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Urmston Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year
1948



Urmston Urban District Council

Chairman of the Council, 1948-1949: COUNCILLOR Mrs. B. E. BULL, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948-1949:

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. R. V. ROYLE-HIGGINSON. Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. WROE, J.P.

Councillor Mrs. B. E. BULL, J.P.

G. H. CARNALL, J.P.

" S. H. RILEY.

" F. W. DICKINSON.

" A. C. ROBERTSON.

" Mrs. A. M. WILKINSON.

" H. HOWSDON.

.. W. N. McEWAN.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF:-

Medical Officer of Health:

A. V. STOCKS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Resigned 4th July, 1948).

E. H. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Commenced 5th July, 1948).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

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

Sanitary Inspectors:

* L. HALL, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A. (Resigned 25th September, 1948).

* V. D. L. PROTHERO, C.S.I.B.

F. TAYLOR, C.S.I.B. (Commenced 31st May, 1948).

* Certified Meat and Food Inspector. Chief Clerk: G. W. BLAKE, A.C.I.S., A.R.I.P.H.

Clerks:

M. LAMBERT (Resigned 7th February, 1948).
E. MARGERISON (Commenced 23rd February, 1948).
Mrs. E. POWELL (Resigned 2nd October, 1948).
Miss B. HARRISON.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit my first annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1948.

For the first half of the year, until 4th July, 1948, Dr. A. V. Stocks was your Medical Officer of Health and from 5th July onwards I took over the duties under an arrangement which the Council came to with the Lancashire County Council. The arrangement has worked well and no difficulties, from your Medical Officer's point of view, have been encountered.

I would in passing pay tribute to the efficient manner in which Dr. Stocks maintained the services provided by the department and express grateful acknowledgment for the valued assistance which I received from him when I took over his duties.

E. H. WALKER,

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 38,560, showing an increase of 3,420 in the past three years. The following are estimates by the Registrar General for the years stated:—

	Pe	pulation
1938		32,030
1944		34,910
1945		35,140
1946		36,920
1947		38,030
1948		38,560

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES.— The number of occupied houses at the end of 1938 was 10,530 and at the end of 1948 was 11,893. The rateable value was £304,351, and the product of a penny rate £1,235.

VITAL STATISTICS.

a birth rate per thousand of the estimated population of 17.4

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:

		County Administrative	England and
Year.	Urmston.	Area.	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	20.48	20.5
1948	17.4		17.9
Mean of 1943-1947	19.4		

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	19
1948	673	28	24

INFANT MORTALITY.—The death rate of infants under one year of age was 29 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:—

Death Rate per thousand live births.

Year.	Urmston.	County.	England and Wales.
1938	26	55	53
1944	49	46	- 46
1945	29	50	46
1946	30	46	43
1947	33	47	41
1948	29		34
Mean of			
1943-1947	39		

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, 1946 and 1947:—

	DEATH RAT	E PER	1,000 LIVE	BIRTHS
	1945	1946	1947	1948
All Infants	29	30	33	29
Legitimate Infants		26	33	29
Illegitimate Infants	48	114	33	35

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 seven years:—

	Death Rate per 1,000
Year.	Live Births.
1942	40.6
1943	29.0
1944	30.6
1945	17.7
1946	18.4
1947	15.7
1948	14.8

It is satisfactory to note the decrease 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 five years, total births, total deaths of infants under one year of age, deaths under the age of one month and deaths under the age of three days:—

Year.	Births.	122	Deaths under One Month.	Deaths under Three Days.
1944	752	37	23	12
1945	619	18	11	5
1946	650	21	12	7
1947	827	28	13	9 .
1948	673	20	10	5

The causes of death during the year were gastroenteritis (1), pneumonia (3), prematurity (7), asphyxia (3), atelectasis (1), meningitis (1), marasmus (1), otitis media (2), tracheitis (1).

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1945-1948.

Causes		1945		1946 *		1947		1948	
	M	. F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Tuberculosis Respiratory Non-Respiratory Syphilitic Disease Influenza Measles Acute Encephalitis Cancer Diabetes Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions. Heart Diseases Other Circulatory Diseases Bronchitis Pneumonia Other Respiratory Diseases Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum. Diarhœa (under 2). Appendicitis Other Digestive Diseases Nephritis Maternal Causes Premature Birth Congenital Infantile Causes. Suicide Road Traffic Accidents Other Violent Causes All Other Causes	3 2 1 - 1 28 1 16 39 6 13 8 5 4 - 1 6 6 6 - 1 5 3 5 5 2 1 1 1 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 25 2 36 43 4 10 8 2 2 2 1 2 1 - 1 5 4 - - 3 2 4	10 -1 3 -3 16 53 9 23 7 4 2 1 2 4 3 -3 3 1 16 16 16 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	4 1 2 1 -1 29 6 28 52 5 6 5 7 -1 -5 4 -2 1 -5 36 -2 1 -2 1 -2 1 -2 1 -2 1 -2 1 -2 1 -2	$ \begin{array}{r} 2 \\ -1 \\ -1 \\ -3 \\ -4 \\ -4 \\ -4 \\ -4 \\ -7 \\ -3 \\ -3 \\ -3 \\ -3 \\ -25 \\ -229 \end{array} $	4 2 - - 1 37 2 33 57 11 13 5 2 - 4 - 6 3 1 1 2 - 1 26 - 26 - 26 - 26 - 26 - 26 -	5 - 1 1 36 2 20 45 6 20 6 3 4 1 - 3 8 - 4 5 3 1 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	3 1 - 1 29 2 26 67 11 10 3 3 3 - 1 4 1 - 1 1 - 2 2 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
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MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths reported during 1948 due to "maternal causes." The following table gives particulars of the maternal death rate for the years indicated:—

	Maternal Deaths per	Maternal Deaths per
Year.	1,000 Live Births.	1,000 Live and Still Births.
1938	1.87	1.79
1944	2.65	2.60
1945	Nil.	Nil.
1946	Nil.	Nil.
1947	1.2	1.18
1948	Nil.	Nil.
Mean of five year	irs	
1943-47	1.37	1.34

GENERAL DEATH RATE.

The total numbers of deaths during the year was 382, compared with 440 in the previous year. The detailed analysis for the years 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948, giving the causes of death for both sexes, is shown in an accompanying table.

The crude death rate for 1948 was 9.9. The following table gives the deaths per thousand of the estimated population for the years indicated for the Urban District and for England and Wales:—

Year.	Urmston.	England and Wales.
1938	9.1	11.6
1945	10.2	11.4
1946	10.8	11.5
1947	11.5	12.0
1948	9.9	10.8
Mean of the five years 1943-47	10.7	

The death rate from infectious disease was negligible. The mortality from cancer showed a decline, the deaths numbering 65 as compared with 80 in the previous year. The death rate from this disease was 1.68 per thousand of the population compared with the mean for the 5 years 1943-1947 of 1.74. Deaths from heart disease numbered 112, this being larger than in any preceding year. Deaths from intracranial vascular-lesions, which numbered 46, showed a decrease as compared with 62 in the previous year. The deaths of infants under 2 years from diarrhoea or gastro-enteritis were the lowest recorded since 1940, the number being 1.

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

(a) **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**—The Manchester University closed its Public Health Laboratory on 29th November, 1948, and arrangements were made by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health) to open a Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester.

The number of examinations carried out in 1948 was 282 made up as follows:—

Swabs:—	1000
For Diphtheria	40
For Hæmolytic Streptoccoci	2
Sputum:—	
For Tuberculosis	1
Milk:—	
Tubercle Bacilli	69
Bacterial Count	46
B. Coli	65
Methylene Blue Reduction Test	29
Phosphatase Test	11
Ice-Cream	7
Water-Ices	3
Water:—	
Drinking	Nil
Swimming Bath	8
Food:—	
Fillet of steak	1

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES UP TO 4th JULY, 1948.— The ambulances of the Salford Corporation were available for the removal of infectious cases other than smallpox. For cases of smallpox the ambulance of the Bury & District Joint Board was available. For the removal of non-infectious cases of sickness, accident, or maternity patients, the Council maintained an ambulance at Bowfell Road Depot and a staff of drivers and attendants. The following table gives particulars of calls upon the ambulance service up to 4th July:—

Month. Accident.	Sudden Illness.	Maternity	Other Cases.	Total.	Mile- age.
January 14	5	16	117	152	830
February . 11	4	12	122	149	942
March 9	5	15	105	134	865
April 14	10	11	105	140	878
May 13	4	10	91	118	839
June 8	8	7	124	147	812
4.7.48 —	2	_	6	8	31
Totals 69	- 38	71	670	848	5197

(c) MEDICAL AND NURSING FACILITIES IN THE HOME.—There were no arrangements made by the Council up to 4th July, 1948, for general nursing and nursing of cases of infectious diseases.

(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.

2. Ante-Natal Clinics. These are held as under:—
"The Moorlands," Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, Friday afternoon, once a fortnight, at 2 p.m.

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.

- 3. School Clinic, "The Moorlands," Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, every Monday, 9-30 to 12-0 a.m.
- 4. Tuberculosis Dispensaries. Lancashire County Council Dispensaries are situated at :—
 - 28 Gildabrook Road, Eccles.
 - 2. 14 Derbyshire Lane, Stretford.
- (e) **HOSPITALS.**—The district is well served with hospitals. Park Hospital, Davyhulme, caters for surgical, gynæcological, medical and maternity cases and the facilities available

have been considerably increased, especially in the organisation of the Out-Patients Department. Urmston Cottage Hospital continues to fulfil a useful function catering for 15 maternity patients and 10 general cases.

(f) **REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.**—The Lancashire County Council is the local authority for the control and registration of private nursing homes in the Urban District and at the end of 1948 there was one home of this type in Urmston.

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 11,892 houses. One dwellinghouse in the district is supplied from a well. No liability to plumbo-solvent action has been noticed nor any evidence as to contamination by lead. Extensions have been made during the year to meet the demands of new housing estates.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The sewage from the township of Davyhulme is received and treated at the Sewage Disposal Works of the Manchester Corporation at Davyhulme. Sewage from Urmston and Flixton is received at the Council's Sewage Works at Flixton where it is treated prior to discharge into the Manchester Ship Canal.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATI	
No. of Middens	
" Closets attached to thes	e middens 3
" Pail Closets	
" Dry Ashpits (excluding	
" Trough Closets	
" Waste-water Closets	
" Fresh-water Closets	12232
" Movable Ashbins for R	efuse 12600
" Conversions during the	year Nil.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Refuse Collection, Disposal, and Street Gully Emptying is carried out under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The whole of the house and trade refuse is removed by mechanical refuse collection vehicles and removed to a tip in the meadows, Urmston, where it is disposed of exclusively by controlled tipping. Street gully emptying is carried out by a motor vehicle specially designed for the purpose of 750 gallons capacity.

sanitary inspections.—The number of visits and inspections of premises during the year was 4,850 as against 3,608 in 1947. The number of nuisance defects discovered was 1,202 of which 1,137 were abated. Notices served were 316 informal and 155 statutory. Two owners were summoned for non-compliance of notices served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. In each case the work was completed at the time of hearing and costs were awarded to the Council.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.—It has only been possible to carry out a minimum of inspections under the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to ventilation, temperature, and sanitary conveniences in shops and offices, but it may be said that conditions generally are fairly satisfactory.

CAMPING SITES.—There are no such sites, either military or civilian, within the Urban District.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—There are 80 factory and works chimneys in the district and during the year 15 smoke observations were taken. The time limit allowed for emission of black smoke is 4 minutes per hour. Apparatus has been installed in various parts of the district for measuring sulphur emissions from industrial development in an adjoining district.

During the year, information of a special course for boilerhouse firemen at the Manchester College of Technology was circulated to local firms.

The Council is represented by two members and the Medical Officer of Health on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

swimming baths and pools.—In 1933 the Council erected at a cost of £31,000 a modern indoor baths on a site of 1½ acres, the main feature of which is a swimming pool wherein the water is kept constantly at a temperature of 78 degrees Farenheit. The pool is of unique design having a circular expansion in the centre and is 100 feet in length, 36 feet wide at each end and 64 feet across the centre. Its capacity is 180,000 gallons and it accommodates 180 bathers at any one time. Installed in the building are a number of showers and slipperbaths. Eight samples of water were taken from the swimming pool during the year and submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. The results in each case showed the water to be quite safe for bathing purposes.

DISINFESTATION.—Forty-two houses were found to be infested during the year and disinfestation was carried out in each case. In cases of serious infestation fumigation is carried out with Hydrogen Cyanide, the work being done by contractor. For slight infestation, treatment by D.D.T. is carried out by the Health Department.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition of the schools is maintained in a satisfactory condition and each is provided with town's water. No closure of schools for epidemic illness was necessary during 1948.

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.—There are no "common lodging houses" in the Urban District but 8 "houses-let-in-lodgings" were registered at the end of the year and in the aggregate their sanitary condition could be classed as fair.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.—There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

SECTION B.—HOUSING.						
Number of new	houses erec	ted during the	year :— Traditional			
	Prefabrica	ted houses.	bermanent			
	Temborary	Permanent	houses.			
(2) B d C T		20	75			
(i) By the Council (ii) By other local	Nil	20	13			
authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil			
(iii) By other bodies						
	N1:1	2	Nil			
or persons	Nil	2	1411			
	of dwelling- ects (under es)	houses inspecte Public Heal	ed for th or 170			
(2)—(a) Number of d sub-head (1) recorded und	above) which	es (included h were inspecte ousing Consol	ed and			
Regulations	1925 and 19	932	1			
(b) Number of in	spections ma	ade for the pt	urpose 3			
(3)—Number of dwellin so dangerous unfit for hum	or injuriou	s to health as	to be Nil			
unit 101 ffun	ian nabitatio					

	(4)—Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit
170	for human habitation
ICE OF	2—Remedy of Defects during the year without serv Statutory Notices:—
94	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action
-	3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year: (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
1	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices:—
Nil	(a) By owners
Nil	(b) By the Council in default of owners
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
62	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices:—
57	(a) By owners
Nil	(b) By the Council in default of owners
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
Nil	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
Nil	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
	(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
NELL	(1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were
Nil	made

4—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.

(a)-			igs overcrowded year) No
	(ii) Number	of families	dwelling therein dwelling therein	figures available
(b)			overcrowding re	ported

during the year

(c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 4

There is a waiting list of approximately 1,150 families urgently requiring Council Houses and of this figure 650 families are without homes of their own. On 31st December, 1948, the Council had 108 permanent houses in hand and contemplates building another 158 houses during 1949.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders and Regulations are fully observed and put into operation.

(a) LICENCES: The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1946, have been issued to dealers:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk:

	Bottling	
(ii)	Distribution	. 5
E:11		

Pasteurised Milk:

- (i) Plants 1 (ii) Retail Distributors 6
- (b) Dairies, Milk Shops, Etc.:-

In the Urban District there are 25 dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cow-keepers). Seventy-one inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year and their condition was found to be generally satisfactory.

(c) Farms:—

There are 9 dairy farms and approximately 180 cows in the district. Inspections during the year numbered 28.

- (d) Sampling of Milk:—
- (1) Samples submitted for biological test number 69 of which 5 were positive.

- (2) Samples submitted for bacteria count number 46 of which 19 were unsatisfactory.
- (3) Samples submitted for methylene blue test number 29 of which 4 were unsatisfactory.
- (4) Samples submitted for the phosphatase test number 11 of which 4 were unsatisfactory.
- (5) Samples submitted for B. Coli examination number 65 of which 21 were unsatisfactory.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—All shops and stalls retailing, storing or preparing foodstuffs are inspected regularly by the sanitary inspectors and action taken where necessary. With the exception of occasional pig killing on local farms, no animal slaughtering is carried out in the district since the inception of centralised slaughtering by the Ministry of Food.

All persons engaged in the manufacture and sale of ice-cream in the district are required to be registered under the provisions of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

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 176 samples were obtained in the Urban District during 1948, of which 113 were milk. The 63 other samples comprised:—

4 meat pies ' 1 sweet pickle 1 blanc mange powder 2 pickled onions 4 glycerine 2 piccalilli 1 flour sweet mustard pickle 1 self raising flour 5 soup (canned) 3 condensed milk soup (canned) strained (full cream sweetened) 2 boracic acid 3 canned fish 2 Epsom salts 2 mincemeat 2 castor oil 2 camphorated oil 1 seed cake 1 fruit cake 4 sweets 3 butter 4 tea 4 sodium bicarbonate 3 margarine

1 ginger cake

1 culinary herbs, mixed

1 beef sausage

1 Swiss roll

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

Result of Analysis. Sample. Action. Deficient 13% fat. Vendor notified. informal milk. Deficient 1.6% fat, low in Vendor notified. informal solids-not-fat. milk. Deficient 1.6% fat, low in Vendor notified. informal solids-not-fat. milk. Deficient 11.6% fat. Vendor notified. informal milk. Deficient 8.2% solids-not-fat. Formal sample informal Freezing point indicated the obtained. milk. presence of 12.4% of extraneous water. Deficient 13.0% fat. Vendor notified. informal milk. 1 beef Deficient 39% of the "Prosecution. Vendor sausage. minimum percentage of meat. fined £5 and 1 gn. costs.

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

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—Prior to 5th July, 1948, the Council had an agreement with the Bury & District Joint Hospital Board for the treatment of smallpox cases at Ainsworth Hospital, near Bury. An annual retaining fee was paid for two beds and in addition a charge was made per day for the number of days the hospital was occupied by patients from the Urban District. For other infectious diseases an agreement existed between the Council and the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at their Ladywell Hospital, Salford, on the basis of cost per day per patient.

NOTIFICATIONS.—The number of notifications of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) was 714 in 1948 as compared with 1045 in 1947 and 407 in 1946. The presence of a large hospital of 500 beds in the district, taking in patients from many districts outside Urmston, results in the notification of a number of cases of infectious disease from the hospital, a number of these cases occur in patients whose homes are outside the district and who come into hospital incubating some infectious disease, or are unfortunate enough to contract it whilst in hospital.

The table on page 19 gives the incidence of notifiable infectious disease. There was an epidemic of measles and whooping-cough which commenced in the autumn and continued throughout the winter months. Scarlet-fever notifications showed an increase, 62 cases being notified as compared with 39 in 1947 and 51 in 1946. The clinical type of scarlet-fever continues to be mild and in my opinion is better nursed at home rather than in hospital, provided that proper isolation and nursing are available and that there are no special reasons demanding hospital treatment. It is very satisfying to record that no case of diphtheria occurred and it cannot be doubted that the striking reduction in the incidence of this disease, as shown in the following table, is due to the intensive immunisation campaign which has been carried out in the district:—

	Under				35 and	
Year	5	5-14	15-19	20-34	over	Total
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
1948				_		-

SUPPLY OF PROPHYLACTICS.—Prior to 5th July, 1948, Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pertussis Antigen were supplied free by the Council to General Medical Practitioners and arrangements were made whereby supplies of these sera were readily available by day or night at Urmston Police Station.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

			TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CAS	ES N	OTIFI	ED								HOSPITAL	T
Disease	Total cases at all ages	under –	1	21	5	x 1	YEARS	10	15	20-	700	65 and 45-over	65 and over	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever	62			-	60	4	35	100	9	60	-			1	∞	1
Measles	337	16	20	47	39	52	155	65	00	01				1	œ	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	-31			ा	হ1	60	60	কা	+		9	50	60	6		
Puerperal Pyrexia	œ									00				1	1	J
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	ಣ				-						-	-	-	-	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	1		-											1	1	1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	12	12										1		1	1	T
Erysipelas	10										4	5	-	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	250	13	39	84	38	47	62	≎1	-					1	1	1
															-	
Totals	714	41 61	19	86	83 105		252	20	14	13	12	=	4	11	19	-

IMMUNISATION.—The scheme to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria, inaugurated by the Council on 3rd September, 1937, and carefully built up over the years, continued in operation until 5th July, 1948, on which date the service was transferred to the Lancashire County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Regular weekly clinics staffed by General Medical Practitioners working in rotation, were held at "Collingwood" during the first half of the year, and the number of children who received artificial immunisation under the scheme was 357. Of these 314 were under 5 years of age and 43 children of school age.

From the figures available, it is known that 7,772 children have been immunised since the inception of the scheme. Of these 4,087 were under 5 years of age and 3,685 were between 5 and 15 years of age. The scheme has worked smoothly and owes much to the co-operation of the local medical profession.

The following table gives the number of children immunised annually since the commencement of the scheme up to the end of June :—

		Children under	
Year.	School children	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
30.6.48	43	314	357
Totals	. 3,685	4,087	7,772
Totals	. 3,685	4,087	7,7

In addition to the facilities provided at the weekly clinics, medical practitioners were supplied free of cost with prophylactics for use privately in their own surgeries. In order to reinforce the immunity of children who had been immunised four or more years previously, a "boosting" injection was advised and cards were distributed through the schools advising parents about this. The scheme was put into operation in 1944 and the total number of children who had received a reinforcing dose up to 30th June, 1948, was 3,068, made up as follows:—

1944	703
1945	467
1946	618
1947	1,008
30.6.48	272
Total	3,068

Ninety-seven houses and 28 lots of bedding were disinfected during the year. Disinfection of premises is carried out by means of formaldehyde fumigation. Infected bedding, clothing and other articles are dealt with by steam disinfection at Ladywell Hospital under an arrangement with the Salford Corporation.

scheme for the treatment of scabies at "Collingwood." The scheme was introduced as an emergency wartime measure to combat the exceptional increase of scabies which threatened to be detrimental to the war effort and was primarily intended for transferred women war workers who had difficulty in effectively carrying out the particular form of treatment in the homes in which they were billeted. The incidence of the disease fell considerably after the end of the war and the Health Committee at a meeting held on 26th April, 1948, decided that the time had come to discontinue the scheme and to revert to reliance on normal facilities available at the Manchester & Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated population was 0.20. The following table shows the death rates of pulmonary tuberculosis since 1935:—

1935 0.32	1942 0.37
1936 0.27	1943 0.40
1937 0.49	1944 0,34
1938 0.40	1945 0.19
1939 0.38	1946 0.37
1940 0.37	1947 0.15
1941 0.23	1948 0.20

The following table gives the new cases and mortality during 1948:—

]	New Case	s	DEATHS			
AGE	Respin	ratory	Non-Res	piratory	Respi	ratory	Non-Res	piratory
PERIODS	М.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years— 0— 1— 5— 10— 15— 20— 25— 35— 45— 55— 65 & upwards	2 2 2 5 3 3	1 2 6 1	1 1	1 1 2	2 2 2	1 1 1 1 1		1
	17	10	3	5	5	4	-	1
	2	7		8		9		1

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths during the year was 1 in 3.3. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compulsory removal to hospital has been required under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

There has been some small improvement during the past year in connection with housing repairs due to the easing in the supply position of certain essential raw materials and this has had the effect of speeding up renovations to house property in a number of cases.

The ever-increasing cost of labour and materials is undoubtedly causing anxiety to numerous small property owners. This is a matter of some importance, as a large proportion of house property in the district is owner occupied, and the cost of maintaining even a single house is becoming prohibitive.

Further conferences of local authorities in the Manchester Area have been held during the year with a view to the codification of enactments relating to Ice-Cream, and considerable progress has been made.

The Public Cleansing Service has continued to function efficiently, but it has not yet been possible to achieve a regular weekly collection of house refuse. The expected delivery of new cleansing vehicles in the near future should enable the Department to give additional service to the public.

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, Dr. Walker, 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 (investigated)	676
Total	number	of	complaints confirmed	528
Total	number	of	visits (including re-visits)	1,652

Nature of Complaint.	Number Received	Confirme
Housing Defects	386	315
Obstructed Drains	84	84
Overcrowding	20	3
Accumulations	31	28
Vermin	16	13
Animals So-Kept	43	8
Dirty Premises	11	5
Flooding	1	. 1
Atmospheric Pollution	5	5
Rats and Mice	79	66
	676	528

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

The following notices were served during the year:—

Informal Statutory**

316 155

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 93.

Two owners summoned for non-compliance of notices Work completed at date of hearing. Costs awarded to Council.

INSPECTIONS.

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

Accumulations	60	
Animals So-Kept	43	
Farms	28	
Dairies	71	
Drainage Work (New Buildings)	149	
Drainage Work (Existing Buildings)	162	
Dwellinghouses—re complaints	1381	
0 1	21	
* * * *	70	
	57	
"—Dirty or Verminous		
—Housing Acts	66	
Council House Applications	46	
Council House Inspections	890	
Factories Mechanical and Non-Mechanical	42	
Food Premises	240	
Houses-let-in-Lodgings	2	
Ice-Cream Premises	51	
Interviews with Owners, Contractors etc	88	
Markets, Fairs etc.	126	
Public Conveniences	56	
Shops	104	
Rats and Mice	16	
Petroleum	15	
Smoke Abatement	25	
Offensive Trades	2	
Cinemas	6	
Public Houses	9	
Schools	4	
Public Cleansing—Refuse Tip	448	
—Other Visits		
Swimming Bath	6	
Miscellaneous	559	
Total	4.850	
	-	

HOUSING.

	sing Dej standing	fects (Detailed		tstanding
Description	1947	Recorded	Remedied	1948
Roofs	29	81	103	7
Dampness	21	125	139	7
Floors	4	48	39	13
Walls,				
(Pointing, etc) 22	153	139	36
Woodwork	10	57	60	7
Eavesgutters,				
R.W.P.'s, etc.	8	64	62	10
W.C. Soil Pipes				
etc.	5	26	29	2
Sinks, Lavatory	y			
Basins, etc.	4	37	36	5
Yards, Paths, et	c. 8	52	54	6
Fireplaces, Grat		44	40	8
Wall Plastering		98	84	24
Ceiling				
Plastering	4	. 37	27	14
Windows,				
Sash Cords, e	tc. 6	124	90	40
Miscellaneous	_	72	51	21
Totals	135	1,018	953	200

Although labour and materials were more readily available in the period under review, the disproportionate cost of carrying out even small jobs proved such a discouragement to property owners that there was an inclination to allow all but the most urgent repairs to go by default. In consequence tenants were continually seeking the help of the Sanitary Inspectors, who, whatever their inclinations in the many difficult cases encountered, were compelled to recommend to the Health Committee statutory action to an ever increasing degree.

Overcrowding of working class property whilst not so serious in Urmston as in adjoining areas, continues to cause anxiety. It is hoped with the advent of new housing legislation, and possibly a new approach to the many serious problems now confronting health authorities, that some more equitable solution may be found to these difficulties than has been the case in the past.

During the year, on instructions from the Health Committee a complete survey and inspection of every Council owned property in the district was undertaken. In carrying out a detailed examination of 734 Council Houses, the living conditions of each family was checked and a thorough inspection made as to the habitability of the dwellings. The repairs necessary to bring the houses to a satisfactory standard were noted.

The Council later instructed the Surveyor to carry out all repairs as were immediately practicable and this work is at present in progress.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The Department has again given close and continued attention to the sources, manufacture, distribution, and handling of foodstuffs either on sale or in preparation for sale. Particular attention was paid to meat and manufactured meat products, fish frying, milk production and distribution, and a complete survey of premises being used for the purposes was undertaken.

Improvements have been effected in a number of cases and case kitchens including Council owned restaurants, and in addition to advising owners as to structural and other alterations, much time has been spent by the Council's inspectors in an endeavour to instruct all food handlers in the rudiments of hygiene and elementary sanitation.

There seems little doubt that greater care must be taken in the future by employers of labour in the catering industry to see that persons employed in the preparation, cooking or serving of food for public consumption, are not only healthy and cleanly in person and habits, but are thoroughly trained and competent in their work.

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

		Quan	tities	
Nature	Tons.	Crets.		Lbs.
Butchers Meat		4	3	18
Dried Fruit		-	2	4
Bacon, Ham, etc		-	1	5 24
Butter				22
Sago		1	1	11
Edible Starch		_	3	17
Nuts		_	-	12 1 1
CoffeeOnion Powder			2	1 ½ —
Tomato Puree		13	1	8
77 . 1			1	101
Total .	1	2	1	$10\frac{1}{2}$
Mark Davidson			107 4:	
Meat Products			107 tii 153 ,,	
Milk		2	243 ,,	
Vegetables			551 ,,	
Jam			59 ,, 45	
Soups			89 ,,	
Pickles			100 ja	rs
Tomato Catsup			35 ga	llons

MILK CONTROL.

The supervision of the district milk supply continues to be an important feature of the work of the Department and extensive sampling has been carried out, not only to ensure that this important article of diet is free from contamination and injurious organisms, but also that consumers are safeguarded as to the quality of the food.

It appears to be an unfortunate fact that the control of milk production will shortly pass from this and other local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and comprehensive legislation is being prepared in anticipation of this event. The powers to be obtained from Parliament are complete, and are such that if they had been enacted years ago much of the criticism now levelled at local authorities would have been insupportable.

Owing to the serious shortage of guinea pigs during 1947, the Department was able to submit only one third of the average number of samples examined annually. However, the shortage was overcome in 1948 and it was possible to reach the average quota.

No further 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.

	T.B.)	AL	BACTERIOLOGICAL (Plate Count)			THYLEI BLUE	NE	PHOSPHATASE				
No.	Pos.	Neg.	No.	Sat.	Un- Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un- Sat.	No.	Sat.	Un- Sat.	
69	5	64	46	27	19	29	25	4	11	7	4	
			В	. Coli.								
			No.	Sat.	Un- Sat.	172	Yaran	27.1				
			65	44	21							

REGULATION 55 G.

The County Sanitary Officers obtained 15 samples of milk pasteurised in the District which gave the following results:—

ME	THYLENE B	LUE	F	PHOSPHATAS	E
No.	Sat.	Unsat.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.
15	12	3	15	15	Nil

ICE-CREAM.

Probably one of the most outstanding features of the year's work and well worthy of note was the final conference of local authorities in the Manchester Area first called together on the initiative of this authority in 1947 to discuss the possibilities of uniformity of practice and codification of enactments relating to Ice-Cream.

Six Codes of Practice covering the production, sale, handling and storage of ice-cream and associated products have been prepared for adoption by the authorities concerned, and if these codes are made fully effective there will be justification in saying that in this area, this commodity is being prepared, stored and distributed with the strictest regard to modern hygienic considerations.

The following table shows the results of the examination of ice-cream samples taken during the year:—

No. of		METHYLE Provision		
Samples	1	2	3	4
7	2	4	1-	_

In addition three samples of water ices were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The factories on the Register at the end of the year are as follows:—

Mechanical Factories	151
Non-Mechanical Factories	25
Sites of Building Operations and	
Works of Engineering Construction	
etc	14

Outworkers Premises:— Two firms in the district and two outside the district employ 18 and 15 Outworkers respectively. The houses of all outworkers resident in the district are regularly inspected by the sanitary staff and generally both the workers and their homes can be regarded as satisfactory.

No case of infectious disease occurred in any outworkers premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

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

Soap	Boilers		 	 	 			2
Gut	Scraper .	 	 	 	 			1

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

An effort has been made during the year to induce factory owners, engineers and stokers in charge of boiler plants again to take an active interest in the subject of atmospheric pollution. Primarily because of war time policies, when the production of smoke in the industrial area of Trafford Park was not only tolerated but actually encouraged, the task is a particularly difficult one.

A co-operative effort by a number of local authorities in the South Lancashire and Cheshire area in an endeavour to ascertain and afterwards control the emission of sulphurous gases and grit over a fairly wide area is now proceeding satisfactorily, and measuring instruments are in course of installation at various focal points in the districts concerned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 70 visits were made by Sanitary Inspectors to houses, etc., in connection with cases of infectious disease, and 97 disinfections were carried out together with the removal of 28 lots of bedding for steam disinfection.

DISINFESTATION.

There has been a slight increase in the number of vermin infested houses in the district. In all, 42 premises were treated by the application of a contact insecticide (i.e., Zaldecide, D.D.T. or Vermicene) and in 10 serious cases, houses were subjected to fumigation by Hydro-cyanic-Gas.

MORTUARY.

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

Causes of Death.	Number.
Natural Causes	. 20
Suicide	Nil
Accidental Death	. 3

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

Sixty-one 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 £74.

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:—

Situation		M	ales			F	emales.
Station Road	2	W.C.'s	s, 6 t	ırina	l 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:—

No. of Infestat	tions Treated		Majo 32	R	Minor 49
Poisons used.	Zinc Phosphide				184lbs. 1lb.
	Arsenic	 			Hb.
Bait Used.	Sausage Rusk	 			73 cwts.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Again the main problem which has confronted the department has been the unsatisfactory transport position. Cleansing vehicles of 1933 vintage are still in daily operation and in spite of every effort by the Council the replacement of these obsolete machines by modern freighters seems as far away as ever.

The general overall labour position is undoubtedly easier but unfortunately there seems to be an inability or unwillingness on the part of the Ministry of Labour to recognise the special needs of the Cleansing Service, as a large percentage of the recruits sent to the Department have proved to be unsuitable, either by reason of age, infirmity or other disability.

A welcome improvement effected during the year has been the provision of adequate messing accommodation at the Meadow Road Tip. A permanent building has been erected comprising dining-room and kitchen, complete with cooking facilities, hot and cold water and storage accommodation. A sanitary annexe has also been provided, adequate for the use of the men concerned, and plans are in preparation for the installation of shower baths at a later date.

The disposal of house and trade refuse has been continued throughout the year by 100% controlled tipping.

Transport at present in service is as follows:-

2 N	Morris	7	cubic	yards	side-loaders		(1933)
-----	--------	---	-------	-------	--------------	--	--------

- 1 SD Gully Emptier (1937)
- 1 Scammell 6 cubic yards side-loader (1938)
- 1 Scammell 12 cubic yards side-loader..... (1940)
- 2 Dennis 10 cubic yards side-loaders...... (1946)
- 1 Dennis 10 cubic yards side-loader (1948)

N.B.—This last vehicle was only received in December.

There are 12,600 dustbins, 19 pails closets, 3 dry ashpits and 7,665 street gullies in the district. Dustbins and pail closets were emptied once weekly, ashpits as frequently as necessary and all street gullies were emptied and cleansed on at least three occasions during the year.

The total weight of domestic refuse collected was 10,528 tons and the weight of refuse of all types disposed of at the Meadow Road Tip was 17,120 tons.

Of the 495 galvanised iron dustbins supplied by the Department, 420 were sold to owners of private houses and 75 were provided for Council properties.

CLEANSING COSTS.

Net Expenditure	Refuse Col	lection .				£7,234
,, ,,	Refuse Dis	sposal .				£1,286
Net cost per ton	Collection Disposal		9d.	}	18	5/2.9d.
Net cost per 1,000 population	Collection	£187	12s.		£220	19s. 1d
Net cost per 1,000	Collection	£608	5s.	2d. \	(71)	6 7s. 9d
houses	Disposal	£108	2s.	7d.	2,1	0 15. 00
Tonnage of Domestic					10,	528 Tons
Tonnage of all refuse					17.	120 Tons
Amount of Refuse per						273 Tons
Product of a penny ra						€1,235
Net expenditure on co						2-1
expressed as a rat						6.8987d
No. of houses in the d						11,893
Population						560 (est.

SALVAGE.

The recovery of waste materials has again been in the forefront of the department's activities, and another successful year has been experienced. There has however, been certain indications that the disposal of particular classes of salvage will not, in future, find such a ready market as has been the case in the past.

The following statement is a brief summary of the

district's salvage effort up to date:-

WASTE	MATERIALS			KITCHEN WAST	E
		Weight	Value	Collecting	
	Year.	Tons	£	Allowances.	
				£	
	1940	454	1,684	—	
	1941	769	2,523		
			4,350		
			4,248		
			3,742		
	1945		3,088		
	1946		3,531		
			3,208		
	1948		3,786		
	17-10	01/	5,760	554	
		7,276	£30,160	£878	
		7,270	200,100	2070	
			£31	,038	

Materials	Tons
Kitchen Waste	2,590
Waste Paper	
Tins	
Textiles	. 213
Bottles and Jars	. 202
Scrap Metal	
Bones	
Miscellaneous	. 89
	7,276 Tons

-



by.