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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1949





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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH



REPORT

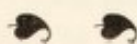
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1949



BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

The Mayor — ALDERMAN I. WEBSTER, J.P.

Public Health Committee, 1949.

COUNCILLOR	A. E. PIMLOTT, CHAIRMAN.
"	L. F. BARROW, VICE-CHAIRMAN.
ALDERMAN	A. PIMLOTT.
"	C. E. TRAVIS.
"	A. W. WILLIAMS.
COUNCILLOR	C. P. BEARDSALL.
"	F. BUTTERWORTH.
"	G. W. COE.
"	MRS. V. B. DICKINSON.
"	E. MOLYNEAUX.
"	J. PHYTHIAN.

Town Clerk — F. H. ASHTON.

Officers of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health—

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—

L. T. J. TRIPPIER, Cert.R.S.I., N.R.P., Cert.,
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—

L. STEWART, Cert.R.S.I.	Certified Meat and Food Inspector.
G. V. BLACKBROUGH, Cert.R.S.I.	(to 29-10-49).
A. HINKLEY, Cert.R.S.I.	(from 28-11-49).

Clerks— H. DIXON AND R. EATOUGH.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Prestwich.

October, 1950.

To His Worship the Mayor and all Members
of the Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1949 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The live birth rate was 12.5 and the adjusted death rate 10.9 per 1,000 of the population. Both rates are lower than those for England and Wales, which are 16.7 and 11.7 respectively. The infant mortality rate of 23 per 1,000 live births was again a low figure. There were no maternal deaths.

Infectious disease was generally mild in character, and consisted mainly of an outbreak of measles and to a lesser extent of whooping cough and scarlet fever. For the second year in succession there were no cases of diphtheria. There was only one mild case of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). Four cases of typhoid fever were reported, two connected with an outbreak in the City of Salford and two in Prestwich Hospital.

Respiratory tuberculosis caused ten deaths, and there were 21 new cases of the disease, together with 6 new cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis. This is the most serious infectious disease to-day.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning, although 16 notifications of suspected cases were received and all were investigated. Close attention has been paid to premises where food is prepared, and the salient features of food hygiene have been made clear. Proprietors have been very co-operative and anxious to comply with all requirements.

The water supply has been generally satisfactory, although nine out of 22 samples did not reach the accepted bacteriological

standards. Two samples of milk were found to contain tubercle bacilli, and just over one-third of the samples were bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

91 houses were completed by the Council, and eight private houses. Twenty-two houses were in process of erection at the end of the year, and the priority waiting list was 123.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area—2,420 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of :—

resident population mid 1949 34,730.

No. of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at the end of 1949—10,098.

Rateable Value 1949—£238,235.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£963.

Social conditions are generally good, the area is mainly residential the chief industries being, bleaching, dyeing and finishing, also the manufacture of soap and toilet requisites.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Civilian population—Registrar-General's estimate,
mid-1949—34,720.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	422	199	223	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated civilian pop- ulation mid-1949—12.5
	Illegitimate	12	7	5	
	Total	434	206	228	

Still Births 16 13 3 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—36.

Deaths 371 198 173 Death rates per 1,000
estimated civilian pop-
ulation mid-1949
Crude 10.7.
Adjusted 10.9.

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis Nil.
Other maternal causes Nil.
Total maternal mortality Nil.

Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 21
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 83

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 65
" " Measles (all ages) Nil.
" " Whooping-cough (all ages) 3
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.					Maternal mortality rate		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death-rate from cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
POPULATION— For birth-rate } 34,720 For death-rate }								
Mean of 5 years, 1944-1948	15.8	10.9	0.29	1.75	0.75	0.74	40	
Year 1948	14.3	9.8	0.23	1.78	2.00	1.99	40	
Year 1949	12.5	*10.7	0.29	1.87	nil.	nil.	23	
Increase or decrease in 1949 on 5 years' average, 1944-1948	-3.3	-0.2	nil.	+0.12	-0.75	-0.74	-17	
Previous year	-1.8	+0.9	+0.06	+0.09	-2.00	-1.99	-17	

* 1949 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 10.9 per 1,000.

The following tables show how the vital statistics for Prestwich compare with those for England and Wales and other Authorities in respect of birth rates, civilian death rates, analyses of mortality and maternal mortality in the year 1949.

Provisional figures based on quarterly returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Prestwich
Births—					
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
Live births	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5	12.5
Still births	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.46
Deaths—					
All causes	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2	10.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping-cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.09
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.29
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.35
Births—					
	Rates per 1,000 live Births				
All causes under 1 year of age	32 (b)	37	30	29	23
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	2.3
Notifications (Corrected)	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
Puerperal fever and Pyrexia	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	0.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Prestwich
140. Abortion with sepsis	0.11	Nil.
141. Abortion without sepsis	0.05	Nil.
147. Puerperal infections	0.11	Nil.
142-146, 148-150. Other maternal causes	0.71	Nil.

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	3
Whooping Cough	1	2
Syphilitic diseases	1	0
Influenza	2	2
Acute infective encephalitis	1	0
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesoph (m) uterus (f)....	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	7	2
Cancer of breast	0	8
Cancer of all other sites	30	15
Diabetes	1	3
Intracranial vascular lesions	15	25
Heart diseases	58	54
Other diseases of the circulatory system	10	6
Bronchitis	22	8
Pneumonia	4	8
Other respiratory diseases	4	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)....	1	0
Other digestive diseases	7	8
Nephritis	6	5
Premature births	1	0
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infant diseases	4	3
Suicide	2	3
Road traffic accidents	1	1
Other violent causes	2	2
All other causes	9	12
All causes		198 173
Total		<u>371</u>

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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

Corrections to the Report of the Medical Officer of
Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year 1949.

PAGE 9 - Last sentence at the foot of the page
should read

Ninety-nine houses were erected during the year

PAGE 36 - Line 2 and 3 should read - 1949



MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
DATE: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]
2. [Illegible]
3. [Illegible]

4. [Illegible]
5. [Illegible]

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied to this area by the following three authorities :—

1. Manchester Corporation Waterworks.
2. Irwell Valley Water Board.
3. Heywood and Middleton Water Board.

On the whole the supply has been satisfactory in quality throughout the year. The quantity of water is sufficient, although in the Simister area there is only a low pressure.

Of 22 samples taken for bacteriological examination, 9 were unsatisfactory. In 2 cases the mains required flushing, and the remaining 7 samples were taken in drought weather, the low level of water in the reservoirs being responsible for the adverse reports. Communications were sent to the Water Authorities concerned, and following up samples proved satisfactory.

Three samples were taken for chemical analysis and all were satisfactory. In no cases were there any deposits of lead.

Except for two farms in the Simister area which are supplied by well and spring water, all houses in the district are supplied direct from the public mains. The only extensions of the supply during the year were to new property.

Section C, Housing 1936 Act.

Full details of housing inspections and action under statutory powers are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. There are very few cases of legal overcrowding; most cases are of moral overcrowding on bedroom accommodation provided, particularly in small type houses. The main causes are shortage of dwellinghouses for newly-married persons at present living with their parents, and houses with enough bedrooms for large families. Ninety-six houses were erected during the year.

NINE

Inspections and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

(a) Licences.

The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1948, and from the 1st October, 1949, the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, have been issued.

Tuberculin Tested Milk :

Bottling Nil. Distribution 7.

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk :

Bottling Nil. Distribution 4.

Accredited Milk :

Bottling Nil. Distribution 1.

Pasteurised Milk :

Retail Distributors 10. Pasteurising Plants 1.

(b) Dairies and Milk Shops.

At the end of the year there were 14 Milk Purveyors Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

(c) Farms.

There are 6 dairy farms in the district, and the supervision of these was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture on the 1st October, 1949. Prior to this date, routine inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors with a view to cleanliness, limewashing, and structural conditions of the farms and the cleanliness of cows and milkers watched, together with the methods for sterilising the utensils and equipment used for handling milk.

(d) Samples.

- (1) for tuberculous milk—15 samples—2 found to be positive were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for action to be taken ;
- (2) Methylene Blue Test—out of 69 samples taken, 24 failed to pass the test.

Phosphatase Test—out of 41 samples taken, 1 failed to pass the test.

Turbidity Test—of 2 samples taken, both were satisfactory.

Coliform Test—26 samples were taken and the following results recorded:—

No. of tubes in which *B. coli* was present:

Nil	1	2	3
8	3	1	14

Meat Supply.

There are two licenced private slaughter houses in the district, also one in connection with the Prestwich Hospital. Slaughtering was stopped under the Live Stock (Restriction on Slaughter) Order, 1940.

A Slaughterman's Licence was issued, and 3 were renewed during the year.

The retail meat shops have been regularly visited to inspect the meat and to ascertain that the Public Health (Meat) Regulation were being observed. Conditions have been generally satisfactory, and no statutory action has been necessary.

Ice-cream.

During the year 28 applications for the registration of premises for the sale or manufacture of ice-cream were investigated and approved subject to compliance with the Lancashire County Council Ice-cream Codes of Practice. The total number of premises now registered is 49. In one case registration was refused on the grounds that firelighters were sold from the shop.

Routine inspections of shops and premises where ice-cream is sold and manufactured was carried out during the year, and 84 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for the Methylene blue test with the following results:—

Provisional Grade	1	2	3	4
No. of Samples	13	3	9	9

During a special enquiry regarding a suspected source of contaminated ice-cream, 8 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and 5 were unsatisfactory. Very high counts were

obtained, one sample showed 397,000,000 organisms per milli litre. They were alpha-haemolytic streptococci. Their presence had caused some upset in persons who had consumed the ice-cream. The important point is that the presence of so many bacteria indicated a faulty procedure. This was rectified after inspection of the plant and prohibition of the ageing process. Subsequent samples were entirely free from organisms. The contaminated ice-cream was voluntarily destroyed and no further cases arose. In addition to sampling ice-cream from shop premises, 4 samples were taken from street vendors in the summer months, and all were reported upon as unsatisfactory. Letters were sent to the Medical Officers of Heath in whose area the ice-cream was produced.

Bakehouses, Food Shops and Fish Fryers.

Routine inspections have been made of the above premises throughout the year, and where any defects or unsuitable conditions were found; a letter and specification of works was sent, and in all cases shop keepers were willing to co-operate with the department in carrying out any necessary requirements.

Schools.

There are 13 schools in the district, and the sanitary conditions of these are analysed in the following table:—

Number of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces 5

Sanitary Accommodation.

Number of schools with fresh water closets 12

Number of schools with pail closets 1

Refuse Disposal.

All schools are supplied with dustbins.

Water Supply.

All schools are supplied from the public mains.

Washing and Drinking Facilities.

8 schools have insufficient washing facilities.

11 schools have insufficient drinking facilities.

Drainage.

All schools have drains connected to the public sewers.

Facilities for handling meals.

The meals are prepared at the Woodthorpe Cooking Depot, Bury Old Road, Prestwich, and delivered by motor van to the schools.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Under the National Health Service Act, the following services for the district are administered by the Lancashire County Council through the Divisional Health Committee No. 12, in whose area Prestwich is situated:—

Ambulance Service.—There is an ambulance station situated at the Town's Yard, Prestwich.

Nursing in the Home.—There is a District Nursing Home in the area, and midwives and nurses are available when required by Medical Practitioners to visit their patients.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—There are two child welfare centres in Prestwich, and these were open for mothers to attend with babies on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 2 and 4 p.m. Health visitors from these clinics also visit the homes of young babies in the area.

An ante-natal clinic is provided in the neighbouring authority of Whitefield, and is available for Prestwich residents.

Home Helps.—A home help scheme is in operation in the district.

Hospital Services.—This is provided by the Regional Board and its management Committees. Patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Laboratory Services.—A Public Health Laboratory Service at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, provides facilities for bacteriological examinations of milk and water and bacteriological specimens.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The figure of 49%, being the number of children immunised under the age of five, on 31st December, 1948, was not considered to be a true one. An enquiry was, therefore, conducted about those children who were not recorded as having been immunised on the clinic records. Lists of all the children under five were obtained from the Food Office records, and those already known to have been immunised were crossed off.

There were, at the time of the investigation, only two Health Visitors in Prestwich, and a meeting was held with representatives of the British Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Association, and the British Legion, who agreed to carry out home visits to ascertain whether the children had been immunised and, if so, where and by whom, and to refer any difficulties to the Health Visitors who would follow these up.

Children under one year were not considered because it was felt these could be dealt with in the ordinary way through the welfare centres, and there remained 844 children of whom we had no record. Lists were drawn up in street order with 25 names on each sheet, so that these could be handed to the voluntary helpers, one to each, in order that they should make their visits nearest their own home. The enquiry has shown that 89 of these children had left the district, 414 had been immunised, 141 had not been immunised, and 43 objected. In the remaining 157 cases it was not possible to get into touch with the parents, even after several visits. The two Health Visitors made approximately 100 visits each, but some of these were on account of the inability of one of the voluntary helpers to carry out her duties due to sickness.

At the end of 1948 it was known that 1,220 children under the age of five years had been immunised, and with the addition of a further 414 immunised children now discovered by this enquiry, the total figure reaches 1,634. There was, on the 31st December, 1948, a population of 2,503 children under the age of five and, therefore, it is definitely known that 65.2 per cent. of the children in this age group have been immunised. In fact, this percentage is on the conservative side, as it is reasonable to suppose that some of the children who have left the district had

already been immunised, and in all probability some of those included in the 157 cases with whom the investigators have not been able to get into touch.

Objections were raised by the parents on the grounds that :—

- (1) the injection was putting poison into their system ;
- (2) they did not believe in it ;
- (3) they now thought the disease was no worse than the inoculation ;
- (4) one or other of their children had had some reaction.

It was never possible to substantiate this last objection satisfactorily.

It should not be necessary to make such an investigation in future now that the doctors are making a return of the immunisations they carry out. It should be possible to know about all these cases, but the enquiry has revealed that the number of children immunised is nothing like as low as the records showed.

Number of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year 1949.

0—4 years	5—14 years	Total under 15 years	No. of Children receiving a Reinforcing injection 0—14 years
433	37	470	449

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949.

Age at 31-12-49 i.e.- Born in Year	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5—9 1940- 1944	10—14 1935- 1939	Total under 15
Number Immunised	246	317	482	353	426	1,378	1,314	4,516
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1949	2,531					3,985		6,516

Percentage of children Immunised : 0— 5 years 72.1%

5—15 years 67.6%

Total under 15 years of age 69.3%

DIPHTHERIA.

Year.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
1930	27	—
1931	17	3
1932	8	—
1933	25	2
1934	19	—
1935	29	2
1936	24	1
1937	43	2
1938	70	3
1939	49	—
1940	22	1
*1941	23	1
1942	8	—
1943	9	—
1944	13	—
1945	12	—
1946	23	—
1947	7	—
1948	—	—
1949	—	—

* Immunisation scheme started January, 1941.

Prevalence and Control over Infections Disease.

There was an epidemic of measles, and to a lesser extent whooping cough and scarlet fever. Three deaths occurred from whooping cough; all were babies under one year of age, and they were admitted to hospital.

A case of poliomyelitis occurred in a child five years of age, and was a mild attack with slight residual weakness of one leg.

Of four cases of typhoid notified, two were connected with an outbreak in the City of Salford, one case being severe. Both patients recovered. The other two cases of typhoid occurred in the Prestwich Hospital, and a full investigation of the source was carried out with the isolation of several carriers.

16 suspected cases of food poisoning were notified, and following investigation by Sanitary Inspectors as to the possible source of infection only one isolated case was discovered. A suspected meal had been eaten in another district, and the Local Authority concerned were notified.

Disease.	Corrected Total of notified cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	86	58	—
*Enteric or typhoid fever(excluding paratyphoid)	4	2	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	238	2	—
Whooping-cough	83	4	3
*Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	16	not known	12
Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Dysent ^e ry	1	1	—
*Erysipelas	6	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—
Total number of cases	436	67	15

* The following cases which occurred in Prestwich Hospital are included in the above table :—

Erysipelas	4
Pneumonia	1
Typhoid	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1949.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

DISEASE	Total cases at all Ages.	AGE PERIODS — YEARS.								
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	86	—	3	11	52	17	2	1	—	—
*Enteric or typhoid fever (excluding paratyphoid)	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	238	9	59	87	81	1	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	83	10	20	25	26	—	—	1	1	—
*Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	16	1	2	—	2	—	—	1	4	6
Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ^e	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
*Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1
Food poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	436	20	84	123	162	18	3	7	12	7

* The following cases which occurred in Prestwich Hospital are included in the above table :—

Erysipelas 4.

Pneumonia 1.

Typhoid 2.

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
YEARS—								
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	7	3	—	2	1	2	—	—
35	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
75 and upwards	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	15	6	1	5	7	3	—	—
	21		6		10		—	

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections in regard to general hygiene and sanitary accommodation have been carried out. Close co-operation is maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories. Details of the inspections are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. A report given under Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, is appended.

In accordance with section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937, one list of outworkers was received in August from a firm making wearing apparel, giving the names of three outworkers. All addresses given were outside this area, and Local Authorities concerned were notified.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

Provision is made here for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention who are living in insanitary conditions, and who are unable to obtain proper care and attention. During the year it was not necessary to take any action under this section.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	10	20	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	71	77	11	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	1	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		82	97	13	—	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	3	3	—	2	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	7	1	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	1	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	9	1	—	—	1	—	9
(a) Insufficient	10	7	7	—	6	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	2	2	—	2	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	60	15	12	—	11	—	60
TOTAL							

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Prestwich.

October, 1950.

To His Worship the Mayor, and all Members of
the Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the following report on the sanitary circumstances and work carried out in the district for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

During the year 1,405 sanitary defects or nuisances were discovered, and 1,755 abated. The reason for the increase in the number abated is due to the fact that a number of outstanding defects which had been held up due to shortage of materials have now been remedied. 468 informal notices and 63 statutory notices were served, and in 6 cases it was necessary to take legal proceedings.

Food shops and food-preparing premises have been regularly inspected. Milk, Ice-cream and the water supply have been frequently sampled.

In connection with rodent control, in addition to tip and sewer treatments and dealing with general complaints of rat and mice infestation in the area, a special treatment was carried out in conjunction with other local authorities to eradicate the rat population on the banks of the river Irwell and its tributaries extending from Rawtenstall to Manchester, which was approved of by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whose representatives gave advice and assistance in the work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. T. J. TRIPPIER,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The standard of houses in the district is generally satisfactory but owners are not maintaining their property as before the war due to the low rent received compared with the high cost of labour and materials for repairs.

The most prevalent type of house in the district is semi-detached.

The approximate percentage of types and age of property in the district :—

25% terrace type	Over 40 years old.
5% large semi or detached house	do.
25% mostly detached and semi-detached	Between 20 and 40 years, old.
45% semi-detached and detached...	Under 20 years old.

Overcrowding.

On the Council's waiting list for houses there were 982 names of applicants at the end of 1949, and appended is the minimum number and types of houses required to accommodate these people :—

A and B type	3 bedrooms	653
A 2 type	2 bedrooms	269
B 4 type	4 bedrooms	9
Low rented houses and flats		51
		<hr/> 982 <hr/>

During the year the following work was carried out in connection with housing :—

Inspection of dwelling-houses during year—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1,382
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 2,674
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 None
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose None

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	None
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	152
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	183
Action under statutory powers 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....	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit—	
(a) By owners	None
(b) By local authority in default of owners....	None
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	16
(b) By local authority in default of owners....	None
(c) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None
(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	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	None

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	16
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	49½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	7
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	68

The number of new houses erected during the year—

1. By the Local Authority 91 permanent prefabricated houses.
2. By other bodies or persons ... 8 traditional permanent houses.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections	Re- Inspections
Conversions-Waste Water to Fresh Water		
Closets	2	—
Cess Pools	4	6
Cowsheds	16	8
Drains	237	256
Dust Bins—Defective	393	251
Dwelling-houses re—Rent Restrictions		
Acts	6	—
„ Overcrowding	152	22
„ Dirty Condition	64	43
„ Infectious disease	242	20
„ Prospective council		
tenants	129	10
„ Under Housing Acts	74	23
„ Rooms disinfected	17	2
„ In insanitary areas,		
etc.	4	—
„ Under P.H. Acts	1308	1269
Explosives	23	—
Food Control	212	160
Food Preparing	58	50
Fried Fish Shops	10	5
Milk Samples	102	—
Notices served—Preliminary	628	230
Statutory	68	17
Housing Act Inspection	4	2
Outworkers	17	2
Piggeries	44	73
Public and other conveniences	35	140
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	131	93
References to—Borough Engineer	68	19
Town Clerk	87	16
Water Department	7	—
Schools—Infectious Disease Notices served	35	3
Sanitary Accommodation	12	7
Shops —Imported meat	2	3
Meat	11	9
Other foods	112	116
Smoke observations	8	—
Special complaints	119	72
Septic Tanks	39	39
Stables	5	7
Tips, Refuse	99	45
Water—Samples taken	26	—

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS—continued.

Water Courses	13	9
Yards and courts	50	23
Miscellaneous	53	3
Totals	<u>4726</u>	<u>3053</u>

Factories, shops, etc. :—

Bakehouses— No mechanical power used	6	3
Mechanical power used....	11	13
Dairies and Milkshops	9	3
Factories —No mechanical power used	6	5
Mechanical power used	22	31
Ice-cream	140	113
Offices, etc.	4	—
Preserved meat	1	—
Places of public entertainment	7	1
Restaurant Kitchens	2	3
Shops	53	64
Re Young Persons (Employment) Act....	1	—
Totals	<u>262</u>	<u>236</u>

Drainage.

Drains tested or Examined	188
Drains found defective	142
Drains Reconstructed	121

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

An exhibition on clean food handling was held during August Bank Holiday week at a local cinema. All persons selling ice-cream, preserved foods and similar commodities were invited to attend. Pamphlets were distributed to shops and manufacturing establishments, stressing the importance of clean hands, and work is proceeding to obtain in all food shops a wash basin with hot and cold water, soap and towels. Specifications of work have been prepared, embracing local standards for all food premises, including green-grocers, fish-mongers, general provision merchants, butchers, etc. In all shops where ice-cream is sold or manufactured copies of the Lancashire County Council ice-cream codes of practice have been sent, and premises brought up to standard before licences are issued.

ADULTERATION, Etc.

SAMPLING UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Lancashire County Council administered the above and I am indebted to Dr. F. Hall, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following particulars of samples taken within the district :—

A total of 185 samples were obtained ; of these 130 were of milk and the 55 others comprised :—

4 Sauce.	2 Custard Powder.
1 Chutney.	1 Mango Chutney.
1 Digestive Tablets.	3 Arrowroot.
1 Milk Food (Trufood).	1 Milk dried (Cow and Gate).
4 Tea.	3 Boracic Powder.
4 Soup, canned.	4 Cheese.
2 Red Plum Jam	1 Strawberry Jam.
1 Camembert Cheese.	1 Ginger Marmalade.
2 Beans.	1 Dessert Powder.
1 Lentils.	1 Peas.
3 Cornflour.	2 Borax.
1 Salad Cream.	2 Butter.
2 Margarine.	1 Lard.
1 Cooking Fat.	2 Boric Acid.
2 Aspirin.	

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following :—

SAMPLE.	RESULT OF ANALYSIS.	ACTION TAKEN.
1 Informal Milk	Deficient of 13·0% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Formal samples obtained. Farm situated in Cheshire. Local Authority informed.
1 Informal Milk	Deficient 10% fat.	} Same Vendor. Vendor notified.
1 Informal Milk	Deficient 15% fat.	
1 Informal Milk	Deficient 2·3% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 2·8% of extraneous water.	} Same Vendor. Vendor cautioned.
1 Informal Milk	Deficient 1·1% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 2·3% of extraneous water.	
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 2·3% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 2·1% extraneous water.	Further samples obtained.
1 formal Milk	Deficient 1·7% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 0·6% of extraneous water.	} Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and and further samples obtained.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 1·1% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 1·0% of extraneous water.	
1 Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 2·1% of extraneous water.	
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 2·4% solids-not-fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 0·8% of extraneous water.	Taken in connection with a prosecution in Whitefield.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED.

The following articles of food on inspection were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the food dealers concerned.

229	tins	Milk.
160	„	Fish.
43	„	Meat.
80	„	Vegetables.
40	„	Fruit.
5	„	Mixed Meat and Vegetable Soups.
3	„	Malted Milk Powder.
3	„	Jam.
1	„	Syrup.
1	„	Egg Powder.
6	stone	Smoked cod fillets.
5	„	Haddock.
5	„	Megrims.
10	„	Plaice.
5	„	Dabs.
21	lbs.	Black Puddings.
5	lbs.	Aislet.
12	lbs.	Beef Sausage.
6	bottles	Red Cabbage.
2	„	Plums.
1	„	Coffee.
1	„	Salad Cream.
5	„	Pickles.
1	„	Gherkins.
35	Jars	Piccalilli.
1	„	White Onions.
57	„	Sandwich Spread.
24	pots	Luncheon Paste.
4	packets	Dried Egg.
10	„	Pastry Mix.
9	„	Wine Biscuits.
12	„	Wheat Flakes.
2	„	Breakfast Oats.
51	„	Barley.
20	„	Dessert Mould.
20	„	Table Dessert.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Factories (Mechanical and Non-Mechanical).

97 inspections have been made to factory premises during the year. 11 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the period under review and inspections were made at the premises and notices served on the persons concerned.

REGISTER OF FACTORIES.

Tailoring	4
Millinery	2
Electrical Engineers and Wireless	6
Joiners, Builders and Plumbers	12
Bakehouses	16
Window Leading	1
Smallware Manufacture	3
Boot and Shoe Repairs	8
Motor Engineers and Repairs	8
Lawn Mower Repairers	1
Cooked Meats and Sausages	1
Sheet Metal Workers	1
Printers	3
Cabinet Makers	2
Soap Manufacture and Chemical Sundries	1
Dyeing and Finishing, Printing, and Bleaching	3
Aluminium Smelting	1
Laundry.... ..	1
Billiard Table Repairers	1
Tape Printing	1
Upholstery	1
Photographers	1
Dairy	1
Sewage and Refuse Disposal Works....	1
Firelighter manufacturers	1
Totals	81

Also there was in the district a large contracting firm undertaking the laying of a new public sewer.

Bakehouses.

There are 16 bakehouses in the area and these have been inspected periodically to ascertain that they conform to present day standards, and where necessary, intimation notices were served on the owners and the necessary repairs carried out.

Outworkers.

Three lists were received involving 19 visits to premises, In all cases conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Shops Acts, 1912—1938.

117 visits have been made to shops in the area to ascertain that the requirements of the Shops Acts are being complied with. Informal action was taken where necessary to abate any infringement of these acts.

Closet Accommodation.

	No. 1949.	No. 1948.
Middens	9	16
Closets attached to middens	14	19
Pail Closets	115	134
Fresh Water Closets	10772	10641
Waste Water Closets	33	41
Moveable Dustbins	10902	10798
Waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	3	1
Pail closets converted to fresh water closets	2	5
Privy closets converted to fresh water closets	—	3
Number of houses at which moveable ash-bins were substituted for fixed receptacles	—	3

During the year a check was made on the existing sanitary accommodation, especially in the Simister area, with a view to a conversion scheme being drawn up, when it was discovered that several conversions previously unrecorded had taken place during the war years.

Gully Cleansing.

During the year 1,509 premises were visited, and 2,549 gullies cleansed by a workman from the department.

Bug Infestation.

Seven cases of infestation were dealt with during the year, including 2 cases in council houses. The houses and furniture of prospective tenants of council houses are inspected before tenancies are taken up. In cases of infested houses, the premises are disinfested prior to removal. Joint re-visits by the Housing Supervisor and Sanitary Inspector follow, and advice given to tenants.

Insects.

In many cases, the attention of the department was called to nuisances arising from the presence of beetles, moths and wasp infestations in properties. The use of liquid or powder insecticides dealt effectively with the beetles and moths, but in the case of wasps, gassing measures with cymag poison gas successfully exterminated the insects, after which the nests were destroyed.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises in cases of infectious disease is carried out by formalin spray or formalin vapour.

Infected bedding and other articles suitable for disinfection by steam are removed and dealt with at the Steam Disinfection Station provided by the Council at the Refuse Disposal Works, Prestwich.

Disinfection is carried out by a workman attached to the Public Health Department.

Number of disinfections carried out :—

Rooms	151
Articles of Bedding and Clothing	1,756
Public Library books	123
Articles, bedding and clothing destroyed	339

Smoke Abatement.

At one dyeing and bleaching works a new boiler plant has been installed, including grit arestors. This plant, when put into operation, removed a long-standing complaint of grit emission from the Works Chimney. During the year, eight smoke observations were taken and visits to factory premises were made, and discussions with factory owners, managers, and boiler firemen, regarding the best methods for firing, so as to eliminate smoke nuisances. The Prestwich Corporation are represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The Rodent Operator employed by the Council has been carrying out during the year, investigations, treatments and re-treatments in accordance with the Ministry of Food (Infestation Division) Methods, and there have been close liaison with the Ministry Officials, and a table showing the analysis of the types of work carried out is appended.

Rats.	Business Premises	Corpor- ation Dwelling Houses	Private Dwelling Houses	Corpor- ation Self- Occupied Property	Total
(a) Type of Infestation.					
Reservoir	1	—	—	2	3
Major	4	—	—	2	6
Minor	10	—	16	5	31
(b) Estimated kill					434
(c) Bodies recovered					172

Mice.

(a) Type of Infestation.					
Major	2	—	5	—	7
Minor	8	5	41	—	54
*(b) Estimated kill					231
(c) Bodies recovered					218

* Due to the difficulty in estimating the amount of poison taken by mice the actual kill will be greater than the figure shown.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment.**Second Treatment (Financial year 1948/49).**

Commenced 6th December, 1948, and completed 27th January, 1949.

No. of manholes treated 350.

	Complete.	Partial.	No take.
No. of poison takes	—	90	260
Estimated kill—198 rats.			

First treatment (Financial year 1949/50).

Commenced 25th July, 1949, and completed 28th October, 1949.

No. of manholes prebaited 1,777 (all manholes in the area).

No. of manholes poison baited—297.

	Complete.	Partial.	No take.
Poison takes	—	68	229
Estimated kill 312 rats.			

In addition to the Public Sewers being treated, 2 treatments were carried out in the sewers situated in the Prestwich Hospital Grounds.

RIVER IRWELL—RATS.

During the year a special treatment was carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and all

Local Authorities through whose districts the rivers Irwell, Croal or Roch run. Between the 20th June, 1956, and the 12 July, 1956, all these authorities carried out the treatment on the banks of the river adjoining their area. In Prestwich, which abuts on to the River Irwell for the distance of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, 610 baiting points were laid (being an average of 1 point every 13 feet). In accordance with the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, it was estimated that 1,152 rats were poisoned in Prestwich alone. This was the first treatment of this nature to be carried out on such a large scale, and good results were obtained by all authorities concerned, and it was considered that the whole operation had been successful.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

Licences were granted to 18 firms for the keeping of Petroleum to which the Petroleum Acts apply, and to 6 firms for Cellulose Solution, each licence being for the duration of twelve months.

All the petroleum and cellulose is kept in underground steel tanks or separate stores, specially constructed of fire-proof material throughout, and the Regulations otherwise complied with.

Game Act 1831.

Four licences to deal in game were granted by the Council.

Pawnbroker's Licence.

One certificate was issued authorising the granting of a licence to carry on the business of pawnbroker.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

New streets and building byelaws ...	dated, 1926, amended in 1927 and 1931.
Building Byelaws under the Public Health Act, 1936	dated, 28th September, 1939.
Removal of Offensive Matter Byelaws under Section 82 of the Public Health Act, 1936	dated, 1st August, 1947.
Nuisance Byelaws under Section 81 of the Public Health Act, 1936.	dated, 1st August, 1947.
Offensive Trades Byelaws	dated 1st October, 1947.
Good Rule and Government Byelaws.	dated, 1st April, 1948.
Hackney Carriages Byelaws	dated, 1st January, 1949.



