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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for
the Year 1951.

G. O'BRIEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

St. Helens:

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the health of St. Helens for the year 1951.

The census taken on 8th April, 1951, gave the population of the County Borough as 110,276, of which 54,211 were males and 56,065 were females. A statistical analysis on the census figures and the intercensal period has been given in the body of the Report.

The following statement shows some of the principal statistical rates during the past five years.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	25.2	21.3	17.9	17.9	16.9
Death rate per 1,000 of population	12.7	10.2	10.7	10.1	13.3
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	69.8	60.9	41.5	38.6	38.4
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total births	1.81	1.65	1.45	1.92	2.09
Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 of population	0.73	0.63	0.58	0.44	0.37

The birth rate, at 16.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, was the lowest ever recorded for the Borough, and was in very odd contrast to the increased death rate which at 13.3 per 1,000 of the population was the highest recorded for many years. The unusually high mortality was, of course, in great part due to the epidemic of influenza and respiratory diseases in the early part of the year.

The continued downward trend in the infantile mortality rate was maintained during 1951, with a fall to 38.4 per 1,000 live births as against 38.6 in the previous year.

It is extremely satisfactory to record that the death rate from tuberculosis returned at 0.37 per thousand of the population is the lowest ever recorded for St. Helens, and reference to the table above will show how this continued decline has been a marked feature during the past few years.

The general incidence of the more common infectious diseases was comparatively low during the year. Unfortunately, however, it has to be recorded that a severe epidemic of influenza occurred in January. The number of resulting deaths from respiratory diseases complicated with influenza was very marked, and mortality, particularly among elderly people, was very high. There was also during the summer months a rather unusual small outbreak of enteric fever. Details of both these outbreaks are given in the text of the Report.

The figure for the vaccination rate in the Borough still gives cause for anxiety. It is calculated that at least three-fifths of our infant population remain unvaccinated at the end of each year. The cumulative effect will inevitably produce an unprotected population exposed to the risk of infection suddenly introduced into the community. In an age of speedy international travel it has been shown how an infected carrier can be at large for a considerable period before possible detection. Such a situation where risk is growing and protection is lessening is surely a matter for concern.

Staff shortages in the Sanitary Section of the Department gave rise for some anxiety during the year, particularly owing to the increased pressure of work occasioned by the Clean Food Campaign. Despite this, an outstanding piece of work during the year was the organisation of a Clean Food Exhibition during the month of September, which proved to be a great success and which was extremely well supported by the general public.

Continued expansion must be recorded in the work of the Ambulance Service, the Mental Health Service, and to a marked degree in the Home Help Service.

It is a great pleasure to me to record, in my first year of office, my grateful thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Health Committees for their support and encouragement, and I am indebted to the ever willing and ready assistance of every member of the staff. I would also take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their help and kindly consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. O'BRIEN.

I.—GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS—1951

Area (Acres)	7,950
Population :—	
Census, 1951	110,276
Estimated, mid-year 1951	109,400
Rateable Value	£527,125
Product of a penny rate	£2,053

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1951 :

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births :—Legitimate	926	869	1795
Illegitimate	35	20	55
Totals	961	889	1,850

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 16.9

Still-Births :—M. 40, F. 25 ; Total : 65.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 33.9

Deaths :—M. 852, F. 604 ; Total : 1,456.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 13.3

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
From sepsis	—	—
From other maternal causes	4	2.09
Totals	4	2.09

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	42	26	68
Illegitimate	3	—	3
Totals	45	26	71

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	38.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	54.5

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
" Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	14
" Tuberculosis (all forms)	41

Table 1 gives a summary of the vital statistics for the past 50 years.

Table 1.
Statistics for St. Helens.

YEAR	Population	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	DEATHS FROM							
					Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Typhus Fever	† Diarrhoea	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria
1902	86,043	37.4	19.7	167	0	59	52	25	0	50	18	20
1903	87,372	39.1	17.5	138	0	1	26	18	0	53	30	23
1904	88,722	37.4	20.9	174	3	131	17	13	0	120	49	22
1905	89,843	36.1	17.2	132	0	41	16	2	0	66	26	18
1906	91,153	33.9	17.3	159	0	10	4	18	0	105	5	22
1907	92,476	34.1	18.3	155	0	145	10	12	0	36	52	11
1908	93,812	35.2	16.0	122	0	0	29	12	0	59	7	17
1909	95,161	32.0	18.5	149	0	188	33	13	0	27	62	12
1910	96,523	32.7	14.5	121	1	15	22	10	0	51	16	7
1911	96,870	33.5	18.3	158	0	69	13	22	0	143	39	8
1912	98,159	32.0	15.5	124	0	62	19	8	0	49	46	19
1913	99,460	32.2	18.9	155	0	189	26	4	0	120	18	15
1914	100,775	33.3	17.1	138	0	25	5	4	0	98	24	8
1915†	92,240	32.1	19.3	129	0	126	12	6	0	78	40	32
1916†	90,000	26.5	16.8	108	0	2	30	2	0	64	34	85
1917†	90,600	22.0	16.5	123	0	65	20	2	0	37	19	79
1918†	90,600	24.1	21.2	126	0	26	24	0	0	48	24	100
1919†	100,805	25.5	15.0	117	0	5	9	2	0	35	7	25
1920	104,822	31.8	13.5	113	0	56	7	0	0	44	7	13
1921	104,900	29.1	12.6	103	0	7	5	0	0	62	24	5
1922	106,400	26.4	13.4	115	0	60	4	2	0	28	3	5
1923	107,100	24.4	11.9	91	0	0	4	1	0	24	10	8
1924	108,700	24.1	12.0	103	0	29	1	2	4	36	11	4
1925	109,600	23.9	12.0	100	0	17	7	3	0	35	33	6
1926	110,000	23.2	12.0	102	0	27	1	0	0	43	4	6
1927	113,100	20.8	11.4	88	0	60	2	0	0	26	5	7
1928	110,500	21.8	12.0	98	0	15	5	1	0	29	21	10
1929	109,200	20.7	14.6	114	0	49	6	1	0	23	13	11
1930	109,200	21.5	11.4	80	0	7	2	0	0	4	8	4
1931	108,300	20.1	12.5	88	0	30	0	0	0	21	0	7
1932	107,600	20.1	11.4	89	0	1	1	0	0	26	4	0
1933	107,600	18.0	14.0	116	0	12	2	3	0	18	52	8
1934	*108,240	19.1	10.6	65	0	10	2	1	0	19	1	18
1935	108,100	18.7	12.2	94	0	14	2	1	0	21	15	17
1936	108,000	18.3	12.1	56	0	7	4	0	0	13	3	26
1937	107,400	18.6	12.1	88	0	3	2	0	0	12	7	15
1938	107,200	18.2	11.4	70	0	9	3	0	0	16	6	14
1939	106,600	17.3	11.6	79	0	1	3	0	0	18	4	23
1940†	103,300	18.0	13.4	78	0	10	0	0	0	8	5	19
1941†	102,750	18.6	11.4	71	0	2	1	1	0	13	15	13
1942†	101,500	17.7	10.6	65	0	6	0	1	0	13	1	11
1943†	99,410	19.8	13.0	72	0	0	1	0	0	16	4	6
1944†	98,410	20.5	11.3	57	0	4	0	0	0	21	2	1
1945†	99,150	20.3	11.3	60	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0
1946†	104,740	22.2	11.0	60	0	2	0	0	0	26	3	2
1947†	105,790	25.2	12.7	70	0	10	0	0	0	44	1	0
1948†	110,100	21.3	10.2	61	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	1
1949	112,100	17.9	10.7	41	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1
1950	112,500	17.9	10.1	39	0	0	0	0	0	21	2	0
1951	109,400	16.9	13.3	38	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	0

† Estimated civil population.

* Borough extended.

‡ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea from 1950 inclusive.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-year 1951 was 109,400. The excess of births over deaths in 1951 was 394.

This is an extremely low natural increase in population and is attributable to the fact that during 1951 the lowest recorded birth rate coincided with an extremely high death rate.

CENSUS, 1951.—The preliminary results of the Census taken on 8th April, 1951, showed the population of St. Helens on that date to be 110,276 persons, comprising 54,211 males and 56,065 females.

The population at the previous census in 1931 was 106,789, comprising 54,546 males and 52,243 females. In order, however, to compare this figure with the figure shown by the 1951 Census, allowance must be made for the additional population brought into the Borough by its boundary extension in 1934. Allowing for this factor, it has been calculated that the population in 1931, had it included the extension of 1934, would have been 107,452 persons, 54,848 being males and 52,604 being females. Comparing this now with the Census figure at 1951 it will be noted that the true increase in the population of St. Helens during the intercensal period 1931 to 1951 is 2,824 persons, representing a percentage increase of 2.6. The increase throughout England and Wales during the same period was 9.5%.

It is remarkable to note that the rise in the population of St. Helens is attributable to an exceptional increase in the female population from 52,604 to 56,065, an increase of 3,461, or 6.6% of the female population. In contrast to this, the male population declined from 54,848 to 54,211, a decrease of 637, or 1.2% of the male population. This period of twenty years has, therefore, witnessed a considerable change in the local ratio of males to females. In 1931 St. Helens was one of a very small minority of areas where the male exceeded the female population, but now, in conformity with the general rule throughout the country, there are more females than there are males in the area. The proportion in St. Helens of females to males per 1,000 in 1931 was 959, whereas in 1951 the proportion was 1,034. The corresponding proportions for the country as a whole were respectively 1,088 in 1931 and 1,081 in 1951.

The following statement shows the percentage increases of population in St. Helens during the intercensal periods 1911-1921, 1921-1931 and 1931-1951, in comparison with England and Wales as a whole and other selected areas.

Intercensal Changes of Population.

	1911/1921		1921/1931		1931/1951	
	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
	%	%	%	%	%	%
England and Wales	5.0	—	5.4	—	9.5	—
Lancashire County	3.6	—	2.2	—	1.5	—
County Boroughs of						
Lancashire	4.1	—	1.7	—	—	5.9
Administrative County	2.7	—	2.9	—	15.0	—
St. Helens	6.3	—	4.0	—	2.6	—

It will be seen that the population of St. Helens increased at a greater rate than that of the County, but the increase was considerably less than that of England and Wales as a whole. The Administrative County of Lancaster showed a considerable comparative increase, but it is hazarded that a possible reason for this is the "overspill" population of large County Boroughs being housed in non-County Borough areas outside the Authorities' boundaries (as is, of course, happening in St. Helens, particularly on the Council's Carr Mill Housing Estate), thus reducing the population of the County Boroughs and at the same time increasing that of the Administrative County.

BIRTHS.—The number of live births registered during 1951 as belonging to St. Helens was 1,850, giving a birth rate for that year of 16.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This birth rate is by far the lowest ever recorded for the Borough, the next lowest being 17.3 per 1,000 estimated population in 1939, which was an unusually low figure in relation to the pre-war period. Even during the war years the rate did not fall below 17.7 per 1,000 population. It has been apparent during the past three years that the relatively very high birth rate in St. Helens is showing a tendency to move downwards towards the average for the country as a whole.

The Area Comparability Factor for St. Helens births has been fixed by the Registrar General at 0.99, so that when comparing the birth rate for St. Helens with those of other areas, the St. Helens birth rate for 1951 should be adjusted to 16.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The rate for England and Wales during 1951 was 15.5.

DEATHS.—There were during 1951, 1,456 deaths from all causes, giving a crude death rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of the population. This is a very high rate for the Borough, and only on two occasions during the last twenty years has it been higher. This sudden and steep increase in the death rate, which had been as low as 10.1 per 1,000 of the population in 1950, was due to the very high mortality caused by the epidemic of respiratory diseases occasioned by the influenza epidemic in January. Further reference to this epidemic is made later in the Report.

The "adjusted" death rate (for national comparison) for the year after applying the Area Comparability Factor for 1951 was 16.1 per 1,000 of the population.

The death rate of England and Wales as a whole for 1951 was 12.5 per 1,000 of the population.

Causes of Death.—Figures relating to the causes of, and ages at, death are given in Table 2.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was the cause of 2.8% of all deaths that occurred during 1951. The corresponding percentage in 1950 was 4.4. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table 2.

Malignant Diseases.—The deaths from these diseases during the past five years were as follows :—

AGE GROUPS	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—
1—	2	—	1	—	—
5—	1	—	—	1	—
15—	23 }	15 }	18 }	1	2
25—				13	14
45—	89	82	64	78	84
65—	79 }	85 }	85 }	44	74
75 and over				37	35
Total	194	182	168	174	209
Percentage of the total deaths	14.3	16.2	14.0	15.3	14.4
Death rate per 1,000 of population	1.83	1.65	1.5	1.5	1.9

There would appear to be no relationship between the incidence of malignant diseases and industrial processes in St. Helens.

It will be observed from the above table that the number of deaths due to malignant diseases increased from 174 in 1950 to 209 in 1951. Expressed as a percentage of total deaths from all causes, this would give a rate of 14.4% for 1951, compared with 15.3% in 1950. This apparent fall in the death rate from cancer is not attributable, however, to a lessened incidence of cancer, but arises from the fact that there was an exceptionally high number of total deaths during 1951. Had 1951 been a normal year without a high death rate caused by the influenza epidemic, then the percentage of deaths from malignant diseases related to total deaths would have shown an increase of about one-fifth over the 1950 rate. The more representative figures for comparison, therefore, are those showing the malignant death rates per 1,000 of the population as shown in the table above.

Infantile Mortality.—During 1951 there were 71 deaths of infants under one year of age, corresponding to an infantile mortality rate of 38.4 per 1,000 births.

This rate shows little change from the previous year, and, although still larger than that of 29.6 for England and Wales as a whole, is in comparison to the record for previous years relatively satisfactory.

Further reference to this subject is made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

Table 2
Causes of, and ages at, death during 1951.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0—1	1—	5—	All Ages 15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
Tuberculosis Resp.	M F	21 12	— —	— —	— 1	1 5	4 5	10 1	4 —	2 —
Tuberculosis Other	M F	4 4	1 —	— 2	— 2	1 —	1 —	— —	1 —	— —
Syphilitic Disease	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Diphtheria	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Whooping Cough	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Meningococcal Infections	M F	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Acute Poliomyelitis	M F	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Measles	M F	— 1	— —	— 1	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M F	3 2	— —	— 1	— —	— —	1 —	2 1	— —	— —
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M F	21 9	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 1	7 4	9 2	3 2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M F	29 6	— —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	14 5	12 1	2 —
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M F	1 13	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 2	1 8	— 2	— 1

Table 2—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0—1	1—	At Ages		25—	45—	65—	75—
					5—	15—				
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	13	—	—	—	—	1	8	4	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	63	—	—	—	—	3	24	20	16
	F	54	—	—	—	2	4	13	24	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	M	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
	F	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	73	—	—	—	1	1	15	27	29
	F	63	—	—	—	—	—	16	21	26
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	87	—	—	—	—	6	44	19	18
	F	39	—	—	—	—	1	12	20	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease	M	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	8
	F	17	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	5
Other Heart Disease	M	120	—	—	1	1	4	19	39	56
	F	120	—	—	—	—	10	18	36	56
Other Circulatory Disease	M	24	—	—	—	—	2	2	6	14
	F	22	—	—	—	1	2	4	6	9
Influenza	M	79	—	1	—	—	3	27	31	17
	F	53	1	1	—	2	2	11	20	16
Pneumonia	M	39	5	1	1	—	1	10	12	9
	F	27	4	1	—	—	—	8	4	10
Bronchitis	M	91	—	1	—	—	2	28	37	23
	F	37	1	—	—	1	1	7	18	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	15	—	—	—	1	1	5	6	2
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	13	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	3
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	8	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
	F	9	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	M	8	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F	8	4	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M	76	25	2	1	3	8	12	10	15
	F	53	9	1	3	1	4	11	8	16
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	9	—	—	2	1	3	2	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	M	28	2	2	3	—	2	5	6	8
	F	14	1	1	—	1	—	—	3	8
Suicide	M	7	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Homicide and Operations of War	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Causes	M	852	45	8	8	11	50	240	259	231
	F	604	26	10	7	15	41	141	184	180
TOTALS		1456	71	18	15	26	91	381	443	411

II.—METEOROLOGY.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for 1951 as measured at the Victoria Park Observatory was 40.84 inches compared with 37.57 inches in 1950. At the Eccleston Hill Waterworks, 40.86 inches were recorded compared with 37.85 inches in the previous year.

The highest daily rainfall of the year—1.35 inches—occurred during the 24-hour period ending at 9 a.m. on August 9th. During November over 8 inches of rain (20% of the year's total) were recorded, and during December more than 6 inches. The driest months were June and October, with 0.86 and 0.869 inches respectively. Rain fell on 223 days in the year.

Sunshine.—1,056½ hours of sunshine were recorded at the Observatory during the year. The greatest duration of sunshine on any day was 13 hours on the 27th–28th July. There were 87 sunless days.

The sunniest month was June, with 178¾ hours. Other months with more than 100 hours of sunshine were July (163¾), May (157¾) and April (144½). December, with 19¾ hours, had the least sunshine.

Temperature.—The highest recorded temperature of the year was 76.5° F. on 21st July and 30th July. During the period 5th to 9th June, a maximum temperature of over 74° F. was recorded on each of five successive days.

The lowest temperature of the year was 26.5° F. on 1st January. A lower figure than this would no doubt have been recorded if the minimum recording thermometer had not been out of action during November and December. It was on the 15th December, 1950, that the lowest temperature of that year—15.2° F.—was recorded.

Wind Pressure.—The highest wind pressure recorded during the year was a gust of 64 m.p.h. on the 28th December.

The following Table shows the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in each month and the distribution of sunshine and rainfall throughout the year.

Month	Maximum temperature recorded in shade	Minimum temperature recorded in shade	Sunshine	No. of sunless days	Rainfall	No. of days on which rain fell
	°F	°F	Hours		Inches	
January	54.5	26.5	21	18	3.170	20
February	50.5	29.5	43½	9	1.795	19
March	57.0	28.0	71	12	4.675	23
April	65.0	32.0	144½	0	1.710	15
May	68.5	32.5	157¾	5	2.940	14
June	76.0	40.0	178¾	2	0.860	11
July	76.5	47.5	163¾	0	2.320	16
August	74.0	46.0	87½	0	4.428	26
September	72.5	44.0	70½	6	3.161	17
October	67.25	28.0	64½	9	0.888	12
November	57.0	—	34½	9	8.505	25
December	56.0	—	19¾	17	6.388	25
			1056½	87	40.840	223

III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General Observations.—The number of cases of infectious diseases notified each year since 1942 is shown in Table 3.

During the year the incidence of measles reached epidemic proportions and there was also an increase in the number of cases of whooping cough as compared with previous years.

The incidence of other infectious diseases was comparatively low and this was very noticeable in the incidence of diphtheria where, as in 1950, only one case occurred during the year under review. For the first time in many years, however, there was an outbreak of enteric fever in the Borough, details of which are given later in this section of the Report.

Influenza.—The influenza epidemic, of which the first evidence was apparent in the last week of 1950, reached alarming proportions during the first two weeks of January, 1951, commenced to decline during the third week, and towards the close of the month was at an end. The following table shows the deaths for the Borough during the five weeks ended 27th January, 1951. For comparative purposes the deaths for the corresponding weeks in 1950 have been shown in brackets.

Numbers of deaths during the period 24.12.50 to 27.1.51

<i>Week ending</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>	<i>Respiratory Deaths</i>	<i>Influenza Deaths</i>
30/12/50	35 (21)	13 (4)	1 (—)
6/1/51	100 (26)	34 (8)	29 (1)
13/1/51	113 (13)	30 (2)	50 (—)
20/1/51	62 (21)	12 (5)	23 (—)
27/1/51	31 (27)	9 (5)	9 (—)

The death rate during the above 5 weeks period is equivalent to an annual rate of approximately 32.4 per 1,000 of the population. During the two weeks when the epidemic was at its peak, the death rate for that fortnight was equivalent to an annual rate of approximately 50.6 per 1,000 of the population. When these figures are compared with the annual death rate of 10.1 for 1950, or even with the unusually high rate of 13.3 for 1951, the severity of the outbreak is indeed very evident.

Influenza is not a notifiable disease, so that no accurate morbidity figures are available, but it is considered that a fair estimate of the number of cases who were incapacitated as a result of the epidemic must have been around 15,000.

Where the disease occurred in persons previously in a state of normal good health the effect was that of an acute chest cold, and the worst of the trouble was over in 48 to 72 hours. Where, however, complications followed, such as pneumonia, these proved to be very serious. This was markedly so in the case of

elderly persons or persons suffering from previous chest complaints, since these classes of people were very prone to develop complications from their influenzal attack, complications which in many cases proved fatal.

The severe result of the epidemic in St. Helens and its effect on the death rate was undoubtedly due to the fact that it occurred during one of the worst periods of weather of the year when the vitality of the average citizen was considerably reduced in the very cold and damp weather, and this also influenced the high death rate due to respiratory diseases amongst elderly persons. The occurrence of milder weather coincided with the decline in deaths.

It can be said, therefore, that St. Helens was a badly hit town. It is possible that the type of influenza itself was a fairly mild one, but as already pointed out this mild form in St. Helens became very serious when it led to secondary complications.

A great tribute must be paid to the very hard work done by the general practitioners of the town in dealing with the extremely high incidence of sickness during this period. Although very hard pressed, at times almost beyond endurance, they performed their work willingly and well.

It is interesting to refer back to the last serious outbreak of influenza during the 1918-19 post-war period. During that epidemic there appeared to be three waves of the disease from about November, 1918, to March, 1919. The week with the greatest total mortality was the week ending 1st March, 1919, when there were 109 deaths, of which 53 had influenza as a primary or secondary cause.

Comparisons.—Week ending 13th January, 1951, with corresponding week in 1948 (which throughout the Country was a record low year), and peak mortality week during influenza epidemic of 1918-19 :—

	Week ended		
	13th Jan. 1951	10th Jan. 1948	1st Mar. 1919
Total number of deaths during week	113	34	109
Number of deaths (incl. in above) with Influenza as a Primary or Secondary cause	50	—	53

The phenomenon of "wave" incidence of the disease shown in 1918-19 was not repeated in the 1951 epidemic. A close watch was maintained on weekly sickness returns, principally by means of informal contact with general practitioners in the town, in order that efforts could be made to minimise fatal results in the event of a recurrence of the disease. By February, however, it became obvious that the epidemic had spent itself.

Table 3.

Notification of Infectious Diseases received during the under-mentioned years.

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	146	322	661	530	426	324	345	243	121	130
Diphtheria	255	120	29	21	36	32	13	8	1	1
Measles	3066	269	1716	530	368	1695	1475	857	300	2613
Whooping Cough	423	616	401	144	521	221	492	422	407	552
Enteric Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Dysentery	69	11	59	35	5	53	25	10	58	16
Erysipelas	28	45	34	35	26	12	24	17	18	14
Pneumonia*	60	111	98	99	74	102	62	59	25	91
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	{ 7	11	11	13	4	9	6	1	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	7	5	5	9	3	2	2	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	1	2	—	12	5	1	8	6
Acute Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	11	10	1	1	6	6	3	3	4	6
Malaria	1	—	5	4	3	—	2	—	—	—

* Acute, Primary and Influenzal

Table 4

Infectious Diseases.—Total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to isolation hospital, and the total deaths from each disease as shown in Registrar General's classification of deaths.

Year 1951

DISEASE	Notifications received	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	130	96	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Measles	2613	30	1
Whooping Cough	552	16	—
Enteric Fever	6	6	—
Dysentery	16	5	—
Erysipelas	14	2	—
Pneumonia, Acute, Primary and Influenzal	91	3	6
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	6	6	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	6	6	1
Malaria	—	—	—

Table 5.

Age distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases notified.
Year 1951.

DISEASE	Notifications received	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	130	—	1	11	14	25	66	8	4	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2613	140	306	419	463	532	728	17	5	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	552	51	81	110	93	87	124	3	—	1	—	1	1
Enteric Fever	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	16	2	2	—	—	1	3	1	1	4	1	—	1
Erysipelas	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	8	1
Pneumonia*	91	4	—	1	2	3	7	1	2	14	10	25	22
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	6	—	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	6	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Acute, Primary and Influenzal

Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid and Typhoid Fever). During the months of June and July four cases of Paratyphoid Fever occurred in the County Borough. At the same time two cases occurred in the County area on the western side of the Borough and three cases in the County area on the eastern side of the Borough. By agreement with the Divisional Medical Officers of the Lancashire County Council, in whose areas the county cases occurred, these cases were grouped with the St. Helens cases as forming part of one outbreak suspected to have originated in St. Helens.

Features of interest relating to original cases.

1. After consideration of clinical histories the presumed date of infection was placed as having been in the last days of May or first week in June.
2. The cases did not occur in any one district in the area, but originated in parts corresponding to the four points of the compass in the borough and surrounding county region. One case occurred in the extreme northern region, two in the extreme western region, (in the county area) three in the extreme eastern region (in the county area), and three at scattered points within the borough.
3. Of the nine cases, seven occurred amongst children with ages ranging from one year to fourteen years, and two others in adolescents of seventeen years.
4. Enquiries made from the Health Department in Liverpool and adjoining large urban areas, disclosed that there was no evidence of any epidemic occurrence of paratyphoid fever in these areas. This was checked by reference to the Regional Medical Officer in Manchester. It was noted

however, that four sporadic cases of typhoid fever had occurred within recent months in Liverpool, but cross-checking the St. Helens and Liverpool cases disclosed no common link.

5. It appeared, therefore, that we were dealing with a localised epidemic probably originating in St. Helens and district.

Immediate steps taken to prevent spread of infection.

1. On notification of the first case information was sent to all private practitioners and all hospitals in the area warning them that a case of paratyphoid fever had occurred.
2. All family contacts of cases were examined and faecal swabs taken. This system of routine faecal swabs was continued over a period of three weeks from the notification of the first case in the family in order to check the occurrence of secondary cases.

Lines of investigation to discover source of infection.

After analysis of the cases mentioned above, suspicion was directed to some foodstuff commonly consumed by children and young persons. This might have been milk, ice cream, or artificial cream used in the making up of cream cakes or cream buns.

1. Samples of ice cream and cream products were taken from all ice cream producing premises in the town, and from every confectioner's shop whose products had been consumed by cases of the disease. Clinical case histories were taken from all employees engaged in the handling of food in these businesses, and where there was clinical indication of any obscure illness having occurred during the months of April or May which might possibly have been an undiagnosed attack of paratyphoid fever these employees were asked to give a specimen of faeces and to submit to a Widal blood test.
2. Water supplies and milk supplies were sampled bacteriologically and employees examined as under 1 above.
3. Investigations were made into any other type of raw food, e.g. dried eggs, fruit or vegetables noted as having been consumed by cases of the disease.
4. Close contact was maintained with the Health Departments of the adjoining areas where cases had occurred, namely, Nos. 9 and 10 Divisional Health Areas of the Lancashire County Council, and similar investigations described as in (1), (2) and (3) were carried out in those areas. The results of investigations on individual cases were pooled and discussed at meetings held between officials from the three areas involved. It was thus possible to handle the outbreak as if occurring within the area of one Authority.
5. Close contact was maintained with the Public Health Laboratory in Liverpool which handled the bulk of bacteriological investigations.

Results of Investigation.

1. The organism causing the outbreak, as isolated from cases of the disease, was found to be *Salmonella Paratyphosis B*, but when the Phage typing was carried out a rather extraordinary complication arose. It was found that four cases in the County Borough of St. Helens and two cases in the County area to the west of the town were of the same Phage I type and were

part of the same outbreak. The other three cases occurring in the County area to the east side of the Borough were found to be of Phage II type and could not, therefore, be considered to have any connection with the main outbreak. These latter three cases, therefore, occurring in the No. 10 Divisional Health Area of the Lancashire County Council were investigated in that area as an independent outbreak.

2. All samples of water, milk, ice cream, cream products and other foods suspected to be involved proved bacteriologically negative.
3. Routine swabbing of family contacts discovered one other case of the disease.
4. It appeared from the results that the epidemic was not due to the infection of any foodstuff at a central source, and investigation was, therefore, focussed on the possibility of discovering a carrier of the disease. Routine bacteriological examination of all food handlers did not in fact result in any positive findings pointing to a carrier of salmonella paratyphosis. It was interesting to note, however, that the investigation discovered the existence of an ice cream vendor who was an active carrier of Salmonella Typhimurium and who had a clinical history of having suffered from paratyphoid fever in childhood. The individual was suspended from work and his case further investigated by the Public Health Laboratory in Liverpool. Although repeated bacteriological tests were carried out on the individual, salmonella paratyphosis B was never isolated.

The outbreak, therefore, cannot definitely be ascribed as having been due to a carrier handling ice cream. The fact, however, that the cases occurred so sporadically, that the incidence was almost solely confined to children and adolescents who might be expected to be consumers of a foodstuff sold in this manner, and that the suspension of the suspected carrier coincided with the end of the outbreak, would seem to give strong presumptive evidence that the occurrence of the disease was due to the infection of ice cream handled by an itinerant vendor who was a carrier of the disease.

5. All cases were mild in type and none terminated fatally.

Typhoid Fever. One case of typhoid fever in a St. Helens patient occurred in a local Mental Hospital. It was difficult to ascertain the cause as the individual concerned was a voluntary patient passing in and out of hospital on frequent week-end leaves. No secondary cases occurred and investigations carried out in the Institution to ascertain any possible cause of infection proved negative.

Diphtheria. During 1951 only one case of Diphtheria occurred, thus maintaining the similar lowest recorded incidence in 1950.

Acute Poliomyelitis. Six cases of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred during the year. These cases were sporadic in incidence, five being paralytic in type and one non-paralytic. All cases were admitted for treatment to the local Isolation Hospital.

Hospital Accommodation. By arrangement with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital had been staffed by medical officers from the Health Department. This agreement terminated at the end of 1950, and from that date the Hospital Board undertook the provision of medical staff for the hospital from other sources.

During 1951, however, the Regional Hospital Board found difficulty in providing adequate medical cover for the hospital and following an approach by them to the Local Authority, the Health Committee agreed that the services of the Deputy Medical Officer should be made available for clinical medical work at the Isolation Hospital for a total of twelve hours per week, to be operative from January, 1952.

By arrangement with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board the Local Authority also retained the use of out-patient facilities in the cleansing block at the hospital for the treatment of scabies and the cleansing of verminous persons. During 1951, 21 cases of scabies were treated and 53 infested persons were cleansed under these arrangements. The corresponding figures for 1950 were 7 cases of scabies and 41 infested persons.

During the year, the disinfection service for the St. Helens Local Authority also continued to be carried out at the Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Work. The following table shows the number of specimens received by the Health Department for distribution to various laboratories during the year.

Specimens	Number Received	Results	
		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria	118	1	117
Sputa for Tuberculosis	4	1	3
Blood for Rh Factor	878	656	222
Paratyphoid specimens :—			
Blood	54	14	40
Faeces	187	2	185
Urine	28	—	28
Water and Foodstuffs	22	—	22
Food Poisoning specimens :—			
Faeces	28	1	27
Other Specimens	9	—	9
Total	1328	675	653

IV.—IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation.—During 1951, the Local Authority's scheme for the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria continued to operate as in former years. Facilities for immunisation continued to be offered at Child Welfare Clinics and in schools. Where necessary special immunisation sessions were also held in central and district clinics.

The following is a record of the number of children immunised during 1951.

Number of children immunised during 1951.

Age at 31/12/51 i.e. born in years :	Under 1 1951	1-4 1947-50	5-14 1937-46	15 or over before 1937	Total
Primary Immunisations					
Local Authority Medical Officers	69	751	380	2	1202
Private Practitioners	25	254	28	2	309
Total	94	1005	408	4	1511
Reinforcing Injections					
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	32	1608	37	1677
Private Practitioners	—	5	46	3	54
Total	—	37	1654	40	1731

The total number of primary immunisations carried out during the year showed a satisfactory increase as compared with 1950. Much good work continued to be done by Medical Officers in the schools in the giving of re-inforcing injections, and five times as many cases were done as in the preceding year. The following shows the record of primary immunisations carried out since 1946.

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
1419	2162	1946	1304	1329	1511

It is estimated that at the end of 1951, 43% of children under 5 years of age and 78% of those aged 5-15 years had been immunised. The immunisation rate for the under-fives is still unsatisfactory.

VACCINATION.—The following table is a record of the vaccinations carried out during 1951.

Number of Vaccinations during 1951.

Age at 31/12/51 i.e., born in years :	Under 1 1951	1-4 1947-1950	5-14 1937-1946	15 or over before 1937	Total
Vaccinations					
Local Authority Medical Officers	196	76	5	4	281
Private Practitioners	264	144	25	49	482
Total	460	220	30	53	763
Re-Vaccinations					
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	—	1	22	23
Private Practitioners	—	—	4	137	141
Total	—	—	5	159	164

The vaccination rate for the Borough is still far too low and must give rise to concern. More than 3/5ths of the infant population each year is still remaining unprotected against smallpox, and in the light of recent sporadic outbreaks of this disease in the country with its subsequent fatal results amongst the unprotected population there is surely little need to stress the seriousness of the situation. Constant propaganda is carried out through the medium of Local Authority Clinics and by Local Authority Health Officers working on the districts and in the homes, but it would seem that there is still a great deal of work to be done in order to persuade parents of their responsibilities in this matter.

V.—AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Although no major alterations were made in the running of the Ambulance Service during the year certain preparations were undertaken in anticipation of the separation of the Ambulance and Fire Services in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 40/50.

The general supervision of the service remained, as from its inception, under the Chief Fire Officer, but during the year an Ambulance Superintendent was appointed.

Suitable accommodation for ambulance premises will require to be provided before separation of the services can be carried out, but immediately this provision is made the Ambulance Service will become an independent service under the direct control of the Health Committee.

The question of accommodation is an acute one. At the present time the number of garages for Ambulance Service Vehicles is insufficient, and as a temporary measure additional accommodation is being provided upon Fire Service premises.

Liaison arrangements with the Lancashire County Ambulance Service continued, and during the year six St. Helens cases were dealt with by that Authority, whilst one Lancashire County case was dealt with by the St. Helens Ambulance Service.

The arrangements whereby the Ambulance Service provided transport in an emergency for relatives of patients in hospital, and of radiographers summoned to St. Helens Hospital when public transport is not available, were continued, and provision for these services was made on 24 occasions during the year.

During the year one new Austin ambulance and one Hillman sitting-case car were taken into commission.

Following the provision of a new ambulance vehicle, one old vehicle became redundant but negotiations were opened with a view to retaining this vehicle for Civil Defence training purposes.

Although the overall condition of the ambulance fleet remained reasonably good certain vehicles will require replacement in the very near future.

Vehicles in commission on 31st December were as follows :—

<i>Make</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	
Morris	1936	Ambulance	
Fordson	1936	"	
Austin	1936	"	(To be transferred to Civil Defence Corps for training purposes)
Morris	1938	"	
Austin	1943	"	
Austin	1949	"	
Morris	1950	"	
Austin	1951	"	
Hillman	1950	Sitting Case Car.	

The Fire Service mechanics continued to maintain the ambulance fleet and during the period under review 1 major repair and 829 minor repairs were effected. In addition one ambulance was re-painted.

The authorised strength of the Ambulance Service is 28 drivers and attendants, and one switchboard operator. Recruitment during the year occasionally caused difficulties, as personnel for the combined service are enrolled as Firemen. Because of this the question of providing adequate cover for all ambulances in some cases proved a great problem.

25 members of the staff were successful in the St. John Ambulance Association qualifying examinations and have been awarded the Association's Certificate.

The total number of cases dealt with by the Ambulance Service during the year was 19,787, an increase of 3,041 as compared with 1950.

Summaries of calls attended and of mileage figures during the year are shown below.

CALLS ATTENDED BY AMBULANCE SERVICE DURING 1951.

1951	Accidents	Street Accidents	Maternity	General Removals	Out-Patients	Miscellaneous	Total
January	58	22	95	471	1181	3	1830
February	45	12	81	376	880	2	1396
March	30	28	102	378	907	2	1447
April	54	27	75	386	898	5	1445
May	53	27	81	420	1084	—	1665
June	44	41	88	414	1115	3	1705
July	51	44	86	383	1094	1	1659
August	64	34	73	333	987	2	1493
September	57	31	71	347	1198	5	1709
October	45	22	67	389	1308	1	1832
November	51	36	74	444	1329	—	1934
December	72	26	74	388	1112	—	1672
Total	624	350	967	4729	13093	24	19787

AMBULANCE SERVICE MILEAGES DURING 1951.

1951	AMBULANCES							Total
	No. 1 DJ 7227	No. 2 DJ 7924	No. 3 DJ 9102	No. 4 DJ 6946	No. 5 ADJ 532	No. 6 ADJ 437	No. 7 BDJ 97	
January	761	462	1352	918	1532	1971	757	8753
February	369	305	1762	807	1061	580	676	7105
March	14	515	1259	541	1105	1807	867	7234
April	292	1206	1261	631	689	777	1037	7335
May	238	564	1054	1058	1206	1560	1061	8101
June	253	192	1584	1244	1211	1223	1384	8628
July	681	77	1130	1130	1244	1743	989	8551
August	296	304	1325	1105	1320	457	1023	7319
September	298	859	1413	783	1208	716	951	7523
October	254	1436	1256	769	1417	762	1083	8613
November	411	927	1557	837	1809	1121	1608	9402
December	174	823	1821	1280	1002	679	1187	7807
TOTALS	4041	7670	16774	11103	14804	13396	12623	96371

VI—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Administration. The powers and functions of the Local Health Authority under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, and the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, are carried out by the Local Health Committee, which has appointed a Mental Health Sub-Committee.

This Sub-Committee consists of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Health Committee, together with eight other members of the Health Committee. All powers and duties of the Local Health Authority, so far as they relate to Mental Health and Mental Deficiency, may be referred to this Sub-Committee for report to the Health Committee. It was found convenient, however, during the year to take all matters affecting the Mental Health Service direct to the Health Committee.

Mental Health Staff. The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the organisation and control of the local services under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, and the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938. The day-to-day administration of the Mental Health Department is supervised by an Assistant Medical Officer of Health. Use is also made of the Consultant Psychiatrist at present on the staff of the Local Education Authority, and, where necessary, of Specialist Medical Officers of the Regional Hospital Board.

The Non-Medical Staff consists of two Mental Health Workers (one male and one female) and one sectional clerk (male). During the year the male Mental Health Worker resigned and there was a delay of several months before the vacancy could be filled. Both the Mental Health Workers and the clerk to the Mental Health Service are designated as Duly Authorised Officers. The Mental Health Workers have attended approved courses of training.

The staff of the Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives consists of a Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor and a Guide and General Helper. Over the last two years there has been an increase in the number of pupils attending the Centre, and consideration will need to be given in the near future to the appointment of a second Assistant Supervisor.

For the purposes of Section 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, the following have been appointed approved Medical Officers :—

Dr. Gerald O'Brien, Medical Officer of Health, St. Helens.

Dr. Clifford Taberner Baynes, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, St. Helens.

Dr. M. Joyce Caldwell, Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Clinic, St. Helens Education Authority.

Dr. N. J. W. Thompson, a local general practitioner with experience in mental deficiency ascertainment.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards. Close co-operation with the Regional Hospital Board is maintained by frequent consultations with the Board's Consultant Psychiatrists. One or other of the Local Health Authority's Mental Health Workers also attends regularly the Psychiatric Out-patient sessions at a local general hospital.

The Local Health Authority is also undertaking on request, the supervision of patients on trial or on licence from Mental Hospitals and Institutions for Mental Defectives.

The number of visits paid, the number of cases involved and the number of reports submitted during 1951 were as follows :—

	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>No. of Visits Paid</i>	<i>No. of Reports Submitted</i>
Mental Illness			
Reports on home conditions for licence on trial or discharge	4	6	4
Mental Deficiency.			
Progress Reports	2	2	2
Reports on home conditions for licence on trial or discharge	19	28	25
Reports on home conditions for the purpose of Section 11 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913	25	27	25

Duties Delegated to Voluntary Associations. No duties of the Local Health Authority have been delegated to voluntary organisations. The St. Helens Mental Welfare Society (a voluntary committee of the St. Helens Council of Social Service), however, assist in welfare activities among mental defectives, in connection with the provision of clothing and footwear, day outings, holidays, Christmas parties, etc. The Local Health Authority make a grant to the funds of that Society for this work.

ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY UNDER SECTION 28, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Prevention. In dealing with the problem of prevention of mental illness, the activities of the Mental Health Workers were focussed mainly on domiciliary visiting and arranging contacts with suitable organisations for those in need of advice or early treatment.

Close contact in this work is maintained with the Health Visitors of the various districts in the town and case consultations between Nurses and Workers is constantly employed.

During the year 45 attendances were made by the Mental Health Workers of the Local Authority at the local hospital psychiatric out-patient clinic. This provides an extremely valuable link between the general practitioner, the Consultant Psychiatrist of the Regional Hospital Board and the Local Mental Health Authority.

The importance of preventive mental health services is becoming more generally realised, and following requests from consultant psychiatrists, general practitioners, parents and relatives, and from patients themselves, the Mental Health Workers paid 70 home visits during the year to the following cases :—

- 11 cases with domestic difficulties, causing neurotic conditions, were visited and an improvement brought about in the home relationships.
- 5 cases were found other employment.
- 8 cases were persuaded to undergo out-patient treatment.

- 1 case with pre-marital difficulties, almost on the verge of a complete breakdown, was treated successfully through her general practitioner.
- 1 case was admitted to a convalescent home.
- 1 case (married) with continual home trouble, was referred to the Marriage Guidance Council, and her son interested in a local youth organisation.
- 4 cases received supervisory visits.

Care. In this sphere of activity it was found that the majority of the problems dealt with arise in family life as a result of the admission of a member of the family to hospital. Advice and assistance were sought from the Mental Health Department on many occasions by relatives and not infrequently by request of the patients themselves. In many instances also at the request of Consultant Hospital Psychiatrists in the area home visits were paid to relatives of in-patients and social histories completed.

During the year 56 visits were made in dealing with the undermentioned cases :—

- 20 cases of patients in hospitals whose home difficulties were to some extent retarding their recovery. These involved National Insurance problems, National Assistance grants, pensions, housing difficulties and property worries.
- 18 cases in respect of which social histories were completed.
 - 1 case under voluntary treatment, allowed out for leave, who defaulted and was persuaded to return to hospital and complete his treatment.
 - 2 cases in which financial help was obtained and domestic difficulties over children settled.

After-Care. The following summary gives the Local Health Authority's after-care record during 1951 :—

Number on list at 1.1.1951	85
Discharged persons requesting after-care	103
	188
Deleted from list during 1951	37
Number on list at 31.12.1951	151

The Mental Health Workers continued the work of the rehabilitation of persons discharged from hospital, giving advice and assistance on financial matters, contacting welfare officers of local industries, the Disablement Resettlement Section of the Ministry of Labour and other organisations which could provide aid.

In dealing with the following cases during the year, 183 home visits were made by the Mental Health Workers.

- 22 cases requiring further treatment who were re-admitted to hospitals.
- 11 cases completely recovered, who did not need further after-care treatment.
- 18 cases in need of light employment were referred to the Disablement Resettlement Officer.
- 4 cases were found other employment.
- 20 cases with slight deterioration were successfully treated as out-patients.

- 1 case socially inadequate was referred to the Marriage Guidance Council.
- 2 cases with poor home circumstances were helped in the provision of clothing.
- 2 cases died during the year.

The remaining cases, many of whom were in regular employment, were maintaining satisfactory progress since discharge from hospital and were receiving purely supervisory visits.

Comment must finally be made on the continued expansion during the year of the prevention, care and after-care service. The number of cases alone on the after-care list was nearly double that of the year before, and to an extent which is increasing to a marked degree the Mental Health Department is becoming a collecting centre for the handling of problems connected not only with the realm of treatment but with those associated with the social side issues arising in the family. Parents and relatives of patients increasingly seek advice on the many varied problems by which they are confronted, and during the year under review a total of 334 interviews were conducted in connection with such matters.

THE LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS, 1890-1930.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by Duly Authorised Officers under the above Acts, from 1st January, 1951 to 31st December, 1951 :—

1. Admitted to an Establishment designated for the purpose by the Minister of Health :	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
(a) On Three Day Orders under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	13	8	21
(b) On Justices' Fourteen Day Orders under Section 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	15	8	23
2. Summary Reception Orders made under Section 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1890 :			
(a) Following detention on an Order under Section 20 or 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	13	7	20
(b) Admitted direct to a mental hospital on a Summary Reception Order	3	8	11
3. Notified as an alleged person of unsound mind suffering from mental illness and dealt with as follows :			
(a) Voluntary Patients	12	30	42
(b) Temporary Patients	1	3	4
(c) No Order made	2	—	2
4. Patients transferred from one Mental Hospital to another under Sections 64-67 of the Lunacy Act, 1890			
	25	29	54
5. Other notified admissions during the year :—			
Persons normally resident within the County Borough of St. Helens, admitted to Mental Hospitals as Voluntary Patients	49	54	103

The following summary gives the disposal of known patients in Mental Hospitals during the year :—

No. of Health Service Patients in Mental Hospitals on 1.1.1951	Male	Female	Total
Admissions during the year	147	171	318
	106	118	224
	253	289	542
Deaths during the year	M. 9	F. 19	Total 28
Discharges during the year	96	97	193
	105	116	221
No. of Health Service Patients in Mental Hospitals on 31.12.1951	148	173	321

THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

Ascertainment. The total number of cases reported and referred as Mental Defectives from the 1st January, 1951, to 31st December, 1951 was 10. Particulars of these cases are shown in the following Tables.

Cases Reported and Referred.

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authority (Section 57, Education Act, 1944)					
(i) Under Section 57 (3)	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Under Section 57 (5)					
On leaving special schools	—	—	—	3	3
On leaving ordinary schools	1	1	—	—	2
(b) Cases referred by the Police or by the Courts under Section 8 (1) (a) (or as a result of other action by the Courts)	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Other defectives reported during 1951					
(i) found "subject to be dealt with"	1	—	—	1	2
(ii) not at present "subject to be dealt with"	—	1	1	1	3
	2	2	1	5	10

Disposal of Cases.

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Those found "subject to be dealt with"					
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	2	1	—	3	6
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Institutions	—	—	—	1	1
(v) Died or removed from area	—	—	—	—	—
(vi) Action not yet taken	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Those not at present "subject to be dealt with"					
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	1	—	1
(ii) Later found not to be defective	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Died or removed from area	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Action unnecessary	—	—	—	1	1
(v) Action not yet taken	—	1	—	—	1
	2	2	1	5	10

Admissions to Institutions. During the year under review the total number of defectives admitted by Order to Institutions from the area of the Local Health Authority was 3 (2 males and 1 female).

At the 31st December, 1951, there were 9 cases (4 males and 5 females) awaiting vacancies in Institutions ; six of these cases (3 males and 3 females) were in a "Place of Safety". Due to lack of accommodation, difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining vacancies for cases requiring Institutional care. These cases have been classified as follows :—

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. In urgent need of Institutional care					
(i) Cot and chair cases	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	3	3	—	—	6
(iii) Medium grade cases	—	1	—	1	2
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—	—
2. Not in urgent need of Institutional Care					
(i) Cot and chair cases	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Medium grade cases	1	—	—	—	1
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—	—
	4	4	—	1	9

None of the above cases is considered to be in need of Institutional care solely because of poor environment.

County Borough Cases in Mental Deficiency Institutions. The number of cases from the County Borough of St. Helens who are in Mental Deficiency Institutions is given in the following Table :—

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Mental Deficiency Institution —					
Calderstones	6	1	17	12	36
Brockhall	8	—	15	8	31
Lisieux Hall	—	—	5	—	5
Royal Albert	—	—	3	—	3
Rampton State	—	—	—	2	2
Eaves Lane	—	—	1	1	2
Greaves Hall	1	—	2	—	3
Newchurch Homes	—	—	—	4	4
Mary Dendy Home	—	—	1	1	2
Cranage Hall	—	—	—	1	1
Ashton House	—	—	—	3	3
The Manor	—	—	—	1	1
Birkenhead	—	—	—	1	1
	15	1	44	34	94

The above table includes 2 cases (one male and one female) who were admitted to Institutions in accordance with Section 3 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

Total number of Reported and Referred Cases at 31st December 1951. The total number of reported and referred cases for whom the Local Health Authority of the County Borough was responsible at the 31st December, was as follows :—

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under Statutory Supervision	14	17	20	23	74
Under Guardianship	—	—	2	4	6
In "Places of Safety"	3	2	—	1	6
Under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	22	12	34
Reported to be mentally deficient but in which action had not yet been taken	—	1	—	—	1
	17	20	44	40	121

SUPERVISION—Statutory and Voluntary. This work is carried out by Mental Health Workers and Duly Authorised Officers.

Statutory Supervision cases are visited at intervals not exceeding three months and full reports of each visit are made and submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. Any special recommendations which have been made are noted and placed before the Health Committee.

The number of visits made to these cases during the year was 306.

Cases under Voluntary Supervision are also visited at regular intervals. These are cases which have been referred to the Local Health Authority otherwise than under Section 57 (3) and (5) of the Education Act, 1944. The number of visits made to these cases during 1951 was 56.

Guardianship. On the 1st January, 1951, there were 7 cases under Guardianship for whom the Local Health Authority was responsible. One case, however, was detained in a Mental Hospital on an Order under Section 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1890. This case was removed from the list on receipt of a Board of Control notification that the Guardianship Order had lapsed by operation of law.

In one other case, the Order lapsed by operation of law and a new Order was made, again placing the defective under Guardianship.

Maintenance grants at the rate of 26/- per week were paid in respect of the six cases under guardianship.

A clothing grant was made to one of the defectives on the application of the Guardian.

All Guardianship cases are seen by a Medical Officer on the Health Department Staff each year and by Mental Health Workers at intervals not exceeding three months. Reports of each visit are made and submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, any special recommendations being noted and placed before the Health Committee.

The number of visits made during the year was 28.

Each Guardianship case is on the list of a General Practitioner.

After-Care. Cases discharged from an Order under the Mental Deficiency Acts are followed up at home with a view to assisting in their re-habilitation into the community.

During the year 4 visits were made to 2 such cases.

One case, detained in an Institution under Order, was discharged on the Authority of the Board of Control from the Institution. Conditions were such that it was impossible for accommodation to be provided with relatives, and residential domestic employment in a Convalescent Home was found for the patient by the Mental Health Service.

Classification of Cases under Guardianship and Supervision. In Section A of the following Table, defectives under Statutory and Voluntary Supervision and Guardianship cases have been classified as to their suitability for various types of training, whilst those actually receiving such training at the 31st December, 1951, are shown in Section B.

	Under 16 years		16 years and over		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Section A.					
Considered suitable for :—					
(i) Occupation Centre	9	15	6	20	50
(ii) Industrial Centre	1	—	12	3	16
(iii) Home Training	—	—	5	2	7
	10	15	23	25	73
Section B.					
Number of cases receiving training on 31.12.1951					
(i) In Occupation Centre	9	12	6	6	33
(ii) In Industrial Centre	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) At home	—	—	—	—	—
	9	12	6	6	33

Cases removed from Lists during 1951. Of the listed cases who were in institutions or under community care (including Voluntary Supervision) or in "Places of Safety" on the 1st January, 1951, those who ceased to be under any of these forms of supervision as on 31st December, 1951, were as follows :—

	Male	Female	Total
(a) Ceased to be under care	1	4	5
(b) Died, removed from Area, or lost sight of	4	1	5
	5	5	10

Other Particulars. During the year 284 interviews took place in the Mental Health Department in dealing with parents and relatives of mental defectives seeking advice and assistance.

Occupation Centre. The Occupation Centre is situated at "Stanley House", Sinclair Street, St. Helens, the staff consisting of a Supervisor, an Assistant Supervisor and a Guide and General Helper.

During 1951 the scheme of upgrading for the Centre was completed and the amenities were considerably improved. An improved heating plant was installed and complete re-decoration of the Centre carried out. Additional furniture and equipment were provided to equip new class rooms and the dining room. The addition of these extra facilities allowed for the division of the pupils into three classes, each age group with its own separate class room accommodation. The large main hall was also freed for use in singing, dancing and rhythmic exercises. The change in atmosphere in the Centre has been reflected in the improved appearance and behaviour of the pupils, and there is no doubt that the very fine work of upgrading that has been carried out is appreciated by the parents who now feel that their children are attending a real 'school' for training and occupational work. Meals at the Centre are provided through the Schools Meals Service of the Local Education Authority and the charges made to the parents are the same as those in operation throughout the schools in the Borough.

A special free 'bus service for the transport of defectives to and from the Centre is provided by the Health Committee. In necessary cases, children are collected and delivered to collecting points in the town by a Guide and other members of the staff of the Occupation Centre.

The pupils attending the Centre are graded according to their mental age and ability, and the curriculum includes instruction in handwork, sewing and embroidery, rugmaking, singing and dancing.

A Nativity play was produced during the year with most excellent results and at its showing, on 'Open Day' for parents, a large display of handwork was exhibited. The 'Open Day' coincided with the Christmas Party given for the Centre pupils by the St. Helens Mental Welfare Association, who in the summer also provided a day's outing to a nearby seaside resort.

The Centre is open from Monday to Friday each week and the normal terms and holidays during the year coincide with those in the Primary Schools of the Borough.

Below is an extract from the attendance register :—

	Borough Pupils		County Pupils		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of pupils on Register on 1.1.1951	18	19	4	6	47
New admissions during the year	2	—	2	1	5
Number who ceased to attend during the year	5	1	1	—	7
Number on register at 31.12.1951	15	18	5	7	45
Average daily attendance during the year	13	14	3	5	35

VII.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Incidence. In 1951, 87 persons were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, 23 less than in the previous year. 17 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, one more than in 1950, were also notified during the year.

The total number of new cases was 122. This figure includes 18 cases added to the Register from other sources. The total for the previous year was 136.

Mortality. 41 deaths in 1951 were due to tuberculosis, all but 8 being caused by the pulmonary form of the disease.

The death rate from tuberculosis was therefore 3.7 per 10,000 of the population and is the lowest ever recorded for St. Helens.

Table 7 shows the incidence and death rate figures from 1932, and Table 8 the comparable figures of some of the neighbouring towns.

Table 6.

Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1951.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1 —	2	1	3	1	—	—	—	2
5 —	2	5	2	2	—	1	—	2
15 —	10	15	4	2	1	5	1	—
25 —	16	23	1	4	4	5	1	—
45 —	15	5	—	1	10	1	—	—
65 —	5	—	—	—	4	—	1	—
75 —	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	52	49	11	10	21	12	4	4

Table 7.

Number of cases notified and number of deaths each year, 1932 to 1951

Year	No. of Primary notifications received.		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1932	141	48	72	16	6.7	1.5
1933	107	60	79	11	7.3	1.0
1934	94	40	72	23	6.7	2.1
1935	83	31	65	9	6.0	0.8
1936	75	48	72	7	6.7	0.6
1937	87	46	60	15	5.6	1.4
1938	74	35	57	13	5.3	1.2
1939	57	39	49	21	4.6	1.9
1940	96	44	67	12	6.5	1.2
1941	81	33	46	23	4.5	2.2
1942	80	25	59	15	5.8	1.5
1943	107	24	64	12	6.4	1.2
1944	94	27	48	12	4.9	1.2
1945	81	25	58	13	5.8	1.3
1946	101	24	48	4	4.6	0.4
1947	111	10	68	9	6.4	0.9
1948	98	15	63	7	5.7	0.6
1949	96	16	58	7	5.2	0.6
1950	104	16	46	4	4.1	0.3
1951	87	17	33	8	3.0	0.7

Table 8.
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, YEAR 1951.

Towns	Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death rate from other Tubercular Diseases
Birkenhead	0.45	0.05
Burnley	0.35	0.06
Bury	0.13	0.03
Halifax	0.27	0.03
Liverpool	0.52	0.05
Manchester	0.45	0.06
Oldham	0.27	0.03
Preston	0.35	0.04
Rochdale	0.26	0.04
Salford	0.49	0.03
ST. HELENS	0.30	0.07
Stockport	0.28	0.07
Wallasey	0.32	0.04
Wigan	0.42	0.01

Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic. The administration and clinical work of the tuberculosis service is still carried out at Bank House, Claughton Street, under the supervision of a tuberculosis physician appointed by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. This officer is responsible to the Local Authority for work under that part of Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which deals with the care and after-care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. The Welfare Officer, who is wholly employed by the Local Authority, occupies an office at the dispensary. Close liaison is therefore possible between the work of the Regional Board and that of the Local Authority.

During 1951, patients made 2,370 attendances at the dispensary, an increase of 298 over the previous year. A further 314 attendances were made for pneumothorax treatment.

Particulars of St. Helens cases on the Dispensary Register are set out in Table 9.

Table 9.
Register of St. Helens cases of Tuberculosis during 1951.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register on 1/1/1951	513	158
2. No. of cases added to the Register during 1951—		
(i) Formal Notifications	87	17
(ii) New cases coming to knowledge of Medical Officer of Health from other sources—		
(a) From Local Death Returns	2	1
(b) From Registrar General's Death Returns (transferable deaths)	1	1
(c) Posthumous Notifications	—	2
(d) Transfers from other areas	11	—
(e) Other sources	—	—
3. No. of cases removed from Register during year—		
(a) Recovered	18	12
(b) Deaths—		
(i) Certified as due to Tuberculosis	33	8
(ii) Other Causes	6	—
(c) Transferred to other areas or lost sight of	39	10
4. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register on 31/12/1951	518	149

Institutional Treatment. Eccleston Hall Hospital has 75 beds for the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis. Cases are also admitted for observation. Male and female adults and up to 15 children are accepted from anywhere in the region but the majority of patients are from St. Helens and admission is controlled from the St. Helens dispensary.

A school with a full-time teacher is available for those children fit to attend; bedside tuition is otherwise given.

89 patients from St. Helens were admitted to Eccleston Hall for treatment during the year 1951. There were 7 in-patient deaths of St. Helens cases during the twelve months.

Mass Radiography Unit. Number 2 Mass Miniature Radiography Unit of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board re-visited St. Helens during the summer. The response from the public and the co-operation of the industrial firms and business houses of the district was much more enthusiastic than on the previous visit of the unit. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that the Unit was mobile so that facilities were made available to factory and office workers on sites adjoining their place of work.

There is, therefore, little doubt that this survey will prove much more representative of the population at large than the previous survey. The usefulness of this form of investigation in the preventive field dealing with tuberculosis cannot be over-estimated. It is to be sincerely hoped that in the future such surveys may become an annual routine feature of the health services of the Borough.

B.C.G. Up to the present no official scheme of B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis has been undertaken in St. Helens by the Local Health Authority. One of the main difficulties to be overcome is the segregation of vaccinated persons in order to avoid contact with a case of active tuberculosis during their period of developing immunity.

As a preparatory measure, however, arrangements are being made for skin testing of all child family contacts in known cases of pulmonary tuberculosis attending the Chest Clinic, and it is hoped that arrangements will soon be made for the vaccination of suitable cases.

VIII.—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The Care and After-Care Sub-Committee met on six occasions during the year. The Sub-Committee consists of the following :—

5 members of the Health Committee,

One representative from each of the following bodies :

The National Assistance Board,

The Ministry of Labour and National Service,

The British Legion,

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

As in previous years the specialised knowledge of the co-opted members proved of great assistance in the work of the Committee. Most of the work during the year, apart from the issue of nursing requisites for home use, was concerned with the welfare and assistance of tuberculous patients.

TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS

Provision of milk as extra nourishment. The scheme for the provision of additional milk which was started in 1950 was continued and developed during the year. Eligibility for issue in each case was approved by the Tuberculosis Officer. A remission of charges was made according to a scale approved by the local authority. Thirty-three patients received milk during the year for varying periods.

During the year the milk scheme was extended to include not only those patients actually suffering from tuberculosis, but also approved observation cases selected by the Tuberculosis Officer. During the short period of its introduction, however, no case of this type was recommended for the issue of milk.

A review of the operation of the milk scheme since its inception has underlined its use and benefit to tuberculous patients. There is no doubt that it has enabled many people to be supplied with two pints of milk daily who otherwise could not have afforded it. It has further reduced the danger that people in straitened financial circumstances might have to spend scarce money in milk as an essential medical food and so handicap themselves for the purchase of other essential needs such as coal, clothing and general foodstuffs.

Provision of Nursing Requisites. The arrangements previously approved by the Health Committee for holding in stock various articles of nursing requisites, namely :—air rings, urinals, rubber sheetings, bed pans and bed rests, have been continued during the year. The issue of these articles was made in accordance with charges approved by the Health Committee. Loans were made as follows during 1951 to tuberculous patients :—

Air rings		1 patient.
Bed pans		3 patients.
Urinals—Male		1 patient.
Bed rests		6 patients.
Rubber sheetings		3 patients.

Home Shelters. No suitable cases arose during 1951 for the loan of home shelters.

Occupational Therapy. As envisaged in previous Annual Reports a start was made in 1951 to provide some facilities for Occupational Therapy for tuberculous patients who had left hospital but who were not yet fit for employment. It was found that some patients were already covered as to the provision of raw materials by the War Pensioners' Welfare Service and Regimental Funds. During 1951 fifteen patients were helped from these sources.

At its meeting in July the Care and After-Care Sub-Committee decided to provide similar facilities for non-pensioner patients. Two small hand weaving looms and two sets of leather tools were provided for free loan. 7 sets of embroidery and one rug making set were purchased and issued to patients who were allowed to pay for them by instalments. In three cases where patients intended to sell the finished article, initial free issues were made as follows :—

Weaving wool —one patient.

Leather —two patients.

The question of holding organised occupational therapy classes run by an instructor from the Education Department was considered, but it was found impracticable as the required minimum number of attendances in order to obtain the services of such an instructor could be maintained. As a substitute informal handicrafts meetings for ex-patients were held at the Chest Clinic where instruction was given by selected patients skilled in the work and by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. These gatherings provided, incidentally, a very valuable meeting place in which to carry out other types of after-care work.

Welfare. During the year the Welfare Officer advised and assisted patients and relatives attending the Tuberculosis Dispensary. Weekly visits were paid to Ecclestone Hall Hospital by the Welfare Officer in order to help in-patients with personal problems.

Close contact was maintained as in previous years with other statutory bodies and voluntary organisations. Some examples of this work are given below.

STATUTORY BODIES.

Housing Department. In September, 1951, a consultation was held between the Housing Manager, the Tuberculosis Officer and the Welfare Officer, and on this occasion the complete list of tuberculous patients in need of re-housing was reviewed. Details of the position in 1951 are given below :—

Tuberculous patients on the housing list of the Local Authority	1.1.51	72
New cases added to list		26
Allocations of Council Houses		18
Number of patients finding their own accommodation		3
Number of cases where patients died		5
Number of cases where patients recovered		2
Total on Tuberculosis Housing List—31.12.51		70

Ministry of Labour. Tuberculous patients were added to the Disablement Register as follows :—

Female	3	Male	20
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The following tuberculous patients were placed in employment during the year :—

Female	1	Male	19
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Examples of some interesting placings are given below :—

One patient, aged 23 years, had up to 1944 worked as an office boy, then contracted tuberculosis and was unfit for employment until late in 1950. After consultations between the Disablement Resettlement Officer and the Tuberculosis Officer the patient was sent on six months Clerical Training Course to the Liverpool College of Commerce. This was successfully completed and the patient was eventually placed in employment after an approach had been made to several employers by the Disablement Resettlement Officer. Three months later it was found that he had settled down in his clerical job very happily.

One patient, aged 38 years, was discharged from the army in 1946 as suffering from tuberculosis and was awarded a disability pension. He was unable to work through sickness up to May, 1951. His previous employment had been that of fitter's mate, and this was no longer suitable. The Disablement Resettlement Officer found that he was keenly interested in amateur radio and that he had been granted a transmitting licence by the G.P.O. He was persuaded to capitalise this skill and was eventually placed locally as a radio television mechanic.

One patient suffering from active tuberculosis had tried several unsuitable jobs until finally being placed as a petrol pump attendant. Several months later he was found to be very happily settled and wrote expressing his satisfaction to the Disablement Resettlement Officer.

National Assistance Board. Patients suffering a loss of income in order to undergo treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis and thus eligible for the higher rate of allowance, were referred to the Board as a matter of routine. In addition Exceptional Needs Grants were made as follows :—

Clothing—7 patients.	Bedding—5 patients.
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Throughout the year the National Assistance Board Officers gave all possible help to tuberculous patients and there has been close co-operation between them and the Tuberculosis Welfare Staff.

Ministry of Pensions and Ministry of National Insurance. Close liaison was maintained with the officers of both these Ministries in order to ensure that all possible facilities were available through these agencies to tuberculous patients.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.

British Red Cross Society—Emergency Help Service. Forty-five recommendations were made for invalid food parcels for pensioner patients during the year and parcels were provided in each case.

The Emergency Help Service also helped pensioner patients with bedding and clothing in several cases.

The British Red Cross Society—Civilian Welfare Department

Forty-nine Dominion food parcels were issued by the above Society to non-pensioner patients.

Other Voluntary Agencies. Help with bedding and clothing was also given by the following organisations :—

British Legion ; Forces' Help Society ; Royal Air Force Association ; Royal Navy Benevolent Trust ; Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

Many patients were referred to the St. Helens Council of Social Service for advice, and in one case a loan was made to the mother of a girl under observation for tuberculosis to enable her to buy shoes for the girl.

St. Helens Crippled Children's Aid Society helped one patient whose child needed special shoes by arranging for free issue.

NON-TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.

During the year after-care supervision continued to be exercised on behalf of two cases of paraplegia being nursed at home following discharge from special orthopaedic hospitals for spinal injuries. Nursing equipment continued to be supplied on loan to both cases. In one case also a grant of £10 was obtained from the Welfare Section of the National Coal Board as a help towards the provision of extra bedding for the patient. In the other case a grant for a similar purpose was obtained from the Benevolent Fund of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Nursing Requisites. During the year the Committee further extended the scheme of loan of nursing equipment to include other non-tuberculous cases and the following issues were made.

Air rings	6 patients.
Bed pans	2 patients.
Urinals—Male	2 patients.
Bed rests	2 patients.
Rubber sheeting	1 patient.

GENERAL.

Fares. In two cases fares were paid to relatives visiting tuberculous patients in distant hospitals, as help was not available from the National Assistance Board.

Nursing Requisites. Two commodes were purchased for loan to patients.

VOLUNTARY FUND.

During the year several voluntary members of the Care and After-Care Sub-Committee made continued efforts to assist the Welfare Officer and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor with the formation of a voluntary fund. This fund ("The Home Patients' Voluntary Welfare Fund") was intended to be placed at the disposal of the Care and After-Care Committee to assist patients in ways outside the scope of the Local Authority in its statutory capacity. Proceeds from voluntarily organised whist drives and a dance realised a useful sum so that some small help could be given to patients and their dependants. At Christmas time it was found possible to distribute Christmas presents to 90 children whose fathers were unable to work because of tuberculosis.

IX.— VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Special Treatment Centre is administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, but male and female attendants at the Centre continued to be provided by the Corporation under agency arrangements.

The following statement shows the number of cases dealt with at the Centre during the year 1951, in comparison with the previous year. This includes cases from outside the Borough who may receive treatment at the St. Helens Centre.

	1950		1951	
	M	F	M	F
1. No. of cases under treatment or observation on 1st January	55	58	62	64
2. No. of new cases (including cases previously removed from the register who returned for further observation or treatment)	100	66	88	43
3. No. of cases discharged after completion of treatment or transferred to other centres or ceased to attend	93	60	100	43
4. No. of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	62	64	50	64
5. No. of attendances :—				
(a) For consultation or treatment by Medical Officers	576	868	564	416
(b) For intermediate treatments	385	348	332	171

Table 10 shows the number of cases of definite venereal disease treated for the first time at the Centre during each of the past ten years. This table excludes cases which had received treatment previously at other Centres, and also cases removed from the register in previous years who returned for treatment or observation for the same infection.

Table 10.

Number of new cases of Venereal Diseases dealt with during 10 years, 1942 to 1951 :

Year	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1942	11	7	—	—	28	13	59
1943	11	13	—	—	39	41	104
1944	21	28	—	—	27	29	105
1945	18	40	2	—	33	19	112
1946	23	20	—	—	76	12	131
1947	22	13	—	—	62	16	113
1948	25	25	—	—	53	9	112
1949	14	15	—	—	21	9	59
1950	4	7	—	—	17	1	29
1951	3	4	—	—	13	2	22

During 1949 an investigation was carried out in an effort to survey the extent of the venereal disease problem in St. Helens, and also to ascertain, if possible, sources of infection with a view to instituting any special remedial measures which might be required.

Further enquiries in connection with this investigation were continued through 1950 and 1951.

1. During 1951, 83 male cases and 38 female cases attended the clinic for the first time, as compared with 91 males and 56 females in 1950. The following statement shows how these cases were introduced to treatment at the Centre :

<i>Introduced by</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
General Practitioners	31	8
Male V.D. Clinic	—	4
M. and C. W. Clinics	1	4
M.O.H.	—	1
Parent	9	5
Female V.D. Clinic	2	—
Hospital	1	—
Moral Welfare Societies, Probation Officers, etc.	—	7
Friend	—	1
Self	39	8
Totals	83	38

In 1951, the percentage of patients attending the Centre for the first time who presented themselves for treatment on their own initiative was 46.7% in the case of male patients, compared with 58.2% in 1950, and 21.1% in the case of female patients as compared with 10.7% in 1950.

2. Contact Tracing.

Cases of Venereal Disease of less than one year's infection, which received treatment at the St. Helens Special Treatment Centre during 1951.

Disease	Total No. of Cases	Source of Infection					
		Marital	Friend	Pick-up			
				Casual Acquain- tance	Street or other public place	Public House	Other sources (or not divulged)
Male Clinic :							
Syphilis	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gonorrhoea	13	1	1	3	3	3	2
Female Clinic :							
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	17	2	1	3	3	5	3

3. The following list of geographical sources of infection shows that of those identified all except three originated outside St. Helens.

Town, etc.	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
St. Helens	—	—	1	—
Marital	—	—	1	1
Liverpool	—	—	5	—
Leeds	1	—	—	—
Blackpool	1	—	—	—
Wigan	—	—	1	—
Leigh	—	—	1	—
Seacombe	—	—	1	—
Manchester	—	—	1	—
Berlin	—	—	1	—
Not stated	—	—	1	1
	2	—	13	2

In the single instance (excluding marital infection) where infection was reported to have been contracted in St. Helens, the information obtained was insufficient to allow the contact to be traced.

4. Follow-up Work.

The problem of following-up cases who have defaulted in treatment or observation is dealt with by correspondence and personal visits by the Female and Male V.D. Welfare Officers.

Particulars of defaulters and action taken during the year 1951 are shown below :

	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Observation Cases	Total
Male Clinic.				
No. of defaulters	35	7	4	46
No. persuaded to re-attend	30	1	3	34
No. who gave wrong address	3	1	1	5
Female Clinic.				
No. of defaulters	28	—	3	31
No. persuaded to re-attend	13	—	1	14

X.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 1,833 live births and 69 still-births were notified during 1951. In respect of these, 1,871 notifications were received from midwives and 31 from doctors. The corresponding figures for 1950 were 2,049 live births and 61 still-births, 2,070 notified by midwives and 40 by doctors.

The total number of live births registered as belonging to St. Helens was 1,850, giving a birth rate of 16.9 for 1,000 of the population for the year 1951. The corresponding rates over the past 5 years were respectively 22.2 in 1946, 25.2 in 1947, 21.3 in 1948, 17.9 in 1949 and 17.9 in 1950.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—During 1951 the death occurred of 71 infants under the age of one year, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate for that year of 38.4 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rates during the preceding five years were 59.9 in 1946, 69.8 in 1947, 60.9 in 1948, 41.5 in 1949 and 38.6 in 1950. The average for the five years, 1947-1951 was 49.8. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1951 was 29.6 per 1,000 births.

The causes of these deaths during 1951 were :—

Prematurity	19
Gastro-Enteritis	11
Pneumonia	9
Bronchitis	1
Influenza	1
Congenital Cardiac Disease	7
Congenital Malformation	6
Birth Trauma	8
Accidents	3
Strangulated Hernia	1
Haemorrhagic Disease of the Newborn	1
Erythroblastosis	1
T.B. Meningitis	1
Marasmus	2
	71

During 1951 there was an increase in the number of children dying from respiratory infections such as pneumonia and bronchitis. There was also an increase in the number who died from congenital malformations and birth injuries. As in the previous year the Maternity and Child Welfare Service continued to co-operate in the national inquiry into the incidence of congenital defects in infants and this inquiry is still in course of investigation.

There was a satisfactory decrease in the number of infants dying as a result of premature birth, and it appears that the measures taken to provide special care for premature infants are at last showing some positive results. Fuller details are given later in the Report in the special paragraph dealing with the care of premature infants.

STILL-BIRTHS.—The number of still-births registered as belonging to the Borough was 65. All still-births are investigated, and the cause of intra-uterine death was attributable to the following conditions :—

Prematurity	22
Foetal abnormality	12
Toxaemia of pregnancy	11
Breech Delivery	4
Prolapsed Cord	3
Placenta Praevia	3
Shoulder Presentation	1
Cause not ascertained	9
	65

MATERNAL DEATHS.—During 1951, four deaths were registered as resulting from childbirth or accidents of pregnancy, giving a maternal mortality rate of 2.09 per 1,000 live and still-births. A fifth death, registered as Haematemesis due to Portal Hypertension, occurred in a patient who was 36 weeks pregnant and the pregnancy is considered to have contributed to the Portal Hypertension which was the cause of death. The rate for 1950 was 1.92 per 1,000 live and still-births.

The causes of death in these patients was :—

1. Haemorrhage due to ruptured Ectopic Gestation.
2. Accidental Haemorrhage and Eclampsia.
3. Shock from Uterine Haemorrhage accelerated by Toxaemia of Pregnancy.
4. Streptococcal Septicaemia following Peritonitis following an Abortion the cause of which abortion was unknown.

The maternal mortality for England and Wales as a whole was 0.79 per 1,000 live and still-births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—3 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year, 2 being in institutions and one at home. In all 3 cases the pyrexia was found to be incidental to the confinement.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

Pemphigus.—No cases were reported during the year.

Other Infectious Diseases.—The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases which occurred in children under 5 years of age, and the deaths resulting therefrom.

	Under 1 year		1—5 years	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	—	51	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Measles	140	—	1720	1
Whooping Cough	51	—	371	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	2	—

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.—Clinics for children under 5 years of age are held on 9 sessions weekly at 8 centres.

Table 11.
Attendances at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

	1950	1951
Child Welfare Clinics.		
No. of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—		
(i) under 1 year of age	1284	1232
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	504	302
Percentage of births represented by the number of children who on the date of their first attendance were under 1 year of age	63.6	66.6
Number who attended and at the end of the year were :—		
(i) under 1 year of age	1079	1023
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	1505	1419
No. of attendances by children :—		
(i) under 1 year of age	11342	11408
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	2333	2203
Ante-natal Clinics.		
No. of expectant mothers who attended	1651	1593
No. of attendances by expectant mothers	7939	7937
Percentage of total births (live and still) represented by the number of expectant mothers who attended either the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres or the Ante-natal Clinics	79.4	83.2
Post-Natal Examinations at Ante-Natal Clinics:—		
No. of mothers who attended	86	107
No. of attendances	86	107
Gynaecological and Post-natal Clinic.		
No. of mothers who attended	188	192
No. of attendances	303	324
Sunlight Clinic.		
No. of children who attended	139	85
No. of attendances	2753	1433

Towards the end of the year work was commenced to adapt part of the former Public Assistance building in Hardshaw Street into a maternity and child welfare centre to serve the central portion of the town and to replace the existing centre at the Town Hall.

During 1951 further steps were taken towards the provision of a new maternity and child welfare centre in the Sutton Manor area. A plot of land was acquired as a site for the centre and it is expected that when final approval is received from the Ministry of Health building will be commenced during 1952. It must be noted that the provision of new accommodation in this area has become a matter of urgent necessity, as the present clinic premises are worn out and quite unable to deal with the expanding demand for health services in the area.

It will be necessary soon for new premises to be built on the new East Lancashire Road Housing Estate as mentioned in the Report for 1950.

67% of the notified births in 1951 attended Child Welfare Clinics and the number of children under 1 year of age who attended was satisfactory. Table 11 shows attendances at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the Child Welfare Clinics as well as at the special sessions held at the School Clinic in Cloughton Street, and at the outlying district clinics.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.—At the end of the year, special ante-natal clinics were being held 9 times weekly at 8 centres.

In 83.2% of the total notified births during 1951 the mothers had attended one or other of these clinics.

Expectant mothers are now having routine blood tests carried out at these clinics. The tests are for Blood Grouping, Rhesus factor and Kahn reaction. During the year, 878 specimens were sent for examination. Of these, 656 were Rhesus Positive, 146 were Rhesus Negative, 19 Genotype Reaction, and 2 had Positive Kahn Reactions also. When a positive Kahn Reaction is obtained, a confirmatory Wasserman Reaction is then carried out. Following this procedure it was found that 1 had a positive Wasserman Reaction. This patient was referred to the Special Treatment Clinic at Cloughton Street for further special examination and treatment.

Of the 146 patients who were Rhesus Negative in type, only 4 had Rhesus Antibodies present. The importance of this test lies in the fact that the doctor in charge of the confinement is forewarned that the baby may need an exchange transfusion immediately after birth. Rhesus Negative blood may be obtained from the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre before the confinement in readiness for either the mother or the baby. In these four patients, two of the babies needed to have an exchange transfusion.

GYNAECOLOGICAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.—This clinic is held once a week at the Town Hall Centre and serves the double purpose of investigation of gynaecological conditions associated with pregnancy and as a clinic for post-natal supervision.

During 1951, 120 patients visited this clinic for post-natal examinations. Post-natal supervision is, however, also carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics and at the Ante-natal Clinics held in the outlying districts, and the total number of women who received special post-natal supervision was 227.

The number of gynaecological patients attending this clinic was 72 (192 attendances).

Patients who needed operative treatment were referred to the out-patient departments of the local hospitals.

At this clinic patients may also receive advice on birth control methods when such is desirable for medical reasons. The following statement indicates the number of patients to whom such advice was given, and the reasons :

Renal Disease	2
Cardiac Disease	4
Tuberculosis	5
Severe Anaemia	6
Mental Instability	4
Cervicitis	4
Diabetes	1
Mother Rh. negative	1
Total	27

4 patients sought advice during 1951 because of infertility, and 5 patients attended in the early stage of pregnancy.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC.—To this clinic, which is held twice weekly, are referred weakly and debilitated children likely to benefit from ultra violet therapy. During 1951, 85 children made 1,433 attendances for irradiation. All the children attending this clinic benefited by the treatment they received.

MILK FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.—With the continuance of the National Milk Scheme, the issue of dried milk through the Council's scheme for milk for mothers and infants was limited to special cases for whom the National Scheme was not altogether satisfactory.

During 1951, approximately 6,598 lbs of dried milk were distributed through the Council's scheme.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Report by Senior Dental Surgeon on the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and young children during 1951.

(a) **Numbers provided with Dental Treatment :**

	Examined	Needing treatment	Treated	Made dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	129	128	110	82
Children under five	207	198	173	172

(b) Forms of Dental Treatment Provided :

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling & Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radio-graphy	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	441	26	84	15	29	—	6	1	33	9
Children under five ...	380	—	167	4	1	—	—	—	—	—

There was a slight decrease in the number of mothers and a further increase in the number of pre-school children attending for dental treatment during 1951.

Two sessions weekly are devoted to the examination and treatment of all cases referred to the clinic.

In addition to the 82 mothers made dentally fit, 12 mothers have completed the extraction of their teeth and are awaiting artificial dentures.

MINOR AILMENTS.—During 1951, 16 children were referred to and received treatment at one or other of the Council's Minor Ailments Clinics.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN.—Crippling defects in children under 5 years of age are dealt with under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, which provides periodic supervision by the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and the Physio-therapist.

During 1951, 259 maternity and child welfare cases were dealt with at the Orthopaedic Clinic.

DAY NURSERY.—This Nursery is open from 6-30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday ; and 6-30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Accommodation is limited to children whose mothers are working. During the year, this accommodation was fully utilised.

Towards the end of the year there was an outbreak of chicken pox, 21 children in the Nursery being affected.

Particulars of attendances, &c. at the Hall Street Day Nursery during 1951 are shown below :—

No. of approved places at Day Nursery		No. of children on the register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance during the year	
0-2 years	2-5 years	0-2 years	2-5 years	0-2 years	2-5 years
14	16	9	22	8.07	14.8

Provision of more Day Nursery accommodation is still needed. The Nursery at Hall Street has filled a temporary role of providing accommodation for 30 children, but these premises are inadequate for a town the size of St. Helens, and it is considered that nurseries are also needed in other areas of the town. Up to the present, however, the proposals of the Local Health Authority for the provision of new day nursery accommodation have not received the approval of the Ministry.

Premature and/or Immature Babies, 1951.

BORN AT HOME

Birth Weight	Remaining at Home					Grand Total
	Transferred to Hospital	Died in first 24 hours	Died between 2nd and 8th day	Died between 8th and 28th day	Survived 28 days	
Under 2 lbs. 3 oz.	2	—	—	—	—	2
2 lbs. 3 oz.—3½ lbs.	5	2	—	—	—	7
3½ lbs.—4 lbs. 6 oz.	7	—	2	—	4	13
4 lb. 6 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	2	—	—	—	3	5
4 lb. 15 oz.—5½ lb.	1	—	—	—	29	30
Totals ...	17	2	2	—	36	57

BORN IN NURSING HOMES

Birth Weight	Transferred to Hospital	Died in first 24 hours	Died between 2nd and 8th day	Died between 8th and 28th day	Survived 28 days	Grand Total
Under 2 lbs. 3 oz.	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 lbs. 3 oz.—3½ lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3½ lbs.—4 lbs. 6 oz.	—	—	—	—	1	1
4 lb. 6 oz.—4 lb. 15 oz.	—	—	—	—	5	5
4 lb. 15 oz.—5½ lb.	—	—	—	—	6	6
Totals ...	—	—	—	—	6	6

DETAILS OF CASES BORN AT HOME AND TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL

Birth Weight	Died in first 24 hours			Died between 2nd and 8th day			Died between 8th and 28th day			Survived 28 days		Total
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Under 2 lbs. 3 oz.	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
2 lbs. 3 oz.—3½ lbs.	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	9
3½ lbs.—4 lbs. 6 oz.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
4 lb. 6 oz.—4 lbs. 15 oz.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
4 lb. 15 oz.—5½ lb.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	17

BORN IN HOSPITAL

Birth Weight	Transferred to Hospital	Died in first 24 hours	Died between 2nd and 8th day	Died between 8th and 28th day	Survived 28 days	Grand Total
Under 2 lbs. 3 oz.	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 lbs. 3 oz.—3½ lbs.	4	1	1	—	3	9
3½ lbs.—4 lbs. 6 oz.	—	1	1	1	20	23
4 lb. 6 oz.—4 lbs. 15 oz.	—	—	—	1	19	20
4 lb. 15 oz.—5½ lb.	—	—	—	1	39	40
Totals ...	—	5	3	3	81	92

THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.—Since 1944 special efforts have been directed towards preserving life in premature and/or immature infants. The birth weight is stated on every notification of birth form, and in those cases born at home where the birth weight was less than 5 lbs. 8 ozs. a special visit was immediately made by the Supervisor of Midwives, and if necessary, arrangements made for admission to hospital. For infants remaining at home, special basket cots fitted with special lining, mattress and bedding, a Belcroy feeding bottle and hot water bottles are available, and have proved of value.

During 1951, a total of 63 premature and/or immature babies were born in the Borough. Of these babies, 4 died before 28 days. The following table gives details concerning these 63 premature infants.

When these infants are discharged from hospital, or when the midwife has ceased to attend to those born at home, the Health Visitor concerned is immediately notified, and pays special follow-up visits.

THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.—As in previous years, special consideration was given to the care of the unmarried mother and her child, and arrangements were continued whereby two places are reserved in the St. Monica's Home, Liverpool, for cases from St. Helens, and places are taken in other Homes as required. All cases of unmarried expectant mothers coming to the knowledge of the Department through Health Visitors, Municipal Midwives, Moral Welfare Workers and other agencies, are notified to the Medical Officer in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare Services, who, after investigation, decides which cases can be dealt with at home or through local hospitals, and which cases can most suitably be dealt with by periods of residence in suitable homes. The mother is admitted to the Home about two months before the expected confinement and remains there after confinement until suitable arrangements can be made for the after-care of herself and the child. During 1951 30 unmarried mothers were assisted under these arrangements.

In the majority of cases it was found that the parents were willing to keep the girl at home during the pregnancy if some arrangements could be made for the confinement.

The following list gives the places of confinement :—

Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital	5
County Hospital, Whiston	9
Parents' Homes	5
Hospital in Liverpool	1
Diocesan or other Voluntary Homes	8
Undelivered at 31/12/51	2
Total	30

Mothers entering Homes are assisted by the Corporation in the payment of their fees. All the unmarried mothers were helped to take out Affiliation Orders.

Every effort was made in all cases to enable the mother to keep the child with her in her parents' home, and in many cases these efforts were successful.

The following is a summary of the disposal of the children born during the year :—

Cared for by grandparents while mother goes to work	3
Cared for by mother	18
Parents married later	1
Seeking adoption	3
In Institutions	2
Moved out of St. Helens	1
Total	28

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital and the St. Helens Hospital are now administered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee. There are 30 maternity beds in the

Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, and 17 maternity beds in the maternity block of the St. Helens Hospital, and when accommodation in either of these two hospitals is not available, St. Helens patients are referred to the County Hospital, Whiston.

Patients book for the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital at the Council's Ante-natal Clinics, and for the St. Helens Hospital, at the hospital itself. Emergency cases are admitted to both hospitals when beds are available.

During 1951, 634 births took place in the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, 434 occurred in the St. Helens Hospital and 225 in the County Hospital, Whiston.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.—During 1951 there were 3 private Nursing Homes registered in St. Helens with accommodation for 11 maternity cases and 4 medical cases. The number of maternity patients delivered in these Homes was 101.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.—In 1951, 40 midwives notified their intention to practice within the Borough. Of these, 3 were in private practice, 16 were employed by the Local Health Authority, 9 were engaged at the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, and 12 in the Maternity Block of the St. Helens Hospital.

The supervision and inspection of midwives is carried out by Medical Officers and by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. During 1951, 17 visits for inspection and supervision were paid to private midwives and 90 visits to the Council's midwives.

XII.—HEALTH VISITING.

The duties of the Health Visitors now include the general health welfare of the family as a whole, as well as the specialised duties connected with the School Medical Services and the Care of Mothers and Young Children. These extra duties mean that more time has to be given to home visiting in connection with the welfare of old people, the follow-up of patients discharged home from hospital, enquiries regarding home conditions of mothers requesting confinement in hospital, in addition to the routine and special visits required to be paid to mothers and young children under school age, and home visits directly connected with School Medical Inspections. The Health Visitors also staff the various Ante-Natal Clinics and Child Welfare Clinics in the Borough, and are in attendance at the School Medical Inspections.

During the year the staff establishment was eighteen Health Visitors and one Superintendent Health Visitor. In addition 3 Student Health Visitors were given their practical training in St. Helens, and attended the Liverpool University for their theoretical training.

During the year four Health Visitors attended week-end Refresher Courses and two Health Visitors attended Residential Post-Certificate Courses.

The following statement shows the home visits paid by Health Visitors during the year :

To expectant mothers	
(a) first visits	336
(b) subsequent visits	353
To infants under one year	
(a) first visits	1871
(b) subsequent visits	8260
To children aged one to five years	25581
To other cases	12075
Total	<u>48476</u>

XIII.—HOME NURSING SERVICE.

During 1951, the Home Nursing Service was carried out by the St. Helens and District Nursing Association acting as Agents of the Local Health Authority. This service is now under the direct supervision of the re-organised Committee of the Nursing Association on which is full representation from the Local Health Authority.

The Association has a staff establishment of 1 Superintendent, 2 Assistant Superintendents and 20 nurses. The nurses paid 82,790 home nursing visits during the year, and there were 3,543 cases attended to during this period.

XIV.—HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service operating in St. Helens provides help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity, or any emergency in the household due to illness.

As will be noted below there has been an extension in the work of the Service and this has been a progressive one since its inception in 1948. A total of 242 cases was attended during 1951 as against 148 cases in the previous year, and possibly the most significant increase in the demand for Home Helps is shown in the category of cases classed as "old age and infirmity." There is no doubt that if it were not for the work of the Home Help Service many of these aged and infirm persons would not be able to continue living in their own homes, but would require to be admitted to institutions to receive adequate care and attention. There is no reason to deplore the tendency that work for the care of the aged should continue to fall in an increasingly marked degree on this Service of the Local Health Authority. It is admitted that work of this type was not in the beginning intended to be a primary function of the Home Help Service, but its need and usefulness in this sphere of work alone is becoming more and more an established necessity in the community. With the shortage of institutional beds and the trend towards an increasingly higher ratio of aged persons in the community, there appears to be every reason to expect a future growth of this service. It must be expected, it should be welcomed, and adequate provision in the years to come should be made to cater for it.

At the 31st December, 1951, there were 33 part-time Home Helps working an average 26 hour week.

Home Help was provided to 242 cases which were recommended to the Service by the following :—

Council of Social Service	15
Maternity and Child Welfare Service	57
Private Practitioners	87
Hospitals	25
Society for the Blind	2
District Nursing Association	11
Sanitary Dept.	1
Social Welfare Workers	3
National Assistance Board	6
Housing Department	6
Personal Application	17
Tuberculosis Dispensary	4
Private Nursing Homes	7
Welfare Services Dept.	1
Total	242

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Home Help Organiser during the year :—

No. of primary visits to cases	222
No of return visits to cases	1263
No. of visits to Home Helps	374
Total	1859

During the period 1st January, 1951, to 31st December, 1951, the Home Helps attended 242 cases, particulars of which are shown below :—

Cases attended	No.	% of Total Cases	Full Time	Part Time	Recovery of Fees		
					Full Fee	Part Fee	Free
Confinement Cases.							
Domiciliary	43	17.5	35	8	8	33	2
Hospital Delivery and Post-Natal	16	7	2	14	13	2	1
Sickness and other Cases.							
Mother with young children	10	4	1	9	6	4	—
Chronic Illness	39	16	—	39	19	15	5
Acute Illness	21	9	—	21	14	4	3
Tuberculosis	5	2	—	5	—	3	2
Mental Illness	1	0.5	—	1	—	—	1
Old Age and Infirmary (Of these 46 were living alone)	104	43	1	103	25	10	69
Blind Persons	3	1	—	3	—	2	1
Totals	242	100	39	203	85	73	84

The standard fees during the year for Home Help Services, as laid down by the Health Committee, were 2/- per hour to 3/11/51 and 2/3 per hour thereafter. Remission of this fee in part or whole is based on an approved scale.

Total fees collected by Home Help Organiser during the year:—£1,680/5/6.

XV.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The municipal abattoir remains in sole use by the Ministry of Food, but the inspection and supervision of all meat at the abattoir continues to be carried out by qualified meat inspectors. Table 12 gives the result of such inspection.

The agreements with the St. Helens Retail Butchers' Buying Committee and the North Western Wholesale Meat Supply Association Limited, for the use of the Cold Stores at the Abattoir, were continued throughout the year.

In addition to the Public Abattoir there is one private slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough for the slaughter of pigs only, but owing to the present operation of the scheme for the control of meat and livestock its use has been temporarily discontinued.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, 3 licences were granted and 30 licences were renewed to slaughtermen employed at the Public Abattoir.

At the end of the year, 198 premises were registered under Section 127 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish, or other food intended for the purpose of sale.

During 1951, 2,480 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other places where food is prepared or stored. In 8 instances minor offences against various Acts and Orders were discovered and 35 nuisances or defects found.

The following are the total quantities of various classes of foodstuffs which were condemned at the abattoir or in shops, etc., during the year owing to being diseased or unsound :—

	lbs.
Meat	344,656
Canned Goods	17,928
Fruit	92
Fish	143
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	964
Total	363,783

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.—No infringements of these Regulations were found during the year.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders.—Few infringements of the Merchandise Marks Orders were found during the year and these were generally dealt with by verbal warnings. It was, however, necessary in one instance to institute legal proceedings against a trader for failing to display an indication of origin in respect of imported tomatoes.

Food Hawkers.—Section 47 of the St. Helens Corporation (Electricity and General Powers) Act, 1948, requires the registration of any person (other than a person keeping open shop) who sells, offers or exposes for sale food from any vehicle or receptacle. The section also requires the registration of storage accommodation for any food intended for any of these purposes.

At the end of the year 32 persons and 47 separate sets of premises were registered under this section.

Table 12.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AT PUBLIC ABATTOIR—YEAR 1951.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	4257	3214	3685	16239	1475
Number inspected	4257	3214	3685	16239	1475
Condemned :—					
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	2	67	212	28	39
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1541	947	12	3819	646
(iii) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	36.2	31.5	6.0	23.6	46.4
(b) Tuberculosis only :—					
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	23	115	19	—	4
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	806	1540	1	—	50
(iii) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	19.4	51.4	0.5	—	3.6

Towards the end of the year it was decided to submit to the Liverpool City Laboratories for examination specimens of parts of carcasses or organs suspected to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis*. Eight specimens were sent and in each case the presence of *Cysticercus Bovis* was confirmed.

Clean Food Campaign.—During the year the following activities were undertaken by the Department in connection with the Public Health Committee's campaign for securing improved hygienic conditions in food premises :—

(a) Clean Food Exhibition.

On the 1st to 6th September, 1951, a Clean Food Exhibition was held in the Town Hall Assembly Room. The exhibition consisted of a display of exhibits emphasising the importance of food hygiene, film demonstrations, and a series of short lectures on food hygiene topics given in the afternoons and evenings of the period of the exhibition.

Exhibits.

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—Infestation Control Exhibit complete with cinema unit.
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—Clean Milk Production.
3. Messrs. Pilkington Bros., Ltd.—Materials recommended for use in food premises.
4. North Western Gas Board.—Hygienic gas appliances for use in the preparation and storage of foodstuffs.
5. Messrs. J. Lyons & Co., Ltd.—Hygienic control of ice cream production.
6. Sanitary Department—Ice Cream plants—old and new type.
7. Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board—Hygienic electrical appliances for use in the preparation and storage of foodstuffs.
8. Messrs. Hoover, Ltd.—Display bar equipped with “Glass-master” glass washing machine.
9. Frigidaire, Ltd.—Refrigerated food displays.
10. Sanitary Department—Food Kitchen—old type.
11. Messrs. Berry & Warmington, Ltd.—Food Kitchen—new type.
12. Sanitary Department—Foodshop—old type.
13. Messrs. Berry & Warmington, Ltd.—Foodshop—new type.
14. Messrs. Deosan, Ltd.—Catering hygiene—scientific methods of the cleansing of food utensils.
15. Ministry of Food—Display of Welfare Foods.
16. Ministry of Food—Portable triptych exhibit emphasising the importance of Food Hygiene.
17. Public Health Laboratory Service—Food-borne infections with examples of bacterial cultures.
18. Central Council for Health Education—Display stands describing three topics : (a) Food and Drink Infections, (b) Milk, and (c) Cafe and Canteen Hygiene.

Films.

1. "Another case of Poisoning."
2. "Fly about the House."
3. "Serving dinner at School."
4. "Catering."
5. "Good housewife in her Kitchen."
6. "Storing Fruit and Vegetables."
7. "Your Children's Meals."
8. "Food Manufacture."
9. "How to Boil."
10. "How to Bake."
11. "How to Fry."
12. "How to make Short Pastry."
13. "How to cook Green Vegetables."
14. "Deep Pan Bottling."
15. "How to cook Fish."
16. "How to make Cakes."
17. "How to make Jam."
18. "Low Sugar Content Jam Making."
19. "Vegetable Dishes."
20. "How to make Pickles."
21. "How to make Chutney and Sauces."
22. "Behind the Menu."

It is estimated that an average of over 1,000 adults visited the exhibition each day and in addition a total of 2,000 school children attended in organised groups. About 2,000 persons attended the film displays.

(b) Food Hygiene Lectures.

A course of six lectures covering every aspect of Food Hygiene was held at the Municipal Technical College, St. Helens, during October and November. The lectures were each of two hours duration and were given by Dr. M. G. McEntegart of the Department of Bacteriology of the Liverpool University. Eighty persons, nearly all employees in the various food trades, enrolled and the average attendance throughout the course was sixty.

(c) Food Byelaws.

Food Byelaws were confirmed by the Ministry of Food on the 29th June, 1951, and came into operation on the 30th July, 1951. At the end of the year a report was submitted to the Public Health Committee on the requirements of the Byelaws as applied to the local market. This report is at present under consideration.

(d) Display Cards.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food's recommendation, display cards drawing the attention of the public to the undesirable practice of allowing dogs in food premises were distributed to all the principal food traders in the Borough.

It is unfortunate that the Department's efforts during 1951, directed towards the improvement of hygienic conditions in food premises, were seriously impeded by the long illness of the Specialist Food Inspector to whom was entrusted this work.

As pointed out in previous annual reports, the many and various activities directed to the improvement of hygienic conditions in food premises now being carried out by many local authorities, all perform a necessary and useful function ; but it is to the routine day to day work of the specialist food hygiene officer that one must look for any real and lasting improvement.

It is hoped, now that staffing difficulties have been resolved, that this work will be given considerable impetus during the coming year.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

At the end of the year there were registered :—

- 21 persons as distributors of milk from dairy premises ;
- 190 persons as distributors of milk in sealed bottles only from shops ;
- and
- 21 premises as dairies.

Most of the milk received into dairy premises in St. Helens is delivered to those premises in sealed bottles. The administration of these Regulations does not now, therefore, constitute a serious problem.

A total of 505 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to these premises during the year. No infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, or of the above-mentioned Regulations, were found.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were granted during the year under these Regulations :—

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "STERILISED "	180
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED "	50
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (PASTEURISED) "	18
Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED "	1
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "STERILISED "	3
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "PASTEURISED "	3
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (PASTEURISED) "	3

No fees are charged by the Council in respect of licences granted under these Regulations.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No licences were granted during the year under these Regulations.

Biological Examination of Milk.—In the routine examination of milk supplies 13 samples were examined by guinea-pig inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

One sample of milk, which had been produced outside the Borough, was reported to contain positive evidence of tubercle bacilli. This was reported to the Lancashire County Medical Officer of Health.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.—In addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 5 samples were also taken for the methylene blue ($4\frac{1}{2}/5\frac{1}{2}$ hours) reduction test.

The results of these examinations showed that one sample of tuberculin tested milk failed to satisfy the methylene blue test required by the Regulations.

Of 4 samples of ungraded raw milk, 2 failed to satisfy this test.

263 samples of pasteurised milk were also examined for the methylene blue (30 minutes) test. All these samples were reported to be satisfactory.

Examination of Milk for the presence of Phosphatase.—264 samples of milk were also examined during the year for the presence of phosphatase. One sample was reported to have been insufficiently heat treated.

Turbidity Test for Sterilised Milk.—During the year 41 samples were submitted for this test. All were reported to be satisfactory.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme.—All milk now supplied to schools under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme is milk for which a pasteuriser's licence has been granted. Careful supervision is exercised by the Sanitary Staff and frequent samples are taken for chemical examination and for examination for bacterial contamination.

The number of samples taken during 1951 and the results are as follows:—

1. Samples taken for chemical analysis	366
Number reported below standard	2
2. Samples examined for bacteriological cleanliness	9
Number reported to be unsatisfactory	nil
3. Samples examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli	9
Number in which tubercle bacilli was found	nil

The chemical analysis of the above samples was mainly carried out by means of the Gerber Test at the Department's own laboratory, and only in doubtful cases are samples examined by the Public Analyst. In two such cases, the presence of added water was reported by the Public Analyst. The suppliers were warned.

Ice Cream Premises.—The following are the particulars at the end of the year of registrations under the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, of manufacturers and vendors of ice cream and the premises used by them :—

Manufacturers and Vendors	8
Vendors only	169
Premises for manufacture and sale	8
Premises for sale only	201

The 169 vendors mentioned above sell ice cream in wrapped packages only.

172 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Test. These samples were taken from manufacturers and vendors whose premises are situate both inside and outside the Borough.

Of the 172 samples taken, 126 were classed as Grade 1 ; 37 as Grade 2 ; 7 as Grade 3 ; 2 as Grade 4.

These results indicate marked improvement during the year in hygienic methods of ice cream production.

All ice cream manufacturers' premises and plants have now been brought up to a satisfactory hygienic standard. Further, all vehicles used for the sale of unwrapped ice cream have now been provided with satisfactory supplies of hot and cold water and suitable washing facilities.

Very few contraventions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1951, were found during the year. Manufacturers and Vendors are generally making a serious effort to comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

During the year, 578 visits of inspection were made to ice cream premises in St. Helens.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.—During 1951, 363 formal samples and 140 informal samples of various foods and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst, and 27 (5.3%) were reported as adulterated.

The percentage of milk samples reported as adulterated during the year was 4.2%.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the following formal samples :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Particulars of Offence.</i>	<i>Result of legal proceedings.</i>
Pure Coffee	Selling coffee containing 30% of chicory.	Vendor fined £5 with £4/4/0 costs.
Fish	Selling (a) Coal Fish, and (b) Ling as Cod Fillets in contravention of Section 2(2) of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887.	Vendor fined £10 with £4/14/0 costs.

In addition to the above, warnings were given by the Public Health Committee in the case of the following formal samples :—

<i>Sample No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity.</i>
1106	Milk	Containing not less than 3.2% of extraneous water.
1137	Milk	Containing not less than 1.5% of extraneous water.
1151	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3%.
1154	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 0.23%.
1158	Milk	Deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.1% and deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6%.
27	Sweetened Cake Mixture	Cake mixture containing a negligible amount of fat.
43	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 11.6%.
47	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 5%.
81	Aspirin Tablets (5 grain) B.P.	Containing an excess of acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) to the extent of 11%.
190	Ice Cream	Deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 33%.
251	Milk	Containing 7% of extraneous water.
291	Milk	Containing not less than 1.7% of extraneous water.

An informal sample of Self-Raising Flour was reported to be contaminated with animal excrement and unfit for human consumption. Legal proceedings were taken against the vendor under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and fines were imposed as follows:—(a) Section 9—£15; (b) Section 13(1)(g)—£10; and (c) Section 13 (2)—£5.

In the case of eleven other informal samples no action could be taken by the Department for various reasons.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.
The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.—No infringements of these Regulations were found during the year.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.—All samples submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act were also examined for the presence of preservatives.

No infringements of these Regulations were found during the year.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.—21 samples of fertilisers or feeding stuffs were taken under the above Act during the year.

One sample of fertiliser was reported by the Agricultural Analyst to contain 1.5% less nitrogen and 4.3% more insoluble phosphoric acid than the amount declared. This was dealt with by a warning.

Two other offences in regard to unsatisfactory declarations were also dealt with by warnings.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.—At the end of the year there were 51 persons entered in the Local Authority's list of persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List. The number of premises concerned was 70.

65 visits were paid to these premises and no infringements of the Act were found.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.—One sample of Influenza and Cold Mixture was reported by the Public Analyst to be a medicine containing chloroform. The label did not disclose the active constituents or ingredients of which the medicine was compounded as required by the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. The vendor was warned by the Public Health Committee.

Bakehouses.—There are 93 bakehouses in St. Helens and mechanical power is employed in 74 instances.

61 visits of inspection to the various bakehouses were made during the year and 16 defects were found, most of which were remedied before the end of the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.—No animals from dairy herds in the Borough were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

Anthrax.—Three cases of suspected Anthrax were reported during the year. In no instance was the disease confirmed.

Swine Fever.—38 cases of suspected Swine Fever were reported. In 6 instances the disease was confirmed.

Foot and Mouth Disease.—No cases of suspected Foot and Mouth disease were reported during the year.

Markets, Sales and Lairs Order, 1925.—The premises situate between 5 and 21 Parr Street, St. Helens, ceased to be used as a collecting and grading centre during the year. These premises were replaced by entirely new premises situated in Woodlands Road in the Carr Mill District of the town.

OUTBREAKS OF FOOD POISONING.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. There were, however, three single cases, one occurring in each of the second, third and fourth quarters of the year.

In one case the agent was unidentifiable.

In the other two cases the agent was *Salmonella Typhi-Murium*. In one of these, the patient died and the presence of this organism was only discovered after post-mortem examination.

Owing to late notification it was impossible in any of these three cases to obtain evidence implicating any particular foodstuffs.

XVI.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. — The water supply is from deep wells and boreholes in new red sandstone at Eccleston Hill, Whiston, Knowsley, Kirkby and Melling, supplemented by a supply from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main, and water from red sandstone above the coal measures at Collins Green. The water from the last-mentioned source is subjected to chlorination and high pressure filtration before distribution.

The water from the deep wells and from Collins Green is hard, the average hardness being 22.6° and 27° respectively, and the hardness of both is reduced to approximately 10.5° by softening processes before distribution. The water from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main is soft and is blended with hard water before distribution, so that in its ultimate distribution it also approximates to 10.5°.

There were no new sources of public water supply during the year.

Mains extensions involving a total of 2,876 lineal yards were carried out for the supply of water to the Broad Lane, Cecil Street and Southport Street Housing Sites and to Nutgrove Hall Estate, Sutton Heath Road and Stafford Road.

The quality of the water has remained satisfactory and the supply to all parts of the Borough is reasonably adequate. The quantity of water available has been sufficient to meet all requirements during the year.

Bacteriological examinations of the water were made at regular intervals at the sources of supply, and at the reservoirs prior to distribution into supply, in all cases after chlorination.

Of the 465 samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year, 442 were classified as Class 1 ; 12 Class 2 ; 9 Class 3 ; and 2 Class 4.

80 samples were taken for chemical analysis and of these 76 were classified as satisfactory without further comment. Comments on other samples were as follows :—

Eccleston Hill.

In the report on a sample taken on the 23rd April, 1951, it was stated that the sample had become contaminated with insoluble matter containing iron resulting in a turbid appearance and high iron content. Comparison with the sample from the same source received on the following day indicated that the abnormal condition was not maintained and that the water had resumed its satisfactory character. (Bact. Class 1).

In the report on another sample taken on the 26th November, 1951, it was stated that the chemical analysis of the water was satisfactory ; a large proportion of the supply in this instance being derived from Rivington. (Bact. Class 1).

Whiston.

In the report on a sample taken on the 3rd September, 1951, it was stated that the chlorine content was rather higher than usual and would tend to give rise to complaint of taste in the water.

Knowsley.

In the report on a sample taken on the 26th November, 1951, it was stated that the chemical analysis of the water was satisfactory and attention was drawn to the reduction in the iron content in this water during the previous few months. (Bact. Class 1).

The water supplied has no plumbo-solvent action.

The supply is on the constant system. With only one or two exceptions which receive their supply from stand-pipes, water is supplied directly to all the houses in the Borough from the Corporation's water mains.

All supplies are chlorinated before distribution.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The supervision of the pollution of rivers and streams in St. Helens is now carried out by the Lancashire Rivers Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—A scheme for the complete reconstruction of the Parr Sewage Disposal Works to deal with almost the whole of the sewage flow of the Borough and certain adjoining areas has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government after the holding of an inquiry, and the work will be commenced in 1952. A scheme for the reconstruction and part diversion of the central section of the Sutton Intercepting Sewer to remedy the adverse effects of mining subsidence and provide main drainage facilities for areas proposed for development, and including alterations to tributary sewers and the lower sections of the Robins Lane Intercepting Sewer (also affected by mining subsidence), has similarly been approved by the Ministry after inquiry, and work is expected to commence in 1952.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—There are still 62 pail closets and 222 privy middens in the Borough serving 62 houses and 260 houses respectively. There are also 43 pail closets and 4 privy middens at various schools and works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No extension or alterations to the cleansing system have been put into operation during the year apart from the extension of the collection area to cover new property in the Borough.

Two refuse tips were in use during the year, the Kurtz Tip in Jackson Street, and the Watery Lane Tip. The percentage of house refuse disposed of at each was 30% and 70% respectively. The whole of house refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping.

HOUSE REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.—In my annual report for last year I stated that approval had been given by the Council to a scheme for the maintenance of dustbins in three wards of the Borough. Owing, however, to the restrictions which were subsequently placed on the galvanising of dustbins, it was decided to postpone the operation of the scheme for the present.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.—For the measurement of atmospheric pollution in St. Helens the following observation stations are now maintained :—

Cloughton Street Clinic	Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Albion Street Clinic	Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Eccleston Hill Waterworks	Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Victoria Park	Standard Deposit Gauge. Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital	Lead Peroxide Instrument.
Sutton Manor Sewage Works	Lead Peroxide Instrument.

One meeting of the St. Helens and District (Atmospheric Pollution) Joint Consultative Committee was held during the year.

It is unfortunate that, despite the efforts of this Committee and of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, it has not been possible to inaugurate classes for stokers in St. Helens. The experience of the Department over a number of years has shown that unsatisfactory methods of stoking have been the cause of much smoke emission. Until the problem of the education of stokers can be solved, it would seem that in the present economic circumstances there can be little hope of substantial improvement in the atmospheric conditions of St. Helens.

800 observations were taken of industrial chimneys during the year. In 103 instances black smoke was emitted for more than two minutes during the half-hour period of observation. Representations were made with the firms concerned with a view to the diminution of the nuisance. In a number of instances these representations resulted in improvements to boiler plants.

FACTORIES.—Two defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year. In addition, 3 instances of want of cleanliness and 84 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were also dealt with as a result of sanitary inspections.

A total of 452 visits of inspection were made to factories during 1951.

Table 13 gives particulars of the administrative action taken.

TABLE 13.
PART I OF THE ACT.

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	58	16	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	298	430	46	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	6	1	—
TOTAL	363	452	50	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three, or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	5	5	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	5	5	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	72	72	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	87	84	—	2	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel—making, etc.	4	—	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags	49	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	55	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The total number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors was 31,614. The nature of these inspections is shown in Table 14, and Table 15 contains a list of notices served and the results of such notices.

TABLE 14.

Number and nature of inspections during 1951

(a) Number of complaints investigated :—	
1. Housing defects	1485
2. Choked and defective drains	306
3. Emissions of smoke	40
4. Accumulations of offensive matter	56
5. Miscellaneous	261
(b) Inspections re Sanitation and Food Supply :—	
Dwellinghouses inspected	2313
Common Lodging Houses	154
Houses-let-in-Lodgings	15
Tents, Vans and Sheds	414
Common Yards, Back Roads and Passages	291
Horse-manure Middensteads	23
Pigstyes	86
Offensive Trades	37
Places of Public Entertainment	61
Public Sanitary Conveniences	80
Brokers' Premises	13
Ashes Receptacles	255
Conversions	77
Smoke Observations	800
Testing drains : By smoke	98
By water	11
By coloured water	50
By breaking down	9
Factories Act, 1937 :—Factories with mechanical power	436
Factories without mechanical power	16
Workplaces	177
Outworkers' Premises	45
Shops Act, 1950	114
Fried Fish Shops	13
Fishmongers' and Greengrocers'	12
Butchers' Shops	62
Grocers' Shops	885
Bakehouses	61
Canteens	97
Public Houses, Beer Houses, etc.	57
Food Preparing and Storing Places	210
Dairies	505
Ice Cream Premises	578
Private Slaughterhouses	34
Samples of milk procured for bacteriological and biological examination	323
Samples of Ice Cream	172
Samples of drinking water for bacteriological examination	12
Samples of other foodstuffs for bacteriological examination	16
Samples of milk and other foodstuffs for chemical analysis	869
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951	62
Samples of fertilisers and feeding stuffs	15
Infectious Disease enquiries	111
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	65
Insufficient water supply	56
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	1619
Inspection of dwellinghouses and other premises for vermin infestation	361
Visits to work in progress	12443
Visits re Housing Survey	4964
Miscellaneous visits (interviews, etc.)	2035
Refuse Tips and Spoilbanks	116
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises	210
Atmospheric Pollution Gauges	76

31614

TABLE 15.
Number of defects for which notices were served during 1951 and results.

Subject of Notices	Pre-liminary notices	Statutory notices	Number complied with	Number outstanding at end of year
Dampness arising from defective roofs, eavesgutters, rainwater pipes and pointing	2176	1462	1661	515
Defective and choked drains, closets, cesspools, etc.	585	159	585	—
Absence of proper sink	21	7	21	—
Unsatisfactory house refuse accommodation	128	18	70	58
Unsatisfactory yard paving	30	19	12	18
Ditches require cleansing	15	—	—	15
Flooded condition of cellar	2	—	1	1
Insufficient water supply	19	—	—	19
Other premises to be whitewashed	18	—	3	15
Filthy or verminous condition of premises	23	—	12	11
Accumulation of manure and offensive matter	37	1	37	—
Keeping of Animals, etc.	14	—	—	14
Other housing defects	2107	1397	1651	456
Excessive emissions of smoke	46	—	46	—
Miscellaneous	193	47	150	43
Contravention of :—				
Factories Act, 1937	87	—	84	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	8	—	1	7
Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1951	1	—	—	1
	5510	3110	4334	1176

Referred to other departments :—

To Borough Engineer.

Choked or defective sewers	40
Choked or defective street gullies	19
Waste of water	155
Dangerous structures	102
Unauthorised erections	3
Rat infestation	1
Accumulation of refuse	1

To Housing Manager.

Choked drains and housing defects	48
Cases of overcrowding	7
Verminous premises	2

To Director of Education.

Defects in schools	5
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To North Western Gas Board.

Escapes of coal gas	8
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CHOKED DRAINS.—During the year 841 complaints of choked drains were made to the Department. Of this number 560 drains were freed from obstruction by members of the staff of the Sanitary Department, thus obviating the necessity for serving notices upon the owners.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.—There are 3 offensive trades in the Borough, comprising 2 tripe boilers and 1 rag and bone dealer. During the year 37 visits were paid to premises of this nature.

Camping Sites.—One site was licensed during the year as a camping site for the use of one caravan dweller.

Three offences against Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was reported to the Public Health Committee during the year.

The offences consisted of keeping moveable dwellings on land without first obtaining licences from the Local Authority.

Legal proceedings were taken and the offenders fined.

Houses-let-in-Lodgings.—There were 5 premises known to the Department to be used as Houses-let-in-Lodgings. 15 visits were paid to these premises during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are at present three premises used as common lodging-houses in St. Helens.

154 visits were paid to these premises during the year.

During the year the purchase of the common lodging house known as Salisbury House, Salisbury Street, was completed and a scheme for its improvement and reconditioning was approved. Pending the completion of this scheme the occupants of these premises have been transferred temporarily to the premises situate in Bridge Street, formerly used as the British Restaurant. This temporary lodging house is at present under the management of the Salvation Army, who, it is hoped, will take over the management of the permanent premises upon completion of the improvement and reconditioning.

Hairdressers and Barbers.—There were at the end of the year 129 persons registered as hairdressers or barbers, and the number of premises registered was 124.

210 visits of inspection were made to these premises during the year.

Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances.—These byelaws prove very effective for the control of pig-keeping. There were 55 persons known to be engaged in the keeping of pigs, at the end of the year.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.—Table 16 gives particulars of the work carried out under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

Two full-time Rodent Operators are employed by the Department for this work.

St. Helens can be regarded as being in a favourable position in regard to infestation of premises by rats. This is considered as being due to the policy of the Council over a long period in requiring the rat-proofing of drains and sewers in the case of all premises where infestations have occurred.

During the year an infestation by the black rat of certain industrial premises in the Borough was discovered. This is the first occasion an infestation of this type has been observed in St. Helens.

Table 16.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for year ended 31st December, 1951.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	98	27219	140	2580	30037
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise	(a) 9	54	—	18	81
	(b) 59	1734	140	1203	3136
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	Major — Minor 25	— 43	— 2	1 65	1 135
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	25	21	—	29	75
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	50	16	2	67	135
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 :—					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	1	1
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	1	1
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out : None.					

Shops Act, 1950.—In addition to statutory duties in regard to the ventilation and temperature of shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences, the Sanitary Department in St. Helens also takes responsibility for those provisions of the Act relating to lighting, washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals.

The number of visits paid to shop premises during 1951 was 114.

Places of Public Entertainment.—61 visits were paid for inspection purposes. The condition of these premises was found to be generally satisfactory.

Public Houses, Beer Houses, etc.—The condition of these premises was found to be generally satisfactory throughout the year.

57 visits of inspection were made.

Canal Boats.—There is only one canal within the Borough (the St. Helens Canal) and this has not been used for traffic for a number of years.

Mortuaries.—A Public Mortuary with post-mortem room is maintained behind the Town Hall, and is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. During the year, 111 bodies were received into the mortuary and 79 post-mortem examinations were conducted.

Arrangements for the Disposal of the Dead.—At the end of the year there were 20.676 acres of land available for burials at the Borough Cemetery. There is an additional area of land adjoining the Cemetery which can be utilised for extension purposes, consisting of 23.8 acres ; 8.47 acres of this area will shortly be utilised for the purpose of a Garden of Remembrance, leaving 15.33 acres for future earth burials.

Swimming Baths.—Indoor swimming baths, situate in Boundary Road, are maintained by the Corporation. There are two plunge baths and the method of purification of the water is by means of continuous filtration and chlorination. This method has continued to give reasonable satisfaction throughout the year. The installation of an alkali feeder has enabled better control of the pH value of the water to be maintained.

9 samples of water from these baths were taken by the Department for bacteriological examination during the year. The results of these examinations showed that the water was generally satisfactory for bathing purposes.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1918. Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.—No samples of rag flock were taken during the year. 62 visits of inspection were made in 1951 under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

XVII.—HOUSING.

A statement as to the number of houses erected with and without assistance together with a summary of the work of the department in regard to Housing is given in Table 17.

Table 17

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) and (c))	255
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By the Local Authority	224
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	—
(c) Without State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By the Local Authority	—
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	31

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2313
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	14756
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	2304

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1248
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3. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	948
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	822
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

During the year a report was submitted to the Public Health Committee on Housing Conditions in St. Helens.

The report dealt at considerable length with three aspects of the present housing position, viz :—

- (a) Repair of Dwellinghouses.
- (b) Demolition of Dwellinghouses.
- (c) Improvement and Acquisition of Dwellinghouses.

The following is a summary of the main points dealt with in the report :—

(a) **Repair of Dwellinghouses.**

There is at present difficulty in securing repairs to dwellinghouses. The reason for this difficulty is mainly economic and arises from high cost of repairs together with the fact that no increase in rents has been permitted.

A further point mentioned is that owners are reluctant to spend considerable sums of money on houses which they realise are now worn out and can only have a limited life.

(b) **Demolition of Dwellinghouses.**

A survey of the borough completed towards the end of 1948 revealed that there were approximately 4,790 houses suitable for inclusion in slum clearance schemes.

(c) **Improvement and Acquisition of Dwellinghouses.**

In the previous year another local housing survey was undertaken for the purpose of ascertaining the number of houses in the borough which either complied with the standard of fitness for a satisfactory house or which could be made to comply with that standard.

The following is a summary of the results of that survey :—

No. of bedrooms	Standard house	Sub-standard house with life of 30 yrs. or more which COULD be converted into a standard house	Sub-standard house with life of 30 yrs. or more which COULD NOT be converted into a standard house	Sub-standard house with life of less than 30 years	Total
1	15	—	—	3	18
2	2164	4501	1660	109	8434
3	5130	3662	6	13	8811
4	473	58	2	2	535
5	143	14	—	1	158
6 or more	60	1	—	—	61
Total	7985	8236	1668	128	18017

The term "Standard House" in this summary is used to indicate a house which complies with the recognised standard of fitness and amenity for a satisfactory house recommended in 1946 by the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health. In this section of the report the Committee was reminded of its powers for providing housing accommodation by acquiring houses suitable for the purpose or by altering, enlarging, repairing or improving any houses which have been acquired.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS

1920-1939.—During the year, 2 applications were received for sanitary certificates under these Acts. Certificates were granted to the tenants.

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS :—

During the year, 361 inspections of dwellinghouses and food premises for vermin infestation were made, and the following disinfestation work was carried out :—

(1) Privately owned dwellinghouses	141
(2) Occupied Council houses	124
(3) Food premises	8
(4) Corporation buildings, other than dwellinghouses	10
(5) Other buildings	10
Total No. of premises treated	293

The insecticides used were either D.D.T. or Gammexane.

In 31 instances of re-housing by the Corporation Housing Department, furniture and household effects were disinfested by Hydrogen Cyanide to prevent vermin infestation in the new accommodation. The bedding in these instances was disinfected by steam.
