

[Report 1959] / Medical Officer of Health, Preston (Union) R.D.C.

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Preston (Lancashire, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1959

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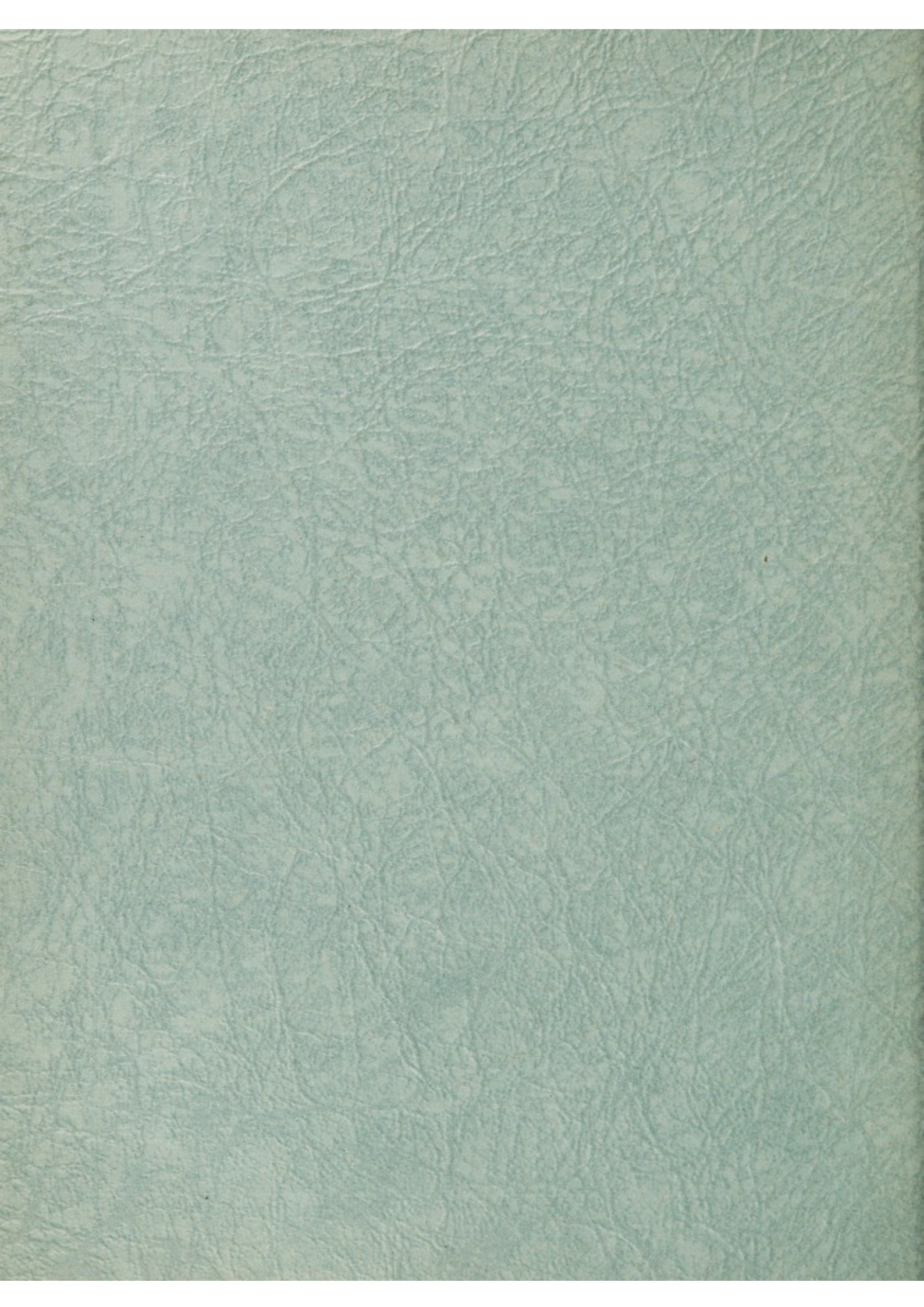


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1959



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1959-60

Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1959

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Public Health Department,
Guildhall Street,
Preston.

**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959**

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1959, together with the vital statistics relative to that period.

Vital statistics related to England and Wales, no longer issued by the Registrar-General, have been supplied again by the County Medical Officer of Health, enabling a comparison with national figures to be made.

The mid-year population of the Rural District was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 40,770, or 480 more than in 1958, of which increase 35 was attributable to the excess of births over deaths.

The number of live births recorded during 1959 at 625 was 42 more than in the previous year, and, in fact, this total has only been exceeded once since 1945. The crude birth-rate rose from 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population in 1958 to 15.3 per 1,000, and this rate, when adjusted to take into account the age structure of the population and render it comparable with the crude rate of 16.5 for the whole country, is greater than the latter by 1.9 per 1,000. Stillbirths numbered nine, one more than in 1958, and the rate per 1,000 total births rose from 13.5 in the previous year to 14.2, but it was 6.5 per 1,000 below the rate for England and Wales. Illegitimate live births at 16 were two more than the previous year's total and three above the average annual number of the last decade.

Mortality from all causes was less by 34 compared with the previous year, and the crude death-rate fell from 15.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population to 14.5 per 1,000, regardless of the 198 deaths which occurred in the Ribchester and Whittingham Hospitals. This rate, when adjusted for differences in population constitution in order to compare it with the rate for England and Wales, becomes 11.3 or 0.3 less than the national rate. Though heart disease continues as the major cause of death, there was a welcome decline in this mortality from 255 deaths in 1958 to 212 in the year under review. Unfortunately, they still account for over 35 per cent. of the total deaths and a rate of 5.19 per 1,000 population. A disturbing feature was the substantial rise in cancer mortality from 65 in 1958 to 86, advancing it to the second principal cause of death with a percentage figure over total deaths of 14.5. For a small area, increases or decreases in constituent causes are of little significance, but it is important to record that the increase in the number of deaths from cancer was related entirely to the male population. The greater proportion of mortality in the recent past has always been confined to heart disease, cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system, and the percentage figures of total deaths related to other principal causes have always been well below the top three, but for the first time the mortality group of Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza challenges this formidable trinity, and the body of the report discloses that there has been a remarkable rise in deaths from these causes during the past ten years. The year 1959 will historically record the removal of Tuberculosis from the principal list.

The year 1958 saw a freak rise in infant mortality and the expected decrease in the year under review duly took place, when the number of deaths fell by 43 per cent. from 21 to 12 and the mortality rate per 1,000 live births from 36 to 19.2. The remarkable feature was that nine of the infant deaths occurred under one week of age, and it is this early neo-natal mortality which is now the core of the problem. No one died from maternal causes, and only two persons died from all forms of Tuberculosis.

On the whole, the prevalence of infectious diseases was more marked than in the previous year, with Measles in epidemic form; a resurgence of Whooping Cough, with 18 cases recorded as against a complete absence in 1958; a very high incidence of dysentery, chiefly due to an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in the parish of Penwortham, and a slight increase in the number of cases of Food Poisoning. A redeeming feature was the complete absence of Acute Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria. Finally, there was a slight increase in the number of notified cases of respiratory Tuberculosis.

The formulation and implementation by the Council of schemes of sewerage resulted in an increased volume of work during 1959, and, at the same time, the staff of the Department was depleted by reason of a motor-car accident which, unfortunately, indisposed the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. T. Baxter, for a period of six months. Happily, he has now fully recovered. Despite this setback, all the duties associated with environmental hygiene, to a varying degree, received attention.

The steady process of improvement to all types of food premises by way of structural alterations, refurnishing and re-equipping, etc., continued during the period under review as more and more premises were brought into line with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. A continued improvement in the personal approach to the question of hygienic food handling is also apparent.

The whole of the Rural District is now a "specified area" under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, where only milk of a special designation may be sold by retail for human consumption. On the question of raw milk, a problem exists in connection with the infection of the milk by the organism "Brucella Abortus," which is responsible for contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man. Though the known incidence of undulant fever is low, this does not excuse an attitude of complacency. Raw Tuberculin Tested milk only gives a reasonable assurance that the milk is not infected with the organisms of tuberculosis, and emphasis must now be placed on the complete pasteurisation or adequate heat treatment of all milk supplies to ensure that all pathogenic organisms are eliminated before the milk is retailed for human consumption.

The progressive outlook of the Council in rapidly improving the sewerage circumstances of the district is highly commendable, and there is no doubt that, on completion of the various schemes, the environmental conditions of the rural population will be considerably improved. However, as one problem is dealt with so another arises, and I refer to the disruption caused to the essential service of household refuse collection by the gross shortage of manual labour which has persisted ever since the second world war. Furthermore, the men that are available at the local office of the Ministry of Labour are, generally speaking, physically unsuitable for the type of work involved. Though the prospect of a complete breakdown is not imminent, unless there is an early improvement in the recruitment position, with a better type of employee coming forward, then a serious public health problem will arise from the inevitable extended interval of collection.

It is appropriate that I should place on record in this Report the retirement in mid-year of Mr. H. Collier, the former Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector, and express my appreciation of the support which he always extended to me. He possesses a profound knowledge of the various aspects of environmental public health, and it was a distinct pleasure to be associated with him. It was particularly gratifying to me to learn that Her Majesty the Queen had bestowed upon him the insignia of the M.B.E.

I am also grateful for the valuable collaboration which I have received from Mr. Collier's successor in office, Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite, and, as usual, from Mr. Young. At the same time, I wish to acknowledge the willing assistance of the staff of the Department.

In conclusion, I have a deep sense of gratitude towards the Members of the Council for their continued encouragement and support, and, in particular, towards the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. In presenting this Report, I feel that the Council can regard with the utmost satisfaction the part their policies have played in attaining the high standard of health and happiness which prevails in the rural district community.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

for the year 1959

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on local meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1959.

The year 1959 will be remembered as the year of bright and warm weather.

Several claims have been made for this year, as for instance being the driest year on record. While this may be so in some parts of the country, it is certainly not true for Preston.

The total rainfall for 1959 was 32.81 inches, that is, 4.88 inches below the average. The driest year recorded in Preston was the year 1887, when the total rainfall was 24.63 inches.

Perhaps one of the most interesting features of the year has been the distribution of rain in different seasons. Normally in Preston we find that summer is the wettest season with 29.8% of the total rainfall of the year, and autumn is almost as wet with 29.6%. Winter contributes 21.5% to the total and spring is the driest season with 19.1%. In 1959, however, we had an autumn much wetter than normal, as 48.9% of the total rain for the year fell in this season. Summer, on the other hand, was drier than usual with only 15.5%. Spring, with 20.7%, was almost normal, but not the driest season. The driest season in 1959 happened to be the winter, with only 14.9% of the total rainfall of the year.

The wettest month of the year was December, with a total rainfall of 6.73 inches, while the driest month was September, when only 0.46 inches of rain was recorded.

January, February, March, May, August and September were all months when rainfall was less than average, while the other six months, namely, April, June, July, October, November and December were all wetter than normal.

The wettest day of the year was November 25th, when it rained for 16½ hours and the total rain for the day was 1.51 inches. Another day with rainfall greater than one inch was October 26th (1.46 inches).

The number of rain days for the year was 176, as compared with Preston's average of 198 a year.

As far as the ground is concerned, during 1959 only on 18 days was the ground flooded, as compared with 73 days in 1958 and 64 in 1957.

During the year long spells of dry weather were recorded. A partial drought occurred from January 23rd to February 20th; a dry spell from May 13th to May 30th, and another from August 15th to September 20th. We also had two absolute droughts, the first from August 22nd to September 20th (30 consecutive days without measurable rainfall), and the second from September 26th to October 11th.

The relative humidity for the year was lower than normal, the average for the year being 81.4% as compared with the normal 82.6%.

When we consider the temperature we find that the average temperature of the year as a whole was 1.9°F. higher than normal. With the exception of January, when the temperature was 4.4°F. lower than average, all the other months of the year were warmer than average.

The warmest month was October, with a temperature 6.3°F. higher than the average for this month. The highest temperature of the year was recorded on August 20th, when the maximum was 83.5°F., and the coldest day was January 11th, when the minimum temperature was 13.3°F.

The maximum temperature was below freezing only on one day throughout the whole year, on January 13th.

Air frost was recorded on 43 days as compared with 64 in 1958, and ground frost was recorded on 64 days as compared with 93 in 1958.

Barometric pressure was often high during the year, and the average for the whole year reflects this trend.

Winds were stronger than usual throughout the year, and ten gales were recorded at our Meteorological Station.

Snow fell on only nine days as compared with 30 days in 1958, but for 11 days snow covered the ground as compared with nine days in the previous year.

Hail was recorded on 11 days and thunder was heard on 16 occasions.

Fog at 09.00 G.M.T. was recorded on 25 days, most of them in the first three months of the year. In the early part of the year fog was widespread during the day too, and on four occasions very dense fog was experienced.

Dry air (relative humidity less than 60%) was recorded on 11 days, and excellent visibility, too, was recorded on 11 occasions.

Glaze was observed once in January, and the Moor Park Pond was frozen on 25 days in the early part of the year with a maximum depth of four inches of ice.

The optical phenomena observed during 1959 consisted of 46 solar and three lunar halos; 10 solar and 13 lunar coronae and 19 rainbows.

Solar and lunar parhelia were observed in April, and a particularly striking solar parhelia was seen in the evening of May 29th, when the parhelic circle and the arc of contact were very well developed.

Some of the meteorological observations for 1959 are summarised in the tables which follow :

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

Month	Highest Maximum		Lowest Minimum		Lowest Maximum		Highest Minimum	
	Temp. °F.	Date	Temp. °F.	Date	Temp. °F.	Date	Temp. °F.	Date
January	51	19	13	11	31	13	43	20
February	61	27	27	11	35	6	46	28
March	59	2	29	13	40	18	48	3
April	66	14	31	19 & 30	48	7	52	13
May	75	10	32	5	53	4	57	12
June	77	24	40	19	58	10	59	23
July	81	25	44	31	60	13	62	26
August	83	20	38	29	63	31	64	25
September	80	10	36	28	58	18	56	21
October	76	3	29	29	51	27	56	5
November	60	2	27	12	44	12	52	21
December	53	19	30	2 & 5	42	21	44	31
Year	83.5	Aug. 20	13.3	Jan. 11	30.5	Jan. 13	64.0	Aug. 25

RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month	Total Rainfall inches	Difference from average inches	No. of Days		Wettest Days		Vapour Pressure in mbs.	Relative Humidity % satur.
			Rain Days	Wet Days	Fall Inch	Date		
January	2.61	-0.64	17	11	0.68	21	5.8	89.3
February	0.47	-2.00	7	3	0.18	14	7.6	88.3
March	1.79	-0.57	18	10	0.40	29	8.3	83.8
April	2.15	+0.08	16	11	0.60	16	9.2	78.1
May	1.35	-1.15	10	6	0.49	11	11.1	70.2
June	3.30	+0.63	17	13	0.55	7	13.1	76.9
July	3.98	+0.53	16	11	0.87	26	14.6	77.5
August	0.64	-3.58	7	4	0.29	2	15.1	77.2
September	0.46	-3.14	3	3	0.35	21	12.6	75.1
October	4.09	+0.21	14	9	1.46	26	12.1	82.3
November	5.24	+1.67	24	16	1.51	25	8.9	88.9
December	6.73	+3.08	27	22	0.91	26	8.1	88.8
Year	32.81	-4.88	176	119	1.51	25 Nov.	10.5	81.4

VISIBILITY AT 09.00 G.M.T.

Number of Days

Month	Dense Fog	Thick Fog	Fog	Mod. Fog	Mist or Haze	Poor Visi-bility	Mod. Visi-bility	Good Visi-bility	Very Good Vis.	Excel. Visi-bility
January	3	1	1	4	8	1	5	3	5	0
February	1	1	0	4	3	11	7	1	0	0
March	0	0	0	1	1	14	13	1	1	0
April	0	0	0	0	2	11	9	1	6	1
May	0	0	0	0	0	8	11	1	10	1
June	0	0	0	0	1	2	13	7	7	0
July	0	0	0	0	2	4	13	3	9	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	4	9	0
September	0	0	0	0	2	12	9	0	7	0
October	0	0	0	1	3	17	5	1	4	0
November	0	0	0	3	7	9	9	0	2	0
December	0	0	0	5	7	5	14	0	0	0
Year	4	2	1	18	36	97	123	22	60	2

WEATHER

Number of Days

Month	Snow or Sleet	Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T.	Hail	Thunder heard	Fog at 0900 G.M.T.	Gale Wind-force 8 or above	Ground Frost	Air Frost
January	9	11	3	1	9	1	24	23
February	0	0	0	0	6	0	8	10
March	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	2
April	1	0	2	2	0	1	9	2
May	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	1
June	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
October	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
November	1	0	3	1	3	1	7	2
December	0	0	2	0	5	5	6	2
Year	11	11	11	16	25	10	64	43

Physical Features of the Area

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contain a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and, together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the most steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the "drift" in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grimsargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parish. It is affected by strong faults, the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries," are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics

STATISTIC AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

- (1) Area in acres—49,758.
- (2) Population (Census 1951)—37,655.
- (3) Registrar-General estimate of home population, 1959—40,770.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1951)—10,334.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1959, according to Rate Books—12,528.
- (6) Rateable value, 1st April, 1959—£460,414.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£1,702 (1st April, 1959, estimated).

The Rural District, which is mainly agricultural, consists chiefly of pleasant, undulating country, dotted here and there with patches of woodland, and watered by innumerable brooks.

Dairy farming, poultry farming, market gardening, cotton manufacture, paper manufacture and engineering comprise the main industries. The employment available is of a healthy character, and there was little evidence of unemployment among the inhabitants of the district in 1959.

There are facilities for religious worship, according to denomination, throughout the district, and several parishes have Village Halls and/or Women's Institutes. In addition, there are clubs, based upon religious, political or recreational groups, and in these places, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.

Golf courses are situated at Penwortham and Lea. There are cricket grounds at New Longton, Penwortham and Whittingham. Facilities for tennis, football and bowls are available, and Playing Fields have been provided by the Rural District Council in practically all parishes.

There are 36 schools in the area, providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the Lancashire County Council provides branches of the County Library mostly in schools and village halls throughout the district.

POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at 30th June, 1959, was 40,770, an increase of 480 compared with the estimate of 40,290 for the previous year.

Estimates of home population include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen, whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the Armed Forces stationed outside England and Wales, and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions, etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District was 35, the first time such an increase has occurred since all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted (i.e., 1st January, 1954). Ignoring these deaths, the natural increase in the population was 233. The number of persons per acre was 0.81, and the number of acres per person 1.22.

VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD	DEATHS (all causes)			LIVE BIRTHS		STILL-BIRTHS		LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS TOTAL	INFANT MORTALITY				NEO-NATAL	ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	MATERNAL MORTALITY				
	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered		TOTAL			Rate per 1000 illegitimate live births				Rate per 1000 live births	per cent of total live births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births
									Rate per 1000 Live Births	Rate per 1000 Legitimate Live Births	Rate per 1000 live births								
Year ... 1959...	590	*14.5	625	*15.3	9	14.2	634	12	19.2	18.0	62	16	2.4	—	—				
Year ... 1958...	624	15.5	583	14.5	8	13.5	591	21	36	37	—	27.4	2.4	—	—				
1957 ...	638	15.9	583	14.5	13	22	596	11	19	18	50	15	3.4	2	3.36				
1956 ...	573	14.6	558	14.2	14	24	572	11	20	18	100	20	1.8	—	—				
1955 ...	596	15.2	560	14.3	16	28	576	12	21	20	62	16	2.9	—	—				
1954 ...	574	14.8	480	12.4	5	10	485	12	25	23	200	15	1.0	—	—				
Average 5 years: 1954 — 1958	—	15.2	—	14.0	—	19.5	—	—	24	23	82	18.7	—	—	0.67				

* Adjusted (live birth-rate; comparability factor, 1.20) = 18.4 per 1,000
(death-rate; comparability factor, 0.78) = 11.3 per 1,000

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Live Births. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural Area during the year 1959 number 625 (males 319, females 306); 42 more than in the year 1958.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 15.3 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 14.5. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 18.4. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1959 was 16.5.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1959 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for the previous decade are also given :

Year	Males	Females	Total
1949	281	299	580
1950	275	292	567
1951	260	238	498
1952	239	246	485
1953	270	271	541
1954	257	223	480
1955	282	278	560
1956	280	278	558
1957	302	281	583
1958	282	301	583
1959	319	306	625

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

The figure for 1959 is 35, the first natural increase in the population of the Rural District since all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted (i.e., 1st January, 1954). If such deaths are omitted then the natural increase in the population for the period of the last decade is as follows :

Year 1950	106	Year 1955	128
„ 1951	25	„ 1956	121
„ 1952	84	„ 1957	126
„ 1953	170	„ 1958	155
„ 1954	83	„ 1959	233

Illegitimate Live Births. The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and registered during 1959 compared with that of every other year of the last decade is shown overleaf :

Year 1950	8	Year 1955	16
„ 1951	16	„ 1956	10
„ 1952	13	„ 1957	20
„ 1953	12	„ 1958	14
„ 1954	5	„ 1959	16

The number of illegitimate live births at 16 was three above the average for the past ten years. The percentage figure of total live births at 2.5 is below the average yearly figure for the Administrative County since 1945.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1959 was nine (5 males, 4 females), or one more than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 14.2 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0.22, compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.35.

DEATHS. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1959 numbered 590 (males 318, females 272). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the district, and of persons who died in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution irrespective of their home address.

The death-rate for the Rural District, calculated on a home population of 40,770, is 14.5 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 15.5. The average death-rate for the five years 1954–1958 was 15.2.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death-rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 11.3 per 1,000, as against last year's adjusted rate of 12.2.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1959 was 11.6 per 1,000 home population.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH. Between 60 and 70 per cent. of all deaths each year are classified to causes falling within three main groups—heart disease, cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system. The relative importance of these and of the other principal causes of death in 1959 is shown in the following table :

Cause of Death	No. of deaths	Percentage of total deaths
Heart disease (all forms)	212	35.9
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia)	86	14.5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	82	13.9
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza	75	12.7
Violence, including all Accidents, Suicide and Homicide)	28	4.7
Other circulatory disease	22	3.7

The above order undergoes little change from year to year, but it is pleasing to record that for the first time Tuberculosis is not a principal cause of death. A steep rise in the mortality from cancer makes it the second principal cause of death, but the dominant position of heart diseases at the head of the table remains unchallengeable.

In the following paragraphs further details are given of the chief causes of death.

HEART DISEASES. Particulars of deaths from the various heart diseases are sub-divided into three groups—"coronary disease, angina," "hypertension with heart disease," and "other heart disease," and the deaths classified to these causes and assigned to the Rural District in 1959 and the preceding year, together with the equivalent mortality rates, are set out below :

Classification	No. of deaths		Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population	
	1958	1959	1958	1959
Coronary disease, angina	89	84	2.20	2.06
Hypertension with heart disease	34	23	0.84	0.56
Other heart disease	132	105	3.27	2.57
Heart disease—all forms	255	212	6.32	5.19

The 212 fatalities from heart diseases represent a decrease of 43 compared with the previous year, the resultant rate of 5.19 being 1.13 per 1,000 of population below that for 1958.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HAEMATOPOIETIC TISSUES.

This group of causes is included in the Registrar-General's Short List under the headings used in the table below, which gives particulars of deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1959 and the previous year by sex :

Classification	1958			1959		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	2	9	11	10	7	17
Lung, Bronchus	10	3	13	12	1	13
Breast	—	5	5	—	11	11
Uterus	—	6	6	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	13	30	28	16	44
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—all forms	29	36	65	50	36	86

The numbers of deaths from cancer of the stomach, breast and from other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms rose during 1959 to such an extent that there was a substantial increase in total deaths from all forms of malignant neoplasm as compared with the previous year, and this increase was related entirely to the male population. Nevertheless, the total figure of cancer mortality was substantially below that for 1957, when 108 deaths were ascribed to this group of causes. The mortality rate produced by the 86 deaths in 1959 at 2.11 per 1,000 estimated home population represented an increase of 0.50 per 1,000 over the previous year.

VASCULAR LESIONS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

This condition, like heart disease and cancer, is one which principally affects older people. The 82 deaths ascribed to this condition in 1959 were two fewer than the number for the previous year, and were equivalent to a rate of 2.01 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with that of 2.08 per 1,000 for 1958 and 2.61 for 1957. They amounted to 13.9 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

Seventy-five deaths were assigned to this group : Pneumonia 33, Bronchitis 22, Influenza 20. The total deaths of this group rose by 20 compared with the previous year. The following figures for the last decade illustrate quite clearly that mortality from these causes is gradually increasing as far as the Rural District is concerned :

Year 1950	32	Year 1955	39
„ 1951	49	„ 1956	32
„ 1952	33	„ 1957	44
„ 1953	32	„ 1958	55
„ 1954	38	„ 1959	75

VIOLENCE

Deaths from violence are divided into four groups in the Registrar-General's Short List of 36 Causes of Death—motor vehicle accidents, all other accidents, suicide, and homicide and operations of war. The number of deaths assigned to these causes during 1959 and taking them in the same order were 9, 17, 2 and nil. The deaths attributable to motor vehicle accidents rose by 50 per cent., all other accidents by one, but there was an equivalent numerical reduction in the number of suicides. Even though the total number of deaths from violence was the same, the percentage of total deaths rose from 4.5 to 4.7 compared with 1958.

OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE

Deaths in 1959 falling within this classification, which covers all diseases of the circulatory system except the heart diseases mentioned earlier, numbered 22, an increase of three compared with the total for the previous year. The total of 22 amounted to 3.7 per cent. of the deaths from all causes, and was equivalent to a rate of 0.54 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with a rate of 0.47 per 1,000 for 1958.

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1959, distinguishing males and females, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of 36 Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950), subject to the amendment that Pneumonia (490-493) now includes also Pneumonia of the newborn (763).

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	11
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	16
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—
16. Diabetes	2	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	36	46
18. Coronary disease, angina	61	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	13	10
20. Other heart disease	44	61
21. Other circulatory disease	11	11
22. Influenza	10	10
23. Pneumonia	20	13
24. Bronchitis	19	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	4
34. All other accidents	6	11
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	318	272

INFANT MORTALITY

The death of infants under the age of one year numbered 12, males 7, females 5, a reduction of 43 per cent. compared with the mortality of the previous year.

Ten of the infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks after birth.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 19.2, as compared with a rate of 36 in 1958 and 19 in 1957.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1959 was 22.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1959 of infants at stated age periods :

Causes of Death.	DAYS						MONTHS						Total Deaths under one year									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12
Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Birth Injuries	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Diseases peculiar to early Infancy	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
All other causes
Totals	...	5	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	12

Of the total deaths at all ages, infant deaths in 1959 formed 2.03 per cent.

NEO-NATAL, EARLY NEO-NATAL AND PERINATAL MORTALITY. The Registrar-General, in addition to supplying particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under four weeks of age), has also supplied information as to the deaths of infants under one week of age (early neo-natal mortality), and has also included the perinatal mortality rate, i.e., the number of stillbirths and early neo-natal deaths over the total live and stillbirths.

Ten infant deaths occurred under the age of four weeks, but nine of these were early neo-natal deaths, representing 75% of all infant deaths. The early neo-natal mortality rate was 14.4 per 1,000 live births compared with the infant mortality rate of 19.2 per 1,000 live births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths during 1959. Only seven deaths have been recorded in the Rural District since 1945

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. Very little trouble was experienced in getting patients into hospital, and transport arrangements were generally good and expeditious. Disinfection of houses, books, clothes, etc., was always carried out in those cases where it was considered essential.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox occurred during 1959, the thirtieth successive year for which the Rural District has been entirely free from the disease.

SCARLET FEVER

There was a slight decrease in the number of notified cases compared with the previous year, 64 as against 68. The general mildness of the disease continued and, with the usual nursing precautions, complications were avoided. Nearly all the cases occurred in the first half of 1959, and distribution principally involved the parishes of Farington and Penwortham. All the cases were confined to children and the attack rate was 1.57 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with 1.68 per 1,000 for 1958. Twenty cases were treated in hospital. Particulars of deaths registered as due to scarlet fever have not been provided by the Registrar-General since 1950, but an examination of the death returns, including inward transfers received by the department during the year, revealed no such cause of death.

DIPHTHERIA

For the ninth consecutive year this disease has been absent from the Rural District, and there is no reason why this should not be a feature of future reports so long as parents see that their children are immunised.

WHOOPIING COUGH

Eighteen cases were notified during the year under review, whereas in 1958 not one single case was recorded. This emphasises the need for an intensification of effort with regard to artificial immunisation to a degree comparable with the campaign conducted against diphtheria. No case required hospital treatment and there was no death recorded from this disease.

MEASLES

Following an extremely low incidence during 1958, a spate of cases occurred during the first half of the year under review, and the total incidence amounted to 436 cases. Distribution involved all parishes, but Farington and Penwortham were principally affected. With the exception of six, all the cases were confined to children. No one died from the disease and no one required hospital treatment.

DYSENTERY

A unique feature of the incidence of this disease during 1959 was that 131 cases out of a total of 139 occurred outside the Whittingham Hospital. This was due to an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery which occurred in the parish of Penwortham during the months of July and August. Early in July, enquiries were made at two schools with regard to the large number of children who were absent owing to illness. It was found that many of them, and several who had not been absent, had suffered from abdominal pains and diarrhoea. All the children so affected were requested to submit faeces specimens for examination, and the causative agent was found to be "Shigella Sonnei." As a precautionary measure, these children were excluded from school, and it was arranged for further specimens to be submitted after treatment by the medical practitioners concerned. Head teachers were advised as to the precautions to be taken in order to restrict the outbreak, and all the homes of the children affected were visited and advice tendered to the parents. Seventeen adults were also found to be affected, but no food handlers were involved. The origin of the outbreak could not be ascertained. Appreciation is expressed of the assistance rendered by the staff of the Cop Lane Clinic during the initial phase of the outbreak.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

It is pleasing to report that not one single case was recorded in the Rural District during 1959.

PARATYPHOID FEVER

One case was reported by a medical officer of the Whittingham Hospital concerning a female aged 72 years, and the causative agent was stated as "Salmonella Paratyphi 'B'."

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS

One case was reported on a hospital discharge form concerning a boy aged five years, who made a complete recovery.

OUTBREAK OF "WINTER VOMITING DISEASE"

Dr. L. Robertson, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Preston, was asked to investigate an outbreak of "Winter Vomiting Disease" which occurred at the Hutton Grammar School. He reported that he visited the school on Friday, November 20th, and took histories from a number of boys in the sanatorium. The first cases occurred on Monday, the 16th, and then there was a gap of a week before the second case, and then other boys began to go sick. By the 24th November, 28/59 boarders had been affected. The disease was characterised by vomiting, abdominal pains and frontal headache, and the symptoms lasted on the average 24 to 48 hours. At least four of the boys had had a preceding sore throat and four of them complained of one or two loose stools. The one acute case, which was in the sanatorium, had a temperature of 103°F., pulse 132. Throat swabs for bacteriological and virological culture were taken from four boys, all of whom had infected fauces. Four specimens of faeces were taken for similar tests. The disease had the characteristics of a Virus infection, and is similar to the disease described as "Winter Vomiting Disease."

NOTIFICATIONS. The table below shows the number of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1959 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital :

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)
for the year ended 31st December, 1959, analysed by age**

Notifiable diseases	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.										
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Age unknown	
Scarlet Fever	64		1	6	4	6	40	7		—	—	
Whooping Cough	18	—	6	1	3	1	3	3	—	1	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	—											
Non-paralytic	—											
Measles (excluding rubella)	436	3	37	58	68	41	216	7	—	4	2	
Diphtheria	—											
Dysentery	139	1	5	8	6	6	48	10	5	30	20	
Meningococcal Infection	1			1								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1										
		0-	5	15	45	65 and over	Age unknown					
Acute Pneumonia (prim & infl'zal)	6	—	1	1	1	3	—					*24
Smallpox	—											
Acute Encephalitis Infective	1		1									
Post-infectious	—											
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—											
Paratyphoid Fevers	1	—							1			
Erysipelas	1	—					1					
Food Poisoning	12	3	1		5		3					
Tuberculosis												
Respiratory	14	1			7		4		2			2
Meninges & C.N.S.	1	—	1									
Other	—	—										
Puerperal Pyrexia	2				1						1	

* The death returns disclosed cases of pneumonia of which this Authority had no record before death.

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1959, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given :

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Measles		Whoop'g Cough	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Barton ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Broughton ...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Farington ...	17	7	...	...	60	...	5	...
Goosnargh ...	1	1	...	...	14	...	...	...
Grimsgarth ...	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...
Haighton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton ...	2	1	...	...	10	...	...	...
Lea ...	4	...	...	...	18	...	...	...
Little Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...
Longton ...	1	...	...	...	26	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Penwortham ...	36	9	118	...	238	...	...	...
Ribchester ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	...
Samlesbury ...	2	...	11	...	7	...	4	...
Whittingham ...	1	1	8	8	9	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	1	...	...	...	28	...	4	...
1959 TOTAL ...	66	20	138	8	436	...	18	...
1958 TOTAL ...	68	40	110	109	48	...	...	...
1957 TOTAL ...	24	11	36	27	630	...	45	...
1956 TOTAL ...	70	36	111	27	368	...	79	1
1955 TOTAL ...	37	22	32	20	315	4	10	...

TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by Chest Physicians and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston.

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1959, together with deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous five years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods. Years	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 ...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
65 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	12	7	1	...	2	...	...	...
	19		1		2		...	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1959	12	7	1	—	2	—	—	—
1958	14	5	1	3	7	4	—	1
1957	20	15	1	5	7	—	1	—
1956	17	12	2	1	6	1	1	—
1955	20	16	4	5	6	1	1	—
1954	16	11	2	2	5	2	—	1

The 20 new cases which were notified to the Department during the year could be classified as occurring amongst (1) permanent residents 11, (2) residents of Whittingham Hospital 5, (3) people transferred into the area 4.

Removals from the register numbered 8 ; 2 patients were transferred to other administrative areas, and 6 patients died.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT. The following report relates to a survey of Ribchester carried out by the Mass Radiography Unit of the Manchester Regional Hospitals Board during 1959 :

<i>Type of Examinee</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Industry	52	108	160
General Public	77	123	200
Total X-rayed	129	231	360
<i>Abnormalities discovered</i>			
Non-malignant neoplasm—Thyroid	1	1	2
Bronchiectasis	1	—	1
Cardio-vascular lesions acquired	—	3	3

Of the above, 138 people had previously been X-rayed by Mass Radiography, which means that we "gathered in" a further 200 people, which is very gratifying.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

(Section 47)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951.

Number of applications made during the year Nil
Number of Orders made Nil

SCHOOLS

The total number of schools in the Rural Area is 36.

Periodical inspections were made during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1959, except where otherwise stated :

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Factories Act, 1959.

Highways Act, 1959.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1959.

Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959.

Mental Health Act, 1959.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

The Slaughterhouse Licences (Forms and Records) Regulations, 1959.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1959.

The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) (Revocation) Regulations, 1959.

The Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1959.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Since the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force, 137 informal notices have been served to carry out works of improvement, etc., at food premises, and in the majority of cases the occupiers have complied. It would appear, however, that in a number of cases statutory action may become necessary. It has always been the policy to educate rather than to coerce, and if formal action is unavoidable, your officials will regard it with a sense of personal failure. Co-operation of the food trader and consumer is a pre-requisite to clean food on the table.

The following summary gives a general indication of the type of work required by the informal notices and the number of premises involved :

Nature of work	No. of premises
(1) Installation of wash basin with hot and cold water supplies and toilet requisites	92
(2) Installation of sink with hot and cold water supplies and washing utensil requisites	30
(3) Provision of hot water supply to sink or wash basin	13
(4) Repairs and improvements to premises and fixtures	68
(5) Cleansing of premises	34
(6) Provision of adequate ventilation	24
(7) Provision of first-aid equipment	15
(8) Provision of suitable food store	8
(9) Provision of storage accommodation for utensils	4

In addition, 36 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection, and other functions during the year included the sampling of milk and the inspection of dairies.

The following list gives the number of food premises, by type of business, in the district at the end of the year under review :

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	95
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	17
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	19
Bakers and/or confectioners	32
Fried fish shops	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	39
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	96
Others	10
Total	324

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council's (General Powers) Act, 1951, are as follows :

Type of business	Act	No.
Ice cream	Section 16, F. and D., 1955	126
Preserved food. etc.	ditto.	11
Hawkers' premises	Section 14, L.C.C. Act, 1951	16

One hundred and twenty-four of the ice cream premises are used for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

CASES OF FOOD POISONING. The notified incidence of food poisoning was greater than in the previous year, with 12 cases recorded as against 8. Six were single cases and six comprised a family outbreak. In addition, 17 persons residing outside the Rural District suffered from food poisoning resulting from the consumption of food in a factory canteen situated in the parish of Farington.

1—*Family Outbreak.*

Notifications were received on Friday, 19th June, that five members of a family of eight residing in the parish of Hutton had suffered from food poisoning. The household was immediately visited and the following brief case history was ascertained.

Mother taken ill on Sunday, 14th June, but the only symptom was vomiting, which was of short duration, and she soon recovered. Two daughters taken ill on the 16th and a third daughter on the 17th with abdominal pains and vomiting. Also on the 17th the father collapsed at work and had to be brought home. His symptoms were the most severe, abdominal pains, vomiting, diarrhoea, aching limbs and a headache.

The mother revealed that she had purchased some boiled ham from a shop situated in the County Borough of Preston on the 13th June which had been consumed by six members of the family. As this was the probable agent of transmission, the Preston C.B. were informed and it was learnt that a case had occurred in their district, and the patient had also bought boiled ham from the same shop. As a result, samples of the boiled ham and faeces specimens from all members of the shop staff were submitted by the Preston C.B. for examination, but no positive results were obtained.

Faeces specimens taken from members of this family all gave negative results with the exception of two, and one of these was related to a member of the family who had not been notified by the medical practitioner as having suffered from food poisoning. The causative agent was "Salmonella *Edikan*."

The father's employment included the handling of fruit and vegetables, and it was arranged that he should not handle any food until such time as all members of the family were free from the infection.

2—*Factory Canteen Outbreak.*

Notification was received on Wednesday, 8th April, by phone from a medical practitioner residing at Leyland that he had a number of patients suffering from suspected food poisoning which he attributed to a meal consumed at a factory canteen situated in the parish of Farington, on Tuesday, 7th April.

The factory was visited the same day as this notification was received, and several officials were interviewed, including the personnel officer, the canteen supervisor and the factory nurse. It was revealed that some 200 employees consumed the meal but only 17 suffered from abdominal pain, diarrhoea and sickness, with an ingestion to onset period of between 9 to 15 hours. The meal consisted of vegetable soup, steak and kidney pie, boiled potatoes, carrots and turnips, and sponge pudding with custard, and it was disclosed that the steak and kidney pie had been cooked the previous afternoon and allowed to cool slowly overnight to canteen kitchen temperature. The meat was then made into six large pies with pastry added, and then re-heated for lunch on the 7th April. The steak and kidney pie had been eaten by all the 17 persons who subsequently developed food poisoning symptoms, and this was the only common food factor. The majority of the infected persons were those served first, indicating that not all the pies were affected.

It was not possible to obtain a sample of the meat for examination, as the waste food bins had been emptied, but several faeces specimens were obtained and a heat-resistant strain of *Clostridium welchii* was isolated.

As a result of the circumstances of this outbreak, two recommendations were made to the personnel officer: (1) that the cooking technique be altered to ensure that any meat forming part of the lunch was cooked during the morning prior to the lunch; (2) that a sample meal of every lunch served be kept for 36 hours. Both these recommendations were adopted.

The 17 persons affected by this outbreak resided in the areas of five other local authorities, who were immediately supplied with all the information to hand.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural Area during 1959, together with the number and result of the inspections carried out:

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	11	32	3	76	8	...
Number inspected	11	32	3	76	8	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	2	2	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	3	27	...	30	1	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	27	90	66	39	12	...
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ... ..	...	..	...	...	...	..
Generalised and totally con- demned ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

The unsound carcase meat, approximately 14½cwts. in weight, was burnt at the slaughterhouses.

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption at shops, etc., was 4lbs. Wherever possible the food was diverted for animal feeding. The protection of the public in regard to the food which they consume is an important duty of the District Public Health Inspector. Powers exist for food which is not in a sound and wholesome condition to be seized and taken before a magistrate for condemnation. It was not necessary to take such action during 1959 because the put-

vendors concerned voluntarily surrendered the food which was unfit for human consumption for a certificate issued by the District Public Health Inspector, which enables them to obtain credit from the firm who supplied the food.

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 220 samples was obtained, consisting of 143 samples of milk (15 of which were of Channel Islands milk) and 77 others, comprising :

1 Tea	1 Orange squash
1 Fruit curd	3 Bacon
1 Fish, canned	2 Cheese
1 Dried milk	2 Lard
1 Nasal inhaler	2 Cooking fat
3 Treacle	2 Whisky
2 White pepper	1 Canned fruit
2 Coffee and Chicory essence	2 Parrish's chemical food
4 Fresh fruit	1 Mixed pickles
3 Dripping	1 Cold cure
5 Borax B.P.	3 Sweets
1 Honey spread	3 Margarine
5 Flour confectionery	2 Cut mixed peel
2 Cod liver oil	2 Meat, canned
1 Semolina	1 Gravy browning
1 Butter	2 Dried vegetables
1 Honey	1 Christmas pudding
4 Ice cream	1 Breakfast cereal
2 Ice lollies	1 Cocoa
1 Sage	2 British wines

The samples were submitted for analysis and were reported to be genuine with the exception of those listed below :

<i>Type</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Action</i>
Formal milk Note : Five appeal-to-cow samples taken for comparison were genuine but poor in fat.	Fat 2.5%. Deficient 16.6% fat.	Producer cautioned and further samples obtained.
Formal milk (Channel Islands)	Fat 3.6%. Deficient 10% fat.	Formal sample obtained which proved genuine. Farmer written to.
Formal milk (Channel Islands)	Fat 3.55%. Deficient 11.2% fat.	Producer cautioned and further samples obtained.
Formal milk	Fat 2.90%. Deficient 3.3% fat.	Vendor notified.
Formal milk (Channel Islands)	Fat 3.70%. Deficient 7.5% fat.	Producer cautioned ; further samples obtained.
Formal milk	Fat 2.85%. Deficient 5% fat.	Vendor notified.
Formal milk	Fat 2.65%. Deficient 11.6% fat.	Farmer interviewed.
Formal milk	Fat 2.80%. Deficient 6.6% fat. Low in solids-not-fat.	Vendor notified.
Mixed pickles	Contained only 0.76% salt, yet listed second in declaration of ingredients.	Packers written to.

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES OF FOOD & DRUGS

Year	Total No. of samples	No. of adulterated samples	Percentage of adulteration
1955	210	12	5.7
1956	204	6	2.9
1957	227	7	3.0
1958	212	7	3.3
1959	220	9	4.0

Water Supplies

The two major sources of water distribution in the Rural District are the Preston and District Water Board and the Fylde Water Board, and these supplies are controlled at the source by both chemical and bacteriological tests. In addition, however, officials of the Council take routine samples from domestic taps in the various townships and the Boards are immediately made aware of any unsatisfactory results.

The Preston and District Water Board supply a population of approximately 35,000 and the Fylde Water Board 5,000.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1959		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
	Existing houses	New houses	Direct to houses		By means of standpipe		No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population
			No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population		
Barton	...	11	383	1149	...	...	8	25
Broughton	...	1	177	530	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale	10	38	...	...	...	...
Dutton	6	...	6	20	...	...	56	178
Farington	...	28	1444	4333	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh	5	...	270	830	...	...	37	112
Grimsargh	...	1	250	775	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	1	65	203	...	...	4	14
Hothersall	40	124	...	...	4	14
Hutton	...	25	478	1427	...	...	...	...
Lea	...	2	1008	3043	...	...	2	6
Little Hoole	...	2	224	679	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	8	1227	3706	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole	230	694	...	...	2	6
Penwortham	...	252	4783	14354	...	...	...	...
Ribchester	4	3	437	1320	...	...	16	51
Samlesbury	...	2	349	1064	...	...	17	60
Whittingham...	...	2	442	4329	...	...	44	132
Woodplumpton	...	3	469	1407	...	...	46	147
TOTAL Whole District	15	291	12292	40025	...	...	236	745

Housing

The following table categorises the present position with regard to the Housing Waiting List, and gives the number of applicants in each parish, the type of accommodation required, and the number of agricultural applicants :

Parish	Houses	Flats	Total
Barton	2	—	2
Farington	4	3	7
Goosnargh	5	—	5
Grimsargh	6	2	8
Lea	6	2	8
Hoole	4	—	4
Longton	4	—	4
Penwortham	32	31	63
Ribchester	6	1	7
Samlesbury	1	—	1
Woodplumpton	—	—	—
Total on General List	70	39	109
Total of agricultural applicants	23	—	23
Grand Total	93	39	132

During the year, 53 existing houses became vacant and were re-let, and this figure represents 4.2% of occupied houses compared with a rate of 3.5% for 1958. In addition, 32 overspill houses were occupied by families from the Preston C.B. and 14 bungalows at Penwortham by aged persons.

These 14 bungalows form part of a special housing unit for aged persons which comes within the Lancashire County Council scheme for grant-aid, and comprises 28 one-bedroomed bungalows each provided with separate domestic heating arrangements and a call bell system connected to an indicator board in the warden's flat, together with a communal centre (with warden's flat over) consisting of a lounge, quiet or T.V. room, hall and kitchen. The bungalows were designed for labour-saving and convenience, with special kitchen fittings and low baths with hand grips, and the estate forms a double "U"-shaped block with the communal centre and warden's flat in a central position, and is sited within a large development area, some 200 yards from a shopping centre. The kitchen of the communal centre is fully equipped, and the communal rooms will be furnished with fitted carpets, easy chairs and tables, and there is central heating to all rooms. The two main rooms can be separated by sliding doors. The warden's flat consists of two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, separate bath and W.C.

Private housing development continued at an increasing rate with 225 houses completed, 249 under construction at the year end, and on estates under development work on a further 177 had still to commence.

Twenty houses were also completed by the Lancashire County Council at Hutton.

HOUSING PROGRESS
1945 to 1959

The following Tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated :

(1)

Scheme	No. of houses
Penwortham and Farington	22
Woodplumpton	16
Lea	40
Woodville Street, Farington	12
School Street, Farington	10
Penwortham	52
Barton	40
Samlesbury	16
Grimsargh	22
Woodplumpton	8
Little Hoole	24
Much Hoole	24
Goosnargh	28
Longton	29
Ribchester	22
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—1st Contract	80
New Longton	36
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—2nd Contract	38
Coote Lane, Farington—1st Contract	18
Airey Rural Houses	84
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—3rd Contract	36
Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury	30
Stanifield Lane, Farington	28
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	50
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	50
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—4th Contract	80
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	54
Coote Lane, Farington—2nd Contract	106
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	76
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	58
Shops and Flats, Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham	6
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—4th Contract	54
Total	1,249

(2)

	Completed	Houses	
		Under Construction	Not yet Started
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	14	15	—
Woodplumpton	—	10	—

(3)

	No. of houses
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—5th Contract	54
Longton	16

OVERSPILL

Altogether, 208 houses and flats have been erected in the Kingsfold Development Area in the parish of Penwortham and occupied by overspill population from the Preston C.B. An additional 46 houses and 8 flats are scheduled for erection during 1960, and long-term commitments amount to a further 423 houses.

OTHER HOUSING

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.), Manchester Regional Hospitals Board, and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1959, was as follows :

Constructed by	Completed	Houses Under Construction	Not yet Started
Lancashire County Council	116	8	—
Ministry of Works	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	250	—	—
Blackburn C.B.	2	—	—
Preston C.B.	1	—	—
Manchester Regional Hospitals Board	15	—	—
Private Builders	1,452	241	177
	2,044	249	177

UNFIT HOUSES

A comprehensive statement on the Council's provisional slum clearance programme is included in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report, and in order to avoid repetition, the statistics produced hereafter relate only to the year under review.

Houses demolished

1. In clearance areas	Nil
2. Not in clearance areas	9
3. No. of displaced persons re-housed	6

Unfit houses closed

1. Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1), and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	2
2. No. of displaced persons re-housed	7

Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied

1. By owners after informal action by local authority	21
2. By local authority after formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	2

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

1. No of houses at the end of the year retained for temporary accommodation under Sections 48, 17 (2) and 46	Nil
2. No. of houses licensed for temporary occupation under sections 34 or 53	Nil

Purchase of houses by agreement

No. of houses in clearance areas, other than those included in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory purchase orders, purchased during the year Nil

Houses improved by grant-aid under the Housing Act, 1949, etc.

Number of schemes submitted :

- 1. By local authority to Ministry Nil
- 2. By private individuals to the local authority 16
 - (a) No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected 16
 - (b) No. of schemes completed during the year 10
 - (c) Additional separate dwellings included in the completed schemes Nil

Houses provided with certain standard amenities under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

No. of schemes submitted to the local authority 23
No. of dwellings or other buildings affected by such schemes 24
No. of schemes approved 20
No. of schemes completed during the year 3

Sewage Disposal

There are outfall works in five townships, viz : Broughton, Farington, Longton, Penwortham and Ribchester. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

Schemes have been prepared for several unsewered areas, and the present position with regard to them is outlined in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	70	211	321	963
Broughton ...	51	160	126	370
Cuerdale ...	...	...	10	38
Dutton ...	...	...	62	198
Farington ...	1212	3637	232	696
Goosnargh ...	...	...	307	942
Grimstargh ...	206	635	44	140
Haighton ...	...	...	69	217
Hothersall ...	...	...	44	138
Hutton ...	...	...	478	1427
Lea ...	395	1206	615	1843
Little Hoole ...	...	...	224	679
Longton ...	250	776	977	2930
Much Hoole ...	...	...	232	700
Penwortham ...	4768	14309	15	45
Ribchester ...	305	920	148	451
Samlesbury ...	118	370	248	754
Whittingham ...	...	..	486	4461
Woodplumpton ...	...	...	515	1554
TOTAL Whole District	7375	22224	5153	18546

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1959, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Most of the factories in the Rural Area are of a small character, and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are, however, four Cotton Mills, two Paper Mills, two Iron Foundries, a large Engineering Works, and a Rubber Factory. Forty-five certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire have been issued, and seven remain to be issued.

Defects found to exist related to Sanitary Conveniences. Working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of defects, two written notices were served on the occupiers of the factories concerned, which resulted in the necessary work being carried out.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

Part 1 of the Act

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	106	14	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	16	2	2	—
TOTAL ...	125	16	2	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

Part VIII—Sections 110 and 111

Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c), 5 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)

J. WALKER,

August, 1960.

Medical Officer of Health.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Guyer and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit to you the following report on departmental functions during the year 1959.

Though the report follows conventional presentation by being almost wholly statistical in character, a comprehensive study of the subject matter does reveal how varied are the duties which the department is called upon to perform in the field of environmental hygiene, and the progress which was made during the period under review.

The categorised visits show that a considerable amount of time had to be devoted to the investigation and control of infectious diseases, principally in connection with outbreaks of Sonne Dysentery and Food Poisoning. Other important functions included (1) the protection of food in shops, (2) the improvement of the housing circumstances of the population, and (3) the general reduction of atmospheric pollution. I also take this opportunity to make specific reference to the following :

1—SEWERAGE.

The schemes for the parishes of Grimsargh and Lea and the Mellor Brook area of the parish of Samlesbury were completed and considerable progress was made on the Longton and district scheme, some 250 houses being connected to the public sewer by the year end and the new disposal works brought into limited operation. The Council also decided to proceed with phase 4 of this scheme, which includes the parishes of Little Hoole and Much Hoole and part of the parish of Farington, and the scheme for Barton, Broughton and Goosnargh was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Schemes for the provision of a new disposal works for Farington and improvements to the existing works at Penwortham were also being prepared.

2—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A comprehensive report, prepared with the object of providing a general all-round improvement in this service with a collection in all parishes at weekly intervals, was considered and adopted by the Council. The scheme provides for (1) an extension of the existing depot premises to provide for additional garage accommodation, a new mechanics' workshop, a store room, general foreman's office, and a combined meals and clothes hanging and drying room for the staff; (2) increasing the vehicle fleet by two new vehicles; and (3) the establishment of new selected tipping sites in localities close to urbanised areas so as to shorten, as far as possible, the distances to be travelled to the tips. A further innovation under consideration, but not included in the aforementioned report, was the complete mechanisation of waste paper baling, in order to reduce costs and make the job more attractive at a time when labour difficulties abound.

3—BRUCELLA ABORTUS.

All raw milk samples submitted to the new Public Health Laboratory in Preston for methylene blue examination are now tested for infection by brucella abortus, the organism responsible for contagious abortion in cattle and undulant fever in man. It is now known that approximately 10% of the raw milk produced in the Rural District is so infected, and the tracing of infected cows necessitates obtaining milk samples from each individual cow. These are usually collected at the time of the morning milking, and this work has, during the year under review, resulted in a proportionate increase in the inspectors' time spent at the farm.

4—THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1959.

This Order, which came into force on the 6th April, 1959, extends the retail sale of special designated milk only, to the parishes of Dutton, Hothersall and Ribchester, so that the whole of the Rural District is now a specified area.

5—DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The Lancashire County Council's functions under the above Order were delegated to the Rural District Council as from the 1st July, 1959.

In conclusion, I record my appreciation of the support, encouragement and unflinching courtesy of the Members of the Council in general and the Committees in particular, and express my thanks to the staff of the department for their valuable assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. COUPERTHWAITE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS VISITS

Inspection of dwelling houses	228
Insanitary drainage	125
Fouled watercourses	88
Middens	26
Dirty condition of premises	17
Other visits relating to nuisances	44
Infectious disease	625
Verminous premises and persons	2
National Assistance Act	5
Milk and Dairies	52
Food premises	161
Shops	56
Factories	16
Caravans	12
Schools	4
Hotels, Inns, etc.	16
Ice-cream premises	23
Hawkers	5
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	8
Drain testing	144
Smoke observations	19
Closet conversions	52
Pet Animals Act	1
Petroleum Act	72
Water supply	69

Slaughterhouses	36
Knacker's Yard	2
Swine Fever	5
Housing applications	48
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants	283
Rent Act, 1957	26
Other visits	254
	<hr/>
	2,524
	<hr/>

NOTICES

Informal	113
Formal	12

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disinfection was carried out in the following cases of infectious disease :

Scarlet Fever	2
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In addition, 625 visits were made relating to Infectious Disease, principally in connection with outbreaks of Food Poisoning and Sonne Dysentery.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

At the end of 1959 the position in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences belonging to inhabited houses was :

No. of Fresh Water Closets	11,396
No. of Waste Water Closets	152
No. of Pail Closets	930
No. of Privy Middens	50

The old bog closets and pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the scattered areas.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1959 :

No. of Pail Closets to Fresh W.C.s	29
No. of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.s	26

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH

Dampness	11
Defective Ceilings	2
Defective Closet Pails	1
Defective Closet Structures	2
Defective Doors	5
Defective Floors	5
Defective Gutters	10
Defective Paving	3
Defective Downspouts	5
Defective Roofs	9
Defective Chimneys	2
Defective Pointing	4
Defective Walls	4
Defective Brickwork	7
Defective W.C.s	9
Defective Windows	10

Defective Woodwork	6
Defective Fire Ranges	5
Absence of Washing Facilities	1
Insanitary Drainage	125
Fouled Watercourses	88
Dirty Condition of Premises	17
Middens	26
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	5
Defective Sinks	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There was a reduction in the overall efficiency of the house and trade refuse collection service during the period under review, for the following reasons :

- (i) The closing down of two tips allowing for short hauls.
- (ii) Continued staff change-over and large-scale indisposition.
- (iii) An additional 284 houses to be cleared.

New tips were established at the year end, but others are urgently required, especially in close proximity to the large urban areas.

Altogether, 11,635 houses were served with 11 wagons employed for the purpose. Disposal was by means of partially controlled tipping with full-time tipmen employed.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from January 1st to December 31st, 1959 :

Vehicle	Type	Mileage	Petrol/ Diesel (galls.)	Oil (quarts)	Loads (number)	Estimated weight of refuse in tons	Miles per gallon
G.C.K.226 (petrol)	Fordson	9259	1202	74	612	1274	7.70
C.R.N.663 (petrol)	Fordson	3941	659	41	196	407	5.98
E.R.N.987 (petrol)	Fordson	9968	1252	51	501	707	7.96
D.C.K.893 (petrol)	Fordson	2520	415	49	200	445	6.07
J.R.N.816 (diesel)	Fordson	11657	635	55	931	1917	18.35
J.C.K.73 (diesel)	Fordson	9217	564	72	628	1297	16.34
J.R.N.713 (diesel)	Fordson	8728	591	66	769	1560	14.76
G.R.N.212 (diesel)	Fordson	9788	650	106	740	1531	15.05
K.R.N.758 (diesel)	Fordson	8133	483	59	606	1275	16.83
M.C.K.631 (diesel)	Fordson	10039	536	28	546	1114	18.72
M.C.K.632 (diesel)	Fordson	8821	517	25	547	1118	17.06
TOTALS		92072	7504	626	6277	12645	Petrol 7.28 Diesel 16.69

SALVAGE

The following table gives the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1959 :

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	387	8	2	0	2905	13	0
Newspapers	15	8	1	1	137	4	3
Mixed Rags	6	5	1	0	89	18	2
Rolled Aluminium	-	8	2	6	51	10	9
Mixed Metals	-	-	3	6	3	12	4
Mixed Brass	-	4	0	14	24	19	7
Lead Scrap	-	2	0	5	6	2	4
Braziery Copper	-	1	0	26	10	1	8
Carpets	5	15	4	0	23	4	0
String	-	3	2	8	0	10	8
Totals	415	18	1	10	£3,252	16	9

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

There are 125 factories on the register, and 16 inspections were made during the year. Two notices were served relating to unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences. Forty-five certificates of adequate means of escape in case of fire have already been issued, and seven factories still require certificates.

CANAL BOATS

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1954 to 1958.

Thirty-four licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse and one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district. The premises are frequently visited, and where advice has been tendered the response has been immediate.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Lancashire River Board has jurisdiction in regard to river and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Altogether, 269 visits were made with regard to insanitary drainage and for the purpose of drain testing, and 88 visits in connection with fouled watercourses.

During the year 231 new houses and 317 existing houses were connected to the sewerage systems.

There are outfall works in five townships, viz : Broughton, Farington, Longton, Penwortham and Ribchester. Following completion of the Joint Sewerage Scheme, the existing sewage disposal works at Grimsargh and Lea were abandoned. The new sewage disposal works at Longton were in limited operation at the year end.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 to 1957

The Council's Provisional Slum Clearance Programme, submitted to the Minister on the 11th November, 1955, comprised 266 dwelling houses, 115 of which it was intended to deal with by way of Clearance Orders and 151 by individual Demolition Orders.

Following representations by certain owners to have their properties removed from the original programme, and after consideration of the representations by the Council, a revised programme was submitted to the Minister on the 21st October, 1958, and approved. The revised programme comprised 201 dwelling houses, 53 to be dealt with by Clearance Orders and 148 by individual Demolition Orders.

As a result of action already taken by the Council and informal action by certain owners, the present position is as follows :

1. No. of dwelling houses dealt with formally	84	
2. No. of dwelling houses dealt with informally	11	
	—	95
3. No. of dwelling houses where action is deferred for special reasons	74	
4. No. of dwelling houses where action is to be taken	32	
	—	106
		<u>201</u>
		—

SLUM CLEARANCE

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Acts, 1936 to 1957.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1945 to 1959 inclusive :

PARISH.	HOUSES.							Scheduled for demolition.
	Demolished. or closed		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.			
	<i>Form-ally.</i>	<i>Inform-ally.</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	<i>Re-construction</i>	<i>Re-construction or conversion to other use</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>		
Barton ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Broughton	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	25	3	...	1	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Hutton	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lea	9	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Little Hoole ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	7	3	4	4	...	...	...	2
Much Hoole	4	...	...	2	...	1	...	2
Penwortham	42	7	3	2	2	...	...	...
Ribchester	9	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Samlesbury	3	3	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whittingham... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	14	4	5	2	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	119	23	16	18	2	1	5	

RENT ACT, 1957

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

(1) Number of applications for certificates	4
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	5
(a) In respect of some but not all defects	5
(b) In respect of all defects	Nil
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	3
(5) Number of undertakings refused under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(6) Number of certificates issued	2

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

(7) Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates	3
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
(9) Decisions to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled	2

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—2.

No. of renewal licences granted during the year—102.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

CARAVANS

Invariably, the commencement of large-scale contract work in Preston and district brings into the rural area a number of workmen with caravans. As the only approved site for 12 caravans is already fully occupied, mainly by permanent residents, an acute problem is created. The Council gave sympathetic consideration to such cases during the year and issued temporary permissions, usually extending to the termination of the contract works, for a number of scattered sites. There would appear to be a growing need for the provision of a municipal site with a number of hardstandings reserved for this type of caravanner.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the period under review, the District Council continued to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, including those duties under Section 38.

Three hundred and seven shops were on the register at the year end, and 56 visits were made under the delegated scheme. In one or two instances it was found that necessary records relating to young persons employed were not being kept, but informal notice resulted in the necessary records being provided. Reports of all inspections were forwarded to the Lancashire County Council.

RAG FLOCK ACTS

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the rural area.

CLEAN AIR

The discussions held by the District Public Health Inspectors with Managements of industrial concerns has resulted in a diminution of smoke emitted from industrial chimneys. Many industrialists have realised the need for improving the efficiency of their boiler plants, and one firm has changed from hand firing to a travelling grate stoker, with the result that the emission of smoke from their chimney is almost negligible.

With regard to new furnaces, it is the practice, when planning applications are received and it appears likely that new furnaces are to be installed, to make the applicants immediately aware of the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Each applicant is asked to submit particulars of the type of furnace with its rated output and the maximum heating load to which it would be subjected and the type of fuel to be used. Since the passing of the Act, and where prior approval has been sought, the Council has approved 14 new installations appropriate to the provisions of Section 3 of the Act. Advice was also tendered as to heights of associated chimneys, and in all cases the applicants fully complied with the Council's recommendations.

At the end of the year under review, the Regional Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government reported, with regard to the nuisance caused by the emission of grit from the chimneys of the Penwortham Electricity Generating Station. He stated that the burning of coke breeze at the Station had been discontinued, that minor modifications had been made to the arrestment plant in an effort to obtain some immediate amelioration, and further major modifications were under active consideration. He was satisfied that the Board was now doing everything possible to effect an improvement and his Ministry, on their part, were doing what they could to encourage the Board in this respect.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk supply—action taken with regard to :

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

At the 31st December, 1959, there were 58 registered milk distributors in the area, operating from :

(a) dairies in the district	19
(b) shops in the district other than dairies	39

The number of dairies on the register was seven, and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural Area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) have been issued during the period under review :

(i) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949	
Tuberculin Tested Milk	52
(ii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949	
Pasteurised Milk	54
Sterilised Milk	41

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

MILK SAMPLING

Type of milk and test	No. of samples	Results				Unsatisfactory
		Negative	Positive	Equivocal	Satisfactory	
(a) Raw Milk						
(1) Tuberculosis	25	25	—	—	—	—
(2) Brucellosis	255	135	78	42	—	—
(3) Methylene Blue reductase test	41	—	—	—	36	5
(4) B. Coli examination	22	—	—	—	22	—
(b) Heat Treated Milk						
“ Pasteurised ”						
(1) Tuberculosis	Nil	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Phosphatase test	8	—	—	—	8	—
(3) Methylene Blue reductase test	8	—	—	—	8	—
“ Sterilised ”						
(4) Turbidity test	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

The 78 positive Brucellosis samples included 23 positive to the culture test, 6 to the biological test, and 49 to the milk ring test. Nine producers of milk were involved and they were immediately made aware of the positive culture and biological results, advised to have their milk pasteurised and to enlist the assistance of a veterinary surgeon. It was made clear that the local authority would render all possible assistance, including the taking of individual cow samples. Two producers did not co-operate and it was necessary to serve notices prohibiting the milk being sold, or used in the manufacture of products for human consumption, unless heat treated.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

Twenty-five samples of milk taken in the district and tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli were all reported as negative, and no notifications were received from other local authorities that milk produced in the area had been found to contain tubercle bacilli.

FOOD PREMISES

One hundred and sixty-one visits were made to food premises during the year, and 10 informal notices were served on occupiers to carry out necessary alterations, etc., under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is 137. One hundred and twenty-six of these premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. This figure includes nine new registrations during the year. One hundred and twenty-four retailers sell loose or pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

SAMPLING OF ICE CREAM

One sample of ice cream was taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests, the sample was placed in the following grade :

Grade I satisfactory

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

HAWKERS

Hawkers of Meat, or Meat Food Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables, and their premises situate in the Rural Area, are registered under Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

No. of registered hawkers	31
No. of registered premises	10

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The amount of food surrendered as unfit for human consumption at shops, etc., was 4lbs. Wherever possible, food condemned in this way is diverted to animal feeding.

The number of carcasses of animals inspected at the slaughterhouses was :

Cattle (excluding cows)	11
Cows	32
Calves	3
Pigs	8
Sheep and Lambs	76

and the following meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption :

- 25 sheep livers for distomatosis ;
- 19 cows' livers for distomatosis ;
- 4 bullocks' livers for distomatosis ;
- 1 heifer's liver for distomatosis ;
- 5 sheep livers for parasites ;
- 7 cows' livers for cirrhosis ;
- 1 heifer's udder for mastitis ;
- 1 cow's head for actinomycosis ;
- 1 pig's leg for abscess ;
- 1 cow's carcass and organs for acute fever ;
- 1 cow's carcass and organs for general decomposition ;
- 1 calf's carcass and organs for joint ill ;
- 1 calf's carcass and organs for immaturity.

Approximate total weight of meat condemned : 14½cwt.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The following schedule gives particulars of the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District and an indication of the area in each field available for games :

Situation	Whole area	Area for games	Area let off for Grazing	Area let off for Ploughing
Barton	5	5	—	—
Broughton	5	5	—	—
Church Wood, Penwortham	4½	4½	—	—
Farington	10½	5½	5	—
Goosnargh	4½	4½	—	—
Grimsargh	12	12	—	—
Hurst Grange, Penwortham	16½	12	4½	—
Hutton	7	7	—	—
Lea	16½	4	12½	—
Little Hoole	4	4	—	—
Longton	6	6	—	—
Much Hoole	5	5	—	—
New Longton	9	9	—	—

Queensway, Penwortham	5	5	—	—
Penwortham Hall	18½	12½	6	—
Tardy Gate	5½	5½	—	—
Woodplumpton	6½	2½	4	—
Total	141	109	32	—

The work of the Department during the period under review included, in addition to a great deal of maintenance work, the mowing of grass verges on the Council's Housing Estates.

RODENT REPORT

STAFF

During the year two rodent operatives were employed.

SEWERS

The whole of the sewerage system of the district was test baited in May, when 10 per cent. of the manholes were baited with sausage rusk. No infestation was found, and in consequence a certificate of exemption was received from the Divisional Pests Officer, valid until the following year.

SEWAGE WORKS

The Council's Sewage Works at Farington, Penwortham and Ribchester were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS

Four refuse tips were in operation during the year at Barton, Much Hoole, Ribchester and Penwortham. The tips at Barton and Penwortham were closed down before mid-year, but during operation all tips were visited at regular intervals and treatment carried out. By this means infestation was restricted to a minor character.

PREMISES AND INFESTATION

A routine survey of all premises was carried on throughout the year, and the following figures illustrate the extent of this work and the number of infestations found and dealt with :

1. Total number of dwelling houses in the district	=	11,475
2. Total number of agricultural premises	=	1,050
3. Total number of business premises	=	450
4. Total number of premises inspected :		
(a) agricultural	=	2,085
re-inspections	=	171
(b) dwelling houses	=	240
re-inspections	=	34
(c) business	=	35
re-inspections	=	25

5. Total number of infested premises :			
(a) agricultural	Mice—major	=	1
	minor	=	23
	Rats—major	=	1
	minor	=	136
(b) dwelling houses	Mice—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	17
	Rats—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	17
(c) business	Mice—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	2
	Rats—major	=	Nil
	minor	=	12
6. Total number of infestations dealt with :			
(a) By the local authority—agricultural		=	141
	dwelling houses	=	30
	business	=	13
(b) By occupiers		=	25
7. Total number of informal notices served on occupiers		=	11
8. Total number of formal notices served on occupiers under Section 4 of the Act		=	2
9. Total number of formal notices of entry served on occupiers under Section 22 of the Act		=	3
10. Total number of occupiers found to be carrying out their own treatment with Warfarin		=	302
11. Total number of occupiers under contract with the local authority		=	104

BAIT AND POISONS

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash, and the poisons used were Zinc Phosphide, Arsenic and Warfarin.

CONTRACT SERVICE

The Council's contract service came into operation on January 1st, and at the time 58 occupiers, principally of agricultural land, had signed a contract and were participating in the scheme. By the end of the year the number had increased to 104, and 90 per cent. had renewed their contracts for the forthcoming year.

W. H. COUPERTHWAITE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Report of Building Surveyor

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Guyer and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on New Housing and the administration of the Building Bye-laws and the Town and Country Planning Acts and Regulations for the year 1959.

New Housing

The following table shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected, and gives a comparison with the previous year :

Parish	1959			1958		
	Private Enterprise	Council	Total	Private Enterprise	Council	Total
Barton	11	—	11	6	—	6
Broughton	1	—	1	2	—	2
Cuerdale	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutton	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farington	28	—	28	15	—	15
Goosnargh	—	—	—	1	—	1
Grimsargh	1	—	1	3	—	3
Haighton	1	—	1	—	—	—
Hothersall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hutton	25	—	25	5	—	5
Lea	2	—	2	2	—	2
Little Hoole	2	—	2	1	—	1
Longton	8	—	8	15	—	15
Much Hoole	—	—	—	1	—	1
Penwortham	156	46	202	160	74	234
Ribchester	3	—	3	—	—	—
Samlesbury	2	—	2	3	—	3
Whittingham	2	—	2	6	—	6
Woodplumpton	3	—	3	2	—	2
Totals	245	46	291	222	74	296

Administration of Building Bye-laws

Close supervision over all new works has been maintained so as to secure compliance with the Building Bye-laws, and the following is a summary of the inspections made for the purpose, viz.:

Sites	299
Foundations	472
Damp-proof courses	270
Drainage	472
Completions	329
Miscellaneous	439

Council Housing Estates

1,765 visits have been made to Council housing estates chiefly in connection with the examination of defects and supervision of works of repair. New Housing schemes being carried out under contract were also closely supervised.

Town and Country Planning

Since the Council agreed to accept delegated powers, functions and duties under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, there has been a graphic rise in the number of applications to develop received annually, as the following figures illustrate :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Applications</i>
1953	527
1954	546
1955	652
1956	586
1957	687
1958	757
1959	853

The 853 applications received during 1959 were dealt with as follows :

Classified as " Permitted Development "	334
Permission granted	406
Permission refused	105
Permission deferred	2
Applications withdrawn	6

Eighteen appeals against refusal to grant permission to develop were made during the year, but four were subsequently withdrawn. Fourteen Local inquiries were held by Inspectors appointed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, with the following results :

Appeals dismissed	11
Appeals upheld	3

W. H. COUPERTHWAITE,

Building Surveyor.

