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URMSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

A 11.8.36

No. 1754/1

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1935.

By

D. W. DAVIDSON, (M.B., Ch.B. Glasgow).
(Medical Officer of Health).

And

ROBERT G. CHILD, (Mem. San. Inspec. Assoc.).
(Sanitary Inspector).

Issued by the Urmston Urban District Council.

URMSTON :

"TELEGRAPH" Printing Co., Ltd., Railway Road.

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JUNE, 1936.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1935.

England and Wales, London, 121 Great Towns, and 140 Smaller Towns.
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	121 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	140 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
BIRTHS :—				
Live	14. 7	14. 8	14. 8	13. 3
Still	0.62	0.68	0.64	0.52
DEATHS :—				
All Causes	11. 7	11. 8	11. 2	11. 4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04
Diphtheria	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.06
Influenza	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.11
Violence	0.52	0.45	0.41	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	2.96	3.19	2.75	2.64
Diphtheria	1.60	1.96	1.34	2.25
Enteric fever	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05
Erysipelas	0.42	0.48	0.37	0.45
Pneumonia	1.15	1.36	0.98	0.89
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	57	62	55	58
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.7	7.9	3.8	11.
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	1.68	} Not available		
Others	2.42			
Total	4.10			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still.				
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	1.61	} Not available		
Others	2.32			
Total	3.93			
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Puerperal fever	3.60	4.55	2.76	4.32
Puerperal pyrexia	9.44	11.14	8.25	11.80

The Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1935.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
CROFTS BANK ROAD,
URMSTON,

JUNE, 1936.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Urmston Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my sixth annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1935.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, 4,797 acres.

Population (Census, April 1931) 9,284.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population,
1935, 27,980.

Number of occupied houses (Census 1931) 2,474

 " " " " 31st Dec., 1935 8,477

 " " unoccupied houses 31st Dec., 1935 ... 215

General Rate, 1935-36, 11/7d.

The rateable value at 31st December, 1935, was £273,850 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £1,124.

The geographical position of Urmston is 6 miles W.S.W. from Manchester and 204 miles from London.

With the exception of the Trafford Park area of Davyhulme the district is chiefly residential, the residents being mainly dependent on Manchester and surrounding districts for their livelihood.

The chief industries carried on in Trafford Park are:—petroleum storage, oil refining, manufacture of asbestos, steel, wire, rubber, chemicals and furniture, also engineering and electricity works, tea bonding and abattoirs products.

Unemployment in the district is not extensive in comparison with surrounding areas.

In March, 1935, the Council purchased some 218 acres of land at Flixton, which has been allocated for the following purposes :

	Acres.
Allotments	17 $\frac{1}{4}$
Housing	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Open Spaces	186 $\frac{1}{4}$

Four hundred and fifty-two houses have been erected for the housing of the working classes under the Acts of 1919, 1923 and 1924.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	441	226	215	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16·2.
		Illegitimate	13	8	5	
		Total	454	234	220	

Still Births ... 20 10 10 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 42.

Deaths ... 280 149 131 Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, *10·0.

Deaths from Puerperal causes--

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births.
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	3	—
Total	3	6·32

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births... .. 33

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 31

Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „ 76

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) —

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) —

Population	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 (Live and Still) Births	
27,980							
Mean of 5 years—							
1930—1934	14·8	11·3	0·41	1·68	3·95	3·77	53
Year 1934	17·0	10·8	0·48	1·80	2·20	2·11	46
1935	16·2	+10·0	0·32	1·64	6·60	6·32	33
Increase or Decrease in 1935 on 5 years average, 1930-1934	+1·4	—1·3	—0·09	—0·04	+2·65	+2·55	—20
Previous Year	—0·8	—0·8	—0·16	—0·16	+4·40	+4·21	—13
*1935 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1.09) = 10·9 per 1,000							

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1935

		Males	Females	
Encephalitis Lethargica		1	—	
Influenza			3	
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...		4	5	
do. (non-respiratory) „		3	1	
General Paralysis of Insane ...		—	1	
Cancer		19	27	
Diabetes		6	1	
Cerebral Hæmorrhage		9	10	
Heart Disease		34	30	
Other circulatory diseases		4	6	
Bronchitis		2	2	
Pneumonia		13	3	
Other respiratory diseases		5	1	
Peptic Ulcer		2	1	
Appendicitis		—	1	
Diseases of liver, etc.		1	—	
Other digestive diseases		—	5	
Nephritis		5	1	
Puerperal causes		—	3	
Congenital Causes		4	3	
Senility		6	6	
Suicide		1	—	
Other violence		9	3	
Other defined causes		14	18	
	All causes	149	131	
Deaths of Infants under one year	{	Total	9	6
		Legitimate	8	6
		Illegitimate	1	—
Live Births	{	Total	234	220
		Legitimate	226	215
		Illegitimate	8	5
Stillbirths	{	Total	10	10
		Legitimate	10	10
		Illegitimate	—	—

There has not been any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has required investigation or any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy.

There is no evidence to shew that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

By an Agreement dated 9th September, 1930, between the Council and the Bury & District Joint Hospital Board, provision is made for the reception at the Board's Hospital of small-pox patients from this district. Two beds are available for which an annual retaining fee is paid.

For other infectious diseases an arrangement exists with the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at their Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford. For the treatment of Tuberculosis the sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council are available.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—Pathological and bacteriological examinations are undertaken by arrangement with the Manchester University, Department of Bacteriology & Preventive Medicine at their Laboratory in York Place, Manchester. The number of examinations made during the year was as follows:—

Month	MILK.		Tubercle Bacilli
	Diphtheria	Bacteriological	
January	15	—	—
February	7	—	—
March	9	—	—
April	4	1	—
May	10	5	—
June	15	—	—
July	9	—	—
August	5	2	2
September	3	2	—
October	7	4	4
November	8	7	4
December	3	2	1
Total	95	23	11

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available. For non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity patients arrangements exist with the Stretford, Eccles, and Salford Corporations for the use of their motor ambulances.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—For general nursing purposes, nurses from the Urmston Cottage Hospital, and the Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme Nursing Association visit patients as required. The Association does not undertake midwifery cases (i.e., attendance at confinement without a medical practitioner) or monthly nursing. The Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association and employs one nurse permanently and one additional nurse temporarily as required. As regards the nursing at home of cases of infectious disease, no special arrangements are in operation.

CLINICS.—Maternity and child welfare centres and a school clinic in the district are provided by the Lancashire County Council. Consultation and treatment at the welfare centres is provided each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 2-30 p.m. to 4-0 p.m. and the school clinic each Monday from 9-30 a.m. to 12-0 noon, and which are well attended and much appreciated by mothers and their children in this district.

THE NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.—The powers and duties delegated to local authorities under this Act are administered in your district by the Lancashire County Council.

MIDWIFERY SERVICES.—The Council do not employ or subsidise any midwife. The number of midwives on the Lancashire County Council Register, at the 31st December, 1935, and practising in the district was nine. The Midwifery service is quite adequate for the needs of the district.

HOSPITALS.—General hospital accommodation for the use of inhabitants of the district is available at the hospitals of Manchester & District, Salford, Eccles and Davyhulme, also the Urmston Cottage Hospital. The Council contributes an annual sum to the Manchester and Salford Medical Charities Fund.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation and is of good quality. A constant and direct supply is maintained to each dwelling-house in the district.

The question of liability to plumbo-solvent action has been raised from time to time, but it is considered that although the water is very soft, no action need be taken with regard to its liability to act on lead pipes.

The water is analysed at regular intervals by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks department, and the results both chemically and bacteriologically are quite satisfactory. There are approximately four houses in this district which are supplied from wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—All sewers in the district are flushed with fresh water as required and all new drains are submitted to water test.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—All water courses are regularly inspected and action taken where necessary to check pollution.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—At the end of the year there were :—

19 Privy Middens. 26 Privy Closets. 89 Pail Closets.
 24 Dry Ashpits (excluding middens). 8,590 Fresh
 Water Closets. 8642 Movable Ashbins, and 71 Waste
 Water Closets.
 Number of houses on water carriage system, 8661.

		During year 1935	During five years 1930-34.
Conversions.			
No. of Privy Closets	To fresh W.C.'s.	—	—
	To waste W.C.'s.	—	—
	To Pail Closets	—	—
No. of Pail Closets.	To fresh W.C.'s.	4	—
	To waste W.C.'s.	—	—
No. of waste W.C.'s to fresh W.C.'s.		—	—
No. of houses at which movable ash- bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		—	6

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection and disposal of house refuse and the scavenging of roads and streets is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and particulars of this work are given in his report.

SHOPS.—No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Two preliminary notices were served during the year to abate nuisances arising from the emission of black smoke and were complied with.

The Council is represented on the Manchester & District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

SCHOOLS.—All are kept in a good sanitary condition and are sufficiently supplied with water. The department is in constant co-operation with the School Medical Officer in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious disease.

RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 and 1928.—There are not any premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

SWIMMING BATHS.—The Council have erected at a cost of £30,000 an indoor swimming pool with slipper, foam, and medicated baths. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of the water have shewn the condition to be highly satisfactory.

4—HOUSING.

I—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	100
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	293
2—(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	42
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	118
3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	58
4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	42

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF STATUTORY NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council or their Officers...	20
--	----

3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR—

(A) Proceedings under Section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices :—	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By the Council in default of owners	Nil.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
---	------

(C) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil.
---	------

(D) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
---	------

HOUSING CONDITIONS.—There are no “ back-to-back ” houses, all being of the “ through ” type. There is still a good demand for houses, but in view of the constant building by private enterprise and the houses erected by the Council, I consider the requirements of the district are reasonably satisfied. Overcrowding is practically non-existent, but such cases which come to notice from time to time are dealt with. As regards the fitness of the houses, no special difficulties have been found in taking action under the Public Health or Housing Acts, requests to execute repairs usually being complied with by owners of property. Each house has an adequate internal water supply and separate sanitary accommodation. There are 14 unhealthy areas in the district requiring action under the Housing Act, 1930.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The supply is obtained partly locally and partly from outside districts, and is generally of a wholesome character. The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and are generally in a fairly good condition. Two licences to sell "Certified" milk, two "Grade A" and one "Pasteurised" were granted. There was no cause to refuse any application for registration or revoke licences for graded milk. One dairyman in the district has been granted a "Grade A" producer's licence by the County Council.

The veterinary inspection of dairy cows in the district is under the jurisdiction of the Lancashire County Council.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Periodical visits of inspection are made by the Sanitary Inspector to the slaughter-houses and butchers' shops in the district. There was no cause to condemn any unwholesome meat as unfit for human consumption. There are 24 bakehouses in the district all of which are regularly inspected and generally are kept in a good sanitary condition.

ADULTERATION, CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Constabulary.

NUTRITION.—No special work in connection with the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been undertaken.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Each acute case notified is visited at once by the Sanitary Inspector and isolation is arranged either at the patient's home or by removal to Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford. When cases are isolated at home all children from the infected house are prevented from attending school until such time as the house is free from infection. On termination of the case by removal to hospital, recovery, or death, the room and its contents are thoroughly fumigated under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, and the bedding is submitted to super-heated steam disinfection. Diphtheria Anti-toxin is provided by the Council and a constant supply is always kept in the district.

The hospital accommodation available for cases of infectious disease is utilised to the best advantage, removal to hospital only being undertaken when isolation at the patient's home is not practicable.

It has not been considered necessary to make any use of the "Schick" and "Dick" tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1935.

Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.			
	Total cases at all ages.	YEARS.												65 and over	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
		under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65					
Scarlet Fever...	37	1	1	2	19	5	2	5	2	2					19		
Diphtheria ...	23	1	1	4	3	8					1				20		
Acute Primary Pneumonia)	41	1	2	2		5	2	8	7	11					15	3	
" Influenzal ")	12							10	2						10		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...								1							1		
" Fever ...	1							1							1		
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1							1							1	1	
Erysipelas ...	11							1	2	6	2				5		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4														4		
Totals ...	130	5	4	3	7	5	26	13	4	29	13	18	2	7	75	4	

CANCER.—No special enquiries such as those outlined in the Ministry of Health circular 1136, dated 31st July, 1930, have been undertaken on behalf of the Council. Forty-six deaths occurred during the year equal to an annual death rate of 1.64 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

DISINFECTION.—During the year 92 houses and also the bedding which had been exposed to infection were disinfected. No arrangements are available in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons, as such arrangements have not been found necessary.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action has been taken under Section 88 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.—It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, in connection with tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compulsory removal to hospital has been required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The notification of tuberculosis in the district is fairly efficient, the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths being 15 per cent.

There is not any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during 1935, are given in the following form :—

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1935.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-1 ...			1				1	
1-5 ...			1				1	
5-10 ...			2	1			1	
10-15 ...				2				
15-20 ...				1				
20-25 ...		3			1			
25-35 ...	4	3		1		4		
35-45 ...	3	1			1			
45-55 ...	3			1	1	1		
55-65 ...	2				1	1		
65 & upwards								
Totals	12	7	4	6	4	6	3	
	19		10		10		3	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. W. DAVIDSON, MB., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
CROFTS BANK ROAD,
URMSTON,

MAY, 1936.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Urmston Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report of the Health Department for the year ending 31st December, 1935.

The routine work has naturally increased owing to the rapid growth of the district and to assist in the increasing duties of the department an additional Inspector was appointed and commenced duties early in the year which has greatly facilitated the work in many directions. This assistance has been particularly beneficial in connection with Slum Clearance under the Housing Act, 1930, and the five year programme which has been arranged is up to schedule.

At the end of the year there were 8,692 houses in the district, 215 of which were empty. 475 new houses were certified, all of which were erected by private enterprise.

The estimated population of the district is 28,737.

During the year certain alterations have been made on the instructions of the Council. Public lighting, Fire protection, and Omnibus matters were transferred to the Surveyor, whilst the work of street cleansing and gully emptying has been placed under my department.

During the year the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935, came into operation and confers further powers for and in connection with health and other matters of good government.

I append a summary of the various visits and inspections so far as they can be tabulated:—

Complaints received and investigated 198

INSPECTIONS MADE.

Dwelling Houses	293
Drainage	356
New Drains Tested	574
Water Courses	21
Public Markets	177
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	172
Bakehouses	51
Slaughterhouses	150
Butchers' Shops	267
Factories	9
Workshops	21
Outworkers' Premises	20
Refuse Tip	236
Public Conveniences	65
Smoke Observations	8
Petroleum Acts	20
Re-Inspections	412
Miscellaneous Visits	192

3242

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases enquired into...	52
Number of cases removed to hospital	34
Number of houses disinfected	92
Number of schools disinfected...	1
Preliminary Notices served	140
Statutory Notices served	10
Visits to Cold Stores	10
Number of Carcasses Examined	551
Amount of diseased offal voluntarily surrendered	113-lbs.

Most of the nuisances were remedied on formal request and it was only necessary to serve statutory notices in ten instances; the work has been carried out without friction and it has not been necessary to resort to legal proceedings during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection of house refuse was carried on regularly and systematically except during a portion of the year when it was found necessary to scrap two of the old vehicles. These, however, were replaced by new vehicles which put this work again on a regular and satisfactory basis which continued throughout the remaining portion of the year.

The number of ashbins emptied weekly reaches approximately 8,642 and there are still a number of pail closets, privy middens and dry ashpits receiving attention as required.

The amount of house refuse collected during the past year was 5,320 tons, representing 12.5 cwts per occupied house and 3.7 cwts per inhabitant.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping instituted shortly after amalgamation and this is still proving a very beneficial and economical method. Trade refuse is also dealt with in the same manner and where arrangements are made with the Council this refuse is collected by the staff, or the tradesman can deliver his waste at the tip where it is disposed of free of charge. The disposal cost per ton of house and trade refuse last year was 1/10d. which amount may be considered very satisfactory.

The total number of loads of refuse received and dealt with at the tip during the year was as follows:—

	1935	1934
	Loads	Loads
House Refuse	5320	5143
Trade Refuse	1240	1115
Other Refuse		
(Road Sweepings, etc.)	874	485
	—	—
Totals	7434	6743
	—	—

This is an increase in house refuse of 177 loads from the previous year and an increase in all loads of 691.

The present tip is rapidly being filled up and additional land will be necessary during the next year. At the present rate of tipping it is interesting to note that one acre of land is required each year for a completed finished tip of 12 feet depth.

House refuse is naturally on the increase, not so much however in weight as in volume. Ashbins contain a very large amount of bulky material such as paper, cardboard, &c., and most of this could be burnt on the kitchen grate, but householders are very loath to assist the department in reducing the output from their houses or trying to reduce the space in the bins and vehicles by bundling. The work of refuse collection and disposal is continuous and whatever the conditions may be the work must be maintained for the betterment of health.

MEAT REGULATIONS

There are two licenced and one registered slaughterhouses in the area and 25 butchers' shops all of which are kept under constant observation.

Most of the meat exposed is of good quality; the butchers obtain their home killed supplies chiefly from Manchester. The slaughterhouses are visited at the times of slaughtering.

No diseased meat was found but on a few occasions certain offal were found unsound and unfit and surrendered. The meat killed in your district is of very good quality. 150 visits were paid to the slaughterhouses and 267 to butchers' shops. The Meat Regulations are reasonably complied with,

Regular inspections were made to the markets, and no complaints have been necessary during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 24 bakehouses which are periodically inspected and taken generally the conditions as to cleanliness of the premises and utensils used are satisfactory.

FOOD SAMPLING.

The Superintendent of Police reports the following samples obtained locally for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act :—

Milk	42
Zinc Ointment	1
Ground Ginger	1
Butter	1
Mixed Spice	1
Lard	1
Sausage	1
Margarine	1

No prosecution was taken during the year.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

On the register under the above Order there are 31 Cowkeepers and 43 Dairymen or Milk Purveyors. Of the Milk Purveyors, 8 come from outside the district.

The bulk of the milk sold is bottled and although this is no guarantee of quality, it is helpful in avoiding contamination during distribution.

“Grade A” milk licences are held by two dairymen two for “Certified” and one “Pasteurised.”

Your cowsheds and dairies are kept under regular observation and are maintained at a reasonable standard.

Thirty-four samples of milk produced in the district were obtained during the year and analysed for Bacteria, Coli, and Tubercle Bacilli. The results obtained were very satisfactory: in 31 instances the first reports were up to “Grade A” standard and in only three cases were results unsatisfactory owing to Bacillus Coli. Investigations were made in connection with these and general advice given as to the method of production and handling, with the result that these were, after further tests, brought up to the “Grade A” standard.

All the tests for tubercle bacilli were negative.

Samples of milk were also obtained for tests for tubercle bacilli from school supplies in the district by arrangement with the County Council.

With regard to the bottles, here again the general public are remiss in the manner in which empty bottles are returned; many are returned in a dirty condition through lack

of rinsing after use, and having been used for other purposes. It is surprising how many milk bottles find their way to the dustbin.

HOUSING.

Good progress has been made during the year in connection with Slum Clearance. Four Orders comprising 26 houses were granted by the Ministry after public inquiry.

The necessary new houses for accommodating the displaced tenants have been arranged in reasonable proximity to the clearance areas. 293 inspections were made in connection with the Housing Acts, and at the end of the year the Council were faced with the Housing Act, 1935, with still further activities relating to housing and particularly in connection with overcrowding.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 87 premises classed as Factories and 46 as Workshops. Only a few minor defects were found and these were dealt with; in two instances intimations were received from the Factory Inspector and attended to.

We have also six Outworkers in the district; that is, work given out from factories and workshops and carried out at home.

PETROLEUM.

The number of licences granted under the Petroleum Acts was 60. The quantity allowed to be stored under these licences was 322,634 gallons Petrol and 947½ tons Carbide. With regard to bulk storage of Carbide three works are involved, one for the preparation of special Carbide blocks, one for canning and one for the preparation of dissolved acetyline gas in cylinders. All the regulations were complied with.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three trades are established under this heading; one tripe boiling and gut scraping, and two soap boiling. No complaints were received in connection with these premises and the businesses are controlled in a satisfactory manner.

ROBT. G. CHILD.



