#### Contributors

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## BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN



# THE ANNUAL REPORT

#### OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

# Chief Sanitary Inspector

(L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.SAN.I.)







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## BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

HEALTH COMMITTEE December, 1955

#### CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLOR DR. S. H. BROWN

### ALDERMAN L. F. COCKCROFT, J.P.

- " W. EGERTON, J.P.
- " F. SUNDERLAND

#### COUNCILLOR G. E. BOOTHMAN

- " A. Cockcroft
- " H. COCKCROFT
- " J. GRAHAM
- " H. HARDY
- " H. IVESON
- " H. V. POWELL
- " E. R. SYKES

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

#### BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

Medical Officer of Health

LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

†L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.SAN.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

†C. BAXTER, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk

MRS. E. E. WADDILOVE, C.R.SAN.I.

#### WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

#### Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19

Divisional Medical Officer As above (M.O.H.).
Senior Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer ALICE SEELIG, M.D. (retired January, 1956).
Medical Officer to the Ante-Natal Clinic \*MILDRED M. THIERENS, M.B.
School Dental Officer \*J. I. JAGGER, L.D.S. (resigned December, 1955).
Health Visitors ‡MRS. M. M. ILLINGWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M. ‡MRS. J. ALEXANDER, S.R.N., S.C.M. ‡MRS. A. LUNT, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor

MRS. B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker

MISS E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified) MRS. M. H. GRAHAM, B.A. Home Nurses

MISS R. STOCKS, S.R.N., QUEEN'S NURSE (recommenced 11-2-1955).

MISS V. J. MILES, S.R.N., QUEEN'S NURSE.

MRS. G. M. THOMPSON (nee Pratt), S.R.N., QUEEN'S NURSE (resigned 14-9-55).

MISS D. M. BOOTHROYD, S.R.N., QUEEN'S NURSE (commenced 1-9-55).

Home Nurse/Midwife

MISS A. B. HOBSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., QUEEN'S NURSE, Midwives

MISS P. STANSFIELD, S.C.M.

Dental Attendant

MRS. L. BARKER

Joint Clerical Staff—engaged in all constituent districts of the Division, viz. Todmorden, Hebden Royd, Hepton, Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden.

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S.

MISS J. SUTCLIFFE

J. GREENWOOD.

MISS P. JACKSON.

D. HOWORTH.

MRS. M. LEAH (resigned 4-6-55).

MISS A. Y. ALLAN (resigned 22-1-55).

D. THOMAS.

MRS. M. REDFERN.

MRS. J. BAILEY (resigned Feb. 14th, 1955).

MISS J. HORNER (commenced 17th Jan., 1955).

MISS J. E. VARLEY (commenced 7th Feb., 1955).

MISS B. MARSHALL (commenced 25th July, 1955). \* Part-time.

+ Hold Meat Inspection Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute

‡ Hold Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

#### HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Consultant Staff

Orthopaedic Surgeon G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S. Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S.(EDIN.). Chest Physician BERTRAM MANN, B.SC., M.D., D.P.H. Ophthalmic Surgeon

P. M. WOOD, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

#### Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre, Todmorden.

#### October, 1956.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the ninth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Urban Districts of Hebden Royd, Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year follow the pattern characteristic of this area. The birth rate remained low (12.4 per 1,000 population) and deaths exceeded births by no less than 58, the population falling to approximately 18,500.

Associated with this population trend is a steady increase in the proportion of aged persons in the community. The triumphs of my predecessors in preventive medicine, supplemented by advances in the standards of curative medicine and surgery, have enabled more and more persons to survive to old age. When this is accompanied by a low birth rate, as in this district, the "top-heavy" age-constitution of the population becomes particularly evident. It has, for example, been estimated that one house in every four is occupied by a single elderly person. The demands on the services of general practitioners, home nurses, health visitors and home helps are disproportionately heavy and the geography of this hilly and partly-rural Borough makes assistance far from easy to apply in many cases. The home help service in particular is handicapped by the relative inaccessibility of many houses as well as by difficulties in recruitment. On occasion, the aged persons needing most help are the ones for which we cannot provide.

The standard of housing of the older folk is, in general, below that of the rest of the community. Life is so often rendered unnecessarily difficult and hazardous by such features as defective natural lighting, inefficient or unguarded fire grates, inadequate cooking and washing facilities, steep steps and rickety or narrow stairs, outside privies or toilets, absence of baths and washbasins, inadequate hot water, faulty gas fittings and easily frozen pipes.

This sort of environment would present a problem for young and active families. How much worse is it, then, for those weakened by age, impoverished by retirement and demoralised by frustration and loneliness? Neither an extended domiciliary service nor institutional care is the complete answer to this problem. My own experience is that the aged rarely seek institutional care before the situation has become desperate. When they *do* ultimately secure a place in a welfare home, they go only with sorrowful reluctance.

Housing authorities hold the key to the solution of this problem. The old folks should be brought back into the community, into dwellings which are easy to live in and easy to manage and where assistance, if required, can be easily given. Local Authorities, with their vested interest in the health and welfare of the community, cannot continue to postpone action indefinitely on economic grounds. Should not the community as a whole, in this era of full employment, be capable of making this investment in its own future? Is it that we cannot afford or that we do not wish to afford? The cost of basic essential local government services (including housing) is negligible compared with the combined cost of such luxuries as alcohol, tobacco, television, etc. The community must reconsider and revise its scale of values and then decide what are the true basic pre-requisites of health and happiness.

A more cheerful feature of the vital statistics of the Borough is the continued absence of maternal mortality. Todmorden now has the proud record of over 2,700 births without a single maternal death, a reflection of the efficiency of midwives and doctors. In order to maintain this standard of excellence and, at the same time, to reduce still further the mortality of new-born infants, the services provided by the Ante-natal Clinic at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre have been extended. They now include classes for "relaxation" exercises and health education. The young expectant mother is not only given regular and thorough medical tests and examinations but is also helped to understand the needs and problems of each stage of pregnancy and labour. She is also told of the part that she will have to play to ensure full and effective co-operation with the midwife. There is no longer any need for the expectant mother to be haunted by fear or depressed by oldwives' tales.

One early result of this extension of the work of the local Ante-natal Clinic has been a marked increase in the popularity of the Clinic. During the past three or four months, attendances have increased by over 50%, in marked contrast to most other local authority ante-natal clinics where (throughout the country) attendances have declined since the inception of the National Health Service.

There was no exceptional incidence of serious infectious disease during the year under review though the number of cases of measles notified was higher than usual. The control of measles is difficult, the patient being in a very infectious condition for a day or two before the rash appears and before a diagnosis can be made. Nor is there any practicable means of conferring long-term immunity by innoculation. The modern anti-biotic and sulphonamide groups of drugs are useful in both preventing and treating some of the complications of the disease but are not effective against measles itself.

The outlook would appear to be more hopeful in relation to whooping cough, only 12 cases being notified during the year. When one recalls that whooping cough has been a prominent cause of death in infancy and is, moreover, the origin of much chronic chest trouble in adults, the decline of the disease is very welcome. This improvement is in part attributable to immunisation. Under the County Council scheme, children up to the age of four years can be immunised against whooping cough either at the local clinic or by the family doctor.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I thank you for your kindness, patience and co-operation? I also wish to express my deep appreciation of the consistently loyal and energetic work of the staff of this Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. LYONS,

M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION I.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

#### Statistics.

Area. 12,790 acres.

Population-Census 1951. 19,072 persons.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, mid. 1955, 18,520.

Number of dwelling-houses, 7,166.

Rateable value £117,402.

Product of a penny rate  $\pounds 455-10-3$ .

Rainfall at Gorpley Reservoir during 1955, 42.98 inches

#### Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	М	F	House diseased
Live Births– Legitimate Illegitimate	215 14	96 8	119 6	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated res- ident population 12.4
Still Births- Legitimate Illegitimate	10	5	5	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 41.8
Deaths	287	131	156	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15.5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES-

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	 Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	 Nil

### Infantile Mortality.

Eight infants under the age of twelve months died during 1955, giving an infantile mortality rate of 34.9 per 1000 births.

The following table gives the cause of death of these infants.

Gauss of Dooth	N	No. of infants dying in							
Cause of Death	lst week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week	5—52 week				
initing (1038, 12-14, 1006)	-uoyas	1951 Ser	and a	. Helen	12				
Atalectasis Congenital	3		2	1-0	i an <del>ro</del> ne				
Heart disease Haemangioma	1	-	-	-	-				
of Scrotum	-	-	-		1				
Birth injury Burns	1	_	_		1				
Lobar pneumonia	-			-	1				

DEATHS FROM	Cancer (all ages)			42
	Measles (all ages)			Nil
	Whooping Cough (all	ages)		Nil
Tuberculosis D	eath Rate (all forms)	••		0.16
Respiratory Tu	berculosis death rate			0.16
Non-Respirator	y Tuberculosis death r	ate		Nil
Respiratory Dea	th Rate (excluding tube	erculosis	)	1.40

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN TODMORDEN, M.B.

	CAUSE OF DEATH	19	54		19	55
		M.	F.		M.	
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2		1	2
2	Tuberculosis, other		_		_	_
3	Syphilitic disease		_			
4	Diphtheria	_			_	-
5	Whooping Cough					_
6	Meningococcal infections	_			_	_
7	Acute Poliomyelitis				_	_
8	Measles					
9	Other infective and parasitic					E
	diseases	_			-	
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3		3	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung,	0			0	
	bronchus	4	2		3	4
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	_	3		_	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	_	6		_	1
14	Other malignant and lym-		0			1
11	phatic neoplasms	10	13		13	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia		10		2	1
16	Diabetes	1	3		ĩ	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous	1	0		1	т
11	system	15	17		16	42
18	Coronary disease, angina	23	13		27	13
19	Hypertension with heart dis-	20	10		21	10
10		4	4		2	5
20	ease Other heart disease	10	11		12	20
21	Other circulatory disease	9	9		6	15
22		-			1	
23	n .	3	5		4	$\frac{2}{2}$
24	Bronchitis	10			11	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory	10	0		11	т
20	system	2			2	_
26	Ulcer of stomach and duo-	4	_		4	_
20	and the second se	1	2		2	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diar-	-	4	·í.	2	1
21	rhoea	_	1			
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	3	5		3	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-0		4	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abor-	0			4	
00	tion	-				
31	Congenital malformation	1	2		_	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined	-	-			
02	diseases	7	11		12	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents	í	3		12	-
34	All other accidents	-	5		3	10
35	Suicide	1	2		3	2
36	Homicide and operations of	-	2		0	-
00	war					_
		1	1			
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	116	127		131	156
					101	
				5		

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955 based on the Registrar-General's Figures

Todmorden M.B.	Hepton R.D.	Hebden Royd U.D	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Adminis- trative County	England and Wales (provi- sional figures)
Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) 12.4	16.0	12.8	15.4	9.8	14.8	15.3	15.0
Death Rates (all per 1,000 estimated home population) All causes 15.5	14.5	16.8	12.6	12.7	12.5	11.7	11.7
Infective and parasitic diseases <sup>*</sup> 0.16 Tuberculosis of respiratory system 0.16	0.25	0.10	0.05		0.06	0.0	0.13
Other forms of tuberculosis 2.27 Cancer 2.27	3.19	3.52	2.06	1.35	0.02 2.03	1.90	2.06
Vascular lesions of nervous system 3.13 Heart and circulatory diseases 5.40	2.70	2.31	1.57 5.21	2.32	2.09	1.90 4.39	::
Respiratory disease† (excluding tubercu- losis of respiratory system) 1.40	1.72	1.21	1.09	0.97	1.28	1.21	:
Infant Mortality (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births) 34.9	46.2	15.7	14.1		25.2	26.2	24.9
Maternal Mortality (deaths of mothers in child- birth per 1,000 live and still-births)		vstem papers pertenn	i sired in pictor in pictor in pictor		0.45	0.67	0.64
* Combined dooth note from everbilitie diseases dirbtherie whoming couch maningooneed infections acute noliomvelitis	htherie wh	oning onig	h maninar	nonal infa	vione aonte	noliomveli	tis

Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute pollomyelitis, measles, and other infective and parasitic diseases (items 3 to 9 inclusive on page 11)

Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system (items 18 to 21 inclusive on page 11) ++

Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system (items 22 to 25 inclusive on page 11) +--

## SECTION II.

#### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

#### A. HOSFITALS.

There is no General Hospital in the Borough of Todmorden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, the Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Infectious Diseases Hospital, Shelf Sanatorium, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

During 1955 the maternity work at the Royal Halifax Infirmary was discontinued and beds are now only available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special Hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

#### **B. AMBULANCE SERVICE.**

The West Riding County Council maintain an Ambulance Depot at Stansfield Road, Todmorden, with an establishment at the end of 1955 of a Depot Superintendent, eleven fulltime Driver-Attendants, a Clerk/Telephonist and four vehicles. The area served covers Todmorden Borough, part of Hebden Royd U.D. area and the Hepton Rural District.

#### C. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds.

#### D. ISSUE OF ANTI-TOXIN, ETC.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Medical Centre, Todmorden, for use of local medical practitioners in the division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

## SECTION III.

#### W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICE

2 to 4-30 p.m. 2 to 4-30 p.m. 2 to 4-30 p.m.	1-30 to 4 p.m.	1-30 p.m. 9-15 to 11-30 a.m. By arrangement By arrangement By arrangement	By arrangement	ttee) 1-30 to 4-30 p.m.
A. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES         Infant Welfare       A. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES         Abraham Unevol Medical Centre       Tuesdays and Wednesdays       Medical Sunday School, Cornholme         Vale Baptist Sunday School, Cornholme       Tuesdays       Intesdays       Intesdays <t< td=""><td>d Post Natal rmerod Medical Centre Wednesdays and Thursdays</td><td>School ClinicsAbraham Ormerod Medical Centre(a) *Minor Ailments(b) Dental(b) Dental(c) Ophthalmic(d) Ear, Nose and Throat(e) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight</td><td>Smallpox Vaccination Diphtheria Immunisation Whooping Cough Immunisation All Infant Welfare Centres As required I</td><td>Tuberculosis (by arrangement with Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee)         Union Offices, Hall Street          • Medical Officer in attendance Wednesdays only.</td></t<>	d Post Natal rmerod Medical Centre Wednesdays and Thursdays	School ClinicsAbraham Ormerod Medical Centre(a) *Minor Ailments(b) Dental(b) Dental(c) Ophthalmic(d) Ear, Nose and Throat(e) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight(f) Artificial Sunlight	Smallpox Vaccination Diphtheria Immunisation Whooping Cough Immunisation All Infant Welfare Centres As required I	Tuberculosis (by arrangement with Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee)         Union Offices, Hall Street          • Medical Officer in attendance Wednesdays only.

#### B. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

#### Ante Natal Services

During 1955 Dr. Thierens held 102 sessions and 165 patients made 847 attendances. The popularity of the clinic is shown in the table below :---

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of patients	200	162	158	148	159	165
No. of attendances	1060	805	737	817	882	847
No. of sessions held	102	96	100	98	102	102
Patients sent by		00		00		
Midwives	30	23	5	8	12	14
Patients sent by	1					
Doctors	5	3	19	17	18	32
Patients sent by						
Health Visitors	20	14	9	12	29	22
Patients attended on						
own initiative	135	100.	114	88	75	78
Patients sent by				8.8		
Hospitals	10	22	11	23	25	19
Patients referred to						
own doctor	20	6	9	20	24	18
Patients referred to						
Hospital	24	22	32	21	25	26
Patients referred to					- the second	
Dentist	9	26	6	10	31	48
Patients given U.V.R.					21	
treatment	-	-	5	4	1	-
	11. 3		1	- 32		
	4 3					1 - 1 - 2 - 1

X-ray examinations were arranged for three patients who had attended the Ante-Natal Clinic during the year.

#### Post Natal and Gynaecological Clinics.

Gynaecological and post-natal patients are examined at the ordinary ante-natal clinic. During 1955, 83 patients made 124 attendances at the clinic. Some of the patients confined in Halifax General Hospital attended there for post-natal examination.

	1952	1953	1954	]	1955
No. of post-natal patients	 79	 81	 64		83
No. of attendances	 139	 134	 102		124

#### Child Welfare Clinics.

Clinics were held at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and at Cornholme and Walsden on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons respectively. A record of the work done in 1955 is given in the following table :--

tall is available for us	Medical Centre	Wals- den	Corn- holme	Total
No. of sessions	101	52	50	203
No. of children who attended :— (a) Under 1 year old (b) 1-5 years of age	105 197	51 142	37 79	193 418
No. of attendances by children :— (a) Under 1 year (b) 1-5 years	1721 882	855 651	885 773	3461 2306
Total attendances	2603	1506	1658	5767
Average attendance per session	25	28	33	28

#### Home Visiting by Health Visitors.

No. of Ante-Natal Visits : First Visits Subsequent Visits		97 145
No. of VISITS TO CHILDREN UNDER 1 First Visits	YEAR  	225 1350 3092
Special Visits		2539
TOTAL HOME VISITS		7448

#### Day Nursery Accommodation

The Glen Day Nursery was opened by the West Riding County Council on 11th September, 1950, and children may be admitted under a system of priorities by arrangement with the Divisional Medical Officer.

#### The Care of Fremature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

#### The Care of Illegitimate Children.

Every effort is made to find a suitable home for the baby either with the mother or with the grand-parents. When the child is old enough it can be admitted to a Day Nursery if the mother has to go out to work. Special advice about legal adoption is given if it is desired. These cases are seen in the home by the Health Visitor and encouraged to attend the Infant Welfare Centre regularly.

#### Minor Ailments Clinic.

During 1955 37 children under five years of age, some of whom were attending nursery classes, made 59 attendances for treatment at the Medical Centre.

Total attendances | :003

#### U. V. L. Clinic.

This was held twice weekly at the Medical Centre during the winter months. A Sollux Mercury Vapour Lamp was used. 20 children not attending school, made 205 attendances for treatment.

#### Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

Most proprietary brands of milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Clinics for the convenience of mothers and special brands of milk are ordered when necessary.

In addition the distribution of cod liver oil, orange juice, vitamin A and D tablets, and National Dried Milk, is carried out at the three Child Welfare Clinics on behalf of the Ministry of Food. The Ministry of Labour and National Service ceased to distribute these Welfare Foods on 30th June, 1954 and a full-time counter-service was instituted at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre.

#### **Provision** of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

During 1975 the practising midwives summoned medical assistance to 20 mothers and 4 folunts. Medical aid was sent for on account of the following conditions :---

#### C. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

#### Home Nursing.

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing in Todmorden, the two whole-time nurses being resident at the Nurses' Home, Garden Street, Todmorden. In addition, a Home Nurse/Midwife has been responsible for the Cornholme etc., district. In April 1955 this nurse became a whole-time midwife and a further whole-time Home Nurse was appointed, and took up residence in the Nurses Home.

#### Midwifery.

From April 1955 two whole-time midwives (resident in their own homes) were employed by the County Council to serve the Todmorden area. The following table shows the number of Todmorden women confined in hospital, private nursing home, or delivered by midwives and private practitioners in Todmorden or elsewhere so far as has been ascertained :

	No.	%
No. delivered in hospital	133	55.7
No. delivered in private nursing homes	2	.8
No. delivered by midwives	104	43.5
No. delivered by doctors (including the difficult cases met with by municipal midwives in their practice where a doctor had to be sent for to effect		
delivery)		
TOTAL (including stillbirths), so far as has been ascertained	239	100.0

During 1955 the practising midwives summoned medical assistance to 20 mothers and 4 infants. Medical aid was sent for on account of the following conditions :---

MOTHERS	11 2	INFANTS			
Cause	No.	Cause	No		
Ruptured perineumProlonged labourPyrexiaUterine InertiaToxaemiaVaricose VeinPhlebitisMalpresentation	1 1 1 1	Discharge from eyes Prematurity Unsatisfactory condition Discharge from nostrils	111111		
TOTAL	20	Total	4		

The following table summarises the midwifery work of the district midwives for the year 1955 :---

Work done within the Borough	Two WRCC Midwives
No. of deliveries made by Midwives	104
No. of difficult cases met with by mid- wives where a doctor had to be sent for and who (a) Effected delivery (b) Sent patient to Hospital	
No. of cases where midwives acted as a maternity nurse	_
Medical aid sent for in case of           (a) Mothers            (b) Infants	20 4

#### Emergency Obstetric Unit.

The "flying squad" attached to Halifax General Hospital is available for obstetric emergencies occurring in the town.

#### Analgesia.

Both midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

#### D. HEALTH VISITING.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

#### E. HOME HELPS

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1955 147 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 109 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 18,266.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged or a child not over compulsory school age."

Of the 147 cases attended in 1955, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 6 illness, 26 maternity, and 115 chronic sick.

#### F. CARE AND AFTER CARE

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

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#### G. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Number of schools in district			17 16
Number of children in attendance at scho	ool at	t end	si lata
of 1955			2720
Number of children examined at school du	aring	1955	1484
(This figure being made up as follows)			
Routine examinations		848	
Re-examinations		636	Call Cont
Number of children referred for treatment		and the second	37

#### **Minor Ailments Clinic**

277 children made 1,385 attendances at the minor ailments clinic during the year.

#### Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic

Four sessions were held by Mr. Lodge at the Medical Centre and 55 Todmorden children were seen by him. Of the children inspected at these and previous sessions 25 received operative treatment at the Halifax Royal Infirmary during 1955.

#### Dental Clinic.

During the year 81 Dental Clinics were held. The following table gives a record of the work done:

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREAT	MENT	-	
Number of children inspecte	d		 715
Number of children offered t	treatm	ient	 511
Number of children treated			 318
Number of attendances			 498
NUMBER OF EXTRACTIONS			
Temporary teeth			 626
Permanent teeth			 70
NUMBER OF FILLINGS			
Temporary teeth			 77
Permanent teeth			 137
NUMBER OF OTHER OPERATIONS	5		
Temporary			 50
Permanent			 32

#### Ophthalmic Clinic.

Mr. Wood held 24 eye clinics during the year, and 192 Todmorden school children were seen by him and glasses were prescribed where necessary.

#### U.V.L. Clinic.

45 school children made 394 attendances during the year.

#### **H. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.**

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation**

(i) Number of children in Todmorden who completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation, 1955

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections 1955	68	73	6	5	4	6	3	5	6	5	4	4		- Pin	1
mange white	1-0		191	-	24	To	tal		19	96	2123	2	i.e.	-	
Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1955	_	_			26	68	48	30	23	20	9	6	2	-	
the loss of the	1 1					To	otal		2	32			1	1	1

#### (ii) Number of children in Todmorden who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31-12-55

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
68	162	160	225	222	1204	1172	3213

Estimated mid-year population 3916 under 15 years

#### Whooping Cough Immunisation

(i) Number of children in Todmorden who completed a full course of whooping cough immunisation, 1955

Age at final injection		6 mths. to 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	Total
No. immunised	13	100	28	14	7	162

During the year there were 2 notified cases of whooping cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

#### (ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date

Age at 31-12-55 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	5 1950	6 1949	7 1948	Total
No. im- munised	34	127	130	55	76	96	63	48	629

#### Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 113 people were vaccinated against smallpox, 66 of whom were children under one year of age.

## SECTION IV.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### Summary of Notifications received during 1955.

Disease			tal cases notified
Scarlet Fever		 	13
Whooping Cough		 	2
Acute Poliomyelitis		 	1
Measles		 	488
Diphtheria		 	Reading
Acute pneumonia		 	15
Dysentery		 	10
Smallpox		 	
Acute encephalitis		 	-
Enteric or Typhoid fever	i includ	 	10 7700
Paratyphoid fevers		 	-
Erysipelas		 	2
Meningococcal infection		 	-
Food poisoning		 	2
Puerperal Pyrexia		 	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		 	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		 	6
Other forms of Tuberculo	osis	 	3
			542

#### Tuberculosis Services.

A clinic is held weekly on Wednesday afternoons at Hall Street, and cases requiring X-ray examination are referred to the Chest Clinic at Halifax Royal Infirmary. Regular home supervision is carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Free milk, bedding, shelters, etc., are provided by the County Council at the discretion of the Divisional Medical Officer if recommended by the Consultant Chest Physician in charge of the Clinic. The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Todmorden in 1955:—

	Res	pirat	ory	No	n-Re	sp.	Ttls.
1986	М	F	Ttl.	M	F	Ttl.	
No. on Register on			-				Martin Ba
lst Jan., 1955	59	41	100	16	13	29	129
No. first notified		C. S. S. S.	1				A RESERVED AND
during 1955	4	2	6		3	3	9
No. of cases restored							
to register	-	-	-		-	-	- 1
No. of cases entered							2
in Register other than			Print P				Scree et
by notification	2	2	4	-		-	4
No. removed from						12710	
Register during						iright a	
1955 :							
(a) Died	1	2	3	-	1	1	4
(b) Removed from						lland	2102
district	7	3	10	1	-	1	11
(c) Recovered	2	2	4	4	2	6	10
No remaining on						-	
Register 31/12/55	55	38	93	11	13	24	117

The number of new cases and the number of deaths notified during 1955 are given in detail in the following table :---

	1	New	CASES	labo-ada	DEATHS				
Age	Respiratory		tory Non-respiratory			atory	Non-respiratory		
Period	м.	F.	м.	F.	м.	F.	м.	F.	
0-5	_	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	
5-14			-	_	-	_	-	-	
15-24	1	-	-	1	-	-		_	
25-44	2	1	-	2		_			
45-64	1	1		-	-		-	1	
65 & over	-		-	_	1	2	-	-	
Totals	4	2	-	3	1	2	-	1	

## SECTION V.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

#### Corporation Supply.

Serving 5666 houses with a population of 14,640.

The water is from upland surfaces and is naturally soft and of an acid character. The water is treated by slow filtration through sand and lime dust. A chlorinator is installed at the waterworks. A bulk supply of water is also obtained from the Rochdale Corporation.

Samples of water before and after treatment were taken during the year with the following results:

Bacteriological21 satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory.Chemical...10 satisfactory, 3 unsatisfactory.Plumbo-solvency4—noleadinany.

The two unsatisfactory bacteriological samples were obtained from the reservoir, i.e. before filtration and chlorination. The three unsatisfactory chemical reports were on samples taken from the water obtained from the Rochdale Corporation and the Analyst reported that the water was of good organic quality but contained excessive amounts of iron, manganese and aluminium.

#### **Private** Supplies.

Serving 1,500 houses with a population of 3,880.

The supplies are derived mainly from springs, the water generally being conveyed to storage chambers from which it is piped to the houses.

Thirty-four samples were taken in the course of routine sampling from 17 of the private supplies in various parts of the Borough and with 4 exceptions were satisfactory. Subsequent samples obtained from these supplies were satisfactory. Samples were taken from the supplies to two farms in connection with proposals to improve these supplies.

Two private supplies were also tested for plumbosolvency with negative results in each case.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### HOUSING.

Rainfall for 1955 (Fielden Hospital).

January		3.08 ins.	September	3.01 ins.
February		3.22 ,,	October	3.06 "
March	.:	2.45 ,,	November	3.06 "
April		2.05 ,,	December	6.13 "
May		4.27 ,,	n d unmulaunt	
June		3.35 ,,		35.95
July		1.17 .,	crossel entreally of	
August		1.10 ,,		

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

Extensions of the sewerage system were made to provide for 76 houses at the Hallroyd Housing Estate and to Lower Laithe for five houses.

Defective sewers are improved as required but no major works of repair or improvement were carried out during the year.

All sewage is treated at the Corporation Sewage Works which are adequate for the needs of the Borough.

There have been no complaints from the West Riding Rivers Board in respect of the effluent from the Sewage Works.

#### **Rivers** and Streams.

No action has been taken during the year to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

#### **Closet** Accommodation.

The following table shows the number of the varioustypes of closets in the Borough :---

Privies with covered middensabo Pail or Tub Closets (a) Houses (b) Workplaces	out 70 389 26
TOTAL	415
Water Closets (a) Houses (b) Workplaces	5816 666
TOTAL	6482 215
Old property (a) W.C.'s 14 (b) Others 0 New houses (a) W.C.'s 67 (b) Others 0 Number of Closets, other than privies, reconst as W.C.'s-19.	ructed

With a view to securing the conversion of pail closets and slop closets to water closets the Corporation contribute one-half of the cost of conversion to a maximum of  $\pounds 10$  per closet.

#### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

In September a Lewin 10/20 cubic yard Refuse Collector (on an Albion chassis) was delivered and brought into use, replacing an 8/16 cubic yard vehicle of the same make on an Austin chassis which had been in use continuously since August 1948. The collection of refuse, including nightsoil, is done by this vehicle and the Dennis Refuse Collector, both being used full time on the work, providing for a weekly collection in the Borough, except for certain outlying districts where a fortnightly collection is made. The collection of nightsoil is done by the Dennis vehicle fitted with a movable tank and the contents are disposed of at the Sewage Disposal Works.

All the refuse is disposed of at Woodhouse Tip where the system of "controlled tipping" combined with salvage recovery is in operation. The salvage recovery comprises the collection and, where necessary, the sorting from the refuse of various materials such as waste paper, scrap metals, rags, carpets. Almost all the waste paper is collected separately during the collection of refuse, in addition to which there is a special collection from factories and business premises.

The weight of refuse collected during the year was 3992 tons, and the cost of collection and disposal was £7,840. The income from the sale of salvaged materials, charges for tipping, etc., was £2,471, giving a net cost for collection and disposal of refuse of £5,369.

The following are the various items of salvage recovered during the year, with the proceeds.

			Tons		£	s.	d.
Waste paper			 254		2062	15	6
Ferrous metals			 $10\frac{3}{4}$		39	0	6
Non-ferrous meta	ls		 $1\frac{1}{4}$		110	2	6
Textiles (rags, car	pets,	etc.)	 $9\frac{3}{4}$		148	5	0
							olo 
	To	TAL	 $275\frac{3}{4}$	10.0	£2360	3	6

In comparison with the previous year the total weight of salvage recovered shows an increase of  $10\frac{3}{4}$  tons, waste paper being 15 tons more and non-ferrous metal showing a slight increase. Ferrous metal and textiles showed decreases of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  tons respectively.

There was a steady demand for our output of baled waste paper and the selling price was increased twice by ten shillings per ton in the early part of the year, but in November there was a reduction of ten shillings.

The payment by the Council of incentive bonus for the employees of the Scavenging Department was continued during the year.

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total No. of Inspections	made i	n 1955,	for	Nuis-	
ances only					188
Nuisances found in 1955					101
Nuisances in hand, end of	1954				10
Total needing abatement					111
Abated during 1955					102
Outstanding, end of 1955					9
Notices served, Informal					83
Complied with					81
Notices served, Statutory					-
Complied with					-
Total number of Summon	nses of	other	legal	pro-	- India
ceedings					-

#### Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	No. of In- spections.	General Conditions	Legal proceed- ings if any
Common Lodging Houses	0	0	0		
Houses let in Lodgings	0	0	0		
Canal Boats	0	0	0		
Knackers Yards	0	0	0		
Tents, Vans & Sheds	3	3	3		
Offensive Trades-					C. Market
2 Tripe Boilers 1 Fat Melter 6 Dressing Hides for Pickers or Tanners.	9	9	3	Satisfactory	None

#### Eradication of Bed Bug.

No instances of bug infestation of houses, either Council or other, were found during the year.

### Factories and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number of						
(1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)				
FACTORIES with mechanical power FACTORIES without mechanical power OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of	35 7	None 1	None None				
building and engineering construction but not in- cluding outworkers' premises)	3	None	None				
TOTAL	45	1	None				

#### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

you li endi	Num	Number of defects in		
Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	respect of which Pro- secutions were instituted (5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature (S.3) Inadequate ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes Other offences	1 None None None 2 None None	1	<pre>None </pre>	} None
Total	3	2	None	None

Summary	of	the	Work	Done	during	1955.
---------	----	-----	------	------	--------	-------

Inspections of Premises—	
Mar along the factor of the second	000
For nuisances, etc	-236
Where infectious disease has occurred	30
Where offensive trades are carried on	H 3
Inspections of Factories	17
Inspections of Bakehouses	28
Inspections of Ice Cream premises and shops	17
Inspections under Rats and Mice Destruc-	
tion Act	71
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	152
Inspections of Water Supplies	7
Inspections of Work in Progress	73
Inspections under the Housing Acts	102
Inspections under Housing Act (Overcrowding)	3
Re-inspections under the Housing Acts	28
Re-inspections as to compliance with notices	43
Inspections under Public Health Acts	12
Inspections under Closet Conversion Scheme	17
Inspections of Food Premises and Shops	53
Total Visits	892
Total Visits	892
Land a state of the state of th	892
No. of houses disinfected after	X
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease	2
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis	2 3
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains	2
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis	2 3
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smake abasemptions taken	2 3 6
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smoke observations taken	2 3 6 57
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smoke observations taken Samples of water taken for analysis Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination	2 3 6 57
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smoke observations taken Samples of water taken for analysis Samples of water taken for bacteriological	2 3 6 57 13
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smoke observations taken Samples of water taken for analysis Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination	2 3 6 57 13 59
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smoke observations taken Samples of water taken for analysis Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination Samples of water taken for chemical analysis	2 3 6 57 13 59
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smoke observations taken Samples of water taken for analysis Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination Samples of water taken for chemical analysis Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological	2 3 6 57 13 59 13
No. of houses disinfected after (1) infectious disease (2) tuberculosis Smoke test applied to drains Smoke observations taken Samples of water taken for analysis Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination	2 3 6 57 13 59 13
No. of houses disinfected after          (1) infectious disease          (2) tuberculosis          Smoke test applied to drains          Smoke test applied to drains          Smoke observations taken          Samples of water taken for analysis          Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination          Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination          Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination          Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination	2 3 6 57 13 59 13 15
No. of houses disinfected after         (1) infectious disease         (2) tuberculosis         Smoke test applied to drains         Smoke observations taken         Smoke observations taken         Samples of water taken for analysis         Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination         Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination         Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination         No. of complaints investigated	2 3 6 57 13 59 13 15 32
No. of houses disinfected after          (1) infectious disease          (2) tuberculosis          Smoke test applied to drains          Smoke test applied to drains          Smoke observations taken          Samples of water taken for analysis          Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination          Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination          Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination          No. of complaints investigated          No. of complaints investigated	2 3 6 57 13 59 13 15 32 169
No. of houses disinfected after         (1) infectious disease         (2) tuberculosis         Smoke test applied to drains         Smoke observations taken         Smoke observations taken         Samples of water taken for analysis         Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination         Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination         Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination         No. of complaints investigated	2 3 6 57 13 59 13 15 32 169 121

Summary of Work Carried Out in Compliance with Notices, etc., during 1955.

louse Drainage—			
House drains repaired, cleansed, etc	· · · · · ·		35
New pipe drains provided			4
House drains connected to sewer	•		5
Drains trapped	•		1
Septic tank and filter provided			1
anitary Conveniences—			
New water closets provided	. Inside		14
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc			8
Waste water closets converted into wate	r closet	ts	16
Pail closets abolished			2
Pail closets converted to water closets			1
actories and Bakehouses—			
Sanitary conveniences cleansed and repa	ired		1
New conveniences provided			i
1			
Iouses dealt with under Housing Act and I	Public 1	Health	Act
Houses repaired by informal notice			16
Houses repaired by statutory notice			_
Houses closed under Order			2
Houses demolished (voluntarily)			10
and a second			
liscellaneous—			
			(
No of cases of overcrowding shated			5
No. of cases of overcrowding abated			
No. of condemnations of unsound food			0.
			]

Mortuary Accommodation.

For accidents ... One Mortuary: two slabs.
For infectious cases, other than at hospitals ... None
Facilities for post-mortem examination? ... Yes.
Mortuary accommodation sufficient? ... Yes.

#### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

#### Milk Supply.

Number of milk distributors registered ... 75

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGS., 1949-1953

Number of licences in for	Dealers	Supplementary		
Pasteurised Milk	 	19		3
Sterilised Milk	 	64		2

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)	(RAV	V MILK)	REGS.,	1949				
Number of licences in force for		Dealers	Supp	lemen	tary			
Tuberculin Tested Milk		18		2				
Number of licences in force for production of milk								
Tuberculin Tested					5			

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#### **Meat Inspection**

Accredited

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...

There are three private slaughterhouses in the Borough licensed by the Council. They are situated at Bottoms, Walsden; Naylor Mill, Lydgate; and at Pavement; and the last-mentioned has not been used for slaughtering during the latter half of the year.

Doe Montuacy is 1899 sie 1999 of	Cattle other than cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	74	166	26	396	65
Diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcases condemned	-	1	ior p matha		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease		21		7	1
other than tuberculosis	-	13.25	-	1.74	1.53
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	1	902		(o <u>ii</u> o)	1920
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	37	-	1000	1
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	10.81	22.28	db 300	10.TS	1.53

The following table gives the results of meat inspection at the three slaughterhouses for the six months period:

#### Other Foods

The unsound food (other than meat, referred to in the preceding table) condemned during the year comprised the following: 14 lbs. of roast pork, 60 lbs. of frozen rabbits, 5 lbs. of cooked ham, 21 lbs. of fish, 10 lbs. of barley, 274 cans of meat, 57 cans of vegetables, 6 cans of fish, 4 cans of fruit and 14 packets of cheese spread.

Twenty-four samples of ordinary milk produced and distributed in the Borough were submitted to the "methylene blue" test and all the samples satisfied the test. Six samples of special designated milk—tuberculin tested, pasteurised and sterilised—were submitted for examination and they also satisfied the prescribed tests.

There are two makers of ice-cream in the Borough and ice-cream supplied by makers outside the Borough is sold at approximately 60 shops. Fifteen samples of ice-cream were submitted to bacteriological examination, 8 being in Grade I, two in Grade II, four in Grade III, and one in Grade IV. With regard to the samples in Grades III and IV investigations were made at the premises of the local maker concerned and the makers outside the Borough of the other samples were notified of the results. Two-hundred and thirty inspections were made of premises where food is prepared or sold, including slaughterhouses, bakehouses, ice-cream manufactories, cafes, and retail shops. The premises generally were found to be in a satisfactory structural condition and in a cleanly state.

#### Smoke Abatement

During the year 57 observations of 30 minutes duration were taken of factory chimneys and in no case did the amount of black smoke emitted exceed the period allowed by the Byelaw of the Council. In the majority of cases no black smoke was emitted but in a few where considerable smoke was emitted visits were paid and the Engineer or Fireman seen with a view to reduction of smoke. Similar action was taken on occasions when excessive smoke was noticed during the course of other duties.

Generally speaking most of the factory chimneys are reasonably free from the emission of excessive smoke but there are some which intermittently emit too much smoke for short periods at fairly long intervals.

#### Rodent Control.

Investigations were made at 62 premises for rodent infestation—39 for rats and 23 for mice. The premises treated for rats included 11 houses, 5 factories, 5 food premises, the refuse tip and the river.

Treatments for mice infestation were carried out at 22 premises, including schools, food premises, factories and houses.

A further two maintenance treatments for the destruction of rats in the sewers in the Borough were carried out, and reports on these treatments were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture etc. From the results of the successive treatments it would appear there has been a gradual reduction of rats in the sewers.

#### Housing.

#### HOUSING ACT 1936. HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954.

During the year the Council submitted their proposals for dealing with houses considered to be unfit for habitation to the Minister who approved them. The proposals provide for 499 houses to be dealt with as Clearance Areas and 79 to be dealt with as individual houses. Later the Council submitted to the Minister their programme for dealing with a selection of these houses in the next five years and this also was approved.

To begin the programme one block of 9 houses at Burnley Road, Knotts, was declared a Clearance Area, the Cornholme Ward (No. 4), and the necessary Clearance Order was made in December. In addition 5 houses at Orange Street, Knowlwood, were dealt with as individual houses. Closing Orders being made in respect of 2 of them which were unoccupied, and undertakings by the owners of the other 3 that they would not be used for human habitation after vacation by the present tenants an elderly person in each case—were accepted by the Council.

No further demolition of houses in the Shade Clearance Area was done, there still being 8 houses in a derelict condition to be demolished.

In addition to the houses for clearance or closing previously mentioned 24 houses were inspected. In 18 of the houses various defects such as leaking roofs and eavestroughs, defective windows, chimney flues, etc., were met with and the owners were requested by informal notice to carry out the necessary repairs. Repairs were done to 16 houses.

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Forty-four houses were inspected in connection with applications and enquiries for Improvement Grants. Of the applications considered by the Housing Committee 27 were granted and 1 refused. All except 2 of the houses concerned were for owner-occupiers and the improvements were mainly the provision of bathroom with hot water supply, inside water closet and proper food store.

#### CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Four applications for certificates were received, 1 of which was later withdrawn. The other 3 applications were considered by the Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose and a certificate granted in each case. On application by the owner a certificate previously granted was revoked, the house concerned having been put into a satisfactory state of repair.

#### OVERCROWDING

Six cases of overcrowding, affecting 38 persons were abated during the year, and no new cases were met with. At the end of the year 2 houses were known to be overcrowded, 2 families comprising 18 persons being affected.







