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Urmston Urban District Council

# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the year

1947





# Urmston Urban District Council

**Chairman of the Council, 1947-1948:**  
**COUNCILLOR H. HOWSDON, J.P.**

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1947-1948.**

*Chairman:* Councillor R. H. TOOTILL, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor Mrs. R. V. ROYLE-HIGGINSON.

Councillor Mrs. B. E. BULL, J.P.  
„ G. H. CARNALL.  
„ W. NEWTON.  
„ F. W. DICKINSON.  
„ A. C. ROBERTSON.  
„ Mrs. A. M. WILKINSON.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF:—**

*Medical Officer of Health:*

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

\* W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors:*

\* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

H. HOLDSWORTH, C.S.I.B.  
(Resigned 15th February, 1947)

V. D. L. PROTHERO, C.S.I.B.  
(Commenced 8th April, 1947)

\* Certified Meat and Food Inspector


*Chief Clerk:* G. W. BLAKE, A.R.I.P.H.

*Clerk:* M. LAMBERT.

*Immunisation Clerk:* Mrs. E. POWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*Typist:* Miss B. HARRISON.





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# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1947.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF URMSTON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my twelfth and last report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The report deals with the year ending December 31st, 1947, and the arrangements of the sections is the same as in previous reports, but the report has again been condensed in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health. In some of the statistical tables given below figures are given for the sake of comparison for 1938, as being the last complete year before the war.

The chief feature in the vital statistics is the very high birth rate of 21.7 per thousand of the population, the highest recorded in the district since it was amalgamated.

The general death rate was greater than the mean for the previous five years, being 11.5, compared with 10.6 for the years 1942-1946. It is satisfactory to record that no deaths occurred from diphtheria, whooping-cough, scarlet fever or influenza. The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis was the lowest recorded in the district since amalgamation. The number of deaths of infants under 2 years of age from diarrhoea or enteritis was the largest for over ten years, the number being 7; the usual number has been about 2 per year although there were 5 in 1944. This is of some significance in connection with the suggested campaign in connection with the hygiene of food and drink.

Admissions to hospital for infectious disease were 47. This is an increase on the previous year, mainly due to the prevalence of infantile paralysis, 17 cases of which were confirmed. Only one case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

I desire to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and consideration, and to my colleague, Mr. Wood, and to all members of the staff of the Health Department for their assistance in the compilation of this report, and to record my appreciation of their work during the year under review.

A. V. STOCKS,

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A.—GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The geographical conditions of the area have been dealt with in previous reports. The population is estimated by the Registrar General at 38,030, showing an increase of over 3,000 in the past three years. The following are estimates by the Registrar General for the years stated:—

<i>Population.</i>	
1938 .....	32,030
1944 .....	34,910
1945 .....	35,140
1946 .....	36,920
1947 .....	38,030

**NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.**—The number of occupied houses at the end of 1938 was 10,530 and at the end of 1947 was 11,722. The rateable value is £379,069, and the product of a penny rate is £1,581 4s. 8d.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**BIRTH RATE.**—Births registered were 827, representing a birth rate per thousand of the estimated population of 21.7.

The following table gives a comparison between the live birth rates in the Urban District, in the Administrative County Area and in England and Wales for the years indicated:

Year.	Urmston.	County Administrative Area.	England and Wales.
1938	16.6	14.14	15.1
1944	21.5	18.64	18.0
1945	17.6	16.62	16.1
1946	17.6	18.42	19.1
1947	21.7	—	20.5
Mean of 1942-1946	18.2		

The following table gives total live births, illegitimate births and still-births for the years indicated:—

Year.	Total Live Births.	Illegitimate Births.	Stillbirths.
1938	533	13	24
1944	752	23	16
1945	619	41	26
1946	650	35	19
1947	827	30	28

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—The death rate of infants under one year of age was 33 per thousand live births. The following table gives a comparison for the years indicated with the figures for the County Administrative Area and for England and Wales:—

Deaths under 1 year per thousand live births.

Year.	Urmston	County.	England and Wales.
1938	26	55	53
1944	49	46	46
1945	29	50	46
1946	30	—	43
1947	33	—	41
Mean of 1942-1945	45		

The following table gives the death rate of infants under one year of age per thousand live births, together with the death rate of legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births and the death rate of illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births, compared with the corresponding figures of 1945 and 1946:—

	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		
	1945	1946	1947
All Infants .....	29	30	33
Legitimate Infants .....	27	26	33
Illegitimate Infants.....	48	114	33



## NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

The following table gives the death rate of infants under the age of one month, per thousand live births, for each of the past six years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Neo-Natal Mortality</i>
1942 .....	40.6
1943 .....	29.0
1944 .....	30.6
1945 .....	17.7
1946 .....	18.4
1947 .....	16.5

It is satisfactory to note the decrease since 1942 in the mortality rate of infants under the age of one month as this is a particularly sensitive index of the efficiency of ante-natal care and the care of small infants.

The following table gives for each of the past four years, total births, total deaths of infants under one year of age, deaths within one month and deaths within three days of birth :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths under One Year.</i>	<i>Deaths within One Month.</i>	<i>Deaths within Three Days.</i>
1944	752	37	23	12
1945	619	18	11	5
1946	650	20	12	10
1947	827	28	14	11

The principal causes of death during the year were gastro-enteritis (5), pneumonia or broncho-pneumonia (5), prematurity (5).

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1945-1947.

Causes	1945.		1946.		1947	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Respiratory ...	3	4	10	4	2	4
„ Non-Respiratory	2	1	—	1	—	2
Syphilitic Disease .....	1	—	1	2	1	—
Influenza .....	—	—	3	1	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Encephalitis .....	1	—	—	1	—	1
Cancer .....	28	25	31	29	43	37
Diabetes .....	1	2	2	6	1	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions .....	16	36	16	28	29	33
Heart Diseases .....	39	43	53	52	53	57
Other Circulatory Diseases...	6	4	9	5	6	11
Bronchitis .....	13	10	23	6	15	13
Pneumonia .....	8	8	7	5	15	5
Other Respiratory Diseases .	5	2	4	7	4	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum .....	4	2	2	—	1	—
Diarrhoea (under 2) .....	—	2	1	1	3	4
Appendicitis .....	1	1	2	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases.....	6	2	4	5	4	6
Nephritis .....	6	1	3	4	6	3
Other Maternal Causes.....	—	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth .....	1	1	3	2	4	1
Congenital Infantile Causes .	5	5	3	1	7	2
Suicide .....	3	4	1	—	3	—
Road Traffic Accidents.....	5	—	3	—	3	—
Other Violent Causes .....	5	3	1	5	3	1
All Other Causes .....	21	24	16	36	25	26
	<u>180</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>211</u>



## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

One maternal death was reported during 1947 due to "other maternal causes," there were no deaths from puerperal sepsis. The following table gives particulars of the maternal death rate for the years indicated:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Maternal Deaths per 1,000 Live Births.</i>	<i>Maternal Deaths per 1,000 Live and Still Births.</i>
1938	1.87	1.79
1944	2.65	2.60
1945	Nil.	Nil.
1946	Nil.	Nil.
1947	1.2	1.18
Mean of five years 1942-46	2.61	2.51

## GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The total numbers of deaths during the year was 440, compared with 399 in the previous year. The detailed analysis for the year 1945, 1946 and 1947, giving the causes of death for both sexes, is shown in an accompanying table.

The crude death rate for 1947 was 11.5. The following table gives the deaths per thousand of the estimated population for the years indicated for the Urmston Urban District and for England and Wales:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Urmston.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
1938	9.1	11.6
1945	10.2	11.4
1946	10.8	11.5
1947	11.5	12.0
Mean of the five years 1942-46	10.6	

The death rate from infectious disease was negligible. The mortality from cancer showed a considerable rise, the deaths numbering 80 as compared with 60 in the

previous year and 53 in 1945. The death rate from this disease was 2.1 per thousand of the population compared with the mean for the 5 years 1942-1946 of 1.62. Deaths from heart disease numbered 110, this being larger than in any of the three preceding years and the same may be said of deaths from intracranial vascular-lesions which numbered 62. Figures for these two groups of diseases were the highest recorded since 1940. The deaths of infants under 2 years from diarrhoea or gastro-enteritis were also the highest recorded for over 10 years, the number being 7.

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—There has been no change in the arrangement since the last report. The number of examinations carried out in 1947 was 200, made up as follows:

SWABS :—

For Diphtheria.....	61
For Hæmolytic Streptococi ...	4

FAECES .....	6
--------------	---

SPUTUM :—

For Tuberculosis.....	1
-----------------------	---

MILK :—

Tubercle Bacilli .....	22
Bacterial Count & B. Coli.....	49
Methylene Blue Reduction Test	18
Phosphatase Test .....	11
Ice-Cream .....	23

WATER :—

Drinking .....	Nil
Swimming Bath .....	5

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**—For the removal of infectious cases, other than smallpox, the ambulances of the Salford Corporation are available; for cases of smallpox the



ambulance of the Bury and District Joint Board is available. For the removal of non-infectious cases of sickness, accident, or maternity patients, the Council maintained during the year two ambulances at Bowfell Road Depot and a staff of drivers and attendants. The following table gives particulars of calls upon the ambulance service during the year.

1947.	<i>Accident.</i>	<i>Sudden Illness.</i>	<i>Maternity.</i>	<i>Other Cases.</i>	<i>Total. Mileage.</i>	
1st Qr. ...	30	12	29	299	370	2006
2nd Qr. ...	37	12	39	269	357	2170
3rd Qr. ...	40	19	38	244	341	2188
4th Qr. ...	50	24	31	235	340	2170
Totals .....	157	67	137	1047	1408	8534

(c) **MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.**

There has been no change in these arrangements since the last report.

The Council, acting as agents for the Lancashire County Council, set up a Domestic Home Help Scheme in January, 1946.

During 1947, assistance was given to 84 households, this compares with 34 assisted during 1946.

Of the cases receiving assistance from Home Helps during the year under review, 27 were cases of sickness and 57 were maternity patients.

(d) **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.**

These are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and may be summarised as follows:—

1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Davyhulme, "The Moorlands," Cornhill Rd. 2-4 p.m. Monday.  
 Flixton, "Alker Hall," Flixton Road.....2-4 p.m. Tuesday.  
 Urmston, "The Moorlands," Cornhill Road  
 2-4 p.m. Wednesday.

The number of attendances at these centres totals 12,980 during the year compared with 11,712 in the previous year.

2. ANTE-NATAL CLINICS. These are held as under:—

“The Moorlands,” Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, Friday afternoon, once a fortnight.

Park Hospital, Moorside Road, Davyhulme:—

Monday, 2—4 p.m. First Booking Clinic.

Tuesday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Antenatal—subsequent visits.

2 p.m.—4 p.m. Post-natal.

Wednesday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Antenatal—subsequent visits.

Thursday, 1-30 p.m.—5 p.m. Antenatal Clinic.

Friday, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Antenatal Clinic.

2 p.m.—5 p.m. First Booking Clinic.

The Consultative Midwifery Clinic held on each Monday offers a service to General Practitioners, who are desirous of the examination of their patients by the Obstetrician of the Hospital, with a subsequent report. The patient need not necessarily be for admission to the Hospital for confinement.

Welfare Centre, Green Lane, Patricroft, Friday mornings and afternoons.

3. SCHOOL CLINIC, “The Moorlands,” Cornhill Road, Davyhulme:—

Minor Ailments.....Monday, 9-30 to 12-0 a.m.

Dental, Ophthalmic, Speech Therapy—by appointment at the School Clinic, Longfield Lodge, Cadishead.

4. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. Lancashire County Council Dispensaries are situated at:—

1. 28 Gildabrook Road, Eccles.

2. 14 Derbyshire Lane, Stretford.



(e) **HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.**

The district is now well served with hospitals. The facilities available at Park Hospital have been considerably increased during the year, especially in the organisation of the Out-Patients Department. Urmston Cottage Hospital continues to fulfil a useful function, especially in its provision for maternity patients.

(f) **REGIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.—**

The Regional Blood Transfusion Officer arranged for a mobile team to come into the district from time to time. The following particulars are an indication of the work done during 1947:—

Sessions held .....	6
Number of attendances of Blood Donors.....	259

**SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

**WATER SUPPLY.**—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation; the quality is excellent and the quantity sufficient. Water is supplied from the public mains to 11,747 houses. No liability to plumbo-solvent action has been noticed, nor any evidence as to contamination by lead.

**SANITARY INSPECTIONS.**—The number of visits and inspections of premises during the year was 3,608 as against 3,372 for 1946. The number of nuisance defects discovered was 338 of which 247 were abated. Statutory notices were served in 81 instances. Details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**DISINFESTATIONS.**—Thirty-two houses were found to be infested during the year and disinfestation was carried out in each case.

**DISINFECTATIONS.**—The number of houses disinfected after the occurrence of infectious diseases was 89 and 47 lots of bedding were steam disinfected.

## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The number of new houses erected during the year is as follows:—

	<i>Prefabricated houses.</i>		<i>Traditional permanent houses.</i>
	<i>Temporary</i>	<i>Permanent</i>	
(i) By the local authority .....	Nil	50	129
(ii) By other local authorities .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	Nil	Nil	6

There is a waiting-list of approximately 1,800 families urgently requiring housing accommodation. In addition, there is a considerable number of persons who work in Trafford Park who also need houses. On December 31st, 1947, the Council had 168 permanent houses in hand and contemplates building another 70 houses during 1948.

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.—

(a) LICENCES: The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, have been issued to dealers:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	(i) Bottling .....	Nil		
	(ii) Distribution .....			3
Accredited Milk	(i) Bottling .....	Nil		
	(ii) Distribution .....	Nil		
Pasteurised Milk	(i) Plants .....	1		
	(ii) Retail Distributors .....			3

(b) DAIRIES, MILK SHOPS, ETC. :—

Ninety-two inspections of these premises were carried out during the year and their condition was generally found to be satisfactory.



(c) FARMS :—

There are nine dairy farms and approximately 163 cows in the district. Inspections during the year numbered 43.

(d) SAMPLING OF MILK :—

(1) Samples submitted for biological test number 22 of which 21 were negative and 1 was positive.

(2) Samples submitted for bacteriological examination number 49 of which 22 were unsatisfactory.

(3) Samples submitted for methylene blue test number 18 of which 2 were unsatisfactory.

(4) Samples submitted for the phosphatase test number 11 of which 2 were unsatisfactory.

**ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.) REGULATIONS, 1947.**—In May, 1947, after consideration of these regulations, the Health Committee recommended that representatives of neighbouring Borough and Urban District Councils be invited to a joint meeting to discuss possibilities of uniformity of practice in regard to the interpretation and implementation of the Regulations.

A joint meeting was held on August 28th at which a Technical Committee was appointed to consist of Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors of the districts represented together with those of Manchester and Salford (if their Councils agreed).

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector accepted an invitation to act as Hon. Secretary and the Technical Committee held four meetings and compiled five Codes of Practice as follows :—

- (i) Standards to be maintained in factory premises in which heat-treated ice-cream is manufactured, stored or otherwise dealt with in bulk.
- (ii) Standards to be maintained in premises in which cold-mix ice-cream is manufactured, stored or otherwise dealt with in bulk.



- (iii) Standards to be maintained in retail shops and distribution premises where ice-cream is manufactured, stored or sold loose.
- (iv) Standards to be maintained in premises in which water ices are manufactured, stored or sold.
- (v) Standards to be maintained in vehicles and open-air stalls from which ice-cream and/or water ices are sold.

These and certain recommendations on allied matters were approved at a meeting of Local Authority representatives on March 12th, 1948.

**HYGIENE OF FOOD AND DRINK.**— An important conference was convened by the Central Council for Health Education and was held in London on October 14th, 1947. Over one thousand representatives from Local Authorities attended.

In his address from the chair, Lord Woolton referred to the large number of deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis that occurred annually amongst children under the age of 2 years (3,700 in 1944), and to the number of deaths from bovine tuberculosis conveyed by infected milk (estimated at over 1,500 in 1944) and to the considerable number of deaths occurring from enteric-fever, dysentery, diarrhoea and enteritis amongst older people.

Dr. G. S. Wilson, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service stated that information on the incidence of food-borne infections is very incomplete but it is certain that actual cases far outnumber the notified ones.

There was a sevenfold increase in the number of outbreaks of food poisoning between 1938 and 1944. This increase could be attributed in his opinion to:—

- (a) Lowered standards of personal and public hygiene during war.
- (b) An increase in communal feeding, as in canteens, restaurants, schools, nurseries, etc., leading to a spread of the risk of infection over far greater numbers than in individual households, and



- (c) An increase of made-up foods, prepared dishes, and new articles of diet like dried egg.

Particular reference was made at the Conference to the need for educating those who handle food, particularly in better habits of personal hygiene and to the need for better facilities and methods in the matter of washing crockery and cutlery.

Following upon this conference, your Medical Officer recommended to the Council that a comprehensive survey should be undertaken, as soon as the staffing position in the Public Health Department permits, of all premises in the district where food is manufactured, prepared or distributed. It was further suggested that at a later stage an educative campaign might be undertaken, perhaps on the lines of one recently inaugurated in Guildford, where a Hygienic Food Traders' Guild has been established with the co-operation of the trades concerned, with codes of practice containing detailed requirements in the respective trades.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**—The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Council. The County Medical Officer of Health supplies the following particulars regarding samples obtained under the Food and Drugs Act, and states that 137 samples were obtained in the Urban District during 1947, of which 100 were milk. The 37 other samples comprised:—

2 Malt Vinegar.	1 Cake Flour.
1 Vinegar (non-brewed).	5 Pudding Mixture.
3 Mixed Spice.	2 Gravy Browning.
3 Boric Acid.	1 Gravy Salt.
3 Gregory's Powder.	1 Bread, brown.
3 Cocoa.	1 Bread, white.
3 Jam.	2 Sweets.
1 Cake Mixture.	2 Whisky.
	3 Rum.

All the above were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—



<i>Sample.</i>	<i>Result.</i>	<i>Action.</i>
One Formal Milk	Deficient 6.5% solids-not-fat; contained 5.8% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
One Formal Milk	Deficient 13% fat; and low in solids-not-fat.	Farmers notified and further samples obtained.
One Formal Milk	Deficient 15% fat; and low in solids-not-fat.	
One Formal Milk	Deficient 4.1% solids-not-fat; contained 1% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.

## SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**NOTIFICATIONS.**—The number of notifications of infectious disease was the highest for many years mainly due to an epidemic of measles in the first few months. The total of the notifications of infectious diseases was 1,045. Included in this number were 797 cases of measles and 124 of whooping-cough; there were 39 notifications of scarlet-fever, 1 of diphtheria, 6 of cerebro-spinal-fever, 16 of puerperal pyrexia, 13 of ophthalmia-neonatorum and 17 of poliomyelitis.

**POLIOMYELITIS.**—The first two cases occurred in July immediately after the first cases were reported in Irlam. In August, coinciding with an outbreak in Eccles, there were seven more cases. In each of the remaining four months of the year there were two confirmed cases, making a total of seventeen. Eight were under school age, six were school children and three were adults. In June, 1948, three children were still in the Orthopædic Hospital at Biddulph with residual paralysis. The following precautions were taken in an endeavour to control the spread of the disease during the summer and in the autumn.

Isolation of cases and advice to contacts.

Advice to public through the press and leaflets distributed to school-teachers, libraries, welfare centres and through medical practitioners.



Spraying of roads and gutters with a disinfectant solution.

Disinfection of pig-bins, and anti-fly measures.

Limitation of admission of children to baths, paddling pool and cinemas.

Prevention of any overcrowding at the Welfare Centres.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—The following table gives the notifications of scarlet-fever and admissions to hospital for each of the past four years:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Notifications.</i>	<i>Admissions to Hospitals.</i>
1944	105	36
1945	63	21
1946	51	9
1947	39	10

**DIPHTHERIA.** The following table shows the incidence of diphtheria amongst civilians during the last ten years:—

Year	Under					Total
	5	5—14	15—19	20—34	35 and Over	
1938	11	23	5	3	3	45
1939	7	16	3	6	2	34
1940	4	8	—	6	—	18
1941	7	7	3	1	2	20
1942	1	8	2	6	—	17
1943	1	16	3	5	1	26
1944	—	2	1	—	—	3
1945	—	—	1	—	—	1
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	—	1	—	—	—	1

The table shows a striking reduction in the incidence of diphtheria amongst children of pre-school age and it cannot be doubted that this is due to the intensive campaign which has been carried out in the district, and to the particular attention which has been given in recent years to children under five years of age. It has recently been decided to encourage the immunisation of infants at 9 or 10 months instead of leaving it until the child is one year old, on the ground that cases of diphtheria in children under the age of one year do occur and are apt to be very fatal.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST DIPHTHERIA:—

Year.	School children.	Children under School Age	Total
1937	397	55	452
1938	1,132	251	1,383
1939	151	116	267
1940	64	69	133
1941	534	384	918
1942	504	588	1,082
1943	343	592	935
1944	312	229	541
1945	66	479	545
1946	76	524	600
1947	63	485	548
	<hr/> 3,642 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,773 <hr/>	<hr/> 7,415 <hr/>

During the year, 50 sessions were held for immunisation at "Collingwood." No Schick Tests were performed during the year at the Clinics.

In addition to the facilities provided at these sessions at the Clinic, medical practitioners can be supplied free of cost with immunising materials for use in their surgeries for children resident in the district.

In order to reinforce the immunity of children who have been immunised four or more years previously a reinforcing dose has been advised at the end of four years. Cards have been distributed throughout the schools advising parents about this.

This scheme has been in operation for four years, and the total number of children who had received a reinforcing dose up to December 31st, 1947, was 2,796, made up as follows:—

1944 .....	703
1945 .....	467
1946 .....	618
1947 .....	1,008



**SCABIES.**—The arrangements described in the last report were still available at “Collingwood” during the year, but these have since been discontinued because of the small number of persons availing themselves of the facilities, and also because of the withdrawal of the Scabies Order.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the lowest recorded since the amalgamation of the districts to form the Urmston Urban District. The following table shows the death rates since 1935 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis:—

1935 .....	0.32	1941 .....	0.23
1936 .....	0.27	1942 .....	0.37
1937 .....	0.49	1943 .....	0.40
1938 .....	0.40	1944 .....	0.34
1939 .....	0.38	1945 .....	0.19
1940 .....	0.37	1946 .....	0.37
		1947 .....	0.15

The following table gives the new cases and mortality during 1947:—

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years—								
0—								
1—			1	1				
5—	1		1	2				
10—			1					
15—	2			2				
20—	1		1					
25—	4	2				2		
35—	5				1			
45—	2			1	2			1
55—		3		1		2		1
65 & upwards					1			
	15	5	4	7	4	4	—	2
	20		11		8		2	

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the work of the Sanitary and Cleansing Staffs for the year 1947:—

The past year has again served to emphasise the confusion and difficulties which arise in the ordinary day to day services, following the upheaval of a major war.

Builders and building materials are still at a premium, with the inevitable consequence that urgent repairs and maintenance so necessary to many pre-war properties, are being executed only after long and irritating delays.

The looked-for developments in the Public Cleansing Service have again been impossible to achieve, due to the twin problems of "worn-out transport and inadequate manpower," and until there is some real appreciation by the Ministry of the difficulties in this field, there appears little chance of serious improvement in the services rendered to the community, or of a more intensive reclamation of waste materials.

I have again to express my thanks for the help and consideration I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also for the support of Dr. Stocks and all members of the staff and employees, throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. WOOD,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.*



**COMPLAINTS.**

Total number of complaints received.....	378
Total number of nuisances confirmed.....	338
Total number of visits (including re-visits).....	1,382

<i>Nature of Complaint.</i>	<i>Number Received.</i>	<i>Confirmed.</i>
Housing Defects	199	180
Obstructed Drains	52	48
Overcrowding	10	4
Accumulations	10	8
Vermin	5	5
Animals So-Kept	11	6
Dirty Premises	5	4
Flooding	4	3
Atmospheric Pollution	4	4
Rats and Mice	69	67
Unclassified	9	9
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 378 <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 338 <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>

**ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.**

The following notices were served during the year:—

<i>Informal.</i>	<i>Statutory.</i>
202	81

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

*Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sec. 9.*  
*Sale of Unsound Food.*

Case dismissed, defendants successfully pleading warranty.

## INSPECTIONS.

The following tabular statement shows the number of visits and inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors during the past year:—

Accumulations .....	29
Animals, etc. ....	27
Farms .....	43
Dairies .....	92
Drainage Work (New Buildings).....	312
Drainage Work (Existing Buildings).....	113
Dwellinghouse—re Complaints .....	1048
„    —Overcrowding .....	49
„    —Infectious Disease .....	85
„    —Dirty or Verminous .....	21
„    —Housing Acts .....	106
Council House Applications .....	22
Factories—Mechanical and Non-Mechanical...	135
„    —Bakehouses .....	40
Food Premises .....	96
House-Let-in-Lodgings .....	19
Ice-Cream Premises .....	74
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, etc.....	95
Markets, Fairs, etc. ....	94
Public Conveniences .....	45
Shops .....	90
Rats and Mice .....	30
Petroleum .....	10
Smoke Abatement.....	11
Offensive Trades .....	1
Cinemas .....	3
Public Houses .....	23
Schools .....	3
Public Cleansing—Refuse Tip .....	284
„    „    —Other Visits.....	110
Miscellaneous .....	498
Total ...	3,608



## HOUSING.

<i>Housing Defects (Detailed Analysis)</i>				
<i>Description</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>Recorded</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>
	1946			1947
Roofs	17	110	98	29
Dampness	13	99	91	21
Floors	6	26	28	4
Walls				
Pointing, etc.)	25	103	95	22
Woodwork	1	56	47	10
Eavesgutters, R.W.P.'s, etc.	12	63	67	8
W.C. Soil Pipes, etc.	2	34	31	5
Sinks, Lavatory Basins, etc.	—	33	29	4
Yards, Paths, etc.	2	14	8	8
Fireplaces, Grates	2	26	24	4
Water Supply	1	16	17	—
Wall Plastering	8	49	47	10
Ceiling				
Plastering	—	36	32	4
Windows, Sash Cords, etc.	—	35	29	6
Totals ...	89	700	643	146

Again it is necessary to emphasise the serious situation which has arisen due to the limitations of the building industry and the acute shortage of materials. Reasonable working-class housing accommodation is yearly deteriorating to such a marked degree that properties which a year or two ago would have been quite successfully rendered fit at reasonable expense are now in such a condition as to make total demolition and clearance not only desirable, but of immediate urgency.

Houses which pre-war came within the category "Scheduled for Clearance" are in a deplorable state, and the

full operation of the Housing Act, 1936, is particularly vital if the health of the working-class communities, occupying the lowest type of accommodation, is to be safeguarded.

Another factor seriously influencing the present unsatisfactory position is the ever increasing cost of repairs which are now out of all proportion to the controlled rentals fixed by the operation of the Rent Restriction Acts. Small property owners particularly, are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to meet present day charges.

### **FOOD INSPECTION.**

The continuation of food rationing and the consequential responsibility of the Ministry of Food, has led to an increase of inspectorial work by the Department. Shopkeepers now tend to inform the Department immediately commodities show any signs of deterioration, and although in all cases foodstuffs cannot be regarded as unfit, the purveyor thus safeguards himself and ensures the replacement of rationed goods. At the same time, it is possible to obtain a closer check on foodstuffs exposed for sale for human consumption.

Although all food preparation premises were regularly inspected during the year, it has since become evident that a general slackness has arisen in the catering industry generally, and in consequence a detailed survey is being undertaken by the Department, and an attempt made to inculcate all food handlers with a proper sense of responsibility to the public at large.

The following is a list of all foodstuffs condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the past year and subject to voluntary surrender:—



<i>Nature</i>	<i>Quantities</i>			
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat (Butchers').....	—	—	1	21
Dried Fruit .....	—	18	3	20
Bacon, Ham, etc.....	—	—	1	4
Butter .....	—	—	—	10
Chocolate .....	—	—	2	13
Flour .....	1	11	1	—
Fish .....	—	1	—	5
Mincemeat .....	—	4	2	—
Suet .....	—	—	2	2
Beans .....	—	—	3	25
Dried Egg .....	—	—	2	—
Jam .....	—	—	3	—
Cheese .....	—	—	—	12
Total ...	3	0	0	0
Meat Product (canned) .....			238	tins.
Fish .....			116	„
Milk .....			480	„
Vegetables .....			304	„
Jam .....			115	„
Soup .....			54	„
Fruit .....			67	„
Pickles .....			50	cases.
Chocolate Powder.....			70	packets.
Fruit .....			80	„
Jellies .....			8	„

### MILK CONTROL.

A large proportion of the district's milk supply is now "pasteurised" and in consequence, the complaints received by the Department regarding keeping quality are now very considerably less than was the case a year or two ago, and what is much more important the consumers can be assured that the milk received is free from harmful organisms.

It was regrettable, owing to a serious shortage of guinea pigs during the year, that the Department was able to submit only a limited number of milk samples for biological examination, samples dealt with being one third of the number examined during 1946.

Unfortunately, due to the strict limitation of building development, no progress has been possible in connection with the erection of the Council's model farm in the Flixton area.

The following is a summary of samples submitted for examination during the period under review:—

BIOLOGICAL (T.B., etc.)			BACTERIOLOGICAL (Plate Count & B. Coli.)			METHYLENE BLUE			PHOSPHATASE		
No.	Pos.	Neg.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un-Sat.
22	1	21	49	27	22	18	16	2	11	9	2

#### ICE-CREAM.

In June of this year, the Urmston Council expressed the opinion that it would be advantageous if representatives of all Local Authorities in the south westerly area of Manchester, could confer together, as to the steps which could best be taken to ensure uniformity of action in the application of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

At a Conference called for the purpose, held on the 28th August, 1947, there was general agreement on the need for collaboration between the authorities to secure common requirement and conditions under which Ice-Cream should be manufactured, distributed and sold. This meeting had the advantage of the views of the North Western Division of the Ice-Cream Alliance, and also their wholehearted support.



The Conference decided to set up a Technical Subcommittee consisting of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector of each authority represented, together with the Medical Officers and Chief Sanitary Inspectors of the adjoining cities of Manchester and Salford.

During the year, a careful watch has been kept on the sale and manufacture of ice-cream and the following is the result of the examination of samples obtained:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL			METHYLENE BLUE			FOOD POISONING ORGANISMS		
No.	Sat.	Unsat.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.	No.	Pos.	Neg.
3	1	2	19	9	10	1	—	1

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Again it has only been possible to carry out a minimum of inspections during the year due to staffing difficulties.

Factories on the register include:—

Mechanical Factories .....	115
Non-Mechanical .....	27

Outworkers' Premises:— Two firms in the district employ outworkers. The homes of all outworkers resident in the district are regularly visited by the sanitary staff, and generally both the workers and their houses can be regarded as satisfactory.

No case of infectious disease has arisen in the home of any outworker.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following trades are on the register of the Department:—

Soap Boilers .....	2
Gut Scraping.....	1

## **ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.**

Acting with neighbouring local authorities in Lancashire and Cheshire, the Urmston Council has taken active steps in an endeavour to minimise the danger of nuisance arising within the area due to industrial development at Carrington and Partington. It was feared that the discharge of sulphurous gases and grit from a new Power Station to be erected at Carrington would prove seriously detrimental to the health of the residents, and the amenities of the district.

The Electricity Commission agreed that this generating station, which is to have an ultimate capacity of 400,000 kilowatts, shall incorporate electrostatic precipitators designed to arrest smoke and grit, but in declining to order the installation of a gas washing plant, they have directed provision to be made for this at a later date, if evidence can be produced to show that after the plant has been operated, sulphurous emissions are causing measurable pollution.

Accordingly, Urmston, together with its neighbours, have resolved to instal the necessary measuring instruments in various parts of the area, in order that the information necessary can be obtained.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

During the year 85 visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors to houses, etc., in connection with cases of infectious disease, and 89 disinfections were carried out together with the removal of 47 lots of bedding for steam disinfection.

## **DISINFESTATION.**

Again there has been a decline in the number of vermin-infested houses in the district. In all, 32 premises were treated by the application of a contact insecticide (i.e., Zaldecide, D.D.T. or Vermicene) and in two serious cases, houses were subjected to fumigation by Hydro-cyanic-Gas.



## MORTUARY.

The Flixton Mortuary maintained by the Department has been in use twenty-one times during the year for the reception of bodies. I am indebted to the County Police for the following details:—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Natural Causes .....	16
Suicide .....	2
Accidental Death .....	3

## PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

Fifty-nine licences, for the storage of petroleum or petroleum derivatives, and five for calcium carbide, were granted, and the fees received in this connection amounted to £64.

## SHOPS ACTS, 1912-36.

General conditions in local shops can be regarded as satisfactory, enforcement of closing hours has presented no difficulty.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public Conveniences maintained by the Department:—

<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Station Road	2 W.C.'s, 6 urinal stalls.	3 W.C.'s.
Davyhulme Circle	2 „ 3 „ „	3 „
Moorside Road	1 „ 1 „ „	2 „
Church Road	2 „ 3 „ „	3 „

Two full-time attendants are employed on cleansing, maintenance and supervision.

## RODENT CONTROL.

The work in this connection has been maintained throughout the year, one whole-time Rodent Operative being

engaged on this service. Details of work in this connection are as follows:—

		MAJOR		MINOR	
No. of Infestations Treated	...	36		39	
Estimated No. of kills	... ..	3,134		571	
Total No. of bodies recovered	...	610		220	
Poisons used.	Zinc Phosphide	...	...	32 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	
	Arsenic	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	
	Red Squill	...	...	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	
Bait Used.	Sausage Rusk	...	...	15cwts.	7lbs.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year under review, every effort has been made to restore the refuse collection service to its pre-war efficiency and to maintain a weekly collection of house refuse throughout the district. That the Department has not always been successful in this endeavour, has been largely due to the inadequacy and unsuitability of the labour available, together with the undoubted deterioration in the transport position. It has been impossible to obtain replacement of worn-out vehicles in a reasonable time, or even to obtain very necessary spares for the maintenance of the existing fleet.

The increase in annual holidays granted to workmen, from one to two weeks per year, has been an additional strain on the slender resources of the Department, and whilst this change indicates a recognition of the need for a longer break for men engaged on one of the most strenuous occupations in local authorities' services, the award has been most difficult to meet in present circumstances.

The disposal of house and trade refuse has been continued throughout the year by 100% controlled tipping and a further area of low-lying sour meadow land has been raised 14 feet and resoiled and returned to the farmer for cultivation. It is very gratifying to see heavy and healthy crops being obtained from land which previously had negligible fertility value.



Transport at present in service is as follows:—

2 Morris 7 cubic yards side-loaders.....	(1933)
1 S.D. Gully Emptier .....	(1937)
1 Scammel 6 cubic yards side-loader.....	(1938)
1 Scammel 12 cubic yards rear-loader.....	(1940)
1 Fordson 2-ton lorry regularly on hire from Surveyor's Department.	

N.B.—One Morris 2-ton lorry (acquired second-hand in 1941) scrapped and used for spares. Two further Dennis 10 cubic yards side-loaders on order and delivery expected next September.

In the district at present there are 12,580 dustbins, 17 pail closets, 2 dry ashpits and 7,541 street gullies. Dustbins and pail closets were emptied once weekly, ashpits as frequently as necessary; all street gullies were emptied and cleansed on three occasions during the year.

The total weight of domestic refuse collected was 10,201 tons and the weight of refuse of all types disposed of at the Meadow Road Tip was 17,476 tons.

Of the 473 galvanised iron dustbins supplied by the Department, 393 were sold to owners of private houses and 80 were provided for Council properties.

#### CLEANSING COSTS.

Net Expenditure ...	Refuse Collection.	£6,903.
" " " ...	" Disposal.	£1,470.
Net cost per ton ...	Collection 13/6.4 } Disposal 1/8.2 }	— 15/2.6
Net cost per thousand population	Collection £181 10s. 4d. } Disposal £38 13s. 1d. }	—£220 3s. 5d.
Net cost per thousand houses	Collection £588 17s. 10d. } Disposal £125 8s. 1d. }	—£714 5s. 11d.
Tonnage of Domestic Refuse ...	...	10,201 tons.
Tonnage of All Refuse ...	...	17,476 tons.
Amount of Refuse per 1,000 population ...	...	268 tons.
Product of a penny rate ...	...	£1,581 4s. 8d.
Net expenditure on collection and disposal expressed as rate poundage ...	...	5.2952d.
Number of houses in the district ...	...	11,722.
Population ...	...	38,030 (est.)

N.B.—Income from the sale of Salvage is excluded from the above.

## SALVAGE.

The yield of salved materials has been fairly well maintained during the year, but it is a regrettable fact that, in spite of increased propaganda, and insistence by the Government of the importance of reclaimed waste materials to our national recovery, the expected sharp upward trend in the returns has not materialised.

The sense of urgency fostered by war in the minds of the average man and woman has gone, and cannot be regained by exhortations, posters and newspaper advertising, no matter how clever or brilliantly coloured. What seems to be needed is a new approach, giving householders, and particularly the housewives, an incentive of a practical nature of use in their everyday lives.

The following statement is a brief summary of the district's salvage effort to date.

WASTE MATERIALS RECOVERED, INCLUDING KITCHEN WASTE.		
<i>Year.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>£</i>
1940 .....	454 .....	1,684
1941 .....	769 .....	2,523
1942 .....	1,170 .....	4,350
1943 .....	1,020 .....	4,248
1944 .....	852 .....	3,742
1945 .....	703 .....	3,088
1946 .....	763 .....	3,531
1947 .....	728 .....	3,208
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	6,459	26,374
	<hr/>	<hr/>



TOTAL WEIGHT OF MATERIALS RECOVERED.

<i>Materials.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Kitchen Waste .....	2,278
Waste Paper .....	3,040
Tins .....	412
Textiles .....	194
Bottles and Jars.....	182
Scrap Metal.....	218
Bones .....	49
Miscellaneous .....	86
	<hr/>
Total ...	6,459
	<hr/>

