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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH.

MAYOR ... ALDERMAN A. PIMLOTT, J.P.


ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER,

1941

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

Medical Officer of Health.



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Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1941-42.

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

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. Butterworth.

The Mayor: Alderman A. Pimlott, J.P.

Alderman F. Wilkinson. Alderman A. L. Williams.
Councillor F. Bolton. Councillor J. D. Crewdson.
Councillor J. Haddow, J.P. Councillor A. Naylor.
Councillor W. A. Satchwell. Councillor C. E. Travis.
Councillor C. W. Thompson.

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.

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.
(On Active Service with R.A.M.C.)

J. KAY, San. Insp. Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
Cert. of Meat and other Foods, R.S.I.

G. E. STANLEY, San. Insp. Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
(Temporary).

Staff in the Public Health Department:

Miss M. HOLLAND (Typist).

Miss E. V. WOLSTENHOLME (Temporary Clerk and Typist).

H. DIXON (Junior Clerk).

MORTALITY STATISTICS

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1941.

Area—The Borough of Prestwich has a total area of 2,420 acres.

Population—

Registrar-General's Estimate at Mid-Year, 1941 = 33,910
Census, 1931 23,881

Density—The mean density of the Borough is equal to 14 persons per acre.

Live Births—

Legitimate 166 males 182 females ... 348
Illegitimate 10 males 6 females ... 16

Total 364

Annual Rate of Births per 1,000 of the Population ... 10.8

Still Births (Males 10) (Females 4) Total 14

Annual Rate of Still Births per 1,000 total Births ... 38

Deaths (Males 152) (Females 191) 343

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population 10.1

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 of the
Population) (comparability factor not
available) not known

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Death Rate per 1,000	
	Deaths	total Births
Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.64
Other Maternal Causes	1	2.64
Total	2	5.28

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age :—

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 40
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births NIL
All Infants per 1,000 Live Birth 38
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 51
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Prestwich.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1941. 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, the standard of efficiency has been maintained.

Population.

The estimated population as calculated by the Registrar General up to mid 1941 is 33,910 an increase of 150.

The number of inhabited houses is 9,910, being an increase of 11 on the previous year. The average number of persons per occupied house is 3.4 approximately.

The rateable value is £237,191 and a penny rate represents the sum of £924.

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 2.5 whereas the true approximate figures are not more than 1.5% for Prestwich residents.

The majority of the inhabitants are engaged in business in Manchester and Salford and 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.

I regret to report an increase in deaths of children under 1 year. The number of deaths recorded is 14 compared with 6 in 1940 or a death rate of 38 per 1,000 live births.

The good attendance of mothers and expectant mothers at the Child Welfare Centre continues.

The number of deaths registered was 343, viz. :—152 males and 191 females, being a decrease of 21 on the preceding year.

The number of births exceeds the deaths by 21.

Heart disease again heads the list of deaths, viz. :—62. Then follows cancer 51; intra-cranial vascular lesions 36.

CAUSES OF DEATHS, 1941.

	Males	Females	Totals
Diphtheria	1	—	1
Influenza	—	2	2
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	12	6	18
Other Tubercular Diseases	—	2	2
Cancer	26	25	51
Diabetes	—	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	7	29	36
Heart Disease	28	34	62
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3	6
Bronchitis	12	8	20
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	7	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	3	5
Ulcer, Peptic	4	3	7
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Diseases of the Liver	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	2	5	7
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	10	10	20
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	2	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	2	1	3
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Measles	1	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	2	—	2

	Males	Females	Totals
Encephalitis	—	2	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	4	4	8
Road Traffic Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	1	2
Other Violence	5	5	10
All other causes	26	35	61
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals... ..	152	191	343
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death of Infants under one year :—

Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals... ..	9	5	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Births :—

Legitimate	166	182	348
Illegitimate	10	6	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals... ..	176	188	364
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Births :—

Legitimate	9	1	10
Illegitimate	1	3	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals... ..	10	4	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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 provides 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, 1941, is £1,586 2s. 8d. against £1,593 0s. 3d. for the year ended 30th September, 1940. 43 Cases of infectious diseases were admitted to the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, during the year under the above scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A scheme for the immunisation of children was commenced in January and up to the end of December 677 pre-school children and 939 school children were immunised, making a total of 1,616.

At the same time it was decided to immunise against whooping cough those children under 10 years of age who had not had whooping cough. I intend to carry out this scheme during the following year.

Up to the present no re-actions of any note have taken place.

Three injections at monthly intervals were given of T.A.F. for diphtheria and a combined serum of T.A.F. and whooping cough for those children under 10 who had not had whooping cough.

Every help has been given by the County in the carrying out of the scheme and I have had the valuable help of Nurse Wellard, lent by the County.

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. 4 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, Infirmarys, 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.

A second Ambulance has been ordered by the local Council and is expected to be in service early in 1942.

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:—

Mesdames Chapman, Gibson, Vernon, Adams and Ballantyne.

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.

In 1941 there was an average attendance of about 70 mothers and babies at the Heaton Park Centre, and 60 at the Prestwich Centre, making a total weekly attendance of 130.

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
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.

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.

Heavy Storm flows are dealt with in separate storm water tanks before the effluent is discharged into the river.

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 was in course of preparation, but has been held up because of hostilities.

Closet Accommodation at the end of 1941.

	No. at end 1940
Number of Middens, 18	18
Number of Closets attached to Middens, 24	26
Number of Pail Closets, 140	140
Number of Fresh Water Closets, 10,481	10,477
Number of Waste Water-Closets, 47	48
Number of Dry Ash-pits, nil.	nil.
Number of Moveable Ash-bins, 10,652	10,650
Number of Waste Water-closets converted to Fresh Water--closets in 1941, 1. 7 in 1940.	

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 1941 2,276 premises were visited and 5,049 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 regular 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 cess-pools as are inaccessible to the Motor emptier.

Inspections.

Number of Premises Visited	1,605
Sanitary Inspections during the year numbered	3,609
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	888
Number of defects or nuisances abated	829
Number of Informal Notices served	720
Number of Statutory Notices served	40

Smoke Nuisances.

Only action taken was in respect of smoke from a damaged laundry chimney. Complaints were received from nearby residents and the matter taken up with owners, which resulted in the erection of a new steel chimney stack.

Observations ceased on receipt in August, 1940, of Home Security Circular, No. 24/1940, relative to the production of extra smoke. All concerned by this Circular were communicated with and their co-operation requested.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

40 Cases of Rate and Mice infestation were investigated during the year under review, entailing 180 visits to infested premises.

In order to assist in the extermination of rodents, rat traps belonging to the Health Department are loaned to occupiers of infested premises and periodical visits made by workmen connected with the Department. 43 Rats were caught and destroyed during the year by such means.

War conditions have greatly restricted the activities of local Rat-Catchers during the year. Owing to this fact the number of rats caught and destroyed, 438 shows a decrease on previous figures.

A National Rat Week was not held in 1941.

Offensive Trades.

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

The licences are granted annually by the Council.

Fish Frying Businesses.

There are 12 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. Periodical inspections have been made during the year and particular attention has been paid to cleanliness.

Schools.

At each holiday period during the year the under-mentioned schools in the district were disinfected, also the drain gullies and grids 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.

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 a sufficient accommodation for the proper storage of food. These houses have gardens back and front surrounded by low privet or paling fence.

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 9,910.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority :

1919 Act 377

1923 Act 288

1924 Act 372

1930 Act 55

1,092

Number of Houses Erected during the Year.

Nil.

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.

Improvement has been maintained 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 one sample of milk was taken for Bacterial count and bacilli of the Typhoid group. The result was as follows :—

Count on Yeast Agar at 37° c for

48 hours 23,000 per c.c.

No Bacilli of the Typhoid Paratyphoid Group isolated.

Milk Supplied to School Children.

One Sample was taken for examination for Tubercle Bacilli on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The result was negative.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

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

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

Slaughter Houses.

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

Slaughtering at the two private slaughter-houses was stopped under the Live Stock (Restriction on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, S. R. and O., 1940, No. 41, made by the Minister of Food which came into operation on 15th January, 1940.

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 mechanically operated instrument for the stunning of animals compulsory.

No. of Slaughtermen's Licences issued 7

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.

Sampling of Food and Drugs.

This part of the Food and Drugs, Act, 1938, is administered by the Lancashire County Council, and I am indebted

to Mr. J. C. Almond, County Sanitary Inspector, who has kindly furnished the following particulars of samples taken within this district :—

Milk	30	Calcium Acetysalicylate ...	1
Fullers Earth	1	Onion Condiment	1
Anti-Gas Ointment	1	Cornflour	1
Tincture of Iodine	1	Coffee & Chicory	1
Sugar Substitute	1	Arrowroot	1
Comp. Liq. Powder	1	Comp. Tinc. of Benzine ...	1
Semolina	1	Camphorated Oil	1
S. R. Flour... ..	2	Sodium Bicarbonate	1
Mixed Spice	1	Tea	1
Shredded Beef Suet	1	Lard	1
Baking Powder... ..	1	Butter	1
Rice	2	Margarine	1
Ground Ginger	1	Sugar	1
Coffee	1		

All the above samples 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 22 being an increase of 8 on last year.

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

No licences have been issued for Carbide or 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.

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

During the year 124 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.

31 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.

Infringement of Shops Acts.

No Court proceedings were taken against shopkeepers during the year.

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

Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1923.

There are no premises in this district in 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 6 occasions for the reception of bodies.

FACTORIES' ACT, 1937.

1. Inspection of Factories.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Inspections	Number of	
		Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with Mechanical Power	16	3	—
Factories without Mechanical Power...	2	2	—
Total	18	5	—

II. 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 :			
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—
Want of Ventilation	1	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors... ..	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	5	5	—
Sanitary Accommodation :			
Insufficient	1	1	—
Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	—
Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—
Offences under the Factories' Act :			
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (S. 101)	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (S.S. 97 to 100)	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—
Total	13	13	—

Number of Premises on the Registers.

No. of Factories with Mechanical Power	49
No. of Factories without Mechanical Power	11
No. of Lists of Out-Workers (Twice a year)—	
Sent out	1
Received	2

The 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 51 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 the regulations have been complied with.

Conservancy System.

No. of Privies abolished	1
,, 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	2
,, Ash-bins provided to new houses	—
,, Privies existing in the district	24
,, Middens attached to Privies existing in the district	18
,, Pail Closets existing in the district	140
,, Ash-bins existing in the district	10652
,, Ash-pits existing in the district	—

Water Carriage System.

No. of Fresh Water-closets provided in lieu of Privies	2
„ Waste Water-closets converted to Fresh Water-closets	1
„ Waste Water-closets existing in the district...	47
„ Fresh Water-closets existing in the district...	10481

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	22
Smoke Tests	110
Colour Tests	43

Nuisances Abated.

No. of defective roofs of houses repaired	24
„ fractured walls of houses	6
„ cases of dampness of external walls remedied	38
„ cases of defective wall plaster remedied	28
„ cases of defective ceiling plaster remedied	15
„ defective kitchen ranges repaired or renewed	7
„ defective cooking ovens repaired or renewed	2
„ defective firebottoms and/or fireback repaired or renewed	7
„ defective chimney flues repaired	7
„ defective skirting boards made good	3
„ defective wooden floors made good	14
„ defective flag floors made good	9
„ broken window cords renewed	20
„ defective window and door catches repaired...	7
„ cases of broken window glazing	5

No. of defective window woodwork	18
„ defective woodwork of doors and door frames	5
„ defective kitchen sinks renewed	5
„ defective or untrapped sink waste pipes renewed	10
„ defective water taps repaired	4
„ burst water pipes repaired	12
„ handrails provided to staircases	3
„ handrails provided to cellar steps	1
„ defective washing boilers renewed	3
„ defective wash bowls renewed	1
„ defective and dangerous steps	4
„ cases of defective brickwork or brickwork pointing	21
„ defective and dangerous boundary walls and coping stones	4
„ defective and dangerous chimney stacks and pots made good	1
„ defective yard gates repaired or renewed ...	7
„ defective path or yard surfaces made good ...	11
„ defective or choked eaves gutters made good	13
„ rainwater pipes made to discharge over trapped gullies	4
„ defective rainwater pipes, soilpipes, etc., made good	29
„ gullies (R.W.P.; sink waste; bath waste; etc.,) renewed	7
„ cases of absence of or badly fitting dishstones to gullies	6
„ general defects to W.C. outbuildings repaired	6

No. of defective or choked water closet pedestals	14
„ additional water closets installed in houses	1
„ defective water closet cisterns or flushing apparatus made good	13
„ Privies converted to fresh-water closets	2
„ waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	1
„ defective private drains made good	47
„ defective combined drains made good	3
„ choked private drains cleansed	77
„ choked combined drains cleansed	28
„ choked inspection chambers to private drains	3
„ choked inspection chambers to combined drains	7
„ defective covers and frames to inspection chambers	4
„ cases of defective brickwork to inspection chambers	2
„ stoppers missing from raking arms of interceptor traps	3
„ defective ash-receptacles renewed	149
„ accumulations of waste materials	21
„ infestation of rats and mice	40
„ infestation of bugs	13
„ infestation of beetles, snails, etc.	10
„ miscellaneous housing and other defects	24
Total	829

STATISTICS 1927—1941.

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

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Privies...	66	61	60	53	51	45	45	44	43	34	31	26	26	26	24
Middens attached ...	49	46	45	38	36	32	32	31	30	22	20	18	18	18	18
Pail-Closets ...	124	124	123	126	130	135	135	135	134	155	154	145	142	140	140
Fresh Water-Closets	5775	5957	6253	6496	6787	7180	7430	8300	8945	9499	9963	10290	10467	10477	10481
Waste Water-Closets	211	210	209	209	203	190	185	185	173	170	130	135	55	48	47
Ash-pits ...	473	442	388	373	356	217	97	93	73	10	—	—	—	—	—
Ash-bins ...	4162	4379	4718	4986	5291	5910	6319	7451	7810	9653	10127	10449	10626	10650	10652

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)	123
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	747
(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 the purpose	2
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(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	123

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	55
--	----

Note :—The above figures refer only to action taken in reference to housing defects

Notices with regard to other premises, drainage and other defects are included under Sanitary Inspections.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.
A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 10 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | 5 |
| (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 | 5 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | 5 |
| (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 | nil. |
| (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | nil. |

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

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

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

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	30
(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) Occupiers removed to larger privately owned houses	—
(3) Lodgers or members of family left over- crowded house	—
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	
(1) Rehoused by Council	—
(2) Occupiers removed to larger privately owned houses	—
(3) Lodgers or members of family left over- crowded house	—

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

During the year 41 dwelling-houses were measured for the purpose of ascertaining the "permitted number" of persons allowed to occupy them, and 27 certificates were issued.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the year 13 cases of Bug infestation were reported to this department, 2 cases in Council Houses, and 11 cases in privately owned houses.

By the end of the year all of these cases had been abated, as well as 3 cases which had been outstanding at the end of 1940.

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.

97 Such Inspections were made during the year.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 28 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, a decrease of 2 on the previous year.

There were 23 cases of Diphtheria notified, an increase of 1 on the previous year. The spread of the Clinical type of Diphtheria was due to contact of children in school with others suffering from sore throats. It was only by swabs being taken that many cases were recognised.

Notifiable Pneumonia increased from 39 to 47 this number includes County Mental Hospital cases.

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year ended 31st December, 1941.

Diseases	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Cases Removed	No. of Cases Fumigated	COUNTY MENTAL HOSPITAL	
				No. of Cases Notified	No. of Cases Removed
Scarlet Fever	28	18	28	—	—
†Diphtheria	23	21	23	—	—
Pneumonia	21	—	—	26	—
Dysentery	1	1	1	11	—
Erysipelas	2	—	2	7	—
Measles	201	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	3	3	—	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	2	2	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .	2	2	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	2	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	98	—	—	—	—
Totals	385	50	62	44	—

†Includes 1 non Civilian.

Cases notified in the District 385

Cases notified in the County Mental Hospital ... 44

Total 429

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, Police Station, Rectory Lane, and the Medical Officer's Residence, Bury New Road.

264,000 units were supplied during the year.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

Number of specimens examined in 1941 by the Public Health Department, Salford, and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Diphtheria—Throat or Nose Swabs	123
Virulence Tests	1
Tuberculosis—Sputum	12
Others—Widal Tests	2

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 :—16 School Contacts—79 others.

Diphtheria :—20 School Contacts—83 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 disinfector provided by the Council.

The number of disinfections carried out were as follows :—

Rooms	107
Articles of Bedding and Clothing	1301
Public Library Books	63
Articles of Bedding and Clothing destroyed	35

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 1941.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases of all ages.	Under 1	Total Cases Notified Years										65 and over					Total Deaths removed to Hospital from the district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65							
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	28	—	—	1	2	4	12	5	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—
xDiphtheria (including membranous croup) ...	23	—	1	—	1	—	7	4	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	1	—
Acute primary pneumonia & Acute influenzal pneumonia	47	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	14	18	9	11	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Measles	201	5	9	17	22	29	103	8	6	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	98	7	11	11	12	18	37	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
§Dysentery	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	7	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
†Erysipelas	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals	429	15	22	30	38	53	161	18	12	20	17	25	18	15	—	—	50	2	—

xIncludes 1 non-civilian.

§11 Cases in County Mental Hospital.

†7 Cases in County Mental Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Periods Years	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	—	—
5—10	—	2	—	1
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—20	4	—	—	—
20—25	4	1	1	1
25—35	6	—	6	—
35—45	7	—	8	—
45—55	2	—	1	—
55—65	2	1	1	—
65 and upwards	1	—	1	—
Totals	26	5	18	2
	31		20	

During 1941 there was an increase of 4 on the previous year in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified.

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 18 against 12 in 1940.

The number of deaths from other Tubercular affections is 2 against 2 in 1940.

New cases during 1941 included two that were not notified in the usual manner, the first intimation being provided by the death returns.

Another case notified during the year and included above was removed from the Register early in 1942 on receipt of information that diagnosis had not been confirmed.

The rates are as follows :—

	Per 1,000 of Population
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.56
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	0.06

If taken together as Tubercular affections we have 20 deaths or a rate of 0.62 per 1,000 of the population.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

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

Prevention of Blindness—Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases have been notified during the year and were treated in hospital.

Air Raid Precautions and Civil Defence.

Although the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Staff have given a considerable amount of their time to the running and organisation of the A.R.P. Casualty Services, they have nevertheless succeeded in coping with the various and onerous duties of the Public Health Department. I have nothing but praise for their loyalty, help and watchfulness during this trying period of war.

In conclusion I beg to thank the Council, the various Committees for the support given to the Health Officials: Mr. F. H. Ashton and Mr. Handel Kay for their helpful advice; Mr. L. T. J. Trippier, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the enormous amount of work put in during the year; Mr. J. Kay and Mr. G. Stanley, Additional Sanitary Inspectors for their wholesale support and finally Miss M. Holland and the Health Office Staff for their conscientious attention to duties.

HENRY C. BURBIDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Monsall Lodge,
Bury New Road,
Prestwich.



KENWORTHY **P**RESS
1, WARWICK STREET
MANCHESTER ONE (CEN 0094)