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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1968

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ULVERSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

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Divisional Health Office, Brogden Street, Ulverston.

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

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1968.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Census 1961	10,527
Registrar General's Estimate of	
home population mid 1968	10,690
Number of inhabited dwellings	3,737
Rateable Value	\$372,263
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£1432.3977

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 manufacture of anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals, electrical accessories, electronic components, tanning, brewing, tool making, electro-mechanical and light engineering and knitwear manufacturing. 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 1968 and for the preceding five years are given on page 2.

Of the 190 live births registered during 1968, 99 were males of which 9 were illegitimate and 91 were females of which 10 were illegitimate.

Approximately 71% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The principal causes of deaths were: Heart disease 49, Vascular lesions of nervous system 52 and Malignant Growths 27. Of the 49 deaths from Heart disease 44 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

The adjusted live birth rate of 19.4 per 1,000 and the adjusted death rate of 10.9 per 1,000 can be compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales of 16.9 per 1,000 and 11.9 per 1,000 respectively.

		,						
fatal	Rate per 1,000 live births	5.0	7.0	11.0	6.3	4*9	6.8	7.5
tality Neo-Natal	No. of deaths regis- tered	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Infant Mortality Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	21.0	13.0	16.5	6.3	19.1	20.5	15.1
Tot	No. of deaths regis- tered	4	2	2		М	20	100
al ty	Rate per 1,000 total births	L\$M	Lin	Lin	N11	Lin	Lin	N11
Mortality	No. of deaths regis-	Mil	Lin	Nil	Nil	Nil	Lin	
rens	Rate por 1,000 total births	21.0	19.0	Lin	6.3	18.8	20.1	12.8
Stillbirths	Number regis- tered	4	3	Lin	-	3	3	
Deaths (all causes)	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	15.2	18.1	16.9	15.7	17.6	17.6	17:2
De (a.1.1	Number regis- tered	163	191	176	162	182	185	1
irths	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	17.8	14.3	17.5	15.3	15.1	13.9	15.2
Live Births	Number regis- tered	190	151	182	158	157	146	
2001	Year	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	Average 5 years 1963-67
			-	-2	-			

Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor 1.09) = 19.4 per 1,000 Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.72) = 10.9 per 1,000

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
North Lonsdale 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 Certificate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY

The Furness Water Board is responsible for the provision and maintenance of public water supplies in the Ulverston Urban District. The water supplied to the District is upland surface water which is collected into Pennington reservoir. It is sand filtered, then stored in a covered service reservoir of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons capacity. Subsequently it is chlorinated before passing into the trunk main for distribution.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

During the year 146 new dwellings were connected to the public mains and at the end of the year 3,731 dwellings were supplied direct and 6 were supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewage is screened and disintegrated, then stored and discharged out to sea only on an ebb tide, but storm water overflow is pumped out to sea at any state of tide. All operations are automatic.

At 31st December, 1968 there were approximately 3,724 dwellings on the water carriage system with approximately 7,240 fresh water closets.

HOUSING

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the ye	ar:-	Г	-	
(1) By the local authority (2) By other local authorities (3) By other bodies or persons		Hou 8 Ni 13	3	Flats 4 Nil Nil
(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing	g at end	of year	1	,060
 (3) Inspections of dwellings during the year:- (1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected form for housing defects (under Public Heat (b) No. of inspections, formal or informations (c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to reasonably fit for human habitation to rendered fit. (2) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of for human habitation and not capable at rebeing rendered fit and in respect of which (a) Demolitich Orders have been made (at 	alth or Hal, made to be not capal f year whreasonableh	for the put in all replaced to the put in all re	ts) rpose espects ng unfit	23 50 23
(b) Demoliticn or Closing Orders have not	t yet bee	en made	COLUMN T	11
(4) Houses Demolished:-	el man		weign	Nil
(5) Unfit Houses Closed:-	Number	Displace Persons		ing year
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	6	11	T de la companya de l	6
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	TANK O	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	# 1000 ## 1000	Nil
(6) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:-		By Owner		Local
(1) After informal action by local authoris (2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957 (3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	57	24 7 Nil Nil	1	Vil Vil Vil
(4) After determination of a closing order under Section 27, Housing Act, 1961		1	j	Vil

(8) Purchase of Houses by Agreement:- Houses in Clearance Areas other than those	No. o House	es	No. of occupants o Houses in C	
included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased during the year.	11	1	3	30
(9) Housing Act, 1949 and Housing(Financial Provi	sions		of dwellin ner building in sche	
Action taken during the year:-			vate Bodies individuals	
(1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority			2	-
(2) Approved by local authority (3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry (4) Finally approved by Ministry (5) Work completed		(88)	Nil Nil	34 =
(6) Additional seperate dwellings included in (5) above			2	-
(10) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Stands Action during year:-	und Gro	ants	other bu	ildings
(1) Applications submitted to local authors improvement to (a) full standard (b) reduced standard	ity for	r	24 Nil	of off deposit at
(2) Total applications approved by local at for improvement to (a) full standard (b) reduced standard		ty	24 Nil	
(3) Work completed (Fro	om 196 196	7: 1: 8: 1:		1997

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

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 (Appendix 'A')

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified in 1968 is given in the table below, together with the numbers notified in the preceding 5 years.

Disease	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Scarlet fever	0	8	2	0	0	0
Measles	192	21	264	36	217	31
Whooping cough	12	2	0	0	5	1
Dysentery	1	1	0	0	0	9
Infective jaundice (from June, 1968)	-	-	-	-	_	5
TOTALS	205	32	266	36	222	46

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1968.

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Urban District residents during the past 12 years.

			Cases		Deaths Respiratory Non-Respiratory			
Years	Kespi	ratory	Non-Resp	F	Mespi	F	Non-Respi M	F
1957	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1958	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1959	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
1961	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
1962	0	0	0	0 -	0	0	0	0
1963	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
1964	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1965	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
1966	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1967	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1968	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951

In March, action was taken in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1951, to remove to hospital a man aged 84 years, who was physically handicapped and living alone in insanitary conditions and was unable to devote to himself, and was not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

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 FUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1968.

1968 has been very similar to 1961 when the Annual report then stated that there had been no specific highlights in any particular branch of public health administration. This again may largely be due to the fact that no new legislation was introduced in these years and it is not therefore necessary to make a special report on the administration of this.

Although no slum clearance took place other than the re-housing of the occupants of six houses (now closed), this re-housing completed a large phase in the progress being made in clearing areas of unfit property and which will permit re-development for both housing and road improvements. Some 62 houses, the majority of which were unfit or substandard are scheduled to be demolished for road works and 36 other empty houses and miscellaneous buildings remain from previous housing action. With the exception of the Tyson Square/Hill Fall complex all the larger areas of unfit or slum clearance type dwellings have been removed or await demolition and only small pockets of houses remain for future housing action. Bad housing conditions arising from overcrowding, extensive dampness and other causes of unfitness are the exception and new houses - 146 erected during 1968 - have done much to overcome a housing shortage which so often gives rise to insanitary living conditions.

Area house improvement was for the time being concluded in 1957 but the impact of this exercise continues and has resulted in 13 more houses in the South Ulverston area being brought up to standard improvement grant requirements. Altogether 33 houses were improved with grant aid (a total very similar to previous years), and, although not spectacular does show that the voluntary improvement of houses is continuing.

A little progress continues to be made in improving the sanitation of dwellings beyond the boundary of the town sewage system. The number of houses with privy middens or pail closets has been further reduced by the installation of septic tank drainage at two dwellings leaving only seven houses without water closet and sanitary drainage facilities. With the exception of one house without an internal water supply, and excluding the group of houses at Newlands, all other houses in the Urban District now have a satisfactory internal supply of water from the public mains or a piped water supply which is otherwise satisfactory.

The necessity for the enforcement of repairs at unfit houses, largely initiated through complaints from the occupants is now reduced to minor proportions and in 1968 only 21 informal and 2 formal notices were served requiring repairs at houses reported to be unfit. Legal proceedings had to be taken in one instance for the abatement of a nuisance at insanitary premises.

MILK AND FOOD

59 samples of milk, as supplied by the distributor to the consumer, were obtained for analysis.

The results were as follows -

		Positive	Negative	No result
2 2	Tuberculosis	Nil	5	Nil
(b)	Brucellosis Ring test " Culture test	3	53	3
(d)	" Biological test	2	3	Nil

	Number of Samples		Unsatis- factory	Void Samples
(a) Nethylene Blue test	8	5	3	Nil
Heat Treated Milk. (b) Methylene Blue test) (c) Fhosphate test	1	1	-	Nil Nil

Orders, prohibiting the sale of milk in its untreated state were served on each of the three producers of the positive brucella culture samples and remained in force until satisfactory evidence was produced that no infection remained. A positive sample of milk had been obtained from one of the farms concerned the previous year and a restriction sale order was served but during the eight month interval between the restrictions samples were found to be consisiently negative for brucellosis.

Particulars of the three samples which had failed to pass the Methylene Blue test were forwarded to the Milk Production Officer for investigation and report. Subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

11 samples of the public water supply were taken from various places in the torn and all were placed in the catergory "highly satisfactory" when analysed. One sample taken from the private water supply at Newlands, previously referred to, was unsatisfactory, as in previous years.

Figures relating to meat inspection carried out at the Public Abattoirs are shown below -

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs	Horses.
Number killed	1.012	22	150	4,003	1,732	Nil
Number inspected	1,012	22	150	4,003	1,732	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	2	2	1	10	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	2	Nil	7	12	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci	5.5	18.2	0.7	0.4	0.7	-
Tuberculosis only Cysticercosis			Nil			
Carcases of Which some part or organ was condemned	3				palgarit	The same of
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	3				Here	Sugard of
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil					

There has been a marked decrease in the number of animals passing through the Abattoir and which may be due to several causes - economics; shortage of livestock generally; the effects of the last outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease; or even a change in the trend towards fowl instead of flesh for the week-end joint.

The number of animals totally condemned as being unfit for food was higher than in previous years but the total percentage of all animals found to be affected with disease is still satisfactorily low and indicates the quality of animal sent in for slaughter for butchers meat. Unfortunately a large proportion of beef livers (and to a slightly lesser degree sheep livers) are affected by cirrhosis caused directly by 'fluxes' and although the effect as only an economic one the total weight of livers condemned was in excess of three tons. A few animals arrive as casualties or for emergency slaughter and it is mainly from these that the diseased condemnations arise - altogether a total of 1 ton 4 cwts, and 30 lbs, of meat carease rejected as unfit.

Three carcases of bullock beef were found to be affected with Cysticerous Ports and were detained in cold storage for the stipulated period before being released for retail cale.

The following other unsound food was surrendered or condemned as unfit

	Cwts.	lbs.
Cooked meats and meat products Canned meats Other canned foods Fish (fresh) Other foods	1 3	43 63½ 94 4 51
TOTAL	6	31½
	Franklin ordered	-

Investigations were instituted following reports of a bolt being found in a bag of sugar and a cockroach in a meat pie. In the first instance the sugar was pre-packed and the inquiry showed that not less than five firms had handled the commodity in that state and further information indicated that the complaint probably started in the West Indies. In view of the improbability of getting a successful prosecution no legal proceedings were therefore taken. The manufacturer of the meat pie was taken to court and fined £5 for selling food contrary to the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act.

Inspections have been carried out at all food premises to check observance of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and especially the sections dealing with sinks and wash hand basins. Where necessary the proprietors were initially warned of any contraventions but at two food premises found to be not natisfactory further action is being taken. The self service type of shop is increasing in popularity and usually bringing with it at least one food hygiene advantage - the pre-packing of a greater number of food-stuffs. These, if kept and displayed according to the manufacturer's recommendations do much to lessen the handling of many commodities. Inspection demands little more than an inspection of the date stamp and most suppliers have a satisfactory system for withdrawal of out-of-date products.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Particulars respecting the above are shown in the figure below -

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year.		No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	3	28	15
Retail Shops	5	118	99
Wholesale shops, warehouses	Nil	3	2
Catering establish'ts open to the public, canteens	Nil	10	8
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	1	aldrag on man early
TOTALS	8	159	124

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises under the Act 142

In the main there are no serious contraventions and it has been possible as a result of advisory inspections to improve lighting and heating of some shops, as well as welfare facilities for staff. No accidents were reported.

The number of inspections shown above are in respect of visits carried out for the sole purpose of this Act. The majority of shops listed above sell a food or confectionery product and as such are more particularly supervised under the relevant Acts, as also are contraventions dealt with under such legislation.

Under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 13 contraventions were remedied relating to:-

Unsatisfactory ventilation 1
Lighting 1
Sanitary conveniences 1
First aid 2
Other matters 8(chiefly a failure to provide staff with particulars of the Act as prescribed)

An application for exemption of the requirements to provide sanitary accommodation on the premises of a registered premises was received and granted.

MISCELLANEOUS

Two of the more topical numbers were investigated - namely noise and atmospheric pollution. Two formal complaints received regarding noise from barking dogs and industry were considered. The first complaint, although made by a number of persons jointly could not be substantiated sufficiently to enable more than an informal request to the owner of the animals to keep the dogs under better control, Complaints of industrial noise are new in this district but the three complainants in this instance felt justified in asking for the sound level from a factory to be reduced to more reasonable proportions. Representations were made to the firm concerned, and although certain works have been carried out which have eliminated noise from one source, further sound proofing scheduled to be completed shortly should result in the elimination of further complaints.

Reference was first made to smokeless zones in the 1961 Annual Report but this proposal has been deferred until more recently, mainly because of a possible shortage of smokeless fuel. Several visits were made to houses in the new development areas, and elsewhere, as a preliminary investigation for re-consideration of smokeless fuel zones. Providing that the necessary fuel supplies can now be guaranteed and the authority given it would appear that there are no particular obstacles preventing the declaration of intent to proceed with areas of new housing development as the nucleus of a smokeless area.

GENERAL

Figures relating to rodent control are given below and again included in this report to show the continuing efforts made to ensure an adequate safeguard against major infestations of rats and mice. Some additional supervision has been necessary to prevent a build-up of colonies of rodents in the empty properties, and at some other dwellings it was necessary to ask house-holders to refrain from throwing food for birds as this was also feeding rats and hindering the efforts being made to eradicate the vermin.

The greatest demand for disinfe tation of houses came in the autumn and of the 56 houses visited the greater proportion required the destruction of wasps nests. A demand is still made for assistance in controlling ants which have invaded kitchens or other parts of the house but the more serious bed bug or flea problem did not arise.

RODENT CONTROL

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
No. of properties in district	4,,780	19
No. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification No. of properties inspected which were found to be infected by:-	225	Nil
Rats	164	Nil
Mice	61	Nil
No. of properties inspected for reasons other than notification No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-	540	8
Rats	60	6
Mice	120	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1968 for the Ulverston Urban District in the County of Lancashire.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act.

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection	Number of Written	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	32	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	54	1	_
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	72	86	1	-

2. - Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M.	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors(S6) Sanitary conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	- 1	1
(c) Not seperate for sexes Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to	-	-	-	-
outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	-	1

Part VIII of the Act

Particulars under Sections 133 and 134

No. of outworkers in August list No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council Nil

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