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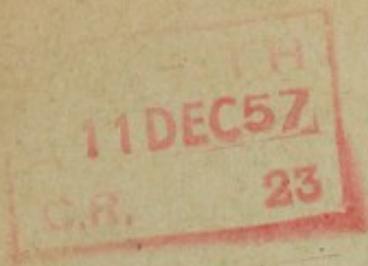
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URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

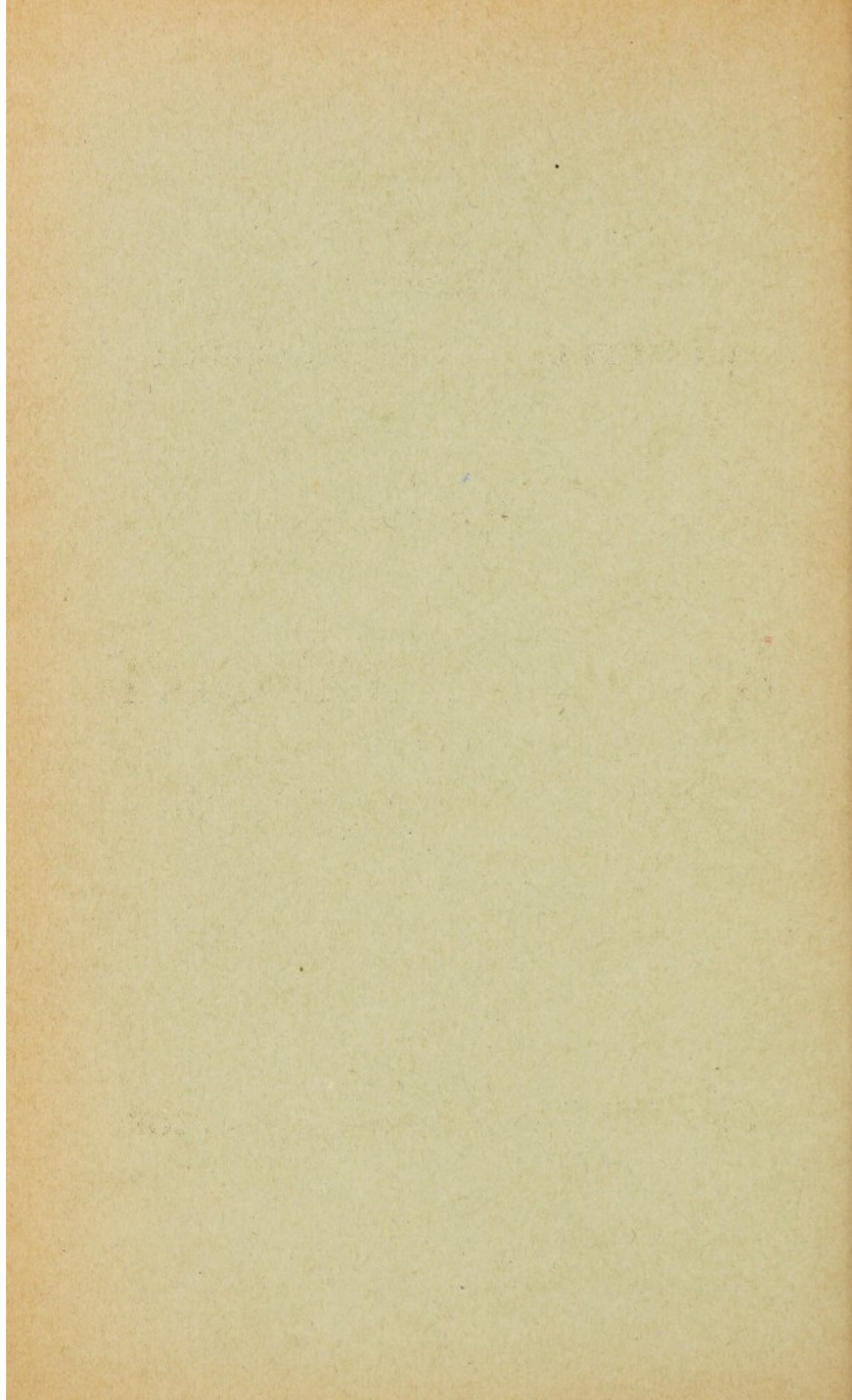
Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1956

and of the

Chief Public Health Inspector





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Urmston Urban District Council

Chairman of the Council 1956-57 :

Councillor J. T. RALPH, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1956-57

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. A. M. WILKINSON

Vice-Chairman : Councillor F. W. LAND

Councillor J. T. Ralph, J.P.

„ N. Heywood

„ A. Prescott

„ Mrs. R. V. Royle-Higginson, J.P.

„ R. E. A. Ratcliffe

„ W. Wroe, J.P.

„ Mrs. S. Blaby

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

W. SHARPE, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

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

Public Health Inspectors :

*F. G. V. RUMSEY, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

*W. F. MALING, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

*A. C. Charlton, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced 1st March, 1956)

*Certified Meat and Food Inspectors

Chief Clerk :

G. W. BLAKE, A.C.I.S.

Clerks :

E. MARGERISON

T. L. COOKE (Resigned 3rd November, 1956)

(Miss) M. A. BAIN

E. ASPIN (Commenced 1st March, 1956)

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956

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

I have much pleasure in presenting the annual report on the health of the district for the year 1956 in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of Health.

Vital Statistics

As will be seen from the statistical tables in the report the health of the community for the year under review has been satisfactory. The main points of interest may be summarised as follows :—

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Urban District at mid-year 1956 was 40,380. An increase of 1,143 on the census figure of 1951.

Births

The registered number of live births during the year was 652 giving a rate of 16.1 per thousand population compared with 15.9 for the previous year. The average rate for England and Wales was 15.7 per thousand.

Deaths

The general death rate for the year was 12.3 per thousand of the population representing a total of 411 deaths. The average rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per thousand population.

Infant Mortality

The number of children under one year who died during 1956 was 22 giving an infant mortality rate of 34 per thousand live births, compared with a rate of 25 per thousand live births in the previous year. The rate for England and Wales was 23.8 per thousand live births.

Although any increase in the infant mortality rate must not be taken too lightly it should be appreciated that, when dealing with relatively small populations the annual figure is liable to rather extreme fluctuations. Too much significance should not therefore be attached to the fact that the infant mortality rate for the year under review is considerably above the national average.

If the average rate for the district covering the six years since 1950 is computed, it will be found to be approximately 23 per thousand live births which compares favourably with the national average of 26.3 per thousand live births for the same period.

Nevertheless it should be pointed out that the position regarding infant deaths is far from satisfactory. It will be seen from the relevant statistical table that out of the total number of 22 infant deaths 19 or approximately 86%, died during the first month of life. This very high proportion of neo-natal deaths is no doubt due to many contributory causes but it must primarily be a serious reflection on the adequacy of the ante-natal care given to the expectant mother. There can be no doubt that a considerable number of neo-natal deaths are preventable given satisfactory care of the expectant mother, but just where the existing ante-natal services provided are not measuring up to their task is extremely difficult to ascertain. It is hoped that the present ministerial committee set up to review the present organisation of the maternity services in England and Wales to consider what should be their content and to make recommendations is able to find the cause and suggest remedies for the deficiencies in the existing maternity services.

There is certainly no dearth of available ante-natal services in the district, since the expectant mother may receive ante-natal care from :—

- (a) The general practitioner obstetrician
- (b) Hospital ante-natal clinic
- (c) Domiciliary midwives
- (d) Local authority clinic

or any combination of these.

It may be, as has been suggested frequently, that the multiplicity of available services is their undoing, and that the expectant mother falls between the many stools provided. Integration—a very overworked word—of the service is certainly required, with the responsibility for seeing that adequate ante-natal care is given to all expectant mothers placed squarely on one authority.

Maternal Mortality

There was one maternal death reported during the year giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.49 per thousand births.

Infectious Diseases

The total number of notified cases of infectious disease was 501, a decrease of 674 on the previous year, when measles was prevalent. The number of notifications received for

each disease is given in the statistical table but this I am afraid does not indicate the true incidence of some of the diseases listed, since by no means all cases of the milder infections are notified to the health department. It is extremely doubtful if the continued notification of Scarlet Fever and Measles for example serves any real useful purpose.

Very little action needs to be taken by the Public Health Department on these diseases and statistical information based on the notifications being received at present is not only inaccurate but misleading. Notification of these diseases should either be enforced or discontinued.

Again it is very gratifying to report that no case of diphtheria occurred in the district for the tenth successive year a striking testimony to the effectiveness of the preventive measures taken against it.

There were four confirmed cases of poliomyelitis during the year, all of which occurred during the late summer and August months.

A very large proportion of the 92 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified occurred in the obstetrical unit of the local hospital, and in the majority of cases had no serious significance.

During the year there were twenty new notifications of tuberculosis and seven deaths, a salutary reminder that this disease although subdued is by no means conquered. It will be seen from the statistical table that there has been no appreciable improvement in the notification rate of pulmonary tuberculosis during the past ten years, indicating that further efforts must be made if this disease is going to be completely eliminated which is of course the ultimate and attainable goal. Certain measures have been adopted in recent years to afford additional protection against the disease to the adolescent age group. School leavers who are found to be susceptible are now being offered B.C.G. vaccination against the disease, as well as being encouraged to present themselves for radiography of the chest by the Mass Miniature Radiography Units.

Environmental Services

Undoubtedly the major environmental health problem in the district is that of atmospheric pollution to which there are three main contributors in the following order of importance as far as this district is concerned :—

- (1) Industrial smoke
- (2) Domestic smoke
- (3) Exhaust fumes from road vehicles.

As far as industrial and domestic sources of pollution are concerned we now have helpful legislation in dealing with these problems, since the Clean Air Act reached the statute book during the year under review. Legislation of this type however valuable is difficult to enforce without the goodwill of the population and although most people are prepared to moan about atmospheric pollution they are rather reluctant to do anything personally to improve matters. Admittedly it is extremely difficult to persuade the householder to take action regarding his relatively small contribution to atmospheric pollution when he sees industrial chimneys pouring forth black smoke. For this reason, although it has been shown that the private householder collectively, is responsible for as much, if not more pollution than industry, industrial smoke must be tackled first.

Regarding the establishment of smoke control areas the greatest difficulty here is not to wean the householder from his coal fire but to convince him that smokeless fuels are a better buy. At the present price of these fuels it is nearly impossible to do so, and if the government is really behind their Clean Air Act they must look again at the question of subsidising these fuels, to a considerable degree if necessary.

I should like to express my appreciation to the staff of the health department for their work throughout the year, and for the co-operation received from other departments.

To the Chairman and members of the Health Committee I offer my thanks for their valuable support and encouragement during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

W. SHARPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Area (Statute Acres)	4,799
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	
mid-1956	40,380
(Census, 1951)	39,237
(Census, 1931)	9,284
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1956 accord- ing to Rate Books	13,165
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (Census, 1951)	11,902
Persons per acre	8.4
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census, 1951)	12,210
Rateable Value	£641,921
Product of Id. Rate	£2,490

VITAL STATISTICS

Based on the Net Births and Deaths after Correction for Inward and Outward Transfers

Live Births :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	333	298	631
Illegitimate	11	10	21
Total	344	308	652

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (adjusted) 16.1

Still Births :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	11	5	16
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	12	5	17

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births 25

Deaths 411

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (adjusted) 12.3

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion 1

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births 1.49

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	16	5	21
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	16	6	22

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 **live** births 34

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	12	3	15
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	12	4	16

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 **live** births 25

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1956

Registrar-General's Classification

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	1	7
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	2	12
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	—	10
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	2	2
14. Malignant neoplasm (other sites)	21	17	38
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	3	4
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	30	52
18. Coronary disease, angina	56	18	74
19. Hypertension with heart disease	8	4	12
20. Other heart disease	23	34	57
21. Other circulatory disease	13	7	20
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	5	4	9
24. Bronchitis	18	9	27
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and doudenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	5	3	8
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	17	39
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	—	5
34. All other accidents	2	3	5
35. Suicide	7	1	8
36. Homicide and operations of war	1	—	1
All causes	244	167	411

Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
under 1	15	7	22
1-	1	1	2
2-4	—	—	—
5-14	3	2	5
15-24	—	—	—
25-44	12	7	19
45-54	24	11	35
55-64	55	25	80
65-74	65	40	105
75 and over	68	75	143
	243	168	411

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate for 1956 was 34 per 1,000 live births compared with 25 for the previous year. This is comparable with the rate for England and Wales of 23.8 per 1,000 live births. The following table shows the improvement in the infant mortality rate during the last 24 years.

INFANT MORTALITY

Year	URMSTON		ENGLAND AND WALES
	Infant Deaths	Infant * Mortality Rate	Infant * Mortality Rate
1933	13	41	64
1934	21	46	59
1935	15	33	57
1936	22	47	59
1937	31	58	58
1938	14	26	53
1939	27	48	50
1940	24	45	55
1941	34	65	59
1942	34	63	49
1943	37	56	49
1944	37	49	46
1945	18	29	46
1946	21	30	43
1947	28	33	41
1948	20	29	34
1949	21	31	32
1950	13	21	29.8
1951	7	10	29.6
1952	11	21	27.6
1953	9	14	26.8
1954	22	35	25.5
1955	16	25	24.9
1956	22	34	23.8

*The mortality rates are based on each 1,000 live births.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1956

Causes of death of Infants under One Year of Age

Cause of Death	Under 1 Mth.	1 Mth.	2 Mths.	3 Mths.	4 Mths.	5 Mths.	6 Mths.	7 Mths.	8 Mths.	9 Mths.	10 Mths.	11 Mths.	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Cerebral hæmorrhage ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Adrenal hæmorrhage ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Defective development ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Heart Disease	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
TOTALS	19	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	22

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Year	URMSTON		ENGLAND AND WALES
	Number of Maternal Deaths	Maternal * Mortality Rate	Maternal * Mortality Rate
1933	1	3.06	4.23
1934	1	2.11	4.41
1935	3	6.32	3.93
1936	3	6.10	3.81
1937	6	10.83	3.11
1938	1	1.79	3.08
1939	nil	—	2.93
1940	2	3.57	2.16
1941	1	1.85	2.23
1942	4	7.05	2.01
1943	2	2.93	2.29
1944	2	2.60	1.93
1945	nil	—	1.79
1946	nil	—	1.43
1947	1	1.18	1.17
1948	nil	—	1.02
1949	2	2.91	0.98
1950	1	1.57	0.86
1951	1	1.62	0.79
1952	nil	—	0.72
1953	nil	—	0.76
1954	nil	—	0.69
1955	1	1.55	0.64
1956	1	1.49	0.56

*The mortality rates are based on each 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths from Cancer, 1956

Site of Disease and Age at Death

Cancer (site)	At all ages	At Ages (years)			
		0 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over
Brain	2	—	—	1	1
Colon	6	—	—	3	3
Carcinomatosis.....	10	—	—	5	5
Bladder	2	—	—	1	1
Breast	7	—	—	4	3
Bronchus	5	—	—	4	1
Liver	1	—	—	—	1
Heart	1	—	—	1	—
Larynx	1	—	—	1	—
Ovary	1	—	—	1	—
Pancreas.....	2	—	—	1	1
Prostate	2	—	—	—	2
Oesophagus	2	—	—	1	1
Rectum	5	—	—	1	4
Stomach.....	12	—	—	6	6
Lung	5	—	—	2	3
Ribs	1	—	—	1	—
Uterus	2	—	—	—	2
Gall Bladder.....	2	—	—	—	2
Totals	69	—	—	33	36

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Specimens for pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at either Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, or 143, Regent Road, Salford, according to the nature of the specimen. Chemical examinations are carried out by the Lancashire County Analyst at the County Laboratory Preston.

The number of examinations carried out during the year was 321, made up as follows:—

Faeces	74
Throat Swabs	39
Nasal Swabs	15
Skin Swabs	1
Aural Swabs	3
Condensed Milk (Bacteriological)	3
Condensed Milk (Chemical)	3
Tinned Ham (Bacteriological)	3
Milk—	
Tubercule Bacilli	2
Methylene Blue	40
Phosphatase Test	33
Turbidity Test	16
Ice Cream	72
Swimming Bath Water (Bacteriological)	2
Swimming Bath Water (Chemical)	5
Drinking Water (Bacteriological)	8
Drinking Water (Chemical)	2

Local Legislation

The following adoptive Acts of Parliament are in force in the district:—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890. Parts III and IV.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. Part II (other than Section 31); Part IV; Part VI; Section 86 of Part VII; Section 95 of Part X.

Public Health Act 1925. Part II and Part VI.

Private Street Works Act 1892.

Byelaws relating to the following have been made by the Council :—

- Cemetery.
- Houses Let in Lodgings.
- Transport of Food.
- New Buildings.
- Pleasure Fairs.
- Sterilisation of Animal Feeding Meat.
- Hairdressers and Barbers.
- Handling, Wrapping and Sale of Food.
- New Streets.

Compulsory Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 has the purpose of securing necessary care and attention for persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. If the Medical Officer of Health certifies such action to be necessary the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an order for the removal of such a person to a hospital or other suitable place.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 speeds up the procedure for obtaining orders under section 47 where removal without delay is certified as necessary by the Medical Officer of Health and another registered medical practitioner.

The powers conferred are used sparingly and only as a last resort after sympathetic persuasion has failed. No official action was necessary during the year.

Hospitals

There are two hospitals situated within the district namely Park Hospital, Davyhulme, with 433 beds providing a full range of specialist services and a large out-patients department, and Urmston Cottage Hospital which with 22 beds is devoted entirely to the care of maternity patients.

Medical Practitioners

There are seventeen doctors resident in the district and about twelve residing in neighbouring districts who practise in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

There has been no change in the district's water supply since the last report.

Drainage and Sewerage

A number of old problems of inadequate drainage were dealt with during the year but the matter of surface water drainage is still causing some concern. Work on the construction of a sewer in Guinness Road, Trafford Park at an estimated cost of nearly £26,000 was nearing completion at the end of the year. The cleansing of Redclyffe Road sewer between Dimplington Circle and Barton Power Station was carried out during the year. A length of Crofts Bank Brook was cleaned by mechanical digger for the purpose of obtaining estimating costs and it is hoped to clean the whole length of this brook from Crofts Bank bridge to the Stretford boundary. The contract for the culverting of this brook is still suspended because of Government restrictions on capital expenditure. Parts of the Ousel and Eea brooks were cleansed during the year.

Data is being obtained for the design of a new main outfall sewer from Tenax Road, Trafford Park under the Bridgewater Canal to join the Manchester Corporation sewer opposite Moss Vale Road in order to deal with all the new development in this part of Trafford Park.

Sanitary Accommodation (end of 1956)

No. of Middens	Nil
.. .. Privy Closets	Nil
.. .. Pail Closets	9
.. .. Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)	Nil
.. .. Movable Ashbins for Refuse	13,956
.. .. Trough Closets	11
.. .. Waste-water Closets	36
.. .. Fresh-water Closets	13,564
.. .. Houses on Water Carriage System	13,264

Smoke Abatement

The Clean Air Act, 1956 will mark a considerable step forward in the battle against atmospheric pollution. The Act will remove many of the frustrations which local authorities had to contend with in the past in trying to deal with this serious health nuisance.

Its implementation will not be easy since it will depend on so many factors the chief of which include :—

1. The zeal and enthusiasm of local authority members and officials.
2. Adequate staffing of the Health Inspectorate.
3. Availability and cost of suitable smokeless fuels.
4. Co-operation of Industry.
5. Co-operation of the General Public.
6. A co-ordinated national policy for Electricity, Gas and Solid Fuel.

The Standing Conference of Local Authorities concerned with industrial emissions in the Carrington and Partington area continues to collect useful data from recording instruments in the district which it is hoped will lead to a better understanding of the problem, and to action for its solution. Meantime every effort is being made to reduce the amount of smoke and other gaseous pollutants discharged into the atmosphere including if necessary statutory action.

Swimming Baths and Pools

The Council has provided modern indoor baths consisting of a swimming pool, slipper baths and showers. The capacity of the swimming pool is 180,000 gallons of water which is constantly circulating through the filters at a mean temperature of about 70 degrees Fahrenheit and is chlorinated and aerated.

Two samples of water from the pool were submitted for bacteriological examination and five samples sent for chemical analysis. The results in each case showed the water to be quite safe for bathing purposes.

Schools

There are sixteen maintained and two private schools in the district which, with one exception, are provided with modern type sanitary conveniences. Each school is provided with galvanised iron dustbins for the storage of refuse, water supply is from the public mains and drainage is satisfactory.

Factories

Visits to factories are made by the public health inspectors in relation to the provision and proper maintenance of sanitary conveniences in mechanical factories and also in respect of cleanliness, drainage of floors, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and sanitary accommodation in non-mechanical factories. Details of action taken are to be found in the table on page 17.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948
Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power	36	3	Nil	Nil
Factories with mechanical power	130	104	1	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	41	38	1	Nil
Totals	207	145	2	Nil

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Number of Cases				Occu- piers prose- cuted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Sec. 1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tempera- ture (Sec. 3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7.)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	1	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	3	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Council	89	4
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	111	1

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	258
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	744
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :	
(a) Number found during year	36
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	127
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	222

Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses	6
(b) Other houses	Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced	9

Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—

	No. of	
	Houses	Persons Displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year :		
(a) Housing Act, 1936—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	5	8
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	Nil	Nil
(iii) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1949—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil

(2) Repairs during the year :	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	112
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice. Houses in which defects were remedied—	
(i) By Owners	57
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16). Houses made fit—	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	1
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	—
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants, etc. :

Action during year :	Private Bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of schemes	No. of buildings affected	No. of schemes	No. of buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	5	5	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	5	5	—	—
(c) Work completed ...	5	5	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The number of milk distributors registered at the 31st December, 1956, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, was 44, operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	6
(b) Shops in the district (other than dairies)	27
(c) Premises outside the district	11

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary) issued during the year :—

"Pasteurised" Milk	33
"Sterilised" Milk	49
"Tuberculin Tested" Milk	25

Details of the ante- and post-mortem inspection of animals slaughtered for human consumption are given in the table on page twenty-two.

The Lancashire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority responsible for the sampling duties under the "adulteration" provisions of the Act of 1938. A total of 206 samples was obtained, of these 131 were of milk (this total includes four Channel Islands Milks) and the 75 others comprised :—

1 Chocolate laxative	1 Boracic ointment
3 Cooking fat	2 Sodium bicarbonate
2 Glycerine	1 Amphetamine inhaler
2 Fish, canned	1 Synthetic cream powder
1 Glucose (with Vitamin D)	1 Ice cream powder
1 Fruit sauce	1 Skimmed milk and fat compound (canned)
3 Flour confectionery	1 Almond oil
1 Tomato sauce	1 Salmon spread
1 Sauce	1 Table jelly
1 Macaroni	1 Vegetarian savoury mix
1 Brown sugar	1 Canned cream
3 Butter	2 Borax
3 Baking Powder	2 Butter
1 Camphorated oil	1 Compound liquorice powder
1 Glucose tablets	1 Lemonade
3 Margarine	1 Mixed, ground spices
2 Curry powder	1 Ground nutmeg
1 Beef sausage	1 Ground almonds
1 Mince pie, canned	1 British sherry
2 Sweets	5 White pepper
2 Sausage rolls	1 Cream of tartar
2 Tincture of iodine	3 Mixed pickles
1 Vitamin C limes	1 Meat paste
1 Ice Cream	2 Salmon paste
1 Chicken, veal & ham paste	

The samples were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst and, with the exception of those listed below, all were reported to be genuine :—

Sample No.	Type	Result of Analysis		Action Taken
E.6343	Glycerine	Contained 0.4% excess water.		None.
E.6421	Milk	Deficient 3.3% fat.		Vendor notified.
E.6819	Beef Sausage	Contained 225 parts per million Sulphite Preservative (expressed as Sulphur Dioxide) without declaration.		Vendor interviewed.
E.7044	Channel Islands Milk	Fat content 3.3% only.		Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed.
E.7033	Tincture of Iodine	Iodine 0.4% and Potassium Iodide 0.5% above B.P. limits. Bottle only part full. Alcohol content only 75% v/v of B.P. is 85-88%.		Remainder of Stock examined for faulty capping.
E.7776	Compound Liquorice Powder	Sample was caked and mouldy. Appeared to be of very old stock.		Stock surrendered.
E.7795	Milk	Freezing point indicated 0.5% extraneous water.		Vendor cautioned. Further samples obtained.
E.7969	Lemonade (Part Bottle)	Contained 0.09% Sulphuretted Hydrogen (probably due to action of liquid on stopper).		Packers communicated with.
E.8011	Salmon Paste	Fish content only 46%.		Formal sample obtained.
E.8063	Salmon Paste (Formal)	Lean fish	34%	Prosecution. Defendants were fined £5 and ordered to pay £7 costs.
		Fish oil	5½%	
		Total fish	39½%	
		Edible fat	6.3%	
		Added water	24.2%	
		Cereal, filler etc.	30.0%	
			100.0%	

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	2	499	Nil	Nil
Number Inspected	—	—	2	499	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses con- demned.	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	—	—	Nil	12	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	—	—	—	2.4%	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses con- demned.	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculo- sis.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion.	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned.	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Poliomyelitis

There were four confirmed cases of acute poliomyelitis during the year.

The following table gives the incidence of poliomyelitis in the Urban District since 1933 :—

Year	Age incidence under 1 year				Over 1 year						Total
	0-2 mths.	3-5 mths.	6-8 mths.	9-11 mths.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6+ yrs.	
1933	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1934	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1935	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1936	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
1937	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1938	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1939	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1940	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1942	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1943	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1944	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1945	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	9	17
1948	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1949	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
1950	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	9
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1952	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
1953	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	4	11
1954	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
1955	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1956	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	4
TOTAL	—	—	2	—	5	9	8	3	1	34	62

There has been no evidence to suggest any connection between immunisation against diphtheria and onset of poliomyelitis.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1956

Disease	Total Cases at all ages	YEARS								
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	51	—	1	12	37	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	235	7	55	77	94	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	76	2	26	13	29	3	1	2	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	11	—	—	1	4	—	1	1	3	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	92	—	—	—	—	—	50	42	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	19	—	—	—	—	—	2	14	3	—
Tuberculosis—other	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	501	10	84	106	165	5	58	62	9	2

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified each month during 1956

Month	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	Menin- gococcal Infection	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Polymyellitis	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Total
January ...	4	—	10	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	23
February ...	6	—	2	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	19
March ...	9	—	—	1	—	—	11	—	—	1	22
April ...	8	—	—	3	—	—	18	—	3	1	33
May ...	7	—	3	2	—	—	12	—	—	—	24
June ...	5	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	12
July ...	4	1	15	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	25
August ...	1	2	19	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	27
September ...	1	1	7	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	17
October ...	3	18	6	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	31
November ...	1	59	2	2	1	—	9	1	—	1	76
December ...	2	154	11	1	1	—	2	—	—	1	172
TOTALS	51	235	76	11	3	1	92	4	4	4	481

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, (other than Tuberculosis) 1947-56

Disease	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	10 years mean
Scarlet Fever	51	48	40	57	72	32	78	46	62	39	52.5
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	.4
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	1	11	2	—	—	—	1.4
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	4	9	25	15	12	25	37	38	31	24	23.0
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	2	2	5	—	2	3	6	2.2
Dysentery	4	6	60	10	21	95	24	2	—	—	22.2
Erysipelas	4	3	5	4	6	8	13	7	10	7	6.7
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	—	3	11	2	1	9	7	1	17	5.5
Measles	235	862	155	397	487	896	252	322	337	797	474.0
Whooping Cough	76	170	45	207	143	192	172	143	250	124	152.0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	13	2.6
Puerperal Pyrexia	92	77	49	56	32	16	1	8	8	16	35.5
Food Poisoning	—	—	3	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	1.3
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.1
TOTALS	481	1175	386	759	783	1286	588	580	714	1045	779.5

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1947-56

Disease	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	10 years mean
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	.1
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	2	3	2	1	1	—	1	—	1.0
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	.1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.2
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	.3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.1
TOTALS	—	1	2	4	2	1	2	2	2	3	1.9

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during 1956

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-								
1-								
2-								
5-								
10-								
15-		1						
20-	1		1					
25-	5	3						
35-	4	2			1			
45-	1				1	1		
55-	2				2			
65-					2			
75 and upwards								
	13	6	1		6	1		
Totals	19		1		7		Nil	

Tuberculosis, New Cases and Mortality — 1947-1956

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1947	15	5	4	7	4	4	—	2
1948	17	10	3	5	5	4	—	1
1949	12	12	1	6	5	6	—	—
1950	13	6	—	2	6	—	2	—
1951	18	8	4	1	5	1	1	—
1952	16	5	2	1	6	2	—	—
1953	12	12	2	3	4	—	—	—
1954	11	7	—	4	4	1	1	—
1955	6	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
1956	13	6	1	—	6	1	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In again submitting a report on the sanitary services and circumstances of the Urban District, it is perhaps not unnatural that the Council's attention is first called to the change of designation which has taken place in the past year effecting the technical staff of the Department. The title of Sanitary Inspector has been abandoned, and in future these officers will be known as Public Health Inspectors. The change has no significance however in relation to the statutory functions of the department.

Considerable inroads have been made during the period under review in the outstanding slum clearance problem five small clearance areas were represented to the Council on grounds of unfitness and these together with individual unfit houses totalled forty unfit housing units. It is now possible to say that in the near future Urmston will be free of property coming within the Clearance category—unless radical alterations are made in existing standards.

Refuse collection and disposal was again ham-strung by the ever present condition—labour shortage. The seemingly chronic inflationary trend in wages and prices would appear to have a disproportionate and seriously disturbing effect on the class of workmen recruited for the service.

May I again place on record my appreciation for the help I have received from the Medical Officer of Health—Dr. Sharpe—and for the hard work and conscientiousness of the inspectorial and office staff generally, this together with the support of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, makes such success as was achieved possible.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WOOD,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints received conformed to the pattern of previous years and again showed that the majority of complainants were fully justified in bringing their problems to the notice of the department.

Total number of complaints investigated	546
Total number of complaints confirmed	468
Total number of visits (including re-visits)	1351

Nature of Complaint	Number Received	Confirmed
Accumulations	28	20
Animals so-kept	5	1
Atmospheric Pollution	15	12
Dirty premises	1	—
Flooding	14	8
Housing Defects	172	154
Obstructed drains	90	86
Overcrowding	1	1
Rats and Mice	113	95
Other vermin	50	50
Miscellaneous	57	41
	546	468

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

The discovery and abatement of public health nuisances is an important part of the day to day work of the department and although the many and varied duties of the Public Health Inspectors require constant attention, vigilance in detecting nuisances remains an essential factor in ensuring that the improved living conditions of today are not impaired in any way.

The following notices were served during the year :—

Informal	Statutory
212	133

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Despite the increase in the number of statutory notices served during the year, it was unnecessary to institute any proceedings against owners of property.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following table shows the total number of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1956.

Accumulations	26
Animals kept as to be a nuisance, etc.	7
Aged Persons	1
Council Houses	17
Caravans, etc.	15
Drainage Work (New Buildings)	150
Drainage Work (existing Buildings)	255
Dwellinghouses—re Complaints	1113
" re Overcrowding	2
" re Infectious Disease	101
" re Dirty and/or Verminous	19
" re Housing Acts	480
Dairies	27
Factories (Mechanical, Non-Mechanical), Out- Workers', Work Places	107
Food Premises	502
Hairdressers	37
Ice-Cream Premises	124
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, etc.	138
Market, Food Stalls, Fairs, etc.	158
Mortuary	12
Offensive Trades	15
Pet Shops	13
Petroleum	95
Public Houses and Cinemas	3
Public Cleansing—Refuse Tip	321
" Other Visits	64
Public Conveniences	48
Rodent Control	33
Rag Flock	9
Sampling Visits	187
Shops	229
Slaughterhouse	45
Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution	135
Swimming Bath	16
Schools	4
Special Visits—Work in Progress, etc.	103
Miscellaneous	354
TOTAL	4,965

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-54

Satisfactory progress was made in the inspection and representation of houses dealt with under clearance area procedure, a total of 39 houses being represented. Four back to back cottages represented in 1955 were demolished and occupants rehoused. Whilst it was only possible to rehouse one tenant from the current programme satisfactory progress in the building of new houses will ensure early rehousing and subsequent demolitions of vacated properties in the new year. No area was the subject of an inquiry. One individual unfit house, owned by the local authority was scheduled for demolition.

In addition to the above a small area was inspected for representation in 1957.

Five individual unfit houses, the subject of demolition orders made prior to 1956, were demolished. Two council owned unfit houses were also dealt with and the families rehoused.

Action under sections 9 and 10(2) of the Housing Act, 1936 resulted in the repair of 2 houses, one of which was made fit by the local authority.

Applications for certificates of disrepair totalled 3 as against 11 in 1955. One certificate was revoked.

In collaboration with the Surveyor's staff four houses were inspected for improvement grants.

One case of statutory overcrowding was discovered and satisfactorily dealt with.

Close liaison with the Housing Manager and Surveyor has been maintained throughout the year, and has materially helped the housing problem. In addition the impartial inspection by the Public Health Inspectors of dwellings occupied by housing applicants greatly assists the Medical Officer and Housing Manager in assessing claims and statements made by applicants.

Frequent requests were received from other authorities for the inspection of dwellings and effects of housing applicants residing in the district, and requiring accommodation in other areas.

HOUSING DEFECTS (Detailed Analysis)

Description	Out-standing 1955	Recorded	Remedied	Out-standing 1956
Ceiling Plaster ...	6	40	23	23
Dampness	25	84	66	43
Eavesgutters R.W.P's etc.....	58	154	157	55
Fireplaces, Grates etc.	8	20	20	8
Floors	16	22	28	10
Roofs	50	95	110	35
Sinks, Lavatory Basins etc.	5	27	26	6
Walls, (pointing etc.) ...	31	64	65	30
Wall Plaster	15	45	34	26
W.C. Soil Pipes etc.....	10	17	23	4
Windows, Sash- Cords etc.	58	112	110	60
Woodwork	13	36	31	18
Yards, Paths	5	8	9	4
Miscellaneous ...	19	47	49	17
	319	771	751	339

The above figures do not include defects found in dwellings inspected under the following heads :—

Disrepair Certificates.

Improvement Grant Applications.

Clearance Areas.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act

The Council's application to become a Food and Drugs Authority was determined during the year and I regret to report that the application was not granted.

Details of the work of food sampling carried out by the County Council are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Food Hygiene Regulations

A determined effort was made to systematically inspect food premises under the above Regulations. A short résumé of the necessary requirements was delivered to all affected premises in letter form under the signature of the Medical Officer of Health, this first step being followed up by a detailed inspection by the Public Health Inspectors.

Informal letters were sent to shopkeepers and others affected where infringements of the regulations were noted and a reasonable period given to carry out the necessary work. In some instances shopkeepers approached the department for advice prior to bringing their premises up to standard. It is felt, however, that although material progress during the year was satisfactory the full benefit of this new legislation must be viewed not as a hurried short term policy but one of gradual improvement over a period.

Unfortunately it was necessary to prosecute a market stallholder who would not conform to the regulation requiring the display of name and address on the stall after numerous requests had been made; the stallholder was fined 40/-.

Food Preparation

The completion of the Council owned shopping centre at Woodsend Circle, Flixton and a block of private enterprise shops at Woodsend Road, Flixton, necessitated the registration of three new food preparation premises, the premises being two butchers shops and one fish fryer.

The commercial undertaking engaged in food preparation and canning again accounted for a considerable amount of time worked under this heading.

A large quantity of the meat processed is exported and was the subject of certification by the Medical Officer of Health, but only after rigorous supervision by the Public Health Inspectors.

The following table shows the quantity of meat examined during the year.

Type	Quantity			
Beef—				
Hindquarters	7331			
Forequarters	8081			
Miscellaneous Cuts	1754			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Boneless Beef	369	15	1	9
Kidneys	28	7	0	15
Tongues			1	22

Food Hawkers

Under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act 1938, 7 hawkers of foodstuffs and 7 storage premises are registered with the local authority.

Slaughterhouse

The one small private slaughterhouse operating in the district has been kept to a high standard of cleanliness and general hygiene and the animals slaughtered, which totalled 499 sheep and two calves, were all subjected to inspection. In eleven cases some part of the carcase or organs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Factory Canteens

The canteens attached to the industrial undertakings situated in that part of Trafford Park within the Urmston area are of a good standard and managements take great care in catering for large numbers of workpeople.

Inspection and Condemnation of Meat and Other Foods

Food exposed for sale is subjected to inspection and again it is pleasing to report that the co-operation between the department and the trade has been fully maintained. The following table gives details of foodstuffs which were the subject of voluntary surrender during the year.

Nature	Quantities			
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Butchers' Meat		3	2	21
Beef Sausage				1½
Chicken			1	10
Dried Fruit			1	2
Egg Pulp			1	12
Gammon			2	2
Kidneys—frozen			2	23
Liver				11
Rice			1	8
Skimmed Milk Powder			2	0
		6	3	6½
Creamed Rice				2 tins
Fruit				257 tins
Fruit Juice				15 tins
Fish				38 tins
Jam and Marmalade				2 tins
Milk and Cream				758 tins
Meat Products				146 tins
Processed Cheese				2 pkts.
Soup				11 tins
Vegetables				426 tins

Food Premises

There are 341 food premises in the area comprising the following :—

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	95
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	30
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.)	32
Bakers and/or Confectioners	27
Fried Fish Shops	14
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	29
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	85
Others	28

The number of food premises registered are as under :—

Type of Business	Legislation under which registration effected	Number at 31. 12. 56
Manufacturer or dealer in ice-cream	Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935 Section 89	76
Fish Fryer	Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935 Section 87	16
Manufacturer of Sausages and Cooked Meats	Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935 Section 87	22
Food Hawkers	Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938 Section 115	7

Special Examination of Food Stocks

A request was received for the inspection and certification of fitness of 5,233 cartons containing 48 tins each of machine skimmed condensed milk prior to export. In addition to the above 15 cases containing 48 tins each of evaporated milk were inspected, this small consignment was condemned and voluntarily surrendered.

Milk Control

Routine sampling of milk was again satisfactorily carried out with the following results.

BIOLOGICAL (T.B.)			METHYLENE BLUE			PHOSPHATASE			TURBIDITY		
No.	Pos.	Neg.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.
2	—	2	40	38	2	33	33	—	16	16	—

Ice-Cream

The following tabular statement shows the number of samples of ice-cream obtained and submitted for examination, with the provisional grading.

Number of samples	Methylene Blue Provisional Grade			
	1	2	3	4
72	58	8	2	4

FACTORY ACTS, 1937-48

It has not yet been possible to give as much attention to the inspection of factories as is desirable, however an improvement is hoped for in the near future providing a full inspectorial staff can be maintained. Details of the number of factories situated in the district are given in the Medical Officer of Health's report, together with inspections and defects found etc.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The following trades are registered by the Department:—

Bone Boiler and Fat Melter	1
Soap Boilers	2
Gut Scraper	1

These establishments were carried on with a minimum of objection and the conditions imposed by the Council have been readily complied with by the factory owners.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The problem of smoke nuisance from the industrial undertakings in the Trafford Park area has given little cause for anxiety during the year. Gaseous pollutants however still cause unpleasantness in various parts of the district and are difficult to trace. Close co-operation with H. M. Alkali Inspector has been maintained to the advantage of both departments.

Urmston is still very active in the affairs of the Standing Conference of Local Authorities, which has for some years engaged in the scientific investigation of atmospheric pollution over a wide area and in the new year a more rigorous check will be made by the setting up of additional scientific recording apparatus.

Observations and inspections recorded during the year totalled 135.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The Inspectors made 101 visits in connection with notifiable infectious disease during the year.

DISINFESTATION

The decline in vermin infested premises is again evident and householders and firms taking advantage of the service provided by the local authority appear to be satisfied with results obtained.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

A decrease in notifications of infestations was noted. Nevertheless treatments have kept at a high level due to the discovery of infestations by systematic survey.

It must be emphasised again that although inspections form a very important part of this service, it is the duty of occupiers of premises to report infestations to the local authority, as without this co-operation small infestations can become major in character.

Industrial premises, tips, watercourses, agricultural land and building sites have been inspected as a routine and the annual maintenance treatment of the sewers did not show any increase in rat infestation.

The periodical visits made by members of the Divisional Rodent Officers staff were much appreciated and advice on methods of treatment etc., proved to be of great value.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business & industrial)	
Number of properties in Local Authority's district	25	13059	16	1248	14348
Number of properties inspected	11	141	16	120	288
Number of infestations RATS, — Major.....	1	Nil	17	Nil	18
Minor.....	1	40	42	4	87
MICE, — Major.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	12	12
Minor.....	1	47	Nil	20	68
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority.....	3	84	4	89	180
Poisons used—Zinc Phosphide..... 5½ lbs. Arsenic ½ lb. Warfarin15½ lbs.					
Bait used—Sausage Rusk 4 cwt. 0qr. 12½ lbs. Medium Oatmeal..... 2 cwt. 1 qr. 15½ lbs. Bread Mash 4 lbs.					

MORTUARY

The Flixton Mortuary maintained by the Department was in use on one occasion only during the year, the cause of death being suicide.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT

In accordance with the provision of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, the Council approved the issue of eighty licences for the storage of petrol or petroleum derivatives, together with four licences for the storage of calcium carbide.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The Council is the Shops Act Authority and each Public Health Inspector is appointed an enforcement officer. In order to compile a new and up to date record of all shops in the district a complete survey was commenced during the year, but in spite of the stepped up inspections only minor infringements were discovered and subsequently informally remedied.

The following is a list of Orders at present in force :—

Urmston (Fish, Fruit and Vegetables) Shops Weekly Half-Holiday Order, 1939.

Urmston Shops Partial Exemption Order, 1938.

The County of Lancaster Weekly (Half-Holiday) Closing Order, 1937.

Urban District of Urmston Closing Order No. 1.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The position regarding the undermentioned conveniences maintained by the Department remained unaltered. Sporadic outbreaks of vandalism proved costly and one can only wonder at the mentality of individuals of both sexes who make a habit of damaging such buildings. Reconditioning is necessary at each of the older installations and when carried out it is hoped that the effort will not be in vain.

Situation	Males		Females
Station Road	2 W.C.s	6 Urinals	3 W.C.s
Davyhulme Circle	2 "	3 "	3 "
Moorside Road	1 "	1 "	2 "
Church Road	2 "	2 "	3 "
Mosley Road (Trafford Park)	1 "	3 "	2 "

MARINE STORE DEALERS

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, has been adopted by the Council and the following Dealers are registered.

Marine Store Dealers	2
Dealer in Old Metal	1

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act but during the year under review one firm was not operating. Samples of cotton flock and washed flock were submitted for examination and proved to be up to the required standard.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Manpower

The shortage of labour for this very essential service was again evident, and fluctuating collection frequencies were the inevitable outcome of such a position. We are fortunate in having a small number of old employees, both drivers and ashbinmen, whose permanent service is of great value to the Department.

Reorganisation of the cleansing service is envisaged in the new year and is a necessity due to the expansion of residential property in the district in the post war years, however the success of any new system will depend upon manpower.

Transport

The Council approved the purchase of an additional refuse collection vehicle which should be in service early in the new year, when the reorganisation, already reported, can be put into operation and it is hoped that cleansing rounds will be more compact and the number of bins per round on as equal a basis as is possible.

Two Dennis side loaders purchased in 1946 were extensively reconditioned during 1956 and it is hoped that these vehicles will give at least a further five years useful service before renewal is necessary.

Transport operating at present is as follows :—

One Dennis Gully Emptier, 1,000 gallons	1955
Two Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloaders	1946
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloader	1948
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloader	1949
One S.D. 24 cubic yards Rearloader	1949
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloader	1951
One Austin Luton-type Van	1953

Trade Refuse

The tipping facilities provided by the Council in the Meadows, Urmston, have again been utilized to the full by small traders and industrial undertakings and on some occasions it was found necessary to curtail certain amounts of trade refuse owing to interference with the progress of normal refuse disposal.

The system of pre-payment of tipping charges for trade refuse which operated from January of this year has proved successful in all respects.

General

The number of bins in use in the district is 13,956. Street gullies have increased to 9,305 and pail closets reduced to 9. The former were cleansed regularly during the year.

Domestic refuse collected totalled 12,834 tons and the weight of refuse disposed of at the Meadow Road Tip was 16,999 tons.

Dustbin Replacement Scheme

This scheme which commenced in October 1950, has worked very smoothly and 5,882 bins have been supplied to date.

Bins supplied are mainly of $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet capacity and of B.S.S. specification or its equivalent.

The cost of the service in terms of a penny rate was 0.861 and represented the supply of 958 bins.

Cleansing Costs

The following table shows the comparative cost of this service for the year 1955-56 :—

REFUSE COLLECTION, 1955-56

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Total
1	REVENUE ACCOUNT	£	£	£
	GROSS EXPENDITURE :			
	(i) Labour	10,300	1,807	12,107
	(ii) Transport	6,457	27	6,484
	(iii) Plant, equipment, and buildings	1,910	1,048	2,958
	(iv) Other items	505	89	594
	(v) Total gross expenditure	19,172	2,971	22,143
2	GROSS INCOME	210	5,154	5,364
3	NET COST	18,962	Cr. 2,183	16,779
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)		250	250
	UNIT COSTS			
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	s. d. 17 5	s. d. 2 2	s. d. 19 7
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	10 11		10 11
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	32 1	Cr. 2 7	29 6
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 475.2	£ 54.7	£ 420.5
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,442.8	Cr. 166.1	1,276.7

SALVAGE

The salvaging, sorting and sale of waste materials was continued throughout the year and in spite of a limitation on the output of waste paper which operated over the last six months, receipts from all sources totalled £4,948 1s. 4d. a slight increase over 1955.

SALVAGE RESULTS 1940-57

Year Ending	WASTE PAPER		KITCHEN WASTE		TEXTILES		METALS		BOTTLES, JARS, CULLET, ETC.		MISCELLANEOUS		TOTALS	
	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £
31st March														
1940	59	194	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	194
1941	357	1469	87	128	14	72	62	223	49	121	11	34	580	2047
1942	450	2024	317	478	20	169	54	184	33	88	15	54	889	2997
1943	481	3066	411	633	34	441	215	399	31	85	23	114	1195	4738
1944	424	2790	352	551	27	372	100	241	27	78	18	121	948	4153
1945	352	2285	306	494	29	454	86	224	22	68	17	112	812	3637
1946	312	2116	263	425	33	341	49	137	18	51	8	58	683	3128
1947	345	2268	286	472	23	261	48	143	32	167	7	61	741	3372
1948	362	2409	326	527	18	209	31	99	16	75	4	27	757	3346
1949	430	2885	324	522	21	241	37	135	22	107	4	30	838	3920
1950	471	2876	366	934	19	229	10	69	7	37	5	32	878	4177
1951	437	3193	305	838	14	228	27	119	3	15	3	23	789	4416
1952	495	8005	252	745	16	538	25	197	—	—	3	22	791	9507
1953	480	4052	215	718	21	397	42	258	—	—	2	18	760	5443
1954	458	3130	208	800	20	354	22	163	—	—	1	11	709	4458
1955	486	3480	—	—	23	426	34	240	—	—	2	14	545	4160
1956	518	4300	—	—	22	486	35	160	—	—	1	13	577	4959
1957	508	4009	—	—	25	578	46	282	—	—	1	10	580	4879
Totals	7425	£ 54551	4018	£ 8265	379	£ 5796	924	£ 3273	260	£ 892	125	£ 754	13131	£ 73531
Add Salvage Collection Allowances 1949-50.....														£ 1294
														£ 74,825

