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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH


MAYOR: ALDERMAN S. TURNBULL, J.P.

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER,

1939

H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P. & S.
Medical Officer of Health



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INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT

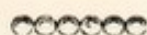
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H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P. & S.
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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH



HEALTH COMMITTEE. 1939-40.

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. A. A. Keech, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor W. Butterworth.

The Mayor : Alderman S. Turnbull, J.P.

Deputy Mayor : Councillor C. W. Thompson.

Alderman A. Pimlott

Alderman A. E. Williams

Councillor F. Bolton

Councillor J. D. Crewdson

Councillor J. Haddow, J.P.

Councillor A. Naylor

Councillor G. H. Oversby, C.C.

Councillor C. E. Travis

Medical Officer of Health :

H. C. BURBIDGE, M.B., L.R.C.P. & S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

L. T. J. TRIPPIER, N.R.P. Cert. C.A.G.S. Cert.

Cert. of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.

San. Insp. Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

H. KELLETT, San. Insp., Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

Cert. of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.

Smoke Inspectors, Cert. R.S.I.

Sanitary Science, Cert. R.S.I.

J. KAY, San. Insp. Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.

Cert. of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.

Clerk in Public Health Department :

G. R. HALLIWELL.

BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Prestwich.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration an interim Annual Report for the year 1939. It is a curtailed report as requested by the Ministry of Health and deals with health matters, Public Health Services, vital statistics, notification of infectious diseases and sanitary work of importance.

Notwithstanding the economic difficulties and the war of the last months of the year, the standard of efficiency has been maintained.

Certain statistics are omitted owing to the Registrar General's returns not being to hand.

Prestwich Sanitary Authority is one of the largest outlying districts to the north of Manchester, and owing to increasing building operations a good deal of its rural aspect is fast disappearing.

It is one of the healthiest districts north of the City, as is evidenced by its low death rate and the healthy condition of the inhabitants. Consequently it has been noted that a large influx of people from Manchester and Salford environments has taken place during the past few years.

Population.

The estimated population as calculated by the Registrar General up to mid 1938 is 32,410. Figures up to mid 1939 not available.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1939 was 9,880, being an increase of 124 on the previous year. The average number of persons per occupied house is 3.3 approximately.

The rateable value is £235,332 and a penny rate represents the sum of £924.

During the periodical inspection of houses in the district; conditions were found to have improved as regards cleanliness but still it is necessary to keep many houses under observation.

Unemployment.

The extent of unemployment in Prestwich is very difficult to determine, Prestwich being a dormitory area is subject to registration by great numbers of persons who reside outside the district, in consequence of which the official Ministry of Labour figures show a percentage of over 10 whereas the true approximate figures are not more than 5% for Prestwich residents.

The majority of the inhabitants are engaged in business in Manchester and Salford and notwithstanding depressions in trade and the number out of work, the health on the whole has been fairly well maintained, especially is this the case of the children whose needs are well looked after by the Welfare Centres in the district.

Vital Statistics.

Not available.

Hospital Accommodation.

Prestwich is situated in close proximity to Manchester, Salford and Bury, and in consequence is well served in the provision of hospital accommodation.

1. Infectious Diseases.

There is no Fever Hospital in the district but under the Bury and District Joint Hospital Amendment Order, 1936, dated the 23rd May, 1936, Prestwich have become constituent members of the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, which provide hospital accommodation for all acute specific fevers, Smallpox, etc. No retaining fee is now paid, but the structural and establishment expenses of the hospital are met by a precept based on the rateable value of the district of each constituent member; while cost of maintenance of patients is divided on a basis of "patient days."

The estimated cost of hospital treatment for the year ended 30th September, 1939, is £1,862 14s. 2d. against £1,016 0s. 9d. for the year ended 30th September, 1938.

The average cost per patient for year ended 30th September, 1939, is £16 6s. 8d.

2. Maternity.

There is no maternity hospital within the district. St. Mary's Hospital and the Northern Hospital, Manchester, are available for complicated cases. There are two Registered Maternity Nursing Homes, The Redcliffe Nursing Home, Hilton Lane, and No. 3 Buckingham Road.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted to the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury.

3. Children.

The Northern Hospital, Manchester, and the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, are available for the inhabitants.

4. Tuberculosis.

A patient notified by a medical attendant is reported to the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Radcliffe, then sent from there to Ashton-u-Lyne for X-Ray, and subsequently to the County Area Sanatoria for treatment.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Infectious Cases.

A motor ambulance is provided by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the removal of infectious cases to Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury.

(b) Disinfecting Van.

For removal of bedding to the Council's Disinfecting Station a motor vehicle is provided and maintained by the Local Authority.

(c) Non-infectious and Accident Cases.

A motor ambulance has been provided and is maintained by the local Council for the removal to hospital of accident cases occurring within the Prestwich District, and also medical cases to Hospitals, Infirmaries, Nursing Homes, etc. No charge is made in the case of an accident, and in private cases the use of the Ambulance is given free to residents up to a distance of ten miles, a shilling being charged for each mile over ten.

Co-ordination of Ambulance Services.

An arrangement exists with neighbouring authorities whereby accident cases occurring on the boundaries of the district are dealt with by the first ambulance to arrive irrespective of which side of the boundary the case occurs. An agreement also exists between the Councils of Prestwich and Whitefield under which when the ambulance of one Council is engaged urgent cases are dealt with by the ambulance of the other. This system is worked on a "knock for knock" basis, an endeavour being made to keep the number of outside cases dealt with by each Authority even.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Child Welfare Centre is open at Prestwich each Thursday and at Heaton Park each Monday between 2 and 4 p.m.

Dr. Hutchinson, of the Child Welfare County Council Authority, and a nurse are in attendance at each session, and there is a voluntary Committee of five ladies—Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Jackson and Miss McNee who are very interested in this form of work.

The mothers attending are instructed in the correct way of feeding, clothing and training their babies. The babies are undressed and weighed each week. All new babies are seen by the Doctor and if ailing, the mothers are advised to see their own medical attendant. In addition healthy babies are examined once a month.

The voluntary Committee takes charge of the sale of dried milk foods.

There is an average attendance of about 87 mothers and babies at the Prestwich Centre, and 84 at the Heaton Park Centre, making a total weekly attendance of 171.

When babies have reached the school age of five they then come under the supervision of the County Council, who periodically have them examined at the schools. If the children are found to be suffering from any ailment they are referred to their own medical attendant. If treatment has not been obtained within one month they are referred back to the Child Welfare Centre.

Professional Nursing in the Homes.

General Nursing and Maternity Nursing is usually carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association and to these nurses the warmest thanks are due for the care given to patients in the district.

There are four midwives practising in the area, and their work during the past year has to be commended.

Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927.

There are two registered Nursing Homes in the district which are visited periodically by the Medical Officer of Health.

		No. of Beds.
Medical, Surgical and Maternity	1	3
Medical and Surgical only	Nil	Nil
Maternity only	1	10

Sanitary Circumstances of the District. Water.

The sources of supply are from the Manchester Woodhead Reservoir, the Irwell Valley Water Board and the Heywood and Middleton Joint Water Board.

During the year the mains were extended to all new property on housing estates and to eight dwelling-houses and one dairy farm in the Simister area, also one factory, all in lieu of well water which on analysis was found to be unfit for human consumption.

There are still two dwelling-houses, 2 dairy farms and 2 piggeries which obtain their supply from wells, springs, etc.

Rivers and Streams.

These have received special attention during the year and have been kept clear of accumulations of silt and debris by the owners, while periodical inspections have been made of septic tanks, filter chambers, and other possible sources of pollution.

Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage is treated at the Council's Disposal Works in Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, afterwards passing through percolating filters to the Humus Tanks and thence the effluent is discharged into the River Irwell.

water tanks before the effluent is discharged into the river.

Heavy storm flows are dealt with in separate storm

In a portion of the Simister Area, which is semi-rural, the treatment of sewage is by septic tank and cesspools.

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

The chief Sanitary requirement of the district is the drainage of Simister, which is still in urgent need of attention. A scheme is at present in course of preparation for the carrying out of this work.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1939.

Number of Middens 18. 18 in 1938.

Number of Closets attached to Middens 26. 26 in 1938.

Number of Pail Closets 142. 145 in 1938.

Number of Fresh Water-closets 10,467. 10,290 in 1938.

Number of Waste Water-closets 55. 135 in 1938.

Number of Dry Ash-pits nil. Nil in 1938.

Number of Movable Ash-bins 10,626. 10,449 in 1938.

Number of Waste Water-closets converted to Fresh Water-closets 80. 2 in 1938.

Number of Houses at which Moveable Ash-bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles nil.

Following the survey of the waste water closets made in 1938, an informal enquiry was held early in 1939 by the Ministry of Health. The result was that a scheme was authorised for the conversion of all such closets into water closets throughout the district.

In May, 1939, all owners of waste water closets were informed that the Council were prepared to pay on approved applications 50% of the cost or £4 5s. 0d. per conversion whichever was the lowest. As the result of the scheme 80 waste water closets had been converted to water closets up to the end of 1939, leaving a total of 55, thus considerably reducing the number of these closets.

Gully Cleaning.

All dwelling-houses and other premises in the district are visited periodically by two workmen connected with the department, who cleanse and disinfect the sink and bath waste grids and gullies. During the year 1939 3,590 premises were visited and 6,296 gullies cleaned.

By resolution of the Council such work does not include the clearance of any grids or gullies which have been stopped up by improper use, or repairs of any kind.

Public Cleansing.

The local authority carry out weekly collection of refuse from all premises in the district and in the case of certain business premises, twice a week; this work is carried out by S. & D. Freighters working on a relay system.

The Council have installed a Refuse Destructor and Salvage Plant sufficient to deal with the needs of the district.

The Council possesses an S. & D. Motor Cesspool and Gully Emptier, which is a great improvement on the tank cart wagon previously used. The tank cart wagon is now used only for emptying earth closets and for such cesspools as are inaccessible to the Motor emptier.

Inspections (including Housing).

Number of Premises visited	1,828
Sanitary Inspections during the year numbered ...	3,825
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	1,804
Number of defects or nuisances abated	1,503
Number of informal notices served	661
Number of Statutory notices served	44

Smoke Nuisances.

The number of observations made was 2. The time limit allowed for black smoke is two minutes per half hour.

When cause for complaint has arisen, the respective firms have been written to and on a further observation being made some improvement has been shown.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

No. of Rats caught and destroyed during the year	1,360
No. of Rats caught and destroyed during National Rat Week	114
No. of Rats tails received by the Health Department during the year	360

Offensive Trades.

There are two offensive trades in the district, viz :—
Soap boiling on a small scale and a Dog Oil business.

The licences are granted annually by the Council.

Fish Frying Business.

There are twelve fish fryers registered in the district. These businesses are controlled under Bye-laws made by the Council in 1927 and are generally conducted in a satisfactory manner. 14 inspections have been made during the year and particular attention has been paid to cleanliness.

Schools.

At each holiday period during the year the undermentioned schools in the district were disinfected, also the drain gullies and grid cleansed and disinfected.

Hope Park Senior Girls' School. Park View Junior School. Heaton Park Council School. Sedgley Park Junior School. Lady Wilton's (Simister Lane) School. St. Margaret's C. E. School. Fairfax Road R.C. School. St. Mary's C. E. School. St. Hilda's C. E. School and Heys Senior Boys' School.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the district at present. The Council have in recent years had schemes for the provision of public swimming baths under consideration but these have all been deferred for the time being.

Housing.

The housing conditions in the district may be classified as good. The types of houses, to a great extent, vary with the periods in which they were erected. Since the war (1914-18) the chief type of house has been the semi-detached, containing three bedrooms, bath, inside W.C., and sufficient accommodation for the proper storage of food. These houses have gardens back and front surrounded by low privet or paling fence.

Private enterprise has not been lacking, a fact much appreciated. A large number of private-enterprise houses are being purchased and occupied by persons from outside the district. The "mortgage occupier-owner" system prevails, thus leaving the much needed class of property for the working class population to be provided for by the Local Authority.

The number of inhabited houses at the 1931 census was 5,724. The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year according to the rate books, was 9,880.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority.

1919 Act	377
1923 Act	288
1924 Act	372
1930 Act	55
	<hr/>
	1,092
	<hr/>

Number of Houses Erected During the Year.

	Houses
(a) TOTAL—including numbers given separately under (b)	177
(1) By Local Authority	14
(2) By other Local Authorities	—
(3) By other bodies or persons	163
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(1) By Local Authority	—
(2) By other bodies or persons	—

Rent & Mortgage Interest Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1933, and Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1938.

No work was carried out under these Acts during 1939.

Inspection and Supervision of Food. Dairies.

There are 120 persons registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922—Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. This number comprises 7 cowkeepers, 57 dairymen or retail roundsmen, 56 persons registered for the sale of bottled milk only.

In the case of persons selling bottled milk only, the person is registered as a retail purveyor of milk, but the premises are not registered as a dairy.

There has been improvement noticed in the cleanliness of the dairies and in the methods of distributing milk throughout the district and the cowkeepers' premises have been lime-washed as often as necessary to keep them in a cleanly condition.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

During the year 13 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination :—

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Result of Examination.

Total No. of samples	No. satisfying Methylene Blue Test	No. not satisfying Methylene Blue Test	No. of Bacteria found per c.c.				Presence of B. Coli.				
			under 10,000	10,000 to 100,000	100,000 to 500,000	over 500,000	Absent in			Present in	
							1.0 c.c.	0.1 c.c.	0.01 c.c.	0.01 c.c.	1.0 c.c.
13	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7	6	-

PRESENCE OF T.B. INNOCULATION TEST.

	No. of samples Submitted	T.B. not found	T.B. found
Milk	13	12	1

From the above it will be seen that Tubercle Bacilli was found in one sample. This sample was taken from milk sold by a Manchester retailer who purchased it from a firm in Salford. Letters and copies of the results of the sample taken were forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health for Manchester and Salford for their attention and subsequent action.

In addition to the above, 8 samples, all of which proved negative, have been taken for the County Medical Officer of Health from milk supplied to school children.

In instances where the samples did not comply with a reasonable standard of cleanliness the farmers were written to, directing attention to the methods applied during milking, the grooming of cattle, and the proper washing and sterilisation of all utensils, vessels, etc., employed in connection with milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued under the above Order during the year.

Licences to sell Milk as Tuberculin Tested ...	4
Accredited Milk Licences : Bottling	—
Distribution ...	3
Licences to sell Milk as Pasteurised	2
Licences in respect of Pasteurising Plants ...	1

Slaughter Houses.

There are 2 registered private slaughter-houses in the district, also one in connection with the County Mental Hospital.

The 2 private slaughter-houses serve the businesses of well-known butchers shops, and high grade animals are slaughtered.

The slaughter-houses are kept in a cleanly condition and limewashed periodically in accordance with the Council's bye-laws.

No inspection of carcasses has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors at the County Mental Hospital since 11th November, 1934.

The inspections ceased as the result of a communication from the Medical Superintendent, stating that the facilities (previously obtaining) for the inspection of carcasses could no longer be continued, which coincided with a date when the sale of offals to a tripe dresser was also discontinued.

The following are the particulars of the number of inspections made and the number of carcasses examined, etc.

No. of inspections	156
No. of notices received	104
No. of Beasts slaughtered	149
No. of Calves slaughtered	15
No. of Sheep and Lambs slaughtered	1,262
No. of Pigs slaughtered	57

The Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and a resolution of the Council to include sheep, ewes, wethers, rams, and

lambs, as from the 11th day of February, 1934, makes the use of a mechanically operated instrument for the stunning of animals compulsory.

No. of Slaughtermen's Licences issued 9

The following table shows the amount of meat condemned for various causes during 1939.

No. of Seizures	Cause of Seizure	Approx. Weight in lbs.
42	Tuberculosis	526½
33	Distomatosis	287
2	Echinococcus Cysts	22
6	Cirrhosis	30
1	Fatty Infiltration	7
3	Necrosis	7
3	Actinomycosis	70
7	Abscesses	69
2	Pneumonia	7
1	Pleurisy	4
<hr/> 100		<hr/> 1029½

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	149	—	15	1262	57
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46	—	1	1	6
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	30.9%	—	6.6%	0.08%	10.5
Tuberculosis Only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	—	—	—	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.4%	—	—	—	19.3%

Retail Meat Shops.

The retail meat shops have been regularly visited, attention being paid to the condition of the meat, general cleanliness of premises, utensils, etc., and inspection of cellar and back premises.

Food Preparing Premises.

The food preparing premises are mostly premises where meat products, such as, Sausages, Black Puddings, Pies, etc., are made.

The premises are regularly visited and strict attention is paid to cleanliness.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Acts, 1928—1938.

The Acts are administered by the County Police Authorities, and I am indebted to Superintendent Hogg who has kindly furnished the following particulars and results obtained of food, etc., purchased by the Inspectors within this district and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst.

Milk	34	Lard	3
Self Raising Flour ...	2	Tapioca	2
Gravy Browning	2	Strawberry Jelly	1
Ground Almonds	2	Red Plum Jam... ..	1
Mixed Pickles	3	Epsom Salts	1
Margarine	3	Unsweetened Tinned	
Pepper	2	Milk	1
Ground Ginger	1	Lemon Cheese	1
Strawberry Jam	1		

All samples were found to be genuine with the exception of 2 milk samples which were found to be 7% and 8% deficient in solids not fat respectively. Further samples were taken from the same vendor, which were found to be genuine.

Bakehouses.

There are 18 bakehouses on the register, the majority of these being carried on in connection with retail confectionery businesses.

They have been periodically inspected during the year, attention being paid to the cleanliness of the premises, period for limewashing or cleansing and sanitary accommodation.

Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium.

The number of licences to "keep" issued in respect of petroleum spirit was 25, being an increase of 1 on last year.

Also 4 licences have been issued in respect of inflammable Cellulose solutions.

No licences have been issued for Carbide of Calcium.

In all cases where licences have been issued the petrol is stored in welded steel tanks underground, fitted with pumps, and in all cases the regulations are complied with.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911—1928.

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

Mortuary.

The mortuary has been cleansed and disinfected after use, also at regular intervals throughout the year, and was used on eleven occasions for the reception of bodies.

Other Statistics.

No. of Complaints	847
„ „ Statutory Notices	44
„ „ Game Licences Granted	4
„ „ Pawnbrokers' Licences Granted	1

Shops Acts, and Shops (Hours of Closing) Acts, 1912-1934, and Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936.

During the year 109 visits were made to shops in the district for the purpose of inspecting records as to the employment of Young Persons, and ascertaining that other requirements of the above Acts were being complied with.

17 warning letters were sent to shop-keepers relative to the keeping of records, closing hours, Assistants' Weekly Half-holidays, seats for female shop assistants, facilities for meals, washing accommodation, sanitary conveniences, lighting and ventilation, etc. Also printed pamphlets giving brief particulars of the Shops Acts were issued to shop-keepers, in addition to posters being exhibited in public places.

Applications, together with statutory declaration forms, were received from two Jewish Traders, for permission to open their businesses until 2 p.m. on Sundays, and in each case the application was granted.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901
AND FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

1.—Inspection of Factories.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Inspections	Number of	
		Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories, with Mechanical Power	71	4	—
Factories without Mechanical Power ..	25	1	—
Total	96	5	—

11.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
†Nuisances under the Public Health Acts	4	4	—	—
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation	1*	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)	—	—	—	—
Breach of Special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (S.S. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	6	5	—	—

† Including those specified in Sections 1 to 7 of the Factory Act, 1937, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

* Factory closed down indefinitely.

Number of Premises on the Registers.

No. of Factories with Mechanical Power	48
„ „ Factories without Mechanical Power	15
„ „ Lists of Out-Workers (Twice a year)—	
Sent out	2
Received	3

Factories were usually found to be in good condition, but it has been found necessary on occasions, to call attention to general untidiness and want of cleanliness.

Outworkers.

During the year thirty-one visits have been made to outworkers' premises, in order to ensure that the lighting and ventilation was adequate and the premises were suitable.

Factories Act, 1937—Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector appointed under the above Act to enforce the necessary requirements has carried out numerous inspections of factories in the district for the purpose of ascertaining that adequate means of escape in case of fire were provided for the employees.

Factory owners have been communicated with giving details of additional requirements and a large amount of work has been carried out by them in altering and extending the existing facilities to meet the new requirements.

Conservancy System.

No. of Privies abolished	—
„ „ Middens attached to Privies abolished	—
„ „ Privies converted to Pail Closets	—
„ „ Ash-bins provided in lieu of Middens	—
„ „ Ash-bins provided in lieu of Ash-pits	—
„ „ Ash-bins provided to new houses	177
„ „ Privies existing in the district	26
„ „ Middens attached to privies existing in the district	18
„ „ Pail Closets existing in the district	142
„ „ Ash-bins existing in the district	10,626
„ „ Ash-pits existing in the district	—

Water Carriage System.

No. of Fresh Water-Closets provided in lieu of Privies	—
„ „ Waste Water-closets converted to Fresh Water-closets	80
„ „ Waste Water-closets existing in the district	55
„ „ Fresh Water-closets existing in the district	10,467

The majority of Privy Middens are situate in the out-lying villages where there is no system of sewers available.

Drain Tests.

The following were carried out:—

Water Tests	137
Smoke Tests	292
Colour Tests	22

Housing Defects Remedied.

No. of defective roofs of houses repaired	13
„ „ bulging external walls of houses	4
„ „ fractured walls of houses	2
„ „ cases of dampness of internal walls remedied	43
„ „ „ „ defective wall plaster remedied	39
„ „ „ „ „ ceiling plaster remedied	36
„ „ defective kitchen ranges repaired or renewed	5
„ „ „ cooking ovens repaired or renewed	8
„ „ „ firebottoms and/or firebacks repaired or renewed	18
„ „ „ chimney flues repaired	3
„ „ „ skirting boards made good	2
„ „ „ wooden floors made good	2
„ „ „ flag floors made good	29
„ „ broken window cords renewed	15
„ „ defective window and door catches repaired	19
„ „ cases of broken window glazing	12
„ „ „ defective putty pointing to windows	4

HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED (Contd.).

No. of cases of defective window woodwork	29
" " " " woodwork of doors and door frames	16
" " " insufficient opening window space remedied	2
" " defective kitchen sinks renewed	9
" " " or untrapped sink waste pipes renewed	25
" " " water taps repaired	2
" " burst water pipes repaired	6
" " handrails provided to staircases	9
" " handrails provided to cellar steps	9
" " defective washing boilers renewed	6
" " " wash bowls renewed	3
" " " and dangerous steps	7
" " cases of defective brickwork or brickwork pointing	53
" " defective and dangerous boundary walls and coping stones	18
" " defective and dangerous chimney stacks and pots made good	6
" " defective yard gates repaired or renewed	6
" " " path or yard surfaces made good ...	23
" " " or choked eaves gutters made good	9
No. of rainwater pipes made to discharge over- trapped gullies	10
" " defective rainwater pipes, soilpipes, etc., made good	49

HOUSING DEFECTS REMEDIED (Contd.).

No. of defective gullies (R.W.P.; sink waste; bath waste, etc.) renewed	66
„ „ cases of absence of or badly fitting dishstones to gullies	6
„ „ general defects to W.C. outbuildings repaired	21
„ „ defective or choked water closet pedestals ...	14
„ „ additional water closets installed in houses	5
„ „ defective water closet cisterns or flushing apparatus made good	9
„ „ privies converted to fresh water closets	—
„ „ waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	80
„ „ defective private drains made good	68
„ „ defective combined drains made good	8
„ „ choked private drains cleansed	80
„ „ „ combined drains cleansed	14
„ „ „ inspection chambers to private drains	8
„ „ „ inspection chambers to combined drains	5
„ „ defective covers and frames to inspection chambers	19
„ „ cases of defective brickwork to inspection chambers	4
„ „ stoppers missing from raking arms of interceptor traps	11
„ „ defective ash-receptacles renewed	236
„ „ accumulation of waste materials on vacant land	21
„ „ infestations of rats	31
„ „ „ „ bugs	9
„ „ „ „ other vermin	7
„ „ miscellaneous housing defects	94
Total :	1,367

STATISTICS, 1925—1939.

The following table shows the closet and ash-pit accommodation in the district at the end of each of the past fifteen years.

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Privies	97	83	66	61	60	53	51	45	45	44	43	34	31	26	26
Middens attached	73	61	49	46	45	33	36	32	32	31	30	22	20	18	18
Pail-closets	115	125	124	124	123	126	130	135	135	135	134	155	154	145	142
Fresh Water-closets .	5329	5554	5775	5957	6253	6493	6787	7180	7430	8300	8945	9499	9963	10290	10467
Waste Water-closets	214	211	211	210	209	209	203	190	185	185	173	170	130	135	55
Ash-pits	528	512	473	442	388	373	356	217	97	93	73	10	—	—	—
Ash-bins	3651	3899	4162	4379	4718	4986	5291	5910	6319	7451	7810	9653	10127	10449	10626

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses During the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	95
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	442
(2) (a) Number of houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	1
(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	94

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	69
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Note :—The above figures refer only to action taken in reference to housing defects. Notice with regard to other premises, drainage and other defects are included under Sanitary Inspections.

3. Action under Statutory Power during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | — |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | — |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | — |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | — |
| (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | 8 |

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit | — |

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	5
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	5
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	36
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year :	
	(1) Rehoused by Council	2
	(2) Occupiers removed to larger privately owned houses	—
	(3) Lodgers or members of family left overcrowded house	4
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases :	
	(1) Rehoused by Council	16
	(2) Occupiers removed to larger privately owned houses	—
	(3) Lodgers or members of family left overcrowded house	29

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

During the year 88 dwelling-houses were measured for the purpose of ascertaining the "permitted number" of persons allowed to occupy them, and 137 certificates were issued. In addition 32 visits were paid to houses to check overcrowded families.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year 15 cases of Bug Infestation were reported to this department, 1 case in Council Houses, and 14 cases in privately owned houses.

By resolution of the Tenancy Committee the houses of all prospective tenants of Council Houses are inspected by a Sanitary Inspector and the Housing Supervisor prior to a Council House being allotted. This applies whether the prospective tenant resides in or outside the boundaries of Prestwich.

159 inspections were made during the year.

As a precautionary measure all individual unfit houses were fumigated prior to the tenants taking over the tenancy of Council Houses.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 37 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, a decrease of 26 on the previous year.

There were 49 cases of Diphtheria notified, a decrease of 24 on the previous year.

In November, 1939, an Order was issued by the Ministry of Health in which Measles and Whooping Cough were added to the list of notifiable infectious diseases.

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year ended December 31st, 1939.

Disease	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Cases Removed	COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL		
			No. of Cases Fumigated	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Cases Removed
Scarlet Fever	36	28	36	5	—
Diphtheria	49	41	49	—	—
Pneumonia	19	—	—	4	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	7	—
Erysipelas	7	2	2	3	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	—	—
Measles	1	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	114	72	90	20	—
Cases notified in the District	114				
Cases notified in the County Mental Hospital	20				
Totals ...	134				

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Council, free of charge and supplied to Medical Practitioners for the treatment of residents in Prestwich. This is kept at the Health Department, Town Hall, Police Station, Rectory Lane, and the Medical Officer's Residence, Bury New Road.

267,000 units were supplied during the year.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

Number of specimens examined in 1939 by the Public Health Department, Salford, and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Diphtheria—Throat or Nose Swabs	286
Virulence Tests	3
Tuberculosis—Sputum	23
Others—Agglutination Tests	—
Haemolytic Streptocci	—

Action taken with regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return Cases, (c) Carrier Cases.

(a) Contacts excluded from school and in some cases from work.

No. of contacts traced :—

Scarlet Fever—40 School Contacts—129 Others.

Diphtheria—57 School Contacts—123 Others.

(b) Nil.

(c) Nil.

Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Number of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health :

(a) Primary ... Nil. (b) Re-vaccination ... Nil.

Disinfection.

The disinfection of infected premises is done by means of fumigation with formaldehyde vapour, and when deemed necessary the walls of any room or rooms are sprayed with formalin.

Bedding and clothing is removed for disinfection in the steam disinfectant provided by the Council.

The number of disinfections carried out were as follows :

Rooms	143
Articles of bedding and clothing	1,517
Public Library Books	55
Articles of bedding and clothing destroyed	72

Disinfection is carried out by workmen connected with the Health Department.

Liquid disinfectant is provided free in suitable "poison" bottles for which a deposit of threepence is required.

*NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR, 1939.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases of all ages	Under 1	Total Cases Notified Years										65 and over	Total Deaths over	Hospital Cases removed to Hospital from the district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	Statistics not Available
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	41	—	—	1	1	6	15	8	5	2	3	—	—	—	28	—	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	49	—	1	1	1	4	14	11	7	7	2	—	1	—	41	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia & acute influenzal pneumonia	23	—	—	2	1	1	2	3	1	5	—	6	2	—	no record	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	6	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	134	2	1	4	3	11	31	22	13	21	8	14	4	—	—	—	—

* Includes County Mental Hospital, Prestwich.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality During 1939.

Age Periods. Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—				
1—5	—	—	1	—				
5—10	—	—	—	2	Statistics			
10—15	—	—	—	1				
15—20	*2	—	—	—				
20—25	1	3	—	—	not			
25—35	5	—	1	1				
35—45	6	2	—	—				
45—55	4	1	—	—	Available.			
55—65	—	—	—	—				
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—				
	—	—	—	—				
Totals ...	20	6	2	4				
	—	—	—	—				
	26		6					

* 1 Case Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.

During 1939 there was a decrease of 2 on the previous year in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken relating to Tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Prevention of Blindness—Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case has been notified during the year. This case was sent to hospital for treatment.

In conclusion I beg to thank the Council, the various Committees for the support given to the Health Officials; Mr. Ashton and Mr. Kay for their helpful advice; Mr. Trippier, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the enormous amount of work put in during the year; Mr. J. Kay and Mr. Kellett, Additional Sanitary Inspectors for their wholesale support and finally Mr. Halliwell, Clerk in the Health Department.

HENRY C. BURBIDGE,

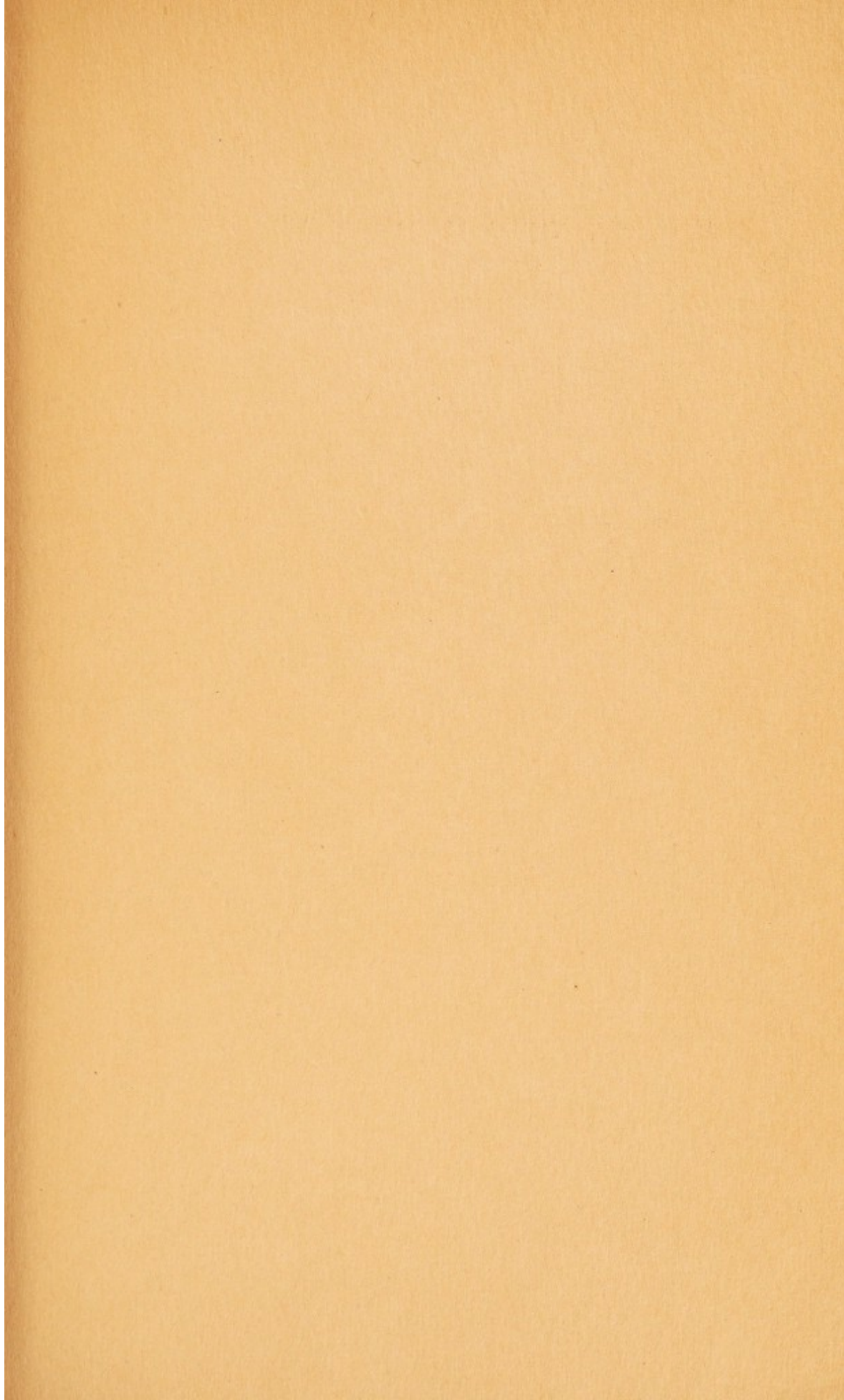
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Prestwich.

October, 1940.



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