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COUNTY BOROUGH OF PRESTON.



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
on the Health of the Borough
for the year
1946.

PRESTON:
R. SEED & SONS, Printers 43 Guildhall Street
1947



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ANNUAL REPORT, 1946.

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The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, 1946.

INTRODUCTION.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1946. The bulk of work here recorded was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Walker, who was Acting Medical Officer of Health until September 1st, 1946.

There has been a slight alteration in the arrangement of the Report in that the main sections appear over the signature of the senior officer of that particular section, but I assume responsibility for the Report as a whole.

One of the features of the year has been the increase in the number of births in the Borough, which reached the highest total since 1923. This post-war increase was not unexpected, and it did prove a strain on the resources of the town to deal with the problem. The modern expectant mother, quite rightly, expects a higher standard in the surroundings for her confinement, and owing to the unsatisfactory housing conditions and other factors, this has led to an increased demand for confinements in hospital. This, in turn, has led to a very great strain on the maternity accommodation in the local hospitals, which has been increased by shortage of staff. There is no quick and easy solution to the problem, and I feel that very great credit is due to those who work in the various maternity departments in the town for the manner in which they have dealt with the problem.

Another reflection of the increased standard of modern times is the demand for more and better houses. It will be seen from the table on page 9 that the estimated population is slightly less than it was in 1936, and yet the demand for houses is much greater. Many houses have deteriorated at a much more rapid rate than normal, owing to the inability to give adequate maintenance during the war years, and have now come to the stage when they can only be dealt with under clearance schemes. But it is apparent that overcrowding is the greatest single factor which causes distress, ill-health and unhappiness, and, therefore, it has been considered advisable to "condemn" only those houses which are structurally dangerous, so that the new houses which are erected may be reserved as far as possible for those who are at present sharing a house with other people. It is hoped that new houses will be erected at a sufficiently rapid rate to allow us to deal with the very many structurally unsatisfactory houses in the town, but at the time of writing the prospects do not seem to be good.

The Infantile Mortality rate depends upon the interplay of a number of factors, some medical, others non-medical. Preston lies in the region North IV

(Lancashire and Cheshire), which has always had an unenviable reputation for a high Infant Mortality Rate when compared with the rest of the country, and in view of the increased birth rate, the shortage of beds in hospital and unsatisfactory social conditions, it is not surprising that the low record of 1945 was not maintained.

It must also be noted that the number of infants' deaths in 1946 was increased as the result of a period of high incidence of infantile diarrhoea at one of the local voluntary hospitals. Infantile diarrhoea is one of the recognised sequelæ of absolute or relative overcrowding which occur in time of stress.

Reference should be made to the tables on pages 10 and 11, which give interesting information. It is unwise to base too many conclusions on the figures for a single year, and the table on page 11 shows a steady downward trend in the years of this century.

Of 134 infant deaths, 84 occurred within the first four weeks of life, and 40 of these were attributed to prematurity. This experience and its problems are common to the country as a whole, and we still seem a long way from a solution.

It will be seen from the table on page 40 that the incidence of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) was extraordinarily low. The decline in diphtheria during 1945 and 1946 has been spectacular, but in 1946 there was also a very low incidence of scarlet fever. 1946 was not a "measles" year.

It is regrettable that the figures for tuberculosis do not show any such spectacular fall, although the table on page 39 gives a more reassuring view of the figures in perspective. I recommend careful study of Dr. Griffel's remarks.

The work at Sharoe Green Hospital continues to increase, and a detailed report of this work is given by Dr. Couper. The calls on the maternity section of this hospital have been particularly heavy, and the appointment of Mr. W. H. Tod, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., as a whole-time Obstetrician and Gynaecologist has been amply justified. Dr. Couper, who succeeded Dr. Laurie as Medical Superintendent, is a Paediatrician, and this appointment will add strength to the medical services of the town.

Mr. John Gibson has kindly contributed a brief account of the work of the Preston Royal Infirmary. Reference is made to certain new consultant appointments which are of interest. The work of the two hospitals is closely related, and it is gratifying to report the establishment of a joint committee, which has met regularly to discuss common problems and to endeavour to find a common solution to these problems.

A disquieting, although not unexpected feature of the year, was the increase in the incidence of venereal disease. This problem is more of a social than a medical one, but it is unsatisfactory to have to report that in an era when our methods of treatment have improved greatly, there is an increase in the incidence of disease. Dr. Bradley discusses this point in his report.

Mr. Weir's report shows that a great deal of work has been carried out by his section of the Department, in spite of shortages of staff. The recruitment of Sanitary Inspectors has proved a difficult problem, as in other areas, since the

demand is much greater than the supply. Furthermore, the work is rendered more onerous by the increased number of visits necessary to supervise any work, because of the continued shortage of materials.

In conclusion, it is justifiable to ask whether one can report that the health of the inhabitants of the town has been satisfactory or not. It is impossible to give a brief and truthful answer. Records of the incidence of sickness (apart from notifiable infectious disease) are not available for the population as a whole; indeed, figures culled from the National Health Insurance returns are not available to a Medical Officer of Health. Therefore, it is not possible to comment on the amount of sickness in the town during the year. But good health is a positive attribute, and is not merely an absence of sickness. Thus it is even more difficult to make an assessment of this quality. The factors which influence good health are partly medical, but largely non-medical. But it is axiomatic that, while certain conditions prevail, positive good health cannot exist. These conditions include unsatisfactory housing, inadequate or unsatisfactory diet, unsatisfactory working conditions and schools, conditions of continued mental strain, and medical facilities which are unable to give adequate and prompt attention to those who require them. One must admit that all these factors are present to an appreciable though varying degree in Preston to-day, and, therefore, the conclusion must be expressed in the well-known phrase that the health of the people of Preston appears to be "as well as can be expected in the circumstances."

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. HUGHES,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1947.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer	...	J. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (up to 1/9/46). E. HUGHES, M.D., D.P.H., D.P.A. (from 1/9/46).
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	... ..	J. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1/9/46).
Clinical Tuberculosis Officer	...	W. GRIFFEL, M.D.
Venereal Diseases Officer	...	D. K. BRADLEY, M.B., Ch.B.
Assistant Medical Officers and School Medical Officers	...	G. McLEAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. N. BASTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1/12/46). B. HARRISON, M.B., Ch.B. (part-time). E. RIDEHALGH, M.B., Ch.B. (part-time).
SHAROE GREEN HOSPITAL :		
Medical Superintendent	...	E. C. R. COUPER, M.D., F.R.C.P.S., D.P.H.
Visiting Surgeon	... ..	JAMES EASTWOOD SYKES, F.R.C.S.
Assistant Surgeon	... ..	F. NEWSOME, F.R.C.S.
Visiting Physician	...	O. K. G. GUYER, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Gynaecologist and Obstetrician (whole-time)	...	W. H. TOD, M.D., M.R.C.O.G.
Visiting Radiologist	...	R. B. GUYER, M.B., Ch.B., D.M.R.E.
Pathologist	... ..	F. B. SMITH, M.D., M.A.
Resident Assistant Medical Officers	... ..	M. B. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B. J. COX, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G. G. F. CORBETT, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.
Anaesthetist	... ..	A. J. GRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.A.
Dental Surgeon	... ..	A. E. J. BERRY, L.D.S.
Superintendent Health Visitor		Miss WALKER.
Health Visitors	... ..	Miss LAFFERTY. Miss F. HARROP. Miss A. RIGBY. Miss E. M. BOND. Mrs. M. COUPE. Mrs. A. SMITH. Miss M. I. SMITH. Miss J. SANDERSON. Miss M. O. FODEN. Miss R. FIRTH. Mrs. A. ASHLEY. Miss M. A. MAY.

Tuberculosis Clinic Nurse	...	Miss DOWNING.
School Nurses	... ..	Miss BUTTERFIELD. Miss BOOTH. Miss PILKINGTON. Mrs STUBBS.
Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives	... ..	Miss F. L. HOLMES.
Municipal Midwives	... ..	Miss ARMSTRONG . Miss PARKER. Miss RIDING. Miss WALMSLEY. Mrs. TOWNLEY. Miss HUARTSON. Miss BOOTH. Miss HAMRIDING. Miss GILES.
Masseuse	... ..	Miss MANNING.
School Dentists	... ..	J. KNOWLES, L.D.S. G. WILLIAMS, L.D.S. F. J. JACQUES, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Edin.).
Veterinary Officer	... ..	R. FINCH, M.C., F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (Vict.)
SANITARY INSPECTORS :		
Chief Sanitary Inspector	...	W. E. WEIR, M.B.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.*†‡§
Sanitary Inspectors	...	J. B. COOK.* B. LEWIS,*† E. WORTH (returned from H.M. Forces on 1/3/46).* R. E. J. HARGREAVES (returned from H.M. Forces on 1/4/46).* E. OWEN (appointed 1/3/46).*† R. GRAHAM (resigned 30/11/46).*† H. GRAHAM (resigned 9/11/46).*† G. WALSH (appointed 1/3/46).* W. HIGHAM (appointed 1/10/46).*† H. BARTON (returned from H.M. Forces on 1/4/46 and resigned on 30/6/46).* J. MILLWARD (appointed 1/10/46).* E. I. CROSTHWAITE (temporary).*
Meat Inspector	... ..	W. R. WHITE.*†
Port Sanitary Inspector	...	L. J. SELF (appointed 1/3/46).*† F. J. SUTCLIFFE (temporary—ceased 1/5/46).*

* Holds Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

† Holds Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

‡ Holds Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

§ Holds Royal Sanitary Institute's Certificate of Advanced Knowledge in Administrative and Technical Work and Duties of a Sanitary Inspector.

CLERICAL STAFF :

Chief Clerk... R. HARRISON.

Clerical Staff General.

at 31/12/46).

Public Health Section : C. W. HALL (temp.),
Mrs. A. DOWSE, G. WHITE (temp.) (in H.M.
Forces), Mrs. M. H. SEED (temp.).

Maternity and Child Welfare Section : Miss V.
BATESON, Miss B. THORNTON, Miss C. E.
REID (temp.), Mrs. G. E. BUCK (temp.), Miss
E. JOHNSON (temp.), Miss A. BRENNAN
(temp.).

Sanitary Inspectors' Section : C. BLAKELEY,
F. YATES, J. MILLWARD, H. J. DALLAS, Miss
G. SALISBURY (temp.), and Miss M. DAWSON
(temp.)

T.B. Dispensary : Miss M. W. TATE, Mrs. E.
JONES (part-time).

School Medical Section : T. GRAY, Miss D. H.
PENDLEBURY, Miss F. WIGNALL, Miss J. M.
GIBSON (temp.).

Isolation Hospital : Mrs. A. A. S. MACINTYRE
(temp.).

School Dental Attendants : Miss I. KNOWLES,
Miss M. KNOWLES, Miss I. PINDER.

SHAROE GREEN HOSPITAL :

H. BEGGS, Steward.

General Office : J. WILKINSON, N. SUTCLIFFE,
Miss E. M. COTTOM, Miss J. WILSON, Miss
M. F. HEYES, Miss P. GILL.

Records Office : Mrs. E. SAXON, Miss M.
WHITE.

Enquiry Office : Miss M. E. JACKSON, Miss
E. JACKSON, Miss C. GRANGE.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	(acres)	5,684
Population (estimated, mid-1946)		114,070
Number of inhabited houses, according to Rate books		34,100
Rateable Value		£748,760
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		£2,920

Total cost of services administered by the Public Health Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and the School Medical Services Committee of the Education Committee for the year ending 31st March, 1946 :

Expenditure		£187,878
Income		£72,604

	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate
Live Births ...	2380	1185	1195	20.86
Legitimate ...	2197	1092	1105	19.26
Illegitimate ...	183	93	90	1.60

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :

Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
55	76	56

Number of Still-births : 77. Rate per 1,000 Live Births : 32.35.

Deaths of Infants under one month : 84.

Neo-natal mortality rate : 35.29.

Deaths—nett : 1,438. Rate per 1,000 population : 12.61.

Percentage of Total Deaths in Hospitals and Institutions (Public) : 40.89.

Number of Marriages : 1,302.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child Birth :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births.
From Sepsis ...	—	—
From other causes	4	1.68

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) : 202.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) : 1.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) : 4.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) : 13.

Persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief (Dec. 31st, 1946) :

Outdoor.	Institutional.	Casual.	Total.
733	407	21	1,161

**Comparative Statement of Vital Statistics
Year 1946.**

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate		Death Rate from Phthisis	Death Rate from other Tub. Diseases	Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births).				
			Year 1946	Average 5 years 1941-45			(140) Abortion with Sepsis	(141) Abortion without Sepsis	(147) Puerperal Infections	(142-6) (148-150) Other	Total
England and Wales ...	19.1	11.5	43	50	*	*	0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06	1.43
126 Great Towns ...	22.2	12.7	46	59	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Birkenhead...	23.5	13.7	67	76	0.86	0.08	...	...	0.6	0.9	1.5
Burnley ...	19.24	14.61	44.63	59.51	0.43	0.16	...	...	...	0.61	0.61
Bury ...	18.36	14.50	58	49	0.34	0.04	...	...	0.95	0.95	1.90
Halifax ...	18.6	14.4	31.0	50	0.37	0.06	...	...	...	1.1	1.1
Huddersfield	18.74	14.67	50	63	0.49	0.06	...	...	...	0.85	0.85
Liverpool ...	25.2	13.2	74	78	0.79	0.11	...	...	0.10	0.89	0.99
Manchester	20.89	13.52	63.71	63.85	0.69	0.10	0.28	...	0.07	1.25	1.60
Oldham ...	18.34	14.56	43.15	59.01	0.45	0.06	0.46	...	...	1.37	1.83
PRESTON ...	20.86	12.61	56	60.6	0.46	0.09	...	...	...	1.68	1.68
Rochdale ...	17.8	14.9	49	55	0.36	1.12	...	...	...	3.17	3.17
Salford ...	22.7	13.3	53	73	0.80	0.05	...	...	0.25	2.53	2.78
St. Helens ...	22.2	11.0	59.9	65.2	4.58	0.38	...	...	0.415	0.415	0.83
Stockport ...	19.49	13.12	51.43	68.88	0.39	0.04	0.36	...	0.72	...	1.08
Wallasey ...	21.37	12.55	42.2	55.0	0.57	0.09	...	...	...	0.01	0.01
Wigan ...	20.16	11.55	52	71	0.43	0.04	...	...	0.57	2.87	3.44

* Not available.

Year	Population	No. of Births	Rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality		Total No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Living	
						Diseases and P.F.	Accidents Others			Rate per 1,000 births
1900	118,902	3410	28.67	814	236	2 +	11	3.80	2636	22.16
1	113,117	3418	30.21	737	218	12 +	13	7.31	2213	19.56
2	113,766	3278	28.81	618	188	4 +	10	4.27	1998	17.56
3	114,404	3453	30.18	541	156	3 +	15	5.21	1955	17.08
4	115,055	3314	28.26	609	183	5 +	12	5.13	2091	17.83
5	115,721	3259	28.16	490	150	7 +	12	5.83	1906	16.47
6	116,399	3317	28.49	665	200	2 +	13	4.52	2065	17.74
7	117,093	3124	26.68	495	158	1 +	11	3.84	2003	17.10
8	117,799	3309	27.56	516	156	2 +	11	3.92	1975	16.45
9	118,519	3027	25.54	416	137	5 +	8	4.29	1721	14.52
1910	119,253	2812	23.58	438	156	4 +	7	3.91	1758	14.74
1	117,216	2726	23.25	473	173	2 +	13	5.50	1984	16.92
2	117,630	2753	23.40	342	124	1 +	4	1.82	1972	16.76
3	118,070	2888	23.95	462	160	2 +	6	2.77	2043	16.98
4	118,514	2841	23.97	401	141	2 +	20	7.74	1873	15.80
5	118,118	2546	21.48	395	155	5 +	7	4.71	2086	18.63
6	119,611	2315	19.36	254	109	3 +	3	2.59	1774	16.14
7	118,993	2019	16.96	255	124	1 +	5	2.96	1660	15.46
8	118,595	1906	16.07	213	113	2 +	4	3.15	1944	18.36
9	122,168	2086	17.45	225	110	5 +	4	4.31	1760	14.72
1920	122,133	2984	24.43	301	101	9 +	13	7.37	1659	13.60
1	119,900	2811	23.44	316	112	7 +	8	5.34	1595	13.30
2	120,900	2482	20.53	242	97	3 +	9	4.83	1662	13.75
3	121,700	2426	19.11	238	98	3 +	8	4.54	1676	13.77
4	123,100	2328	18.91	225	97	5 +	8	5.58	1714	13.92
5	122,900	2174	17.69	286	131	6 +	7	3.22	1787	14.54
6	124,200	2160	17.39	195	90	8 +	9	7.87	1596	12.85
7	127,100	1892	14.88	206	109	3 +	6	4.77	1785	14.04
8	127,100	1916	15.07	175	91	3 +	9	6.27	1614	12.69
9	126,100	1967	15.60	205	104	4 +	8	6.10	1772	14.05
1930	126,100	1975	15.66	145	73	9 +	4	6.59	1554	12.24
1	120,100	1881	15.66	165	88	5 +	5	5.32	1661	13.83
2	118,500	1764	14.89	149	84	4 +	6	5.67	1547	13.05
3	117,800	1720	14.60	150	87	4 +	3	4.07	1577	13.39
4	117,490	1670	14.24	115	69	6 +	14	11.97	1611	15.24
5	116,200	1742	14.99	140	80	3 +	5	4.59	1578	14.94
6	115,200	1663	14.43	138	83	7 +	8	8.60	1624	15.51
7	113,600	1590	14.00	123	77	2 +	2	2.40	1614	15.90
8	113,200	1766	15.60	125	71	3 +	-	1.62	1473	14.44
9	112,800	1713	15.19	100	58	2 +	4	3.34	1535	15.16
1940	108,500	1711	15.77	157	91	2 +	10	7.03	1745	16.72
1	111,490	1925	17.27	137	71	3 +	4	3.47	1543	13.84
2	110,000	1968	17.89	107	54	2 +	4	2.94	1506	13.69
3	109,100	1952	17.89	132	68	2 +	2	1.98	1624	14.89
4	108,190	2032	18.78	120	59	- +	1	0.48	1386	12.81
5	108,480	1949	17.97	99	51	1 +	-	0.51	1514	13.96
6	114,070	2380	20.86	134	56	- +	4	1.68	1438	12.61

Causes of Death, 1946
(per Registrar's Returns).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
All causes	679	759	1438
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	3	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	34	18	52
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	5	5	10
Syphilitic Disease	6	2	8
Influenza	10	16	26
Measles	—	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Ac. Infectious Encephalitis	3	1	4
Cancer of Uterus	6	19	25
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	16	13	29
Cancer of Breast	1	21	22
Cancer of all other sites	63	63	126
Diabetes	3	10	13
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	75	92	167
Heart Disease	187	243	430
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	17	15	32
Bronchitis	52	40	92
Pneumonia	24	28	52
Other Respiratory Diseases	15	6	21
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum	12	4	16
Diarrhoea	5	8	13
Appendicitis	2	2	4
Other Digestive Diseases	6	7	13
Nephritis	22	18	40
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	4	4
Premature Birth	25	15	40
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	20	24	44
Suicide	3	2	5
Road Traffic Accidents	7	5	12
Other Violent Causes	12	23	35
All other causes	46	50	96

Deaths in Hospitals and Institutions.

Preston Royal Infirmary	228
St. Joseph's Hospital	30
Chestnuts Sanatorium	7
Isolation Hospital	5
Cliffe Nursing Home	2
Hospitals, etc., outside the area	316
Total	588

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1946 and previous ten years.

Year	Total Population	Births, (Nett)		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferrable Deaths.		Net Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Of Non-Residents Registered in the District	Of Residents not Registered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
								Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births		Number	Rate
1936	115200	1663	14.43	1444	12.53	194	374	138	83	1624	15.51 (corrected)
1937	113600	1590	14.00	1505	13.25	229	338	123	77	1614	15.9 (corrected)
1938	113200	1766	15.60	1350	11.95	196	319	125	71	1473	14.44 (corrected)
1939	{ 112800 112400	1713	15.19	1407	12.53	205	333	100	58	1535	15.16 (corrected)
1940	108500	1711	15.77	1623	14.96	257	379	157	91	1745	16.72 (corrected)
1941	111490	1925	17.27	1413	12.67	249	379	137	71	1543	13.84 (corrected)
1942	110000	1968	17.89	1309	11.90	240	437	107	54	1506	13.69
1943	109100	1952	17.89	1466	13.44	228	386	132	68	1624	14.89
1944	108190	2032	18.78	1261	11.65	238	363	120	59	1386	12.81
1945	108480	1949	17.97	1385	12.77	257	386	99	51	1514	13.96
1946	114070	2380	20.86	1354	11.87	243	327	134	56	1438	12.61

Area of District in acres (Land and Inland Water) ... 5,757

Average rooms per occupied dwelling ...
 Average family occupation ...
 Number of families per occupied dwelling ...
 Average size of private family ...
 Average number of persons per room ...

4.47 }
 4.36 } At
 1.02 } Census of
 3.78 } 1931
 0.85 }

Deaths in the Various Wards.

	St. John's	Avenham	Christ Church	Ashton	Maudland	St. Peter's	Moorbrook	Park	Trinity	Deepdale	Ribbleton	Fishwick	Totals
Under 1 year	9	11	5	9	9	16	3	12	7	21	20	12	134
1—2 years	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	4
2—5 years	3	...	2	...	1	1	...	2	1	1	2	1	14
5—15 years	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	10
15—25 years	1	3	...	...	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	20
25—45 years	14	7	10	6	12	12	5	7	4	16	17	3	113
45—65 years	42	24	26	36	34	21	22	42	27	38	31	24	367
65—75 years	30	19	23	34	32	30	36	48	25	43	35	25	380
75 and over	30	25	27	36	29	36	35	51	24	35	30	38	396
Total ...	129	89	93	122	121	119	104	165	90	159	140	107	1438

Unemployment.

Mr. Benson, Manager of the local Employment Exchange, has provided the following information :

" There was a steady decline in the register of wholly unemployed towards the end of 1946. An increase in the number of temporarily stopped workers occurred due to the inclement weather during February and March, and the fuel emergency during that period. The peak figure of these claimants during the emergency was in the region of 17,000 for the larger Preston area.

Month	MEN		WOMEN		Total
	Wholly Unemployed	Temporarily Stopped	Wholly Unemployed	Temporarily Stopped	
1946					
April ...	1068	...	787	3	1858
May ...	1105	...	871	6	1982
June ...	1180	...	785	41	2006
July ...	1037	15	799	26	1877
August ...	1030	8	656	28	1722
September ...	884	10	691	45	1630
October ...	934	11	662	43	1650
November ...	881	7	566	24	1478
December ...	897	1	564	26	1488
1947					
January ...	998	6	578	96	1678
February ...	1179	3115	640	5062	9996
March ...	1176	323	674	1099	3272

Juvenile Employment.

The figures relating to Juvenile Unemployment for the year ended February, 1947, are given below :

				Boys	Girls	Total
1946						
March	...	...	...	35	26	61
April	...	...	...	61	53	114
May	...	...	...	33	29	62
June	...	...	...	30	23	53
July	...	...	...	26	40	66
August	...	...	...	56	31	87
September	...	...	...	35	32	67
October	...	...	...	25	27	52
November	...	...	...	29	14	43
December	...	...	...	61	28	89
1947						
January	...	...	...	56	16	72
February	...	...	...	45	23	68

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1.—Nursing in the Home.

(a) Home Nursing is carried out by the Preston District Nursing Association, to which the Corporation makes an annual donation. The Provident Scheme provides a substantial portion of the revenue.

Details of the work for 1946 are as follows :

Numbers of new cases : 1,491.

Of these 40 were Subscribers.

179 nursed free.

167 paid District Fees.

203 part District Fees.

885 were Provident Members.

17 had Nursing Vouchers.

The number of visits paid to these patients by the nurses was 53,545. The staff consists of 15 Nurses, Superintendent and Assistant.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases which were attended during the year :

Pneumonia	...	...	...	57 cases
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	10 „
Influenza	...	...	...	12 „
Measles	...	...	...	1 „

2.—National Health Insurance.

Mr. W. Leyland, Clerk to the Preston Insurance Committee, has kindly supplied the following information :

The number of persons in the County Borough entitled to medical benefit on 31st December, 1946, was 67,939. Of this number 66,864 were members of Approved Societies, the remaining 1,075 being Deposit Contributors. The total is an increase of 6,167 on the previous year's figure of 61,772.

The mean number of insured persons actually on doctors' lists for the year was 62,063, and the number on the list of Approved Institutions was 1,747.

In 1946 the number of prescriptions issued was 269,834, and was an increase of 5,787 on the 1945 figure. The average number of prescriptions issued per insured person was 4.34, as compared with 4.57 for 1945, 4.59 for 1944, and 4.9 for 1943.

The total drug bill for 1946 was £16,321 6s. 2d. The average cost per insured person being 5s. 3.01d. Other years' figures are : 1945, 5s. 1.37d. ; 1944, 4s. 8.41d. ; 1943, 4s. 8.51d. ; and 1942, 4s. 3.66d.

No tests of drugs or appliances under the Testing of Drugs Scheme were made during the year 1946. As a general practice, this scheme was suspended for the duration of the war and has not yet been resumed.

On 31st December, 1946, there were 62 Practitioners under agreement with the Insurance Committee. This number includes all assistants and the Resident Medical Officer of the Preston Friendly Societies' Medical Association, and is an increase of two on the figure for 1945. At the same date there were 46 chemists' establishments in the Borough undertaking insurance dispensing. This figure is an increase of three on that of the previous year.

A comparative table covering the years 1937-46, showing the number of insured persons, and the number of prescriptions issued, is given below :

Year	Insured Persons	Number of Prescriptions issued
1937	58,596	307,019
1938	62,391	283,644
1939	62,184	284,322
1940	60,851	285,933
1941	60,669	253,864
1942	61,525	261,470
1943	60,751	286,186
1944	60,271	268,096
1945	61,772	264,047
1946	67,939	269,834

3.—Poor Law Medical Relief.

There are two District Medical Officers and their duties as laid down in the Public Assistance Order, 1930, were described in the Report for 1931.

4.—Work done for the Preston Borough (excluding Sharoe Green Hospital) by the Pathological Department of the Preston Royal Infirmary during the year 1946.

Specimen and Examination.	Number.
Blood : Agglutination	3
Haemoglobin estimation	2
Full count	6
Leucocyte count	1
Wassermann's and Kahn's reactions	1
Cerebro-spinal Fluid : Bacteriological	1
Wassermann's reaction	1
Faeces : B. Tuberculosis	6
Culture—? Dysentery	74
Presence of Cysts of E. Histolytics	2

Foodstuffs :	Ice Creams—Bacteriological	...	...	86
	Ginger Beer	„	...	1
	Herbs	„	...	1
	Mussels	„	...	1
	Periwinkles	„	...	1
Milks :	? B. Tuberculosis	...	...	425
	B. coli...	...	...	431
	Methylene Blue Reductase...	...	...	433
	Bacterial Count	...	...	5
	Phosphatase	...	...	44
Necropsies	...	...	...	1
Pleural Fluid :	Bacteriological	...	...	3
	Animal inoculation ? T.B.	...	...	3
Smears ? G.C.	...	...	...	33
Sputum :	Film ? B. Tuberculosis	...	...	974
	Culture	...	...	4
	Animal Inoculation : ? B. Tuberculosis	...	...	8
Swabs :	B. Diphtheriae	...	...	750
	Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	677
	Vincent's Angina	...	...	124
	Typing	...	...	2
	Virulence	...	...	2
	Film and Culture	...	...	22
	Penicillin Sensitivity	...	...	21
Urine :	General	...	...	3
	Culture	...	...	3
Rats : ? Plague	...	...	...	2
Drinking Water :	Bacteriological	...	...	4
	Total Examinations	...	...	<u>4161</u>

Equivalent Units of Work. Ministry of Health Schedule.

Visits	...	12
Attendances	...	22
Bacteriology	...	8352
Chemistry	...	1133
Haematology	...	61
Inoculations	...	6595
Serology	...	27
Necropsies	...	25

Total Units ... 16227

Examinations for V.D. Department :

Examination.	Number.
Films : ? G.C.	2949
? Trichomonas	1
? Spirochaetes	34
Culture for G.C.... ..	2
Cerebro-spinal Fluids : Bacteriological and Wassermann's reaction	1
Total Examinations	<u>2987</u>

Equivalent Units.

Bacteriology	6016
Chemistry	9
Serology	2
Total Units	<u>6027</u>

5.—Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service for the area is provided by the Local Authority. One ambulance was stationed at Sharoe Green Hospital. By arrangement with neighbouring local authorities, the Preston service deals with calls from the area round Preston.

During 1946 4,104 journeys were made, involving 42,950 miles ; 342 journeys were made for the E.M.S.

Hospitals.

Sharoe Green Hospital.

Report of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. E. C. R. Couper.

I.—GENERAL FIGURES.

The following Tables give information as to the volume and type of work undertaken during the year :

TABLE "A" (GENERAL FIGURES).

In Hospital, January 1st	...	...	187
Admissions	...	...	3072
Discharges	...	...	2805
Deaths	...	...	257
In Hospital, December 31st	...	...	197
Patient days	...	...	73195
Average length of stay	...	...	24

TABLE "B" (GENERAL HOSPITAL).

	Discharges.	Deaths.
1. Diseases caused by infection and infestation	46	4
2. Diseases of the Nervous System :		
(a) Organic disorders, tumours, haemorrhage, inflammation, etc.	63	48
(b) Functional disorders	19	2
3. Diseases of the eye, ear and nose	23	—
4. Diseases of the circulatory system	124	89
5. Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	10	—
6. Diseases of the endocrine glands	7	1
7. Diseases of the breast	14	5
8. Diseases of the respiratory system	184	43
9. Diseases of the digestive system	482	28
10. Diseases due to disorders of nutrition or metabolism...	11	6
11. Diseases of the generative system :		
(a) Males	18	6
(b) Females	91	5
(i) associated with pregnancy and parturition	303	—
12. Diseases of bones and joints, muscles, fasciae, bursae	53	2
13. Diseases of areolar tissue	30	2
14. Diseases of the skin	49	1
15. Diseases of the urinary organs	35	7
16. Injuries, general and local	38	3
17. Miscellaneous	19	—
	<hr/> 1619	<hr/> 252

TABLE "C" (MATERNITY DEPARTMENT).

In Hospital, 1st January, 1946	...	...	26
Admissions	...	...	1168
Discharges	...	...	1153
Deaths	...	...	5
In Hospital, 31st December, 1946	...	...	36
Patients delivered :			
Normal deliveries	...	...	948
Abnormal deliveries	...	...	136
			—
			1084
Births :			
Live births	...	...	1051
Stillbirths	...	...	33
			—
			1084

The admissions to the General Wards show a decrease of 229, mainly due to the fact that fewer tonsil operations were performed, and those of the Maternity Wards an increase of 321. 35 cases were admitted under the Emergency Medical Service, 72 fewer than in 1945.

2.—HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS.

(a) MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.—In 1946, 754 medical cases were admitted to the wards, and there were 340 attendances at the Out-patient Clinic. Great difficulty has been experienced in dealing with the chronic sick, and there is an urgent need for additional accommodation. At the moment of writing there are 45 female and 2 male chronic cases on the waiting list for admission.

(b) SURGICAL DEPARTMENT.—There were 627 surgical in-patients' and 720 out-patients' attendances. In the Main Surgical Theatre 481 general operations were performed, and by arrangement with the Education Department and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee 317 children were admitted for removal of tonsils and adenoids.

(c) MATERNITY DEPARTMENT.—Table "C" shows the work of this Department. The demands made upon this Department have been and still are very heavy, leading at times to dangerous overcrowding. There is an urgent need for additional lying-in accommodation. The Ante-natal Clinics are very busy, and better accommodation is required. For first examination, 1,235 patients attended, and the total number of attendances was 9,142, an increase of 2,643 on the 1945 figure. 103 patients received in-patient ante-natal treatment in the Maternity Department. At the Post-natal Clinic 413 attendances were made. There were five maternal deaths and 33 neo-natal deaths, as follows :

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Obstetric Shock	...	...	2
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	1
Post-partum haemorrhage	...	...	1
Acute pulmonary oedema	...	...	1

NEO-NATAL DEATHS.

Prematurity	...	...	...	23
Congenital abnormality of bowel				1
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...		5
Spina bifida	...	...	...	4
Pleural effusion	...	...	...	1
Meningocele	...	...	...	1

(d) GYNAECOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.—399 patients were admitted for gynaecological treatment and ante-natal disorders. At Out-patients there were 343 attendances. There is a need for more beds in this Department.

(e) CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.—124 children have received in-patient treatment. The work of this Department is greatly handicapped by the absence of sufficient isolation accommodation. The unavoidable occurrence of infectious disease puts the Department out of action for weeks at a time, and the present accommodation is not suitable for dealing with infants under one year, which present a special problem. An Out-patient Clinic was commenced in September. The nursery accommodation in the Maternity Department is inadequate.

(f) RADIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.—During the year the X-ray Department examined 4,278 cases, 874 being in-patients and 3,404 out-patients. Of the out-patients 801 were cases of tuberculosis. These figures represent an increase of 633 for the year. The pressure on this Department could be alleviated if arrangements could be made for the Tuberculosis authorities to have facilities of their own.

(g) PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.—The greater part of this work was again undertaken by Dr. F. B. Smith at the Preston Royal Infirmary. During the year 1,681 specimens were sent for examination. The Manchester Public Health Laboratory examined 1,339 blood specimens. There is no doubt that there is great need for a Laboratory in Sharoe Green Hospital.

(h) PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT.—In 1946 316 new cases were treated. The total number of attendances was 8,173, an increase of 2,042 on last year. Of these 3,199 consisted of massage, 3,879 of electrotherapy, and 1,095 involved the use of ultra-violet light.

(i) DENTAL DEPARTMENT.—109 patients were treated for dental affections, 2 of which were from Preston Institution.

(j) OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT.—In addition to the Out-patients already described, 610 attendances were made for the treatment of tuberculosis and 255 for venereal disease, while 934 patients attended to have specimens of blood taken. The total number of out-patient attendances, excluding ante-natal cases, was 9,016.

3.—MEDICAL STAFF.

On the resignation of Dr. J. Laurie from the post of Medical Superintendent, Dr. E. C. R. Couper was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Preston C Boro

ADDENDUM.

The following should be inserted between the 23rd and 24th lines on page 23 :—

The amount and type of work on the surgical side of the Hospital, dealt with during 1946, remained at about the level of previous years. The facilities afforded by the Hospital for general surgical work of all types, acute, less acute or "waiting" cases, casualties, are by no means used to the extent to which they could be used.

(b1) Mr. W. H. Tod, Visiting Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, reports as follows:—

The status of Dr. O. K. G. Guyer has been raised from that of Assistant Physician to that of Visiting Physician.

The following addition to the Visiting Staff has been made : W. H. Tod, M.D., M.R.C.O.G., Visiting Obstetrician and Gynaecologist.

Mr. G. F. Corbett, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., was appointed Junior Medical Officer to replace Mr. K. S. Clarkson, M.B., B.Ch.

4.—REPORTS OF THE SENIOR VISITING SPECIALISTS.

(a) Dr. O. K. G. Guyer, Visiting Physician, reports as follows :

The work in the Acute Medical Wards has not been characterised by an undue proportion of any one medical condition, though the numbers of elderly hypertensives still take a prominent position and act as a constant reminder of the menace of the "chronic case."

A serious difficulty has been the delay in receiving reports from the Department of Pathology (P.R.I.). This has at times led to serious embarrassment. In an acute case reports of over 48 hours are more of an historical than a topical interest.

Collaboration with other Departments has been most agreeable, and one would welcome even more frequent exchanges of opinion in interesting and difficult cases.

The standard of nursing has been uniformly excellent. The tact and sympathy of the Sisters in charge of the Wards with relatives has been most marked and helpful in maintaining a happy feeling in the Wards.

(b) Mr. J. Eastwood Sykes, Visiting Surgeon, reports as follows :

The recent rise in the birth-rate has greatly increased the work done in this Department, and for the first time in its history the number of confinements has risen above 1,000 for the year. This great demand for hospital maternity beds led to a change of policy in the second half of the year. It was felt that an endeavour should be made to provide accommodation for a larger number of patients, although it was realised that this would mean reducing the patients' stay in hospital from the 14 days which is so desirable for the well-being of the mother and baby, to 10 days, or even less when the pressure on the beds became acute. As a result, the number of babies born rose from an average of 77 per month in the first half of the year to 106 per month in the second half. This was accomplished without any increase in the nursing staff, and great credit is due to them for the immense amount of hard work they have put in during the year. For most of this period the Department was seriously overcrowded, but the acquisition of alternative accommodation for the Ante-natal Clinics since the end of 1946 has enabled us to increase the number of available beds from 37 to 51. Nevertheless, it is still not possible to keep the patients in hospital for more than 11 days without risking overcrowding.

(c) Dr. R. B. Guyer, Visiting Radiologist, reports as follows :

The X-ray Department at Sharoe Green Hospital is well equipped, and the plant consists of a four-valve Siemens Diagnostic Set with a Watson

Mobile Unit, which is used principally for ward work. The equipment is efficient, and during the year there have been no major breakdowns.

The staff consists of a visiting radiologist, a whole-time qualified radiographer and a pupil radiographer. The amount of work undertaken by the Department increases every year, both in the number of cases seen and in the complication of the investigations required.

The figures show that the number of examinations has risen from 3,645 in 1945 to 4,278 in 1946, being an increase of 633.

In order that this increased work can be undertaken, further accommodation is required, and as a temporary measure the Waiting Room has been wired so that the Mobile Set can be used there for the smaller type of cases, thus liberating the big set for the heavy work. This arrangement can only be looked on as a temporary measure, as it interferes with the comfort of the patients waiting in the Department.

As a result of the increase in work an additional radiographer is urgently required, and this would help to avoid the tedious waiting by some patients under the present arrangements.

5.—NURSING STAFF.

Miss J. McWhirter, S.R.N., S.C.M., Assistant Matron, left on the 15th November, 1946, to take up the post of First Assistant Matron at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, Surrey.

During the year six Sisters and 13 Staff Nurses were appointed to various duties, while eight Sisters and 11 Staff Nurses left the Corporation's service.

27 Pupil Midwives commenced, and 26 completed the course of training provided by the Hospital.

15 Student Nurses commenced training for the General Hospital and State Certificates.

The results of the Nurses' Examinations for the year were :

Examinations.	Candidates.	Successes.
Preliminary State...	9	8
Final State ...	14	14
Central Midwives Board	25	23

6.—BUILDINGS.

The alterations to the Nurses' Dining Room have now been completed, giving a separate Dining Room and Lounge. This is a great improvement in the recreational facilities provided. The maids have been provided with a new Sitting Room next to the Nurses' Dining Room, and the Sewing Room has been moved from its situation in the Main Administrative Block to the room previously occupied by the maids. This has given some much needed extra Office accommodation. Work upon the Cycle Shed has been begun. The house known as Inisfail in Watling Street Road was acquired for the purpose of a Preliminary Training School for Nurses.

7.—ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

This opportunity is taken to express gratitude to the Clergy of all denominations for their ever-ready assistance in the spiritual welfare of the patients, and also to the donors of the many varied and most welcome gifts.

Preston Royal Infirmary.

Mr. John Gibson, F.H.A., F.C.C.S., J.P., the Superintendent-Secretary of the Preston Royal Infirmary, has kindly supplied the following details :

The principal general hospital in the district is the Preston Royal Infirmary, a voluntary hospital of some 393 beds, with Recovery Homes for men at "The Willows," Ashton (26 beds), and for women and children at Lostock Hall (46 beds)—465 normal beds in all.

The hospital offers a complete range of service, is adequately equipped and staffed by 17 full-time Doctors, as well as 23 Visiting Physicians and Surgeons (of whom 21 are in Consultant practice).

The number of in-patients treated during the year was 7,956 of whom 3,171 were urgent cases. 671 of the in-patients were transferred to the Lostock Hall Hospital for Women and Children, and 391 in-patients were also moved to "The Willows" Hospital for Men.

Included in the above figures, 1,386 in-patients were admitted to the Maternity Hospital, 1,044 mothers being delivered (117 being emergency admission) and 342 treated for ante-natal conditions. 543 male and 491 female babies were born. The anaesthetics administered numbered 1,055. In the Out-patient Department 924 expectant mothers were examined and treated; the attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics were 8,687 and at the Post-natal Clinics 935 mothers and 434 babies. There were four maternal deaths (three being emergency cases).

In the Out-patients' Department 40,824 patients were treated, including 13,800 accident and casualty cases, 1,271 medical, 3,390 surgical, 67 urological, 662 dental, 3,361 eye, ear, nose and throat, 6,087 radiological, 700 orthopaedic, 3,196 physiotherapy, 1,470 light, 767 rehabilitation, 163 occupational therapy, 940 ante-natal, 2,098 pathological, 1,070 venereal diseases, 189 psychiatric, 334 radium, 152 heart, 950 skin and 157 orthoptic. The average number treated daily (six days weekly) was 831, and the aggregate attendances were 260,057.

The work of the Blood Transfusion Service dropped sharply during 1946 owing to the falling off in the number of donors. Altogether 1,893 pints were collected, of which 1,432 pints were used at the Preston Royal Infirmary, the remainder being supplied to the outside hospitals. There were times when the blood available was insufficient for requirements. The service has now been taken over by the Ministry of Health's Liverpool Regional Service and a successful appeal made for fresh donors.

The Consultant Service at the Infirmary has been considerably enlarged by the appointment of one Physician, two Obstetrician-Gynaecologists, one Urologist, one Orthopaedic Surgeon, and one Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist

(the Joint Eye and Ear appointments having been separated). The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon has also been appointed to the Sharoe Green Hospital.

The new Rehabilitation Department was opened in March, 1946, by the Right Honourable George Tomlinson, M.P., Chairman of the Inter-departmental Committee on Rehabilitation, and is proving a most useful service.

Isolation Hospital.

Report of Dr. J. Walker, Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

During the year 247 cases were admitted to the Hospital. These figures show a marked decline in the incidence of infectious diseases in general as compared with the previous year, when 462 cases were admitted.

The diseases for which the above cases were admitted were as follows: Scarlet fever, 127; diphtheria, 44; measles, 22; erysipelas, 6; other infectious diseases (whooping cough, chicken pox, poliomyelitis, dysentery, mumps, Vincent's angina), 48.

There were five deaths in the hospital during the year. These were classified as follows: Whooping cough with pneumonia, 3; chicken pox with pneumonia, 1; enteritis, 1.

The average length of stay was 23.88 days, and the average number of beds occupied daily was 16.16 (scarlet fever, 10.16; diphtheria, 2.98; other diseases, 3.02).

44 patients admitted as diphtheria were treated in the hospital during the year. As a result of further investigation while in hospital, only 26 of these cases were subsequently diagnosed as definitely diphtheria. The position of these 44 cases as regards immunisation is set out in the following table.

Description of Cases	Immunised	Not Immunised			No information	Totals
		Offer not accepted	Under 1 year old	Over 18 years old		
Diphtheria: Severe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moderate ...	5	4	3	...	...	12
Slight ...	2	3	9	...	...	14
Other Throat conditions	...	2	...	1	...	3
Other Diseases with negative swabs ...	3	6	...	5	1	15
	10	15	12	6	1	44

The diphtheria group comprises all those cases which clinically resemble diphtheria, whether accompanied by a positive or negative swab, and all other throat conditions which are accompanied by a positive swab. In addition, carriers and cases of otorrhoea with positive swabs are included.

The group "other conditions" consists chiefly of throat conditions which are clinically and bacteriologically non-diphtheritic. These own their admission to hospital to the fact that Medical Practitioners are periodically advised to regard all doubtful sore throats in children as potentially diphtheritic. In these cases the sensible course of action is to take a swab, give antitoxin, and arrange for removal to hospital.

Cases occurring in the groups as described above are further subdivided into those who have been immunised and those who have not been immunised, and a small number about whom no accurate information is available.

The largest number of the non-immunised falls into a category described as "offer not accepted." It includes infants over one year and children up to 18 years of age, together with a small number who for some reason or other had one injection only, which offers no protection.

The next largest group is that of children under one year of age, to most of whom immunisation is not normally offered.

The position as regards immunisation at the end of the year under review was that approximately 87% of school children and 35% of pre-school children had been immunised.

With regard to the other infectious diseases, there is nothing of outstanding note to record, and there was no epidemic of any of these diseases during the year.

Chestnuts Sanatorium.

Report by Dr. W. Griffel, Tuberculosis Officer.

The following table deals with the admissions, discharges and deaths at the Sanatorium :

TUBERCULOSIS.					
	In Hospital 31/12/45.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Remaining 31/12/46.
Males	16	22	18	3	17
Females	11	15	8	5	13
	—	—	—	—	—
	27	37	26	8	30
	—	—	—	—	—

The average length of stay of the patients who were discharged was 352 days, and of those who died, 350 days. Of the eight who died, two had been in the Sanatorium for less than one week.

The necessary operations in connection with thoracic surgery were carried out either at the Manchester Baguley Sanatorium or at the Royal

Southern Hospital, Liverpool. An establishment of the post of a Consultant Thoracic Surgeon is under consideration.

Other Institutions and Sanatoria.

During the year 81 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted to Sanatoria; 75 were discharged, and 10 died in Sanatoria. 30 patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted to General and Special Hospitals. 38 were discharged and 3 died in the institutions. The number of observation cases admitted and discharged during the year was two.

In closing this report, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Dr. Hughes, the Medical Officer of Health, to the Hospitals Committee, and to the staff of the Clinic and Sanatorium for their encouragement, support and co-operation in my endeavours to develop the existing Tuberculosis Service.

Venereal Disease.

Report of Dr. D. K. Bradley, Venereal Diseases Officer.

In the last ten years great strides have been made in the treatment of both syphilis and gonorrhoea, particularly in the latter. Yet, in spite of this, the incidence of new cases of venereal disease for the year 1946 has been greater than any year since the last Great War—and perhaps since before that. This is a statement which applies not only to Preston, but to all big civilian centres throughout the country. This is a very disquieting state of affairs and one that should be looked into and, if possible, remedied.

In Preston the incidence of early syphilis (syphilis in the first year) amongst males has increased by slightly over 100% (44 : 92), whereas in females there has been no significant increase over the 1945 figures (53 : 54).

In the case of gonorrhoea in the male, the increase over the 1945 figures is in the region of 200% (94 : 266), but in the female the increase is again of only slight significance, being about 20% (43 : 54).

Considering these figures, the possibility occurs that the rise in the incidence of venereal disease might be more apparent than real.

My experience over a period of years has taught me that at least 70% of males contract venereal disease whilst under the influence of alcohol.

During the year 1945 very large numbers of men were demobilised from the Armed Forces. All of them were in the age group 20 : 35 or 40, in which venereal disease is most commonly contracted. All of them had a fairly long period of demobilisation leave before resuming civilian employment. Most of them were rather unsettled, and had a fairly large amount of money in the form of their gratuity to help them pass the time. With more time, money and freedom than they had been used to for many years, they were fertile ground for almost any form of temptation.

During the previous years most of the cases which formed the increase in the figures of civilian clinics in 1946 would have been treated in the services. This is borne out by the fact that the incidence of venereal disease amongst women has shown very little change, certainly not anything that can be regarded as at all significant.

From the above, I think it can be concluded that the sudden jump in the incidence of venereal disease is a product of the unusual times, and should not give rise to undue anxiety. The figures will probably remain fairly high for the current year, but as conditions become more normal, and the youth of the country settle down, the improved methods of treatment will make themselves felt, and there will be a corresponding diminution in venereal disease throughout the country.

It has been suggested that the ease with which venereal disease, particularly gonorrhoea, can now be cured, has tended to make people more careless of contracting it. This may be true of a certain few individuals, but the factor which makes people so anxious to avoid this condition is not just the difficulty of getting rid of it, or the possible damage to their health, but the stigma and sometimes superstitious fear with which so many regard it. For this reason I think it is very unlikely that, no matter how easy the cure may be, and it is not always easy, the contraction of venereal disease is an experience which most people will endeavour to avoid.

The introduction of Penicillin in the form of the oily suspension has proved a great advance, particularly in the treatment of gonorrhoea. Authorities are not yet agreed on the best method of carrying out this treatment, whether by the one-injection method, or the method of using two or three injections at eight to twelve-hour intervals, but the treatment of gonorrhoea by Penicillin has come to stay, and has now almost completely superseded the sulphonamides.

The amount used has now been considerably increased, and has been combined with a course of arsenic and bismuth. It is now thought possible that the amount of arsenic and bismuth will also have to be increased. It will be some time before its exact value can be gauged, but it is fairly certain that it will reduce considerably the period of time required to cure primary and secondary syphilis. In spite of this, I am afraid that venereal disease as a medical and social problem will be with us for a long time to come.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Number of Notifications received under Section 33B	Male	...	3
	Female	...	41
Number of Double Notifications	Male	...	0
	Female	...	5
Number of Visits paid	Male	...	3
	Female	...	56
Number persuaded to attend	Male	...	2
	Female	...	20
Visits to Defaulters	Male	...	41
	Female	...	91
Proceedings under Regulation 33B	...	...	Nil

Venereal Diseases. Persons treated at the Treatment Centres.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Non-venereal or undiagnosed conditions		TOTALS		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	1. Number of cases on 1st January under treatment or observation	105	140	41	47	34	31	180	218	398
2. Number of cases removed from the register during any previous year which returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection	4	5	...	...	9	14	...	...	13	19	32
3. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of cases under Item 4) suffering from :—											
Syphilis, primary	67	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	23	90
" secondary	9	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	25	34
" latent in 1st year of infection *	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	9	13
" all later stages	10	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	14	24
" congenital	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea, 1st year of infection ... ..	...	...	...	...	266	54	...	...	266	54	320
" later ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-venereal conditions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133	298	133	431
Conditions remaining undiagnosed at 31st December ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	5	...	5
4. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report known to have received treatment for the same infection, or to have been under observation at other Centres or Service Hospitals, or by General Practitioners approved under Ministry of Health Circular 2226	25	4	...	...	31	...	5	...	61	4	65
Service cases	(39)	...	...	...	(74)	(1)	(19)	(1)	(132)	(2)	(134)
	266	221	...	...	421	116	361	165	1048	502	1550

* "Syphilis, latent in first year of infection," applies to cases presenting no clinical sign of syphilis, but discovered (by blood test, etc.) to have contracted this disease within the preceding 12 months.

VENEREAL DISEASES. PERSONS TREATED AT THE TREATMENT CENTRE—continued.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancere		Gonorrhoea		Non-veneraeal or undiagnosed conditions		TOTALS		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	Totals	
5. Number of cases discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure or after diagnosis as non-veneraeal	17	...	...	...	124	27	273	139	414	166	580
6a. Number of cases which ceased to attend before completion of treatment and were, on first attendance suffering from :—											
Syphilis, primary	4	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	9	13
" secondary ... ..	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	9
" latent in 1st year of infection *	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
" all later stages ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
" congenital ... ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Soft Chancere ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea, 1st year of infection * ... ..	...	...	48	10	48	10	...	...	48	10	58
" later ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6b. Number of cases under treatment or observation which died :											
From the disease	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
From treatment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
From other causes	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
7. Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment but before final tests of cure	15	...	19	24	19	24	...	...	34	34	58
8. Number of cases transferred to other centres or to institutions, or to care of private practitioners ...	36	...	72	10	72	10	46	12	154	22	176
9. Number of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	189	198	158	45	158	45	12	14	389	257	646
	266	221	421	116	421	116	361	165	1048	502	1550

* "Syphilis, latent in first year of infection," applies to cases presenting no clinical sign of syphilis, but discovered (by blood test, etc.) to have contracted this disease within the preceding 12 months.

VENEREAL DISEASES. PERSONS TREATED AT THE TREATMENT CENTRE—continued.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancres		Gonorrhoea		Non-venereal or undiagnosed conditions		TOTALS		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	10. Number of cases in the following stages of syphilis included in Item 6 which failed to complete one course of treatment of either penicillin or of arsenic and bismuth : Syphilis, primary " secondary " latent in 1st year of infection * " all later stages " congenital	4	3	4	3	7
11. Number of attendances :— (a) for individual attention of the medical officer(s) (b) for intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressing TOTAL ATTENDANCES	2590	3264	2373	858	1563	659	6526	4781	11307
12. In-patients :— (a) Total number of persons admitted for treatment during the year (b) Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of treatment given... ..	8	9	5	2	13	11	24
13. Number of cases treated with penicillin	200	150	93	25	293	175	468
	61	25	425	79	Other Diseases M. 48 F.	534	108	638
14. Number of cases of congenital syphilis in Item 3 above classified according to age periods	Under 1 year	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 years and over	Totals						
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	...	...	1	1	2	...	3	1	...	...

* "Syphilis, latent in first year of infection," applies to cases presenting no clinical sign of syphilis, but discovered (by blood test, etc.) to have contracted this disease within the preceding 12 months.

VENEREAL DISEASES. PERSONS TREATED AT THE TREATMENT CENTRE—continued.

	Microscopical		Cultural Gonorrhoea for	Serum		Cerebro- spinal Fluid	Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease
	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhoea		for Syphilis	for Gonorrhoea		
15. PATHOLOGICAL WORK.							
(a) Number of SPECIMENS examined AT, and by, the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre	34	2949	2	...	3	...	...
(b) Number of SPECIMENS from patients attending at the Treatment Centre for examination to an APPROVED laboratory ... ..	...	...	...	1824	2	...	...

Services rendered at the Treatment Centre.

	PRESTON	OTHER AREAS	TOTAL
Number of cases included under the following headings in Item 3 :			
Syphilis	87	78	165
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea	172	148	320
Non-venereal and undiagnosed conditions	234	202	436
	493	428	921
Total number of Attendances of all patients	10791	4902	15693

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Report of Dr. W. Griffel, Tuberculosis Officer.

Notifications.

During 1946 the number of all cases of tuberculosis notified was 155, compared with 153, 167, 177, 144, 149 and 151 for the six years 1940—1945. The above figure gives a notification rate of 1.37 per 1,000 of the population, the respective figures for the six previous years being 1.42, 1.54, 1.62, 1.3, 1.32, 1.38. Further particulars will be found in the published tables.

Of the 155 notified cases of tuberculosis, 134 were of the pulmonary and 21 of the non-pulmonary type of the disease, giving rates of 1.19 and 0.19 respectively for 1,000 of the population. The average figures for the previous six years are 1.02 and 0.41.

These figures do not, of course, represent the incidence of tuberculosis; we know from mass surveys that the incidence is very much higher; any rise, therefore, in number of cases notified can be attributed either to an increase of the more obvious forms of tuberculosis with short expectation of life—as was the case during the two wars—or to the increased number of cases discovered by routine X-ray examination in the Services and in the civilian population, and to the greater tuberculosis consciousness of the general practitioner, most welcome and important events on the road to the earlier diagnosis.

Mortality.

There were during 1946 64 deaths from all forms of tuberculosis referable to the Borough. 52 of these were due to pulmonary and 12 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The figure of all forms of the disease causing death gives a death rate of 0.56 per 1,000 of the population, the corresponding figures for the six preceding years being 0.69, 0.61, 0.84, 0.81, 0.7 and 0.65.

The graph shows the gradual but marked decrease of the death from tuberculosis observed in the Borough as in the whole country. As will be noted, the rise in the number of deaths which occurred during the last war has stopped. This, however, applies only to death from pulmonary tuberculosis; the decline in death from the non-pulmonary forms of the disease has, unfortunately, not continued, and is still higher than in the 1930's. Five of the 12 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in children, who died of tubercular meningitis, reflecting the shortage of beds for isolation and treatment of the sputum-positive cases. We have also to consider the influence of infected milk, as reflected in the number of milk samples examined by the Sanitary Inspectors and found contaminated—among others—with tuberculosis bacilli. It is time that this important food was stopped from being a medium for the conveyance and spread of disease; the ways and means are well known, and have been applied with success elsewhere.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The Dispensary remains the centre of the preventive diagnostic and welfare activities.

The Tuberculosis Officer is also in charge of the Chestnuts Sanatorium, and sees cases of tuberculosis admitted to the local Voluntary and Municipal Hospital. He also sees cases admitted to and discharged from sanatoria in which the County Borough sends some of the patients.

During the year old patients made 2,558 attendances, and 470 new cases were examined at the Dispensary. Of the new cases 126 were diagnosed as suffering from tuberculosis: 107 of them from pulmonary and 19 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The pulmonary cases were classified as follows:

T.B. —	...	...	...	52
T.B. Group 1	...	...	...	4
T.B. Group 2	...	...	...	42
T.B. Group 3	...	...	...	9
				<hr/>
				107
				<hr/>

The age-distribution of these cases is shown on Table B.

The non-pulmonary cases were classified according to the localisation, as follows:

Peripheral glands	...	...	...	7
Abdominal	...	...	...	6
Bones and joints	...	...	...	4
Kidney	...	...	...	1
Spine	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				19
				<hr/>

The age-distribution of these cases is shown on Table C.

The search for contact cases was intensified and 191 contacts were examined. Table D shows the preliminary classification of these cases.

Additional work carried out at the Dispensary during the year was the examination, at the request of the Ministry of Pensions Boards, of 47 men and women sent by the Boards, and in all these cases the usual reports, clinical, radiological and bacteriological, were submitted.

An Out-patient Pneumothorax and Pneumoperitoneum Refill Clinic is conducted by the Tuberculosis Officer at the Sharoe Green Municipal Hospital. 28 patients have attended the Clinic during the report year, and 600 refills were given.

The radiological examinations are carried out at the Borough's Municipal Hospital; they (films and screenings) numbered 1,500 (1,185 in 1945).

The bacteriological examinations of sputum and other materials are carried out by arrangement through the Laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary; 734 such examinations were carried out in connection with the work of the Dispensary.

At the end of the year there remained 481 on the Dispensary (478 in 1945); 151 cases were removed for the following reasons: cases regarded as recovered, 43; died, 56; transferred to other areas or lost sight of, 52.

Close touch is maintained with the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer of the Local Employment Exchange and the Industrial Medical Officers, whose co-operation is essential in placing patients who have sufficiently recovered in former or new occupations.

The Maintenance Allowances Scheme is administered through the Dispensary, and a part-time Welfare Clerk is available for this work.

91 cases were assisted during the year with Maintenance Allowances, and 27 of these were also assisted by means of Discretionary Allowances.

28 Special Payments were granted, and 115 Travel Vouchers were issued.

The total sum expended during the year was £4,425 8s. 10d.

All cases were reviewed every three months during the year, and where necessary were re-assessed.

One full-time and one part-time Tuberculosis Nurse, who also attend the Artificial Pneumothorax Refill Clinic at the Municipal Hospital, have carried out 697 re-visits of old patients, and 118 visits to the homes of new patients. They report on home and housing conditions of the patients, and the Tuberculosis Officer is in close contact with the Housing Department of the Borough, who give priority in allocating new houses to cases recommended by him.

Institutional Treatment.

It is with regret that I have to state that this important phase of our work has been carried out under very unsatisfactory conditions. Only 30 beds for pulmonary tuberculosis are available at the Borough's Chestnuts Sanatorium. Accommodation for the rest had, as in previous years, to be found in non-Borough institutions, but owing to the increased demands on beds made by the Authorities to which these institutions belong, to difficulties in obtaining staff in many of them, necessitating the closing of some of the wards, we were at times faced with a formidable waiting list. I am glad to say that at the time of writing this report (June, 1947), thanks to the energetic steps taken by the Medical Officer of Health and the Hospitals Committee, this has been now remedied, and no adult case has to wait now for any length of time for a bed in an institution.

The report on the Chestnuts Sanatorium will be found in the Hospitals Section of this Annual Report.

Contacts.

Number of Contacts examined during 1946 : 191, diagnosed as follows :

Negative	...	...	170
Definite	...	...	6
Suspicious	...	...	15
			<hr/> 191 <hr/>

Table D.

This table gives some interesting comparative figures.

	CASES NOTIFIED		DEATHS	
	Respiratory	Other Forms	Respiratory	Other Forms
1915	342	52	131	46
1918	233	22	127	49
1922	191	46	88	21
1927	160	61	100	23
1932	116	65	89	21
1937	121	49	77	19
1938	103	44	69	19
1939	95	27	73	15
1940	104	47	63	8
1941	108	41	63	16
1942	104	40	68	23
1943	138	39	74	18
1944	129	38	56	10
1945	114	39	54	21
1946	134	21	52	12

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease.

(A) General.

The year has been singularly free from serious outbreaks of notifiable disease, as will be seen from the following tables :

Table A.

Incidence of Infectious Disease during recent years.

The number of cases notified was as follows :

	Year	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Diphtheria	...	137	268	229	44	41
Scarlet Fever	...	334	320	436	316	138
Enteric Fever	...	9	...	1	2	...
Erysipelas	...	18	16	14	23	14
Pneumonia	...	95	117	108	83	81
Infantile Paralysis	...	13	5	5	...	1
Chicken Pox	...	273	146	222	140	21
Measles	...	1543	736	909	1156	505
Sonne Dysentery	...	6	1	2	22	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	4	5	4	10	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	14	4	1	...	...

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

I.—Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946 :

Age at 31st December, 1946, <i>i.e.</i> , Born in year	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5—9 1937—1941	10—14 1932—1936	Total Under 15	
Number Immunised ...	...	587	657	844	1055	6361	7635	17139
Estimated mid-year Population, 1946	9370							15850	25220
Percentage Immunised : Age Group—Mid-year Population	...	6.265	7.013	9.007	11.26	40.13	48.17	...	
Percentage Immunised : Sectional Group—Mid-year Popln.	...	33.54					88.3	...	67.96

II.—Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

Age at date of notification	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS	
	Number of cases notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of Immunisation	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of Immunisation	
Under 1	1	...	Under 1	Nil	Nil	
1	1	1	1	"	"	
2	6	2	2	"	"	
3	3	2	3	"	"	
4	2	...	4	"	"	
5—9	6	1	5—9	"	"	
10—14	4	2	10—14	"	"	
Totals ...	23	8	Totals ...	Nil	Nil	

Treatment of Scabies and Verminous Heads for the Year ended 31st December, 1946.

STEPS TO COMBAT INFESTATION.

A special Cleansing Clinic has been established and is staffed by three whole-time operators. Steel combs and special head lotions are lent or supplied in suitable cases, with instructions for adult and other contacts.

The Health Visitors, who are also School Nurses, by virtue of information gained in routine cleanliness examinations at school, visit homes and are able to give advice in regard to pre-school children and others.

Leaflets are distributed at the schools, at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and, if necessary, to the homes, in regard to the maintenance of personal cleanliness.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out at the Cleansing Clinic :

	SCABIES		HEADS	
	Cases	Treatments	Cases	Treatments
Males	215	429	...	...
Females	346	689	...	...
Children (14 years and under) :				
Males	289	633	...	...
Females	227	493	125	282
Totals	1077	2244	125	282

Vaccination.

This work is carried out by two Public Vaccinators.

867 children under one year of age were successfully vaccinated. This total is 85 less than in the previous year. There were 822 conscientious objectors ; vaccination was postponed on a medical certificate in 48 instances ; 95 children died before vaccination and 61 removed to other districts.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

(A) STATISTICS.

1.—Birth Rate.

The birth rate was 19.26 per 1,000 living, compared with 17.97 in 1945. The percentage of illegitimate births was 7.7. Of the notifications received, 27.53 per cent. were notified by midwives, 32.18 per cent. by Sharoe Green Hospital, 22.35 per cent. by the Preston Royal Infirmary, 15.76 per cent. by St. Joseph's Hospital, and 2.18 per cent. by private Maternity Homes.

2.—Infant Mortality.

Rate per 1,000 live births :

Legitimate	...	...	55
Illegitimate	...	...	76
All types	...	...	56

(B)—GENERAL.

1.—Maternal Deaths.

Maternal deaths, 1st January to 31st December, 1946.

Place of Death	Total Deaths in the Borough	Internal Transfers	External Transfers	NETT
Preston Royal Infirmary	2	...	2	...
Sharoe Green Hospital...	...	3	...	3
St. Joseph's Hospital ...	...	...	...	...
Own home	1	...	...	1
	3	3	2	4

The deaths were due to the following causes :

1. Obstetric shock.
2. Broncho-pneumonia.
Caesarean Section.
Single live birth.
3. Natural causes.
Heart failure caused by a commencing miscarriage.
4. Acute pulmonary oedema.

The maternal death rate was 1.68 per 1,000 registered live births, and 1.63 including registered still-births. The rates during 1945 were 0.51 and 0.50.

2.—Puerperal Pyrexia.

20 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year, 19 by the Preston Royal Infirmary and one by a Private Practitioner. All the cases recovered satisfactorily.

3.—Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified by a Private Practitioner. This case was admitted to the Isolation Hospital and made a satisfactory recovery.

Pemphigus Neonatorum.

No case of pemphigus neonatorum was reported during the year.

4.—Stillbirths.

61 stillbirths were notified during the year, 19 occurring at the Preston Royal Infirmary, 20 at Sharoe Green Hospital, 12 at St. Joseph's Hospital, one in a Maternity Home, and 9 in the practice of Midwives.

5.—Inspection of Midwives.

23 Midwives, including 9 Municipal Midwives, gave notice on January 1st of their intention to practise in the Borough. During the year 2 Midwives from the Preston Royal Infirmary gave notice of intention to practise, while two Midwives resigned.

At the end of the year there were 24 midwives practising in the Borough. These comprised 9 Municipal Midwives, 3 in private practice, 8 at the Preston Royal Infirmary, 2 at St. Joseph's Hospital, and 2 in Private Maternity Homes.

The number of deliveries performed by Municipal Midwives was 576, and by those in private practice 93.

Medical aid was sought by Midwives in accordance with Rule E (12) of the Central Midwives Board in 167 instances.

In respect of these calls 66 applications for financial assistance were considered by the Maternity and Child Welfare, Milk and Other Services Sub-Committee. In 39 instances the whole cost was granted; in seven instances part cost was granted; while in 20 cases no assistance was given. The cost of this service to the Council was £65.

Home-Help Service was granted free of charge to 11 mothers during the year, and partly free to five others.

Two children under five years of age were admitted to the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital. One case was allowed free and the other allowed partly free.

66 women applied for assistance in the payment of the services of a Municipal Midwife. In 56 instances the whole cost was granted, in 4 instances part cost was granted, while no assistance was given to the remainder. The cost of this assistance was £88.

6.—Inspection of Nursing Homes.

There were two Registered Nursing Homes at the end of the year. 16 inspections were made.

7.—Infant Welfare Centres.

There are eight Infant Welfare Centres and a total of 11 sessions a week are held.

The combined attendances for all Infant Welfare Centres was 34,429 (25,577 in 1945), an increase of 8,852. 1,290 (54 per cent. of the notified live births) attended an Infant Welfare Centre at least once.

Sale of Dried Milk, etc., at Infant Welfare Centres.

The value of goods sold at Infant Welfare Centres was £3,883 (£2,504 in 1945). The supply of free dried milk and drugs cost the Council £730.

8.—Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.

There are three Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics held weekly, two at North Road and 1 at Cuttle Street. The attendances of patients at these clinics are as follows :

505 expectant mothers made 1,332 attendances at the Ante-natal Clinics, as compared with 350 and 1,112 in 1945.

51 patients made 51 attendances at the Post-natal Clinics, as compared with 28 and 28 last year.

These figures do not include women attending clinics at the Royal Infirmary and Sharoe Green Maternity Departments.

9.—Massage.

Massage is carried out at Cuttle Street and North Road. The work done in 1946 is set out in the following table :

	New Patients	Discharges (Failed to complete the course shown in brackets)	Attendances	Sessions
North Road	113	98 (30)	2176	203
Cuttle Street	38	46 (17)	561	44
Total	151	144 (47)	2737	247

10.—Artificial Sunlight.

This treatment is carried out at the Open Air School. The treatment done in 1946 is set out in the following table :

	New Patients	Discharges (Failed to complete the course shown in brackets)	Attendances	Sessions
Open Air School ...	214	216 (85)	2576	71
Total ...	214	216 (85)	2576	71

11.—Dental Treatment.

Dental treatment is carried out at 2 North Road every Thursday afternoon. 37 expectant mothers, 57 nursing mothers and 55 children made 300 attendances. The treatment carried out included 617 extractions, 66 fillings and 131 gas administrations.

40 applications were received for assistance in the purchase of dentures. Of these, 14 were asked to pay the full amount, 10 were allowed free dentures, while some assistance was given to the remaining 16 cases. This service cost the Council £115.

12.—Infant Life Protection.

There were 24 boarded-out children under observation at the end of 1946. The Health Visitors, who are Infant Life Protection Officers, paid 212 visits to these children.

13.—Care of Illegitimate Children (Circular 2866).

Under this scheme, the Council accepted financial responsibility for two cases admitted to the Brettargh Holt Maternity Home at Kendal under the auspices of the Lancaster Diocesan Rescue and Protection Society.

14.—Care of Premature Infants. (Circular 174/44.)

184 Preston babies were born prematurely in 1946 (*i.e.*, their birth-weight was $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less). 37 were born in the Preston Royal Infirmary, 38 at St. Joseph's Hospital, 78 in Sharoe Green Hospital, 29 in the practice of midwives, and two in private maternity homes. Special cards are issued to the Health Visitors in these cases, so that these infants can receive special attention.

15.—Voluntary Workers.

Voluntary workers continue to give valuable assistance at the Infant Welfare Centres and at the Orthopaedic Clinic. This includes the distribution of fruit juices and cod-liver oil on behalf of the Ministry of Food.

51 dinners were served during the year, compared with 283 during the previous year, but it has been impossible to arrange any holidays for the mothers, owing to the difficulty of finding suitable accommodation.

16.—Maternity Institutions.

There are 107 beds for maternity cases, 38 at Sharoe Green Hospital, 42 at Preston Royal Infirmary, and 27 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Mount Street. 99 applications for assistance in the payment for a bed in Sharoe Green Hospital were considered by the Maternity and Child Welfare, Milk and Other Services Sub-Committee. In 86 instances the whole cost was granted, in 5 instances part cost was granted, while the remaining eight were not allowed.

26 women were admitted to the Maternity Hospital, Preston Royal Infirmary, as cases of special difficulty. Of these, nine applied for financial assistance. In six instances the whole cost was granted, in one instance part cost was granted, while no assistance was given to the remaining two cases. Accounts were issued to the two patients who were not granted any assistance, and in addition to patients who did not apply for financial assistance.

74 women were admitted to the Maternity Hospital, Preston Royal Infirmary, for ante-natal treatment. 30 of these women applied for financial assistance. In seven instances the whole cost was granted, in two instances part cost was granted, while no assistance was given to the remaining 21 cases. Accounts were issued to these 21 patients, also to those patients who did not apply for financial assistance.

76 women were admitted to the Sharoe Green Hospital for ante-natal treatment during the year. In respect of these cases 33 applications were received. In 17 instances the whole cost was granted, and in the remaining 16 instances no assistance was given. Accounts were issued to all others who did not apply for assistance.

Four women were admitted to Sharoe Green Hospital for post-natal treatment. One of these cases applied for financial assistance, but no assistance was given.

Five applications were received for assistance in the payment for a bed in the Preston Royal Infirmary Maternity Hospital (booked cases). Three were allowed; in the remaining two cases no assistance was given.

17.—Work of the Health Visitors and School Nurses.

During the year Health Visitors paid 661 visits to expectant mothers. They visited 2,314 new-born infants, and paid 14,956 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5. They visited 120 cases of infection (chiefly whooping cough), and made 615 special visits. In all, they paid 26,126 visits.

18.—Tonsillectomy.

53 children under 5 years of age received treatment at Sharoe Green Hospital for removal of tonsils and adenoids.

19.—Domestic Helps.

In accordance with Circular 179/44 from the Ministry of Health, the Corporation decided to inaugurate a scheme for the provision of Domestic Helps in approved cases. The scheme came into operation in May, 1945, when two domestic helps were engaged, a minimum of 20 hours per week being guaranteed. A waiting list was also drawn up of persons willing to act as and when required. The rate of pay in all cases was fixed at 1/6 per hour plus travelling expenses.

A circular, drawing attention to the provisions of the scheme, was sent to all doctors, clergy and welfare associations.

The following table shows the number of cases assisted during the year.

1946	Existing.	New.	Terminated.	No. being assisted at the end of the month
January ...	12	2	...	14
February ...	14	6	...	20
March ...	20	10	...	30
April ...	30	8	9	29
May ...	29	8	...	37
June ...	37	4	9	32
July ...	32	6	...	38
September ...	38	19	19	38
October ...	38	10	...	48
November ...	48	12	4	56
December ...	56	11	13	54

Welfare of the Blind.

During the year 34 persons were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon ; 24 of these were certified as being blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act.

The following table gives the relevant information as to the numbers of blind people, with various categories, as at the 31st December, 1946 :

Number of persons on register	... ..	387
Blind persons employed at approved workshops	... ..	29
Blind persons employed in their own homes	... ..	2
Blind persons employed elsewhere	... ..	13
Blind persons unemployable	... ..	327
Blind persons not training, but trainable	... ..	—
Blind children under 16 years of age	... ..	12
Blind trainees over 16 years of age	... ..	4
		387

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1 (i)—Water.

As previously reported by Mr. E. C. Oakes, M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., Water Engineer :

“ Preston water is obtained from upland gathering grounds, chiefly moorland, in the Forest of Bowland, and on the southern side of Longridge Fell. There are two intake works in each of these two areas, the largest being that at Langden, near Dunsop Bridge. The Bowland Estate, with an area of 6,775 acres, is drained by the Langden and Hareden streams, and the water is soft and well suited for all domestic and industrial purposes.

“ The whole of the foregoing supplies converge upon the four large storage reservoirs in the neighbourhood of Longridge, and, after decanting through these reservoirs, the water passes on to Grimsargh, where it is strained through fine-mesh copper cloth, which removes the coarser materials in suspension before entering the mains to Preston.”

The Water Engineer has supplied the following additional information :

(a) The water supply during the year under review has been entirely satisfactory, both in quality and quantity.

(b) Upwards of 300 bacteriological examinations of the water have been made, and in all cases the results were satisfactory. The treatment plant is at Grimsargh. Two samples of the water were submitted for chemical analysis and were reported upon as follows :

(1) Taken from a draw-off tap at 84 Avenham Lane on 25th November.

	Parts per 100,000.
Total solid matter in solution	6.4
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.102
Oxygen required to oxidise in 3 hours	0.204
Ammonia	0.001
Ammonia from organic matter (by distillation with alkaline permanganate)	0.007
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.001
Nitrogen as nitrites	None
Combined chloride	1.0
Total hardness	2.8

This analysis indicates a typical upland surface water, showing no evidence of animal pollution.

The sample contained a trace of deposit, probably due to a disturbance of the mains. It was normal in taste and subject to a satisfactory bacteriological report as suitable for domestic and drinking use ; the sample was free from lead. P.H. value 6.9.

(2) Taken from a draw-off tap at Tithebarn Street on 17th December.

	Parts per 100,000.
Total solid matter in solution	3.6
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.11
Oxygen required to oxidise in 3 hours	0.203*
Ammonia—free and saline	0.0032
Ammonia—albuminoid	0.0112
Nitrogen as nitrates	trace
Nitrogen as nitrites	None
Chlorides... ..	0.6
Temporary hardness	Nil
Permanent hardness	1.9
Total hardness	1.9

Physical properties : Odourless ; colour, 27 hazen.

* This figure is rather high, but may be due to harmless oxidisable matter derived from peat. The colour of the water suggests this.

(c) The water is only very slightly plumbo-solvent.

(d) No contamination has been reported from the area supplied.

(e) 34,110 dwelling-houses (including shops with living accommodation attached) are supplied direct from the mains, serving a population of 108,480. There are no stand-pipes.

1 (ii)—Drainage and Sewerage.

Information relating to the trunk sewer system, equipment and plant, and the Freckleton Farm, was given in the Report for 1938.

2—Rivers and Streams.

No complaints of alleged pollution have been received during the past year.

3 (i)—Closet Accommodation.

There are 34,667 fresh water-closets in use in the Borough area ; 18 privy middens or pail closets remain. During the year 30 waste-water closets were abolished and replaced with fresh-water closets.

3 (ii)—Public Cleansing.

The bulk of the town's refuse is dealt with at the Argyll Road Depot, and is subjected to salvage treatment.

3 (iii)—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Dwelling-houses.

During the year 2,820 dwelling-houses were inspected on complaint, 288 after the occurrence of infectious disease, 410 in connection with the Housing Acts, and 29 in respect of the Rent Restrictions Acts, a total of 3,547 premises ;

6,869, 368, 473 and 35 re-visits were made, a total of 7,745; these visits involved the sending of 2,175 letters with regard to defects found. In 172 cases it was found necessary to issue formal notice. Sanitary defects were remedied at 2,494 premises, and the repairs and improvements effected are detailed below :

	Public Health Acts	Housing Acts
Premises dealt with	2454	40
Ashpails provided	130	...
Bakehouses cleansed	4	...
Chimneys repaired or renewed	191	2
Clothes washing accommodation provided	45	1
Dampness remedied	448	10
Decorations renewed	112	1
Downspouts repaired or renewed	353	6
Drains tested, repaired or renewed	812	...
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	153	5
Floors repaired or renewed	182	6
Food Stores provided ... ..	...	5
Gutters repaired or renewed	383	9
Lighting and ventilation improved	44	5
Nuisances abated (general)	318	...
Offensive accumulations removed	63	...
Overcrowding abated ... ..	...	4
Passages Flagged, etc.	14	...
Pavements repaired or renewed	55	...
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	452	9
Persons disinfested	1	...
Premises disinfested	131	...
Premises rendered rat-proof	41	...
Public sewers cleansed	152	...
Rats caught	167	...
Rent books inscribed correctly ... ..	...	77
Roofs repaired or renewed	500	14
Sinks repaired or renewed	146	4
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	42	...
Staircases repaired or renewed	46	5
Sufficient water supply provided	73	...
Sufficient w.c. accommodation provided	12	2
Sufficient washing facilities provided	5	...
Walls repaired or renewed	380	7
Water service pipes repaired or renewed	178	...
W.C. accommodation repaired or renewed	407	7
W.C. "hopper" conversions	124	1
W.C. "tippler" conversions	30	...
Windows repaired or renewed... ..	437	7
Woodwork (general) repaired or renewed	154	10
Yards re-surfaced	1	...

(b) Caravans.

32 visits and 12 re-visits were made to caravans in the Borough during the period under review.

(c) Common Lodging Houses.

There were ten such premises registered in the Borough, providing potential accommodation for 291 persons. 783 visits were made in the regular supervision of such premises. The premises still fall short of a desirable standard, particularly in the matter of accommodation for personal ablution and storage of personal effects, and in the means of escape in the event of fire.

(d) Houses Let in Lodgings.

140 visits were made during the year to these premises.

(e) Canal Boats.

Particulars of these dwellings will be found in the section of this Report dealing with Port Health Administration.

(f) Places of Public Entertainment.

There were 18 cinemas, two theatres, five billiards halls and 26 dance halls under the supervision of this Department; 106 visits were made. All such premises require an annual licence and a certificate in each case is given by the Medical Officer of Health, stating whether or not the premises are satisfactory in sanitary and other respects.

(g) Drainage Work.

During the year 1,312 inspections and 2,282 re-visits were made in connection with drainage work, and 833 drains serving premises in the Borough were tested, repaired or renewed.

Section 41 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requires 24 hours' notice of intention to reconstruct or alter drains, or in case of emergency, where work is executed without notice, 24 hours' notice must be given before any drain is covered over. A printed slip, containing a summary of this Section, is attached to all letters to owners in which drainage work is required.

(h) Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Complaints were received in respect of 231 premises, involving 484 visits and 504 re-visits by the Sanitary Inspectors; defects were remedied at 101 premises, 41 premises were rendered "rat-proof," "strays" were responsible in 25 cases for a complaint being made. 29 complaints were not confirmed on inspection, and in the remaining cases the complaint was referred to the Rodent Staff for treatment of premises or work necessary to prevent a further infestation.

The following work was carried out by the Rodent Staff during the period under review :

Number of premises inspected	...	...	...	19461
Number of premises re-visited	...	...	...	2212
Number of premises treated	...	...	...	513
Number of rats destroyed by trapping	...	...	...	46
Number of rats destroyed by poison	...	...	...	1293
Number of mice destroyed by trapping	...	...	...	1723
Number of mice destroyed by poison	...	...	...	6
Total number of rats killed	...	...	...	1339
Total number of mice killed	...	...	...	1729

The above statement includes 18,848 inspections under Circular N.S. 12, but does not include work carried out on behalf of the Port Health Authority.

The systematic treatment of Corporation sewers and the Sewage Farm, Freckleton, has been carried out under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

(i) Stables and Garages.

To secure compliance with the bye-laws relating to the removal of manure and the proper maintenance of premises, 171 visits were made during the year.

(j) Offensive Trades.

The following offensive trades are established in the Borough : fat and tallow melter, 5 ; gut scraper, 1 ; hide and skin dealer, 3 ; soap boiler, 2 ; and tripe boiler, 4—a total of 15. There were 56 visits made to these premises.

(k) Pig Keepers.

There were 39 visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the 17 pig keepers in the Borough, and sanitary conditions generally were satisfactory.

(l) Factories.

254 visits and 335 re-visits were made to bakehouses and factories, Details of work done under the provisions of the Factories Acts is shewn in the following table :

Premises dealt with	...	...	...	...	87
Bakehouses cleansed	...	...	...	...	9
Decorations renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Drains tested, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	18
Lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	4
Pavements repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Sufficient water supply provided	...	...	...	...	1
Sufficient w.c. accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	17
Sufficient washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	2
Water service pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
W.C. accommodation repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	28
Woodwork (general) repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1

(m) Private Passages.

14 passages were re-surfaced or repaired. The work was carried out by the respective owners.

(n) Disinfection.

Disinfection was carried out after the occurrence of infectious disease in the following instances :

Diphtheria	4
Scarlet fever	51
Tuberculosis	28

Treatment was also carried out of 438 beds, 360 blankets, 47 bolsters, 284 pillows, 80 other items of bedding, and 227 library books ; collections at 10 " jumble sales " were treated.

(o) Exhumation.

The attendance of a Sanitary Inspector was also required at an exhumation carried out on an order issued by the Home Office.

3 (iv)—Shops.

During the year 205 visits and 17 re-visits were made under the Shops Act, and the works carried out as a result of these inspections are as under :

Premises dealt with	5
Sinks repaired or renewed	1
W.C. accommodation repaired or renewed	4

3 (v)—Premises dealt with under the Food and Drugs Act.

As a result of inspections made under the Food and Drugs Act, the following work was carried out at 29 premises :

Premises dealt with	29
Bakehouses cleansed	9
Decorations renewed	3
Drains tested, repaired or renewed	3
Floors repaired or renewed	1
Lighting and ventilation improved	2
Offensive accumulations removed	2
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	2
Sufficient w.c. accommodation provided	3
Walls repaired or renewed	1
W.C. accommodation repaired or renewed	2
Windows repaired or renewed... ..	1

3 (vi)—Eradication of Bed Bugs.

In the removal of five families to Corporation houses the furniture and effects were subjected to HCN treatment at the disinfecting station, Argyll Road. 131 premises were disinfested by private action.

4.—Schools.

36 visits were made during the year. Complaints were received from 6 schools, three alleging rat infestation, two in connection with drainage defects, and one relating to additional sanitary accommodation.

Work of the Sanitary Inspectors' Section during 1946.

Visits made in connection with—	Number of Inspections	Number of Re-visits
Accommodation for workers	13	1
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	43	39
Bakehouses	81	98
Butchers' shops	203	49
Cemetery (Exhumation)	1	...
Common Lodging Houses	611	172
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	104	287
Drains and sewers	1312	2283
Dwelling-houses—on complaint	2820	6869
Housing Acts	410	473
Infectious disease	288	368
Rent Restrictions Acts... ..	29	35
Factories—Mechanical	136	255
Non-mechanical... ..	37	82
Food inspection	352	140
Food markets	33	...
Food-preparing premises	345	270
Food stores	108	84
Houses let in lodgings	57	83
Ice cream vendors	198	266
Merchandise Marks Act	8	...
Miscellaneous complaints	263	137
Offensive accumulations	37	33
Offensive trades	29	27
Outworkers	1	1
Owners and agents	550	91
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	14	3
Pig keepers	15	24
Places of public entertainment	76	30
Public conveniences	47	35
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	484	504
Schools	23	13
Shops Acts	205	17
Slaughterhouses	319	12
Smoke observations	4	...
Squatters' camps	8	...
Stables and garages	92	79
Tents, vans and sheds	32	12
Tips	60	54
Verminous persons	13	5
Verminous premises	152	223
Workplaces	20	6
Totals	9633	13160

Port Health Administration.

Port Health District.

The Port Health District of Preston extends from Formby Point on the south to a point about 2,350 yards south of the Victoria Pier, South Shore, Blackpool, on the north. The dock, which is 3,200 feet long by 600 feet wide, covers 40 acres, and is approached by the entrance basin, 850 feet long by 300 feet wide, which covers $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres.

The communicating locks are 550 feet long and 66 feet wide, with a depth of 29 feet 6 inches at high water, ordinary spring tide. The docks are situated in the Borough, and are about 16 miles up the River Ribble from deep water at the bar.

The quays are $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. There are 170 acres of storage ground and 37,489 superficial yards of covered floor space.

The dock is equipped with hydraulic and steam cranes, and has ample railway facilities.

The cattle lairage accommodates 800 cattle and 1,600 sheep or pigs.

(i)—Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year.

1,491 ships of which 69 were foreign, entered the port. The details showing the tonnage, classification, etc., coastwise and foreign, and the method of propulsion, are shown in the following table :

Details of Ships Entering the Port.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, Infectious Disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
Foreign	69	60196	53	53	16	10	Nil
{ Steamers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Motor ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign ...	69	60196	53	53	16	10	Nil
Coastwise	1234	217304	...	370	72	54	...
{ Steamers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Motor ...	187	80681	...	90	13	8	...
{ Sailing ...	1	85	...	1	...	...	...
{ Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise ...	1422	298070	...	461	85	62	Nil
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...	1491	358266	53	514	101	72	Nil

(ii)—Character of Trade of Port.**(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC.**

There is no traffic of this description, and therefore " Medical Inspection of Aliens " does not apply.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC.

The principal imports are wood pulp, timber, stone, china clay, potatoes, live stock, cement, whiting, motor spirit, slates and roof tiles, grain, sugar, bitumen and paper. The principal exports are coal and coke, general, machinery, petrol, bitumen, scrap iron and bricks.

(c) FOREIGN PORTS FROM WHICH VESSELS ARRIVE.

Vessels carrying the above-mentioned imports arrive chiefly from the following foreign ports : Gavle, Norrsundet, Sundsvall, Malta, Oskarshamn, Gottenburg, Blankaholm, Bremerhaven, Skoghall, Vallvik, Obadan, Lisbon, Kotka, Skelleftea, Bremen, Eggesund, Rafso, Skelifto, Karska, Karshamn, Gefle, Helsingfors, Karlshall, Hornefors, Hernosand, Lulea, Stugsand, Copenhagen, Halmstad, Pugwash.

(iii)—Water Supply.

(a) The port derives its water from the town supply, which is an upland surface water of good quality and well suited for drinking and domestic purposes.

(b) The vessels are also supplied from the above sources.

Hydrants are situated at numerous points in the quay side, and hose-pipes are connected to them for supplying ships with water.

Water boats are not used at the port.

(iv)—Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945.**(1) ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH DECLARATION OF HEALTH.**

Declaration forms are supplied to H.M. Customs Officers, who deliver, collect and forward them to the Port Health Authority.

(2) BOARDING OF VESSELS ON ARRIVAL.

All vessels are boarded by the Port Health Inspector, and some, including all foreign ships, by the Port Medical Officer.

(3) NOTIFICATION TO THE AUTHORITY OF INWARD VESSELS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION.

H.M. Customs and the Pilots are in touch with shipbrokers, who have wireless and other information as to probable time of arrival. The Barge Repair Depot in the river, just below Lytham, about $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Preston, is in telephonic communication with H.M. Customs and the Pilots.

(4) MOORING STATIONS DESIGNATED UNDER ARTICLE 10.

(a) The mooring place for "infected" or "suspected" ships is one of the mooring buoys in the centre of the Albert Edward Dock; all other unhealthy ships are "breasted off" at the place of mooring, discharge or loading.

(b) There is no mooring station outside the docks.

(5) PARTICULARS OF ANY STANDING EXEMPTIONS.

A standing exemption from detention under Article 14 is granted in respect of ships with infectious diseases other than cholera, plague, yellow fever and smallpox on board, and ships otherwise clean arriving from ports in area listed under Article 11.

(6) EXPERIENCE OF WORKING OF ARTICLE 16.

It has not been found necessary to exercise the provisions of the above Article.

(7) ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR :

(a) Premises and waiting rooms for medical examination : No special arrangements have been made.

(b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles ; infected quarters are disinfected by fumigation with HCN. gas by arrangement with outside commercial firms if necessary, and fumigation by sulphur dioxide can also be carried out by the Port Health Inspector. Infected bedding and clothing are removed by van to the Corporation Disinfecting Station, Argyll Road. Cleansing of persons is also carried out at the Disinfecting Station.

(c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purpose of the Regulations : None.

(d) Hospital accommodation available for plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox and other infectious diseases : Cases of infectious diseases are removed to the Borough Isolation Hospital. Smallpox is treated at the Joint Hospital Board at Elswick.

(e) Ambulance transport : Ambulance facilities are provided by the Corporation Ambulance Service.

(f) Supervision of Contacts : Contacts will be kept under observation or surveillance by the Port Medical Officer.

(8) ARRANGEMENTS FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RATS FOR PLAGUE.

Examinations are carried out at the Laboratory, Preston Royal Infirmary.

(v)—Arrangements for other Bacteriological and Pathological Examination.

Similar arrangements as above have been made for other examinations.

(vi)—Arrangements for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease among Sailors under International Arrangements.

Enquiries as to the existence of venereal disease are made by the Port Health Inspector. Leaflets and posters, printed in English, Norwegian and Swedish, are distributed and displayed. Treatment, free of cost, is provided at the Preston Royal Infirmary.

(vii) Arrangements for Interment of Dead.

Arrangements for the interment of a deceased member of the crew of any vessel are left in the hands of the agent concerned.

(viii)—Cases of Infectious Sickness.

There were no cases of infectious sickness landed from vessels during the year.

There were no notifications received of cases of infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but being disposed of prior to arrival.

(ix)—Measures against Rodents.

(1) STEPS TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RODENT PLAGUE.

- (a) In ships in the Port : Enquiries are made by the Port Health Inspector and the Rat-catcher as to mortality among rats, and any undue mortality among rats is reported to the Port Medical Officer, who makes the necessary arrangements with the Laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary for bacteriological examinations.
- (b) On quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port : Daily observation is made by the Rat-catcher, and in the case of any undue mortality similar steps to those detailed above are taken.

(2) METHODS OF DE-RATISATION OF—

- (a) Ships : Ships are de-ratised mainly by traps, and this may be supplemented by fumigation by means of HCN. gas or sulphur dioxide if necessary.
- (b) Premises in the vicinity of the docks or quays : These premises are subject to poison-baiting with phosphorus and arsenic preparations ; traps, dogs and ferrets also being used.

(3) MEASURES TAKEN FOR THE DETECTION OF RAT PREVALENCE IN SHIPS AND ON SHORE.

A Rat-catcher is employed in Port Health work, and the following is a summary of his work during the year :

Poisoned baits set	...	...	...	...	6535
Caught by traps on board ship	...	...	...	...	19
Caught by traps, dogs and ferrets in dock premises	...	...	...	...	1009
Found killed by poison baits	...	...	...	...	2317
					<hr/>
Total rats killed	...	...	...	...	3345
					<hr/>

Measures of rat destruction on plague "infected" or "suspected" vessels or vessels from plague-infected ports arriving in the port during the year.

Total number of such vessels arriving	2
Number of such vessels fumigated by S.02	—
Number of rats killed by S.02.	—
Number of such vessels fumigated by HCN.	—
Number of rats killed by HCN.	—
Number of such vessels on which trapping, poisoning, etc., were employed	2
Number of rats killed by trapping	9
Number of such vessels on which measures of rat destruction were not carried out	—

This port is not on the list of "Authorised Ports" for the granting of De-ratisation Certificates.

(x)—The Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel	Number Inspected during the Year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British ...	473	...	34	58
Others ...	41	...	1	8

In accordance with instructions given by the Ministry of Health, the crews and passengers of all foreign vessels arriving from European and North African ports were medically examined before permission to land was given.

(xi)—Food Inspection.

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOODS) REGULATIONS, 1937, THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1926, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925 TO 1940.

The following quantities of food were inspected and found unfit for human consumption :

Palm kernel	...	...	...	...	11 tons
Canned pilchards	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Canned plums	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Canned beef	...	...	...	...	40 lbs.
Canned salmon	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Canned meat and vegetable ration	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Canned steak and kidney	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Canned fruits	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Canned peas	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Condensed milk	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Dried whole-milk powder	...	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Canned tongue	...	...	...	...	1 lb.

During the year 3,625 cattle, 8 horses and one donkey were landed at the port.

(2) SHELL-FISH.

The Preston (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1923, forbid the picking of mussels for human food in the estuary of the River Ribble. Since the Regulations came into force placards have been posted in prominent places on both sides of the river and at Preston, and these have been supplemented by others, warning the public against the danger of their being used for human consumption. All the fishermen on both the north and south sides of the river have been served with copies of the notices.

The mussel beds are visited regularly by the Port Health Inspector. The tanks which have been constructed at Lytham for the cleansing of mussels are being freely used for the benefit of fishermen at both sides of the river.

(xii)—Canal Boats.

There are at present six canal boats on the register. 16 inspections were made with respect to lettering, marking and numbering, separation of sexes, and sanitary accommodation. Apart from general dilapidation, the boats are well ordered and are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

There were no cases of infectious disease occurring during the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(A) MILK SUPPLY.

There are now 14 cowkeepers in the Borough. The average production of milk is 450 gallons daily, of which 200 gallons are produced by six "Accredited" producers. In addition, there is one pedigree "Attested" herd, producing daily 80 gallons of "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

(i) Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Milk and Dairies Regulations made thereunder.

There are 382 milking cows housed in 14 different premises in the Borough. The veterinary examination of these is carried out quarterly, under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, reports being rendered on each occasion to the Ministry and to the owners of the herd. In addition to inspecting the livestock, the sanitary conditions of the premises, grooming of the cows, and cleanliness of the dairies and utensils are noted. Reports are made on each visit, copies being sent to the owner.

There is also one farm used solely for the rearing of livestock.

The hygienic conditions of the farm premises which produce non-designated milk are poor, and urgent repairs to buildings and reconstruction are required on several farms. Failure to groom properly and clean the cows is attributed to the lack of trained dairymen.

(ii)—School Milk Supplies.

All school milk is pasteurised, in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) Orders of 1936-1941. Six samples were taken from schools, and many samples were taken from the various suppliers during the year, to check the efficiency of pasteurisation of their supplies; also for the purpose of examining samples for keeping qualities and butter-fat content.

iii)—Examination of Milk for Tubercle Bacilli.

439 samples were taken during the course of the year by the Food and Drugs Officer from supplies coming into the Borough. Eight of these were positive. The names and addresses of the producers of these samples were reported through the County Medical Officer of Health to the Ministry of Agriculture for their investigation. As a result of Veterinary Inspectors' visits to these producers, four cows were found affected with tuberculosis and were removed and slaughtered. In three of the remaining cases negative

results were obtained on examination. In one case the sample was from a bulk supply, making it impossible to trace; for this reason pasteurising of all bulk supplies should be made compulsory. 19 individual samples were taken from cows in the Borough at the time of clinical herd inspection, and were examined microscopically for tuberculosis. Four of these were positive, and the cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order. One infected cow was traced from a follow-up examination of a congenitally tuberculous calf which had been sent into the slaughterhouse.

(iv)—**Examination of Milk for contamination, in the Borough Laboratory.**

The Veterinary Officer examined 415 samples (collected in the Borough in the process of delivery) for physical contamination, butter-fat content, and keeping quality. The following are the results:

Clean	...	...	...	...	...	208
Fair	...	...	...	...	...	76
*Contaminated in varying degrees	...	...	...	...	...	131

* This includes bad keeping quality, premature souring, abnormal colour and taste, etc., in addition to varying degrees of filter pad contamination. Notification was sent to vendors in all cases where samples were unsatisfactory. As most producers are outside the jurisdiction of this Authority notification is sent to the Local Authority in whose areas the farms are located, and in addition the Milk Production Officer appointed under the War Agricultural Executive Committee is advised in order to investigate methods of production on the farms concerned.

Table showing Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological and Biological Examination, with Results.

Class of Sample	Number of samples taken	Coliform Bacilli in 0.01 millilitre		Tubercle Bacilli	
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Ungraded Milk	391	69	322	7	384
"Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) Milk ...	1	...	1	...	1
"Tuberculin Tested" Milk ...	18	6	12	1	17
Pasteurised Milk	29	2	27	...	29

(v)—Farms and Farm Buildings.

Two farmsteads in the Borough have been vacated, as the land was required for building purposes. A new dairy is being built on one farm, and improvements to the cowsheds are to be carried out. Two farms have ceased to produce milk.

(B) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following visits were made during the year to various premises in connection with meat and food inspection :

	Veterinary Officer	Meat and Sanitary Inspector
Visits to public abattoir	465	331
Visits to butchers' shops	39	252
Visits to food markets	57	33
Visits to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops...	41	391
Visits to food preparing premises	31	615
Visits under Merchandise Marks Act	158	8
Cattle Markets and Saleyards	170	...
Other premises	171	...

(i)—Retail Markets.

Supplies of poultry and rabbits are still very limited, but occasionally imported rabbits are on sale.

There are more plentiful supplies of fish on the adjoining fish market.

(ii)—Food Preparing Premises.

Food-preparing premises are visited periodically by the Veterinary Officer, and butchers' premises are visited by the Meat Inspector and the District Sanitary Inspectors.

Mill premises are still being used for the storage of imported foods, but are gradually being emptied. Defective conditions of tinned foods generally have been reduced owing to better conditions of packing and storage.

(vi)—Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The total number of licensed slaughtermen on the register is 95. About 12 are permanently employed at the Abattoir. No proceedings were necessary under the Act.

(a) PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

The slaughter of all livestock is concentrated at the Abattoir, which continues under the control of the Ministry of Food. This scheme has been in operation since January, 1940.

Number of animals killed and inspected :

Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves
7,096	34,717	791	6,295

Casualties (included in above figures) :

948	166	264	132
-----	-----	-----	-----

During the year 486,097 lbs. of meat (including 288,710 lbs. unfit by reason of tuberculosis) were condemned.

With regard to the causes of condemnation, tuberculosis heads the list by more than half the total condemnation; distomatosis, dropsy and emaciation, bruising and fractures, are responsible for over 90,000 lbs. of beef and offal. All other conditions shew a comparatively small percentage of the total amount.

When one remembers the majority of calves are very young when slaughtered, it seems surprising that over 3,000 lbs. of veal was condemned for tuberculosis, and it may be assumed that the calves were affected before birth (congenital tuberculosis).

Among the animals slaughtered for casualty reasons are cattle sent in by the Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture under the Tuberculosis Order. These are sent in under Form C, and are subjected to a detailed inspection.

During the year 87 such animals were sent in, and of this number 24 cows were discovered as the result of follow-up examination of calves slaughtered at the Abattoir which were found to be affected with tuberculosis. The mothers or dams were traced, and when examined by the Ministry's Inspectors, were found to be suffering from tuberculosis of the uterus or other forms of the disease.

(b) MEAT MARKING.

Since 1923 this Authority has carried out the system of stamping all bovine and pig carcasses after inspection, this being done under the official recognition of the Ministry of Health, which was included in the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924. The stamping of meat after inspection has been found particularly useful in so far as it prevents the removal of any carcasses which have not been passed by the Inspector. A further safeguard is also adopted when carcasses are detained for further inspection by the application of a detained ticket on such carcasses. It is strongly recommended that now, under better controlled and centralised slaughtering, meat stamping should be more generally adopted. At the present time, in the majority of Abattoirs meat is already stamped by the graders for grading purposes, but there is no indication whatsoever of it having been inspected, which obviously is the more important function.

**The weight (in lbs.) of Meat Condemned, the Cause of Condemnation,
and the Class of Animal.**

Disease	Cows	Other Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Totals
Abscess	2920	2287	735	9	79	6030
Actinomycosis	811	1472	...	48	...	2331
Angioma	1107	192	...	...	...	1299
Arthritis	1107	182	105	372	98	1864
Arthritis (Septic) ... ..	...	430	...	...	...	430
Anaemia ... ..	...	...	134	...	...	134
Asphyxia ... ..	...	...	100	...	...	100
Atrophy ... ..	...	24	...	...	...	24
Bone Taint and Decomposition	251	184	72	249	...	756
Bruising and Fractures and Maceration... ..	7123	2230	438	297	495	10583
Cirrhosis of Liver	241	70	857	37	18	1223
Cysts (including parasitic conditions)	270	272	2208	31	...	2781
Congestion	173	...	32	32	9	246
Contaminated	41	...	12	6	...	59
Caseous Lymph ... ..	...	...	29	...	...	29
Distomatosis	19150	19480	5070	...	5	43705
Dropsy and Emaciation	30110	2180	2319	192	4322	39123
Deformed ... ..	...	...	...	...	30	30
Enteritis ... ..	...	40	...	...	259	299
Emphsema	36	...	...	...	...	36
Fevered	17920	1204	42	...	36	19202
Fatty Degeneration	293	...	30	...	4	327
Gangrene	600	...	...	...	...	600
Haemorrhage	90	40	...	...	...	130
Inflammation	28	...	...	...	...	28
Immaturity ... ..	...	...	...	...	10272	10272
Induration	348	168	...	...	...	516
Johne's Disease	1714	1098	...	...	...	2812
Jaundice ... ..	...	...	...	...	599	599
Mammitis	13966	40	...	...	...	14006
Metritis and Septic Met.	4744	...	147	...	...	4891
Septic Mast.	10604	...	62	...	...	10666
Moribund ... ..	...	...	716	...	175	891
Melanosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2
Necrosis	41	145	315	...	...	501
Nephritis	128	11	...	2	83	224
Oedema	4727	130	9	96	13	4975
Pericarditis (Septic)	2096	1150	...	...	...	3246
Peritonitis and Septic Pt.	1785	745	257	...	35	2822
Pneumonia (Septic)	1010	...	65	...	...	1075
Pneumonia, Pleurisy and Pericarditis	437	210	335	149	235	1366
Pyæmia	960	460	...	...	190	1610
Pyelo-Nephritis ... ..	...	...	46	...	39	85
Parboiled	520	...	...	158	...	678
Swine Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	513	...	513
Septicaemia and Cellulitis	2896	...	47	1053	233	4229
Malignant Tumours	39	...	...	...	...	39
Tuberculosis...	232280	49200	...	3676	3554	288710
Totals	360566	83644	14184	6920	20783	486097

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**(i)—Milk.**

A total of 347 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination during the year. These are summarised in the following table :

	Informal		Formal ...		Total
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
Ungraded	229	13	53	11	306
" Tuberculin-tested " ...	5	...	1	...	6
" Tuberculin-tested " (Pasteurised) ...	1	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised and Heat- treated	32	1	1	...	34
Totals	267	14	55	11	347

Details of the unsatisfactory samples are to be found in the table later in the chapter, showing all unsatisfactory Food and Drugs samples.

" DESIGNATED " MILKS.

A total of 68 milks was submitted for phosphatase and methylene blue tests, six of which were taken from school supplies. The results of the examinations are shown in the following table :

Examined for efficiency of Pasteurisation and Methylene Blue Test.

	Phosphatase		Methylene Blue	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised and Heat-treated 68	62	6	42	4
Tuberculin-tested (Pasteurised) 1	1	...	...	...
Total 69	63	6	42	4

The samples which reacted unfavourably to the phosphatase test were all from one dairy. On each occasion the dairyman was notified, and finally a warning letter was sent. A close examination of the plant revealed the cause of the trouble to be the uneven temperature in the holder, brought about by lack of an agitator, incorrect recording of temperatures resulting. This has now been remedied.

(ii)—**Other Foods and Drugs.**

A total of 153 samples was taken, other than milk, for examination by the Public Analyst.

These are tabulated below :

	Informal		Formal		Totals
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Rationed Goods... ..	24	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous Food-stuffs	53	22	...	1	76
Sausages	3	3	...	2	8
Sweets	2	...	...	...	2
Ointments, Tablets, Medicines, etc.	31	...	...	...	31
Ice Cream	12	...	...	...	12
Totals	125	25	...	3	153

The total number of samples, including milk, submitted for chemical examination is, therefore, 500, of which 58 were found to be unsatisfactory.

This gives a percentage of 11.6, compared with 9.09 in 1945 and 3.44 in 1944.

When comparing these figures, it should be borne in mind that the two previous years were mostly war years, when sampling was reduced to a minimum. A further contributory cause is that early in the current year a large number of special samples were taken at the request of the Food Control Office, bringing the total number of samples taken for the year well over the average.

The following table is a summary of all unsatisfactory samples and the action taken in each case.

Sample	Informal	Formal	Adulteration	Action taken
Malted food milk ...	1	...	Incorrectly labelled ...	Did not comply with Labelling of Food Order No. 2, 1944.
Malted food ...	1	...	Do. do. ...	Do. do.
Sponge pudding...	1	...	Do. do. ...	Do. do. Ref. to F.E.O.
Bloater paste (tinned) ...	1	...	Deficiency in fish ...	Not sold—sent to P.R.I.
Figs ...	1	...	Infested—fungi, mouse excreta, unfit for human consumption	Seized and condemned by J.P.
Dates ...	1	...	Infested larvae, etc., unfit for human consumption.	Do. do.
Suet ...	1	...	Infested larvae, etc., unfit for human consumption.	Do. do.
Meat roll ...	1	...	Decomposing and infected with mould.	Do. do.
Meat roll ...	1	...	Decomposing and infected with mould	Seized and condemned by J.P.
Milk ...	1	...	Slightly watered ...	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk ...	1	...	Do. do. ...	Do. do.
Emulsion for cooking ...	1	...	Rancid and dirty ...	See other samples.
Emulsion for cooking ...	1	...	Do. do. ...	Do. do.
Milk ...	1	...	Contaminated by disinfectant.	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk ...	1	...	Low solids or fat ...	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk (Pasteurised) ...	1	...	Do. do. ...	Do. do.
Emulsion for cooking ...	1	...	Rancid ...	Referred to Ministry of Food for investigation.
Cocoa ...	1	...	Mouldy, unfit for human consumption.	Destroyed.
Milk ...	...	1	3% added water, deprived of 3% milk-fat.	Warning letter from Town Clerk.
Milk ...	...	1	4% added water ...	Do. do.
Salmon paste ...	1	...	Deficient in fish, 45% ...	Re-sampled (formal).
Ground almond marzipan.	1	...	Contravention of Foodstuffs (Subs.) Order, 1941. (1606)	Referred to Ministry of Food and withdrawn.
" So Tasty " beef extract.	1	...	Incorrectly labelled ...	Visit (withdrawn from sale).
Salmon paste ...	...	1	Deficient in fish, 55% ...	Warning letter from Town Clerk.
Milk ...	...	1	Deprived of 6% milk-fat	Do. do.
Milk ...	...	1	5% added water ...	Do. do.
Milk ...	1	...	Deprived of 11% milk-fat	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk ...	1	...	Deprived of 19% milk-fat	Do. do.
Milk ...	...	1	Deprived of 5% milk-fat	Warning letter from Town Clerk.
Milk ...	1	...	5% added water ...	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk ...	...	1	3% added water ...	} Fined £3 on each.
Milk ...	...	1	7% added water ...	
Milk ...	1	...	3% added water ...	Re-sampled (formal).

Sample	Informal	Formal	Adulteration	Action taken
Milk ... ..	...	1	.8% added water ...	Warning letter from Town Clerk.
Milk ... ..	...	1	4.1% added water ...	Do. do.
Milk ... ..	...	1	2.8% added water ...	Do. do.
Milk	1	...	Deficient, 3% fat ...	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk	1	...	Insufficiently heat-treated	Warning from Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Milk (Pasteurised) ...	1	...	...	Visit (see comments under Pasteurised Milks).
Cake margarine ...	1	...	Rancid ...	Withdrawn and returned to makers
Milk	1	...	1% added water ...	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk (Pasteurised) ...	1	...	Insufficiently heat-treated	Visit (see comments under Pasteurised Milks).
Milk	1	...	1.6% added water ...	Re-sampled (formal).
Milk ... ..	...	1	Insufficiently heat-treated	Visit (see comments under Pasteurised Milks).
Milk	1	...	2.4% added water ...	Re-sampled (formal).

From the 1st of January to the 31st July samples were examined by the City Analyst, Liverpool, as in former years. As from the 1st August, Dr. Walker, Analyst to the Lancashire County Council, was appointed Public Analyst to the Preston Food and Drugs Authority. This has resulted in a more intimate and co-ordinated effort between Sampling Officer and Analyst, and the journey to Liverpool with samples has been eliminated.

The following special samples have also been submitted to the Public Analyst during the year :

- 2 water (not town's supply).
- 1 deposit from drain.
- 1 deposit from field tile.
- 1 town water supply.

A total of 105 samples, other than milk, have been examined by the Pathologist, Preston Royal Infirmary, bacteriologically.

These are summarised in the following table :

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ice Cream	82	41	41
Ice Cream Powders, etc. ...	5	5	...
Water (not town)	4	3	1
Miscellaneous	4	1	3
Total	95	50	45

Of the unsatisfactory results, ice cream is dealt with in a later paragraph.

The water sample was from a well at premises a considerable distance from a main water supply. Until a satisfactory solution has been arrived at, it has been recommended that all water from this well be boiled.

The three samples listed as miscellaneous consisted of : one of mussels, the vendor of which was subsequently charged and fined ; and two mineral waters, obtained from one manufacturer. This matter is still receiving attention.

(iii)—Ice Cream.

The sampling of ice cream has received considerable attention during the year. A total of 87 bacteriological and 12 chemical samples have been taken.

There are as yet no official standards for ice cream, either chemically or bacteriologically.

The allocation of commodities for the production of ice cream is controlled by the Ministry of Food, and in view of the fact that these are still in short supply, it is only to be expected that at present a product with a lower food value than that produced before the war is being manufactured.

The 12 chemical samples taken demonstrate this fully, fat-contents ranging from 0.8% to 6.2%, whilst sugar and other contents vary equally.

Whatever the food value, cleanliness of the commodity is always possible, and it was in this direction that efforts were directed.

There being no bacteriological standard from which to work, a guide was taken from the standard advocated by Doris A. Bardsley, M.Sc., of Manchester University.

The Bardsley standard is divided into A and B Standard. A should contain no coliform organisms in less than 0.1 c.c. and a total bacterial count of not more than 200,000 organisms per c.c. on yeastrel agar after 2 days' incubation at 37°C. ; whilst Standard B requires that there be no coliform bacillus in less than 0.01 c.c. and a total count of not more than 500,000 organisms per c.c.

These standards were simply used as a guide as to what should constitute a clean ice cream.

Every manufacturer in the Borough was visited, a sample being taken from each, and where necessary further samples were obtained, making a total of 87 bacteriological samples in all during the year.

The result of each examination was conveyed to the vendors by letter, and these were marked A, B or C, depending on whichever standard was complied with. Those marked with a C were deemed as unsatisfactory.

The ice cream samples shown as unsatisfactory in the table of bacteriological samples all came within this latter category.

Examination of the methods of manufacture were made in all cases of unsatisfactory results, and it was invariably found that the main contributory cause of the high bacteriological counts was improper cleansing of utensils and containers used in manufacture. It was further found that nothing short of some method of sterilisation of all equipment was sufficient to ensure a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. This was conclusively proved by subsequent samples at premises where some method of sterilisation had eventually been introduced.

Some manufacturers laid the blame for adverse results on unclean commodities they had been supplied with. To check this allegation, several bacteriological samples of various commodities used were taken. In every case the samples showed a complete absence of coliform bacillus.

Annual Report of the School Medical Officer

1st January to 31st December, 1946

A short summary of the work in connection with the School Medical Service is given below.

The work was carried out by one whole-time Medical Officer (Dr. Gladys McLean) and two part-time officers, who gave the services of approximately one whole-time Medical Officer.

The Nursing Staff consisted of four whole-time School Nurses and 13 Health Visitors-cum-School Nurses.

The system whereby Minor Ailment Inspection Clinics and Treatment Clinics are carried out as far as possible at the Schools was continued through the year. This system is much appreciated by the teachers and parents, and we have been asked to continue it during the "peace-time" years. But it must be admitted that it is expensive in medical and nursing staff; the Committee have realised this, and are prepared to authorise the necessary increases in staff.

TABLE I.

Routine School Medical Inspections.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

Nursery Schools or Classes	...	...	...	...	132
Entrants	...	...	...	...	1475
2nd Age-group	...	...	...	...	—
3rd Age-group	...	...	...	...	327
School-leavers (last term at Elementary Schools)					913
Secondary Schools (Grammar)	...	...	...	...	941
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>3788</u>

The total number of children seen at special examinations was 10,361.

Minor Ailment Treatment.

As far as possible, minor ailment treatment was carried out at the Schools.

Details of the attendances are as follows :

Ringworm, Scalp	...	...	...	32
" Body	...	...	...	56
Scabies	...	...	...	172
Impetigo	...	...	...	2338
Other Skin Diseases	...	...	...	1444
Minor Eye Defects	...	...	...	2417
Minor Ear Defects	...	...	...	4227
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	51502
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	62188
				<hr/>

Nutrition.

The classification of children examined during routine age groups was as follows :

A. Excellent	...	1433	49.8%
B. Normal	...	1353	47%
C. Slightly subnormal	...	89	3.1%
D. Bad	...	—	—

It is hardly necessary to remind readers of the absence of any objective and accepted criteria of the state of a person's nutrition, under conditions such as exist at the moment. Therefore, I would not attach a great deal of importance to these figures.

School Meals. (Information supplied by the Chief Education Officer).

The School Meals Service consists of the provision of milk, dinners and teas, although, owing to the closure of Junior Clubs in May, the number of teas required has dropped considerably. Teas and breakfasts are still taken at the Open Air School and the Stoneygate Nursery School, and, during the summer, a number of teas were supplied as packed meals to schools going on educational visits and school trips.

A total of 43 Dining Centres catered for dinners during the year. A summary of the findings of three surveys carried out gives the number of children taking dinners on three normal school days. It shows quite clearly the increase in the growth of this service during the year.

Normal day in—	Dinners taken	
February, 1946	...	3830
June, 1946	3912
October, 1946	4653

The new Central Kitchen, Moor Park, capable of cooking 2,000 meals daily, was opened on June 3rd, 1946.

Milk in Schools.

During the year 1946 some 2,641,000 bottles of milk were consumed in the Primary and Modern Secondary Schools, representing a daily average of 13,585. From the 6th August, 1946, all school milk has been supplied free of charge by the Ministry of Education.

Food and Medicines Supplied.

Cod Liver Oil and Malt	...	9049
Virol	... ..	291
Parrish's Chemical Food	...	848
A. & D. Emulsion	... ..	460
Glucose	... ..	116
Adexolin Liq.	... ..	567
Adexolin Capsules	... ..	302
Osto-calcium	... ..	68
Ovaltine	... ..	2
Ferrous Sulphate	... ..	719

Cleanliness (excluding Scabies).

A total of 25,746 children was examined by the School Nurses during the year, and the results are as follows :

	Girls		Boys	
Clean	14918	(80.9%)	6884	(94.21%)
Slight infestation of Head	1838	(9.96%)	300	(4.1%)
Moderate	1168	(6.33%)	87	(1.19%)
Major	515	(2.79%)	36	(0.49%)

The number of cases cleansed at Cuttle Street and Ellen Street Clinics was 124, involving a total of 240 attendances.

In no instance was Statutory action taken under Section 54 of the Education Act, 1944.

Scabies.

The number of school children treated at the Special Treatment Centres again showed a decline. In all 570 children were treated, involving 1235 attendances.

No Statutory action was taken under Section 54 of the Education Act, 1944, or the Scabies Order, 1941.

Vision.

712 new cases were referred to Dr. W. Sykes and in 564 cases glasses were prescribed. In addition, 632 attended for the routine annual review. There was a total attendance of 1,676, but it is regrettable to report that only 362 children obtained the glasses which were prescribed for them.

33 cases were referred to the Orthoptic Clinic and made a total of 1,570 attendances. Operative treatment for squint was carried out in six cases.

Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

A total of 359 cases were referred for operative treatment for T.'s and A.'s, and during the year 235 children underwent this operation at Sharoe Green Hospital.

Cases of otorrhoea continued to be treated at the Preston Royal Infirmary. 11 cases were dealt with in this manner.

Orthopaedics.

The orthopaedic services continued on the lines already established.

Total attendances...	...	1138
New cases ...	...	81
Old cases ...	...	133

Treatment at Hospitals :

Heswall ...	...	10
Myrtle Street ...	...	3
David Lewis (Liverpool)...	...	1
Whiston County ...	...	1
Robert Jones Hospital ...	...	1

23 cases were referred for X-rays at Sharoe Green Hospital.

Appliances, Boots, etc., fitted	78
Plaster made at Clinic ...	2

161 children were referred for remedial exercises.

Dental Treatment.

	Primary Schools.	Secondary Schools.
Routine Inspections	9456	2375
Special Inspections	1334	—
Total ...	10790	2375
Found to require treatment :		
Routine	4369	1001
Special	1334	—
Accepted treatment :		
Routine	3110	—
Special	1334	—
Actually treated during the year :		
Routine	3141	12
Special	1334	—
Total attendances	5380	15
Details of work done :		
Fillings—		
Permanent teeth ...	3521	24
Temporary teeth ...	33	—
Extractions—		
Permanent teeth ...	691	2
Temporary teeth ...	6229	—
General anaesthetics—		
Operation—		
Permanent teeth ...	981	2
Temporary teeth ...	—	—
Dentists' Sessions :		
Inspection	68	—
Treatment	1093	—
Other operations :		
Permanent teeth ...	524	—
Temporary teeth ...	14	—

Ultra-Violet Light Clinic.

Number of children treated	...	496
Number of treatments given	...	6574
Total number of Clinic Sessions	...	230

Infectious Diseases.

The year was remarkably free from any severe outbreak of infectious disease.

	1946	1945
Scarlet fever	87	215
Measles	283	703
Whooping cough	85	40
Diphtheria	10	28
Chicken pox	18	138
Mumps	2	140
Pneumonia	4	11
Jaundice	—	6
German measles	—	121
Dysentery	—	6

It was not necessary to issue any certificates to the effect that an average attendance of 60% and below had occurred due to the prevalence of infectious disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Approximately 88% of the school children in the Borough have been immunised against diphtheria. During the year 2,052 children received an injection of A.P.T. and 1,855 received a second injection; 658 received a reinforcing dose of A.P.T.

Handicapped Children.

The following table shows the distribution of these cases as on December 31st, 1946 :

Classification.	Attending Ordinary School.	Attending Special School.	Attending no School.
Blind	—	7	—
Partially-sighted	—	5	—
Deaf	—	17	—
Partially deaf	3	—	—
Delicate	28	107	—
Diabetic	—	1	—
Educationally sub-normal	—	78	—
Epileptic	—	3	1
Maladjusted	—	—	—
Physically handicapped	—	20	5
Suffering from speech defect	21	2	—
Multiple defects	—	6	1

During the year nine cases were reported to the Local Authority for the Mental Deficiency Acts under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944, and five cases under Section 57 (5).

Mental Deficiency.

51 children were referred to the School Medical Officer for assessment of mental capacity. The resulting recommendations were as follows :

(a) To continue in an ordinary school	4
(b) Education in an ordinary school with special educational treatment	7
(c) Education in a Special Day School for Educationally Sub-normal Children	20
(d) Education in a Special Boarding School for Educationally Sub-normal Children	4
(e) Report to the Local Authority under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944	9

In addition, five children were reported to the Local Authority under Section 57 (5).

Open Air School, Moor Park.

Educationally Sub-normal Section :

Number on the register on 1st January, 1946	70
Number on the register on 31st December, 1946	73
Number admitted during the year	19
Number left during the year	16

Physically Defective Section :

Number on register on 1st January, 1946	116
Admitted during the year	53
Discharged	53
On register on 31st December, 1946	116

Child Guidance Clinic.

It is regretted that it was not found possible to restart the Child Guidance Clinic during the year.

Local Education Authority Youth Centres.

The Authority's three Youth Centres, at Trinity County Secondary School, Deepdale Primary School and Roebuck Street Primary School, have been open on three evenings each week throughout the winter months, and on one evening each week during the summer. They cater for some 600 youths and girls between 14 and 20 years of age, and provide recreational, educational, physical and social training. In addition, specialist activity of a more advanced stage is provided at the Young Citizens' Club, Youth Orchestra, Band and Choir.

During the summer, encouragement is given to Club members to undertake outdoor activities, such as cricket, netball, athletics, hiking, cycling, rambling and camping. Coaching in swimming is provided at Saul Street Baths during both winter and summer.

A group of Leader Instructors was again available to give specialist instruction to voluntary organisations. 19 clubs took advantage of this scheme. The number of Peripatetic Leaders or Pianists visiting these clubs was 35. The activities undertaken included physical recreation, music appreciation, boxing, handicrafts, ballroom dancing, toy making, drama, discussion groups, folk dancing, beauty culture, youth orchestra, youth choir and youth band.

