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URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1958

and of the

Chief Public Health Inspector





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Urmston Urban District Council

Chairman of the Council 1958-59 :

Councillor J. J. H. HATTRICK, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1958-59

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. S. BLABY

Vice-Chairman : Councillor A. PRESCOTT

Councillor N. Bullock

.. R. C. Coggan

.. J. J. H. Hatrick

.. W. Morley

.. Mrs. R. V. Royle-Higginson, J.P.

.. R. E. A. Ratcliffe

.. W. Wroe, J.P.

.. Mrs. A. M. Wilkinson

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.

(Resigned 15.1.1958).

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

(Resigned 12.3.1958).

*R. EVANS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced 3.3.1958).

*Certified Meat and Food Inspectors

Chief Clerk :

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

Clerks :

E. MARGERISON

(Miss) M. A. BAIN (Resigned 25.8.1958)

E. ASPIN

B. HANNA (Appointed 24.11.1958).

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958

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

I have the honour to present the annual report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS

Full statistical information will be found in the report under their relevant headings, and this shows that generally the health of the population for the year under review has been satisfactory.

Population

According to the Registrar General the estimated mid-year population was 40,700, an increase of 1.463 on the census population of 1951 and an increase of 31,416 on the census figure of 1931.

Birth Rate

The number of live births registered during the year was 686, of which 363 were male and 323 female, giving a birth rate of 16.9 per thousand of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.4 per thousand of the population.

Of the 686 births 24 were illegitimate, an increase of 7 on the previous year. The number of still births recorded was 18, giving a still birth rate per thousand live births of 25.6 compared with a rate of 28 per thousand for 1957.

Death Rate

There were 397 deaths during the year, 207 males and 190 females, giving an adjusted general death rate per thousand of the estimated resident population of 11.7 which is exactly the same as the rate for England and Wales during the year.

Infant Mortality Rate

The number of children under one year who died during 1958 was 11, giving an infant mortality rate of 16 per thousand live births which is well below the national average for England and Wales of 22.5. This is the lowest national rate ever recorded.

Maternal Mortality

One maternal death was reported during the year.

Infectious Diseases

The total number of notified cases of infectious disease was 554, a decrease of 673 on the previous year, chiefly accounted for by a fall in the incidence of measles and dysentery.

For the eleventh consecutive year no case of diphtheria was notified, a very striking testimony to the protective immunisation campaign against the disease. This is a campaign in which there can be no let up, since it is known that diphtheria is by no means extinct and would quickly assume its tragic incidence of pre-war years if the immunisation level in the child population was allowed to fall below the safety margin. Although the level of immunisation in the district is not unsatisfactory, there is room for considerable improvement in the pre-school child group. All parents are urged to have their children protected against this disease before they reach their first birthday. The procedure is safe and effective.

Only one case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year and this was of the non-paralytic type. It is still too early to assess the real value of the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign which was pursued vigorously throughout the year. From the statistical evidence now available it seems reasonably certain that approximately 80% of those vaccinated are fully protected against the disease, and those who do contract the disease do so in a mitigated form. Parents who fail to have their children protected are running a very serious risk indeed of suffering a lifetime of self reproach, should their child be so unfortunate as to contract severe permanent paralysis with its attendant sorrow, and heavy burden on parents and community.

During the year the age group of those eligible for vaccination was extended to include all persons born on or after the 1st January, 1933, but the response of those in this age group has been very disappointing in spite of the numerous facilities offered in the way of open clinics, attendance of vaccination teams at factories, youth institutes, further education classes etc. The response however in the younger age groups, i.e., up to the age of fifteen years has been satisfactory, approximately 75% having registered.

At the end of the year, 7,358 children in the district had been immunised against the disease.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

It is my duty to emphasise once again the increase in the number of deaths from cancer of the respiratory system. During the year 22 persons died from this disease, 19 of whom were males, compared with 16 in 1957 and 11 in 1956.

There can be no doubt in the minds of those who study statistical data seriously that we have in cancer of the respiratory system a major epidemiological problem, and it is regrettable that it is being treated with a complacency and ostrich-like attitude by the community generally.

The connection between cigarette smoking and the disease has been firmly established on a statistical basis, but it would seem that it has made very little impact on the smoking habits of the public. In view of the publicity given to the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer over recent years, one can only assume that the addicted smoker is willing to risk the increased chance of premature death rather than forego the pleasure derived from cigarette tobacco.

Over 100,000 people, mostly middle aged males, have died from lung cancer during the last ten years and if the mortality rate continues to rise at the present rate, and there is certainly no indication that it won't, 250,000 persons will die during the next decade. This is a very high price to pay in human suffering and misery for what after all is an unnecessary habit usually acquired innocently in early adult life.

Although a large proportion of the 250,000 who will die from the disease during the next ten years have already written their death certificates in tobacco smoke, it cannot be too often repeated that cessation of the habit at any age reduces the risk of contracting the disease.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

It has been previously stated in many annual reports that pollution of the atmosphere is the most important problem in environmental health affecting the district, and one to which there is no easy answer.

A vigorous implementation of the Clean Air Act will of course pay dividends in the reduction of the smoke problem in the years ahead, but the problem of the invisible gases not only remains but intensifies. These gases which are mainly composed of the oxides of sulphur, are probably a much more serious health problem than dark smoke, and with the ever increasing industrial development in the Partington area, which lies to the windward of the residential area, the health risk is likely to increase. It does seem that there is a very strong case for some form of statutory action in an attempt to control the amount of sulphur contamination in areas which are heavily polluted. Legislation could and should ensure that where there is already a high concentration of sulphur oxides in the atmosphere further industrial development of a nature likely to discharge further large quantities of noxious gases should not be permitted. In other

words there ought to be some form of selection of industry in the interests of the health of the local inhabitants. In addition, some form of control should be imposed limiting the sulphur content of fuel oil. There is an increasing tendency for industry to convert their boiler plant from coal burning to oil, and unfortunately the fuel oil being used in most instances has a very high sulphur content, in some cases over 4%. It is appreciated that it is more economical for the firm concerned to use such a crude oil, but it is obvious that health considerations are not taken into account. One wonders if the cost to the community as a whole in ill-health of such a policy, does not far outweigh the slight immediate economic advantage to the shareholders.

Is it asking too much for a statutory limit of say half per cent sulphur content for all fuel oils?

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

To the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, I offer my sincere 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-1958	40,700
(Census, 1951)	39,237
(Census, 1931)	9,284
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1958 accord- ing to Rate Books	13,490
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (Census, 1951)	11,902
Persons per acre	8.5
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census, 1951)	12,210
Rateable Value	£650,706
Product of Id. Rate	£2,437

VITAL STATISTICS

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

Live Births :

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	347	315	662
Illegitimate	16	8	24
Total	363	323	686

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (adjusted) 16.9

Still Births :

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	7	10	17
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	7	11	18

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births 25.6

Deaths 397

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (adjusted) 11.7

Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion 1

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births 1.42

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	—	2	2
Total	6	5	11

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 16.0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	—	2	2
Total	6	5	11

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 16.0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1958

Registrar-General's Classification

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	7	12
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	19	3	22
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Malignant neoplasm (other sites)	12	13	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	2	4
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	30	29	59
18. Coronary disease, angina	49	30	79
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	7	9
20. Other heart disease	25	38	63
21. Other circulatory disease	13	8	21
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	6	4	10
24. Bronchitis	21	9	30
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	11	24
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34. All other accidents	5	3	8
35. Suicide	3	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1
All causes	213	184	397

Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
under 1	6	5	11
1-	—	—	—
2-4	—	—	—
5-14	1	—	1
15-24	1	1	2
25-44	10	7	17
45-54	21	21	42
55-64	45	30	75
65-74	60	39	99
75 and over	63	87	150
	207	190	397

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
1957	15	20	23.0
1958	11	16	22.5

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

INFANT MORTALITY, 1958

Causes of death of Infants under One Year of Age

Cause of Death	Under	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total under 1 year
	1 Mth.	Mth.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	Mths.	
Anorexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Drowning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hæmorrhagic disease of newborn	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Intracranial hæmorrhage	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Meningocele	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Neonatal Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11

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
1957	nil	—	0.47
1958	1	1.42	0.43

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

Deaths from Cancer, 1958

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
Bladder	2	—	—	1	1
Breast	3	—	2	1	—
Bronchus	20	—	1	15	4
Carcinomatosis.....	11	—	1	7	3
Colon	8	—	1	2	5
Ear	1	—	—	—	1
Kidney	1	—	—	1	—
Larynx	1	—	—	1	—
Oesophagus	1	—	—	1	—
Ovary	1	—	—	1	—
Pancreas.....	1	—	—	1	—
Pharynx	1	—	—	—	1
Prostate	1	—	—	—	1
Pylorus	1	—	—	—	1
Rectum	1	—	—	—	1
Stomach.....	12	—	1	5	6
Thyroid	1	—	—	1	—
* Totals	67	—	6	37	24

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations

The number of examinations carried out during the year was 416, made up as follows :—

Faeces	198
Throat Swabs	8
Milk :—	
Tubercle Bacilli	1
Methylene Blue Test	26
Phosphatase Test	26
Turbidity Test	17
Ice Cream	17
Swimming Bath Water (Chemical)	7
Dutch Spray Dried Hen Egg	103
Cheese and Onion Pie	9
Meat and Potato Pie	1
Lunch Tongue	3

Water Supply

This is supplied from the public mains to all dwelling-houses by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department, the quality being excellent and the quantity sufficient.

Drainage and Sewerage

The surface water sewers in Woodsend Road and Higher Road, Urmston have been cleaned by mechanical dragging and a large number of individual gully connections cleared. Tree roots and other obstructions have been cleared from the surface water sewers in Moorside Road and Irlam Road, Flixton.

Outline approval has been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to the proposed trunk sewer from Urmston to Flixton. The proposals for the re-sewering of Trafford Park are now at an advanced stage and will be submitted to the Ministry in the near future.

Sanitary Accommodation (end of 1958)

No. of Middens	Nil
.. .. Privy Closets	Nil
.. .. Pail Closets	6
.. .. Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)...	Nil
.. .. Movable Ashbins for Refuse	14,224
.. .. Trough Closets	7
.. .. Waste-water Closets	33
.. .. Fresh-water Closets	13,920
.. .. Houses on Water Carriage System	13,621

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 fifteen.

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	35	4	Nil	Nil
Factories with mechanical power	140	151	Nil	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	30	34	Nil	Nil
Totals	205	189	Nil	Nil

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Number of Cases				Occupiers prosecuted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Sec. 1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7.)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Council	39	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	222	Nil

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)	212
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	823
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :—	
(a) Number found during the year	32
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	111
(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	180

Clearance Areas

Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :

(a) Houses unfit for human habitation	13
(b) Number of persons displaced	15
(c) Number of families displaced	5

Houses NOT included in Clearance Areas :—

(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	9
(b) Number of persons displaced	10
(c) Number of families displaced	5

Unfit Houses Closed Nil

Repairs during the year :—

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action by the local authority	106
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice. Houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(i) By Owners	53
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	3
(c) Housing Act, 1957 (Sections 9 and 16)—action after service of formal notice	Nil
(d) Housing Act, 1957 (Section 24)	Nil

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation (Sections 48, 17 (2), (46),	Nil
Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Sections 34 or 53)	Nil

Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958—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	9	9	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	9	9	—	—
(c) Work completed ...	4	4	—	—

FOOD

The number of milk distributors registered at the 31st December, 1958, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54 was 62, operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	6
(b) Shops in the district (other than dairies)	46
(c) Premises outside the district	10

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

“Pasteurised” Milk	41
“Sterilised” Milk	53
“Tuberculin Tested” Milk	22

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

The Lancashire County Council are the responsible authority for the sampling duties under the Food and Drugs Act of 1955. A total of 200 samples was obtained, of these 138 were of milk (this total includes 9 Channel Islands Milks) and the 62 other comprised :—

2 Butter	1 Chlorophyll Tablets
2 Lard	2 Canned Vegetables
2 Gravy Browning	3 Pork Sausages
1 Canned Chicken	1 Olive Oil and Raspberry Vinegar
1 Jam	1 Canned Fruit
1 Tincture of Iodine (B.P. 1932)	1 Salmon Paste
1 Vinegar	1 Pudding Mix
2 Sauce	1 Dressed Crab
1 Fish Paste	1 Mixed Spice
2 Flavouring	1 Condensed Milk
1 Custard Powder	5 Fruit Curd
2 Oatmeal	1 Dried Vegetables
1 Arrowroot	1 White Pepper
1 Ice Cream	4 Sugar
1 Orange Drink	2 Flour Confectionery
1 Curry Powder	4 Flour
3 Dried Fruit	1 Camphorated Oil
1 Bicarbonate of Soda	3 Ground Nutmeg
1 Fruit Juice	1 Ground Cinnamon

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

<i>Type</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Sugar	Contained 5.8% salt.	Vendor cautioned.
Tincture of Iodine B.P.1932	Contained 2.65% Iodine and 2.70% Potassium Iodide. B.P. 1953 maximum limits are 2.55% of each. B.P.1932 limits are 2.55% Iodine and 1.55% Potassium Iodide.	Packers communicated with regarding excess of ingredients and deletion of "B.P.1932" from label.
Fork Sausages	Contained 270 parts per million of sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed.

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	Nil	464	1	Nil
Number Inspected	—	—	—	464	Nil	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci Whole carcasses con- demned.	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	—	—	—	35	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	—	—	—	7.5	—	—
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcasses con- demned.	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculo- sis.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis : Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion.	—	—	—	Nil	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned.	—	—	—	Nil	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Poliomyelitis

There was one confirmed case of non-paralytic 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
1957	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	4
1958	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL	—	—	2	—	5	11	8	3	2	36	67

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1958

Disease	Total Cases at all ages	YEARS												
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over		
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	7	2
Dysentery	25	—	2	—	3	1	9	4	1	5	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	447	15	50	46	58	68	201	5	2	2	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	27	—	2	1	3	4	13	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	—	—	2	1
Tuberculosis—other	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	1	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	554	15	55	49	65	73	227	12	13	27	14	4	4	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED EACH MONTH DURING 1958

Month	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Pollomyelitis	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Typhoid Fever	Total
January ...	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	5
February ...	1	2	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	8
March ...	7	5	—	3	—	—	1	—	15	—	—	31
April ...	4	7	2	1	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	21
May ...	6	54	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	64
June ...	3	148	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	156
July ...	1	143	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	147
August ...	1	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
September ...	—	3	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	8
October ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
November ...	—	4	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	9
December ...	2	9	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
TOTALS	27	447	6	16	4	1	5	1	25	5	1	538

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, (other than Tuberculosis) 1949-58

Disease	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	10 years mean
Scarlet Fever.....	27	45	51	48	40	57	72	32	78	46	49.6
Diphtheria.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	.4
Paratyphoid Fever.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	2	—	1.5
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal).....	20	21	4	9	25	15	12	25	37	38	20.6
Meningococcal Infection.....	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	5	—	2	1.3
Dysentery.....	25	199	4	6	60	10	21	95	24	2	44.6
Erysipelas.....	5	3	4	3	5	4	6	8	13	7	5.8
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1	4	4	—	3	11	2	1	9	7	4.2
Measles.....	447	852	235	862	155	397	487	896	252	322	490.5
Whooping Cough.....	6	64	76	170	45	207	143	192	172	143	121.8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.2
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	5	19	92	77	49	56	32	16	1	8	35.5
Food Poisoning.....	1	6	—	—	3	—	5	5	—	—	2.0
Malaria.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	538	1214	471	1175	386	759	783	1286	588	580	778.0

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES, (other than Tuberculosis) 1949-58

Disease	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	10 years mean
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	.1
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal).....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.2
Meningococcal Infection.....	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	1	1	—	.9
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	.1
Measles.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	.3
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	1	—	1	2	4	2	1	2	2	1.6

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during 1958

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 Years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 „	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-44 „	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-64 „	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	5	—	2	—	—	—	—
	14		2		Nil		Nil	

Tuberculosis, New Cases and Mortality — 1948-1958

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
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	—	—
1957	7	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
1958	9	5	—	2	1	—	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The past year has brought many difficulties because of staff shortage. The departure of trained Public Health Inspectors to other authorities offering more lucrative appointments, with the impossibility of obtaining adequate replacements in a highly competitive market, has proved a serious obstacle to the smooth and efficient operation of the department.

In the housing field the department has been engaged clearing up what remained of the slum clearance programme, and as could be expected the remaining properties which form this residual are border line cases, and as such present their own peculiar difficulties.

With the exception of holidays and short periods of labour difficulties, the weekly cycle of refuse collection has been well maintained, and serious complaints have been negligible. Refuse disposal has been mechanised by the provision of a bulldozer and scraper, with the advantages of more speedy turn round of vehicles, greater control of tipping operations, elimination of many distasteful manual tasks and it is hoped, a considerable financial saving.

Largely because the Trafford Park Cold Stores is situated within the Urban District, the inspectors of the department have been called upon to play an active part in the inspection of considerable quantities of imported foodstuffs and this, together with the supervision necessary at a large food preparation factory, has absorbed the greater part of one inspector's available time during the year.

May I again record my appreciation for the help I have received from the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sharpe, and every member of the department's staff, and for the active support of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WOOD,

*Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.*

COMPLAINTS

The number of complaints received and confirmed during the year increased sharply, as compared with 1957, the increase is without any serious significance however.

The one major continuing nuisance which year by year gives rise to many complaints, all more or less justified, is the stench arising from that vital waterway "The Manchester Ship Canal." With the advent of summer weather the emanations given off from this highly polluted water, particularly at times when the larger vessels are passing, is such as to make living conditions near the canal well nigh intolerable.

Whilst the Officers of the department feel a constant sense of frustration and irritation at this state of affairs, there is little doubt that a remedy for the nuisance is not yet to hand, although one would imagine that intensive investigation of the problem by the controlling authority was long overdue.

Total number of complaints investigated	617
Total number of complaints confirmed	526
Total number of visits (including re-visits)	1576

Nature of Complaint	Number Received	Confirmed
Accumulations	14	12
Animals so-kept	4	3
Atmospheric Pollution	19	16
Dirty premises	—	—
Flooding	10	8
Housing Defects	153	141
Obstructed drains	107	102
Overcrowding	3	—
Rats and Mice	157	119
Other vermin	69	69
Miscellaneous	81	56
	617	526

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

Notices served during the year comprised :—

Informal	Statutory
163	77

On no occasion was it necessary to institute legal proceedings.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The total number of visits made by the Council's Public Health Inspectors for all purposes is set out below :-

Accumulations	26
Animals kept as to be a nuisance, etc.	26
Council Houses	8
Caravans, etc.	7
Drainage Work (New Buildings)	362
Drainage Work (existing Buildings)	301
Dwellings—re Complaints	1460
" re Overcrowding	12
" re Infectious Disease	171
" re Dirty and Verminous	4
" re Housing Acts	168
" re Rent Act	156
" re Improvement Grants	21
Dairies	6
Factories (Mechanical, Non-Mechanical), Out-Workers', Work Places	156
Food Premises	708
Flooding of Cellars etc.	47
Hairdressers	3
Ice-Cream Premises	43
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, etc.	143
Market, Food Stalls, Fairs, etc.	91
Mortuary	12
Offensive Trades	10
Petroleum	127
Public Houses and Cinemas	5
Public Cleansing—Refuse Tip	275
" " Other Visits	259
Public Conveniences	72
Rodent Control	9
Sampling Visits	128
Shops	34
Slaughterhouse	45
Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution	39
Swimming Bath	8
Schools	6
Special Visits—Work in Progress, etc.	61
Miscellaneous	418
TOTAL	5,427

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-57

Although the greater part of the Council's slum clearance programme has now been dealt with, one fairly large area was inspected during the period comprising 25 dwelling houses and 5 shop properties. Whether this area is dealt with by the ordinary processes of slum clearance or other available means has yet to be determined, but consultations are now taking place to secure demolition of the property and the future orderly development of the site.

The following dwelling houses unfit for human habitation were demolished during the year :—

Clearance Areas	13
Individual Unfit Houses	9

In no case was it necessary to resort to an Inquiry, nor was any house the subject of an Appeal. The number of persons rehoused by the Housing Department was 25 and comprised 10 family units.

Under the provisions of the Housing Acts 1949-54, 9 houses were inspected in collaboration with the Surveyor's Department following applications for improvement grants. In a number of cases fairly extensive repairs were carried out in addition to the required improvements.

No case of statutory over-crowding came to light during the year, but instances of congested living conditions were dealt with informally either by re-arrangement of accommodation or by recommendation to the Housing Department.

As in previous years a considerable number of visits by inspectors of the department in connection with housing conditions were initiated by the Medical Officer of Health and Housing Manager, usually following representation by medical practitioners asking for special consideration for patients. Each of these cases was the subject of a special report.

HOUSING DEFECTS (Detailed Analysis)

Description	Out- standing 1957	Recorded	Remedied	Out- standing 1958
Ceiling Plaster ...	15	32	24	23
Dampness	53	74	92	35
Eavesgutters R.W.P's etc.....	34	133	114	53
Fireplaces, Grates etc.	6	19	19	6
Floors	10	15	20	5
Roofs	36	69	85	20
Sinks, Lavatory Basins etc.	5	14	12	7
Walls, (pointing etc.) ...	22	52	42	32
Wall Plaster	30	58	46	42
W.C. Soil Pipes etc.....	9	24	26	7
Windows, Sash- Cords etc.	94	82	81	95
Woodwork	14	17	24	7
Yards, Paths	6	9	12	3
Miscellaneous ...	21	20	29	12
	355	618	626	347

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

RENT ACT 1957 IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS CLEARANCE AREAS

RENT ACT 1957 APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR 1st January—31st December, 1958

(1) Number of application for certificates	53
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	NIL
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates :	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	36
(b) in respect of all defects	17
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords	42
(5) Number of undertakings refused by local authority	NIL
(6) Number of certificates issued	22
(7) Applications for cancellation of certificates of disrepair	10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act

The sampling of foodstuffs under the provisions of the above Act continues to be carried out by officers of the County Council, details of which are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Food Hygiene Regulations

There has been a marked improvement in the handling of foodstuffs since these regulations came into general operation, in particular shopkeepers and stall-holders dealing with open foodstuffs are now taking the elementary precautions to prevent contamination, and the provision of equipment such as refrigerated windows and serving counters is becoming much more common.

Whilst it has been necessary from time to time to draw to the attention of food purveyors minor infringements of the regulations, on no occasion was it felt that the offence was so serious as to justify the institution of legal proceedings.

Food Preparation and Manufacture

Food processing carried on in a large factory in the district has been given close and detailed attention, and although it would doubtless be highly desirable to have a Public Health Inspector stationed here permanently, the present staffing position precludes such an arrangement. The aforementioned Company prepares a wide range of canned meat and vegetable products, and a considerable quantity of the former is exported and fairly stringent conditions are imposed by many of the importing nations—particularly does this apply to the American Continent.

Latterly a new line of business has been opened up, namely the slaughter and preparation of poultry for sale either as whole birds or jointed dishes ready for the oven. This undertaking is now generally described as the "Broiler Industry" and the firm is dealing with as many as 7,000 birds per week. This new departure has caused some concern, primarily because no precedents were available as to the correct methods of approach, and standards have had to be developed whilst the work proceeded.

The following table shows the quantity of meat examined during the year :—

Beef—	Type	Quantity			
	Hindquarters	11011			
	Forequarters	14046			
	Miscellaneous Cuts	13561			
		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lb.
	Boneless Beef	643	3	3	21
	Kidneys	17	8	1	15

Cold Store, Trafford Park

As in previous years a considerable amount of time was spent by inspectors of the department in detailed examination of foodstuffs, largely imported, held in this Cold Store, and one problem of some magnitude presented itself during the period, namely the unsatisfactory bacteriological conditions of a number of consignments of frozen liquid egg and dried egg.

After intensive sampling it was found that in many cases infection was such as to necessitate either re-export to the producer in the country of origin, or compulsory pasteurisation. A total of 105 cases of dried egg and 162 x 22 lb. tins of frozen hen egg were dealt with by re-export.

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.

Three new applications were made during the year and after inspection registration was granted.

Slaughtering Facilities

The one small slaughterhouse situated in the district has continued to operate. This is an admirable establishment which, although not of new construction, has been modernised and provided with all necessary modern equipment. The number of animals slaughtered for food totalled 464 sheep and lambs.

With the passing into law of the Slaughterhouses Act and the necessity of preparing a Slaughterhouse report for submission to the appropriate Government Department, a census of opinion of all local butchers was obtained on the desirability of the Council supporting a plan for a new abattoir in Phillips Park, Manchester.

The survey revealed mixed feelings amongst the trade, a number of butchers being somewhat critical of the suggested site, particularly as to the increased distances that meat would have to conveyed. This, in their opinion, will unfavourably affect the retail price of meat in this area.

Inspection and Condemnation of Meat and Other Foods

The following table gives details of foodstuffs which were the subject of voluntary surrender during the year. On no occasion was it found necessary to make an official seizure.

	Quantities			Lb.
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs	
Chicken		1	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cheese		1	1	18
Coconut				21
Granulated Sugar				18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kidneys				17
Liver			2	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
Margarine				17
Rolled Oats			1	21
Swiss Rolls				2 $\frac{1}{4}$
		4	1	21 $\frac{1}{4}$
				Tins
Creamed Rice				3
Coffee				2
Chicken Fillets				29
Frozen Whole Egg				1
Fish				29
Fruit				352
Jam and Marmalade				7
Milk and Cream				77
Meat Products				195
Orange Juice				13
Soup				7
Vegetables				157

Food Premises

There are 344 food premises in the area comprising the following :—

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	89
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	31
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	2
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	33
Bakers and/or Confectioners	22
Fried Fish Shops	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	38
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	86
Others	28

The number of food premises registered are as under :—

Type of Business	Legislation under which registration effected	Number at 31. 12. 58
Manufacturer or dealer in ice-cream	Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935 Section 89	94
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	23
Food Hawkers	Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938 Section 115	7

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.
1	—	1	26	26	—	26	26	—	17	17	—

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
17	15	2	—	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Public Inquiry

In November an application by Messrs. Petro-Chemicals Ltd., to extend their boiler plant and in so doing to erect a 300ft. stack to disperse the waste gases evolved, was brought to Public Inquiry stage by the strong opposition of Local Authorities constituting the Standing Conference on Atmospheric Pollution in this area, supported by seven Authorities outside this group.

At the Inquiry it was stated that the three new boilers to be installed each capable of raising 120 lbs. of steam per hour, would ultimately be emitting by way of the new stack 36 tons of sulphur dioxide per day.

After a long hearing at which Counsel for the Opposition contested strenuously the reasonableness of allowing such quantities of SO_2 to be discharged into an already heavily polluted area, it was urged that:—

1. Due importance should be attached to the existing degree of pollution.
2. Cause an examination to be made of all possible safeguards, namely:—
 - (a) the latest development of research as in gas scrubbing, e.g. Simon Carves method of scrubbing by means of ammonia liquor;
 - (b) the use by the Company of a greater proportion of sulphur free fuel;
 - (c) the application to the plant so far as may be appropriate of provisions in The Alkali Act;
 - (d) ensure conditions that will bring the Petro-Chemicals Plant within the orbit of any scientific advances in the field of Clean Air Research.

The findings of the Minister of Fuel and Power are awaited.

Smoke Control Area

Officers of the department are at present engaged on the preliminary work necessary before the submission of the Council's proposals to the Minister.

It is hoped that Smoke Control Area No. 1 will have had the Minister's formal approbation early in the new year when work will commence in earnest.

Prior Approval of Furnaces

A number of applications under this head was received during the year and given the Council's formal approval. None of these applications were for large installations however.

General

There was a perceptible improvement during the year of emissions from steam raising plant in the industrial zone. It was fairly evident that the majority of industrialists and their managerial staff are conscious of the problem of aerial pollution and in general are co-operative. A minority, however, forming a small hard core of resistance still regard the drive for a cleaner atmosphere as being the exclusive province of cranks or bigots.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The inspectors made 171 visits in connection with notifiable infectious disease during the year.

DISINFESTATION

The complete disinfestation service established by the department has again proved satisfactory, and it was apparent that rate-payers making use of the department's officer concerned with this work were very appreciative of the help he was able to afford.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Sewer maintenance treatments were carried out successfully and following the introduction of warfarin treatment, results obtained were very encouraging and only minor pockets of infestation are now being discovered.

Inspections of dwellings, industrial premises, tips and water courses were systematically carried out and particular attention was given to new building sites. Complaints received and confirmed increased over last year's figures, but there was no significant difference in major or minor rat infestations. Both major and minor mice infestations decreased slightly in comparison with the previous year.

It is gratifying to note that the steady fall in the rat population in the industrial area of Trafford Park has been maintained.

Co-operation between the department and members of the Divisional Rodent Officers' staff has continued to be maintained in a cordial manner.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including business & industrial)	
Number of properties in Local Authority's district	25	13394	16	1250	14685
Number of properties inspected	9	118	16	149	292
Number of infestations RATS, — Major.....	3	1	5	9	18
Minor.....	5	45	3	43	96
MICE, — Major.....	1	Nil	Nil	10	11
Minor.....	Nil	41	Nil	17	58
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority.....	9	87	8	79	183
Poisons used—Zinc Phosphide..... 6 lbs. 11 ozs. Warfarin 8 lbs. 7 ozs.					
Bait used—Sausage Rusk 3 cwt. 3 qrs. 19 lbs. Fine Oatmeal 1 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lbs.					

MORTUARY

The Flixton Mortuary maintained by the department was not used during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

No punitive action was necessary against any shop-keeper for failing to comply with the restrictive provisions of this Act, in general Closing Hours and Weekly Half-day Closing appear to be approved of by the majority of trades people.

The following Orders are at present in force in the Urban District:—

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 additional conveniences which the Council propose to erect were not commenced during the year, some difficulty being experienced in acquiring suitable sites.

Recurring damage to existing structures was again a source of worry to the department, for quite apart from the cost of the repairs it is disturbing that gangs of hooligans can make these public amenities the object of their infantile humour without being detected.

The question of the hours of opening was discussed by the Health Committee and it was decided as an experiment that all conveniences, with the exception of that situated in Trafford Park, should be available for public use at all times night and day. To date this innovation has proved successful.

Conveniences in service in the district are as under:—

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 STORES 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	2

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act and during the year one sample of Grey Millpuff was taken and submitted for analysis, the report of which was satisfactory.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT

In accordance with the provisions of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, the Council approved the issue of eighty-one licences covering the storage of 1,338,503 gallons of petroleum or petroleum derivatives, together with four licences in respect of the keeping of 9,442 tons of calcium carbide.

During the year the Council agreed to a series of licensing conditions based on a Model Code issued by the Home Office governing the storage of petroleum as follows.

- (a) Constructional requirements for Petrol Filling Stations.
- (b) Petrol Filling Stations—Conditions subject to which Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum mixtures is granted.
- (c) Constructional Requirements which should be complied with before a licence to store Petroleum Spirit in drums and other receptacles is granted.
- (d) Storage of Petroleum Spirit in cans, drums and other receptacles — Conditions subject to which Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures Licence is granted.
- (e) Special conditions appertaining to those licensed premises upon which Petrol/Oil Mixture Dispensers are sited.

In adapting the Model Code to meet the requirements of the Urban District the department was fortunate in having the valuable assistance of the Fire Prevention Branch of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Departmental Transport

The vehicles operated by the Cleansing Section of the department are reaching that stage when repair costs are causing serious concern. Although not unserviceable, some of the older Dennis vehicles have become uneconomic.

In the next financial year it will be highly desirable to consider the replacement of at least those two units purchased immediately after the war.

Transport in operation is as follows:—

Two Dennis 10 cubic yards Side-loaders	1946
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Side-loader	1948
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Side-loader	1949
One S.D. 24 cubic yards Rear-loader	1949
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Side-loader	1951
One Austin Luton-type Van	1953
One Dennis Gully Emptier, 1,000 gallons	1955
One S.D. 16 cubic yards Fore & Aft Rear-loader	1957

Labour Problems

Although it was found possible to obtain a certain number of recruits to the service, in general the standard of available labour was by no means that which could be desired for one reason or another. Not more than 33% of workmen engaged stayed more than a few days, putting the department to considerable expense and causing more than a little disorganisation in the collection rounds. Fortunately for the district, a small band of loyal workmen, all of many years service, has remained with the department in fair weather and foul—without these servants a vital public health service could never have been maintained and may have lapsed into chaos.

Complaints

As could be expected with a service so close to the public, complaints are received, some justifiable, many unreasonable. It is indeed remarkable that the more regular and frequent the collection service for household refuse becomes the more exacting the demands of certain householders.

Refuse Disposal

After a close examination of the problem the Health Committee decided that in the future the effective disposal of house and trade wastes could only be ensured by the provision of mechanical aids at the disposal point in the Meadows and authority was given for the purchase of a Bristol Tip Master (bulldozer) and 1½ cubic yard Scraper.

This equipment was brought into operation on the 1st September and has proved extremely efficient, so that not only is a considerable financial saving possible, but many disagreeable manual tasks have been eliminated.

Due to the diversion of the River Mersey where it borders the Council's disposal site in the Meadows, an area of land forming part of the old river bed has become available for tipping purposes—subject to the Council being able to agree with the present owners as to purchase price—the land should prove a valuable addition to the department's available outlets for the disposal of domestic and industrial wastes.

Trade refuse brought by industrial undertakings to the tip again showed a considerable increase, being 25% up on the previous year, income from this source reaching £550. There are, however, certain trade wastes which cannot be handled in the Meadows due to their character. Residual oils and chemical compounds which in the past have caused objectionable pollution in water courses and surrounding pasturage have had to be prohibited.

General

As the tempo of house building increases so does the number of bins to be emptied week by week, most rounds becoming larger and taking a greater time between turn-round. The number of bins in use in the district total 14,224 and the domestic refuse collected and disposed of amounted to 12,323 tons. Domestic and trade refuse together deposited in the Meadows was estimated as 19,063 tons.

Dust Bin Replacement Scheme

The replacement of household dust bins as a rate-borne service continued during the year, 1,330 old containers were replaced by the new B.S.S. bins of 3½ cu. ft. capacity. To date 8,111 bin replacements have been made, and the annual charge is equal to 0.906d. of a penny rate.

Cleansing Costs

The following table shows the comparative cost of this service for the year 1957-58.

REFUSE COLLECTION, 1957-58

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals
1	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	£	£	£
	GROSS EXPENDITURE :			
	(i) Labour	12,537	1,328	13,865
	(ii) Transport	9,139	48	9,187
	(iii) Plant, equipment, and buildings	2,399	1,743	4,142
	(iv) Other items	520	82	602
	(v) Total gross expenditure	24,595	3,201	27,796
2	GROSS INCOME	411	4,516	4,927
3	NET COST	24,184	Cr. 1,315	22,869
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	—	—	—
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	19 11	1 4	21 3
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	14 6	1	14 7
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	38 5	Cr. 1 4	37 1
		£	£	£
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	594.2	Cr. 32.3	561.9
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1700.2	Cr. 92.4	1,607.8

SALVAGE

The amount of general salvage collected during the year showed a slight reduction and prices were very low. With the exception of waste paper it was doubtful, in view of the labour and effort involved, whether it was economic to carry on with segregation and marketing. Margins are now so narrow that they virtually disappear with ever increasing overheads and low market prices.

In April a somewhat disastrous fire occurred in the salvage shed, holding up work for a considerable time and destroying a large section of the buildings and the paper stocks held there. However, it was decided to take advantage of the situation and extend the storage accommodation at the same time that reinstatement work was being carried out. When completed the storage facilities were greatly improved.

Receipts from all sources during the period total £4,361/13/1d. £211 less than the year 1957.

SALVAGE RESULTS 1940-59

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	194
1941	357	1469	87	128	14	72	62	223	49	121	11	34	59	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
1958	483	3926	—	—	18	417	28	205	—	—	1	11	530	4559
1959	475	3801	—	—	24	368	4	56	—	—	1	7	504	4232
Totals	8383	£ 62278	4018	£ 8265	421	£ 6581	956	£ 3534	260	£ 892	127	£ 772	14165	£ 82,322
Add Salvage Collection Allowances 1949-50.....														£ 1294
														£ 83,616





