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ULVERSTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1956.

The principal statistics for 1956 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

On the 1st April 1956 the population of the Urban District was 12,400. This represents an increase of 100 persons on the population of the Urban District on the 1st April 1955.

Approximately 12% of the population of the Urban District are aged under 15 years. The percentage of the population aged under 15 years is higher than in the preceding five years.

Although the number of deaths was low last year, the number of deaths also increased as that of the preceding five years.

The mortality rate (i.e. the number of deaths per 1,000 population) was 10.5 in 1956. This is a low figure and is lower than in the preceding five years.

The increase in the number of deaths is due to an increase in the number of deaths from cancer. This is a common cause of death and is increasing in incidence.

However, an analysis of the causes of death shows that the number of deaths from cancer is not as high as it appears to be. This is because many of the deaths from cancer are recorded as deaths from other causes.

The mortality rate from cancer was 1.5 in 1956. This is a low figure and is lower than in the preceding five years.

The mortality rate from cancer is higher than in the preceding five years. This is because many of the deaths from cancer are recorded as deaths from other causes.

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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR

1956

Town Hall,  
ULVERSTON.

October, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1951	10,076
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population mid 1956	10,360
Number of inhabited houses	3,299
Rateable Value	£71,883
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate	£278.308

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town, the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of antibiotics, electrical accessories, light engineering, dress making and fancy goods. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1956 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

Of the 158 births registered during 1956, 81 were males of which 4 were illegitimate and 77 were females of which 2 were illegitimate.

Approximately 72% of deaths were of persons 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 56, Malignant growths 43 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 15.

Although the number of deaths were more than last year, the number of births also increased so that births exceeded deaths by 27.

The neo-natal mortality rate (i.e. the deaths of infants within 28 days of birth) is often taken as an indication of the adequacy of the maternity services. The increase in the number of neo-natal deaths to six is therefore somewhat disturbing at first sight. However an analysis of the causes of death shows that 4 of the infants were prematurely born, and two of these were complicated by congenital abnormalities and the remaining two were born with congenital abnormalities incompatible with life. Four out of the six therefore had not a reasonable chance of survival.



Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality					
	Rate per 1,000 Registered. ation.	Number Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Registered. ation.	Number Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Registered. births.	No. of deaths Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Registered. births.	No. of deaths Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Registered. births.	No. of deaths Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Registered. births.	No. of deaths Registered.	Rate per 1,000 Registered. births.	
1956	x15.3	158	x12.6	131	4	25	Nil	Nil	6	38	6	38	6	38
1955	13.8	142	10.7	110	1	7	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7	1	7
1954	13.0	133	12.1	124	2	15	Nil	Nil	2	15	2	15	2	15
1953	13.7	139	12.4	126	3	21	Nil	Nil	4	29	4	29	3	22
1952	15.2	153	12.7	128	2	13	Nil	Nil	5	33	5	33	1	7
1951	13.9	138	15.6	155	2	14	Nil	Nil	1	7	1	7	1	7
Average 5 years 1951-1955.	-	-	12.7	-	-	14	-	-	-	18	-	18	-	11.3

x Adjusted (live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.02) = 15.6 per 1,000

Adjusted (death rate (comparability factor, 0.93)= 11.8 per 1,000

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 Smaller towns and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.		160 Smaller Towns. 25,000-50,000 population.		Ulverston Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	16.0	11.2
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	14.4	10.9
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.3	13.2	10.5
1955	15.0	11.7	14.9	11.6	14.1	9.3
1956	15.6	11.7	15.6	11.6	15.6	11.8

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health.  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District,  
Grange-over-Sands Urban District,  
Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1,  
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

J.K. YATES, Joint Board Certificate,  
R.S.I. Meat and other Foods.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand filtered before storage in a service reservoir of 2½ million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

During the year the supply was satisfactory in quantity.

Five bacteriological analyses of the water were made during the year and all gave satisfactory results. Two samples were taken from private supplies which proved satisfactory.

During the year 63 new houses were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,264 houses were supplied direct to the houses, 17 were supplied by standpipes and 16 from private supplies.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Work continued throughout the year on the new main drainage scheme.

At 31st December, 1956 there were approximately 3,260 houses on the water carriage system with approximately 4,700 water closets.

HOUSING.

	<u>Flats.</u>	<u>Houses.</u>
Number of new houses erected during the year:-		
(1) By local authority	Nil	54
(2) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	Nil	9
<hr/>		
1. <u>Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:</u>		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		152
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose		339
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit;		
(a) Number found during year		1
(b) Total number existing at end of year		133
(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;		44
2. <u>Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)</u>		
(1) Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year		Nil

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:-

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Persons Displaced.</u>
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year:		
(a) Housing Act, 1936		
Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	3	5
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1949:		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2)	13	23

Number of Houses.

(2) Repairs during the year:		
(a) Unfit houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of <u>informal</u> action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts:		14
(b) Public Health Acts - Action after service of <u>formal notice</u> - Houses in which defects were remedied:-		
By owners		4
By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(c) Housing Act, 1936 - action after service of <u>formal notice</u> (Sections 9,10,11 and 16)-Houses made fit:		
By owners		2
By local authority in default of owners		Nil
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)		Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) Nil

5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants etc.,

Action during the year:	<u>No. of Schemes.</u>	<u>Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.</u>
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	13	13
(b) Approved by local authority	13	13
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	4	4
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation during 1956, certain of them on 1st January and others on 1st July. The Committee were in agreement with all the regulations except regulation 7 which, even as subsequently amended, would have had the effect of prohibiting the giving out of shrimps for picking to be followed by sale in the market and shops in the town. At the request of the Minister of Health the views of the Council were forwarded to him and he ultimately decided that existing arrangements for shrimp picking should be allowed to continue until 1st January, 1958.

The remaining information regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Five houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour, following tuberculosis, and clothing and bedding has been steam disinfected when necessary at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness.

Notifications of Infectious Disease.

Disease	Number of cases in year					1956		
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Number of Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever.	5	11	13	12	7	1	1	0
Measles	16	7	298	98	46	5	0	0
Whooping cough	32	37	0	35	4	7	0	0
Poliomyelitis	0	1	0	1	6	0	0	0
Dysentery	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Para-Typhoid fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	54	57	312	147	63	13	1	0

The incidence of infectious diseases has been remarkably low throughout the year.



TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1956.

Age Periods Years.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non.Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non.Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
	8		2		2		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston during the past 12 years.

Year	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non.Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non.Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1945	4	10	3	2	4	1	0	0
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
1947	6	3	1	2	0	3	0	0
1948	1	6	1	0	4	4	0	0
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
1953	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1954	6	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
1955	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	4	4	2	0	1	1	0	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	9	11	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	56	66	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above mentioned acts during the year.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1956.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year. Disposal of the refuse has been by controlled tipping at Tebay Lane. Treatments have been carried out to prevent infestations by rodents and insects and the tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

Routine treatments of the sewers, sewage works, controlled tip and beck courses have been carried out.

The following is a summary of the total treatments undertaken.

Properties.

Dwelling houses	124
Other Properties	159
Agricultural	3

HOUSING.

Slum clearance has continued during the year. Bells Yard Clearance area consisting of seven houses was approved and the Clearance Order confirmed without modification by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the ninth of November. Three houses have been demolished as a result of formal action under the Housing Acts and 13 houses closed as being unfit for human habitation.

No applications for certificates of disrepair, or applications for revocation of certificates were received during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

306 inspections and re-inspections have been made following the receipt of complaints or investigation of nuisances and their subsequent abatement.

Below is a summary of the cases abated by serving informal notices:-

Insufficient or insanitary accommodation for house refuse - 2  
Defective roofs - 7  
Defective spouting and guttering - 1  
Dampness from other causes - 1  
Inadequate water supply - 2  
Defective conditions of drains - 4  
Defective or insanitary closets - 7  
Verminous premises - 4  
Miscellaneous nuisances - 5

Cases dealt with by serving Statutory Notices:-

Premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance - 4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat Inspection.

The public slaughterhouse in the Gill has again been used by the majority of local butchers and two butchers from outlying districts. Although the layout and construction of the premises are far from satisfactory the slaughterhouse has been kept at as high a standard of cleanliness as possible. The keeping quality of carcase meat in the cooling room has been greatly appreciated.

The total number of animals killed and inspected (4,901) is in excess of the previous year by 150, mainly due to sheep and lambs.

Improvements in the general reduction of disease and subsequent condemnations reported last year has again been very noticeable. For the first time since meat inspection records were kept tuberculosis was not found in any degree in cattle and calves during the whole of 1956. It is only five years ago that almost 20% of the cattle inspected were affected with tuberculosis and credit must be given for the way tuberculosis has been eradicated from animals in this area.

Cysticercus Bovis (the cystic stage of tapeworm found in beef) affected six young cattle and the meat was subjected to six weeks refrigeration in accordance with Ministry policy before being released for sale. Enquiries show that the affected animals had come from outside the Urban District area.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	884	252	221	2895	649
Number Inspected	884	252	221	2895	649
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	6	13	13	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	18	29	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	2%	13.9%	5.9%	0.5%	0.2%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.4%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.....	6	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	6	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	-	-	-
Percentage of the number affected with cysticercosis	0.7%	Nil	-	-	-



### Causes of Condemnation.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, generalised	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, congenital	-	-	-	-	-
Anaemia, advanced	-	-	1	-	1
Bruising, extensive and severe	-	-	4	-	4
Emaciation, pathological	1	-	1	-	2
Fever	-	-	1	-	1
Immaturity	-	5	1	-	6
Mastitis, septic	3	-	-	-	3
Oedema, generalised	-	-	4	-	4
Peritonitis, septic	1	-	-	1	2
Pyæmia, including joint ill	-	6	-	-	6
Septicaemia or toxaemia	1	-	-	-	1
Other causes	-	2	1	-	3
	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>33</u>

### Food Shops and Premises.

The Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956 and emphasis has been put into implementing these requirements as they apply to food premises. Some 466 inspections and re-inspections have been made and it is gratifying to report that the necessity to institute legal proceedings for failure to comply with any regulation did not arise.

A number of establishments had already exceeded the statutory requirements but some premises have had to make considerable alterations and improvements, in some cases of a structural and costly nature.

As an indication of the extent to which the new Regulations mainly affected food premises, the following figures show the most common fault.

Lack of suitable and sufficient wash hand basins - 31 premises  
Food rooms not clean, in good order or vermin proof - 22 premises  
Absence of first-aid materials - 10 premises  
Lack of facilities for washing food and equipment - 7 premises  
Licensed premises came within the scope of the Regulations and three premises were found to have inadequate or unsatisfactory sink washing facilities and three without constant hot water to the bar sinks.  
Other instances; insufficient cleansing; particularly in beer cellars; lack of hygienic practices and insufficient sanitary conveniences were reported. By the end of the year most of the premises had had considerable work carried out to comply with the Regulations and generally improve the appearance. The remaining premises have plans and work in hand which should be completed in early 1957.

The satisfactory standards prevailing in the butcher's shops and preserved meat shops has been maintained. In several instances extensive alterations to the shops and preparing rooms have taken place with the result that the premises are a credit to the proprietors and the town.

Bakehouses have generally been found satisfactory. Here again, alterations, improvements and re-decoration have improved standards although one establishment had to be threatened with legal proceedings before the desired result was obtained.

The four fried fish shops have all undergone some form of improvement and two older establishments previously reported as having a low hygienic standard are steadily improving.

The Food Hygiene Regulations and national publicity have as a whole succeeded in raising the standard generally in all food premises. There is, however, a marked difference between the shops which are a 100% satisfactory and a show piece, and the establishment which just manages to comply with statutory requirements. The latter can never match the former, but so long as improvements

can be made and hygienic practices put into daily use it is believed that the time will come when it is possible to report that every food establishment has been found satisfactory in every respect. However, 1956 has been a satisfactory year of progress in the cleaner food campaign.

305 tins of meat, vegetables, fruit etc., have been disposed of after being voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

#### ICE CREAM.

Two premises are registered for the manufacture, storage and sale and 26 premises for storage and sale. The retailers mainly sell pre-packed ice-cream supplied by the larger manufacturers outside the district. All premises have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 two persons are registered as Distributors and two premises are registered for use as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms).

Four dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and one retail Distributors licence to sell pasteurised milk have been issued.

8 samples of milk were obtained for bacteriological examination for cleanliness, one of which proved to be unsatisfactory. The case was reported to the Lancashire County Executive Committee for necessary action. Further samples have proved satisfactory.

Bottlers of milk and dairymen are concerned about the dirty state of some of the empty milk bottles returned by customers, some of which are impossible to cleanse properly. As the bottle is more expensive to buy than the milk it holds the economic factor does not allow bottles to be destroyed indiscriminately on this account, and this may account for the occasional poor sample. The onus, however, rests with the seller but it is thought that given the right publicity, clean rinsing, and prompt returning to the dairyman would ultimately benefit the consumer.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J.K. YATES,

Public Health Inspector.



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