, this being a maternity home:—

St. Monica's Home, Liverpool .....	2
St. Monica's Home, Kendal .....	1

The 3 cases receiving ante-natal care only were admitted to the following homes and confined in a hospital in the area of the home. They were discharged to their own homes from hospital:—

Lancaster, Morecambe & District Moral Welfare Association Girls' Hostel, Lancaster .....	1
Parkinson House, Preston .....	2

The 3 cases receiving post-natal care only were admitted to the following homes after their confinement in Oldham and District General Hospital:—

Wyther Hostel, Leeds .....	1
The Grange, Wilpshire, near Blackburn .....	1
Huddersfield Refuge .....	1

### Child Welfare Centres

A Child Welfare Centre is held at 29, Queen Street, twice weekly and there are seven branch centres in church and school premises. A doctor is in attendance at each of these centres. Details of the centres are as follows:—

	Centre	Days	Times
Central	Queen Street	Tuesday	9-30 a.m.
Central	Queen Street	Friday	9-30 a.m.
Brunswick	Oxford Street	Wednesday	2-0 p.m.
Millgate	Hollins Road	Thursday	2-0 p.m.
Beulah	Withins Road	Tuesday	2-0 p.m.
Scottfield	off Ashton Road	Thursday	2-0 p.m.
St. Ambrose	Prince Charlie Street	Wednesday	2-0 p.m.
St. Barnabas	Arundel Street	Tuesday	2-0 p.m.
Pitt St. East	off Glodwick Road	Wednesday	2-0 p.m.

Orange juice, cod liver oil, national dried milk and vitamins issued by the Ministry of Food are obtainable at all the centres and certain proprietary brands of infant food can be purchased.



By arrangement with the Principal of the Women's Institute, which is under the control of the Education Committee, a sewing teacher attends the centres on alternate weeks to advise mothers on the cutting out and sewing of children's clothing, patching, darning and how to "make do and mend" with clothes generally.

Clinic assistants are employed at the centres in connection with the sale of foods and to assist in the keeping of records, etc.

#### Attendances at Infant Welfare Centres During 1955

Centre	No. of children who first attended during year and who at their first attendance were under 1 year of age	No. of children who attended and who were born in:			Total No. of children who attended	No. of attendances made by children who at the date of attendance were:			Total attendances during the year
		1955	1954	1950-53		Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	
Pitt Street ...	153	129	80	69	278	2,104	348	86	2,538
Central .....	301	243	174	138	555	1,585	198	172	1,955
Brunswick ...	128	104	93	41	238	1,791	273	71	2,135
St. Ambrose .	97	80	81	34	195	1,423	280	20	1,723
St. Barnabas	150	133	98	44	275	2,150	277	72	2,499
Millgate .....	107	91	79	64	234	1,391	244	57	1,692
Beulah .....	85	75	68	61	204	1,378	310	159	1,847
Scottfield ....	205	158	102	65	325	2,404	265	95	2,764
	1,226	1,013	775	516	2,304	14,226	2,195	732	17,153

#### Co-operation with Voluntary Organisations

With the exception of the Oldham Council for Moral Welfare, no duties have been delegated to other voluntary organisations. The Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee made grants during the financial year 1955-56 in support of the general work which the following organisations undertake in the care of the mother and her child:—

	£	s.	d.
National Society of Children's Nurseries .....	3	3	0
Invalid Children's Aid Association .....	3	3	0
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents .....	2	2	0
National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child	10	10	0
Oldham Council for Moral Welfare .....	150	0	0
National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare .....	5	5	0
National Baby Welfare Council .....	2	2	0
Central Council for Health Education .....	22	0	0



## DAY NURSERIES

### Municipal Day Nurseries

The following accommodation was available on the 1st January and throughout the year:—

	Age Groups			Total Places
	0-1	1-2	2-5	
Honeywell Lane .....	8	17	21	46
Overens Street .....	5	12	25	42
Tate Street .....	—	13	21	34
	—	—	—	—
	13	42	67	122
	—	—	—	—

The nurseries are open each day, Monday to Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6-30 p.m., but are closed on Saturday morning.

The charge is 5s. 0d. per day, but this may be reduced in cases of hardship and appeals against the full charge are dealt with by the Appeals Section of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

The attendances made by children totalled 22,247, which compares with 24,949 for the previous year.

During the months of January and February the attendances fell by 1,035. This was due to the prevalence of infectious diseases and other illnesses.

### NURSERIES AND CHILD-MINDERS REGULATION ACT, 1948

#### Industrial Day Nurseries

On the 1st January, 9 nurseries were registered under this Act for children aged 0-5 years and provided a total accommodation of 406 places comprised as follows:—

Age 0-1 year .....	25 places
Age 1-2 years .....	111 places
Age 2-5 years .....	270 places

In addition 4 premises were registered for the accommodation of 161 children over the age of 5 years during school holiday periods.

Details of all these premises have been given in previous reports.

No plans for new nurseries were submitted or approved.

The Heathbank Nursery, which closed temporarily in February, 1954, for alterations and interior decorating, was re-opened in October, 1955.



The following table summarises the industrial nursery provision at the 31st December:—

Name of Nursery	Age Groups			Total Places
	0-1	1-2	2-5	
*Derker Mill .....	7	14	25	46
*Hartford House .....	—	20	48	68
*Heathbank .....	6	14	30	50
Iris Mill .....	12	16	19	47
Oldham Twist .....	—	13	19	32
*Oakbank .....	—	—	48	48
*Werneth Spg. Co. ...	—	15	42	57
*Willowbank .....	—	12	19	31
Fine Spinners & Doublers ...	—	7	20	27
Totals .....	25	111	270	406

\* The managements of these firms provide transport to and from the nursery.

The following accommodation was available on the 31st December for school children, and registered for use during school holiday periods, only:—

	Age Group	No. of Places
Belgrave Mill .....	5-11	55
Greenbank Mills .....	5-10	35
All Saints' School (Werneth Spg. Co.)	over 5	45
Copster Hall (Fine Spinners & Doublers)	5-11	26
Total .....		161

Close co-operation exists between the Department and the industrial firms concerned, and by arrangement with certain of the firms regular visits are made to the nurseries by the medical staff of the Department for medical inspection and immunisation of the children. The firms are encouraged to consult the Department if any difficulties arise.

In only one nursery does the management have their own practitioner attending for the medical care of the children.

#### Child Minders

At the beginning of the year there was one child minder on the register. During the year one application was received but this was subsequently withdrawn.

### MIDWIVES' SERVICE

#### (Section 23)

At the beginning of the year, in addition to the Supervisor of Midwives, 16 midwives (including one part-time midwife) were employed. During the year 5 midwives (including the one part-time midwife) left the service and



4 midwives were appointed and commenced duty. The following midwives were employed at the end of the year:—

- 1 Non-medical Supervisor,
- 1 Senior Assistant Superintendent,
- 1 Assistant Superintendent,
- 13 District Midwives,
- 9 Pupil Midwives.

A part-time nurse was engaged on duties in connection with hospital discharges and other special visits. She undertook no deliveries and accepted no bookings. One other district midwife, specially trained and experienced, undertook full-time duties in connection with the nursing of premature babies.

The establishment of a more satisfactory off-duty system during the night has long been contemplated, and in April a State Registered Nurse was appointed to undertake night duty (10 p.m. to 8 a.m.) at the Midwives' Home for the purpose of receiving all calls and allocating cases to midwives on duty. This nurse also assists with the maintenance of equipment and the keeping of records. The arrangement has worked extremely well and has reduced the disturbance caused to midwives during the night in their off-duty periods.

Following the receipt of Circular 52 of the Nurses' and Midwives' Whitley Council, which increased the annual leave of midwives, the Establishment Committee approved an increase in the establishment by one midwife. The approved establishment is now:—

- 1 Non-medical Supervisor,
- 1 Senior Assistant Superintendent,
- 2 Assistant Superintendents,
- 16 District Midwives,

The Oldham District Midwifery Service is approved by the Central Midwives' Board as a Part II Training School. During the year 13 pupils commenced training and one pupil, who had discontinued her training in the previous year, resumed training, but was not able to complete the course owing to sickness. Nine pupils sat the Part II Examination of the Central Midwives' Board and eight were successful.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee has approved the award of prizes to the best pupil midwives. An examination consisting of a written paper, viva voce and practical, is carried out each six months and prizes are awarded on the results of the examination which is conducted by members of the staff. One prize of £5 and two prizes of £2 2s. 0d. were awarded during the year.

At the end of the year there were 9 midwives in the service approved by the Central Midwives' Board as teachers. In July, Miss M. Hadfield, district midwife, was successful in obtaining the Midwife Teacher's Diploma.

#### Attendance After Confinement

The arrangement for the midwife to continue in attendance on the mother and baby for one month after confinement has been continued. This arrangement, which at present only applies to mothers confined on the district, continues to prove of the greatest value.



### Administration of Inhalational Analgesics

In February, the new rules of the Central Midwives' Board became operative. These rules permitted midwives to administer trilene on their own responsibility. Arrangements were made for a demonstration of the Tecota Mark VI apparatus and in July six machines were purchased. On delivery of the machines, further demonstrations were carried out for the purpose of instructing midwives and pupils in their use. The machines were subsequently put into use and trilene was administered to 44 cases.

All the midwives employed were qualified to administer inhalational analgesics in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives' Board. Provision is made for the training in the use by approved methods of analgesics of domiciliary midwives entering the service who have not received this training.

During the year, 831 cases were delivered and of these 786 (94.59 per cent) received inhalational analgesic. The remaining 45 cases did not receive inhalational analgesic for the following reasons:—

Patient refused .....	6
Medical reasons .....	6
B.B.A. or delay in summoning a midwife ...	28
Doctor booked—not booked for analgesic ...	3
Emergency cases—not booked .....	2

The following table shows the number of cases in which inhalational analgesic and pethidine were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year:—

	Doctor present at time of delivery	Doctor not present at time of delivery
Inhalational analgesic administered .....	34	752
Pethidine administered ...	12	337

### Transport

In July, the Finance and General Purposes Committee agreed an Assisted Purchase Scheme for midwives using their own cars to carry out official duties and included midwives as "essential users." Five midwives made application for loans and at the end of the year midwives were using their own cars under the scheme. Previously midwives had been included in the Car Allowances Scheme of the Corporation as "casual users."

Midwives who had not provided their own cars continued to use public service vehicles, but transport is provided through the Ambulance Service from 5-30 p.m. to 8-30 a.m. and at week-ends. By arrangement with the Cleansing and Transport Department, a car is available during the day time for urgent calls to confinements for midwives attending cases out of their own district and in emergency. This car is also available for transporting analgesic equipment.

### Midwives' Accommodation

In December, the Housing Committee approved an increase in the allocation of houses for municipal midwives from 4 to 6. At the end of the year the following accommodation was provided:—



1. Private houses and flats:
 

Owned by local health authority .....	1 house
Rented by local health authority:	
(i) from Corporation Housing Dept. ....	3 houses
	1 flat
  - \*2. Midwives' Home ..... 1
- \* This home provides accommodation for 12 midwives or pupil midwives and resident domestic staff.

#### Post-Certificate Instruction

Two district midwives who are approved teachers each attended a post-graduate course arranged by the Royal College of Midwives for midwife teachers and midwives engaged in teaching; one at Bristol from the 17th to 23rd July and the other at Newcastle from the 7th to 13th September. One midwife attended a four weeks premature baby course at the Sorrento Hospital, Birmingham, in December. This midwife also attended a fortnight's course in the care of premature babies at the Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, before taking up duties as premature baby nurse in August.

#### Hospital Discharges

Arrangements exist for maternity patients discharged before the fourteenth day from the Oldham and District General Hospital and Woodfield Maternity Home to be notified to the appropriate local health authority. In the case of Oldham residents the name, address and date of discharge are notified to the Supervisor of Midwives by telephone prior to an agreed discharge form being received.

#### Summary of Work Undertaken by the Municipal Midwives During the Year

##### Confinements:

Number of cases booked .....	983
Number of confinements attended .....	831
Number of cases receiving inhalational analgesic ...	786

##### Visits:

Ante-natal cases .....	3,865
During lying-in period .....	20,484
Post-natal .....	18
Hospital discharges .....	2,413
Premature babies:	
(i) Domiciliary births .....	1,745
(ii) Hospital discharges .....	617

During the year, 1,723 live births and 47 stillbirths relating to Oldham residents were notified. Of these, 931 (52.60 per cent) occurred in institutions and 839 (47.40 per cent) were domiciliary confinements. Of the latter, 838 (99.88 per cent) were attended by municipal midwives and 1 (0.12 per cent) by a midwife in private practice.

During the year 72 cases were referred for investigation into home conditions by the Almoner of the Oldham and District General Hospital. In 46 cases the conditions were considered to be suitable and the patients subsequently booked for domiciliary confinement.



## MIDWIVES' ACT, 1951

### Supervision of Midwives

#### Central Midwives' Board

(a) **Rules of the Board.**—The Midwives' Rules, 1955, were approved by the Minister (the Midwives' Rules Approved Instrument, 1955) and came into operation on the 1st day of February, 1955. These rules supersede the Midwives' Rules, 1949, and the principal changes are:—

- (a) the terms of the rules concerning the administration of analgesia by midwives on their own responsibility (Section "E," Rules 12, 25 and 35) have been widened by the substitution for references to "nitrous oxide and air" of reference to "inhalational analgesic";
- (b) the attendance of practising midwives at periodical refresher courses is made compulsory as from the 1st January, 1958 (Section "G");
- (c) the uniform and badges which may be worn by certified midwives are prescribed (Section "H").

In accordance with the instructions of the Central Midwives' Board, a copy of the Board's new handbook incorporating the rules was issued to every midwife practising in the Borough.

(b) **Approved Course of Instruction.**—A midwife who had not practised after the 1st January, 1939, gave notice of her intention to practise at a local hospital. In accordance with Rule G2 she was required to undertake a prescribed course of instruction which was approved by the Board.

(c) **Notification of Intention to Practise.**—During the year 63 midwives notified their intention to practise, compared with 59 in 1954. At the end of the year the following midwives were practising in the area of the Borough:—

#### In Domiciliary Practice:

- (a) Employed by Local Health Authority ..... 16\*
- (b) In private practice ..... 1

#### Employed in Institutions:

- (a) Oldham and District General Hospital ... 29
- (b) Woodfield Maternity Home ..... 8

\* Including Supervisor of Midwives.

The following table shows the number of deliveries attended by midwives during the year:—

**Number of Deliveries Attended by Midwives in the Area During the Year**

	Domiciliary Cases				Totals	Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked			
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked doctor or another)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child		
Midwives employed by local health authority ... ..	1	252	45	533	831	—
Midwives employed by Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee at Oldham & District General Hospital and Woodfield Maternity Home ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1773
Midwives in private practice ... ..	—	1	—	—	1	—
Totals ... ..	1	253	45	533	832	1773

Number of cases delivered in institutions but attended by domiciliary midwives on discharge from institutions and before the fourteenth day ..... 894

**Breast Feeding**

Number of domiciliary cases in which the infant was wholly breast fed at the fourteenth day ..... 740



### Medical Aid Under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives' Act, 1951

There were 120 medical aid forms sent in by domiciliary midwives as compared with 171 in 1954. The conditions for which medical aid was sought were as follows:—

Conditions in Mother		Conditions in Child	
Anæmia .....	1	Congenital abnormalities .....	6
Ante-partum hæmorrhage .....	4	Convulsions .....	1
B.B.A. ....	1	Coryza .....	2
Breast condition .....	2	Inflammation of or discharge	
Breech presentation .....	1	from eyes .....	22
Bronchitis .....	1	Prematurity .....	3
Delayed labour—first stage .....	1	Skin conditions .....	2
second stage ...	3	Other conditions .....	6
third stage ....	1		
Fœtal distress .....	3		
Hypertension .....	1		
Intra-partum hæmorrhage .....	1		
Malpresentation .....	3		
Phlebitis .....	6		
Post-partum hæmorrhage .....	4		
Prolapsed cord .....	1		
Pyrexia .....	4		
Retained placenta .....	2		
Ruptured perineum .....	41		
Threatened abortion .....	3		
Other conditions .....	4		

### Emergency Maternity Unit

During the year the Emergency Maternity Unit operating from the Oldham and District General Hospital was called out to two domiciliary cases attended by municipal midwives for the following emergencies:—

Post-partum hæmorrhage .....	2
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### HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

#### (Section 24)

There has been no material change in the service during the year. The statistical return summarises the work undertaken by the health visitors.

There is complete co-ordination with the School Health Service, all health visitors being appointed school nurses and the Superintendent Health Visitor being Superintendent School Nurse.

One health visitor undertakes whole-time duties in connection with tuberculosis and attends the Chest Clinic at Oldham and District General Hospital.

With the continued shortage of health visitors it was not possible to arrange for a health visitor to attend the Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Oldham and District General Hospital.



At the beginning of the year the staff consisted of:—

- 1 Superintendent Health Visitor,
- 1 Deputy Superintendent Health Visitor,
- 1 Senior Health Visitor,
- 6 Health Visitors,
- 1 Health Visitor (part-time).

During the year three health visitors and the senior health visitor resigned and three health visitors joined the staff, one of whom was a student health visitor who obtained her certificate in June. At the end of the year in addition to the Superintendent Health Visitor, the Deputy Superintendent Health Visitor and the health visitor engaged on tuberculosis duties, five health visitors devoting 2/11ths of their time to the School Health Service were employed and the senior school nurse/health visitor employed by the Education Committee was devoting 4/11ths of her time to duties in the Health Visiting Service.

Owing to the depleted staff of health visitors it was necessary to continue to employ full-time and part-time public health nurses to undertake duties at the infant welfare centres, immunisation and vaccination clinics and on visits in connection with infectious diseases. At the end of the year 3 public health nurses were employed (2 full-time and 1 part-time).

The tuberculosis health visitor, Mrs. M. M. Turner, who commenced duties in December, 1954, resigned and terminated her services on the 12th March. In June, Mrs. S. Clayton, who had been undertaking part-time duties as a health visitor, was appointed to this post and commenced duties.

The scheme for the appointment of student health visitors continued throughout the year and six student health visitors commenced training at the Manchester College of Technology in September. This is the highest number of students appointed in any one year since the commencement of the scheme. In May, approval was obtained for the establishment of student health visitors to be increased from 6 to 8 as a temporary measure.

The Housing Committee has agreed to provide housing accommodation for married health visitors. This facility, however, has not been requested to date.

Arrangements exist for one or more health visitors to attend a refresher course each year. One health visitor attended a course arranged by the Royal College of Nursing and held in London from the 14th to the 26th November, and one health visitor attended a course arranged by the Women Public Health Officers' Association and held in Manchester from the 21st to the 23rd July.

In May, the Deputy Superintendent Health Visitor and the senior school nurse/health visitor attended courses arranged by the University of Manchester Department of Education of the Deaf for the training of selected health visitors in the ascertainment of deafness in young children.

The Superintendent Health Visitor and one other health visitor are included in the Car Allowances Scheme of the Corporation as "casual users." At the present time only the Superintendent is using her car under the Scheme.



The following table summarises the work of the health visitors during the year:—

**Number of Visits Paid by Health Visitors**

H E A L T H   V I S I T O R S									Tuber- culosis Visitor
Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years	Children age 2 but under 5 years	Tuber- culous House- holds	Other Cases	Total visits paid to tuber- culous households
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	
7,626	12	14	1,788	6,469	3,802	6,999	117*	6,748	1,385

\*Visits by Health Visitor other than Tuberculosis Visitor.

The 6,748 visits made by health visitors to other cases were made up as follows:—

Premature Births .....	5
Handicapped Children .....	151
Cases of Infectious Diseases:	
Whooping Cough .....	17
Measles .....	456
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	7
Dysentery .....	3,783
Nursery Accommodation .....	152
Daily Minders .....	6
Applications for provision of domestic help .....	732
Aged and Infirm Persons .....	493
M.R.C. Investigation .....	749
Other Visits .....	197
	<hr/> 6,748 <hr/>

The total number of visits during the year is 31,265, which includes 5,547 ineffective visits.

The following attendances were made by health visitors at Infant Welfare Centres, Clinics, Nurseries and Nursery Classes:—

Infant Welfare Centres .....	878
Day Nurseries .....	87
Nursery Classes .....	75
Chest Clinic .....	114
Special Clinics .....	4
Immunisation Clinic .....	25
Vaccination Clinic .....	34
Post-Natal Clinic .....	42



### Oldham Mothers' Circle

The Oldham Mothers' Circle had yet another successful year. The Circle, which is a voluntary activity, has a committee consisting of eight mothers, together with a President, Secretary and Treasurer. The meetings are held fortnightly in the evening at the Community Centre, Clegg Street, when a small charge is made to members to cover the cost of the room.

The object of the Circle is to enable mothers to have an evening free of their everyday responsibilities, where they can meet other mothers and discuss topics of the day. The health visitors devote much of their leisure time to the Circle and during the year talks, films and demonstrations were given on a wide range of subjects and visits were also organised to local and other industries. The mothers enjoyed a visit to a pantomime in Manchester and summer evening trips in the country.

The activities of the Circle are promoting a keen interest in the care of young children, better home conditions and a more solid parental relationship in the home. With the continued increase in membership the work of the health visitors in this voluntary field should assist considerably in promoting and establishing a better foundation in the home and will prevent the break-up of family life.

### HOME NURSING

#### (Section 25)

There was no change in the organisation or administration of the service during the year.

The services of a district nurse can be obtained by a general practitioner on application to the Superintendent at "Glenthorne," 57, Queen's Road (Tel.: MAIn 4899). No night service is provided but evening visits are made to patients where necessary. There is always a member of the staff on duty for evening calls and in an emergency the services of a district nurse can be obtained at any hour of the night. Telephones are installed in the homes of all district nurses.

Patients discharged from hospital requiring nursing care are notified to the Superintendent by the almoners who give the case history and the name of the general practitioner responsible for the patient. By this arrangement close co-operation is provided between the hospitals and the Home Nursing Service.

The fullest co-operation is received from the general practitioners. Doctors have been requested to issue a note prescribing the treatment required, and the district nurse does not attend a patient unless this written authority is available.

Four autocycles, purchased in 1954, are provided for the three male district nurses and one female district nurse who covers the outlying district of Bardsley. These vehicles are maintained by the authority. All other district nurses use public transport, but at week-ends and in exceptional circumstances, e.g., shortage of staff or extraordinary pressure of work, transport is provided by the Ambulance Service.



At the beginning of the year the staff consisted of:—

- 1 Queen's Superintendent,
- 5 Queen's Nurses (4 female, 1 male),
- 7 District Nurses (5 female, 2 male),
- 2 District Nurses (female) (part-time).

Miss M. Dixon, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Superintendent, resigned and terminated her duties on the 3rd December prior to her marriage. Her successor was not appointed until the new year.

Three female auxiliaries undertake simple bathing and give personal attention to patients. These auxiliaries are only employed on selected cases and always under supervision. During the year the auxiliaries made 3,336 visits.

Four district nurses (including one who had undertaken part-time service in the previous year) were appointed and commenced duties. One district nurse left the service and one was granted leave of absence from the 31st October.

On the 31st December the staff employed was as follows:—

- Queen's Superintendent,
- 6 Queen's Nurses (4 female, 2 male),
- 8 District Nurses (7 female, 1 male),
- 1 District Nurse (female) (part-time).

Two district nurses (1 male and 1 female) attended a refresher course for district nurses arranged by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, one at St. Andrew's, Fife, from the 22nd to the 29th March, and one at Oxford from the 12th to the 19th September.

#### Queen's Institute of District Nursing

The local health authority is in membership with the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and the Service was inspected by an Inspector of the Institute in June.

This authority is also a member of the North Western Federation of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing, and the Chairman of the Home Nursing Sub-Committee (Councillor J. H. Broadbent), Mr. T. E. C. Crozier, and the Medical Officer of Health, represented the authority at meetings of the Federation.

There is approval for one student nurse to be appointed under the scheme of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing for the training of district nurses. Mr. F. P. Earnshaw, who commenced a course in October of last year, passed the Queen's Roll examination in February.

#### Work Undertaken

There were 2,204 cases (845 males and 1,359 females) nursed and 47,939 visits made by district nurses to these cases during the year. These figures compare with 1,989 cases (743 males and 1,246 females) nursed and 42,600 visits made by district nurses during the previous year.



The statistics again show an increase in work compared with the previous year, the new cases accepted having increased from 1,698 to 1,843. The number of injections, i.e., penicillin, insulin, liver, vitamin, streptomycin, mersalyl, and cytamin again increased, the total number being 19,644 compared with 16,083 in the previous year, an increase of 3,561 injections.

#### Cases Nursed and Visits Made

	Children		Others		Total No. of Cases
	0-5	5-15	Male	Female	
Cases on books at 1st Jan.	3	2	99	257	361
New cases.....	73	45	680	1045	1843
Total cases nursed during the year.....	76	47	779	1302	2204
Cases on books at 31st Dec.	4	2	109	286	401

The following table summarises the cases nursed and visits made by the district nurses during each month of the year:—

	Children		Others		Total No. of Cases	Visits by District Nurses
	0-5	5-15	Male	Female		
January ...	9	4	149	363	525	3913
February ...	13	2	153	356	524	3740
March ...	7	2	174	365	548	4019
April ...	5	2	160	367	534	4058
May ...	12	10	155	360	537	4211
June ...	12	6	147	343	508	3799
July ...	9	10	144	345	508	3985
August ...	11	3	152	335	501	4056
September ...	10	2	180	340	532	4021
October ...	11	8	168	348	535	4057
November ...	9	8	176	367	560	4188
December ...	13	3	148	360	524	3892

#### New Cases Accepted During Each Month of the Year

Age Groups	0-1		1-5		5-15		15-40		40-60		60-65		65+		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Jan.	—	2	2	2	—	2	5	12	21	19	3	4	21	71	52	112
Feb.	2	1	6	1	1	1	6	10	15	21	8	15	24	46	62	95
Mar.	—	—	—	2	—	1	9	6	19	26	4	10	45	66	77	111
April	—	—	—	2	2	—	5	12	15	19	7	7	35	61	64	101
May	—	5	1	4	7	1	5	15	7	23	5	3	38	42	63	93
June	1	—	1	6	2	1	6	2	10	17	6	2	27	52	53	80
July	2	2	1	1	7	2	4	14	5	15	4	10	22	38	45	82
Aug.	2	1	—	4	2	—	3	14	10	15	8	7	27	34	52	75
Sept.	1	—	2	2	1	—	5	13	19	17	13	10	35	35	76	77
Oct.	1	1	1	3	5	1	7	18	21	19	11	11	23	39	69	92
Nov.	—	—	4	—	2	5	8	17	28	26	11	5	26	47	79	100
Dec.	—	—	5	2	2	—	4	16	11	14	6	7	23	43	51	82
Totals	9	12	23	29	31	14	67	149	181	231	86	91	346	574	743	1100



The following table is a summary of the types of cases nursed and the visits paid to these cases during the year:—

	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Maternal Complications	Others	Totals	Patients included in (2) - (7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year	Children included in (2) - (7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year	Patients included in (2) - (7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Number of Cases attended...	1367	426	—	58	2	351	2204	1139	76	10
Number of Visits paid ...	35158	9208	—	1629	12	1932	47939	7853	414	282

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### (Section 26)

#### Immunisation Against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough has continued throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to have their children immunised as early as possible after they are 8 months old and, at the end of the year, according to records available, 45 per cent of the child population of the Borough aged 0-5 years had received this protection.

Throughout the year the materials used and the dosage given were as follows:—

Protection	Age Group	Material Used	Dosage
<b>Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation</b>	0-5 yrs.	Suspended diphtheria-pertussis (Glaxo) each c.c. containing 20,000 million H pertussis	Three injections of 1.0 c.c. each at an interval of four weeks between injections.
<b>Diphtheria Immunisation</b> (a) Primary Immunisation.	0-10 yrs.	A.P.T.	Two injections of 0.2 c.c. and 0.5 c.c. with an interval of four weeks between injections.
	10 yrs. & over	T.A.F.	Three injections of 1.0 c.c. at four weekly intervals.
(b) Re-inforcing Injections.	5-10 yrs.	A.P.T.	One injection of 0.5 c.c.
	10 yrs. and over	T.A.F.	One injection of 1.0 c.c.
<b>Whooping Cough Immunisation</b>	0-5 yrs.	Suspended whooping cough vaccine (Glaxo) each c.c. containing 20,000 million H pertussis.	Three injections of 1.0 c.c. each at four weekly intervals.

All prophylactic is supplied to general practitioners free of charge and can be obtained on application to the Department.

Immunisation of pre-school children is carried out at the infant welfare centres and day nurseries and also by appointment at the immunisation clinic which is held weekly at the Central Clinic, 29, Queen Street, on Saturday mornings.

At the school entrance examination, the immunisation state of each child is reviewed and parents are reminded of the importance of "reinforcing" injections and the immediate need to give consent for the first "reinforcing" injection to be given. Parents of children who have not received a primary course of injections prior to entering school are again reminded of the dangers of diphtheria and the urgent need for immunisation of their children. With the consent of the parents arrangements are made for these children to receive the necessary injections as early as possible after the medical examination. Where the number of consents received from any one school is sufficiently large, a special session is arranged at



the school and parents are invited to be present. In all other cases appointments are made for the children to attend along with their parents if desired at the Gower Street or Scottfield Clinics according to the school they attend.

Visits are made periodically to each junior school to ascertain the immunisation state of the children attending and the second "reinforcing" injection is offered to all children over the age of 10 years according to their immunisation state and, at the same time, the parents of those children who are found not to have received any protection at all, or who have not at this age received the first reinforcing injection, are again reminded of the urgent need for such injections to be given, and with the consent of the parents the necessary arrangements are made.

Under these arrangements parents are constantly reminded of the dangers of diphtheria and of the facilities available for the protection of their children against this disease.

The following table summarises the number of children completing the full course of combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation:—

#### Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation

Age in Years	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	Total under 15 yrs.
Sessional arrangements	337	159	50	36	27	1	—	610
Private Practitioners...	232	121	30	13	7	8	—	411
Totals ...	569	280	80	49	34	9	—	1021

The following figures indicate the number of children completing the full course of immunisation against diphtheria only and those receiving reinforcing injections during the year:—

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

Age in Years	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	Total under 15 yrs.
(a) Primary Immunisation.								
Sessional Arrangements	6	6	3	7	44	215	57	338
Private Practitioners...	5	1	1	—	—	1	2	10
Totals ...	11	7	4	7	44	216	59	348
(b) Reinforcing Injections.								
1st Reinforcing—								
Sessional Arrangements	—	—	2	—	281	697	314	1294
Private Practitioners...	—	—	—	—	39	105	24	168
2nd Reinforcing—								
Sessional Arrangements	—	—	—	—	—	6	604	610
Private Practitioners...	—	—	—	—	—	3	48	51
Totals ...	—	—	2	—	320	811	990	2123



### Whooping Cough Immunisation

The following figures indicate the number of children receiving protection against whooping cough only during the year:—

Age in Years	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	Total under 15 yrs.
Sessional arrangements	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	6
Private Practitioners	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	2	2	—	1	2	—	—	7

### Vaccination Against Smallpox

A weekly session is held at the Queen Street Clinic on Monday mornings primarily for the vaccination of infants.

During the year, 323 children of school age received primary vaccination and 104 were revaccinated. These figures include 272 primary vaccinations and 92 revaccinations of children who were offered vaccination prior to leaving school.

At the periodic examination of school entrants information is obtained regarding the state of vaccination of the children examined. During the year, of 1,729 children examined only 501 (28.98 per cent) were found to have been vaccinated against smallpox. This compares with 23.12 per cent for the previous year.

The following table indicates the number of persons of all ages vaccinated and revaccinated:—

Age at date of vaccination in years	Under 1 yr.	1 year	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15+ yrs.	Totals
<b>Primary Vaccinations.</b>						
Sessional Arrangements	268	26	20	284	13	611
Private Practitioners ...	288	30	18	39	63	438
Assistant Medical Officers	—	—	—	—	9	9*
Totals ...	556	56	38	323	85	1058
<b>Re-Vaccinations.</b>						
Sessional Arrangements	—	—	1	92	15	108
Private Practitioners ...	—	—	9	12	124	145
Assistant Medical Officers	—	—	—	—	64	64*
Totals ...	—	—	10	104	203	317

\*These figures relate to members of the staff who were vaccinated or re-vaccinated by reason of their duties and possible contact with cases of smallpox.

Supplies of lymph are available to all general practitioners on direct application to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, 10 (Tel.: COLlyhurst 2733).



## AMBULANCE SERVICE

### (Section 27)

The total number of cases removed was 43,640, which compares with 38,247 in the previous year, an increase of 5,393. The mileage run, 237,414, which includes a mileage of 49,315 in connection with other services, shows an increase of 24,074 miles. The area served includes the Saddleworth district of the West Riding.

The number of cases removed in the County Borough area has again increased, the total number being 39,565, compared with 34,331 in the previous year, an increase of 5,234. As in previous years the increase is almost entirely in cases removed by "sitting-case" vehicles.

Transport is provided for patients attending the Psychiatric Out-Patient Department at the Oldham and District General Hospital and "day care" patients attending the Psychiatric Unit. Sitting-case vehicles are used for this service and the following mileage was involved:—

"day care" patients, 9,710 miles;    out-patients, 3,419 miles.

In January, an Out-patient Department at the Geriatric Unit was opened and the conveyance of patients to and from this clinic involved a mileage of 1,939 miles.

Since the establishment of a Burns and Scalds Unit at the Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester, all children suffering from burns and scalds are conveyed direct to this Unit and during the year 46 children were removed.

It is not considered that there has been any extravagant use of the Ambulance Service and there is satisfactory co-operation with the hospital staffs.

The following figures indicate the number of cases removed:—

	Ambulance	Car	Total
Oldham County Borough .....	15,101	24,156	39,257
West Riding County Council	1,362	2,713	4,075
Lancashire County Council ...	258	—	258
Other Authorities .....	41	9	50
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>16,762</b>	<b>26,878</b>	<b>43,640</b>

The figures for Lancashire County Council relate to removals following misdirected "999" calls.

In addition to the above, 5 cases were removed by train, the return fare of an escort being provided in 3 cases.

In accordance with the National Health Service (Amendment) Act, a number of removals were effected by other authorities for the County Borough and in 11 cases a charge was made for these removals.

The majority of journeys outside the Borough are to hospitals in the Manchester area. Journeys beyond these limits are not numerous and long distance journeys (over 100 miles) are comparatively rare and whenever possible the patient is conveyed by rail. There were 85 single journeys over 25 miles but under 50 miles, 40 single journeys over 50 miles but under 100 miles, and 6 long distance journeys over 100 miles.



On the 1st January the fleet consisted of 11 ambulances and 7 sitting-case vehicles, two of the ambulances being used exclusively for civil defence training.

The following vehicles were taken into service during the year:—

March—Bedford/Lomas large sitting-case vehicle.

September—Bedford/Lomas small sitting-case vehicle.

The Bedford/Lomas small sitting-case vehicle is a new innovation in the service. This type of vehicle has proved most successful; it has a very economical performance and seats six patients.

During the year, 2 vehicles were removed from service:—

Ambulance  
BBU 490

Sitting-case Vehicle  
HBU 425

Ambulance BBU 490 was purchased by the Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee for internal hospital transfers, e.g. ward to ward removals.

On the 31st December, the fleet consisted of 10 ambulances and 8 sitting-case vehicles. All vehicles are fitted with radio telephone equipment.

In October, the Establishment Committee approved an increase in the establishment of Driver/Attendants from 25 to 27. The increase became essential due to the large increase in the number of patients being conveyed.

Driver/attendants are entered each year for the National Safe Driving Competition of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. At the end of the year, out of 25 driver/attendants eligible, 22 had qualified for an award, 14 received the Annual Diploma, 3 the 5 year bronze medal and 5 received a bar to the 5 year bronze medal.

The alterations and renovations to the old wooden garages at the Ambulance Depot had not been commenced at the end of the year due to steel shortage.

#### **Arrangements with Adjacent Health Authorities**

##### **West Riding County Council**

By agreement with the West Riding County Council, the Oldham Ambulance Service accepts and removes all accident, emergency and infectious cases arising in the Saddleworth area, with the exception of the occasional case which occurs in the areas remote from Oldham and proximate to Huddersfield, which is usually removed by one of the County ambulances based at Huddersfield. Payment for work done is based on a rate per mile which is determined at the end of each financial year.

##### **Lancashire County Council**

Owing to the overlapping of telephone areas a number of "999" calls originating in the County area are still being misdirected to the Oldham Ambulance Depot. In the interests of all concerned these calls are accepted by the Oldham Service and the County Council make a payment of £2 for each removal.



### Transport for Other Services

#### (1) Midwives' Service

For normal routine duties, midwives who do not own their own cars, use public transport. For urgent cases during the day and when analgesic apparatus is required, a car is requested from the Cleansing and Transport Department. At all other times and over the week-end the Ambulance Service is responsible for providing transport for these midwives. A Ford Prefect car is used for this work, the vehicle being garaged at the Ambulance Depot and driven by a driver/attendant. The mileage incurred in connection with this service was 20,244 miles compared with 17,614 for the previous year.

#### (2) Home Nursing Service

The district nurses use public transport, but at week-ends and in exceptional circumstances, e.g. shortage of staff, or extraordinary pressure of work, transport is provided by the Ambulance Service. A total mileage of 1,919 miles was involved compared with 2,577 miles for the previous year.

Four auto-cycles are used by district nurses. These are supplied with petrol and oil, and are maintained by the mechanics at the Depot.

#### (3) Mental Health Service

Regular transport has been provided throughout the year for the conveyance of children to and from the Occupation Centre and the Creche. In September, the Creche children were transferred from the Occupation Centre to premises at the Arthurs Industrial Centre. Males attending the Arthurs Industrial Centre are encouraged to make their own way by public transport but where they are unable to do so owing to their disability they are conveyed to and from the centre by sitting-case vehicle.

The mileage for this service has increased considerably, this being the first full year's working of the Arthurs Industrial Centre. The transfer of the Creche to the Glen Mill site, has made it necessary for these children to have separate transport, where previously they shared transport with the Occupation Centre children, and also accounts for some increase in the mileage. The total mileage run was 27,152 miles which compares with 21,145 miles for the previous year.

The service provides emergency transport for the mental health visitors who are also duly authorised officers.

The following statistics relate to the work of the Ambulance Service during the year and include removals undertaken for the West Riding of Yorkshire and other authorities:—

	Ambulances	Sitting-case Vehicles	Total
Number of vehicles at 31st December	10	8	18
Number of patients carried .....	16,762	26,878	43,640
Number of accident and other emergency removals .....	3,876	136	4,012
Total mileage .....	65,697	171,717	237,414

(The mileage shown includes journeys in connection with other services.)



### Civil Defence

The sectional training of Civil Defence volunteers has continued throughout the year.

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

### (Section 28)

#### Tuberculosis

Details of notified cases and other statistics relating to tuberculosis are given in the Infectious Diseases Section of the Report.

There has been no change in the staffing arrangements. Dr. H. S. Bagshaw, Chest Physician, undertakes duties in connection with Prevention and After-Care and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor assists at the Chest Clinic sessions. Dr. Bagshaw is also available for regular consultation on problems which arise in connection with tuberculous patients. These arrangements provide for co-operation between the preventive and curative services.

The supply of milk to patients attending the Chest Clinic has been continued and suitable cases in need of extra nourishment are referred to the Public Health Department so that orders can be issued. During the year, 40 individual patients were issued with 254 orders for the supply of free milk. Each order permits the supply of milk for the period of four weeks, and 179 orders were for two pints per day and 75 orders for one pint per day.

On the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health the Housing Committee gives re-housing priority to cases of pulmonary tuberculosis with a positive sputum and certain other cases receive some degree of priority. During the year, priority recommendations were made in respect of 7 cases and 6 families were re-housed under this arrangement.

#### Mass Miniature Radiography

The Manchester Regional Hospital Board has a mobile unit based at Rochdale which serves the County Boroughs of Bury, Oldham and Rochdale and also adjacent County Districts. The unit did not visit the Borough during the year but it is proposed to undertake a survey in Oldham in the spring of next year (1956).

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 64/50, Home Office Circular 228/50 and Ministry of Education Circular 248, staff requiring x-ray examination prior to engagement and at regular intervals are referred to a Mass Miniature Radiography Unit for an x-ray of the chest. During the year 127 members of the Public Health Department, 71 members of the Education Department and 9 members of the Children's Department were sent for examination.

In almost all cases the x-ray examination of entrants to courses of training for teaching and to the teaching profession is undertaken by the Mass Miniature Radiography Service of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board and in only occasional cases is it necessary for this examination to be made at a hospital or chest clinic and a charge incurred.



### B.C.G. Vaccination

The following arrangements are in operation :—

**Vaccination of Contacts** — The vaccination of selected contacts of known tuberculosis cases in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 72/49 has been continued. The arrangements are under the control and supervision of Dr. H. S. Bagshaw, Chest Physician. During the year, 105 children (55 boys, 50 girls) and 2 adults (females) who were found to be Mantoux negative, received vaccination. Subsequent Mantoux tests were positive.

**Vaccination of School Children.** — In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 22/53 and following modification of the proposals in the previous year, the vaccination of older school children has been commenced. The parents of children who would reach 13 during the year were offered B.C.G. vaccination. The arrangements are under the control of the Medical Officer of Health and medical officers who have received special instruction in B.C.G. vaccination undertake these duties.

The following figures relate to the work undertaken during the year:—

No. of children offered B.C.G. ....	527
No. of acceptances .....	307
Percentage accepting .....	58
No. excluded on medical grounds .....	8
No. completing skin testing .....	287
No. positive .....	71
Percentage positive .....	25
No. negative .....	216
No. receiving vaccination .....	214
No. positive at subsequent skin test .....	204

The 10 children who were not Mantoux positive following vaccination were still being followed-up at the end of the year.

### Special Investigations in Schools

The combined use of Mantoux testing and miniature X-ray examination provides a valuable approach in the tracing of contacts and the ascertaining of early or missed cases of pulmonary tuberculosis where a known source of infection exists.

Where a group of children or individuals have been in close contact with an open case (sputum positive) a certain procedure should be followed. If the case occurs in a school:—

1. All staff should be Mantoux tested and X-rayed.
2. All children should be Mantoux tested.
3. Children who show a positive reaction should be X-rayed.

### Investigation 1/55

In December, 1954, a teacher in a secondary technical school was notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis (sputum positive) and was subsequently admitted to sanatorium. The parents of children attending the school and the staff were advised of the facilities available. The staff, with the exception of one teacher, and all the parents of the



pupils agreed to co-operate in the investigation. The Medical Director of the No. 6 Mass Radiography Unit of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board willingly agreed for the mobile unit to visit the school to undertake the X-ray examinations. As a result of this investigation, one teacher was found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis and was immediately excluded from duty being subsequently admitted to sanatorium. No other cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed among the staff or children.

#### Investigation 2/55

In August, a teacher in a primary school was notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis (sputum positive). She taught in the infant department but had contact with children in the junior department. The parents of all children attending the school and the staff were advised of the facilities available and all the parents and staff co-operated in the investigation. By arrangement with Dr. H. S. Bagshaw, Chest Physician, the necessary X-ray examinations were undertaken at the Chest Clinic, a small camera unit being used.

The X-ray examination of all the members of the staff was satisfactory but the children X-rayed (34) were recalled for a large film and clinical examination. As a result of these examinations, two children were accepted and notified as early cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (Cases 9 and 10). A third child, who was under observation prior to the investigation, was also accepted as an early case (Case 7). As a precautionary measure, 32 children were kept under observation, 12 by the Chest Physician, and 20 by an assistant medical officer. It is gratifying to report that none of these children was found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

No. of children	Investigation 1/55	Investigation 2/55
Mantoux tested .....	381	160
Mantoux positive .....	162	31
X-rayed .....	167	34
<b>No. of staff</b>		
X-rayed .....	25	7

#### Medical Research Council—Anti-Tuberculosis Investigation

The Medical Research Council is undertaking controlled clinical trials of anti-tuberculosis vaccines and in July, 1951, the Ancillary Services Sub-Committee readily agreed to co-operate in these investigations. The volunteers taking part in the trials are leavers from the Secondary Modern Schools who left during the 18 months September, 1951, to March, 1953. When the survey commenced these pupils were about to enter the 15-25 age group, one which is known to produce a very large number of cases of tuberculosis. The details of the investigation are fully described in earlier reports.

The Medical Research Council provides the medical, radiological and clerical staffs and the mobile X-ray unit but the nursing staff of the School Health Service undertakes the home visiting.



The first stage of this survey was completed by December, 1952, all the children who volunteered having been X-rayed, Mantoux tested and selected children having received B.C.G. or Vole vaccination. No more children were admitted to the scheme, but every child who completes one series of tests will be carefully watched for a period of at least three years and will be offered an annual X-ray examination.

During the year the Unit visited the Borough in February and August in order to make follow-up examinations of the children already admitted to the scheme and of the 1,163 children invited to attend 612 attended. These examinations were carried out by the Medical Research Council's Mass Radiography Unit at the Community Centre, Clegg Street. The volunteers were asked to attend between 4-30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The Health Visitors and School Nurses are assisting in the follow-up of the children and during the year visited the homes of 653 children in order to complete the follow-up reports.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Keidan, Physician-in-Charge of the Unit, for the following report:—

"Supervision of the Oldham children participating in the national anti-tuberculosis vaccines trial has continued throughout the year. The annual postal enquiry about the health of the volunteers was made, and each person invited to attend a centre for the X-ray examination of the chest carried out by the Medical Research Council Mobile Radiography Unit. These examinations were held during the evenings and there was only a slight falling off in attendance in comparison with previous years.

An important contribution to the 'follow-up' of these volunteers is the annual home visit made by Health Visitors to obtain information about their health during the previous twelve months and the nature of their employment. This personal interview also encourages the young people to keep the appointment made for an X-ray examination of the chest and maintains their interest in the trial.

The First Report to be published early in 1956 establishes beyond question the short-term value of vaccination of young people. The results show that a general vaccination scheme at the age of 14-15 should reduce the number of cases of tuberculosis developing in adolescents by about a half.

The report includes complete results for the first two and a half years of the investigation, with supplementary information up to four years. Until the scheme has continued for a further period it will not be possible to say for how long the protection given by the vaccine will last, and whether those protected from tuberculosis in the first few years after vaccination will remain protected in later life. Until more is known of the duration of protection given by the vaccine it is also not possible to decide definitely the most suitable age at which it should be given.

Finally, although the vaccine can make a substantial contribution to the prevention of tuberculosis, it should not be assumed that efforts to control the disease by other means can be relaxed. The investigation is still in progress and further reports will appear later."



### Co-operation With Voluntary Associations

No specific duties have been delegated to voluntary organisations.

The Home Nursing Sub-Committee made a grant of £5 5s. 0d. for the financial year 1955/56 to the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in support of the general work which the Association undertakes in the fight against tuberculosis.

No patients were admitted to tuberculosis colonies during the year. A male aged 25 years (admitted 1953) left the British Legion Village, Preston Hall, Maidstone, in February, having completed an eighteen month training course as a motor mechanic and driver. A male aged 45 years (admitted 1950) continued to remain in the East Lancashire Tuberculosis Colony, Great Barrow, near Chester.

### Mental Illness or Defectiveness

The arrangements for the care and after-care of persons suffering from mental illness or defectiveness are fully described in the Mental Health Section of this report. In a few cases special walking frames have been supplied to assist the defective to learn to walk and become ambulant.

### Other Types of Illness

There has been co-operation between the hospital staffs and the officers of the department, and requests were received for information with regard to patients. Assistance has been given through the Home Nursing and Domestic Help Services to patients discharged from hospital.

### Provision of Nursing Requisites and Apparatus

#### (a) By the Local Health Authority

##### (i) Tuberculous Cases

Nursing requisites are available through the Chest Clinic. During the year, 8 patients received nursing requisites and at the end of the year 10 patients were receiving this assistance. The following table shows the items issued during the year, and the equipment on loan at the 31st December:—

Item	No. issued during the year	No. on loan at 31st Dec.
Beds .....	4	3
Mattresses .....	6	4
Mattress Covers .....	6	4
Blankets .....	15	18
Pillows .....	6	9
Urinals .....	1	1
Bed Pans .....	—	1
Air-rings .....	2	2
Rubber Sheets .....	4	—

##### (ii) Maternity Cases

The arrangements with the Midwives' Service for the loan of nursing requisites required for the mother and her baby have been continued. Beds, mattresses, blankets, pillows, cot sheets, cot blankets, bed pans, air-rings, hot water bottles, and nightdresses are available.



## (iii) Other Cases

The St. John Ambulance Brigade loan nursing requisites to general medical and surgical cases and the Local Health Authority supplies beds, bedding and fire guards in special cases.

## (b) By Voluntary Organisations

- (i) St. John Ambulance Brigade (Oldham Corps),  
Medical Comforts Depot, Park Road, Oldham.

General medical and surgical cases in need of nursing requisites can obtain these through the Medical Comforts Depot. Nursing requisites are obtained on the certificate of a medical practitioner and the Brigade have agreed to make available such items of equipment as the Medical Officer of Health may consider necessary. A deposit is charged when an article is loaned but this is refunded on its return. The depot is open Monday—Friday from 7-30 p.m. to 9 p.m. During the year, 476 patients received assistance and 756 articles were loaned. The following table shows the items issued during the year and the equipment on loan at the 31st December:—

Item	No. issued during the year	No. on loan at 31st Dec.
Air-rings .....	127	34
Bed cradles .....	6	6
Bed pans .....	180	82
Bed rests .....	94	41
Bed tables .....	3	2
Commodore .....	4	12
Crutches (pairs) .....	8	8
Enamel bowls and dishes	3	—
Feeding cups .....	21	7
Invalid chairs .....	27	23
Rubber sheets .....	183	87
Sorbo beds .....	1	1
Sputum mugs .....	1	—
Urinals .....	94	50
Walking sticks .....	4	6

For the financial year 1955/56 the Home Nursing Sub-Committee reimbursed the Brigade in respect of all establishment charges incurred at the Medical Comforts Depot and made a grant of £60 for the replacement of nursing requisites.

A female aged 57 years suffering from rheumatoid arthritis continued to have the loan of an automatic page turning machine which was supplied through the St. John and British Red Cross Hospital Library Department, East Lancashire Branch, in 1953.

- (ii) Oldham and District Health Services  
Contributory Association.

The Home Nursing Sub-Committee made a grant of £25 to this Association in respect of the financial year 1955/56 for the facilities they provide for the loan of nursing equipment and convalescence.



### Convalescence

No complete scheme for convalescence has been approved by the Health Committee, but it has been agreed that in special circumstances cases may be recommended to the Committee for consideration. No cases were sent under these arrangements during the year.

The Local Education Authority have arrangements for providing convalescence for school children, suitable cases being recommended through the School Health Service. During the year, 2 children (2 girls) were sent for a period of convalescence under these arrangements.

The Education Committee again agreed to meet the cost of providing diabetic children with two weeks holiday at one of the holiday camps sponsored by the Diabetic Association, but no suitable cases came to notice during the year.

### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

#### (Section 29)

There was no change in the organisation or administration of the service during the year. The Domestic Help Organiser is responsible to the Medical Officer of Health for the general supervision of the service.

The following figures show the numbers of domestic helps employed at the beginning and at the end of the year:—

	1st Jan.	31st Dec.
Whole-time (30 hours or more per week)	12 18	22 12
Part-time (under 30 hours per week) .....	60 50	78 60

At the beginning of the year the full charge was 3s. 1d. per hour. This was increased to 3s. 2d. per hour from the 10th January to cover the increase in the administrative costs. The charge was further increased to 3s. 4d. per hour from the 16th May following a wage award of the North Western Whitley Council for manual workers.

All cases are assessed according to income and the applicants advised of the proposed charge. Persons wishing to appeal against the assessment may do so and the appeals are submitted for review to a Special Section of the Home Nursing Sub-Committee.

Domestic help is provided free of charge to blind and tuberculous persons. Persons entitled to national assistance and having the services of a domestic help, are assessed in the normal manner and an arrangement has been agreed with the Board whereby the amount assessed is recovered from the user.

In recent years the work of the service has increased without a corresponding increase in the administrative staff employed. This has resulted in the Organiser making fewer visits and during the year 272 visits were made.

During the year domestic help was provided for 1,024 cases, which compares with 818 cases for the previous year. This increase is almost entirely due to assistance given to aged persons.



The following table summarises the cases receiving assistance:—

Type of Case	At 1st January	New Cases	Total Cases Receiving Assistance	Cases Removed	At 31st December
Sickness	40	69	109	69	40
Maternity Cases	—	27	27	26	1
Tuberculosis	—	5	5	3	2
Old Age & Sickness	420	416	836	336	500
Blind	30	17	47	16	31
Totals:	490	534	1024	450	574

#### Night Attendants

The arrangements for the provision of a night attendant in cases where a patient is acutely ill or living alone, or where the relatives need some temporary night help, have been continued.

In October the charge for this service was increased from 12s. 6d. per session to 18s. 6d. per session. This amount is recoverable from the patient but as the majority of cases receiving this assistance are old age pensioners, in only a few cases can the full charge be made.

There were 4 night attendants who undertook regular duties and additional assistance was obtained when there was a heavy demand on the service.

Number of cases .....	83
Number of "night sessions" .....	399

These figures compare with 77 cases and 753 "night sessions" for the previous year.

#### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

All matters relating to Mental Health and Mental Deficiency are referred to the Mental Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee. The Sub-Committee consists of eight members of the Health Committee and four co-opted members.

The Council have appointed the Mental Health Sub-Committee a special Committee under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 1933, and delegated to the Sub-Committee all the powers of the local health authority under paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section 30 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (as amended by subsequent Acts). All other proceedings of the Sub-Committee are subject to confirmation by the Health Committee and the Council.

The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the administration of the service and is assisted by the Medical Officers of the Department and the Lay Administrative Officer.



## Staff

### Medical Staff

During the year, Dr. A. J. I. Kelynaek and Dr. G. P. Donnelly, both of whom had special clinical duties, left to take up other appointments.

Dr. W. R. Falconer, Assistant Medical Officer, undertakes special clinical duties in the Department and this officer, together with Dr. J. Starkie, Senior Assistant Medical Officer, are approved by the Authority for the purposes of the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938. These officers are also approved by the Minister of Health for the purposes of making recommendations under Sections 1 (3) and 5 (3) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

The services of Dr. G. S. Robertson, Medical Superintendent, Calderstones Hospital, and Consultant in Mental Deficiency, Oldham Hospital Group, are available to the Local Health Authority, and his opinion is always obtained in cases which present any difficulty or doubt.

Dr. Arthur Pool, Consultant Psychiatrist to the Oldham Hospital Group, is also Consultant Psychiatrist to the Local Health Authority.

### Social Workers

The establishment provides for the appointment of the following social workers:—

Mental Health Visitors, who also act as Duly	
Authorised Officers .....	3
Psychiatric Social Worker, or Mental Health	
Visitor .....	1

At the beginning of the year 4 mental health visitors were employed.

In February, Mr. W. Davies terminated his duties to take up the post of Senior Duly Authorised Officer, City and County of Kingston-upon-Hull, and his post was not filled until November.

Mr. A. White, Senior Mental Health Visitor and Duly Authorised Officer, terminated his duties in May and Mr. W. Davies was appointed to fill the vacancy and returned from Hull, taking up his duties in August.

Miss J. J. Halliday terminated her appointment in September.

Mr. P. Hudson and Miss A. Kelly were appointed to the staff and commenced duties in November and December respectively.

In May, and until the end of the year, owing to the shortage of staff, Mr. T. P. McKniff undertook duties as temporary duly authorised officer. He had previously undertaken duties in this capacity.

At the end of the year there was once again a full staff of social workers.

One Mental Health Visitor, who also acts as Duly Authorised Officer, is included as a casual user in the scheme of Motor Car Allowances for the Corporation.

### Psychologist

The establishment also provides for the appointment of a Psychologist. This officer undertakes duties in connection with the Child Guidance Clinic (two sessions per week), which is provided by the Education Committee, and by arrangement with the Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee, is the Psychologist to the Elizabeth Martland Unit,



### **Occupation Centre**

The establishment allows for the appointment of 1 Supervisor, 2 Assistant Supervisors, and 2 Domestic Helpers.

### **Creche**

The establishment allows for the appointment of 2 Creche Attendants.

### **Industrial Centre**

In February, approval was given to the appointment of an additional Handicraft Instructor and the existing post was upgraded to Senior Handicraft Instructor.

### **Training of Mental Health Workers**

Two mental health visitors attended the one week residential course at Hollyroyde Residential College, Manchester, in April, organised by the Extra-Mural Department of Manchester University.

The Psychologist attended the Annual Conference of the British Psychological Society held in Durham, from the 14th-18th April.

At the beginning of the year, Miss E. Boyling, Assistant Supervisor, was attending the course arranged by the National Association for Mental Health to qualify staff for the training of ineducable children. Miss Boyling had been granted leave of absence without pay and in July was successful in obtaining the Diploma issued by the Association.

### **Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees**

The staff of the Mental Health Service have received the fullest co-operation from the Consultant Psychiatrists of the Oldham Hospital Group and also from the Group Secretary, Mr. F. W. Barnett, who acts as Clerk.

Dr. G. S. Robertson, the Consultant in Mental Deficiency, visits Oldham at regular intervals and his opinion is requested in cases where problems of diagnosis or disposal arise. His services are especially appreciated in the cases of adults who have not been ascertained or notified as defectives before leaving school.

Dr. Arthur Pool, in his capacity as Consultant Psychiatrist to the Local Health Authority, holds a weekly discussion group with the medical officers and all the mental health social workers when new cases are discussed and the problems and progress of other patients reported. This arrangement facilitates co-ordination between the hospital and preventive services.

The mental health visitors and the psychologist undertake duties at the Oldham and District General Hospital, both in the Elizabeth Martland Unit and in the Psychiatric Out-Patient Clinic, which are the responsibility of the hospital service. The mental health visitors visit the mental wards and assist with group and recreational therapy. The Management Committee reimburse the Health Committee the full cost of these services.

The Mental Health Visitors have continued to supervise mental defectives on licence. They prepare all reports required in connection with these cases and any reports for cases whose orders for detention are subject to review under Section 11 of the Mental Deficiency Act.



The Mental Health Visitors also prepare a detailed social history for patients suffering from mental illness and admitted to a Mental Hospital and this is forwarded to the hospital concerned shortly after the patient's admission. They prepare any further reports that may be required on home conditions prior to the patient's discharge if requested.

The constitution of the Mental Health Sub-Committee allows for the member of the Oldham and District Hospital Management Committee co-opted on the Health Committee to be a member. Alderman Sir Frank Lord, O.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee, is the member for the year 1955-56.

#### Co-operation with Voluntary Associations

No specific duties have been delegated to voluntary organisations.

Two members of the Oldham Council for Mental Health are co-opted on to the Mental Health Sub-Committee, and in May the Health Committee appointed the Rev. G. M. Wylie and Miss I. M. Brislee as members for the current municipal year.

During the year the Rev. G. R. Lloyd left the town and ceased to be a member of the Mental Health Sub-Committee. He joined the Sub-Committee in 1948, when it was constituted and was associated with the developments of the Service. The Sub-Committee recorded its appreciation of the service he had rendered during these years.

The Mental Health Sub-Committee agreed to make a grant of £25 for the financial year 1955/56, to the National Association for Mental Health in support of the general work which the Association undertakes in the field of Mental Health.

#### Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

The majority of patients are now being referred either to the Psychiatric Out-Patient Department or to the Mental Health Visitors for advice rather than for immediate admission to hospital.

In a number of cases a domiciliary visit is arranged with the Consultant Psychiatrist—this is always done with the approval of the general practitioner—and on such visits a Mental Health Visitor accompanies the Consultant.

There were 121 new cases referred to the Department during the year. Of these 23 required no action with regard to admission to hospital or attendance at the out-patient clinic, and their problems were resolved after discussion with the Consultant Psychiatrist and by follow-up visits. The disposal of the remaining 98 cases was as follows:—

Admitted to Part III Accommodation .....	2
Admitted to Geriatric Wards .....	6
Referred to Consultant Geriatrician .....	4
Referred to Psychiatric O.P. Clinic .....	35
Admitted for day care .....	8
Admitted to Mental Hospitals .....	43*



\*The 43 patients receiving treatment in Mental Hospitals were admitted as follows:—

Under Order (3 day) .....	7
Under Order (14 day) .....	2
Under Summary Reception Orders .....	2
As Voluntary patients .....	31
As Temporary patients .....	1

Following the admission of a patient to the Elizabeth Martland Unit, or other mental hospital, arrangements are made for relatives to be referred to the Mental Health Visitors for information and advice.

In accordance with the Mental Treatment Rules, 1948, details of all admissions, transfers or discharges from the Elizabeth Martland Unit are forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health. Similar information is received from other Mental Hospitals in respect of Oldham residents.

Many patients on discharge from hospital are recommended for after-care and if the patient is willing, the mental health visitors visit these cases. Their progress and any problems that may arise are reported to the Consultant Psychiatrist at his weekly meeting.

The following is a summary of the visits and reports made by the Mental Health Visitors:—

Pre-Care Visits .....	418
After-Care Visits .....	512
Visits with Consultant .....	29
Ineffective Visits .....	133
Social Histories .....	70
Pre-Discharge Reports .....	2

#### Convalescence from Mental Illness

The Mental Health After-Care Association is still anxious to obtain suitable premises in the North West for use as a convalescent home for patients suffering from mental illness, but no further progress was made during the year, and no premises are in view.

### LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS, 1890-1930

#### Work undertaken by the Duly Authorised Officers

The Mental Health Visitors who are also appointed Duly Authorised Officers undertake duties under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts which were previously performed by Relieving Officers. Their main duty is to take the initial proceedings for the removal of a patient requiring hospital care.

The services of these officers are available throughout the 24 hours, one officer being on rota duty for evening and week-end calls. The officer on duty can be contacted through the Police or the Central Admission Bureau of the Oldham and District General Hospital.



The following is a summary of the work undertaken as Duly Authorised Officers:—

(A) Admissions and Removals to Hospital .....	61‡
(a) Lunacy Act, 1890, Section 16 (Summary Reception Order)	
Elizabeth Martland Unit .....	19
Prestwich Hospital .....	2*
	—
	21
(b) Lunacy Act, 1890, Section 20 (3 day order)	
Elizabeth Martland Unit .....	25
Prestwich Hospital .....	1
Townleys Hospital .....	1
	—
	27
(c) Lunacy Act, 1890, Section 21 (14 day order)	
Elizabeth Martland Unit .....	9
	—
	9
(d) Mental Treatment Act, 1930, Section 5	
Elizabeth Martland Unit .....	4
	—
	4
(B) Completion of Orders for Further Detention .....	17
(a) Lunacy Act, 1890, Section 16 (Summary Reception Order)	
Elizabeth Martland Unit—	
Oldham residents .....	8
Non-residents .....	9

‡ This figure includes 7 patients (2 Sect. 16; 5 Sect. 20) who were not Oldham residents but were in local hospitals or resident at a temporary address in the Borough.

\* One of these patients was transferred from the Elizabeth Martland Unit, having been admitted as a voluntary patient.

### Facilities for Treatment

#### Out-Patient Treatment

Clinics are held daily in the Psychiatric Out-Patient Department of the Oldham and District General Hospital. A considerable amount of E.C.T. treatment is given to out-patients and 2 sessions per week are allocated for this treatment.

#### Day Care

Arrangements exist for selected patients who are considered suitable to be admitted for day care. The transport is provided by the Ambulance Service, a sitting case car being used which calls for the patients during the morning and returns them home in the late afternoon or early evening.

On the 1st January, 8 patients (4 males, 4 females) were receiving day care and during the year 52 patients (15 males, 37 females) were admitted, making a total of 60 patients (19 males, 41 females) who received care in 1955.

On the 31st December, there were 19 cases (7 males, 12 females), still attending for daily care.



The following is a summary of the 41 cases (12 males, 29 females) ceasing to receive day care during the year:—

- (1) Admitted to the Elizabeth Martland Unit—18 (8 males, 10 females).
- (2) Admitted to other Mental Hospitals—2 (1 male, 1 female).
- (3) Part III Accommodation—1 (female).
- (4) Died—4 (females).
- (5) Geriatric Unit—1 (female).
- (6) Discharged or Discontinued—15 (3 males, 12 females).

#### In-Patient Treatment

The majority of patients requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Elizabeth Martland Unit, Oldham and District General Hospital. This Unit is a designated mental hospital and modern methods of therapy are undertaken both there and in the Psychiatric Out-Patient Department of the hospital.

No difficulty has been experienced in securing the admission of mental cases to hospital and in all cases of acute urgency, admission was readily effected.

The following summarises the admissions (new admissions 80, re-admissions 82) of Oldham residents notified to the Department during the year:—

Hospital	Admissions			Total
	Under Order	Voluntary Patients	Temporary Patients	
Elizabeth Martland Unit	47	100	4	151
Prestwich Hospital .....	4	3	—	7
Rainhill Hospital .....	—	1	—	1
Townley's Hospital .....	1	—	—	1
Storches Hall Hospital ...	1	—	—	1
Moorgate Hospital .....	1	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—
Total .....	54	104	4	162
	—	—	—	—

Notification was received of 31 Oldham residents who died in Mental Hospitals and of 139 discharges.

Information was received of 30 patients detained in hospital who were transferred to voluntary status (Elizabeth Martland Unit—28, Prestwich —2).

Information was also received of 7 patients who were transferred under Section 64 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, by two members of the Hospital Management Committee authorising the removal of the patient. The following are details of these cases:—

Elizabeth Martland Unit to Prestwich Hospital .....	1
Elizabeth Martland Unit to Springfield Hospital .....	1
Prestwich Hospital to Elizabeth Martland Unit .....	5

In addition to the above, one case (voluntary) transferred in the previous year to Springfield Hospital for a leucotomy operation, was returned to the Elizabeth Martland Unit.



### National Health Service (Amendment) Act, 1949

In conjunction with the majority of Local Health Authorities in the North West, this Authority has agreed to a "knock-for-knock" arrangement in connection with the payment of medical practitioner fees for the certification of patients admitted to the Elizabeth Martland Unit from addresses outside the area of this authority.

During the year 11 Summary Reception Orders relating to non-residents were completed by the Duly Authorised Officers.

#### Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is utilised for the removal of patients to mental deficiency and mental hospitals. The mental health visitors have authority to request an ambulance or sitting-case car and where necessary the services of attendants are obtained from the Elizabeth Martland Unit.

The transport of patients receiving "day care" to and from their homes is undertaken by the Ambulance Service. Many out-patients receiving E.C.T. treatment are also conveyed to the Psychiatric Out-Patients Department and returned home usually by sitting-case car.

The transport of children attending the Occupation Centre and Creche, to and from home, is also arranged with the Ambulance Service.

Males attending the Industrial Centre are encouraged to make their own way by public transport but where they are unable to do so owing to their disability, they are conveyed to and from their homes by sitting-case car.

### MENTAL DEFICIENCY

#### Cases Reported During the Year

There were 24 cases reported during the year.

Of these, 12 were reported under the Education Act, 1944, 2 having been found incapable of receiving education at school, and 10 requiring supervision after leaving school.

There were 12 cases reported under the Mental Deficiency Acts as follows:—

(a) Detained in the Elizabeth Martland Unit .....	0
(b) In Part III Accommodation (Oldham and District General Hospital) .....	0
(c) At the instance of the parent or guardian .....	4
(3 males aged 19, 32 and 35 years)	
(1 female aged 27 years)	
(d) Found neglected or without visible means of support	0
(e) Referred by the police or by the Courts under Section 8 (1) (a) or as a result of other action by the Courts .....	4
(1 male aged 22 years)	
(3 females aged 17, 24 and 41 years)	
(f) Cases reported but not regarded as defectives "subject to be dealt with" and receiving adequate care .....	4
(1 male aged 33 years)	
(3 females aged 18, 35 and 52 years)	



Further particulars relating to the cases reported during the year are given in the tables relating to mental deficiency.

#### Ascertained Defectives Found to be "subject to be dealt with"

During the year there were 20 defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with." Of these, 16 were placed under statutory supervision and 4 were recommended for institutional care.

#### Statutory Supervision

At the beginning of the year there were 199 cases under statutory supervision.

During the year 16 newly ascertained cases were placed under statutory supervision. In addition, there was 1 case in Part III Accommodation, Oldham and District General Hospital, who was removed from the waiting list, having been previously recommended for institutional care, which is no longer considered necessary.

The following details relate to the 16 ascertained cases found to be "subject to be dealt with" and placed under statutory supervision:—

(a) Children of School Age .....	12
(1) Incapable of Receiving Education .....	2
At home—In care of parents .....	1
Admitted to the Occupation Centre .....	1
(2) Requiring Supervision after Leaving School .....	10
There were 9 children who left the Educationally Sub-Normal Department of the Chaucer Special School and 1 who left an ordinary school. All these children were suitably employed at the end of the year, with the exception of 1 girl who was committed to an Approved School having been convicted of larceny.	
(b) Adults and Juveniles .....	4
At home .....	3
*(2 males aged 32 and 35 years)	
(1 female aged 24 years)	
At home—At work .....	1
(1 male aged 22 years)	
*The male of 32 years came to the notice of the Local Health Authority on the death of his father in March, 1955, and his behaviour at this time was extremely disturbed because of his bereavement. He was admitted under private arrangements to a home at Crawley, Sussex. He settled down quite well, and at the end of the year he was at home on short leave.	

The following 7 cases were removed from statutory supervision during the year:—

Recommended for Institutional Care ...	3
Removed out of area .....	2
Died .....	2

At the end of the year there were 209 cases remaining under statutory supervision.



### Institutional Care

Defectives recommended for institutional care are usually admitted to one of the Mental Deficiency Hospitals in the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

At the beginning of the year, 64 cases recommended in previous years for institutional care, including 50 cases detained in the Elizabeth Martland Unit, Oldham and District General Hospital, and 6 cases in Part III Accommodation, Oldham and District General Hospital, were awaiting admission to Mental Deficiency Hospitals.

Of these, only 1 case (male) was admitted during the year, but 5 cases (1 male, 4 females) detained in the Elizabeth Martland Unit, died, and 1 (female) was removed from the waiting list.

During the year, 9 cases (3 males, 6 females) were recommended for institutional care, 1 of these cases (male) being in a "place of safety" at the 31st December, 1954, 4 being newly ascertained cases, 1 under guardianship, and 3 under statutory supervision (1 of whom was in a "place of safety" at the end of the year).

At the end of the year 61 cases recommended for institutional care, including 44 cases detained in the Elizabeth Martland Unit, Oldham and District General Hospital, and 5 cases in Part III Accommodation, Oldham and District General Hospital, were awaiting admission to Mental Deficiency Hospitals.

The following table shows the number of cases (1) recommended for institutional care, (2) admitted to mental deficiency hospitals, removed or died, and (3) awaiting institutional care at the end of the year.

	Recommended for Instit'nal Care			Admitted to M.D. Hospitals, removed or died			Awaiting vacancies in M.D. Hospitals		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Cases prior to 1st January .....							30	34	64
<b>(i) New Cases</b>									
(a) Ascertained Cases .....	1	1	2	1	1	2	-	-	-
(b) Ascertained Cases (E.M.U.) .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Court Action .....	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	1	1
<b>(ii) Other Cases</b>									
(a) Under Stat. Supervision	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2
(b) Under Statutory Guard	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
(c) In "place of safety" ...	1	1	2	1	-	1	-	1	1
(d) Court Action .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total .....	3	6	9	3	2	5	-	4	4
Awaiting admission at									
1st January .....	30	34	64	2	5	7	28	29	57
Total at 31st December .....	33	40	73	5	7	12	28	33	61



The following table summarises the 4 cases admitted to institutional care:—

Hospital		Age Groups				
		0-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Calderstones	M ...	—	—	—	1	1
Hospital	F ...	—	—	—	—	—
Mary Dendy	M ...	—	—	—	—	2
Hospital	F ...	—	—	—	1	—
Cranage Hall	M ...	—	—	—	—	—
Hospital	F ...	—	—	—	—	1
Total .....		—	—	—	2	4

#### Guardianship

At the beginning of the year 6 cases were under guardianship.

- (1) A male aged 27 years who was placed under the guardianship of an officer of the local health authority in August, 1949.
- (2) A female aged 23 years employed in the St. Saviour's Convent, Liverpool, is under the guardianship of the Sister Superior.
- (3) A male aged 41 years, who was placed under the guardianship of his sister in Mytholmroyd, Yorkshire, in April, 1952.
- (4) A male aged 28 years, who was placed under the guardianship of an officer of the local health authority in October, 1953.
- (5) A male aged 20 years, who was placed under the guardianship of an officer of the local health authority in November, 1953.
- (6) A male aged 17 years who was placed under the guardianship of an officer of the local health authority in December, 1954.

During the year no new cases were placed under guardianship but three were removed:—

- (1) A male aged 27 years, who had been under the guardianship of an officer of the local health authority since August, 1949. He had responded so well under this form of community care that he was recommended for discharge from his detention order, which was effected.
- (2) A male aged 41 years, who had been under the guardianship of his sister in Mytholmroyd, Yorkshire, since April, 1952. He also responded favourably to guardianship and was recommended for discharge, which was effected.
- (3) A male aged 20 years, who in spite of the closest supervision, failed to respond to guardianship and his behaviour necessitated institutional care.

At the end of the year there were 2 males and 1 female under guardianship.

#### Voluntary Supervision

At the beginning of the year there were 49 cases under voluntary supervision.

During the year 4 new cases were placed under voluntary supervision, together with 3 who were offered voluntary supervision following discharge from a Mental Deficiency Hospital, and 1 from Statutory Guardianship.



The following three cases were removed from voluntary supervision during the year:—

Left the area .....	1
Died .....	2

At the end of the year there were 54 cases under voluntary supervision.

#### Taken to "Places of Safety"

There were 2 cases admitted into "places of safety" during the year:—

- (1) A male aged 20 years, proved unsuitable for guardianship and was admitted to the Mary Dendy Hospital pending the variation of the Order to institutional care.
- (2) A female aged 29 years, under the care of her sister, her only relative, who died, was admitted to the Newchurch Hospital, pending the presentation of a Petition.

#### Community Care

The duties of the Mental Health Visitors include the community care and supervision of mental defectives under statutory supervision, guardianship and on licence. During the year the following reports and visits were made:—

Case Notes .....	25
Statutory Supervision .....	646
Statutory Guardianship .....	35
Progress Reports .....	63
Ineffective Visits .....	202

Two of the Mental Health Visitors have been appointed Statutory Guardians. This work entails frequent and close contact with the defectives concerned and necessitates a strict supervision and management of their affairs.

Three cases on licence to relatives who were under supervision by the Mental Health Visitors, were found to be sufficiently stabilised to be discharged from their Orders during the year.

#### Temporary Accommodation

During the year short-term care was provided for 10 cases as follows:—

	Males	Females
Calderstones Hospital .....	3	1
Brockhall Hospital .....	1	—
Cranage Hall Hospital .....	—	—
Royal Albert Hospital .....	1	—
Swinton Hospital .....	—	1
Orchard Dene, Rainhill .....	1	—
Newchurch Hospital .....	—	2

The periods of accommodation varied from 2 to 6 weeks. In the case of the admission to Orchard Dene, the period was for two weeks, and the full cost was met by the Local Health Authority.



### **Arrangements with Adjacent Local Health Authorities**

The proposals of the West Riding County Council allow pupils in the area of the County Council to be sent to Occupation Centres established by other Local Health Authorities, and it has been agreed that suitable cases can be accepted from the Saddleworth district into the Occupation Centre, a charge being made to the County Council for these cases.

The Lancashire County Council and the West Riding County Council have agreed that suitable adults should attend the Arthurs' Industrial Centre.

### **Creche Facilities**

In September, the Creche was transferred from premises in the Occupation Centre, Haven Lane, to a large wooden hut at the Industrial Centre site. The staff was also increased consequent upon this removal and at the end of the year there were 2 attendants and 10 pupils (5 males, 5 females) on the register. The number of attendances per week made by children varies according to the special needs of the case.

The Creche is serving a useful purpose and is much appreciated by the parents.

### **Occupation Centre**

The Occupation Centre continues to function at Haven Lane in premises formerly used as a day nursery. These premises lack a main hall for assembly and other activities, but with the opening of the Industrial Centre and Creche at the Glen Mill Site, the immediate overcrowding has been relieved. The situation of the premises is very open and there is ample room for out-of-door activities.

The Centre is open each week-day except Saturday and is closed during the ordinary school holidays. A mid-day meal is provided through the School Meals Service, a charge being made to the parents; in necessitous cases this charge is reduced or waived. Free milk is also supplied once a day to each child under 18 years of age.

In November, an Inspector of the Board of Control made her usual routine visit.

Miss E. Boyling, who had been granted leave of absence to undertake the course organised by the National Association for Mental Health returned to her duties in July. Mr. W. P. Scott had been appointed Temporary Assistant Supervisor during her absence but he ceased duty in January, and was replaced by Mrs. G. Law, who continued in this capacity until July.

During the year there were 7 new admissions (2 boys, 5 girls) from the Oldham County Borough and 1 (boy) from the Saddleworth area. On the 31st December, there were 39 pupils on the register, 35 from the Oldham County Borough and 4 from the Saddleworth District of the West Riding County Council.

An adult female was discharged during the year having obtained suitable employment. This girl, aged 20 years, had attended Chaucer Special School up to the age of 16 years, but after leaving school had not been able to secure or retain suitable employment so was admitted to the Centre for rehabilitation.



The Ambulance Service transports the children to and from the Occupation Centre, part-time drivers being engaged for this purpose to relieve the strain on the ambulance personnel.

In September, a trip to the seaside was provided by the Oldham Blind Children and Welfare Organisation when the children were taken to Fleetwood and St. Annes, and once again we extend our gratitude to the members of this Organisation for their continued generous support.

Two Christmas Parties were arranged for the children, one by the Parents' Association and the other by the Oldham Blind Children and Welfare Organisation. Both were very much appreciated.

All the facilities of the School Health Service including dental inspection and treatment, have been made available to the children attending the Occupation Centre and the Creche, and they are fully used.

### **Industrial Centre**

The Industrial Centre for mentally handicapped adult males was established in November, 1954, in one of the huts on the Glen Mill Site. It was formally opened as the Arthurs' Industrial Centre on the 28th January, 1955, by H.M. King Peter II, of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Norman Bloomfield was appointed Handicraft Instructor in addition to Mr. Frank Davies and took up his duties in February. Mr. Frank Davies subsequently left the service and Mr. Bloomfield replaced him as Senior Handicraft Instructor. Mr. K. Thompson was appointed to the vacant position and took up his duties in September.

At the end of the year a total of 36 adult males were attending the Centre—2 were from the Saddleworth area, 4 were from the adjacent County districts and 8 were from the Elizabeth Martland Unit, 2 of whom were psychiatric patients.

During the year 2 trainees were successfully placed in employment and at the end of the year were still in the same situations.

The Centre is open from 9-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m. and is closed on Saturdays. A mid-day meal is provided through the School Meals Service under the same arrangements as for the Occupation Centre.

Travelling facilities are provided free, either by the provision of bus tokens or by transport through the Ambulance Service.

The work of the Centre is varied and includes the usual handicrafts, i.e., rug-making, stool making, &c., and the production and repair of articles of furniture is undertaken. A chain-link wire-mesh fencing machine has been installed for the manufacture of fencing.

The Industrial Centre has filled a gap in the provision of services for the male mentally handicapped persons in the Borough, and it is hoped that in the near future, the proposed female Industrial Centre will be erected on the same site. For this purpose, during the year a number of Tarran type pre-fabricated bungalows were obtained from the Ministry of Works. Towards the end of the year, one was erected to provide residential accommodation, so that a member of the staff would always be available on the premises.



The Centre has been visited by many distinguished visitors and representatives of other Local Health Authorities. In July a sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute (now the Royal Society of Health) was held in the Borough and the Centre was one of the special visits provided for the delegates.

### Home Training

No special arrangements were provided for the home training of mental defectives.

The following are the statistical returns relating to Mental Defectives:—

### Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938

#### I. Particulars of mental defectives as on 1st January, 1956

	M.	F.	T.
(1) No. of Ascertained Mental Defectives found to be "subject to be dealt with":—			
(a) In Hospitals (including cases on licence)			
Under 16 years of age .....	4	6	10
Aged 16 years and over .....	62	38	100
(b) Under Guardianship			
Under 16 years of age .....	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over .....	2	1	3
(c) Under Statutory Supervision (excluding cases on licence)			
Under 16 years of age .....	18	16	34
Aged 16 years and over .....	92	83	175
(d) Awaiting admission to a Mental Deficiency Hospital (not included in (b) and (c) above)			
(1) At home .....	5	6	11
(2) In Elizabeth Martland Unit ...	21	23	44
(3) In Part III Accommodation (Oldham and District General Hospital) .....	2	3	5
(4) In "places of safety" .....	—	1	1
<b>TOTAL Ascertained cases found to be "subject to be dealt with" .....</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>383</b>
(2) No. of mental defectives under Voluntary Supervision:—			
Under 16 years of age .....	—	—	—
Aged 16 years and over .....	32	22	54
<b>TOTAL number of mental defectives .....</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>437</b>



## (3) No. of Mental Defectives Receiving Training:—

	M.	F.	T.
(a) In Occupation Centre .....	11	24	35
(b) In Industrial Centre .....	26	—	26
(c) In Creche .....	5	5	10
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>71</b>

## II. Particulars of cases reported during 1955

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Cases at 31st December ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with."			
Number in which taken on reports by:—			
(1) Local Education Authorities on children			
(i) While at school or liable to attend school .....	1	1	2
(ii) On leaving special schools .....	4	5	9
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools .....	—	1	1
(2) Police or by Courts .....	1	3	4
(3) Other sources .....	3	1	4
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not, at 31st December, 1955, regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground .....	1	3	4
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives or in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1955, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b) .....	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> number of cases reported during the year	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>

## III. No. of Mental Defectives in Hospitals, under Community Care, including Voluntary Supervision or in "places of safety" on 1st January, 1955, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1955.

	M.	F.	T.
(a) Ceased to be under care .....	—	—	—
(b) Died .....	3	8	11
(c) Removed from area .....	3	3	6
(d) Lost sight of .....	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>



## SECTION IV

**GENERAL MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES  
PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES AND SUPPLEMENTARY  
OPHTHALMIC SERVICES**

**Oldham Executive Council**

The Oldham Executive Council consists of a Chairman (Mr. A. C. C. Robertson) and 24 other members who hold office for a period of three years, 8 being appointed by the Oldham Health Authority. Alderman F. B. Balson and Dr. J. T. Chalmers Keddie were re-appointed and Alderman J. A. Arthurs, J.P. was appointed to fill the vacancy of Alderman Dr. G. A. Taylor. Following the death of Alderman J. A. Arthurs in March, Alderman H. B. Whittaker was appointed and on his decease Councillor W. Wheeler was appointed to fill this vacancy. The following were appointed as representatives of the Local Health Authority:—

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P., F.C.C.S. 1959

Councillor A. Tweedale, J.P.

Alderman Miss A. A. Kenyon, J.P.  
(to retire 31st March, 1956)

Alderman J. Bradley 1957

Councillor J. H. Broadbent  
(to retire 31st March, 1957)

Alderman F. B. Balson

Alderman J. A. Arthurs, J.P.
------------------------------

Alderman H. B. Whittaker, J.P.
--------------------------------

Councillor W. Wheeler (from December, 1955)

Dr. J. T. Chalmers Keddie  
(to retire 31st March, 1958)

I am indebted to Mr. F. W. Chapple, Clerk of the Council, for the following report:—

**General Medical Services**

The number of Oldham patients registered on all doctors' lists was 118,917 at 1st January and 118,975 at 31st December. These figures compare with the Registrar-General's estimated population for mid-June of 120,400. All the doctors practising in the County Borough are in the Scheme and at the end of the year there were 103 on the Council's Medical List, and one assistant, 51 being resident in the Borough and 53 in the adjacent districts. In the previous year there were 99 doctors on the Medical List and one assistant, 50 being resident in the Borough and 50 in the adjacent districts. The average number of patients on the lists of doctors resident in Oldham was estimated to be 2,671 compared with 2,768 for the previous year.

At the end of the year there were 90 general medical practitioner obstetricians on the Council's Obstetric List, an increase of 2 on the previous year.



### Pharmaceutical Services

All the pharmaceutical firms and suppliers of surgical appliances in the Borough are in the Scheme and at the end of the year there were 60 firms, including 11 surgical appliance suppliers, an increase of 1 on the previous year, providing services as follows:—

Pharmacies in the area .....	49
Drug Stores .....	—
Surgical Appliance Suppliers .....	11

### Dental Services

All the dentists in the area provide dental services under the Scheme. At the end of the year 29 dentists (including 2 assistants), a decrease of 2 on the previous year, were on the dental list, 24 being resident in the Borough, a decrease of 2 on the previous year.

### Ophthalmic Services

The Supplementary Ophthalmic Treatment Regulations provide for patients who have obtained the necessary certificate from their medical practitioner to attend either an ophthalmic practitioner or an ophthalmic optician for eye testing and to have the required spectacles dispensed by an ophthalmic optician or a dispensing optician.

At the end of the year 2 ophthalmic medical practitioners, 28 ophthalmic opticians representing 24 shops were providing optical services. There were no dispensing opticians on the list at the end of the year. At the end of the previous year 2 ophthalmic medical practitioners and 28 ophthalmic opticians, representing 23 shops, were providing optical services.

### Finance

Under the National Health Service Act, 1951, patients are required to pay certain charges for the provision of dentures and optical appliances and under the National Health Service Act, 1952, further charges were imposed for dental treatment and for drugs and appliances supplied to patients. In cases of hardship application can be made to the National Assistance Board for the charge to be refunded. These charges are payable to the dentists, opticians and chemists on application for treatment, supply of glasses or the making up of prescriptions.

The financial year of the Executive Council ends on the 31st March and for the year ending 31st March, 1956, the expenditure totalled £390,666, which compares with £371,880 for the year ended 31st March, 1955.

The following is an abstract of payments made by the Executive Council under the respective heads for the periods stated. They do not include amounts received from members of the public, which are paid direct to dentists, opticians and chemists:—

	1955/56	1954/55
	£	£
Doctors:		
(a) General Medical Services (4,282.23)	133,843	129,052
(b) Maternity Services ..... 679.5	6,444	5,108
Chemists ..... 171,142	151,637	151,231
Dentists ..... 57,706	57,910	48,333
Ophthalmic ..... 34,327	34,327	31,910
Administration ..... 726.9	6,505	6,246



The increase in the payments to dentists over the previous year is due to the implementation of the National Health Service (General Dental Services) Amendment Regulations, 1955, which became operative on the 1st May, 1955, and which provided for the cancellation of the deduction of 10 per cent. from the fees payable by Executive Councils to dental practitioners made in May, 1950.

The following amounts were received from members of the public (patients) for dental, ophthalmic and pharmaceutical services:—

	1955/56	1954/55
	£	£
General Dental Services ..... 18174	18,528	17,419
Supplementary Ophthalmic Services ..... 20288	20,520	19,521
Pharmaceutical Services ..... 27174	24,264	22,009
Total 65636	£63,312	£58,949

The payments to doctors only relate to Oldham patients on their lists. In the case of dentists, chemists and opticians, payment is for services rendered at their surgeries or places of business, e.g., an Oldham chemist is paid by the Oldham Executive Council for ALL prescriptions dispensed by him whether they are on Oldham, Lancashire, West Riding, Manchester, or any other Executive Council forms. Many patients in the adjacent districts avail themselves of the pharmaceutical and optical facilities which have been developed by a number of progressive Oldham firms and this is reflected in the payments for these services by the Oldham Executive Council. ✓



## SECTION V

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## General

Scarlet fever was mildly prevalent during the last four months of the year, and of the 259 cases which occurred, 158 were notified during these months. During the first two months of the year measles was rampant. These cases were the continuation of the epidemic which started in the September of the previous year and continued into April.

Whooping cough achieved a record low incidence, only 15 cases being notified. Dysentery was especially prevalent during the first five months of the year when 1,365 cases were notified.

*The Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954.* These regulations came into operation on the 1st March, 1955. They amended the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951, by prescribing a new form of certificate for the notification by a medical practitioner of cases of puerperal pyrexia. The certificate requires the cause of disease, if known, to be stated.

The following table shows the attack rates and death rates for certain diseases for the County Borough:—

Attack Rates and Death Rates per 1,000 of the Population		
	Attack Rate	Death Rate
Typhoid Fever .....	0.008	—
Paratyphoid Fever .....	0.017	—
Meningococcal Infection .....	0.04	0.008
Scarlet Fever .....	2.15	—
Whooping Cough .....	0.12	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—
Smallpox .....	—	—
Measles .....	15.2 <sup>+</sup>	0.02
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	0.49	0.14
Acute Poliomyelitis:		
(a) Paralytic .....	0.025	—
(b) Non-Paralytic .....	0.04	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	18.84*	—*
Food Poisoning .....	0.15	—

\*Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

## Diphtheria

No cases were notified and no deaths registered.

## Scarlet Fever

There were 259 cases notified compared with 167 in the previous year. No deaths were registered.

## Erysipelas

There were 12 cases notified compared with 9 in the previous year. No deaths were registered. Of the 12 cases notified, 9 occurred in persons of 45 years of age and over.



### Enteric Fever

#### (a) Typhoid :

One case of typhoid fever was notified. This was a male aged 20 years and the diagnosis was confirmed by positive blood culture and positive Widal reaction. The organisms were phage typed and reported as *Salm.typhi* culture which belongs to a de-graded Vi-strain. The source of infection was not ascertained.

No deaths were registered as due to this disease.

#### (b) Para-Typhoid :

Three cases were notified and confirmed:—

(i) Two cases of *Salm.paratyphi* "B" occurred in July. They were sisters aged 8 years and 3 years. Investigations proved that the infection was contracted whilst on holiday in a North-East coast resort. The organisms were phage type "*dundee*" and the vehicle of infection tinned meat.

(ii) In October a National Service airman while on demobilization leave was diagnosed as suffering from *Salm.paratyphi* "B" infection, phage type "*taunton*." He had arrived by air from Fayid in the Suez Canal Zone. The first symptoms commenced within a week of his leaving Fayid so the infection must have been contracted overseas.

There were no deaths registered as due to this disease.

### Meningococcal Infection

There were 5 cases of meningococcal meningitis notified and confirmed. The organism was isolated in two cases.

One death was registered, a male aged 7 weeks, who died within 24 hours of admission to hospital.

### Acute Encephalitis

No cases were notified and no deaths registered.

### Acute Primary Pneumonia

There were 31 cases notified and 16 deaths registered. With regard to 13 of these deaths no notifications were received. These deaths were brought to notice on the Registrar's returns.

### Influenza and Influenzal Pneumonia

There were 14 cases of influenzal pneumonia notified and 1 death registered. This death was brought to notice on the Registrar's returns and the case was not notified.

There were 3 deaths registered as due to influenza.

### Measles

There were 1,832 cases notified compared with 1,189 in the previous year. Of these, 1,758 were notified during the first three months of the year, being the continuation of an epidemic which started at the end of September, 1954.

There were 3 deaths registered, a male aged 12 months, a male aged 18 months and a female aged 6 years.



### Whooping Cough

There were 15 cases notified compared with 235 in the previous year.

Of the 15 cases notified 2 had received the full course of whooping cough immunisation and these were classified as follows:—

Severe .....	0
Moderate .....	0
Mild .....	2

No deaths were registered as due to whooping cough.

### Dysentery

During the year 1,695 cases were notified (1,487 Sonne, 208 no organism isolated). The disease was prevalent during the first six months of the year but was rampant in February, March and April. Most of the schools were affected by this outbreak and in a few cases members of the staffs at the schools were also infected.

The Limeside area was particularly affected and 114 cases (including 4 staff) were confirmed as Sonne dysentery at the Limeside Nursery Class, Infant and Junior Schools during this period. Fittern Hill Infants School was also heavily infected and 50 cases were confirmed as Sonne dysentery. Outbreaks occurred in day nurseries, both outside and inside the Borough and as a result a number of schoolchildren were excluded as contacts or cases.

There were two deaths registered as due to Sonne dysentery, a male aged 57 years and a female aged 3 months.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum

During the year 6 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified. These were kept under observation and in no case was vision impaired.

### Puerperal Pyrexia

There were 50 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified as follows:—

Oldham and District General Hospital .....	42
Woodfield Maternity Home .....	4
Domiciliary .....	4

### Smallpox

No cases were notified and no deaths registered.

### Acute Poliomyelitis

There were 8 cases (3 paralytic and 5 non-paralytic) notified and confirmed. No deaths were registered. The following details relate to the cases notified:—

#### (a) Paralytic:

**Case No. 1 (J.T.).** A female aged 22 years was admitted to hospital on 12th September, with headache and paralysis of the left leg. A diagnosis of paralytic poliomyelitis was confirmed. She was subsequently discharged from hospital and later allowed to do light sedentary work, although still attending hospital for physiotherapy.



**Case No. 2 (I.K.).** A male aged 8 months. He was admitted to hospital on 25th October, with weakness of the left shoulder muscles, and a diagnosis of paralytic poliomyelitis was confirmed. Six months later there was slight weakness of the shoulder muscles. The child's general condition was good.

This case was associated with a prophylactic injection, the patient having received the first injection (1cc) of S.D.P.P. in the left arm on the 4th October.

**Case No. 3 (D.H.).** A male aged 24 years of age was admitted to hospital on 24th December, with stiffness of the neck and headache and a diagnosis of paralytic poliomyelitis was confirmed. There was weakness of the muscles of the left side of neck and left arm. Five months later he had not returned to work and there was still paralysis of the muscles of the left side of the neck and some weakness of the left arm.

**(b) Non-Paralytic:**

The following 5 cases were non-paralytic and on discharge from hospital had no signs of paralysis:—

**Case No. 4 (D.R.).** A male aged 10 years. 1

**Case No. 5 (H.B.).** A female aged 4 years. 2

**Case No. 6 (V.B.).** A female aged 7 years. 2

**Case No. 7 (C.B.).** A female aged 18 years. 3

**Case No. 8 (L.P.).** A male aged 4 years. 3

**Malaria.**

There was 1 case notified, a service man aged 21 years, the infection having been contracted overseas.

**Glandular Fever**

There were 2 cases brought to notice during the year, a female aged 7 years and a male aged 17 years. Both were admitted to hospital with tonsillitis and subsequently diagnosed as glandular fever.

**Other Diseases**

No cases of cholera, anthrax, undulant fever or typhus fever were brought to notice during the year.

**FOOD POISONING**

In all cases of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning full enquiries are made to ascertain the source of infection. If any suspected food is available, samples are submitted for bacteriological examination. Contamination by rodents is also fully investigated.

During the year 18 cases were notified. Of these 4 were considered to be due to Staphylococcal (Enterotoxic) food poisoning; in 12 cases *Salmonella* organisms (*typhi-murium* 9, *heidelberg* 2, *dublin* 1) were isolated; in 1 case *C1. welchii*, and in the remaining case no organisms were obtained.



There was one outbreak considered to be due to Staphylococcal infection and the following are details:—

A practitioner reported that one of his patients had been admitted to hospital in the early hours of the morning acutely ill with diarrhoea and vomiting and full enquiries were immediately commenced. The following day three members of another family were admitted to hospital with similar symptoms. In all 4 cases the patients developed symptoms after eating pressed mutton and beef purchased from a local butcher. The butcher's assistant was found to have a small cut on one finger and he was immediately suspended from employment. A portion of the suspected pressed meat which was still available at the butcher's shop was sent for bacteriological examination, together with a fragment of this same meat from a table knife used by one of the patients. *Staph. aureus* were isolated from the pressed meat, the fragment of meat adhering to the knife and from the sore on the assistant's finger and from the butcher's throat. The phage type was identical in each case—phage type 3. Unfortunately no organisms were isolated from the specimens of fæces obtained from the patients.

The following are particulars of three outbreaks and two individual cases due to *Salmonella* organisms:—

(1) A male aged 64 years living alone was admitted to Westhulme Hospital with vomiting and diarrhoea and died the day after admission. *Salm. typhi-murium* was isolated from the fæces. The circumstances were reported to the Coroner and an inquest was held. A neighbour who attended the patient prior to removal to hospital later developed diarrhoea. The deceased had most of his meals with a widow and her daughter who had no symptoms. *Salm. typhi-murium* was isolated from these 3 contacts and the daughter was excluded from work as she was employed in a confectioner's shop. It was not possible to phage type the organisms to determine the original source of infection and the food involved.

(2) A male infant aged 7 months developed loose stools and the practitioner sent a specimen of fæces for examination which was reported *Salm. typhi-murium* positive. On enquiry the mother and the father gave a history of diarrhoea previous to the infant's illness. *Salm. typhi-murium* was isolated from the mother and another infant aged 3 years. Fæces specimens from the father were negative, but a Widal reaction gave a result strongly suggestive of *Salmonella* infection.

(3) A male aged 48 years developed diarrhoea and *Salm. heidelberg* was isolated from the fæces. This organism was also isolated from his wife, although she had no symptoms.

(4) Following cases of *Sonné* dysentery in an industrial nursery outside the Borough, a specimen of fæces was sent from a child aged 3 years and subsequently reported *Salm. dublin* positive. No further cases were reported.

(5) A male aged 47 years developed diarrhoea and vomiting and *Salm. typhi-murium* was isolated from the fæces. He was employed as a labourer working in the sewers.



The following case was due to *C1. welchii* infection:—

A female aged 60 years was admitted to Westhulme Hospital in the early hours of the morning with a diagnosis of acute gastro-enteritis. *C1. welchii* was subsequently isolated from the fæces. The patient had eaten goose and goose giblets for lunch the previous day. It was possible to obtain the remains of this meal and *C1. welchii* was isolated from the goose flesh and giblets.

The following are particulars of the case in which no organisms were isolated:—

A male aged 57 developed diarrhœa and vomiting and was notified, but after full enquiry and investigation no organisms were isolated. No particular food was suspected.



TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF CERTAIN DISEASES NOTIFIED AND THE DEATHS REGISTERED  
FROM THESE DISEASES DURING THE SEVERAL MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

Months	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Dysentery (Sonné)		Food Poisoning		Meningococcal Infections		Acute Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough		Erysipelas		Acute Primary Pneumonia		Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Jan.	1012	1	14	...	...	...	76	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	4	2	1	...
Feb.	626	1	9	...	...	...	397	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	2	2	...
March	120	...	6	2	...	...	470	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	5	...
April	33	1	15	...	...	...	300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	6	3	1	...
May	11	...	22	...	...	...	122	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	5	1	...	...
June	1	...	11	...	...	...	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
July	7	...	11	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aug.	7	...	13	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Sept.	3	...	21	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Oct.	...	...	33	...	...	...	12	...	5	1	1	...	4	...	2	...	3	...	3	...	2	...
Nov.	6	...	62	...	...	...	42	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Dec.	6	...	42	...	...	...	8	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	1832	3	259	2	1487	1	18	5	8	15	12	...	31	16	14	1	...	...	31	16	14	1

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TABLE SHOWING CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED AND DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Notifiable Disease	Number of cases notified.			Receiving hospital treatment			Number of deaths			Notification in Age Groups								Notifications in the Various Wards of the Borough.											
	Under 1.	1 and under 3.	3 and under 5.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	St. Mary's.	St. Peter's.	Werneth.	Westwood.	St. Paul's.	Coldhurst.	Hartford.	Hollinwood.	Clarksfield.	Mumps.	St. James'.	Waterhead.	Bardsley.							
Smallpox ...	2	23	85	135	10	2	2	...	...	10	15	11	30	21	16	22	31	28	9	22	24	20							
Scarlet Fever ...	4	6	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	4	...	...	1	1	4	...							
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...							
Diphtheria ...	79	566	674	494	16	2	1	...	...	133	177	88	142	98	153	97	166	140	126	157	233	122							
Measles ...	1	2	2	5	1	1	5	15	13	7	4	1	5	8	2	2	1	4	1	3	5	2							
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal) ...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...							
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...							
Acute Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	1	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1							
Non-Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...							
Acute Encephalitis—Infective ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...							
Post Infective ...	65	302	288	478	107	66	295	67	27	160	147	139	120	54	80	84	238	140	92	149	151	141							
Dysentery ...	6	...	...	...	...	32	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	1							
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...							
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...							
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	5	...	...	3	...	...	...							
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...							
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...							
Food Poisoning ...	1	2	...	...	...	2	4	9	...	...	6	...	1	3	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	...							
Erysipelas ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	5	3	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	1	1	...	1	2	...							
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	1	...	6	10	1	12	22	18	4	8	5	1	5	7	13	3	7	9	5	5	5	1							
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	3	3	5	2	5	2	...	...	1	1	...	4	3	1	3	4	...	1	1	1							
Totals ...	163	902	1065	1131	140	125	358	116	47	320	360	245	306	196	270	221	450	328	240	342	427	289							

\* Includes one post-humous notification.



## TUBERCULOSIS

There was no change in the Tuberculosis Service provided for the Borough. Out-patient diagnosis and preventive work is carried out at the Central Chest Clinic, Oldham and District General Hospital and in-patient treatment is provided at Strinesdale Sanatorium and other hospitals and sanatoria outside the Borough.

## Deaths

The number of deaths registered, 18 (16 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) gives a rate per thousand of the population of 0.15 (0.13 pulmonary and 0.02 non-pulmonary) compared with 26 (24 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) and a rate of 0.22 (0.20 pulmonary and 0.02 non-pulmonary) for the previous year.

## The Tuberculosis Register

The number of accepted cases on the Register at the 31st December was 703.

During the year 100 cases were removed for the following reasons:—

1. Recovered	45	or 45% of total removals.
2. Removal out	27	
3. Not desiring further treatment	2	
4. Lost sight of	6	or 36% of total removals.
5. Diagnosis not confirmed	1	
6. Died	19	or 19% of total removals.

Of the 45 recovered cases, 27 were pulmonary (15 or 55.56% minus, 4 or 14.81% R.B.1., 8 or 29.63% R.B.2.).

Of the 19 cases that died 6 (3 pulmonary, 1 non-pulmonary) died from causes other than tuberculosis.

## Pulmonary Tuberculosis

## New Cases

There were 59 new cases placed on the Register compared with 70 for the previous year. These were classified as follows:—

R.A.1. (Early cases, sputum negative or absent)	28
R.A.2. (Intermediate cases, sputum negative or absent)	4
R.A.3. (Advanced cases, sputum negative or absent)	3
R.B.1. (Early cases, sputum positive)	3
R.B.2. (Intermediate cases, sputum positive)	16
R.B.3. (Advanced cases, sputum positive)	5

In addition, 6 other cases came to notice but were not placed on the Register.

## Deaths

During the year 16 patients, including 1 case notified posthumously and 4 coming to notice through Registrar's returns compared with 24 for the previous year, died from pulmonary tuberculosis. This represents a death rate of 0.13 per thousand of the population.

In addition 5 pulmonary cases died from causes other than tuberculosis.



93  
5- 3

15 4 26.69 89

2 Of these 16 deaths, 3 or 18.75% had been notified more than five years, ~~A further one or 6.25% had been notified three to five years, whilst one or 6.25% died within one to three years after notification.~~ The remaining 11 or 68.75% occurred within one year of coming to notice and included 5 which escaped statutory notification, one being notified posthumously and 4 coming to notice through the Registrar's returns. The following table shows the length of time between notification and death of the remaining 6

Under 1 week .....	-	-
1 to 4 weeks .....	2	-
1 to 2 months .....	1	-
2 to 3 months .....	-	-
3 to 6 months .....	1	-
6 to 9 months .....	1	/
9 to 12 months .....	1	-

Thus of the 16 patients dying during the year, 13 or 81.25% died within 5 years of coming to notice.

### Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

#### New Cases

11 The number of new cases placed on the register during the year was 20. In addition, one case came to notice. This compares with 23 for the previous year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in these cases:—

Bones and Joints .....	5	✓
Abdomen .....	3	✓
Meninges .....	2	-
Peripheral Glands .....	9	1
Other Organs .....	1	4
Skin .....	-	-
Generalised .....	-	-
	20	

#### Deaths

There were 2 deaths, the same number as in the past two years. This represents a death rate of 0.02 per thousand of the population. The causes of death as stated on the death certificates were:—

1. I (a) Tuberculous Meningitis.
2. I (a) Heart Failure.  
(b) Toxaemia.  
(c) Tuberculosis of Rt. Hip.

One of these cases came to notice through the Local Registrar's return.



## Summary of New Cases and Deaths During the Year

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.
0 to 1 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5 ...	5	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
5 to 10 ...	2	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
10 to 15 ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
15 to 20 ...	4	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
20 to 25 ...	4	5	...	1	...	...	...	...
25 to 35 ...	8	5	1	2	...	...	...	...
35 to 45 ...	7	6	...	...	13	1	1	...
45 to 55 ...	14	6	...	1	4	2	...	...
55 to 65 ...	5	8	1	...	2	2	...	...
65 plus ...	8	2	...	...	3	...	...	1
Totals ...	42	17	7	13	40	6	1	1
1956	98		11		14	1	4	
1955	59		20		16	...	2	
1954	70		23		24	...	2	
1953	83		20		14	...	2	
1952	133		21		35	...	8	

The following is a summary of the occupations of the new cases:—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulm.
Apprentice Motor Mechanic .....	1	—
Bar Attendant .....	1	—
Baker .....	1	—
Boilerman .....	1	—
Case Maker .....	1	—
Cleaner, Cotton Mill .....	1	—
Cotton Operatives .....	6	2
Clerks and Typists .....	3	1
Drivers .....	2	—
Electric Welder .....	1	—
Engineers, Fitters, etc. ....	4	1
Grocer .....	1	—
Household Duties .....	5	2
Labourers .....	3	—
Machinists, etc. ....	2	—
Merchant Navy .....	1	—
Miller .....	1	—
Musician (Unemployed) .....	1	—



	Pulmonary	Non-Pulm.
Plasterer .....	1	-
Pre-School Children .....	3	1
Railway Worker .....	1	-
Retired .....	1	-
Roller Turner .....	1	-
School Children .....	10	8
School Teacher .....	-	1
Shop Assistant .....	-	1
Storekeeper .....	1	-
Student .....	1	-
Travellers and Salesmen .....	2	-
Unemployed .....	-	3
Valet .....	1	-
Water Mains Foreman .....	1	-
	—	—
Total .....	59	20
	—	—



**PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1952.**  
**Part I.—Summary of Notifications, during the year.**

Age Periods	Formal Notifications.												
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis.												
	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 & up-wards (all ages)
Pulmonary Males ...	1	...	3	5	1	2	5	6	8	5	9	1	2
Females ...	...	...	3	5	...	3	2	7	1	...	4	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Males ...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Females ...	...	...	2	1	4	1	1	2	1	2	...	...	...
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
													<b>93</b>

**Part II—New Cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by formal notification.**  
**Supplemental Return.**

Age Periods	Source of Information													No. of Cases		Total: (all ages)
	0—1	1—2	2—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75	75 and up.	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Pulmonary Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3		
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2		
Non-Pulmonary Males...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
" Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1		
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	2	6		

	No. of Cases	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death Returns from Local Registrars	4	1
Transferable Deaths from Registrar General	...	...
Posthumous Notifications	1	...
TOTALS...	5	1



# SANATORIUM AND HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

The following table gives details of notifications received on Forms I and II of admissions to, and discharges from, hospitals and sanatoria, of persons suffering from tuberculosis and the deaths occurring therein.

TABLE I. PULMONARY CASES.

	Admissions			Discharges			Deaths		
	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.	M.	F.	Ch.
Strinesdale Sanatorium	30	18	...	26	20	...	1	1	...
Astley Hospital, nr. Manchester	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Abergele Chest Hospital	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aitken Sanatorium, Bury	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Baguley Sanatorium	2	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Chadderton Pulmonary Hospital	...	5	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Crossley Hospital, Frodsham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Elswick Hospital, Kirkham	3	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Heath Charnock Hospital, Chorley	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Hefterston Grange San., Weaverham	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
High Carley Sanatorium, Ulverston	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Ladywell Hospital	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Meathop Sanatorium	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Withnell Hospital, Chorley	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Wolstenholme Hospital, Rochdale	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Wrightington Hospital	1	2	...	1	7	...	...	1	...

TABLE II. NON-PULMONARY CASES.

Wrightington Hospital...	1	1	2	1	2	1	...	...	...
Abergele Chest Hospital	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...



## CANCER

The number of deaths attributed to cancer shows an increase of 5 compared with 1954.

The figures for the last five years are as follows:—

1951 .....	224
1952 .....	234
1953 .....	296
1954 .....	285
1955 .....	290

The figure for 1955 includes 7 deaths occurring in the Boundary Park General Hospital Annexe, a chronic sick hospital which under the revised procedure relating to transferable deaths of the Registrar-General—operative from the 1st January, 1955, is regarded as the normal place of residence of all persons dying therein. This procedure ceased on the 1st April, when the Annexe and Boundary Park General Hospital were combined and became known as the Oldham and District General Hospital.

The following is an analysis of the age and sex distribution of all persons who were certified as dying from cancer during the year:—

Ages	Males	Females	Total
0-15 .....	2	—	2
15-25 .....	1	1	2
25-35 .....	—	—	—
35-45 .....	4	5	9
45-55 .....	20	16	36
55-65 .....	44	45	89
65-75 .....	43	39	82
75+ .....	31	39	70
Totals ...	145	145	290

## Localisation of the Disease

(Classified in accordance with the Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death).

## Malignant Neoplasm of Buccal Cavity and Pharynx (140-148)

(140) Lip .....	—
(141) Tongue .....	2
(142) Salivary Gland .....	—
(143) Floor of mouth .....	1
(144) Other parts of mouth and mouth unspecified .....	—
(154) Oral mesopharynx .....	—
(146) Nasopharynx .....	—
(147) Hypopharynx .....	—
(148) Pharynx unspecified .....	3

## Malignant Neoplasm of Digestive Organs and Peritoneum (150-159)

(150) Oesophagus .....	1
------------------------	---



(151) Stomach .....	69
(152) Small intestine, including duodenum .....	-
(153) Large intestine, except rectum .....	28
(154) Rectum .....	18
(155) Biliary passages and of liver (stated to be primary site) .....	2
(156) Liver (secondary and unspecified) .....	3
(157) Pancreas .....	7
(158) Peritoneum .....	1
(159) Unspecified digestive organs .....	1
<b>Malignant Neoplasm of Respiratory System (160-165)</b>	
(160) Nose, nasal cavities, middle ear and accessory sinuses .....	1
(161) Larynx .....	5
(162) Trachea, and of bronchus and lung specified as primary .....	2
(163) Lung and bronchus, unspecified as to whether primary or secondary .....	46
(164) Mediastinum .....	1
(165) Thoracic organs (secondary) .....	-
<b>Malignant Neoplasm of Breast and Genito-Urinary Organs (170-181)</b>	
(170) Breast .....	29
(171) Cervix uteri .....	6
(172) Corpus uteri .....	6
(173) Other parts of uterus, including chorionepithelioma .....	-
(174) Uterus, unspecified .....	5
(175) Ovary, fallopian tube and broad ligament .....	8
(176) Other and unspecified female genital organs .....	2
(177) Prostate .....	7
(178) Testis .....	-
(179) Other and unspecified male genital organs .....	1
(180) Kidney .....	1
(181) Bladder and other urinary organs .....	10
<b>Malignant Neoplasm of other and Unspecified Sites (190-199)</b>	
(190) Skin (melanoma) .....	1
(191) Skin .....	-
(192) Eye .....	1
(193) Brain and other parts of nervous system .....	5
(194) Thyroid gland .....	1
(195) Other endocrine glands .....	-
(196) Bone (including jaw bone) .....	-
(197) Connective tissue .....	-
(198) Lymph nodes (secondary and unspecified) .....	-
(199) Other and unspecified sites .....	6
<b>Neoplasms of Lymphatic and Haematopoietic Tissues (200-205)</b>	
(200) Lymphosarcoma and Reticulosarcoma .....	-
(201) Hodgkin's disease .....	4
(202) Other forms of lymphoma (reticulosis) .....	1
(203) Multiple myeloma (plasmocytoma) .....	1
(204) Leukaemia and aleukaemia .....	4
(205) Mycosis fungoides .....	-



The following two tables which give the age and sex distribution of deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus for the years 1950 to 1955 inclusive are of interest.

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Males .....	30	21	30	38	45	42
Females .....	9	5	2	11	5	6

Year	Sex	Age Groups						Totals	
		15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75		75+
1950	Males ..	-	1	-	12	6	9	2	30
	Females	-	-	1	3	2	2	1	9
1951	Males ..	-	-	1	5	11	4	-	21
	Females	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	5
1952	Males ..	-	-	2	3	12	11	2	30
	Females	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
1953	Males ...	-	-	1	6	9	15	7	38
	Females	-	-	-	1	3	6	1	11
1954	Males ...	-	1	3	8	17	14	2	45
	Females	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	5
1955	Males ...	-	-	-	7	18	13	4	42
	Females	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	6
Total	Males ...	-	2	7	41	73	66	17	206
"	Females	1	1	2	9	12	11	2	38
Grand Total ...		1	3	9	50	85	77	19	244

### VENEREAL DISEASES

The following figures relate to Oldham patients attending for the first time at a treatment centre and are extracted from records received from the Consultant Venerologist in charge of the Centre:—

	Oldham	Rochdale
Syphilis .....	25	1
Gonorrhœa .....	21	1
Non-Venereal and Undiagnosed Conditions .....	110	8
Total .....	156	10



## SECTION VI

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

## WATER SUPPLY

The Waterworks Engineer and General Manager (Mr. C. Busfield) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

"During the year 1955, a constant supply of potable water, generally of a high standard of purity, was maintained to all premises within the Department's area of supply, which are supplied through the Department's distribution system.

About 70,350 dwelling-houses are connected directly to this Department's mains within the Department's area of supply, and so far as can be ascertained, no houses are now supplied from this Department's mains by means of common stand-pipes. The estimated population within the Department's area of supply is 205,000.

The pH value of the water supplied from the Piethorne and Hanging Lees sources, which is unfiltered, varied between 5.6 and 7.2. The pH value of the water supplied from the Castleshaw source, which is filtered, ranged between 6.6 and 7.6 and the pH value of the water supplied from the Readycon Dean source, which is also filtered, varied between 7.0 and 8.6. Measures were taken as required to counteract occasional increases in the acidity of the water and no cases of contamination by lead were noted.

The potable water from all sources is continuously sterilised by the addition of chlorine and ammonia before passing into the distribution system, and water supplied for trade purposes from the Department's two reservoirs at Strinesdale is sterilised by the addition of chlorine."

Reservoir	Chemical	Bacteriological	Remarks
<b>Piethorne</b>			
Raw Water .....	1	5 0	B. Coli. per 100 ml.
		5 1-10	" " " "
		1 11-50	" " " "
After Sterilisation .....	4	16 0	" " " "
		2 1-10	" " " "
<b>Hanging Lees</b>			
Raw Water .....	1	2 0	" " " "
		1 1-10	" " " "
After Sterilisation .....	4	12 0	" " " "
<b>Castleshaw</b>			
Raw Water .....	1	3 0	" " " "
		2 1-10	" " " "
After Sterilisation .....	4	13 0	" " " "
<b>Readycon Dean</b>			
Raw Water .....	1	2 0	" " " "
		2 1-10	" " " "
After Sterilisation .....	4	12 0	" " " "
		1 1-10	" " " "



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

I am indebted to Mr. J. Taylor, the Sewage Works Manager, for the following report:—

"The main outfall works were originally designed to purify the sewage by treatment in sedimentation tanks and ash filters. Subsequently contact beds and percolating filters were installed; the contact beds being discarded as a method of treatment in 1936. The present system of treatment was used for the first time in 1938 and consists of Grit Chambers, Sedimentation Tanks, Diffused Air Partial Activated Sludge Tanks, Percolating Filters and Humus Tanks. Storm Water Tanks are provided for treating sewage in excess of three times the dry weather flow.

The Sewage Works treat the whole of the sewage from the County Borough together with the whole of the sewage from the adjoining Urban Districts of Lees and Springhead.

Sludge produced from the Purification Plant is all treated in the sedimentation tanks prior to further treatment in the heated Sludge Digestion Plant and Sludge Drying Beds.

There is also a small Sewage Works situated at Bardsley for the treatment of sewage from that area.

During the early part of the year from the purification plant the results were about average but during the hot and dry weather the final effluents leaving the works tended to deteriorate somewhat, this falling off was mostly due to the increased strengths of the sewages to be treated and partly to the inability of the partial activated sludge plant to deal adequately with the concentration of sludge required in the system for good purification. Optimum conditions for our purpose require 8 to 10 per cent. concentration of sludge being carried in the plant for good results, unfortunately only 3 to 4 per cent. concentration could be dealt with as in hot weather the activated sludge became septic very quickly. The poor state of the air diffusion tiles had a lot to do with these conditions and in the near future these old tiles which are in plan flat will be replaced with the more efficient dome type diffusers.

Once during the year the whole of the air-tiles and air-pipes were removed and cleaned and for a short time better air distribution was obtained but these conditions did not last for very long.

On several occasions during the year excessive foaming on the activated sludge plant took place; the foam on dispersal left the plant and its surrounds in a very dirty and sticky state; in windy conditions the foam has also a tendency to rise in the atmosphere and travel a considerable distance from the site.

The percolating filters stood up well to their task and quite good purification was obtained, as in past years however the amount of suspended solid matter in the final effluents was excessive due to low humus tank capacity.

Insecticides of the D.D.T. and Gammaxane types were again used on the filter beds in an endeavour to control the production and dispersal of the adult filter fly known as "Anisopus." The treatment given appeared to produce the results required. During the very hot weather chlorination of the filters was also carried out.



The final effluent from the Works was again used throughout the year for the cooling towers at the adjacent Electric Power Station.

Several samples of effluent entering the Wince Brook were taken by the Mersey River Board, two were classed as unsatisfactory.

The whole of the sludge produced in the Settling Tanks was further treated in the heated Sludge Digestion Tanks; the tanks were maintained at a temperature of approximately 80°F. The sludge gas (mostly methane) produced was used for heating purposes.

Sludge cake was removed mechanically from the sludge drying beds during the year when the weather conditions were favourable. The demand for this type of sludge increased slightly, as also did the demand for powdered sludge.

42,000 tons of raw sludge equal to 19.10 tons per million gallons of sewage were removed from the Sedimentation Tanks.

The total amount of sewage received for treatment during the year was 2,200,314,000 gallons which is equal to an average daily flow of 6,028,000 gallons."

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Director of Public Cleansing (Mr. A. Millward) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

"There are no ashpits in the Borough. All the house refuse from the 43,385 ash cans is collected by motor vehicles. 83.79% is dealt with by tipping under the controlled system, and the remainder by separation and incineration at the Refuse Disposal Works.

A free dustbin scheme for the removal of refuse was adopted by the Corporation on the 15th June, 1950, and from that date to the 31st December, 1955, 24,053 dustbins have been supplied.

There is only one Refuse Disposal Works, and this is situated at Rhodes Bank. The Cleansing and Transport Committee intend to proceed with the erection of a new Refuse Disposal Works on the Glodwick Road site at some future date and this will replace the existing works at Rhodes Bank.

The conversion of the remaining 244 sanitary pail closets to the fresh water system by the Borough Engineer's Department is retarded owing to the engineering difficulties which have to be overcome.

A scheme for an allowance to be granted to owners of houses of 50% of the approved estimate of the cost for the conversion of a waste water closet was adopted by the Corporation on the 10th December, 1951. The number of waste water closets converted under this scheme to the 31st December, 1955, was 2,242 and of these 767 were converted during the year.

There are 208 miles of streets and passages in the Borough, cleansed as follows:—

Daily .....	25 miles
Twice weekly .....	131 miles
Less than once weekly .....	52 miles

Miles of streets cleansed (exclusive of footpaths) ... 23,521



**Gully Cleansing**

Number of gullies .....	20,036
Number of cleansings during the year ...	120,216

The following figures indicate the amount of work done during the year.

**House and Trade Refuse Collection**

Number of dustbins emptied .....	2,276,050
Number of dustbins supplied under free dustbin scheme .....	4,687
Number of sanitary pails emptied .....	13,562
Number of collections of garbage .....	22,496
Number of loads of excreta collected .....	106
Number of loads of garbage collected .....	884
Number of tons of ashes taken to refuse disposal works .....	6,125
Number of tons of ashes taken to Corporation tips .....	31,657
Number of tons of clinker, etc., removed from refuse disposal works .....	3,279
Number of tons of baled tins sold .....	310
Number of tons of mortar sold .....	58

**Waste-Water Closets and Latrines**

Blockages cleared (W.W.C.'s) .....	5,374
Blockages cleared (Latrines) .....	—
Drains cleared .....	8
Drains found blocked requiring excavating .....	258
Tippers found not working and re-adjusted .....	125
Tippers, fittings, etc., found broken .....	1,594
New tippers, fittings, etc., fixed .....	1,166
Visits paid flushing latrines, etc. ....	6,347

**Closet Accommodation**

The total number and type of closets in the Borough at the end of the year were as follows:—

Fresh-water closets .....	23,710
Waste-water closets .....	21,746
Latrines:	
Houses .....	178
Mills .....	133
Pail closets .....	244

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS**

The General Superintendent of Baths (Mr. C. Murray) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

"During the year ending 31st December, 1955, the water in the whole of the Corporation Swimming Baths has been maintained in accordance with the Ministry of Health maximum requirement with regard to marginal chlorination and maintenance of correct pH values.

At the Central, Robin Hill, Waterhead and Lowermoor Establishments, where the chlorinating apparatus is capable of dealing with the increased amount of chlorine necessary for the operation of the Breakpoint Chlorination technique, this method of sterilization is used as an additional safeguard at peak periods.



### Smoke Abatement

The continued use of coke as boiler furnace fuel has been maintained at the Central, Lowermoor, Hathershaw and Glodwick Establishments, where the steam demand allows this type of fuel to be used under conditions of reasonably slow combustion, and as these Establishments are in close proximity to the main roads in the Town, with considerable residential property in the districts, the mitigation of the smoke nuisance from these boiler plants is of some consequence particularly so with regard to Central Baths.

During the year, the whole of the Baths and Wash-house premises and appurtenances have been maintained in a satisfactory hygienic condition. The swimming pool surrounds and all floors used by bathers are regularly cleaned with a solution of sodium hypochlorite, an effective sterilising agent, and a safeguard against infection."

### GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1955.

The staff was further depleted in January by the resignations of Inspectors J. Smith and C. Buckley who obtained similar appointments elsewhere. Efforts to fill the vacancies have, however, been unsuccessful and the Department is working 5 below establishment. One of the pupil sanitary inspectors left the Department in September to enrol in a full time sanitary inspector's course, but this vacancy was soon filled to maintain the full establishment of 3 pupils.

In spite of the staff shortage every effort has been made to carry out the essential day to day work of the Department, but no routine inspections have been effected to the various food premises, factories and shops.

An active resumption of slum clearance work was made: 200 individual unfit houses being represented during the year, and work proceeded with the survey of the proposed Littlemoor Clearance Area. In addition to this, survey work was carried out in connection with the Council's Proposals for slum clearance, and attention is drawn to the detailed figures in the body of the report.

It was anticipated that property owners would take advantage of the opportunity to increase rents under Section 23 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, but very few owners so far have done so. This section has not been as successful as was anticipated, with the result that properties are falling into further disrepair.

Further comments under the various headings have been made in the report.

In conclusion, I am indebted to yourself for the willing help and co-operation I have received during the year, and I must pay tribute to the whole of the staff for their efforts in spite of the difficulties.

Yours respectfully,

HAROLD V. CASS,  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.



## Summary of Work Carried Out by Sanitary Inspectors

During the year, 6,526 visits and 455 re-visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with inspections under the various Acts:—

	Visits	Re-Visits	Total
<b>General</b>			
Accumulations .....	46	—	46
Closets—Water .....	7	—	7
Waste-Water .....	229	2	231
Pail .....	9	—	9
Drainage .....	437	151	588
Drain Tests .....	299	36	335
Public Sewers .....	207	—	207
Dustbins .....	1	—	1
Entertainment Houses .....	—	1	1
Factories—Mechanical .....	44	—	44
Non-Mechanical .....	4	1	5
Offices and Workplaces .....	2	—	2
Outworkers .....	—	—	—
Interviews .....	368	—	368
Keeping of Animals and Birds .....	2	—	2
Mill Lodges .....	—	—	—
Marine Stores .....	2	—	2
No Access .....	1,001	12	1,013
Offensive Trades .....	7	—	7
Rag Gatherers .....	13	18	31
Rats and Mice .....	494	170	664
Schools .....	4	—	4
Shops Acts .....	—	1	1
Contagious Diseases Animals Act .....	58	—	58
Water Supply .....	64	33	97
Yards and Courts .....	3	—	3
Houses Let in Lodgings .....	37	—	37
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 ...	19	9	28
Public Conveniences .....	1	—	1
Common Lodging Houses .....	16	—	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds .....	4	—	4
Smoke Abatement Visits .....	15	—	15
Overcrowding .....	16	—	16
Pet Shops .....	8	—	8
Rag Flock Act .....	6	—	6
Miscellaneous .....	334	10	344
<b>Food Premises</b>			
Slaughterhouses .....	1,013	—	1,013
Meat Shops .....	197	—	197
Markets .....	40	—	40
Wharves .....	1	—	1
Food Preparation Premises .....	37	—	37
Ice Cream Premises .....	80	—	80
Restaurants and Cafes .....	4	—	4
Fish Fryers .....	4	—	4
Fishmongers and Poulterers .....	16	—	16



	Visits	Re-Visits	Total
Grocers .....	180	—	180
Greengrocers .....	6	—	6
Cold Stores .....	1	—	1
Dairies .....	33	—	33
Milk and Dairies Regulations .....	21	—	21
Bacteriological Food .....	8	—	8
Piggeries .....	1	—	1
Bakehouses—Mechanical .....	172	—	172
Non-Mechanical .....	3	—	3
Food and Drugs .....	382	—	382
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs .....	14	—	14
Infectious Diseases—Inquiries .....	390	—	390
Food Poisoning .....	120	—	120
Disinfection .....	5	—	5
	6,485	444	6,929

#### Summary of Action Taken and Work Carried Out

Number of Cases Taken in Court .....	4
Number of Cases Reported to Committee .....	2,020
Number of Complaints Received .....	2,552
Matters Referred to Other Departments .....	734
Number of Letters to Owners, &c. ....	1,119
Number of Certificates of Disrepair Issued .....	135
Number of Preliminary Notices Served .....	1,996
Number of Statutory Notices Served .....	461
<b>Disrepair</b> .....	275
Roofs Repaired or Renewed .....	135
Walls and Chimneys Repaired or Rebuilt .....	129
Wall Plaster Repaired or Renewed .....	57
Ceiling Plaster Repaired or Renewed .....	37
Floors Repaired or Relaid .....	62
Windows Repaired .....	—
Extra Lighting Provided .....	22
Ventilation Provided or Improved .....	38
Ranges or Fireplaces Repaired, Re-Set or Renewed .....	3
Staircases Repaired or Renewed .....	—
Handrails Provided or Repaired .....	51
Doors Repaired .....	3
Rooms Cleansed or Redecorated .....	—
Contents of Rooms Cleansed or Destroyed .....	7
Dampness Remedied—Rising .....	1
Penetrating .....	12
Outbuildings Repaired .....	8
Courts, Yards and Passages Paved or Repaved .....	2
Cleansed .....	—
<b>Sanitary Defects</b> .....	270
Drainage—Cleansed .....	102
Repaired or Altered .....	7
Reconstructed .....	1
Provided .....	—



Public Sewers—Cleansed .....	8
Repaired or Altered .....	6
Reconstructed .....	—
Eaves Gutters Repaired or Renewed, Cleansed .....	128
Rain Water Pipes—Repaired or Renewed .....	76
Disconnected .....	13
Sinks Renewed or Provided .....	11
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed .....	20
Water Closets—Provided .....	4
Repaired .....	65
Cleansed .....	13
Waste Water Closets—Repaired .....	88
Cleansed .....	78
Closets Converted to Water Closets (or abolished)—Latrine .....	4
Pails .....	—
Waste-Water .....	37
Other Closets—Provided .....	—
Repaired .....	2
Cleansed .....	4
Soil Pipes Repaired or Renewed .....	—
Water Supply Provided or Improved .....	25
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Nuisances Abated—Animals and Birds .....	5
Accumulations .....	2
Other Conditions .....	5



## Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

In accordance with Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, the following particulars under Part I and Part VIII of that Act are submitted:—

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspection (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	N.Mech. 79	5	11	...
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	Mech. 617	44		...
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...		696	49	11	...

## II.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	...	...	...	11	...
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	...	...	...	2	...
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	60	...	...	...	13	...



### Outworkers

Two lists relating to 13 outworkers were received during the year relating to the following:—

M/cr. Line

No.

13 Wearing apparel, making, &c.

### Offensive Trades

At the beginning of the year there were 16 offensive trades carried on in the Borough. None was discontinued or commenced during the year and at the end of the year the following offensive trades were being carried on in the Borough:—

Tripe Boilers .....	3
Marine Stores .....	8
Gut Scrapers .....	2
Hide and Skin Depot .....	1
Chemical Works .....	2

7 visits were made to these premises during the year. No notices were served in respect of defects.

### Common Lodging Houses

No new premises were registered during the year. There are 4 premises registered with accommodation for 68 men. No premises are registered for the accommodation of women.

### Bakehouses

There were 297 bakehouses on the register at the beginning of the year. No premises were registered and none discontinued, leaving 297 bakehouses on the register at the end of the year.

One basement bakehouse remains in use, the Council having renewed the certificate permitting its use for a further period of 5 years from the 1st October, 1954.

During the year 175 visits were paid to bakehouses. The majority of the premises are maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

### The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

No new premises were registered or licensed during the year. In 3 cases the licence was renewed.

The following particulars refer to premises registered and licensed at the end of the year:—

#### REGISTERED PREMISES:

(a) for manufacture of bedding .....	2
(b) for upholstering .....	4

#### LICENSED PREMISES:

(a) for manufacture of rag flock .....	0
(b) for storage of rag flock .....	3

There were 6 visits made under the above Act.

There were 9 samples of rag flock and other filling materials taken during the year and all conformed with the Regulation.



### Smoke Abatement

The Council has adopted the model Byelaw which regulated the emission of black smoke by prescribing that "for the purposes of Sub-Section (iv) of Section 103 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the emission of such smoke from a chimney of any building, other than a private house, for more than two minutes in any period of thirty minutes, shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be a statutory nuisance and a smoke nuisance."

During the year 4 smoke observations of thirty minutes' duration were taken. The extent of the emission of black smoke was as follows:—

No black smoke .....	31
Under 1 minute .....	0
1-2 minutes .....	0
2-3 minutes .....	0
3-4 minutes .....	3
Over 4 minutes .....	7

In the cases where excessive quantities of black smoke were being emitted, the managers and steam engineers of the firms concerned were interviewed and an improvement effected.

During the year further improvements were effected in a number of cotton mills. In one case, a mill which had been a constant source of nuisance installed 3 new boilers and automatic stokers. This mill is now burning inferior fuels effectively and without nuisance. In another case a cotton mill was electrified.

The continued increase in the price of coal is playing its part in making industry pay attention to fuel efficiency, with the resultant reduction in atmospheric pollution.

### Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution

The scheme for the investigation of atmospheric pollution as described in the Report for 1950 was continued. The Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee act as agent for the participating local authorities and re-charge the cost of the scheme on the basis of rateable value.

The analyses obtained are published in the Atmospheric Pollution Bulletin of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and the following figures show the results obtained in Oldham and the neighbouring towns.



## SULPHUR POLLUTION—LEAD PEROXIDE METHOD

Mgm. Sulphur Trioxide per 100 sq. cms. exposed surface per day

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>OLDHAM</b>												
Alexandra Park	2.89	3.18	2.8	2.6	2.2	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.87
Haven Lane	2.85	3.59	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.6	2.1	2.6	2.74
Horsedge St.	3.10	4.9	—	—	3.3	2.2	—	1.8	2.7	4.0	—	5.81
Westhulme Hospital	4.30	3.62	3.9	3.2	2.5	1.7	1.4	1.3	2.0	2.9	3.9	4.05
Westlands	4.41	4.66	4.2	3.5	3.3	1.9	1.8	1.6	2.8	3.6	4.8	4.40
<b>CHADDERTON</b>												
Birch Lane	3.14	2.59	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.9	3.0	2.70
Grammar School	5.40	4.41	3.4	3.3	2.8	2.2	1.6	1.7	2.4	2.9	4.8	4.94
<b>CROMPTON</b>												
Shaw, Croft Bank	2.66	2.21	1.9	2.0	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.5	2.3	2.49
Shaw, Home Farm	3.24	2.42	2.1	3.0	2.4	1.6	1.3	1.5	2.1	2.7	2.8	3.77
<b>FAILSWORTH</b>												
Highways Depot	2.75	2.86	3.2	2.6	2.3	1.6	1.4	1.2	2.2	3.1	3.6	2.20
<b>HYDE</b>												
Highways Yard	2.81	2.95	3.2	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.3	3.2	2.63
Reservoir	2.13	2.37	2.8	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.7	2.1	2.8	2.22
<b>LEES</b>												
Cemetery	2.18	2.31	2.2	1.9	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.6	2.2	1.97
<b>MIDDLETON</b>												
Thornham School	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Town Hall	2.74	2.79	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.2	2.65
<b>ROYTON</b>												
Hanging Chadder Farm	4.05	—	2.7	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.2	2.0	3.1	3.9	3.25
Royton Park	3.54	2.82	2.4	2.6	2.0	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.9	2.8	3.1	2.53
<b>STALYBRIDGE</b>												
Market Ground	2.95	2.84	3.1	2.7	2.1	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.2	3.0	3.7	3.23
Oakfield	2.50	2.57	2.5	2.6	2.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.8	2.5	3.5	3.01
<b>ASHTON</b>												
Grasmere, Stockport R.D.	2.51	2.92	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.2	0.8	1.4	2.0	2.6	2.43
Hartshead Pike	2.90	2.14	2.7	2.7	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.3	2.1	2.7	3.5	3.14
Lord Street	4.05	5.53	4.4	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.1	2.0	3.3	4.2	4.10
Lyndhurst Avenue	3.20	2.98	2.9	2.5	1.8	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.8	2.5	3.6	3.30
Sewage Works, Waterloo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.3	3.7	3.25
<b>ROCHDALE</b>												
Entwistle Rd.	2.25	3.08	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	2.3	—
Foxholes Hse., Rugby Rd.	3.00	2.48	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.1	2.4	—
Roch Mills Sewage Wks.	2.87	1.79	1.7	0.9	1.2	1.5	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.9	—
<b>SADDLEWORTH</b>												
Greenfield Sewage Wks.	2.34	1.57	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.6	1.1	2.3	—
<b>MANCHESTER</b>												
Monsall	4.67	4.19	3.7	3.5	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.9	3.7	5.8	—
Rusholme	2.80	3.07	3.1	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.4	2.4	3.5	—
Withington	2.16	2.30	2.1	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	—	1.4	2.7	—
<b>SALFORD</b>												
Ladywell Sanatorium	4.48	3.94	3.2	3.6	4.1	1.7	—	1.5	2.2	3.1	4.8	—
Regent Road	5.48	6.08	5.1	3.9	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.0	3.5	4.8	5.3	—
<b>STOCKPORT</b>												
Cheadle Heath S. W.	3.23	3.29	3.1	3.0	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.3	1.6	2.1	3.1	—
Portwood	3.43	3.84	3.9	3.6	1.8	2.3	1.4	1.8	2.3	2.6	3.9	—



### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During the year, 813 complaints of rat infestation were received and the results of investigations were as follows:—

Defective drainage .....	445
Stray Rats .....	81
Mice .....	285
Birds .....	2

### Rodent Control

The arrangements for rodent control continued as in the previous year. The consolidated grant of 50 per cent of the approved net expenditure incurred by the local authority was continued under Circular N.S.21.

As a result of alteration in policy the Workable Area Committees were discontinued, and the Borough was included in the South East Lancashire Advisory Committee. Councillor Mrs. E. Rothwell and the Chief Sanitary Inspector were appointed as representatives of the Health Committee to serve on the Committee for the ensuing year. This Committee serves a very useful purpose for co-ordinating the work of all local authorities and national bodies, &c., and is a useful instrument for the exchanging of views and up to date information on modern methods of the control of rodents and other pests.

### Sewer Maintenance Treatments

The second sewer maintenance treatment for the financial year 1954/55 and the first sewer maintenance treatment for the year 1955/56 were carried out during the year, when the following results were obtained:—

	1954-55	1955-56
Number of manholes .....	2,107	2,106
Number of manholes baited .....	742	750
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take .....	941	880
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take ...	423	475

Test baiting was also carried out on the following estates in July:—

Holts,	Fitton Hill,
Strinesdale,	Limeside No. 2.
Number of manholes baited .....	60
Number of manholes showing no take .....	27
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take .....	13
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take .....	20

Baiting was carried out on two consecutive days and on the third day a poisoned bait was put down. The bait bases were sausage rusk and bread mash and the poisons zinc phosphide and arsenious oxide.

### The Pet Animals Act, 1951

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, one Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. J. Sullivan, M.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Surgeon, are the appointed authorised officers for the purpose of inspection.

At the end of the year, 11 premises were licensed and 11 visits had been made under the Act during the year. All the premises were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.



### Diseases of Animals Acts

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the Authorised Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Acts.

There were 2 cases of suspected swine fever notified to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and in one case, swine fever was confirmed. The necessary disinfection was carried out in each case.

Under the Swine Fever (Infected Districts) Order, 1955, which came into operation on the 13th May, 1955, Oldham was scheduled. This Order had been made in view of the high incidence of swine fever in this area. The Order prohibited the movement of swine into, out of, and within the areas specified, except under licence, and also prohibited the holding of store markets.

138 movement licences were issued.

In November fowl pest was reported in the Borough, and restrictions were applied on several premises by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. In all 610 birds had to be destroyed before the restrictions were lifted.

### Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

There were 2 samples of fertilisers and 18 samples of feeding stuffs sent for examination under the provisions of the Act.

The following formal samples of feeding stuffs were reported upon as "not in accordance with the statutory statement":—

GROW MASH I.N.T.	4.04 per cent fibre as against 5.5 per cent in statutory statement.
------------------	---

This matter was referred to the firm concerned with a view to the necessary adjustments in the analysis.

DRIED GRASS MEAL	11.37 per cent Albuminoids (protein) as against 15.0 per cent in statutory statement.
------------------	---

The manufacturers were advised but were unable to identify the sample owing to lapse of time since purchase.

POULTRY FOOD, NO. 1A PELLETS	4.56 per cent fibre as against 6.25 per cent in statutory statement.
---------------------------------	--

The following informal samples of fertilisers were reported upon as "not in accordance with the statutory statement":—

GRANULAR FERTILISER	2.21 per cent insoluble phosphoric acid as against 0.5 per cent in statutory statement.
---------------------	---

GRANULAR FERTILISER	7.21 per cent soluble phosphoric acid and 1.61 per cent insoluble phosphoric acid as against 8.25 per cent and 0.75 per cent in statutory statement.
---------------------	--

The differences were not to the prejudice of the purchaser and no further action was taken.

There were 14 visits made under the Act.



## SECTION VII

## HOUSING

## Slum Clearance Programme

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation on the 30th August, 1954, and required every local authority within one year from the commencement of the Act to submit to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government proposals for dealing with the houses in their area which appeared to them to be unfit for human habitation and liable to demolition.

The following are details of the slum clearance proposals which were submitted by the Council to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and are given in the form requested:—

Total number of permanent dwellings  
in the Local Authority's area

43,498

## Part I THE TOTAL PROBLEM

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Substantially over 11,169 houses.

- (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i).

(ii) In excess of 20 years.

## Part II ORDERS ALREADY MADE, ETC.

- (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority.

(iii) Nil.

- (iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Ministry but have not yet become operative.

(iv) Nil.

## Part III ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS

- (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made, or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years.

(v) Nil.



- (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister. (vi) 1,423
- (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation. (vii) Number which could be patched with the resources available is estimated at 400 to 700, but it is considered very doubtful if the number of houses suitable for this treatment in the areas included in the programme covered by item (vi) will approach even the lower figure.
- (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years. (viii) 800
- (ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. (ix) 350

The information contained in these proposals has been compiled over a period of approximately 15 years as a result of survey and investigation, the details having been carefully recorded on lists and maps of the properties concerned. This obviated any detailed survey having to be made which would have been quite impossible. The figures include 2,079 back to back or single type houses and all the properties have some or all of the sanitary defects contained in the Housing Acts, 1919/1936, and Section 9 of the 1954 Act.

In addition to the 2,079 back to back or single type houses, the preponderant type of house in the Borough is the 4 roomed (2 up and 2 down) cottage built prior to 1900, and constructed in long rows with yard space and narrow back passages. These houses have permitted numbers of from 5 to 7½. There are approximately 27,800 of these houses and the average rents are between 9s. 0d. and 10s. 0d. per week inclusive. There are comparatively few of these houses included in the slum clearance programme. Many of them are jerry built and in a state of disrepair, having unsatisfactory sinks, unsatisfactory or no separate waste-water closet accommodation, damp stone flag floors, steep dark staircases, and no ventilated food stores or effective damp proof courses. In the majority of these houses the living rooms are entered from the street, and the kitchens open directly into the backyard, and are cold and draughty.



The proposals submitted to the Ministry have been based on the assumption that the building capacity of the area is in the region of 400 houses per year, and the Housing Committee have allocated some 200 houses per year for slum clearance purposes.

It will be seen, therefore, that in relation to the size of the programme, with this small number of houses allocated, it will take over fifty years to deal with the present programme, and some extraordinary measures require to be taken to speed up the removal of this intolerable social problem.

An opportunity has been taken to compare the local problem with other authorities and in relation to the size of the Borough, Oldham's problem is the eighth largest in the country.

### Slum Clearance Progress

In 1939, the war emergency completely restricted slum clearance and the building of new houses and no official permission was given for slum clearance to be resumed until the issue in March, 1954, of Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 30/54.

It has, however, been necessary to deal with properties having serious sanitary defects and action was first taken in this connection in the year 1943 when Demolition Orders were made affecting 12 houses. During that year and subsequent years to the 31st December, 1955 (inclusive) the following houses have been dealt with:—

No. of individual houses represented .....	522
<hr/>	
No. of Demolition Orders made .....	360
No. of Closing Orders made .....	13
No. of undertakings accepted .....	11
No. of houses demolished voluntarily .....	15
Other demolitions .....	1
Representation not accepted .....	1
Consideration of Order deferred .....	1
Representation not yet considered .....	120

### Voluntary Demolitions

Information was received with regard to the demolition of 3 houses by voluntary action, all of which were included in the slum clearance programme.

### Individual Unfit Houses

It was found necessary to represent 200 houses. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 74 of these houses and Closing Orders under Section 10 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of 4 houses and an undertaking under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, was accepted in respect of 1 house. These involved the displacement of 75 families and 227 persons. In one case the making of a Demolition Order was deferred. In 120 cases details of ownership were not completed and it was therefore not possible to arrange for the Housing Committee to consider the making of Demolition Orders before the end of the year.



Demolition Orders were also made during the year in respect of 55 houses, Closing Orders under Section 10 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of 8 houses and undertakings under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, were accepted in respect of 3 houses. These 66 properties were represented during 1954.

The following is a summary of the individual unfit houses dealt with during the years 1943 to 1955:—

Year	Houses represented	No. of families	No. of persons	Position as at 31st Dec., 1955					
				Houses Vacated or Empty	Persons Rehoused		Total No. of persons awaiting re-hous'g	Houses Demolished	Total No. of Houses awaiting demolition
					By Corporation	By Own arrangements			
1943 to									
1945	43	32	131	43	118	13	...	43	...
1946	37	47	128	37	110	18	...	33	4
1947	48	46	109	48	92	17	...	48	...
1948	*40	41	153	40	135	18	...	*40	...
1949	14	15	51	14	47	4	...	14	...
1950	†14	13	36	14	24	12	...	†14	...
1951	11	15	48	11	42	6	...	11	...
1952	7	7	28	7	26	2	...	7	...
1953	‡20	16	56	19	56	...	...	‡19	...
1954	x88	78	236	78	182	36	18	52	24
1955	**200	184	510	116	105	18	387	15	59

\*An undertaking under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, was accepted in respect of one house. This house was demolished voluntarily during 1952.

†An undertaking under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, was accepted in respect of 6 houses. These houses were voluntarily demolished during 1951.

‡15 houses were demolished before Demolition Orders could be made by the Council. In the case of one house the representation was not accepted.

xIn 9 cases Closing Orders were made under Section 10 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and undertakings under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, were accepted in respect of 3 houses.

\*\*In 4 cases Closing Orders were made under Section 10 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and an undertaking was accepted under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of one house.

Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 54/55 was issued in September. This circular recommends that local authorities should issue a general reminder to the public through the press advising anyone intending to purchase older type properties to enquire at the Council's offices to ascertain whether such properties were affected by the Slum Clearance Programme.



Publicity was given to this circular although this information was already being given to the public on enquiry. During the year 424 such enquiries were dealt with.

The following are details of returns of demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts, made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in accordance with Circular 48/55.

### 1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses During the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	4,124
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	7,119
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose .....	Nil

### 2. Remedy of Defects During the Year Without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 1,214

### 3. Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year

#### (A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	75
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners .....	41
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	4

#### (B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	386
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners .....	281
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	48

#### (C) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	74
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	62

#### (D) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil



### Overcrowding

There were 4 new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.

### Certificates of Disrepair

During the year 65 applications were received from tenants for certificates of disrepair. These were dealt with as follows:—

Certificates recommended .....	61
Not recommended .....	1
Withdrawn .....	3

There were 36 applications for revocation which were dealt with as follows:—

No. revoked .....	33
No. deferred .....	3

### Housing Applications Register

I am indebted to Mr. F. D. Matthews, Housing Manager, for the following information:—

"On the 31st December there were 2,124 applications for housing accommodation on the Housing Applications Register. This figure includes 446 applications for aged persons' bungalows."

### Housing Act, 1949

Under Section 15 (2) of this Act, in order to qualify for a grant, a dwelling must provide satisfactory accommodation for at least 15 years and the dwelling must conform to the specified requirements with respect to their construction and physical condition and provision of services and amenities.

During the year 144 applications for improvements grants were submitted to the Surveyor's and Buildings Committee and 5 were refused. The grants recommended during the year totalled £15,984.

There were 130 enquiries made through this department for improvement grants. In 9 of these cases recommendations were not made as the properties could not be guaranteed a life of at least 15 years.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following figures show the number of houses inspected and the number disinfested:—

	Corporation	Others
Houses inspected .....	109	258
Found infested .....	—	35
Disinfested by H.C.N. ....	—	—
Disinfested by spraying with liquid insecticide .....	—	188

### Removals and Disinfestation of Furniture

A Bedford 30 cwt. disinfecting van is used for the disinfestation of furniture of families who are moving into Corporation houses and during the year the furniture of 201 families was disinfested prior to removal to Corporation houses.

### Disinfection

The arrangements for disinfection continued as in previous years. During the year 29,928 articles were disinfested and 5,762 destroyed. The total number of houses disinfested was 596 with a total of 3,160 rooms.



## SECTION VIII

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS

## Milk Supply

Food and Drugs Authorities are responsible for the licensing and supervision of pasteurising and sterilising establishments and local authorities for the registration, supervision and licensing of persons and premises dealing in the sale as distinct from the production of milk.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order, 1953, is operative with regard to Oldham and requires that only designated milks should be supplied within the area. The special designations which may now be used in relation to milk are:—

“Pasteurised”

“Sterilised”

“Tuberculin Tested”

## Milk Production in the Borough

At the beginning of the year 46 farms with 725 cows were producing milk in the Borough. During the year 4 farmers ceased to produce milk and at the end of the year 42 farms with 574 cows were producing milk in the Borough and of these 19 had “Tuberculin Tested” licences.

## The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

At the beginning of the year there were 29 distributors producing milk in the Borough.

There were 28 distributor producers outside the Borough at the beginning of the year.

During the year, 82 new distributors were registered for the sale of bottled milk.

On the 31st December there were 7 premises registered as dairies and 680 registered distributors of milk, comprised as follows:—

Number of distributors producing milk in the Borough .....	28
Number of distributors producing milk outside the Borough .....	31
Number of distributors with dairy premises in the Borough .....	7
Number of distributors with dairy premises outside the Borough ...	8
Number of other distributors .....	20
Number of shops at which bottled milk is sold .....	586

## The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were in force on the 31st December:—

(a) To use the designation “Tuberculin Tested”:

*Producer's Licence .....	19
Dealer's Licence .....	39
†Supplementary Licence .....	—



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

The following licences were in force on the 31st December:—

(a) To use the designation "Pasteurised":	
Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence .....	1
Dealer's Licence .....	119
‡Supplementary Licence .....	4
(b) To use the designation "Sterilised":	
Dealer's (Steriliser's) Licence .....	—
Dealer's Licence .....	616
‡Supplementary Licence .....	2

\*These licences are granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

‡A Supplementary Licence is issued to persons whose premises are outside the Borough but who distribute milk within the Borough.

**Examination of Milk (Samples) for Tubercle Bacilli**

During the year, 85 samples were taken for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. There were 37 samples from farms within the Borough and 48 were from farms outside the Borough, 1 ( per cent) as 1954 being "positive."

The following table details the 85 samples taken:—

Class of Milk Sample	No. of Samples Taken	Tubercle Bacilli	
		Absent	Present
Ungraded .....	32	31	1
Tuberculin Tested .....	53	53	—
Totals .....	85	84	1

On receipt of a "positive" report the name and address of the milk producer is immediately notified to the appropriate Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and to the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned if the milk was produced outside the Borough.

No notices were served under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

**Milk Samples Taken for Methylene Blue Test**

There were 122 samples taken with the following results:—

Class of Milk Sample	No. of Samples Taken	Methylene Blue Test	
		Passed	Failed
Pasteurised .....	110	104	6
T.T./Pasteurised .....	11	11	—
Tuberculin Tested .....	1	1	—
Ungraded .....	—	—	—
Totals .....	122	116	6



With regard to the samples which failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, 5 were from a dairy within the Borough and 1 from outside the Borough.

The unsatisfactory results were alleged to be due to a defect in the bottle washing plant. This was remedied and subsequent samples were reported to be satisfactory.

#### Milk Samples Taken for Phosphatase Test

Regular samples are taken of pasteurised milk which comes into the Borough and of milk which is pasteurised in the Borough. Samples of the milk supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme are taken monthly.

The following table details the samples taken:—

Class of Milk Sample	No. of Samples Taken	Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed
Pasteurised .....	110	109	1
T.T./Pasteurised .....	11	11	—
Totals .....	121	120	1

Samples which fail to pass the test are followed up immediately and where this involves plants outside the Borough the Medical Officer of Health and the firm concerned are notified.

#### Milk Samples for Turbidity Test

No samples of sterilised milk were submitted during the year.

#### ICE CREAM

During the year the control over the manufacture and sale of ice cream was maintained and 80 visits were paid to registered premises.

On the 31st December there were 366 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale, manufacture or storage of ice cream. The following table gives details of the premises registered:—

- (a) For the manufacture and sale of ice cream 10
- (b) For sale of pre-packed ice cream ..... 346
- (c) For sale of loose and pre-packed ice cream ... 10

In the previous year 328 premises were registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream and 10 for the sale of loose and pre-packed ice cream.

#### Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, &c.) Regulations, 1947-1952

There are 7 large ice cream manufacturers in the Borough and 3 firms who use a "complete cold mix." All the firms have complied with the requirements of the Regulations and are fully alive to the importance of producing a product which is prepared and stored under strictly hygienic conditions.



### Bacteriological Examination

There is no statutory bacteriological standard of cleanliness for ice cream but a methylene blue test has been adapted for ice cream and the result is classified in one of 4 grades.

There were 18 samples of ice cream submitted for the methylene blue grading test, with the following results:—

Grade I .....	15
Grade II .....	2
Grade III .....	1
Grade IV .....	—

In the case of the Grade III sample, the attention of the manufacturer was drawn to the results of the test and subsequent samples from this firm are reported to be satisfactory.

### Standard for Ice Cream

During the year 17 samples of ice cream were taken for analysis, and one sample was reported as below standard. This was deficient in fat to the extent of 15.2 per cent. The fat content was 4.24 per cent instead of the minimum of 5 per cent. A letter of warning was forwarded to the manufacturer.



## MEAT INSPECTION

## Slaughterhouses

There are no private slaughterhouses in the Borough, but there are two public slaughterhouses under the control of the Markets and Baths Committee; one is leased to the local Co-operative Society and the other to a private firm. Facilities are available at both these slaughterhouses for butchers to have their own animals slaughtered.

The following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected during the year with the results of inspection:—

## Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	2,344	2,289	152	30,926	4,587
Number inspected ...	2,344	2,289	152	30,926	4,587
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole Carcases condemned	1	4	8	15	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	481	896	...	434	173
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci ...	20.563	39.318	5.263	1.451	3.858
Tuberculosis only Whole Carcases condemned	...	13	...	...	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	176	575	...	...	86
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	7.508	24.797	...	...	1.918
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	1	...	...	...
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	10	1	...	...	...
Generalised and totally condemned — ...	...	...	...	...	...

The following figures show the percentage of cows affected with tuberculosis for the years 1952 to 1955:—

	Cow Carcases Examined	Percentage affected with Tuberculosis
1952 .....	2,925	35.59
1953 .....	4,024	32.50
1954 .....	2,647	27.37
1955 .....	2,289	24.79



The total weight of meat and offal destroyed was:—

For tuberculosis .....	32,727½lbs.
For diseases other than tuberculosis .....	36,588lbs.

During the year 8 cows were found to be affected with tuberculosis of the udder and partial condemnation was necessary.

#### Tuberculosis in Pigs

One batch of pigs received at the slaughterhouse was found to be extensively affected with tuberculosis, and it was considered necessary to inform the appropriate Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and advise at the place of origin.

#### Summary of Diseased and Unsound Food Destroyed During 1955

	lbs.
Cattle (18 whole carcasses) .....	10,312
(2,128 part carcasses and organs) .....	53,827
Sheep (15 whole carcasses) .....	643
(434 part carcasses and organs) .....	896
Pigs (6 whole carcasses) .....	549
(259 part carcasses and organs) .....	2,760½
Calves (8 whole carcasses) .....	328
(part carcasses and organs) .....	—
Preserved Food .....	6,279
Beef .....	806
Lamb .....	551
Pork .....	165
Sausage .....	178½
Cheese .....	504½
Bacon and Ham .....	629½
Tomatoes .....	129
Cooked Meat .....	33
Dried Fruit .....	198½
Fish and Fishcakes .....	116
Flour .....	40
Frozen Egg .....	1,414
Eggs .....	490
Pears .....	630
Melons .....	50
Cake .....	30
Butter and Margarine .....	19½
Sugar .....	47
Sweet Puddings .....	57
Pulses and Cereals .....	331½
Coconut .....	14
Oats .....	25
Chocolate .....	6
Dried Milk .....	3
Essences .....	1
Bicarbonate of Soda .....	5½
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>82,069½</b>



### Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954

There were 18 renewal licences and 2 new licences granted during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 — Sections 57 and 101.  
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 and 1935—  
Article 8. Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of  
Cruelty) Regulations, 1954 — Articles 9 and 16.

Legal proceedings were instituted in April against a person for contraventions of the above. The defendant was fined £40, and was ordered to pay £2 2s. 0d. advocate's fee.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924  
and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations,  
1954.

During the year a contravention of the above regulations was reported. This concerned two persons who illegally slaughtered a pig. No proceedings were instituted but letters of warnings were issued.

### Horseflesh

There are three shops in the Borough for the sale of horseflesh. Arrangements for slaughtering and inspection continued as in the previous year.

### Model Byelaws for Knackers' Yards

Following the receipt of Ministry of Food Circular 16/54, which was received in October, 1954, and which drew attention to the powers of local authorities to make byelaws in connection with knackers' yards, the Council made the necessary application for adoption of the Model Byelaws. The byelaws came into operation on 23rd May. At the present time there are no knackers' yards within the Borough.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

#### Food Hygiene

The inspection and supervision of food preparation premises was continued and 699 visits were paid to these premises during the year. The following improvements were effected:—

Hot water provided .....	2
New ovens installed .....	5
New sinks installed .....	6
Premises enlarged .....	2
New floors .....	4
Walls and floors tiled .....	2
Floor resurfaced .....	1

A programme of lectures and film shows was arranged and during the year 7 lectures and film shows were given to 371 persons attending.



### Contamination of Food

A complaint was received during the year of food (i.e. bacon) being supplied to a retailer in a dirty condition by a wholesale firm outside the Borough. This was a contravention of Article 4 of the Food Byelaws, and a letter of warning was issued.

A complaint of a quantity of tobacco being found in a meat pie was also received. This was manufactured by a local bakery, and a letter of warning was also issued in this instance.

A complaint was also made of a metal pin being found in a meat pie purchased from a local shop. Investigations revealed that this pie had been manufactured by an outside firm of cooked meat manufacturers, and following receipt of a report from the authority concerned, it was decided that a letter of warning be issued in this case.

A complaint of a metal tack being found in sausage was received. This sausage was manufactured by a large firm of bacon curers outside the Borough. This firm is very up-to-date in its methods and every precaution is taken to prevent such occurrences. A letter of warning was issued in this case.

### Report of the Public Analyst

Mr. T. W. Lovatt, F.R.I.C., Borough Analyst, has kindly furnished the following report:—

"I have the honour to report that during the year ending 31st December, 1955, I have analysed 395 samples under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: these comprised:—201 Milks; 17 Ice Creams; 14 Pork Sausages; 10 Beef Sausages; 9 Sweets; 6 Jellies; 6 Orange Drinks; 5 Jams; 5 Lemon Cheese; 5 Ice Lollies; 5 Self-Raising Flour; 4 Flavoured Milks; 4 Non-Brewed Condiment; 4 Cough Mixture; 3 Seidlitz Powders; 3 Margarine; 3 Coffee; 3 Olive Oil; 3 Oatmeal; 2 Pepper; 2 Butter; 2 Cider; 2 Witch Hazel; 2 Sago; 2 Coconut Cake Mixture; 2 Aspirin; 2 Pineapple Drinks; and 3 Glacé Cherries. Also one each of the following:—Alka Seltzer; Borax and Honey; Zinc and Castor Oil; Ground Almonds; Cheese Spread; Crude Molasses; Sulphur Tablets; Glycerine; Vegetable Extract; Lemon Juice; Yoghourt; Tapioca; Dried Bananas; Elderflower and Peppermint Compo; Balm of Gilead; Alexmint Peppermint Elixir; Sage and Onions; Gripe Mixture; Ammoniated Quinine Tablets; Crab Paste; Golden Raising Powder; Yorkshire Relish; Ground Ginger; Liquid Paraffin; Iodised Salt; Table Dessert; Raspberry Flavour; Malt Vinegar; Indian Brandee; Peppermint Concentrate; Friars Balsam; Chocolate Wafer; Cider Vinegar; Ground Rice; Mussels; Cockles; Fruit Cake Mixture; Meat Paste; Orange Curd; Soluble Coffee and Chicory; Meringue Powder; Richereme Custard Powder; Sponge Mixture; Kolanut Wine; Gelatine; Cake Mixture; Liquorice Powder; Yellow Petroleum Jelly; Olive Oil and Raspberry Vinegar; Hydrogen Peroxide (20 vol.); Fullers Earth Ointment; Tincture of Iodine; Jiffi Jelli; Boric Acid Ointment; Vanilla Essence; Wintergreen Ointment; Almond Flavouring; Christmas Pudding; Lemon Juice; Sultanas; Candied Peel; Nutmix Paste; Dried Apricots; Dried Peaches; Dried Fruit Salad; Kompo Bronchial Mixture.



Of the total samples, seven were reported as adulterated or not up to standard, viz., four medicines, one non-brewed condiment, one ice cream, and one malt and butter toffee. The medicines consisted of—Seidlitz Powder, the weight of which was incorrect; Oil of Wintergreen, deficient in methul salicylate; Compound Liquorice Powder, which was mouldy and unfit for use; and a sample of Peppermint Elixir, which contained less chloroform than was stated on the label.

The malt and butter toffee was deficient in fat to the extent of 72 per cent. The facts of this case were that the Inspector asked the shopkeeper for Malt and Butter Toffee. Such toffee must contain a minimum of 4.0 per cent of butter fat, actually the sample only contained 1.1 per cent of fat. Subsequent investigation showed the label to describe the sweets as Malt and Butter Toffee (flavoured). Such sweets need not contain any butter at all.

The non-brewed condiment only contained 3.1 per cent of acetic acid instead of 4.0 per cent; whilst the ice cream sample was below the fat limit of 5.0 per cent; the amount present being only 4.24 per cent.

It is satisfactory to note that all the milk samples taken during the year were up to standard. The following table shows in tabulated form the distribution of fat in the samples.

	March Quarter Samples	June Quarter Samples	September Quarter Samples	December Quarter Samples
Up to 3.50 per cent .....	23	42	22	—
3.51 to 3.75 per cent .....	49	11	15	—
3.76 to 4.0 per cent .....	10	8	11	—
Over 4.0 per cent .....	7	3	—	—
	89	64	48	0
	—	—	—	—

All the samples of sausage were genuine, i.e., they all contained the requisite amount of meat. Preservative was present in nine samples, but was declared at the time of purchase, and was not excessive.

Except for the drug samples which have been referred to, the remainder were all up to standard.

All of the remaining combustibles and food adjuncts—the majority of which were of the pre-packed variety—were of good commercial quality."



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The total number of samples analysed during 1955 was 395, compared with 394 for 1954.

## Number of Samples Purchased for Analysis

Articles	Number of Samples of each article examined			Number of Samples of each article regarded as Adulterated below standard, or otherwise not complying with prescribed requirements		
	Form-ally Taken	Inform-ally Taken	Total	Form-ally Taken	Inform-ally Taken	Total
Milk .....	201	-	201	-	-	-
Ice Cream .....	16	1	17	*1	-	1
Pork Sausage .....	-	14	14	-	-	-
Beef Sausage .....	-	10	10	-	-	-
Sweets .....	1	8	9	-	1	1
Jellies .....	-	7	7	-	-	-
Fruit Drinks .....	-	11	11	-	-	-
Jam and Preserves .....	-	11	11	-	-	-
Ice Lollies .....	-	5	5	-	-	-
Flour .....	-	6	6	-	-	-
Flavoured Milks .....	-	4	4	-	-	-
Butter and Margarine ...	-	5	5	-	-	-
Coffee & Coffee Mixture...	-	4	4	-	-	-
Non-Brewed Condiment ...	-	4	4	-	1	1
Oatmeal .....	-	3	3	-	-	-
Pepper .....	-	2	2	-	-	-
Cider .....	-	2	2	-	-	-
Sago and Tapioca .....	-	3	3	-	-	-
Cake Mixtures .....	-	5	5	-	-	-
Glacé Cherries .....	-	3	3	-	-	-
Medicaments & Ointments	-	35	35	-	3	3
Dried Fruit .....	-	5	5	-	-	-
Shellfish .....	-	2	2	-	-	-
Meat and Fish Paste .....	-	2	2	-	-	-
Custard Powder .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Table Dessert .....	-	2	2	-	-	-
Christmas Pudding .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Nut Mix Paste .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Essences & Flavourings ...	-	2	2	-	-	-
Liquorice Powder .....	-	1	1	-	1	1
Meringue Powder .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Kola Nut Wine .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ground Almonds .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ground Ginger .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Cheese Spread .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Crude Molasses .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Vegetable Extract .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Yoghourt .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Dried Bananas .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Sage & Onion Stuffing ...	-	1	1	-	-	-
Golden Raising Powder ...	-	1	1	-	-	-
Yorkshire Relish .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Iodised Salt .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Malt Vinegar .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Cider Vinegar .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Chocolate Wafer .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ground Rice .....	-	1	1	-	-	-
Totals .....	218	177	395	*1	6	7

\*This sample was deficient in the fat to the extent of 15.2 per cent. The fat content was 4.24 per cent instead of the minimum of 5 per cent. A letter of warning was forwarded to the manufacturer.



## MISCELLANEOUS

**National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)**

**National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951**

**Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons  
in Need of Care and Attention**

The Welfare Services Committee exercises all the powers and duties of the Council under the National Assistance Act, 1948, with the exception of the powers and duties under Section 47 which, by agreement, have been transferred to the Health Committee.

The Health Committee has delegated all the powers of the Local Authority under this Section to a Special Sub-Committee.

The compulsory removal of a person to hospital or other accommodation is only undertaken as a last resort and when every avenue of approach has failed. During the year, action had to be initiated in two cases.

Action under Section 47 was taken in the following case:—

**Case 1/55.**—A female, aged 76 years, lived alone in one room of a four roomed house. The room lived in was dirty and there was a foul odour. In the back room there was a collection of old papers, debris and buckets of ash. The bedding was insufficient and filthy and she was dirty in her person and her clothing was unkempt. She had no relatives or friends and her neighbours would have nothing to do with her and she persistently refused to leave home. An application was made to the Court and an Order obtained for her removal for a period of six weeks to Part III Accommodation, Boundary Park General Hospital Annexe. Before the order expired she expressed her willingness to remain in hospital and was finally discharged home after a stay of ten weeks.

Primary action was taken in the following case in 1954:—

**Case 1/54.**—A female, aged 75 years was removed under Order in the previous year and three further Orders were obtained each extending her detention for a period of 3 months. The last Order expired on the 30th March but before this date she agreed to remain voluntarily and died one week after expiration of the Order.

Action under the Amendment Act was taken in the following case:—

**Case 1/55.**—A female, aged 81 years, living with her daughter, was first brought to notice by her general practitioner. For the last two years she had slept on a couch downstairs, and her daughter had slept beside her in a chair. The house was sparsely furnished but there was no bedding available so the patient could not be put to bed. She had developed partial paralysis and was doubly incontinent but adamantly refused to go into hospital. An Order was obtained and she was removed to the Oldham and District General Hospital where she died five days later.



# NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

## Handicapped Persons

The powers and duties of the Welfare Services Committee include the welfare of persons who are blind, deaf and dumb, or who are substantially or permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity. The Director of Welfare Services is the Chief Officer to the Committee.

## Incidence of Blindness

The Director of Welfare Services arranges for the examination of adults suspected to be suffering from blindness and he receives Form B.D.8 (revised 1955) from the examining Ophthalmic Surgeon. By arrangement with him a copy of the form is forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health when the patient is admitted to the Register of Blind Persons. Ministry of Health Circular 4/55 which was issued on the 2nd March, 1955, recommended the use of a revised Form B.D.8 which was brought into use on the 1st April, 1955.

In the case of children of school age, the Principal School Medical Officer arranges the examination which is undertaken by the Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon (Dr. F. Janus).

During the year 25 persons (9 males and 16 females) were admitted to the Register of Blind Persons. This figure included one case, a male aged 21 years, for whom no Form B.D.8 was available. The registration particulars for this case were received from the St. Dunstan's Organisation who have accepted responsibility for the training, settlement and lifelong after-care of this patient.

The following table gives the age and sex distribution and the causes of blindness in these cases:—

	AGE GROUPS												
	0-1	1-4	5-15	16-20	21-30	31-39	40-49	50-59	60-64	65-69	70-79	80—	Total
	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
Cataract ...	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- 2	1 7	2 2	4 11
Glaucoma ...	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	1 -	- 1	- 1	- -	1 3
Others .....	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- 1	- -	1 1	1 -	1 -	4 2
TOTAL ...	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	1 -	- 2	1 -	1 4	2 8	3 2	9 16

## Degree of Blindness

1. No perception of light ..... 2 cases.
2. Perception of light ..... 4 cases.
3. Vision of up to and including 3/60 Snellen ..... 16 cases.
4. Better than 3/60 Snellen ..... 3 cases.

Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 requested Medical Officers of Health to include in their Annual Reports a section relating to blind persons and accordingly the following information is submitted for the 24 cases for whom Form B.D.8 has been received:—



## A. Follow-up of Registered Blind Persons

Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which Section F of Form B.D.8 (revised 1955) recommends treatment or continuation of treatment:	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrolental Fibroplasia	Others
(a) None.	10	-	-	5
(b) Medical.	-	-	-	-
(c) Surgical:				
(i) At early convenience	2	-	-	-
(ii) Later	3	-	-	-
(iii) If and when general condition permits	-	-	-	-
(d) Optical.	-	-	-	-
(e) Hospital supervision.	-	4	-	-

**Cataract:** Of the 15 cases admitted to the Register, 5 were recommended for surgical treatment, 4 of whom had received Consultant advice before registration. At the end of the year 3 had received surgical treatment, but the remaining 2 had refused. Of the 10 cases where no treatment was recommended, 5 had received Consultant advice and hospital treatment prior to registration, 4 had received no such advice or treatment, and 1 was in a mental deficiency hospital.

**Glaucoma:** There were 4 cases admitted to the Register, all of whom had received Consultant advice and hospital treatment prior to registration. In 1 case there was some delay in consultant advice being obtained.

**Retrolental Fibroplasia:** No cases were reported during the year.

**Others:** These were choroidal atrophy (2), optic atrophy (1), interstitial keratitis (1), iridocyclitis (1). No treatment was recommended for these cases; all had received consultant advice prior to registration.

At the 31st December there were 295 persons (123 males, 172 females) on the Register of Blind Persons.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum:** There were 6 cases notified during the year and in no case was vision lost or impaired.



The following table shows the cases notified and results of treatment:

### B. Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the year .....	6
(ii) Number of cases in which:	
(a) Vision lost .....	None
(b) Vision impaired .....	"
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year .....	"

### Partially Sighted

During the year 7 adults (3 females aged 56, 73 and 77 years, and 4 males aged 33, 62, 64 and 75 years) and 1 school child (male aged 7 years) were admitted to the Register of Partially Sighted Persons. In 4 cases the diagnosis was cataract. In 3 cases there was a different cause in the 2 eyes:—

Cataract and amblyopia ex anopsia .....	1
Detached retina and cataract .....	1
Glaucoma and retinal degeneration .....	1

The child aged 7 years was suffering from high myopia and was admitted to the Waterhead Special School for partially sighted.

At the 31st December there were 30 persons (18 males and 12 females) on the Register of Partially Sighted Persons.

### Spastics

Ascertainment commences with the health visitor, the child welfare centre or the Consultant Pædiatrician. Cases are discussed with the Consultant Pædiatrician to the Oldham Hospital Group at the regular conference which he holds with the staff of the Health Department. The general practitioner is advised with regard to any special development or treatment.

The Education Committee provides special schooling and, if necessary, home teaching till the spastic reaches school leaving age.

Two spastics, one boy and one girl, were notified to the Director of Welfare Services after leaving school at the age of 15. The boy had been able to manage at an ordinary school throughout his school career and whilst he left school at the end of the summer term he had not been able to find suitable employment at the end of the year. The girl left the Scottfield Physically Handicapped School after the Easter term and was employed by her parents who keep a confectioner's shop.

### Epileptics

There is complete co-ordination with the diagnostic and treatment services for school children and adult epileptics who are brought to the notice of the Consultant Psychiatrist.

No children attending special schools and suffering from epilepsy left such schools during the year.



### Hostels for Aged Persons

I am indebted to the Director of Welfare Services (Mr. J. Casson) for the details contained in the following report:—

The following accommodation was available in Residential Homes during the year:—

Name of Home	Opened	Accommodation Provided	Category
Greenacres Lodge, Greenacres Road .....	30-8-48	36 women	Aged persons
"Westlands," Grange Avenue .....	14-12-48	31 men	Aged persons
"The Hollies," Frederick Street .....	10-10-49	30 men	Aged persons
Stamford House, Lees New Road, Lees	28-11-49	15 women	Aged persons
Wellington Lodge, Wellington Road .....	11-3-53	18 women	Aged persons
Moorfield, Greenacres Road .....	24-1-55	16 men	Aged persons
Ashleigh, Newport Street .....	17-2-55	20 women	Aged persons
Edward House, Edward Street .....	24-4-52	24 men and women	Blind persons ✓
"Lyndhurst," Queens Road .....	14-8-52	14 men and women	Deaf persons ✓
"Toravon," Newport Street .....	30-6-55	27 men and women	Handicapped persons ✓
"Greylands," Rhos-on-Sea .....	16-6-55	20 men and women	All categories
Napier House, Windsor Road .....	24-11-52	15 beds	Temp. accom. for persons rendered homeless on account of fire, flood, &c.

166. At the end of the year accommodation was available in Hostels for 186 aged, 24 blind, 14 deaf and 27 handicapped persons.

### Cancer Education

A scheme of research by the Manchester Committee on Cancer approved by the Health Committee in 1951 and commenced in 1952 was continued for the fourth year. The following report of Mr. John Wakefield, B.A., Executive Officer of the Committee, shows a very satisfactory result of the work undertaken during the year:—

"For the fourth year the Manchester Committee on Cancer continued its campaign to secure an earlier diagnosis of cancer by publicising the hopeful and reassuring facts about the disease.



Lectures to church and lay societies are carefully designed to alleviate the commoner fears and superstitions and dispel mistaken beliefs. It is gratifying to note that of the twenty-two talks given in Oldham in 1955, seven were by invitation from groups who had already heard the Committee's speakers in previous years. Each group now receives a supply of pamphlets to distribute among its members a week or two after the visit of a speaker.

Since nothing is more convincing than personal testimony, we have recorded the voices of patients long since cured of cancer. Played back to some of our audiences in the borough, these recordings have been more effective than we had dared hope. They will be used even more extensively in the coming year. I should like to acknowledge the assistance given to us by an Oldham firm in purchasing the magnetic tape recorder for this purpose.

Since ours are not public lectures, the proportion of the townspeople attending them will never be large, but an incalculable number of people read the reports of meetings which appear regularly in the local press. I cannot set too high a value on the generous coverage given to the scheme in the columns of the "Oldham Chronicle."

Encouraged by the success of the original pilot project in Oldham and surrounding towns, Manchester, Salford and Stockport this year asked to be included in the scheme. More staff was therefore needed and Mr. R. L. Davison was appointed Deputy Executive Officer to the Committee in June, 1955. The conduct of the campaign in the original area, which includes Oldham, will be his principal concern."

In February the Health Committee agreed to make an annual grant of £100 to the Manchester Committee on Cancer. The Health Committee appreciated that the educational activities which were being carried out by that Committee were in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 18/53 which recommended local health authorities to undertake cancer education.

#### Manchester and Salford Family Service Unit

The service of the Family Service Unit was extended to the Oldham County Borough under an agreement made in 1949 for an experimental period of two years under which the Corporation made a grant to the Unit of £500, this payment being divided equally (£125 each) between the Health, Housing, Children's and Welfare Services Committees. This agreement was extended for a further five years from the 1st December, 1951, and the contribution increased to £750 on the following basis:—

Housing Committee .....	£125 per annum.
Welfare Services Committee .....	£125 per annum.
Children's Committee .....	£250 per annum.
Health Committee .....	£250 per annum.

Under the agreement the equivalent of one case worker is allocated to the Oldham area and the Housing Manager acts as Liaison Officer and any cases considered to be suitable for supervision by the Unit are referred to him by the head of the department concerned.



The following report on the work of the Unit in Oldham during the year has been made by the Fieldwork Organiser, Mr. Elwyn H. Thomas:—

"The work of the Family Service Unit has continued. This organisation is concerned with those families who have fallen very low in their social standards. Their homes may be dirty, the children neglected, their social and financial obligations unmet, and they may have become apathetic or hostile to everyone outside their own families.

The Unit treats each family as an individual problem, and will go to any lengths in order to help them with their difficulties. These families must be thought of as sick people who need help to recover, or who may need permanent care. The Family Service Unit exists to meet this need, and the workers are specially trained to do it.

During the year they have closely supervised the affairs of over 20 families and in some cases a good deal of practical help has been given. Mothers were shown how to run the home, and manage their money; fathers encouraged to take their full share of the responsibility in the home. A particular interest is taken in the children. For instance, when a child needs to visit a hospital or clinic, and the mother is unable to go, the Unit worker will see that the appointment is kept, and escort the child herself. In the summer, holidays, outings and week-end camps were arranged. There is a caravan at the seaside, given to the Unit by a group of supporters, and several Oldham families were given a holiday which they could not otherwise have afforded.

It is encouraging to note that in the course of the year, the Unit was able to withdraw its supervision in a number of cases because it was felt that the families were managing satisfactorily without aid. This means that other urgent cases were taken on.

There is a very good liaison between the Unit and officials of the Corporation, and meetings are held from time to time when each case is reviewed.

In September, Miss S. Massey, the caseworker in charge, left in order to take a specialised course in Mental Health at a University. She was succeeded by Mrs. Trembath, who has had considerable experience in social work as a Children's Officer, Probation Officer, and more recently as a caseworker responsible for developing problem family work in another area."

#### OLDHAM CREMATORIUM

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Crematorium and the Senior Assistant Medical Officer and one Assistant Medical Officer act as Deputy Medical Referees.

Dr. C. H. Adderley, Consultant Pathologist, Oldham Hospital Group, is the Pathologist and Dr. D. L. Boardman the Deputy Pathologist to the Crematorium. Their services are only used should the Medical Referee require a post-mortem examination before issuing an order for cremation.

During the year 755 cremations were authorised by the Medical Referee or his deputies. In 91 of these cases a certificate (Form E) had been given by the Coroner.



In one case after discussion with the practitioner signing Form B the Medical Referee considered it necessary to order a post-mortem. The Consultant Pathologist completed Form D, being satisfied that there was no reason for conducting any toxicological examination or for holding an Inquest.

In 4 cases the confirmatory medical certificate (Form C) as signed, could not be accepted by the Medical Referee and a fresh certificate was completed by another practitioner, or the Medical Referee. The following were the grounds for refusal:—

- (a) In two cases the medical practitioner though holding a recognised medical qualification of a Commonwealth University for more than five years and on the Medical Register, was not a "registered medical practitioner of not less than five years' standing."
- (b) In two cases the medical practitioner had some responsibility for the case.

In three cases the Medical Referee or one of his deputies completed the confirmatory medical certificate. In one case this was to assist the practitioner, the patient having died in hospital. In the other cases Form C could not be accepted and to have arranged for another practitioner to complete the certificate would have resulted in delay and postponement of the cremation.

In two cases although Form B and Form C had been completed the Medical Referee considered it advisable to consult the Coroner. In each case the Coroner ordered a post-mortem examination and subsequently issued Form E.

Of the 755 deceased persons, 434 were Oldham residents and 321 resident outside the Borough.



## SUPERANNUATION AND OTHER MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

### Corporation Employees

During the year the medical staff of the department undertook medical examinations as follows:—

Department	Superannuation		Special	Total
	Entrants	Disability		
Baths and Wash-houses .....	4	—	—	4
Borough Engineer & Surveyor's .....	25	—	—	25
Borough Treasurer's .....	6	1	1	8
Children's .....	21	—	—	21
Cleansing and Transport .....	12	2	—	14
Education .....	25	1	—	26
Fire Service .....	1	—	—	1
Housing .....	10	—	1	11
Libraries .....	10	—	—	10
Magistrates Clerk's .....	1	—	—	1
Parks and Cemeteries .....	32	—	2	34
Passenger Transport .....	167	5	3	175
Police .....	2	—	1	3
Public Health .....	83	2	11	96
Registrar's .....	1	—	—	1
Street Lighting .....	2	—	—	2
Town Clerk's .....	5	—	—	5
Waterworks .....	11	1	—	12
Welfare Services .....	11	—	2	13
	429	12	21	462

Teachers entering the service of the Council from other authorities and new entrants to the teaching profession who have not been medically examined on completion of their course of training are examined as to their fitness for employment. These examinations are undertaken by the medical officers of the Department and during the year 59 teachers were examined. These figures include 6 examinations (4 females, 2 males) for which Form 28 R.Q. was completed and forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

#### Other Examinations

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The above pathological examinations included 24 samples of blood for Widal tests and 24 samples of faeces taken from employees of the Waterworks Department.



### Candidates Applying for Admission to Colleges

The medical examination of candidates applying for entry to training colleges, university departments of education and approved art schools is the responsibility of the Principal School Medical Officer and he is assisted by the medical officers of the department in these examinations.

During the year 54 candidates (15 males, 29 females) were examined and a report on Form 4 R.T.C. completed and forwarded to the appropriate college authority.

### X-ray Examinations

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# THE BOROUGH CORONER'S REPORT FOR 1955

The deaths reported to the Coroner during the year 1955 were 428 (males 245, females 183).

Of this total 30 were patients in designated mental hospitals.

In 241 of the cases reported the deaths were investigated by the Coroner but no inquests held.

There were 187 inquests held (152 males and 35 females).

Of the 187 inquests 92 were held with a jury.

There were 300 post-mortem examinations in 148 of which no inquest was held. The expenses of the inquests amounted to £1,175 11s. 0d.

The verdicts returned were:—

Suicides 21 (males 10, females 11).  
 Accident or misadventure 87 (males 40, females 47).  
 Natural causes 57 (males 46, females 11).  
 Deaths from industrial disease 14 (all males).  
 Chronic alcoholism 1 (male).  
 Open verdicts 5.  
 Still-born 1 (female).

In one case there was no verdict.

The ages of the 21 suicides were as follows:—

21 to 29 years of age .....	2
30 to 39 years of age .....	2
40 to 49 years of age .....	3
50 to 59 years of age .....	8
60 years and over .....	6

The types of suicide were:—

Gassing .....	15
Hanging .....	1
Drowning .....	1
Cut throat .....	1
Drugs .....	2
Run over by train .....	1

There was one inquest on an infant suffocated whilst in bed with its parent.

In 1954 there were 377 deaths reported, 214 inquests were held, and the expenses were £1,036 2s. 1d.



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