

[Report 1958] / Medical Officer of Health, Stretford Borough.

Contributors

Stretford (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1958

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BOROUGH OF STRETFORD

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1958

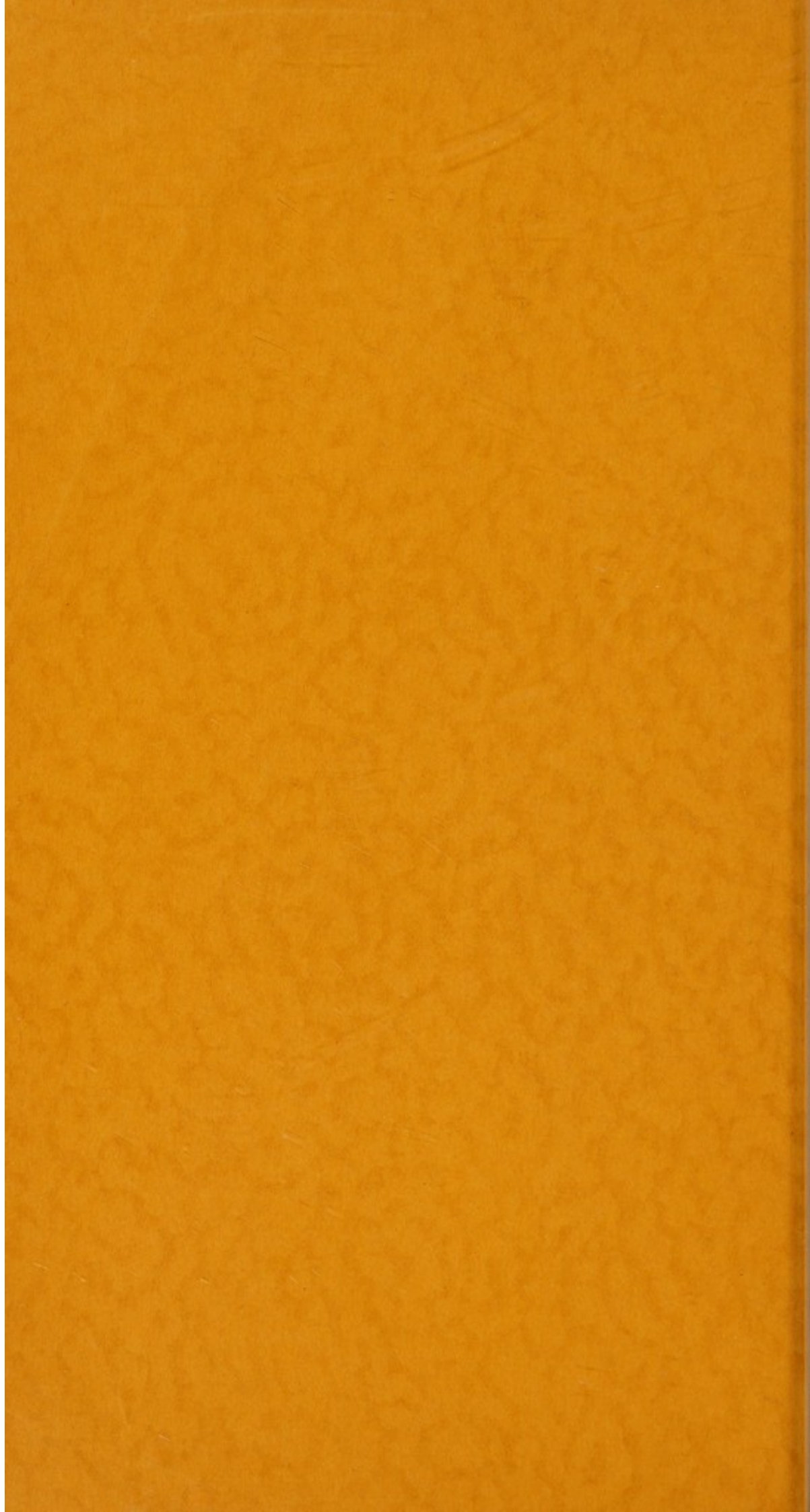
Including the Report of the

Chief Public Health
Inspector

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
STRETFORD.
TRAFFORD PARK 2101.



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AUTHORITY

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(Divisional Medical Officer, Health Division No. 16, Lancashire
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Assistant Medical Officers of Health :

(who are also Assistant Divisional Medical Officers in the whole-time
service of the Lancashire County Council)

BARBARA M. KNIGHT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Dental Officers :

(Lancashire County Council)

J. S. HIGHAM, B.D.S.

J. OGDEN, B.D.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Director:

*J. KAY, C.S.I.B., M.Inst.P.C., D.P.A. (London)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

*A. MARKLAND, C.S.I.B.

District Inspectors, 1958

†*J. C. ANKERS, C.S.I.B.

*S. W. HOGG, C.S.I.B.

*G. C. TAYLOR, C.S.I.B.

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G. R. HUGHES, C.S.I.B.

(Appointed December, 1957)

Meat Inspector :

*J. HAMNETT, C.S.I.B.

* Certified Meat and Food Inspectors

† Certified Smoke Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough of Stretford for the year 1958.

As a perusal of the report will show the general health of the inhabitants of the Borough for the year under review as shown by the statistical data available has been satisfactory.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Borough at mid-year 1958 was 61,760, a very slight increase over the estimated population for the previous year and 114 below the census population of 1951.

Birth Rate

The number of live births registered during the year was 1,047, of which 544 were male and 503 female, giving a birth rate per thousand of the population of 16.1. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.4 per thousand of the population.

Of the 1,047 live births 62 were illegitimate, a ratio of illegitimate to legitimate births of 1 to 16.

The number of still births recorded was 25, giving a still birth rate per thousand total births of 23.3 which is approximately the same as the rate for the previous year.

Death Rate

There were 725 deaths during the year, 380 males and 345 females giving an adjusted general death rate per thousand of the estimated resident population of 14. This shows an increase on the figure for the previous year which was 12.4. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per thousand.

As will be seen from the statistical table listing the causes of death the main killing diseases remain as in previous years, namely cardio-vascular disease which accounted for 352 deaths, and cancer which was responsible for 139 deaths.

Of the 352 deaths listed under the heading of cardio-vascular disease 112 were due to coronary thrombosis and nearly twice as many men succumbed to this illness as women. The continuing rise in the mortality and morbidity rates from coronary disease probably presents the most serious challenge modern medicine has to face, since this disease strikes chiefly during middle age and where it does not cause death it may seriously incapacitate the patient for the remainder of his life.

The term coronary thrombosis embraces a wide variety of clinical conditions ranging from slight pain and discomfort on effort—mild angina pectoris—to heart attacks which cause sudden death in the apparently healthy. The cause of the symptoms are, however, the same, being due to a narrowing by disease of the blood vessels which supply the heart muscle, and the chief complication is the clotting of blood or thrombosis in one of these coronary arteries, a block is thereby produced depriving part of the heart muscle of its usual blood supply. The severity of the clinical picture depends on the size of the blood vessel involved in the clotting process, and the ability of the reserve arteries to take over the blood supply, and varies between sudden death and a slight pain in the chest.

Much medical research has been devoted over recent years in an attempt to establish the causes of the disease in order that preventive action can be taken. Most of this work has been in the medico-social field and although up to date no very definite conclusions have been formulated there is much evidence to suggest that social conditions and ways of life play an important role in the production of this disease. It has been established that coronary thrombosis is much more common in the more prosperous civilisations. The incidence of the disease among the more primitive tribes of Africa, South America and the South Sea Islands is much below that found in the western countries. There is some evidence to show that this difference is not merely racial or climatic since it has been found that negroes in the United States do not appear to have any advantage over the white population and that western Jews in Israel have a much higher incidence than their fellow immigrants from North Africa or Asia. It would seem, therefore, that the cause of the differing incidence of coronary disease between the two types of people must lie in their differing mode of life. One of the chief differences in the standard of living is reflected in the diet and much attention has recently been directed to this as a contributory cause. It

is well known that the main difference in diet lies in the fat content since a high fat content diet has more or less become synonymous with a high standard of living. There seems to be no reasonable doubt that there is a link between fat metabolism and the occurrence of coronary disease but whether or not this is due to the habitual consumption of a high-fat diet cannot be so confidently proclaimed. There is still a fair amount of conflicting opinion in this field as to the acceptance of high dietary fat as a cause of coronary disease. Many workers suggest that the fault is more qualitative than quantitative and that individual defects in the metabolism of fat may play a considerable part. It would seem, therefore, that no conclusive dietary advice can be offered as a preventive measure, but it would seem reasonable to show some discrimination in the fat content of our diet especially after the age of forty.

There are two other rather remarkable statistical features of this disease, firstly that men are much more susceptible to the condition than women, and that sedentary workers have a much higher incidence than manual workers. For every woman who dies from coronary occlusion approximately two men die and the preponderance of male over female deaths shows a steady increase over the years. As has been said previously this disease along with lung cancer is responsible for the deterioration in middle-aged mortality rates in men when compared with those of women of the same age group.

It has been shown in many surveys that physically active workers such as miners, farm workers, postmen and 'bus conductors are less likely to contract coronary disease than sedentary workers such as office workers and 'bus drivers. It would seem that the incidence varies inversely with the amount of manual work done. The heavy worker, skilled or unskilled has a lower mortality rate than the light worker with intermediate grades falling between the two. It is, of course, not easy to show that this variation in mortality rate is directly due to the differing amount of exercise taken by men in various occupations since there may be many other factors at work, *e.g.*, we do not know why people are attracted to certain jobs and these preferences may be associated with greater or less susceptibility to coronary disease, and of course activities pursued during leisure hours may also be important.

The evidence available, however, would certainly seem to suggest that for the chairborne worker physical exercise would probably play some part in the prevention of the disease. "Stress and Strain" of modern living has been frequently canvassed as a contributory cause of coronary disease and it would appear likely that emotional stress plays its part in the production of the disease but just how great a part it plays is difficult to determine.

The evidence for and against tobacco smoking has also been investigated but again no very definite conclusions have been reached. Recent surveys in America show that the incidence of the disease is a little greater among those who smoke than in non-smokers but the mortality rate among those who did not smoke at all was still very high.

Lung Cancer

There were, as stated, 139 deaths from cancer during the year, of which 41 were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. The mortality rate from this disease again shows an increase over the previous years although the male deaths at 33 are the same as for 1957 but the number of female deaths has risen by 2. It is not my intention to repeat once again at length what I have said in previous annual reports regarding the relationship between this disease and cigarette smoking. I think that it is probably sufficient to say that there has been no fresh evidence produced to indicate that the link between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung is not a very close one, but it has of course never been suggested that this is the only factor. There is now a considerable amount of evidence to show that an "urban" factor is added to smoking in the production of this disease, since urban death rates have been shown to exceed rural death rates in every smoking category. The absolute urban excess is much the same in each smoking group suggesting that there is an "urban" factor at work.

Just what this "urban" factor is has not been definitely established but it is considered most likely to be one or a combination of atmospheric pollutants acting as an irritant on the respiratory system. Whether this irritant be smoke, 3:4 benzpyrene, other polycyclic hydrocarbons, oxides of sulphur, or a combination of these four has still to be decided but meantime it affords an additional strong argument in favour of the vigorous pursuit of clean air.

Whether or not the increased number of deaths recorded among females in the Borough from lung cancer is significant is much too early to say since the small total number of female deaths makes the element of chance over one year much more pronounced. Nevertheless it may be a portent of the future since it is well known that the smoking habits of women have changed over the last twenty to thirty years, and their present comparatively low incidence of the disease is related to their smoking less before that time.

Maternal Mortality Rate

There was no maternal death during the year. The improvement in the death rate associated with child birth can be seen from the statistical table provided in the main

report. In the last decade there has been a total of four maternal deaths in the Borough compared with 19 in the previous ten years.

Infant Mortality Rate

The infant mortality rate for 1958 was 37.2 per thousand live births which is well above the figure of 26 recorded for 1957 and compares very unfavourably with the national average for England and Wales of 22.5 per thousand live births.

It should be remembered that rates of this kind in a relatively small population fluctuate from year to year through the operation of chance much more than the corresponding rate for England and Wales, nevertheless it is a little disturbing to find that for the last three years the infant mortality rate for the Borough has been considerably in excess of that for the country as a whole, whereas for the previous five years the rate was equivalent or below the national figure. Of the 39 children under one year who died in 1958 no fewer than 29 were less than one month old; 75% of the total infant mortality occurred during the neo-natal period. The majority of these deaths were due to congenital abnormality and/or prematurity which seems to indicate that the only way to effect an improvement is to improve the ante-natal care of the expectant mother. Since the facilities available for ante-natal care in the area, and health education of the expectant mother, are quite adequate no mere extension of facilities could be expected to achieve anything in this field. There are of course a proportion of expectant mothers who seem to be reluctant to avail themselves of the facilities offered and are rather late in seeking ante-natal advice, and it is difficult to see how this problem can be overcome other than by a continuous programme of health education.

Infectious Disease

(a) Typhoid Fever

Two cases of Typhoid Fever were notified during the year both of which occurred in young children and a satisfactory recovery was made in each case. This small outbreak occurred in one family and was traced to the grandmother of the patients who was found to be a carrier of the organism. From the history obtained it would seem that this lady had probably been a typhoid carrier for over thirty years since her husband had the disease in India in 1927. It seems likely that she was infected in India by her husband and this is supported by the phage type of organism isolated. It is interesting to note that there is no evidence that this chronic carrier was associated with a previous outbreak of the disease in spite of the fact

that she was "unknown." It should be said that she was an intelligent woman with a high regard for personal and environmental hygiene which is the most likely explanation for the very prolonged period before her discovery.

As an interesting footnote, this typhoid carrier elected, after 6 months' surveillance by the health department, during which time all faecal specimens submitted for examination were found to be positive, to have her gall bladder removed. The operation was performed some three months ago and a heavy growth of typhoid bacilli was obtained from the gall bladder at the time of the operation, but routine faecal cultures since cholecystectomy have all proved negative. She is, of course, still being kept under supervision and faecal cultures will continue to be made for a prolonged period before a declaration of freedom from infection is made.

(b) Diphtheria

For the seventh consecutive year no case of diphtheria has been reported; a striking testimony to the efficiency of immunisation against the disease.

(c) Poliomyelitis

Nine cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year six of which were paralytic. No case had been previously vaccinated against the disease.

A very good response in the under 15 age group has been obtained in the vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis and at the end of the year under review approximately 74% of the group had received two injections of vaccine and a very large proportion had received the third injection which is given at an interval of seven months after the second.

The extension of the eligible age range during the year to include all persons born after 1st January, 1933, has brought a very limited response from the 15 to 25 age group, in spite of the many efforts made to encourage them to avail themselves of this protection. Open evening sessions, visits to youth clubs, continuation classes, and factories in addition to the usual facilities have all been adopted in an attempt to break the apathy of this age group but with very little effect.

Recently however due to the tragic death from the disease of a well-known footballer there has been something in the nature of a tenfold increase in the numbers attending evening vaccination sessions and it is a sad reflection on human nature that it requires tragedy before any real response to health propaganda is obtained. It makes the cynic wonder how much can really be accomplished by the ordinary methods of health propaganda in reaching the young adult.

Atmospheric Pollution

In view of the fact that the Borough has a very high degree of atmospheric pollution it is disappointing to have to report that the Clean Air Act has not been acted upon with the urgency that it deserves, especially with relation to the establishment of smoke control areas.

It is admitted of course that the elimination of black smoke resulting from the setting up of smoke control areas will not solve the local problem but it will certainly go a long way in reducing the amount of dirt in the atmosphere and any contribution no matter how small towards this end is to be welcomed.

From the effect on health, however, it is most likely that the much more important atmospheric pollutants are the oxides of sulphur which in the presence of moisture are converted to sulphuric acid mist. This acid mist is probably instrumental, especially during smog periods, for the production of the bronchial irritation which is so damaging to the aged and those suffering from chronic chest disease.

The quantity of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere which is likely to be harmful to man has not been determined and it is doubtful if it is ever likely to be so with any degree of accuracy, since its effect on the human depend so much on other factors. These governing factors include the age, susceptibility, and state of health of the exposed person. Very small quantities of sulphur compounds in the atmosphere make life very unpleasant for the severe bronchitic with cardiac involvement or for the hypersensitive subject. To tell such a person that there is only a small percentage of sulphur in the air he breathes is little consolation for his discomfort and respiratory embarrassment. On the other hand it is obvious that healthy young adults can tolerate a considerable proportion of sulphur in the atmosphere without suffering any apparent immediate harmful effect, but exposure over prolonged periods must play a considerable part in the production of the high incidence of chest diseases in the industrial areas.

It is, therefore, with considerable concern that one views the future regarding contamination of the atmosphere with oxides of sulphur in this area, with the projected development in the Partington Estate to the South West and the tendency for all new industry in the Trafford Park Industrial Estate to install oil-fired boiler plant. In addition a considerable number of existing industries have, or are contemplating, conversion to oil fuel. Since it seems to be the intention of most of these industrial concerns to use fuel oil with an ex-

ceedingly high sulphur content (up to $4\frac{1}{2}\%$), presumably for economic reasons, something must be done to limit the dispersal to air of this ever-increasing quantity of sulphur.

It would appear that in the first instance the Government should take steps to limit the sulphur content of fuel oil permitted to industry, as I understand has already been done in some parts of America (in Los Angeles the limit is placed at $\frac{1}{2}\%$ sulphur content). This legislation is urgently required.

Secondly all major polluting industries such as power stations, gas stations and chemical plants should be obliged to install plant for the extraction of sulphur from the flue gases. It is understood that this is now a practical proposition.

To depend on dispersal to atmosphere through the medium of high chimneys, as is advocated by industry backed by some of our leading scientists, seems to be a most unrealistic attitude to adopt from the community health angle. Especially is this so in industrial zones where existing pollution is already very high. There is an old adage that "what goes up must come down" and whether the sulphur gases reach their maximum concentration at ground level, 1.5 miles, 2.5 miles or 3.5 miles from the source seems to me quite irrelevant in an area already grossly polluted.

It is a solemn thought that the following was penned over a century ago by Henry Luttrell, a wit of the period :—

First at the Dawn of Lingering day
It rises of an ashy grey.
Then deepening with a sordid stain
Of yellow like a lion's mane
Vapour importunate and dense
It wars at once with every sense.
O Chemistry attractive maid
Descend in pity to our aid
Come with thy all pervading gases
Thy crucibles, retorts and glasses
Thy fearful energies and wonders
Thy dazzling lights and mimic thunders
Make all chimneys chew the cud
Like hungry cows as chimneys should
And since 'tis only smoke we draw
Within our lungs at common law
Into their thirsty tubes be sent
Fresh air by Act of Parliament.

Food Hygiene

During recent years a number of large consignments of imported frozen whole hen egg arriving in the district have been found to be contaminated with food poisoning organisms

of the Salmonella group. Since there does not seem to be a uniform national policy to deal with this problem, any decision must be taken locally and it has always been the policy of the health department to prohibit the release of infected egg for human consumption in spite of considerable commercial pressure accompanied by a strong assurance that the infected product would be used only in high temperature baking. There are, however, two dangers in using infected egg even where the temperatures reached are sufficient to destroy any Salmonella present ; firstly the temperatures may on occasion not reach the required level to ensure inactivation of the bacilli and secondly the equipment with which the infected egg comes into contact will become contaminated and may in turn contaminate other products.

The country of origin of the infected frozen whole egg has, in the main, been China, but an occasional consignment of Dutch origin has had to be rejected after sampling. It has been customary for the Dutch product to be re-shipped to Holland, since it apparently is accepted by the importer only if it is found to be free from pathogenic organisms.

It seems that the most hopeful method of dealing with this problem of infected bulk whole egg is by heat treatment, since pasteurisation is known to eliminate Salmonella. Pasteurisation should preferably be carried out before freezing but may be applied to egg already frozen.

Much recent work has been carried out in an attempt to evolve an effective means of whole egg pasteurisation which would at the same time produce an end product commercially acceptable, and it would seem that this end has now been achieved. During the year such a pasteurisation plant has been installed by a commercial undertaking in the area, and from the preliminary results obtained it would appear to be effective in destroying pathogenic organisms known to be present before treatment and to produce a marketable product acceptable by the baking trade.

It is possible, therefore, that at last the solution to what has been a rather neglected serious problem in food hygiene has been found, and it is now the duty of the central government to formulate enforcing regulations to ensure that all bulked whole egg should be adequately pasteurised before use, and this ought to apply irrespective of the country of origin of the product.

Housing

The system of dealing with applications for re-housing on medical grounds whereby a confidential report is received by your Medical Officer of Health from the family doctor

of the applicant, has worked well during the year, and I am grateful for the co-operation I have received from the medical practitioners in the area.

During the year 180 cases were dealt with of which 135, or 75% warranted some degree of priority on health grounds. The number of families approved for re-housing during the year on health grounds was 33.

In conclusion, I should like to record my appreciation of the help I have received from the staff of the Health Department throughout the year and in the preparation of this report.

Last, but by no means least, to you Mr. Chairman and members of the Health Committee, I offer my most sincere thanks for your encouragement, kindness and forbearance during the year.

I have Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

WM. SHARPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR
THE YEAR 1958**

Area (Statute Acres).....	3,530
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1958	61,760
(Census, 1951)	61,874
(Census, 1931)	56,791
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (end of 1958), according to Rate Books (estimated)	18,607
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (Census, 1951)	17,321
Persons per acre	17.49
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census, 1951)	19,445
Rateable Value	£906,372
Product of 1d. Rate	£3,555

**VITAL STATISTICS BASED ON THE NET BIRTHS
AND DEATHS AFTER CORRECTION FOR INWARD
AND OUTWARD TRANSFERS AS FURNISHED BY
THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL**

		M.	F.	Total	
Live Births	{	Legitimate	511	474	985
		Illegitimate	33	29	62
		Total	544	503	1,047

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation (adjusted)	16.1
Still Births	25
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	23.3
Deaths	725
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation (adjusted)	14.0

The crude death rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population, after adjustment by the use of the comparability factor of 1.19 supplied by the Registrar-General, gives a death rate of 14.0 per 1,000, which is statistically comparable with the death rate for England and Wales of 11.7 per 1,000.

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	.....	None
Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	.....	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :		
All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	37.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	39.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.....	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	139
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Gastritis and Enteritis	.....	10

The above statistical rates are based on a population of 61,760 as estimated by the Registrar-General at the middle of 1958.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1958

Registrar-General's Classification.

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	8
11. „ „ lung, bronchus	33	8
12. „ „ breast	—	10
13. „ „ uterus	—	3
14. „ „ (other sites)	39	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	1
16. Diabetes	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	36	64
18. Coronary disease, angina	74	38
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	7
20. Other heart disease	33	54
21. Other circulatory disease	11	19
22. Influenza	2	—
23. Pneumonia	24	14
24. Bronchitis	29	25
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	8	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	5	5
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	5	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	4	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	36
33. Motor vehicle accidents	7	1
34. All other accidents	11	4
35. Suicide	6	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	380	345
	} 725	

WARD INCIDENCE OF DEATHS OCCURRING IN 1958

Stretford	101
Longford	101
Talbot North	103
Talbot South	90
Trafford	103
Cornbrook	67
Clifford	85
Park "A"	21
Park "B"	54
Total	725

BIRTHS

On the Registrar-General's figure of 1,047 registered births, a crude birth rate for the year of 17.0 per 1,000 estimated resident population is obtained, which is adjusted by use of the comparability factor of 0.95 giving a birth rate of 16.1 per 1,000, comparable with the birth rate for England and Wales of 16.4 per 1,000.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Stretford residents recorded by the Registrar-General is 725 (see table on page 16).

466 deaths were registered in the Borough during the year, including 36 deaths of non-residents which were transferred to their appropriate registration areas: 295 Stretford residents died outside the district. The net number of deaths of Stretford residents (occurring within or outside the district) was, therefore, 725. Of this number, 446 (or 62 per cent. of the total deaths occurred after the age of 65 years.

Age at death	Number
0—1	39
1—2	1
2—5	—
5—15	3
15—25	7
25—45	29
45—65	200
65—75	188
75 and over	258
Total	725

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority are given on page 3 at the beginning of this Report.

Laboratory Facilities

Laboratory facilities for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health), at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, and at 143 Regent Road, Salford. There is frequent and mutual collaboration between the Department and the Laboratory. Dr. Parker and his staff at the Laboratory have continued to give prompt advice which has been of practical value.

The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951

Five cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during 1958 as compared with four in 1957. All patients made a satisfactory recovery.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths were recorded by the Registrar-General during 1958.

The improvement in the mortality figures since 1932 is shown in the following table :—

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

(Registrar-General's Figures)

Year	STRETFORD		England and Wales
	Maternal Deaths	Maternal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate
1932	3	4.08	4.24
1933	5	7.07	4.24
1934	3	2.48	4.41
1935	3	3.74	3.93
1936	3	3.98	3.81
1937	3	3.76	3.11
1938	3	2.63	3.08
1939	2	2.86	2.82
1940	1	1.50	2.16
1941	—	—	2.23
1942	2	2.63	2.01
1943	5	5.17	2.29
1944	1	0.87	1.93
1945	3	2.84	1.79
1946	1	0.76	1.43
1947	3	2.16	1.17
1948	1	0.79	1.02
1949	—	—	0.98
1950	1	0.93	0.86
1951	1	0.98	0.79
1952	—	—	0.72
1953	—	—	0.76
1954	1	1.04	0.69
1955	—	—	0.64
1956	—	—	0.56
1957	1	0.94	0.47
1958	—	—	0.43

Deaths from abortion have been included each year since 1943.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1958
CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Under 1 Mth.	1 Mth.	2 Mths.	3 Mths.	4 Mths.	5 Mths.	6 Mths.	7 Mths.	8 Mths.	9 Mths.	10 Mths.	11 Mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Pneumonia	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Anoxaemia	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Prematurity	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Asphyxia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Atelectasis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Heart Disease	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Meningocele	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cholangitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Respiratory Failure	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	29	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	39

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate for 1958 was 37 per 1,000 live births as compared with 26 in the previous year. This is comparable with the rate for England and Wales of 22.5 per 1,000 live births. From the table on page it will be observed that of the 39 deaths of children under one year of age 29 occurred within one month of birth.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

Certified Causes

Pneumonia
4 deaths were due to pneumonia
1 within 24 hours
3 at 2 days
Anoxaemia
1 within 24 hours
4 at 1 day
1 at 2 days
1 at 3 days
Prematurity
1 within 24 hours
1 at 1 day
1 at 4 days
1 at 1 week
Asphyxia
2 within 24 hours
1 at 3 weeks
Atelectasis
2 within 24 hours
1 at 3 days
Heart Disease
1 within 24 hours
1 at 3 days
Cerebral Haemorrhage
2 within 24 hours
1 at 5 days
Meningocele
1 at 3 weeks
Cholangitis
1 at 2 weeks
Respiratory Failure
1 within 24 hours

74 per cent. of the total infant mortality for the year was due to the 29 deaths which occurred in the first month after birth.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE, 1932-1958

Year	Stretford		England and Wales
	Infantile Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1932	44	59	65
1933	33	46	64
1934	32	41	59
1935	47	60	57
1936	28	37	59
1937	45	59	58
1938	39	53	53
1939	25	56	50
1940	48	75	55
1941	25	44	59
1942	54	74	49
1943	55	59	49
1944	54	48	46
1945	54	49	46
1946	55	45	43
1947	54	40	41
1948	57	46	34
1949	41	36	32
1950	33	31.0	29.8
1951	19	18.7	29.6
1952	19	19	27.6
1953	26	26	26.8
1954	16	17	25.5
1955	20	25	24.9
1956	39	38	23.8
1957	27	26	23.0
1958	39	37	22.5

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water, Drainage and Sewerage

There has been no change in the sanitary circumstances of the area relating to water supply, drainage and sewerage.

Rivers and Streams

The Local Authority for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams is the Mersey Rivers Board. The rivers and streams in the Borough have been kept under observation by the District Public Health Inspectors.

The effluent from the Stretford Sewage Works discharges into the Kickety Brook and eventually into the River Mersey. Examination of the effluent is carried out systematically by the Mersey Rivers Board.

Proposals for additional works and improvements at the Sewage Works are proceeding.

Closet Accommodation (end of 1958)

No. of Middens	None
„ Closets attached to these Middens.....	None
„ Pail Closets	6
„ Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	None
„ Fresh-water Closets	23,409
„ Moveable Ashbins for refuse	20,428
„ Waste-water Closets	None

Public Cleansing

The arrangements are efficient and satisfactory, a strict weekly collection being maintained.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is submitted by the Chief Public Health Inspector under Article 27(18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 :—

Inspections by Sanitary Staff during 1958—

Dwellings	3,174
Factories	184
Shops	150

No. of notices served during the year—

Statutory—Public Health Acts	336
Informal	693

Results of service of notices—

Statutory—Public Health Acts, Compiled with	284
Informal—Compiled with or in hand	625
Outstanding	68
Defects or nuisances discovered	1,631
Defects or nuisances abated.....	1,337

In addition to the informal notices referred to above, letters of intimation as to nuisances have been sent in 14 cases, making a total of 707 instances in which informal action has been taken to obtain a remedy.

Swimming Baths

The two public swimming baths in the Borough are provided with continuous filtration and chlorination plants.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools in the Borough.

Schools

The sanitary condition of all primary and secondary schools is maintained in a satisfactory manner and the water supply to each school is from the Manchester Corporation. Each school is visited once every quarter by the Chief Public Health Inspector, who reports to the Committee for Education. Defects found are promptly remedied.

**PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY
BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS**

Offensive Trades

There are three premises registered for the conduct of offensive trades (two fat melting, one gut scraping), the supervision of which is among the duties of the Public Health Inspectors. Full compliance with bye-law requirements has been maintained during the year, and one factory, where contents relate to both gut scraping and fat melting, is regarded as a model in regard to both layout and operation.

Houses Let in Lodgings

There are no "common lodging houses" in the Borough, but there is still a large number of houses let off in rooms ("houses let in lodgings," "flats") with inadequate amenities for each individual family.

SECTION D

HOUSING

(a) Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the local authority	—	4
(ii) By other local authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	20	—

Houses completed since 1939

	New	Rebuilt after demolition due to enemy action
(i) By the local authority	*1,628	30
(ii) By other local authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	† 328	99
Total	1,956	129

* Includes 42 prefabricated houses and 816 flats. † Includes 30 flats.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	840
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	3,192
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :—	
(a) Number found during year.....	4
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	107
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	485

(2) Houses Demolished;—	Houses Demolished	Displaced During Year	
		Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas— (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrange- ments, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 27, Hous- ing Act, 1936	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11, Hous- ing Act, 1936	—	—	—
	Number		
(3) Unfit Houses Closed:—			
(1) Under Section 11, Hous- ing Act, 1936, and Sec- tions 10(1) and 11(2), Local Govt. (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953.	—	—	—
(2) Under Sections 3(1) and 3(2), Housing Act, 1949	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Hous- ing Act, 1936	—	—	—

(4) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied:—	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by Local Authority	560	—
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts	206	27
(b) Housing Act, 1937	1	—
(3) Under Section 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—

(5) Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—

Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during year :	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	1	1	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	1	—	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—	—	—
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—	—	—
(e) Work completed	—	—	—	—
(f) Additional separate dwellings (included in (e) above).....	—	—	—	—

1 loan for improvements under Section 4(1) (c) of the Act, and 145 applications approved for advances for house purchase under Sections 4(1) (a) and (b).

(b) Housing Conditions

(1) General Observations as to Housing Conditions

107 houses have now been represented as unfit. A further 800 are sub-standard and will attract statutory action over the next 10 years. The remainder are relatively sound and many are modern.

(2) Sufficiency of Supply of Houses

- (a) Extent of shortage, stating minimum number and type of houses required :

1,210 applicants on register.

Houses required : 490 1-bedroom type.
419 2-bedroom type.
258 3-bedroom type.
49 4-bedroom type.
4 5-bedroom type.

- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated :

24 flats in course of construction.

189 flats and 2 houses contemplated.

- (c) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses :

Building sites for the erection of new houses are very limited but the possibility of tower blocks of flats has been examined. This would postpone the need for building on land outside the Borough.

(3) Overcrowding

One case of overcrowding in a house owned by the Local Authority was relieved during the year.

(4) Fitness of Houses

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts :

None.

- (b) Number of houses which have not an adequate water supply :

None.

- (c) Number of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation :

None—Some families (in large houses intensively occupied) share closet accommodation.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES

Home Office Form 572

**(1) INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS
RELATING TO PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH**

Premises (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	Number of:			M/c. line No. (7)
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prose- cuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	29	15	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	393	169	5	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	5	12	—	—	3
TOTAL		427	196	5	—	

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

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

There is no outwork conducted in the district in unwholesome premises as defined by Section 111 of the Act.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are now no dairy farms within the Borough.

The control of milk production is now the responsibility of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, a branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Registration of Retail Distributors

Applications for Registration received	Applications granted	Number of Notices to show Cause	Applications granted after Notice to show Cause	Total Applications granted	Removed from Register	On Register at December 31st, 1958
Dairymen (i.e., Retail Distri- butors of Milk with dairy premises) 2	2	—	—	2	—	8
Retail Distributors of Bottled Milk only 12	12	—	—	12	—	132
Retail Distributors from Premises out- side district	—	—	—	—	—	16
TOTAL	14	—	—	14	—	156

EXAMINATIONS OF MILK SAMPLES

The following is a summary of the milk samples submitted for Bacteriological and Phosphatase Examination during 1958

Type of Milk	Tubercle Bacilli		Methylene Blue Reduction		Phosphatase		Turbidity Test
	+	-	S	Not S	S	Not S	
Pasteurised	—	—	37	1	38	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	2	24	21	11	—	—	4
" " (Pasteurised)	—	—	5	—	5	—	—
Ungraded	—	9	4	5	—	—	—
TOTALS	*2	*35	67	17	43	—	4

S denotes Satisfactory. Total Samples examined: 88.

Phosphatase: S = Not more than 2.3 Lovibond Blue Units.

Methylene Blue: S = Pasteurised Milk. Must not decolorize Methylene Blue in 30 minutes after storage at a temperature not exceeding 65° F. until between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the day following collection.

Raw Milk. Must not decolorize Methylene Blue within 4½ hours if the sample is taken from 1st May to 31st October, or within 5½ hours if taken from 1st November to 30th April.

* A guinea pig was inoculated from each sample, and evidence of tuberculous infection was found in two cases. The subsequent action taken resulted in the discovery of two animals affected with Tuberculosis at two farms outside the Borough. These were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

**Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949,
and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and
Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949**

Licences granted during 1958

Designation	To Retail from Premises within the Borough	To Retail from Premises outside the Borough	TOTAL
Pasteurised	113	13	126
Sterilised	131	15	146
Tuberculin Tested	29	11	40
TOTALS	273	39	312

Adulteration

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Sections 9, 13 and 14 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, the Milk and Cream Regulations and the Condensed and Dried Milk Regulations is carried out by this Authority.

The changing pattern of milk distribution is having a marked effect upon the number of milk samples taken, the modern tendency of monopoly and recent legislation has reduced the points of distribution with a greater degree of milk bulking, and the elimination of the small dairyman.

In some ways this may be a matter of regret, but it cannot be denied from a public health viewpoint it has resulted in greater efficiency and an improved milk supply.

During the year 181 samples were submitted to the Salford City Analyst (public analyst for the Borough) for examination.

They comprised 90 milk, 16 ice cream and 75 other samples.

Only one sample of milk was adversely reported upon by the public analyst and this was in respect of a fat deficiency of 8.3 per cent. The sample was bulked milk and subsequent samples proved genuine.

Five samples of other foods adversely reported upon were of a minor character and were rectified by informal action. 120 samples were examined for preservatives.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the following three offences—

For selling a lamb chop with an embedded cigarette end, three summonses were issued and defendants were fined a total of £45 and £20 18s. 0d. costs.

For selling a mouldy meat pie two defendants were fined £7 and £8 7s. 0d. costs.

For selling milk containing glass fragments a fine of £20 and 3 guineas costs.

SAMPLES EXAMINED
Report of the Borough Analyst

Samples	Number Examined	Number adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity	Per cent. adulteration
FOODS:			
Milk	90	1	1.1
Bread	1	1	100.0
Butter	2	—	—
Cake Covering,			
Chocolate	1	—	—
Cakes, Eccles	1	—	—
Candied peel	1	—	—
Cheese, Processed and Bacon	1	—	—
Cheese, Spread	1	—	—
Chicken and Ham Paste	1	—	—
Chocolate, Drinking	1	—	—
Cocoa	2	—	—
Coffee	1	—	—
Coffee, Instant	1	—	—
Cream, Imitation	1	—	—
Cream, Synthetic	2	—	—
Currants	2	—	—
Dessert Powder, Chocolate	1	—	—
Glucose Tablets	1	—	—
Ice-cream	16	—	—
Lard	2	—	—
Lemon Curd	2	—	—
Milk (complaint)	1	—	—
Mincemeat	2	—	—
Mineral Water	2	—	—
Muscatsels	2	—	—
Onions, Pickled	1	—	—
Pepper, White	1	—	—
Pickles, Mixed	1	1	100.0
Pineapple Tidbits	1	—	—
Prunes	3	—	—
Saccharin Tablets	2	—	—
Sauce	1	—	—
Sauce, Fruit	1	—	—
Sauce, Onion	1	—	—
Sausage, Beef	3	1	33.3
Sugar, Granulated	1	1	100.0
Tea	2	—	—
Tomato Paste	2	—	—
Tomato Puree	2	1	50.0
Turkey in Jelly	1	—	—
Vinegar, Malt	2	—	—
DRUGS:			
Cough Mixture	3	—	—
Friars' Balsam B.P.	2	2	100.0
Gregory Powder	2	—	—
Insomnia Pills	1	—	—
Seidlitz Powder	2	1	50.0
Throat Lozenges	1	—	—
Tincture of Iodine, B.P.	4	—	—
Whooping Cough Syrup	1	—	—
Zinc Ointment, B.P.	2	—	—
Total Foods and Drugs	181	9	5.0

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The table on page 38 gives the incidence of notifiable infectious disease. There has been no serious epidemic, the notifications and the mortality approximating to the average for the past ten years.

The clinical type of scarlet fever continues to be mild.

No cases of diphtheria occurred for the seventh year.

Whilst the complete absence of diphtheria for the seventh year in succession is a very satisfying experience, it is feared that there is danger of complacency leading to neglect of immunisation against this dread disease.

Antitoxin is available to all medical practitioners at Park Hospital, Flixton.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

This is now a function of the Divisional Health Committee. Material for immunisation is available for use by General Practitioners on application at the Divisional Health Offices and the Town Hall, Stretford.

Immunisation is also carried out at each of the County Council School Clinics and Child Welfare Centres in the Borough.

The following table shows the immunisation rate at 31st December, 1958.

	At ages (years)		
	0—5	5—15	Total
No. immunised during the year ended 31.12.58	674	67	741
Total immunised at 31.12.58	2,850	9,957	12,807
Immunity Index at 31.12.58	51.3	29.3	36.6

Whooping Cough and Measles

There were no deaths from measles or whooping cough.

Puerperal Pyrexia

Five cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. Three of these patients were confined in hospital and two at home. All were investigated, and in none was there any evidence of streptococcal infection.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

Food Poisoning

There were 2 cases of food poisoning of the B.Coli 055 type.

Dysentery

There were 55 confirmed cases of sonne dysentery, including three outbreaks at day nurseries involving forty-six cases.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There were nine confirmed cases of acute poliomyelitis during the year.

The following table gives the incidence of poliomyelitis in the Borough since 1945 :—

Year	Age incidence under 1 year				Over 1 year						Total
	0-2 mths.	3-5 mths.	6-8 mths.	9-11 mths.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6+ yrs.	
1945	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	4	9
1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
1949	—	—	1†	—	2	2	2	1	1	6	15
1950	—	2*	—	—	3	1	1	1	—	8	16
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
1952	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
1953	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
1954	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1956	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	10	14
1957	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	—	1	2	9
TOTAL	—	3	2	1	7	6	7	3	9	34	72

* Patients had not received any immunising inoculations during the 12 months preceding the date of onset of symptoms—fatal.

† Patients had not received any immunising inoculations during the 12 months preceding the date of onset of symptoms—some paralysis.

There has been no evidence to suggest any causal connection between immunisation against diphtheria and onset of poliomyelitis.

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL

Sent into Hospital as:	HOSPITAL:			TOTAL
	Ladywell Hospital	Monsall Hospital	Booth Hall Hospital	
Scarlet Fever	3	3	—	6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Septic Throat	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	7	1	10
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	2	1	4
Dysentery	2	—	—	2
Typhoid	—	3	—	3
Measles	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	2
Gastro-Enteritis	4	1	—	5
Erysipelas	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	1	1
?Meningitis	1	3	—	4
Septic Abortion	—	—	—	—
Mumps	1	—	—	1
Chicken Pox	1	—	—	1
Abortion	—	—	—	—
?Jaundice	—	—	—	—
Shingles	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	16	21	3	40

WARD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notified Disease	Ward Distribution of Cases notified										Number of Cases removed to Hospital from each Ward								
	WARDS										WARDS								
	Stretford	Longford	Talbot North	Talbot South	Trafford	Cornbrook	Clifford	Park "A"	Park "B"	Stretford	Longford	Talbot North	Talbot South	Trafford	Cornbrook	Clifford	Park "A"	Park "B"	TOTAL
Diphtheria (inc. Membranous Croup)	2	2	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas	6	6	5	2	15	10	2	1	9	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	—	7	1	3	12	19	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Typhoid Fever	—	—	2	1	2	7	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	38	2	8	15	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Measles	35	41	1	1	1	—	—	—	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	2	—	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	9
Tuberculosis: Pulmonary	2	3	7	2	1	5	8	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	3	3	2	3	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (Contracted Abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	49	67	58	15	47	61	42	4	71	—	2	1	1	4	3	2	2	6	21

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1949-1958

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	10 years mean
Scarlet Fever	56	89	23	46	7	75	188	77	103	95	75.9
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	0.1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	1.0
Pneumonia	18	24	23	20	21	26	15	37	31	37	25.2
Meningococcal Infection	—	2	2	—	3	2	—	1	—	2	1.2
Acute Encephalitis	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	0.3
Dysentery	55	427	147	233	138	67	19	30	48	—	116.4
Erysipelas	9	2	8	3	5	6	9	9	4	19	7.4
Acute Poliomyelitis	9	—	14	—	—	3	1	2	16	15	6.0
Measles	197	882	208	323	585	390	679	855	488	878	548.5
Whooping Cough	16	86	101	98	60	227	269	165	255	234	151.1

	DEATHS										10 years mean	
	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949		
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	38	26	11	31	21	22	29	19	19	33	24.9	
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	0.2	
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	0.3	
Measles	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	0.1	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES
Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified each month during 1958

Month	DIPHTHERIA (inc. Membranous Croup)	ERYSIPELAS	SCARLET FEVER	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS	PURPERAL PYREXIA	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	PNEUMONIA	FOOD POISONING	TYPHOID FEVER	DYSENTERY	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	MALARIA	AC. ENCEPHALITIS	MEASLES	WHOOPING COUGH	TOTAL
January	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	6	9
February	—	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	10
March	—	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	3	28
April	—	1	13	—	—	1	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	8	1	23
May	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	4	1	28
June	—	—	3	—	2	—	2	1	—	9	—	—	—	9	1	27
July	—	1	4	—	—	1	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	35	—	51
August	—	1	4	3	1	—	1	—	—	11	—	—	—	3	1	25
September	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	14	—	21
October	—	—	5	2	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	—	68
November	—	—	7	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	—	62
December	—	2	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	2	—	—	—	7	4	22
TOTAL	—	9	56	9	5	4	18	2	3	55	—	—	—	197	16	374

Notifications were cancelled or amended in hospital in four cases, viz. :—

In 2 cases notified as acute poliomyelitis (paralytic) diagnosis was amended to :

Enteritis 1

Acute Bronchitis 1

In one case notified as Scarlet Fever diagnosis was amended to :

Scarlet Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)
1

In one case notified as Measles diagnosis was amended to :

Scarlet Fever 1

37 cases notified as Dysentery and three cases notified as Food Poisoning were not confirmed bacteriologically.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION IN DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Patients		Contacts	
	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Swabs for Diphtheria	—	11	—	—
Swabs for Haem-Strep.	2	—	—	1
Faeces for Dysentery	177	371	—	25
Faeces for Food Poisoning	73	41	—	4
Faeces for Typhoid	3	—	—	16
Sputum for Tuberculosis	—	3	—	—

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of premises is carried out by formaldehyde spray and formalin vapour generators. Infected bedding and other articles suitable for disinfection by steam are dealt with at Ladywell Hospital, Salford. Other articles are disinfected in situ by formalin or sulphur. Full details of the work of this section of the Department are contained in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under these Regulations during the year.

Facilities for vaccination are available at all Infant Welfare Centres in the area and by all general practitioners.

CANCER

The death rate from cancer was 2.32 per 1,000 population of the Borough.

139 deaths were recorded from cancer, and these are shown by age distribution and site of disease on page 45.

At the age groups shown below the deaths from cancer are compared with total deaths:—

	At ages (years)					Total
	0—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65 and over	
Total deaths from cancer	1	6	12	48	72	139
Total deaths from all causes	56	23	43	157	446	725
Percentage of cancer deaths to total deaths	1.78	26.08	27.90	30.57	16.14	19.17

DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1958

Site of Disease and Age at Death

CANCER (site)	At all Ages	At Ages (years)				
		0 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and over
Brain	3	—	—	—	2	1
Nasopharynx	1	—	—	—	—	1
Larynx	2	—	—	—	1	1
Oesophagus	5	—	—	—	—	5
Throat and Tongue	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchus	32	—	1	5	16	10
Lung	9	—	—	1	2	6
Breast	10	—	—	2	2	6
Abdomen	1	—	—	—	1	—
Stomach	18	—	1	—	9	8
Intestine	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pelvic Bone	1	1	—	—	—	—
Liver	5	—	1	—	—	4
Liver and Lung	1	—	—	—	—	1
Liver and Colon	1	—	—	—	—	1
Liver and Pancreas	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gall Bladder	1	—	—	—	—	1
Colon	10	—	—	—	2	8
Pancreas	8	—	2	1	2	3
Caecum	1	—	—	—	—	1
Kidney	2	—	—	1	—	1
Bladder	4	—	—	—	2	2
Rectum	6	—	—	1	3	2
Ovary	5	—	—	—	2	3
Uterus	2	—	—	—	1	1
Cervix	1	—	—	—	1	—
Vagina	1	—	—	—	1	—
Prostate	5	—	—	—	1	4
Testes	1	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	139	1	6	12	48	72

TUBERCULOSIS

35 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 9 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis but no deaths from non-pulmonary forms of the disease.

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the register at 31st December, 1958, is shown in the following table :—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
184	161	345	19	14	33	203	175	378

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1958

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years:								
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2-	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
35-	6	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
45-	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-	1	3	1	—	4	—	—	—
65-	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
75 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	19	16	3	2	7	2	—	—
	35		5		9		—	

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality, 1949-1958

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1949	33	20	5	7	17	7	1	2
1950	35	20	5	5	10	6	—	2
1951	46	26	4	8	10	1	2	1
1952	27	29	3	2	13	6	—	1
1953	28	27	3	5	15	3	—	2
1954	22	13	—	8	5	3	—	—
1955	28	18	4	3	9	3	2	2
1956	20	14	1	3	11	—	5	1
1957	18	13	2	—	4	3	—	—
1958	19	16	3	2	7	2	—	—

The Chest Clinic is situated at Stretford Memorial Hospital, where all facilities for diagnosis and ambulatory treatment are available.

CASES NOTIFIED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1952

	Quarter ending:					TOTAL
	March 31st	June 30th	Sept. 30th	Dec. 31st		
PULMONARY—						
Lungs	10	8	9	8	35	
Lungs and Neck Glands	—	—	—	—	—	
Pleura	—	—	—	—	—	
Apex	—	—	—	—	—	
Chest	—	—	—	—	—	
Hilar Glands and Chest	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	10	8	9	8	35	
NON-PULMONARY—						
<i>Alimentary :</i>						
Peritoneum	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Glands :</i>						
Mesenteric	—	—	—	—	—	
Auxiliary	—	—	—	—	—	
Abdominal	—	—	—	—	—	
Cervical	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Genito-Urinary :</i>						
Epididymis	—	—	—	1	1	
Endome Trium	—	—	—	1	1	
Renal Tract	—	1	—	—	1	
<i>Joints and Bones :</i>						
Spine	—	—	—	—	—	
Rib	—	—	—	—	—	
Neck (Lupus)	—	1	—	—	1	
Meninges	—	—	—	—	—	
Face	1	—	—	—	1	
.....	1	2	—	2	5	
TOTAL	11	10	9	10	40	
GRAND TOTAL—PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY	11	10	9	10	40	

Non-Notified Tuberculosis

There was one death from tuberculosis which had not been previously notified :—

A man aged 74 : Certified cause of death—

- I (a) Heart Failure
- (b) Chronic Myocarditis
- (c) Arteriosclerosis

II Chronic Pulmonary Tuberculosis

No action has been required under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Removal of Persons in need of care and attention

There was one occasion during the year under review to make application to a Justice of the Peace for the removal of an aged and infirm person living in insanitary conditions and unable to devote to himself, and not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. The patient was still in the chronic sick ward at the end of the year.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958

To the Chairman and Members
of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Tenth Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Inspectorate in relation to environmental hygiene and the operations of the Cleansing Service.

During the year the staffing position has been satisfactory and this has enabled all the usual routine work to be undertaken together with the duties and responsibilities placed on the Council by newly-introduced Statutes and Regulations appropriate to public health. All activities reported upon in the following pages have a significant bearing upon environmental sanitation, and neglect of any one aspect of public health administration could easily result in adverse circumstances. Accordingly, the resources of the Department are at all times engaged in the maintenance of services at the highest possible level of efficiency and the expertise developed by the staff is employed in every appropriate channel of health education.

Attention is especially directed to probable changes which may confront the Committee in the near future. Firstly, I must mention the problem of domestic smoke which undoubtedly ranks as one of the pressing public health questions of the hour. There is every reason for pressing forward with the programme for Smoke Control Orders, and in order to make adequate progress in the creation of smoke control areas it will be necessary to employ one or more technical assistants for survey work and supervision.

Secondly, there appears to be an indication of change in the activities of the Department in the realm of meat inspection at time of slaughter. All local authorities are being called

upon to report to the Ministry in respect of the adequacy of slaughtering facilities. The only provision made within the Borough for slaughtering is at Mode Wheel, and as more food animals are killed there than are required to meet the demand of the meat consuming public in Stretford, such facilities are obviously adequate. The City of Manchester Markets Committee exercise ownership of Mode Wheel Slaughterhouses and its continued operation is in some doubt owing to the erection of a new model abattoir at Newton Heath to replace the outmoded abattoir at Water Street. Attempts will be made to clarify the position during the coming months.

Thirdly, a change is foreshadowed in the pages which follow in relation to the changing characteristics of house refuse and the resultant effect upon vehicle design. Rear loading vehicles with arrangements for compressing the load have proved their value in actual service and the men employed on this work have been quick to realise the superiority of the design. It seems clear that preference should be given to this type of vehicle as against the side loading machine when future replacements are contemplated.

My thanks are again due to members of the Committee and Town Council for the keen interest displayed in the work of the Department and for the continued support which they have given by way of policy decisions. To all colleagues likewise I wish to express my appreciation for the co-operation received and the willing manner in which the many and varied duties of the staff have been undertaken.

Yours obediently,

J. KAY,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

(1) **INSPECTION OF DISTRICT**

(a) **Investigation of complaints**

Year by year complaints are recorded in the complaints register in respect of unsatisfactory environmental conditions. These reports are made both verbally at the office or received in writing and during the year under review they totalled 1,092 complaints. The nature of reports received followed the usual pattern for a normal year and a classified statement is shown :—

Nature of Complaint	Number Received
Obstructed drains	43
Obstructed cellar drains	13
Obstructed water closet	12
Obstructed yard drains	6
Defective water closet	18
Defective plaster	2
Defective dustbin	466
Defective house roof	66
Defective floors.....	4
Defective windows	5
Defective fireplaces	7
Defective wall	1
Defective gutters	23
Defective chimneys	5
Defective drains	18
Dampness of house	44
Accumulation of refuse	14
Dirty house	3
General insanitary conditions	33
Houses infested with vermin	105
Rats and mice infesting dwellings	117
Requests for Inspector to call (nature of complaint not stated)	5
Food	7
Miscellaneous	75
Total	1,092

(b) Summary of visits for all purposes

Visits and inspections undertaken by the Public Health staff vary in their nature and arise from specific reports of insanitary conditions, defects or infringements of the public health code.

During the year 12,653 visits were made, including re-inspections for the purpose of checking and supervising remedial measures. The total number of visits shows an increase over previous years and in order to show the volume and the variety of the work undertaken by your inspectors the visits have been suitably analysed in the table below.

It is interesting to note the variations in the work undertaken and the time involved in different duties for this does reflect, to some extent, the activity of Parliament in enacting measures concerned with environmental health.

New legislation includes measures for rent control, which is linked with a standard of repair of dwellinghouses, and also the provisions of the Clean Air Act which are aimed at securing a purer atmosphere in urban areas.

In the sphere of housing further activity is foreshadowed by projected legislation which promises to introduce additional grants for the provision of modern amenities in dwellinghouses.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	Number
Houses—	
Public Health Acts	1,928
Housing Acts	192
Infectious Diseases	369
Overcrowding	9
Drainage Inspections and Tests	1,835
Canal Boats	1
Houses let in lodgings	81
Rivers and Streams	13
Tents, Vans and Sheds	27
Stables and Piggeries	9
Rats and Mice Infestation	284
Factories with Power	169
" without Power	15
Workplaces	12
Outworkers' rooms	48
Bakehouses	44
Public Conveniences	3
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	9
Schools	31
Shop Acts	150
Petroleum Acts	215
Vacant Land and Dumps	45
Common Yards and Passages	29
Interviews with Owners, etc.	387
Miscellaneous Visits	1,594
Vermin	654
Offices	24
Re-visits to premises under notice—Public Health Act	2,920
" " " " —Housing Act	38
Offensive Trades	11
Smoke Observations	154
Boiler Plant	272
Rent Act	396
Smoke Control Area Survey	199
 MEAT AND FOODS—	
Slaughterhouses	299
Butchers' Shops and Stores	112
Fishmongers and Poulterers	19
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	51
Grocers and other Food Shops	171
Fried Fish Shops	14
Dairies and Milkshops	43
Food Vehicles	6
Ice Cream Premises	43
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	197
Other Food Premises	222
Milk Samples	85
Food and Drugs Samples	194
Ice Cream Samples	23
Other Samples	6
Water Samples	1
TOTAL	12,653

(c) **Resultant Action**

The various inspections mentioned in the preceding paragraph usually result in the service of notices for the abatement of public health nuisances and the amelioration of unsatisfactory conditions. The majority of informal notices received prompt attention by the person responsible, but in other cases formal action had to be taken, including in some instances, the institution of legal proceedings.

The number of intimation notices served during the year totalled 717, in addition to which many verbal intimations received attention. In cases where work was not undertaken promptly 346 formal notices were issued with the authority of the Health Committee and the majority of these were complied with before the end of the year.

The following statement shows the action taken in connection with statutory notices and the nature of the work involved :—

STATUTORY NOTICES

Section of Act	Subject	Out-standing 31st Dec., 1957	Served	Abated	Out-standing 31st Dec., 1958
Public Health Act, 1936	Maintenance of a length of public sewer	—	33	33	—
24	Drainage	10	120	107	23
39	Defective Ventilation Shaft	2	—	2	—
40	Defective Water-closet	4	20	23	1
45	Defective paving to yards and passages	—	4	4	—
56	Provision of dustbins	—	1	—	1
75	Conditions prejudicial to health	28	158	159	27
91-100 Housing Act 1957	General Housing Defects	—	4	—	4
9	Time and Place Notices	1	3	4	—
16	Demolition Order	—	3	1	2
17(1)					
	TOTAL	45	346	333	58

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied	Number
Houses—	
Chimneys and stacks repaired	21
Ceiling plaster repaired	74
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed	2
Dampness abated	44
Doors repaired or renewed	5
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed.....	300
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	13
Floors repaired or renewed	42
Repairs to water supplies	2
Roofs repaired or renewed	300
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	98
Sinks repaired or renewed	4
Sashcords provided	36
Stairs repaired or renewed	5
Ventilation provided	2
Walls (external) re-pointed, etc.	56
Wall plaster repaired	106
Windows repaired or renewed	70
Water supplies provided	2
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	41
Yards and passages paved or repaired	18
Gratings to cellar areas repaired	6
Coal shutes repaired	2
Drainage—	
Drains cleared of obstruction	72
Drains repaired or reconstructed	63
Soil ventilation stack repaired	3
Water closets—	
New water closets provided	6
Water closet compartments repaired	28
Water closet cleansed	2

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied—continued

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied	Number
Water closets (continued)—	
Water closet pedestals provided	3
Water closet cisterns provided or repaired.....	6
Water closet flush pipes repaired or renewed	2
Water closet pedestal seats repaired or renewed	1
Dangerous compartments demolished	1
Dustbins—	
New dustbins provided	1 961
Miscellaneous—	
Offensive accumulations removed	11
Dirty premises cleansed	3
Dangerous structure made safe	1
Contraventions remedied in—	
Slaughterhouses	1
Shops	2
Food premises generally	20
Factories and workplaces	1
Total.....	3,436

(2) **FOOD CONTROL**

(a) **Meat Inspection at time of Slaughter**

The standard of animal health in the food animals brought forward for slaughter during the calendar year 1958 was less favourable than during the preceding year. A total of 42,791 animals were slaughtered at the Mode Wheel Abattoir and all were examined for the presence of disease. This represents an increased throughput of food animals and the incidence of disease was higher than for the past two or three years despite the overall tendency for the country as a whole of a marked reduction in the incidence of disease, especially tuberculosis, to be evident.

The following tables show the undoubted necessity of routine meat inspection, in order to prevent diseased and unwholesome meat from reaching the general public:—

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INCIDENCE OF DISEASE

1958	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	3,326	1911	16	33,697	3,841
Number inspected } All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	6	3	49	5
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	541	447	—	780	144
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	16.2%	23.1%	18.7%	2.4%	3.9%
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses con- demned	4	21	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	98	209	—	—	52
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.06%	12.03%	—	—	1.7%
Cysticercosis: Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	—	—	—	—

WHOLE CARCASSES CONDEMNED

Disease	Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Generalised Tuberculosis ...	21	2	2	—	—	—	1
Cysticercus Bovis ...	—	5	3	—	1	—	—
Acute Septic Pericarditis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Septic Peritonitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dead on arrival ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Emaciation ...	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Fevered ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund ...	—	—	—	—	1	7	—
Oedema ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Osteomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Acute Septic Mastitis... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Decomposition ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Leukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gangrene ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

In the interests of public health all diseased and unwholesome butchers' meat is treated with green stain prior to collection for processing into fertilisers and animal feed-stuffs. The total weight dealt with in this way amounted to 23 tons, 18 cwts., 3 qrs., 25 lbs. and the proceeds from this material totalled £551 14s. 8d. It is customary to credit the slaughtering firms with 75 per cent. of these proceeds, the balance being used to offset the cost of handling the material and making proper arrangements for its disposal.

(b) Food other than Butchers' Meat

The routine inspection of a wide range of other foodstuffs is undertaken in food shops, warehouses and food factories. Wherever human food is sold, exposed for sale, or intended for sale, the Department undertake its examination as occasion demands. During the year the following quantities of the foodstuffs indicated were found to be unfit for human consumption and for that reason were surrendered for proper disposal :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Canned Meat	2	11	1	0
Canned Fruit	—	10	3	22
Canned Fish.....	—	—	1	8
Fresh Meat	—	4	2	27
Fowl	—	—	2	20
Smoked Meat and Bacon	—	11	2	6
Miscellaneous	—	1	3	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	1	1	21

(c) Food Sampling and Testing

An important aspect of food control is the regular sampling of articles of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, synthetic cream and imitation cream.

Sampling continued during the year and the results in respect of food and drugs and milk will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

The results for ice cream sampling were, on the whole, satisfactory only two samples being regarded as below standard. The following table shows the results obtained from routine samplings :

Results of Ice Cream Testing

Bacteriological	Grade	1	2	3	4
Loose ice cream (manufactured in Stretford)	7	1	1	—
Loose ice cream (manufactured elsewhere)	3	1	1	—
Wrapped ice cream (manufactured elsewhere)	12	—	—	—
		22	2	2	—

Four samples of imitation cream were satisfactory.

Chemical	Fat Content	
	More than 10%	5-10%
Loose ice cream (manufactured in Stretford)	—	4
Loose ice cream (manufactured elsewhere)	1	—
Wrapped ice cream (manufactured elsewhere)	11	—
	12	4

Three samples of imitation cream were examined and found to be genuine.

(d) Food Hygiene

Continued progress has been made during the year in the promotion of hygienic standards in premises concerned with the sale, storage and preparation of food. The food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, have been in operation for three full years and have enabled not only the provision of adequate fittings and equipment, but have also enabled a stricter control of food handling to be exercised.

The number of visits made to such premises totalled 1,459 and the Regulations were invoked in many instances to secure improvements.

An extension of the hygienic control of food premises was introduced during the year and as from the 1st January, 1959, the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, will be available for the promotion of hygienic practices in slaughterhouses. This will bring these premises into line with all food preparing premises to which the 1955 Regulations apply, but special measures appropriate to the circumstances of the butchering trade will be introduced.

Despite the improving standards in food hygiene, cases are reported from time to time of contaminated food. This usually takes the form of the introduction of some foreign body during preparation and nine such instances occurred during the year under review. In six cases the circumstances were not of undue severity, or the evidence was not considered suitable to support prosecution and, therefore, warning letters were sent to the offending firms. In three cases, however, legal proceedings were instituted and these prosecutions resulted in penalties not only against the firm concerned, but in one case, against the shop manager, and in two cases, against the shop assistant.

(e) **Food Premises**

There are 489 premises within the district engaged in the sale and preparation of food, and the standard of construction was found to be generally satisfactory upon the visits and inspections which were made during the year and which totalled 1,459. The structural condition of the premises has shown a gradual improvement over the past few years, due to the Department's efforts in health education of food traders and the award of Food Hygiene Certificates in respect of premises attaining a suitable high standard. This educational work has, of course, to be reinforced by the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Although the registration of all food premises is not a statutory responsibility there are included in the total number 181 premises which are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. These premises are used for the manufacture, or sale, of ice cream and preserved foods, and during the year 206 inspections were undertaken.

(3) PREVENTION OF AIR POLLUTION

(a) Measurements of Pollution

Records of the pollution of the atmosphere have been collected over a period of ten years under the auspices of nine local authorities in the region south-west from Manchester. This investigation was commenced owing to the foresight of members of this and adjoining councils, and the stage has now been reached when reliable information is available and significant conclusions can be reached. During the year under review extra instruments were sited in the Borough and this will enable a more balanced picture of the pattern of pollution to be reached. It is already apparent from an appraisal from results obtained for the past three years that the weight of visible pollution in the Trafford Park area is being progressively reduced.

The following tables show the results obtained at stations within the Borough in respect of the activity of sulphur dioxide and the estimation of deposited matter. The results are also expressed graphically, and the opportunity has been taken to show in graph form the progressive reduction in visible pollution recorded in Trafford Park. When compared with the previous year the improvement in the case of the summer months ended 30th September, 1958, represents a reduction of 16.76 per cent., and in the case of the twelve months ended 30th September, 1958, a reduction of 17.5 per cent. The improvements recorded are due, to some extent, to varying climatological conditions, but also reflect the action taken by the local authority and industry in relation to the Clean Air Act, 1956.

ESTIMATION OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE expressed as mgm SO₃/day/100 cm² Batch A.Pb02 Monthly Results—1958

Month	STATIONS				
	Longford Park	Lostock Library	Metro-Vick Mosley Road	Metro-Vick West Works	Victoria Park
Jan. ...	2.57	2.44	8.47	5.97	2.57
Feb. ...	3.05	3.33	8.06	6.42	2.84
March ...	2.99	4.03	6.17	5.52	3.53
April ...	2.17	2.91	6.08	3.29	2.12
May ...	1.07	1.79	5.63	3.87	1.47
June ...	1.14	1.69	7.20	4.24	1.32
July ...	0.92	1.38	10.12	4.33	1.04
August ...	0.68	1.65	3.90	3.63	0.93
Sept. ...	0.90	1.70	3.77	3.16	1.16
Oct. ...	1.47	2.09	5.36	4.76	1.62
Nov. ...	2.51	3.68	4.23	4.71	3.65
Dec. ...	1.83	4.47	5.11	4.69	3.98

ESTIMATION OF DEPOSITED MATTER

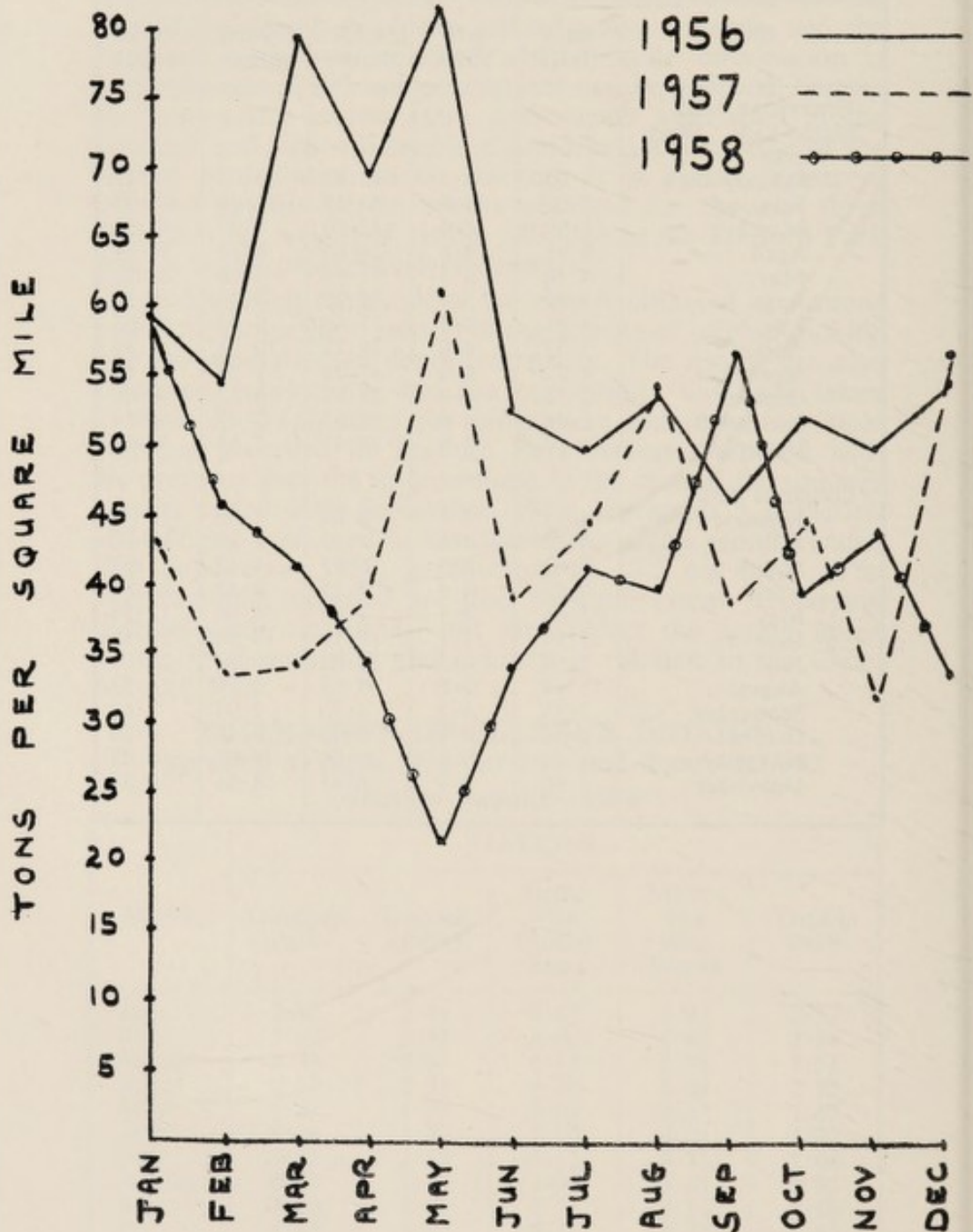
by Deposit Gauges

Monthly Deposits—Tons per square mile

1958

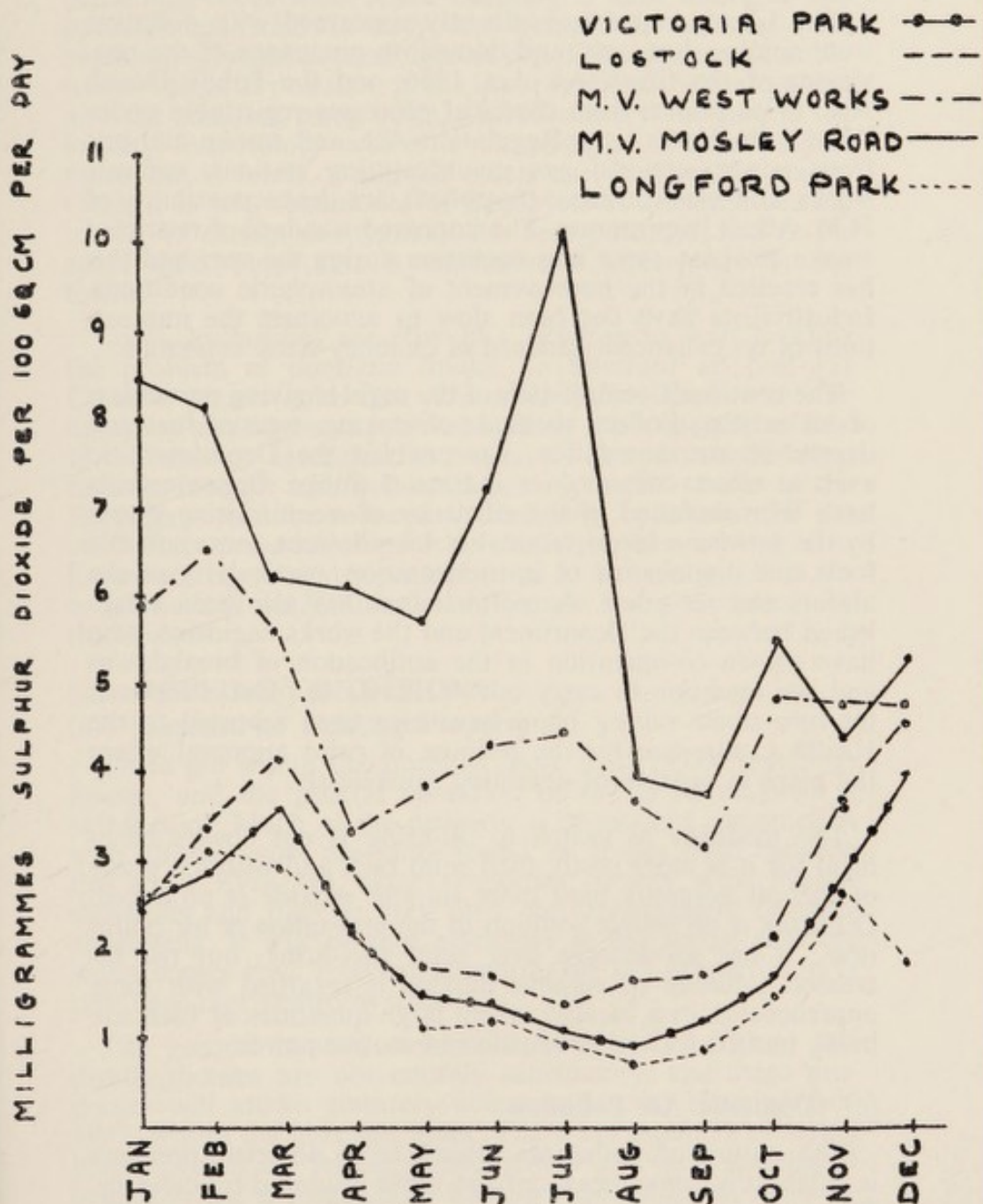
Site	Rain (ins.)	pH Value	Insoluble matter	Soluble matter	Total Solids
STRETFORD M.B. Metro-Vick, West Works					
January 1958 ...	4.02	4.1	43.12	15.03	58.15
February ...	5.08	3.9	33.19	12.80	45.99
March ...	1.89	4.6	32.60	8.70	41.39
April ...	0.91	4.8	28.61	6.33	34.94
May ...	4.10	4.3	11.15	9.96	21.11
June ...	3.59	3.9	26.22	8.34	34.56
July ...	4.81	4.5	31.45	9.53	40.98
August ...	5.52	4.6	29.12	10.74	39.86
September ...	4.22	4.4	47.28	9.59	56.87
October ...	2.36	4.0	29.87	8.22	38.09
November ...	1.46	4.0	35.67	7.47	43.14
December ...	3.19	3.8	25.41	7.58	32.99
Longford Park					
January, 1958 ...	4.33	4.1	8.09	7.66	15.75
February ...	4.89	4.6	8.12	8.28	16.40
March ...	1.89	4.3	6.95	4.12	11.07
April ...	0.87	4.6	8.15	2.65	10.80
May ...	3.66	4.1	7.90	4.66	12.56
June ...	3.59	7.1	11.19	15.36	26.55
July ...	4.69	4.5	10.02	10.09	21.01
August ...	5.44	5.0	8.63	6.29	14.92
September ...	3.35	4.3	4.70	2.99	7.69
October ...	2.56	4.1	5.40	3.40	8.80
November ...	1.46	4.1	9.86	3.96	13.82
December ...	3.90	3.9	6.41	4.46	10.87

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION
DEPOSITED MATTER
TRAFFORD PARK, WEST WORKS



ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

ACTIVITY OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE - 1958



(b) Industrial Air Pollution

There are numerous sources which give rise to the total pollution of the atmosphere. In the main, the pollution arises from combustion of fuel in steam-raising plants, chemical processes, and mechanical transport.

The Local Authority is directly concerned with pollution from smoke, dust, grit, and odours, in pursuance of the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Public Health Act, 1936. Fumes from chemical processes registrable under the Alkali Works, etc., Regulation Act, and smoke and grit from power stations, gas manufacturing stations, ceramic works, and blast furnaces (hot blast), are the responsibility of H.M. Alkali Inspectorate. The improved standard of restricted smoke emission came into operation during the year and this has resulted in the improvement of atmospheric conditions. Industrialists have not been slow to anticipate the implications of an enhanced standard of chimney-stack emissions.

The continued compilation of the register giving particulars of all existing boilers, methods of stoking, type of fuel and degree of instrumentation, has enabled the Department to exercise closer control over industrial smoke. Improvements have been recorded in the efficiency of steam-raising plants by the provision of mechanical stoking devices, more suitable fuels, and a wider use of instrumentation, particularly smoke alarms and recorders. A useful liaison has also been established between the Department and the works engineers, who have shown co-operation in the notification of breakdowns and the intention to carry out overhauls to plant. Proposals for new steam-raising plant have also been reported to the Health Committee for the purpose of prior approval where the plant is capable of operating smokelessly.

The tendency to switch to oil-firing is not always beneficial for it is more costly than solid fuel, and with the grade of fuel-oil normally used more sulphur dioxide is produced. Oil-firing is no simple solution to the prevention of air pollution; it has advantages over solid fuel-firing, but the increased emission of sulphur dioxide is regarded with some apprehension in a locality where large quantities of fuels are being burned for the production of motive power.

(c) Domestic Air Pollution

The nature of pollutants arising from domestic premises is different in some measure from those produced by industry. The pollution arises at a comparatively low level, and the smoke produced is of a tarry nature at a relatively low temperature. Whereas the experts have recognised the danger of

these low level sources of pollution for many years, the public are only now realising that domestic smoke is an urgent problem of environment. Although the pollution is fairly readily dispersed during favourable weather, the reverse is true under adverse climatological conditions. Such weather conditions occur when space warming is most desirable and householders wish to keep the home fires burning (and smoking) all night in conditions of fog. This adds considerably to the weight of pollution in the lower levels of the atmosphere and the resultant smog quickly invades every building in the locality. Bituminous coal is a raw material of great importance, but in terms of national assets coal is relatively scarce. Coal, it is felt, should not be destroyed in domestic heating merely to extract one-tenth of the heat potential, and at the same time, perpetuate a smoke-laden atmosphere in our towns.

Local Authorities are now in a position to start tackling the problem of domestic smoke. In Stretford all post-war Council houses and flats are already furnished with the approved appliances capable of burning solid smokeless fuels. If the tenancy agreement in respect of the use of smokeless fuels is brought into full operation, domestic smoke in the Borough would be reduced immediately by almost 10 per cent. Recommendations for an initial smoke control area have been considered repeatedly, and at some length, and the conclusions of the Health Committee now await acceptance by the Council.

(4) HOUSING CONDITIONS

(a) Standard of Existing Property

There are within the Borough more than 18,000 dwelling-houses, and the general condition of the great majority is satisfactory. Much of the property is of modern construction with all the usual amenities found in houses built between the wars. Even the older properties comply with byelaw standards and there is very little bad arrangement or overshadowing. It will be seen elsewhere in the report that the worst houses have received attention, for 107 properties have now been represented as unfit.

The general housing conditions in a further 800 or 900 dwellinghouses are not entirely satisfactory, and these properties will attract statutory action under the Housing Act, 1957, within the next ten years. There are numbers of larger houses which are let off in rooms and a certain amount of overcrowding is found from time to time. Many of the sub-tenants in this type of housing accommodation are applicants on the Council's normal waiting list, which at the end of the year included 1,210 families.

(b) Repairs to Dwellinghouse Property

Year by year a large portion of the District Inspector's time is accounted for by the supervision of housing repairs. The need to conserve dwellinghouse property is evident from pronouncements by experts in this aspect of social welfare, and also this need to preserve the stock of fit dwellings is emphasised by Government action. The impact of the Rent Act on dwellinghouse repairs has been favourable, and landlords are now maintaining their dwellinghouse property to a higher standard, in order to comply with the provisions of the Act which link the state of repair to the permitted rent chargeable to the tenant.

The following table shows the action taken in connection with applications made under the Rent Act, 1957, since it came into operation and during the course of 1958, 369 visits were made to dwellinghouses for the purpose of checking items of disrepair.

Attention is also being directed at national level to the introduction of standard grants for the progressive improvement of dwellinghouses where amenities are below modern standards. It is anticipated that the implementation of a system of grants which will normally be available to a landlord or owner-occupier as of right, will lead eventually to an enhanced statutory standard of fitness for dwellinghouses.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

	1957	1958
Applications by tenants	106	144
Decisions not to issue	9	—
Decisions to issue	26	144
Undertakings given by landlords	59	109
Undertakings refused by Local Authority	—	—
Certificates issued	26	43

Application for Cancellation

Applications by landlords	5	19
Objections by tenants	—	3
Decisions to cancel in spite of tenants' objections	—	—
Certificates cancelled	2	18

(c) Clearance of Unfit Dwellings

Statutory action for the clearance of insanitary dwellings has been proceeding over the past four years, and with the preparation of two further areas for representation as clearance areas, the majority of the worst properties will be dealt with by early 1959.

The balance of unfit houses which are considered ripe for clearance is relatively small and the first five-year programme, when completed, will have accounted for the demolition of some 120 premises.

On completion of this initial programme some sub-standard properties will still remain, but there are no groups of dwellings which are uniformly unfit, for those which are approaching the statutory standard of unfitness are interspersed with houses which are reasonably fit for human habitation.

Because effective slum clearance action may only be taken in respect of isolated dwellings, it appears that further progress can only be made adopting redevelopment procedure. This would involve the acquisition of larger areas of sub-standard property by agreement, in order to provide an area of sufficient size and suitable shape for redevelopment.

(d) Redevelopment of Closely Built Areas

Both in Clifford Ward and Cornbrook Ward, as indicated in the previous paragraph, there are areas of closely built property which are reasonably fit for human habitation, although not possessing amenities up to modern standards. Repeated surveys of the areas have shown that many of the dwellings have an estimated life of from ten to fifteen years, and it is debatable whether the Council should encourage the provision of modern amenities in dwellings of this character. Broadly speaking, the housing conditions in the areas are approaching the border line which separates houses capable of improvement from houses which are incapable of being improved at a reasonable cost. Comprehensive redevelopment of these localities has been discussed, but this of course, would involve compensation resulting in a more expensive site than if the housing conditions were such that slum clearance action could be invoked.

The extension of industrial development in the Trafford Park area has now resulted in the dwellinghouses between First Avenue and Fourth Avenue being entirely surrounded by factories, which seriously detract from the amenities by reason of industrial noise and the inevitable dust, fumes and

odours associated with such a varied industrial development. Enlightened opinion is beginning to visualise the eventual acquisition of these dwellinghouses and the re-housing of displaced families at a reasonable distance from the industrial trading estate. Such a project would be one of some magnitude, as approximately one thousand families would be involved, not to mention shopping facilities and other aspects of social life. If cleared in this manner the land would undoubtedly possess a high value for industrial use and its employment for that purpose would result in increased contributions to the rate fund.

(5) OTHER FACTORS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

The promotion of improved environmental conditions covers many aspects of daily living and, accordingly, the Department concerns itself with almost every item which affects the health, nutrition, cleanliness and welfare of the public. There are notable exceptions, however, in particular, excessive noise and the dangers of radiation, concerning which no statutory powers exist to safeguard the general public. Informal action is taken from time to time to suppress excessive noise, and during the past year efforts have been made to focus attention on the need for some form of Local Authority control in respect of sources of radioactivity.

In addition, therefore, to the duties already described in relation to general inspections, food control, prevention of air pollution and the amelioration of housing conditions, the following are the constant concern of the Inspectorate.

(a) Control of Prescribed Premises

During the year 150 visits were made to shops and 24 inspections of offices were carried out in relation to the health and comfort of shop and office workers. No special action was called for during the year, as the premises usually conform to the standards of amenity required by the Department. Enforcement of closing hours, restriction of Sunday trading and compliance with local requirements in the employment of shop assistants also called for attention in relation to shops. The cinemas in the Borough are maintained to a high standard of hygiene and amenity and the nine visits paid during the year confirm that any defects arising receive prompt attention.

Inspection of schools were continued during the year, and 31 visits were made to the 25 schools within the Borough. The condition of sanitary accommodation, drainage, yard surfaces, washing accommodation and facilities for taking meals, are

checked from time to time. Any defects which need to be reported to the Borough Education Officer receive early attention and the sanitary condition generally is of a good standard.

Visits were also made to factories during the year to check on sanitary accommodation and for this purpose 169 visits were made. Additional visits were made to 15 workplaces where mechanical power is not employed, and 12 visits were made to constructional works where buildings were in course of erection.

There are three offensive trades on the register which call for routine visits to check compliance with requirements of bye-laws. Two of these premises are concerned with fat melting and one with gut scraping. Eleven visits were made to these premises by your inspectors, but no special action was found necessary.

Other premises calling for supervision are tents, vans and sheds. No licences to station caravans within the Borough were issued during the year, but twenty-seven visits were necessary in order to secure the removal of caravans which occupied vacant plots of land for varying periods, in some cases in excess of the forty-two days permitted by the Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) **Drainage**

In a built-up area, such as the Borough of Stretford, constant attention must be paid to the preservation of sanitary circumstances, and the inspection and testing of drainage systems, both new and existing, forms an important part of this work. During the year it was necessary to carry out 1,835 drainage inspections and tests. Subsequent notices calling for repair or reconstruction of defective drains were carried out expeditiously, but recourse had to be taken to statutory action in relation to 120 defective drains and 20 instances of faulty sanitary conditions. Where undue delay occurred the necessary work was carried out in default, and the expenditure incurred was recharged to the owners of the property.

Where combined drains serve two or more separate premises the Public Health Act places upon Local Authorities the duty of cleansing, maintaining and repairing such combined drains, except for drains constructed after the 1st October, 1937. During the course of the year it was found necessary to undertake works of maintenance in respect of 27 blocks of property involving the expenditure of £455 16s. 1d., which was subsequently apportioned to the respective owners.

(c) Insanitary Dwellings

Cases arise year by year of dwellinghouses which have been neglected due to the age and infirmity of the occupants and the Department is called upon to deal with the unsatisfactory conditions and the accumulation of refuse within the house which so often results. This is a problem which becomes acute when aged individuals are living alone and are unable to devote to themselves proper care and attention. In the absence of outside help it is sometimes necessary to arrange their removal to hostel or hospital accommodation and the Department usually clears up prior to their return. One such case was dealt with during 1958.

Similar circumstances require the attention of the Department in cases where destitute persons die in insanitary conditions, and here the Department has the added duty of arranging for burial in accordance with the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951.

(d) Pest Control

During the year the number of houses found to be infested with insect pests, notably cockroaches, bed-bugs, fleas and ants, totalled 117. The disinfection of the affected houses was carried out by the Department employing Gammexane and D.D.T. formulations, since none of the infestations were so entrenched as to require H.C.N. fumigation. Whereas some of these cases of infestation were found upon complaints, others arose by the routine inspection of the homes of applicants on the Council's waiting list for housing accommodation. In all such instances, the furniture and belongings of tenants are treated prior to removal to the new accommodation. Furthermore, all Council houses which become vacant are subject to inspection for evidence of vermin. In addition to the necessary treatments, personal interviews by the Public Health Inspectors are aimed at the education of tenants with a view to preventing re-infestations.

The control of rats and mice is regarded as a duty of paramount importance, because adequate repressive measures are essential in order to maintain control of these prolific pests. The Council is entrusted by statute with the duty of ensuring that the district is kept free from rats and mice, in order to prevent damage to property, destruction and waste of food-stuffs, and to counteract the possibility of serious infection. There are two lines of attack against the problem, and measures are taken by the rodent control section in respect both of surface infestations and also infestations of the sewerage system.

The following table indicates the volume of work undertaken to combat surface infestations :—

SURFACE INFESTATION

Type of Property	Premises Treated	Number of Inspections	Rats Killed	Mice Killed
Local Authority	52	108	89	65
Dwelling Houses.....	161	615	52	266
Agricultural Land	14	23	6	66
Miscellaneous Premises	1,105	1,766	260	2,108
TOTALS	1,332	2,512	407	2,505

The maintenance treatment of sewers was undertaken twice during the year under review in accordance with the guidance afforded by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The development of this Division since the war years has done a great deal to minimise the problem of rat infestation in sewers, and further help is afforded by six-monthly meetings of Local Advisory Committees covering all the south-east corner of Lancashire. The new technique of prolonged baiting was continued and showed even further success as compared with the previous year and the following table shows that the area of known infestation has been further reduced.

It appears probable that a total clearance of the sewers may be achieved within the not too distant future and this in turn will have a beneficial effect upon surface infestations :

	1957		1958	
	March	September	March	September
Total Number of Manholes	1,994	1,994	1,991	1,991
Number of Manholes Baited	124	100	68	41
Number of Manholes showing pre-bait take	85	73	15	5
Number of Manholes showing complete pre-bait take	67	37	—	—

(e) **Public Safety**

Supervision of arrangements for the storage of petroleum spirit, petroleum mixtures, and carbide of calcium, is undertaken by the Department in the interests of public safety. The testing of underground tanks, repair and renewal of fittings

and supervision of installations involved the Department in 215 inspections, in addition to the scrutiny of plans for new installations. The issue of storage licences covered 168 premises, and licence fees amounted to £130 5s. 0d.

Duties under the Explosives Act and Regulations called for the registration of 84 premises for the sale of fireworks. In accordance with usual practice a circular letter was issued to retailers of fireworks prior to November, advising them of the requirements of the Regulations and the various conditions relative to the sale and display of these goods. No licences to store explosives, nor applications for registration of storage premises were requested during the year.

The increased demand for hackney carriage licences noted in the previous year continued during 1958 and a waiting list of applicants was introduced during the year. The number of licences to ply for hire within the Borough was also restricted to a total of 16, as it was felt that an adequate taxi service is available at the three sports stadiums, by reason of the issue of special licences to ply for hire from nearby stands. Such licences were granted in respect of 56 taxis licensed elsewhere than in Strætford and special driving licences to cover these vehicles were issued in respect of 61 drivers.

(f) Removal and Disposal of House Refuse

The importance of the prompt removal of refuse from the vicinity of dwellinghouses cannot be over-emphasised. The dustbin is generally used for the reception of an heterogeneous collection of discarded material, and the maintenance of hygienic conditions demands its regular removal for effective disposal. It is gratifying to report that once again a strict weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained. Whenever time is lost due to statutory holidays the day's work is completed by the end of the same week by working on the Saturday. In this way, every dwellinghouse within the Borough, together with shops and small commercial premises have received 52 visits in the course of the year. The undoubted benefit of a regular collection is appreciated by the householder who knows the exact day and time when the collection team are due to call.

The Municipal Dustbin Scheme continues to give satisfaction by the prompt renewal of unserviceable dustbins, and during the year 1,961 bins were issued under the scheme.

The method of disposal used for many years is that of controlled tipping and the mechanisation of operations continue to give satisfaction. Towards the end of the year it

was found necessary to replace the bulldozer with a new machine and in the light of the small exchange value of the old Fowler bulldozer, it was decided to retain this machine as a spare.

The progress of the controlled tip at Poplar Meadows is following the expected pattern and so far the Stretford Cricket Club have been reinstated at the finished level and an area has been prepared for permanent allotments. The use of the remainder of the reclaimed land is expected to take the form of playing fields, but here the availability of land has been reduced by the proposed construction of a new motorway, the Stretford-Eccles by-pass, which not only reduced the area of land available, but also will sever a small portion on the southern side of the new motorway. Notwithstanding this loss of tipping capacity it is expected that adequate facilities for disposal will be available for more than twenty-five years, even allowing for an increase in population and output of refuse.

(5) OTHER DUTIES

(a) Recovery of Salvage

The recovery of salvage was continued during the year and quantities of paper, textiles and metal were despatched from the depot. Output restrictions in connection with baled paper are still having the effect of limiting the quantities that can be made available, and the income from the sale of salvage has been slightly reduced, but only to the extent of £21 over the twelve months.

The following table shows the quantities of the various materials recovered, together with the income therefrom:—

Material	Weight			Income		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Kitchen Waste	218	0	0	969	5	8
Mixed Waste Paper	311	16	3	2,332	1	10
Newsprint	22	4	3	210	2	9
Fibre Board	62	10	0	593	15	0
Scrap Iron	3	3	2	11	2	3
Scrap Bins	18	5	1	70	13	6
String		1	2		9	0
Rags		9	3		9	15
Scrap Tins	9	18	3	74	10	7
Total	646	10	1	£4,271	15	7

(b) Organisation of Cleansing Service

(1) Mechanical Transport

During the course of the year maintenance of the fleet of refuse collection vehicles was continued on a system of increasing tasks on a monthly, three-monthly, and six-monthly routine, and very satisfactory service was obtained from the thirteen vehicles operated by the Department.

All the vehicles are powered by petrol engines and in actual service these have proved to be very reliable. There is a growing volume of opinion in public cleansing circles that the compression ignition engine has now reached a stage of development when it is preferable to the internal combustion engine from point of view of economy. It is also known that the majority of the vehicles now being ordered by Local Authorities for cleansing work are powered by diesel engines which give approximately double the mileage per gallon of fuel as compared with petrol engines. The capital outlay is greater however.

Owing to the changing characteristics of household refuse, which year by year is becoming more bulky, some form of compression after initial loading into the vehicle is now considered to be essential. For some years this has been recognised by the Department, and the Dennis "Paxit" Vehicles have filled this requirement most admirably. This has enabled better pay-loads to be achieved and it is now clear that the side loaders are of limited value, as they have no means of compressing the load and extra journeys are thus required to the disposal point. The side loader is still useful for the collection of kitchen waste, or infrequent collections of bulky or moist material.

It seems likely that a different pattern of refuse collection will be demanded within the near future in the event of a decision to erect multi-storey flats. Tall buildings of this description will call for special storage arrangements for house refuse and the normal portable dustbin will not be appropriate. Instead, large containers of approximately two to three cubic yards capacity will have to be installed, and the emptying of such containers will call for mechanical handling and emptying. It will be possible to adapt a rear-loading "Paxit" vehicle for this work, and also at the same time, have the same vehicle available for collections from normal standard dustbins. No doubt the committee will be giving consideration to this question in the near future.

(2) Depot and Buildings

The lay-out and facilities at the Empress Street Depot have remained unchanged for many years, apart from modifications to give additional garage space and the routine repairs

and maintenance which are expected from time to time. The garages provided for the refuse collection fleet are adequate and no question of reconstruction of the depot is envisaged at the present time. It is possible, however, that any re-organisation of Local Government areas in the near future may have a bearing upon the suitability of the depot in the context of revision of boundaries.

(c) **Public Mortuary**

During the year 89 bodies were admitted to the Public Mortuary and the records give the following certified causes of death :—

Cause of Death	Number of occasions when Mortuary used
Natural Causes	66
Accidental Death:—	
Fractured skull	1
Road accident	2
Drowning	1
Works fall	1
.....	5
Misadventure	
Gas Poisoning	2
Asphyxia	1
Fall in home	2
.....	5
Suicide	
Hanging	1
Fractured skull	1
Cut throat	1
Gas poisoning	4
Barbiturate Poisoning	1
.....	8
Open Verdict	
Works accident	1
Drowning	3
Gas Poisoning	1
.....	5
Total	89

(6) **STAFF**

The Department has been fortunate in retaining existing members of the staff who have proved most reliable on all occasions. Recruitment of new staff was only necessary in the case of one District Public Health Inspector at the beginning of the year, and the post was filled by a suitable applicant without any of the difficulties which are being experienced in many health departments.

Stretford is one of the few towns in the north-west which is fully staffed and, accordingly, the work has proceeded smoothly through the year. No general extension of the establishment is anticipated in the near future, apart possibly from the need for assistance in relation to the creation of smoke control areas.

It may be necessary in this connection to recommend at a later stage the appointment of suitably qualified assistants for the purpose of making surveys in relation to smoke control, as the programme for the elimination of domestic smoke gets under way.

It has been my happy experience during the year, as always, to receive unstinted assistance from officers in other departments, and particularly from my colleagues in the Health Department, without which such a satisfactory report of the year's work could not have been produced.