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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH



# **REPORT**

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1953







BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH



# **REPORT**

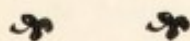
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

**FOR THE YEAR 1953**



# BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

---

## The Worshipful the Mayor—

COUNCILLOR Mrs. V. B. DICKINSON, J.P.

## Health Committee, 1953/54.

COUNCILLOR E. MOLYNEAUX, Chairman.

„ Mrs. V. B. DICKINSON, J.P., Vice-chairman.

ALDERMAN J. G. HALLAS

„ A. PIMLOTT

„ A. L. WILLIAMS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR G. W. COE

„ J. A. CROFTON

„ F. R. CROPPER

„ H. EVANS

„ J. B. MARSDEN

„ Miss E. PEARSON

„ G. QUINN

Town Clerk—C. A. CROSS, M.A., LL.B., D.P.A., Barrister-at-Law.

## 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—

V. K. HALLOWS, Cert. R.S.I., Certified Meat and Food Inspector,  
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

A. HINKLEY, Cert. R.S.I., Certified Meat and Food Inspector  
(resigned 12.2.53).

D. G. RUSSELL, Cert. R.S.I. (commenced 18.5.53).

Clerks—R. EATOUGH,

C. P. WEBB.



Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Prestwich,

June, 1954.

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

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1953 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The population, according to the Registrar General's estimate, is now 34,120. Of this number approximately 3,100 are resident in the Prestwich Hospital.

The \*adjusted live birth rate was 13.2 per thousand of the population. When allowance is made for the Prestwich Hospital population, the adjusted rate becomes 14.5. This is a little below the rate for England and Wales, which was 15.5 per thousand in 1953. Similarly the adjusted death rate after making allowance for the hospital population is 11.5 per thousand compared with the national rate of 11.4. There was a preponderance of male deaths from cancer of the lung. Of the sixteen deaths recorded as being due to this cause, fourteen were males.

For the third year in succession there were no deaths of mothers during pregnancy or confinement, and the infant mortality rate was only 24 per thousand live births. This figure was slightly better than the national rate, which was 26.8.

The incidence of infectious disease was particularly low during the year, and there was no outbreak of any importance. There were twenty new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and four deaths. Three new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis also occurred. These are figures which it is hoped will be reduced as the attack on tuberculosis gains ground.

\* "adjusted" means corrected to a standard population for the purpose of comparison with other districts.

Two samples of milk were found to contain tubercle bacilli, and an investigation of the source was immediately made. Prestwich is now a designated area, and as from the 1st January, 1954, no raw milk may be sold in the borough except tuberculin tested milk, and up to 1st October, 1954, accredited milk from a single herd.

The water supply showed an improvement in the results of analyses for bacteriological content compared with 1952. Of 114 samples there were five samples from Manchester Corporation and four from the Irwell Valley Water Board which failed to reach the desired standard. A common complaint has been discolouration of the water and the presence of foreign matter, sometimes leaving a considerable deposit on standing. I am informed that this is due to lack of filtration of the raw water, and to operations involving scraping of the trunk mains. Approval has been given to the installation of filter plants on the Irwell Valley supply, but they will not be in full operation until 1957 or later, and will provide filtration for about half of the source of supply.

During the year 101 houses and 20 flats were erected by the local authority, and 18 houses and 12 flats by private enterprise. At the end of the year (1953) a scheme was in hand for the erection of 118 houses at Carr Clough and 18 flats in other parts of the district. Thirty-six dwellings were also under private construction.

There were 82 applicants on the priority list at the end of the year, and a total of 1,336 applicants on the general waiting list.

Heavy deposits of pulverised fuel dust from an electric power station situated outside the district caused some concern during the year. Following representations by the Borough Council the Electricity Board had the electrostatic grit precipitators overhauled, and the nuisance has been reduced.

Two sulphur dioxide recorders have been set up in the district; one is at the Sewage and Refuse Disposal Works, and the other at the Town's Yard, Fairfax Road.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their valued help and advice during the year, and also the members of the staff who have so wholeheartedly worked for the benefit of the health of the residents.


I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.





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## SECTION A.

# STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area—2,420 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of :—

home population mid 1953 .... 34,120.

No. of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at the end of 1953—10,002.

Rateable value 1953—£247,854.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£988.

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

## VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ....	404	216	188	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid-1953. Crude .... 12.1 Adjusted .... 13.2
	Illegitimate	10	5	5	
	Total	414	221	193	
Stillbirths	.....	11	8	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—26
Deaths	.....	473	253	220	Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid-1953— Crude .... 13.9 Adjusted .... 14.0

From the 1st January, 1953, all deaths occurring in the Prestwich Hospital have been assigned to Prestwich instead of being transferred to the area of the patient's home address, as in previous years. The total deaths for 1953 and the mortality rates are therefore higher. From the total of 473 deaths occurring during the year, 120 were in the Prestwich Hospital.



The figures given in the tables and statistics which appear on the following pages include the deaths in the Hospital, but for comparison with previous years the following figures are given:

**Prestwich Residents.**

Estimated population 34,120, less Prestwich Hospital residents (3,100 approx.)=31,020.

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Total deaths (all forms)—353 (355 in 1952).

Crude—11.4 (11.1 1952) ; adjusted 11.5 (11.2 1952).

Respiratory Tuberculosis—0.13 (0.23 1952).

	Infant Mortality													
	Deaths (all causes)				Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Total		Neo-natal			
	Live births		Rate per 1,000 pop'n		Rate per 1,000 total births		No. of deaths regis- tered		Rate per 1,000 total births		No. of deaths regis- tered		Rate per 1,000 live births	
PRESTWICH M.B.	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
YEAR 1953	414	*12.1	473	*13.9	11	26	—	—	10	24	8	19	—	—
YEAR 1952	423	12.4	355	10.4	14	32	—	—	8	19	7	17	—	—
„ 1951	434	12.6	432	12.6	15	33	—	—	9	21	7	16	—	—
„ 1950	447	12.9	364	10.5	6	13	1	2.21	17	38	12	27	—	—
„ 1949	434	12.5	371	10.7	16	36	—	—	10	23	—	—	—	—
„ 1948	498	14.3	343	9.8	4	7	1	1.99	20	40	—	—	—	—
Ave. 5 years 1948—1952	—	12.9	—	10.8	—	24.2	—	0.78	—	28.2	—	—	—	—

\* Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 13.2 per 1,000  
(death-rate (comparability factor, 1.01) = 14.0 per 1,000)

## VITAL STATISTICS—1953.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year, 1953. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Prestwich
<b>Births—</b>	Rates per 1,000 Home Population.				
Live births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	13.2
Still births	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38	0.32
	22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)	26.0(a)
<b>Deaths.</b>					
All causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	14.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	—
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.41
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioen- cephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.49
<b>Notifications (Corrected).</b>					
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	—
Scarlet fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	2.00
Whooping cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	0.7
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	—
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	8.5
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	0.29
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioen- cephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	—
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	—
Food poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.06
Puerperal pyrexia	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)	—
<b>Deaths.</b>	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	24.0
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	—

(a) per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.

(b) per 1,000 related live births.



## MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Intermediate list no. and cause.	Number of deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15—44.
A115. Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puer- perium. ....	68	0·10	—
A116. { Abortion with toxæmia	7	0·01	1
{ Other toxæmias of			
{ pregnancy and the			
{ puerperium ....	166	0·24	—
A117. Haemorrhage of preg- nancy and childbirth ....	90	0·13	—
A118. Abortion without men- tion of sepsis or toxæmia	30	0·04	3
A119. Abortion with sepsis ....	39	0·06	4
A120. Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ....	125	0·18	—

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1953.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ....	11	3
Syphilitic disease ....	2	1
Other Infective and parasitic diseases ....	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ....	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ....	14	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast ....	—	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ....	—	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ....	20	12
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ....	2	2
Diabetes ....	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ....	19	23
Coronary disease, angina ....	46	24
Hypertension with heart disease ....	4	5
Other heart disease ....	44	66
Other circulatory disease ....	9	7
Influenza ....	1	4
Pneumonia ....	10	7
Bronchitis ....	14	8
Other diseases of the respiratory system ....	4	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	5	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis ....	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate ....	2	—
Congenital malformations ....	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	23	30
Motor vehicle accidents ....	2	1
All other accidents ....	7	1
Suicide ....	1	—
Homicide and operations of war ....	1	—
All causes ....		253
		220
Total ....		473

The above table includes 120 deaths which occurred in the Prestwich Hospital (61 Males and 59 Females).





**SECTION B.**

**GENERAL PROVISION  
OF  
HEALTH SERVICES**

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

The Lancashire County Council, under the National Health Service Act, is the responsible Authority for the provision and maintenance of local health services such as Child Welfare, Mental Health, Care of School Children, and Care of the Aged.

The Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery, and Maternity and Child Welfare Services provided by the County Council are administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme by the Divisional Health Committee No. 12 from headquarters in Bury.

Hospital facilities are provided and maintained through the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committees. Patients are admitted without regard to local authority boundaries.

The Borough Council is responsible for the provision of the remainder of local health services, and the whole of those matters likely to affect or be concerned with the maintenance of high standards of environmental health. These services include:—

Control of Infectious Disease (including food poisoning).

Provision of suitable Water Supplies.

Control of food and food preparing premises (including the sampling of milk, ice-cream, and other foodstuffs for bacteriological examination).

Provision of sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises, and the provision of public sanitary conveniences.

Inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation.

Detection and prevention of nuisances.

The prevention of atmospheric pollution.

Control of rat, mouse, and insect infestations.

Control of Cleansing and Disposal of Refuse.

The examination of milk, water, ice-cream, and samples of other foods, and the examination of pathological specimens is undertaken without charge to the Borough, by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

**SECTION C.**

**PREVALENCE OF AND  
CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND  
OTHER DISEASES**



## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total notifications for 1953 again show a decrease on the previous year's figures (410 in 1953, against 454 in 1952). There was an outbreak of Measles in the early part of the year, 250 out of the 294 cases notified being in the first quarter of the year. There was an increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases notified, but they were of a mild form. The six cases of Dysentery reported all occurred in the Prestwich Hospital.

Only two single isolated cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. The first case was a male aged 44, one of a family of four persons, who was affected with vomiting and diarrhoea, but no other member of the family was affected. Following an investigation, samples of pressed beef were forwarded to the laboratory for examination, but no specific organism was isolated. An organism of the *Staphylococcus Aureus* group was isolated in the faeces of one of the persons who had not been ill. The source of infection remains unknown.

In the second case a male aged 32 was taken ill with abdominal pains and diarrhoea after partaking of a meal at a friend's house in a neighbouring district. Unfortunately no food was available for examination. An organism of the salmonella group was isolated in the patient's faeces. As in the previous case the source of infection was not found, and both cases made a satisfactory recovery.

### National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

This section gives power to the Medical Officer of Health to remove persons who are in need of care and attention and who are living under insanitary conditions. One such person was dealt with during the year, but he agreed to his removal voluntarily.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1953.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.											HOSPITAL.	
	Total cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS.								Total deaths	Total cases removed to hospital from the district	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district	
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—				65 and over
Scarlet Fever	70	—	2	6	49	13	—	—	—	—	—	17	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	294	7	48	79	157	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	26	3	9	9	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
*Acute Pneumonia	10	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	3	2	17	not known	9
*Dysentery	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—
*Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	410	11	60	95	211	14	3	5	8	3	17	21	9

\* The following cases included in the above figures occurred in the Prestwich Hospital.  
 Erysipelas—1.      Pneumonia—2.      Dysentery—6.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

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	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
75 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	11	2	1	3	1	—	—
	20		3		4		—	



## PRESTWICH HOSPITAL.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
YEARS—								
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
35—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	5	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
65—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
75 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	16	1	—	—	8	2	—	—
	17		—		10		—	



## **SECTION D**

# **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**



Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Prestwich,

June, 1954.

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

I have the honour in presenting to you the following report on the sanitary circumstances and work carried out in the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

During the year under review 1,036 sanitary defects or nuisances were discovered at the 1,201 premises visited. A total of 244 informal notices and 10 statutory notices were served. In only one case was it necessary to take legal proceedings.

Over 450 samples of milk, water and ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, and results obtained were mainly satisfactory. The Irwell Valley Water Board reports show considerable improvement on the results obtained in 1952, due to the provision of new chlorinators.

All complaints of rodent infestation have been investigated by the Rodent Operator, and 176 premises were treated during the year; 1,291 visits being made during the course of investigations or treatments. The banks of the River Irwell were once again subjected to a special treatment, and the infestation found was not as scattered or as heavy as in 1952.

Two sewer treatments were carried out on the public sewers and at the Prestwich Hospital sewers. The takes were the smallest ever recorded, and not one take was found after the second treatment of the public sewers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. T. J. TRIPPIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

The area is supplied with water by the following three authorities :—

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

During the year 114 samples were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination, 105 being reported as satisfactory and only 9 as unsatisfactory. Of the 9 unsatisfactory results four were from the Irwell Valley Water Board supply and five from the Manchester Corporation Waterworks supply.

The unsatisfactory results obtained from the Manchester Corporation Waterworks supply were due to the disturbance of deposits in the pipes following maintenance work. In the case of the Irwell Valley Water Board, the results from this supply show an improvement on the 1952 reports due to the provision of new chlorinators at the reservoirs. The provision of filtration plants has now received Ministerial approval, but they are not expected to be in operation until 1957 or 1958.

At the time of compiling this report all samples of water taken from the Irwell Valley Water Board's supply during 1954 have been satisfactory.

Four samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis, and proved satisfactory, the amount of lead being less than 0.1 parts per million.

The water supplied from a private deep well to a farm in the Simister area, which is not connected to the public main, was



sampled on three occasions for bacteriological examination, and all reports were satisfactory.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, Buckley Lane, Prestwich, in detritus and precipitation tanks (using alumina ferric), afterwards passing through percolating filters to humus tanks and thence the effluent is discharged into the River Irwell. Sludge drying beds are provided. Storm tanks are provided for storm water in excess of three times the dry weather flow: this water is later passed through the works for treatment. Storm flows in excess of six times the dry weather flow pass over the storm water overflows direct to the river. Application has been made to the Ministry of Health for extensions and alterations to the present sewage disposal works to cope with the increased flow from developments in the district.

Simister, which is a semi-rural district away from the main sewer is dealt with in three methods:—

- (1) Part of the area is drained to a small disposal works, consisting of a settlement tank and percolating filter. The effluent is discharged into Whittle Brook Watercourse.
- (2) Another area is drained into a large septic tank, the effluent from this is also discharged into the Whittle Brook Watercourse.
- (3) Other parts of the district drainage are dealt with by individual septic tanks and cesspools.

In other low lying areas of the town, pumping stations are provided.



**Closet Accommodation.**

	No. 1953.	No. 1952.
Middens .....	Nil	Nil
Closets attached to middens .....	Nil	Nil
Pail Closets .....	73	74
Fresh Water Closets .....	11070	10924
Waste Water Closets .....	13	19
Moveable Dustbins .....	11167	11020
Waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	*7	2
Pail closets converted to fresh water closets .....	†Nil	4
Privy closets converted to fresh water closets .....	Nil	Nil
Number of houses at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles .....	Nil	Nil

\* Includes one W.W.C. not previously recorded.

† One pail closet was removed following demolition of a bungalow.

**Public Cleansing.**

The local authority carry out a normal collection of refuse every seven/eight days from all premises in the district. Trade refuse is collected one day per week. There is a special salvage collection every Tuesday. Dennis freighters are employed on refuse collection. The Council have a modern salvage and refuse disposal plant.

A Dennis Motor Cesspool and Gully Emptier is provided for cesspool cleansing.

**Administration of Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.**

Mechanical and non-mechanical factories have been visited to ensure that they complied with the requirements of the Acts. There are no factories in the area that employ outworkers. Four lists were received from neighbouring authorities giving the names and addresses of 76 outworkers, and all of these have been visited.

Close co-operation has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories. The report required under the provisions of Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, is given on pages 34 and 35.

**Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.**

The prevention of atmospheric pollution again received attention during the year. Routine visits were made to factories, and advice was given to boiler men and factory managers where necessary. Eighty-six smoke observations were taken, and in one case it was necessary to serve a notice under Section 103 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on a factory owner.

The Prestwich Corporation are represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. Two sulphur dioxide recorders are situated in the district for observation by representatives of the Committee.

In the early part of the year deposits of pulverised fuel dust from an electricity power station situated within the boundary of a neighbouring authority caused a nuisance in part of the area. Following representations from the Borough Council the Electricity Board had the grit precipitators overhauled, and the nuisance has been reduced.

**Bug Infestation.**

Three cases of infestation were dealt with during the year. The houses and furniture of all prospective council house tenants are inspected before tenancies are commenced. In the case of infested houses the premises are disinfected prior to removal. The Housing Supervisor and Sanitary Inspector visit the premises and advice is given to the tenants.

**Insects.**

During the year the department's attention was called to nuisances arising from the presence of crickets, beetles, moths and wasp infestation. Liquid and powder insecticides dealt effectively with the crickets, beetles and moths, but gassing measures with Cymag poison gas were necessary in the case of wasp infestation, after which the nests were destroyed.



### Disinfection.

Disinfection in cases of infectious disease is carried out by formalin spray or formalin vapour only in those premises where it is considered necessary by the Medical Officer of Health.

Infected bedding and articles suitable for steam disinfection are removed and dealt with at the Steam disinfection station provided by the Council at the Refuse Disposal Works.

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

The following disinfections were carried out during 1953:—

Rooms .....	36
Articles of bedding and clothing .....	197
Public Library Books .....	90
Articles of bedding and clothing destroyed .....	14

### The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employ a full-time Rodent Operator, and all complaints of infestation are investigated and a treatment carried out if necessary. There has been close liaison with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries whose help and advice has been readily given.

The treatment of rodent infestations in private dwellinghouses is now carried out as a free service to the public, but a charge is still made for treatments carried out in business premises or agricultural property.

The following is an analysis of the various types of infestation treated during 1953:—

		Business premises.	Dwelling houses.	Corporation self-occupied property.	Total.
<b>Rats.</b>					
Type of Infestation.					
	Major .....	—	—	1	1
	Minor .....	8	34	5	47
<b>Mice.</b>					
	Major .....	8	5	1	14
	Minor .....	16	97	1	114



The Rodent Operator made 1,291 visits in the course of investigations or treating infestations.

### **Sewer Maintenance Treatments.**

During the year the following treatments were carried out in accordance with the methods and instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### **First Treatment (Financial Year 1953/54).**

Test baiting was commenced on the 18th May and completed on the 29th May, 1953.

Number of manholes test baited ....	201
-------------------------------------	-----

Number of manholes showing take ....	—
--------------------------------------	---

In view of this result a treatment was only carried out in the area showing infestation in December, 1952. Treatment commenced 8th June and was completed 12th June, 1953.

Number of manholes baited ....	15
--------------------------------	----

Number of manholes showing pre-bait take ...	4
--	---

The four manholes showing takes were all in the Simister area of the district, and therefore all manholes in this area were poison baited.

#### **Second Treatment (Financial year 1953/54).**

Commenced 26th November and completed on 28th November, 1953.

Number of manholes baited ....	7
--------------------------------	---

Number of manholes showing pre-bait take ....	—
---	---

This is the first time that no takes have been recorded since the Sewer Treatments commenced.

**Prestwich Hospital.**

In addition to the Public Sewers two treatments were carried out to the sewers in the Prestwich Hospital grounds. A total of 111 manholes was test-baited, and infestation found at nine points. A poison treatment followed, and six months later a second treatment was carried out. The infestation found was only of a slight nature.

**River Irwell.**

As in 1952, a special treatment of the banks of the River Irwell was carried out between the 26th October and 14th November, 1953, with the co-operation of the neighbouring authorities of Salford, Swinton and Pendlebury, and Whitefield. A total of 477 points was laid, and 190 complete and 122 partial takes were recorded. Poison was laid at 334 points, and from the amount consumed it is estimated that 159 rats were killed. The infestation found was very scattered except for the length of bank nearest to the Sewage Works, which is very rough in character, which affords plenty of cover for nesting, and where food is provided by the tips.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, 1953.

Premises.	Inspection.	Re-Inspection
Conversions—Waste Water to Fresh Water		
Closets .....	9	4
Drains .....	193	231
Dust Bins—Defective .....	51	14
Dwelling-houses—re overcrowding .....	197	8
„ re dirty condition .....	4	2
„ re infectious disease .....	92	12
„ re verminous conditions .....	7	4
„ under Housing Acts .....	43	—
„ rooms disinfected .....	1	1
„ in insanitary areas, etc. ....	34	22
„ under P.H. Acts .....	487	636
Explosives .....	30	—
Food Control .....	71	—
Food Preparing .....	29	—
Notices served—Preliminary .....	244	—
„ Statutory .....	10	—
Outworkers .....	76	—
Prevention of damage by Pests Act .....	71	7
Piggeries .....	17	—
Public and other conveniences .....	189	1
Sampling—Milk, Water, Ice-cream .....	514	—
Schools—re sanitary accommodation .....	4	2
Shops—re meat .....	7	—
„ re other foods .....	11	1
Smoke observations .....	86	—
Special complaints .....	40	—
Septic Tanks .....	20	—
Tenancy inspections .....	322	—
Tips, Refuse .....	12	1
Water Courses .....	10	—
Yards and courts .....	1	—
Miscellaneous .....	66	1
Rag Flock .....	4	—



## Factories, shops, etc.—

Bakehouses—Mechanical power used ....	4	5
Factories—No mechanical power used....	14	1
„ Mechanical power used .... ..	53	4
Ice-Cream .... ..	17	—
Offices, etc. .... ..	35	—
Places of public entertainment .... ..	3	—
Shops .... ..	338	157
Re Young Persons Employment Act ....	18	—

**FACTORIES, SHOPS, ETC.****Contraventions.**

Found. Abated.

**Factories :—**

Insufficient W.C. Accommodation .... ..	1	—
Dirty and/or defective W.C.s .... ..	9	10
No indication of W.C.s for sexes .... ..	1	1

**Shops :—**

Dirty and/or defective W.C.s .... ..	2	2
No proper washing facilities .... ..	1	1
Not closing half-day weekly (full) .... ..	28	28
Seating accommodation form not displayed	1	1
Form re Shops Act Provisions not displayed	26	26
Notice re Half-day Closing not displayed	18	18
Premises defective and dirty.... ..	5	5

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT.

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

Premises	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			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	13	15	2	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	78	66	4	nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	1	—	—	nil
TOTAL		92	81	6	nil

## 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)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	9	—	—	—	1	—
(a) Insufficient						
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	9	10	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	12	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	60	10	11	—	1	—





## SECTION E.

# HOUSING

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The majority of houses in the district are semi-detached, between 15 and 40 years old. There are, however, the older type terraced houses, many of which are nearly 100 years old. In the latter case this type of property has deteriorated due to the high cost of repairs.

During the year 101 houses and 20 flats were erected by the local authority, 2 houses by other local authorities, and 18 houses and 12 flats by private enterprise. At the end of the year 118 permanent houses and 18 flats were under erection by the local authority, and 36 dwellings, including flats, by other bodies or persons. On the Carr Clough Site 73 dwellings comprising 60 houses and 13 flats, may be erected. At the end of 1953 there were 1,336 persons registered for re-housing. Of these total registrations, approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  required two-bedroom type houses and  $\frac{1}{3}$  three-bedroom type. The number of applicants for the four-bedroom type is very small.

The number of persons on the priority waiting list, at the end of the year, was 82.

### Overcrowding.

No new cases of legal overcrowding were discovered during the year. Three cases were relieved involving  $20\frac{1}{2}$  persons. At the request of the Housing Department 117 houses were inspected for any circumstances that would justify re-housing. Shortage of bedroom accommodation was found on occasions, this being due to newly-weds taking up residence in their parents' homes and increases in the number of children in mixed families.

#### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .... | 487 |
|---|-----|



(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	1166
(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 .....	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation .....	83
2. 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 .....	72
3. 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 formal notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which, after ser- vice 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 formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... | 4     |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :                      |       |
| (a) By owners .....   | 8     |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners .....   | None. |

## (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... | 8 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-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     |
| (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 ..... | None. |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....                       | None. |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....                       | None. |

- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... None.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... 3
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ....  $20\frac{1}{2}$





**SECTION F.**

**INSPECTION AND  
SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year routine inspections have been made of food premises in the area to ensure that adequate standards were being maintained. Appended below are details of the types of food premises in the area and types of business registered for the sale of ice-cream or preserved foods :—

Type of business.	No.
Grocery and Provisions .....	79
Greengrocers .....	28
Confectioners and/or Bakers .....	22
Wet fish and poultry .....	9
Fish Fryers .....	13
Chemists .....	14
Butchers .....	29
Sweets and/or Tobacconists .....	44
Public Houses .....	23
Wines and Spirits (off licence) .....	7
Wines and Spirits with grocery and provisions ....	9
Cafes, Snack Bars, Catering establishments ....	7
Cooked meats (Tripe shops) .....	3
Clubs .....	10
	—
Total .....	297
	—



Type of Business.	No. registered at 31/12/53	No. of inspections of registered premises during year.
<b>Sale and Manufacture of Ice Cream.</b>		
Dairy premises .....	1	162
Sweets and/or Tobacconists .....	2	
Cafes and Snack Bars .....	2	
Grocery and Provisions .....	1	
<b>Sale of Ice Cream.</b>		
Sweets and/or Tobacconists .....	28	
Grocery and Provisions .....	22	
Cafes and/or Snack Bars .....	4	
Confectioners .....	2	
<b>Preparation or manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.</b>		
Butchers .....	14	100
Grocery and Provisions .....	2	
	16	

### Ice-cream Sampling.

During the year 162 samples of ice-cream were obtained from persons retailing in the district, in addition to 43 ice lollies. Appended below is a table showing results on the samples of ice-cream :

Provisional Grade ....	1	2	3	4
Number of samples ....	127	18	10	7

Following the unsatisfactory results of samples of ice-cream manufactured in the area (grade 4) numerous inspections were made and samples taken. It was found that part of the equipment was defective, and this was immediately rectified. All subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Of the 43 ice lollies examined, only one was reported as unsatisfactory. This result was due to the water supply in the area of manufacture being temporarily unsatisfactory. (St. Helens).

## ADULTERATION, ETC.

### Sampling under Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-1950.

The Lancashire County Council administered the above, and I am indebted to Dr. S. C. Gawne, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following particulars of samples taken within the district.

A total of 189 samples was obtained; of these 138 were of milk (this total includes 12 Channel Islands milk), and 51 others comprised:—

6 margarine	1 blanc mange powder
1 cooking fat	2 custard powder
3 baking powder	1 pork sausage
4 epsom salts	2 cod liver oil
1 ground rice	1 tea
1 sago	1 pickled beetroot
2 semolina	1 Royal desert
3 barley	5 fish, canned
2 oatmeal	1 zinc ointment
1 dried peas	1 zinc and castor oil cream.
1 pork sausage meat	1 solution of acetic acid
2 white flour	1 thick rich cream
1 whisky	1 pearl barley
1 olive oil	1 biscuits
1 coffee and chicory extract	1 mincemeat.
mixture, dry	

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

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 white flour ....	creta praeeparata only 3 ozs. per 280 pounds of flour. Should be 14 ozs. per 280 pounds of flour.	Ministry of Food notified.
1 informal milk ....	Deficient 15 per cent. fat.	Formal sample obtained.
1 informal milk ....	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.3 per cent. extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 solution of acetic acid .....	Not labelled with the exact words required by Article 7(2) of the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.	Packers communicated with.

1 informal milk	Deficient 10 per cent. fat	Vendor notified.
1 thick rich cream	Fat content only 43.9 per cent.	Manufacturers communicated with.
1 coffee and chicory extract mixture—dry	Contained only 27 per cent. of dry coffee extract yet coffee solids placed first in list of ingredients.	Packers communicated with.

### FOOD CONDEMNED, 1953.

Jellied Veal	2 tins (12 lbs)	Peaches	7 tins
Jellied Pork	1 tin (6 lbs)	Pears	4 tins
Pork Butts	2 tins (5 lbs 3 ozs)	Plums	82 tins
Cooked Ham	14 tins (171 lbs)	Grapes	2 tins
Pork Luncheon Meat	25 tins (33 lbs 2 ozs)	Strawberries	35 tins
Stewed Steak	25 tins (25 lbs)	Apricots	2 tins
Minced Beef Loaf	3 tins (3 lbs)	Prunes	2 tins
Tongue	3 tins (18 lbs)	Salmon	21 tins
Peas	29 tins	Pilchards	2 tins
Tomatoes	26 tins	Sild	1 tin
Beans	78 tins	Milk	83 tins
Baked Beans	5 tins	Jam	8 tins
Tomato Soup	9 tins	Tomato Paste	1 tin
Vegetable Soup	1 tin	Cream	25 tins
Grapefruit	4 tins	Fruit Salad	10 jars
Guavas	3 tins	Olives	1 jar
Pineapples	1 tin	Grapefruit	6 jars
Pineapple Juice	1 tin	Peaches	4 jars
Raspberries	2 tins	Pears	2 jars
Fruit Salad	3 tins	Pineapples	4 jars
Damsons	87 tins	Apricots	2 jars
Apples	31 tins	Table Jellies	144 packets
Cherries	76 tins	Bacon	31 lbs
Oranges	15 tins	Beef Sausage	12 lbs
Orange Segments	1 tin		

All the foodstuffs condemned were voluntarily surrendered to the department by the food dealers concerned. In addition to the foodstuffs listed above it was found necessary to condemn a large quantity of ice-cream from one shop due to a breakdown in the refrigeration machinery and lack of a plant for re-pasteurising. The amount of ice-cream condemned included 114 blocks and 28 tubs, and the following speciality lines—10 cakes, 4 rolls, and 38 bricks.



The following meat was examined at the request of the butchers concerned, and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Type of food.	Total quantity of stock or consignment examined.	Quantity condemned.
Two hind quarters of Beef ....	396 lbs.	396 lbs.
Two sides of Beef ....	527 lbs.	527 lbs.
Boneless Beef (forequarter) ....	68 lbs.	68 lbs.
Two sides of Pork ....	105 lbs.	105 lbs.

All the above meat was returned by the butchers to the suppliers. Reason for condemnation was improper and/or unnecessarily long storage resulting in putrefaction.

With the exception of the meat, all foodstuffs condemned were disposed of by incineration under supervision at the Council's Sewage and Refuse Disposal Works.

### **Meat Supply.**

There is one slaughterhouse at the Prestwich Hospital which is used occasionally. Four slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year.

Inspections have been made of retail meat shops in the district to ascertain that the Public Health (Meat) Regulations were being observed. Generally the conditions have been satisfactory, and no formal action has been necessary.

### **Milk Supply.**

#### **(a) Licences.**

The following licences under 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:**

Retail Distributors .....	32
---------------------------	----

#### **Pasteurised Milk:**

Retail Distributors .....	39
---------------------------	----

## Sterilised Milk:

Retail Distributors .....	42
---------------------------	----

## (b) Dairies and Milk Shops.

At the end of the year there were 63 distributors of milk operating from:

(i) Own Dairies in the district .....	2
(ii) Dairy Farms in the district .....	6
(iii) Other premises inside the district .....	40
(iv) Premises outside the district .....	15

## \* (c) Samples.

## 1. Raw Milk—

	No. of Samples.	No. Negative.	No. Positive.
(i) Tuberculosis—			
Biological tests ....	29	27	2
	No. of Samples.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory
(ii) Methylene Blue			
reduction test ....	50	49	1

## 2. Heat treated Milk—

(i) Phosphatase test .	73	73	Nil
(ii) Methylene Blue			
reduction test ....	70	69	1
(iii) Turbidity test ....	14	14	Nil
		No. Negative.	No. Positive.
(iv) Tuberculosis . ....	4	4	Nil

The two milk samples found to contain tuberculous infection were obtained from two different producers, one in Prestwich, the other in Radcliffe. In both cases the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was informed, and an investigation carried out by their veterinary officers. In the Prestwich case it was found that two cows had been removed from the farm for slaughtering before the commencement of the enquiry. Samples of milk were obtained from three groups of four cows with negative results. At the Radcliffe farm one cow was removed and slaughtered following the investigation, and samples of milk were obtained from a herd of 15 cows, again with negative results.

As from the 1st January, 1954, no raw milk may be sold within the borough as Prestwich is included in the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order 1953, which allows only milk designated as "Pasteurised," "Sterilised," or "Tuberculin Tested," and up to the 1st October, 1954, "Accredited," to be retailed in the borough.



**SECTION G.**

**GENERAL**

**Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act 1951.**

There are no premises in the district used for the manufacture of rag flock or other filling materials. Two premises where filling materials are used have been registered.

**Pet Animals Act 1951.**

Two licences were granted during the year for the keeping of a pet shop. Inspections were made to ensure that the premises and accommodation provided for the animals complied with the requirements of the Act.

**STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM SPIRIT.**

Licences were granted to 20 firms for the keeping of petroleum to which the Petroleum Acts apply, and to six firms for Cellulose Solution, each licence being for the duration of twelve months.

All 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.**

Three 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 Bye-laws	dated 1926, amended in 1927 and 1931.
Removal of Offensive Matter Bye-laws 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 Carriage Byelaws	dated, 1st January, 1949.
Prohibiting the sale of Contraceptives in Slot Machines	dated 25th January, 1950
Sale of Clean Food	dated, 30th May, 1950.
Building Byelaws	dated, 15th June, 1953.

\* Byelaws repealed except in so far as they relate to new streets.







