

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Wallasey Local Board / U.D.C. / County Borough.

Contributors

Wallasey (England). Local Board.

Publication/Creation

1956

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jdztuf5r>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

4892- Pch
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALLASEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

**Principal
School Medical Officer**

FOR THE YEAR

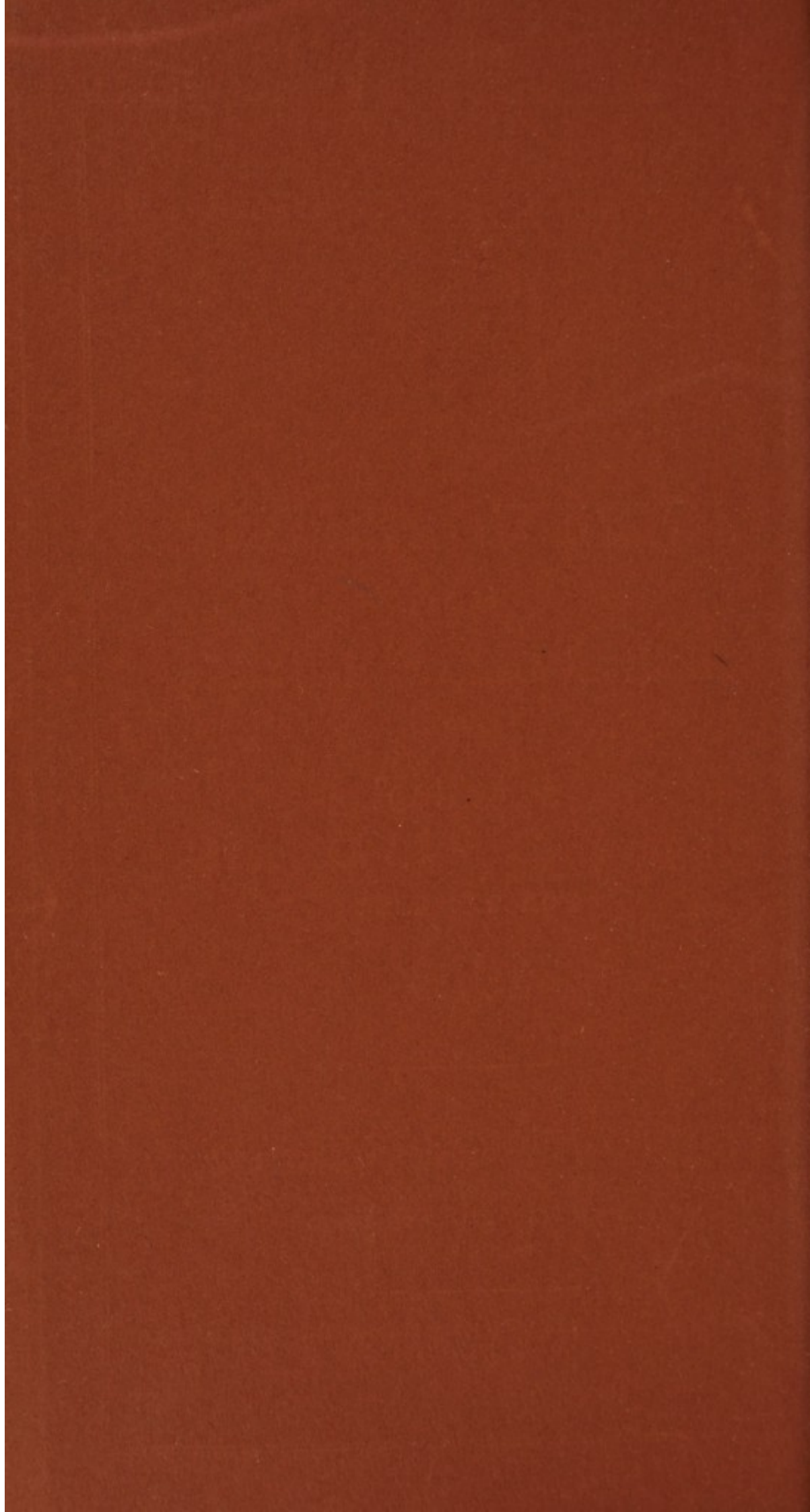
1956



HOWARD W. HALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health, Administrative Tuberculosis Officer,
Principal School Medical Officer, etc.*

WINSTANLEY & WATKINS, LTD. PRINTERS, 11 DACRE STREET, BIRKENHEAD
1957.



ACKD BY LETT
1.4.58 MB

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALLASEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

**Principal
School Medical Officer**

FOR THE YEAR

1956

HOWARD W. HALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health, Administrative Tuberculosis Officer,
Principal School Medical Officer, etc.*

WINSTANLEY & WATKINS, LTD. PRINTERS, 11 DACRE STREET, BIRKENHEAD
1957.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Ambulance Service...	39	Maternity Emergency Unit...	25
Ante-natal ...	24	Maternity Outfits ...	26
Atmospheric pollution ...	91	Meat and Food Inspection ...	54
Births ...	8	Mental Health ...	42
Blind Persons Acts, 1920-1938	101	Midwifery Services...	31
Camping ...	95	Milk and Dairies Orders ...	51
Care of Mothers and Young Children ...	24	Milk for School Children ...	54
Child Welfare ...	26	Meteorological ...	59
Children Act, 1948...	48	Mother and Baby Homes ...	31
Clearance and Demolition Orders ...	78	Neo-natal Deaths ...	8
Deaths ...	10	Nurseries ...	29
Dental Treatment ...	29	Nurseries and Child Minders' Regulation Act, 1948 ...	48
Diseases of Animals Acts ...	57	Nursing Equipment and Apparatus ...	39
Disinfection ...	93	Occupation Centre ...	47
Disinfestation ...	93	Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	20
Domestic Helps ...	42	Pharmacy and Poisons Act	51
Economic Conditions ...	15	Population ...	8
Factories Act ...	82	Premature Babies ...	26
Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs	51	Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care ...	41
Food and Drugs Act ...	50	Rodent Control ...	87
Food Hygiene ...	66	Sanitary Inspection of the District ...	63
Food Poisoning ...	20	School Inspection ...	Appendix
Health Centres ...	24	Shops Acts ...	76
Health Visiting ...	33	Staff ...	4
Home Nursing ...	34	Swimming Pools ...	90
Houses, Inhabited ...	8	Tuberculosis...	41
Housing ...	77	Vaccination ...	36
Ice Cream ...	74	Vital Statistics ...	8
Illegitimacy ...	14	Water Supply ...	83
Immunisation ...	36	Welfare Foods ...	28
Infant Mortality ...	12	Welfare Services ...	98
Infectious Diseases, Prevalence of and control over ...	18		
Maternal Mortality ...	9		

The Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the County Borough of Wallasey.

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure in submitting the Report on the Health, Welfare and School Health Service for the year 1956. Dr. R. B. Berry was Medical Officer of Health for the first three months of the year and I took over from him on 15th April, 1956.

The Infant Mortality rate for the year was 24.07 per 1000 births. This is the lowest rate on record for Wallasey, and credit must be given to all concerned in all three branches of the National Health Service. 30 deaths out of a total of 42 occurred before the 28th day. The largest single cause of death was congenital malformations 15, and this was closely followed by premature birth 12.

I am happy to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year.

Disease of the coronary arteries of the heart accounted for 214 deaths (male 133 female 81). This represents an increase of 13 over the previous year. This should be a salutary warning to those of us who are middle aged, leading a sedentary life and over fond of our food.

There were, I am glad to report, eleven fewer deaths this year from cancer of the lung and bronchus, 37 as compared with 48 in 1955.

There were no confirmed cases of diphtheria in the borough during the year. This is the first year that we have been entirely free from this disease. I need hardly say that to retain this desirable position, diphtheria immunisation must be continued at the same steady level.

There was again a drop in the notifications of tuberculosis from 91 to 83. The number of deaths was 17 as compared with 23 in 1955, but as stated by the tuberculosis officer, there is no ground for complacency or any relaxation of effort on the part of the Health Department or Chest Services, in our united fight to stamp out this disease.

I should like to acknowledge in this report the valuable after-care work which is carried out by the Wallasey Tuberculosis Care and Welfare Committee on behalf of the Health Committee of the Corporation. The Annie Glassey Workshop is a model of its kind, and has attracted many visitors from other towns in this country and from the Dominions.

Two cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified and confirmed during the year. Fortunately, both cases were mild and paralysis was minimal.

In the early part of the year the Ministry of Health announced the introduction of a scheme for the vaccination of children against poliomyelitis. The vaccination was in the first instance to be made available for children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. Preliminary registration for vaccination was invited by notice through the local press, and by drawing the attention of parents of children attending clinics, and school medical inspections to the scheme. 852 registrations were received and later in the year 106. Children received the prescribed course of two injections. Owing to the vaccine being in short supply only those children born in certain months in the 1947—1954 range, selected by the Ministry of Health, could be vaccinated. Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Health extended the scheme to include in it all general practitioners who wished to take part.

In order to serve the rapidly growing Leasowe Estate, a Child Welfare Centre was set up in the Leasowe Children's Hospital, by kind permission of the North Wirral Hospital Management Committee. I should like to thank Dr. Cameron, Medical Superintendent, for his friendly co-operation in this matter. Unfortunately, the hospital is not geographically well situated in relation to the estate, but an initial attempt to hire the centrally placed St. Chad's Church Hall failed. As capital funds became more readily available again, the needs of this estate could be met by building a small Health Centre or Child Welfare Centre with School Clinic on the land reserved for this purpose in the Corporation's Development Plan.

The Ambulance Service was equipped with a radio communication system, and this came into operation in July. Quite a considerable saving both in time and mileage has been effected as shown by the figures on page 39 of the report.

Good housing is a major factor in the promotion of health and happiness in the community, and I am pleased to report that my predecessor launched Wallasey's five year slum clearance programme by representing several clearance areas to the General Health Committee before he left Wallasey. The work has continued and has made steady progress throughout the year. The details of the various clearance areas can be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's Section of the report.

Much work has also been done by the Public Health Inspector's Section under the 1955 Food Hygiene Regulations. A detailed account of this work is embodied in the report Pages 66—70.

In the Welfare Section, the highlight of the year was the opening by the Mayor, in July, of "Newholme". This hostel was built specially for the purpose. It is gaily decorated throughout and the furnishings are contemporary in style. The residents, a large number from St. Catherine's Annexe, Birkenhead, soon settled into their new home, and very much appreciate the bright and modern surroundings.

It must be appreciated that this hostel only served to replace existing old and out-of-date accommodation in St. Catherine's Annexe, and that the town urgently requires further residential accommodation to meet the long waiting list of old people, who are in need of care and attention, some of them often desperately.

Finally I should like to report on the weather. During the month of August as much as 9.12 inches of rain fell in Wallasey. The mean for the month of August in Wallasey is 3.917 inches. This abnormally high rainfall accounted for serious flooding in the Moreton area, with consequent damage to property and a threat to the health of the area, which fortunately never materialised.

Some people had to leave their flooded homes temporarily, but no calls were made on the Welfare Department for temporary accommodation which speaks well for the good neighbourliness of this district.

This incident brought the whole problem of flooding in the Moreton area to a head, and the West Cheshire River Board have now gone ahead with plans to widen and re-route the Arrowe Brook, widen the channel of the Birket and provide a pumping station, which will allow this river to discharge at high tides.

I should like to thank the members of the Health, General Health and Welfare Committees for their support and kind consideration given to me during my first nine months in office and also express my appreciation of the work carried out by the staff of the Department.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Sgd. HOWARD W. HALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer:

RONALD B. BERRY, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (to 31/3/56)

HOWARD W. HALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1/4/56)

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Assistant Child Welfare Medical Officer
and Deputy School Medical Officer:*

HOWARD W. HALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (to 31/3/56)

WILLIAM F. CHRISTIAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (from 1/6/56)

Tuberculosis Officer:

JAMES BAXTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (part-time)

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer:

EDWARD J. A. O'REILLY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O. (Obstetrics)

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Assistant School Medical Officer and Medical
Supervisor of Midwives:*

ESME I. GRANT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeons:

C. J. LUYA, L.D.S.

W. A. HENDERSON, L.D.S.

E. G. MASON, L.D.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. BATE, D.P.A.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. RIDGWAY

District Public Health Inspectors:

W. H. FARR (from 19/7/56)

D. C. CAHILL

R. HUGHES

J. MORGAN (to 31/7/56)

A. ROBINSON

I. THOMPSON (from 2/1/56)

J. Q. CALLISTER

L. J. JONES (from 20/8/56)

*Milk, Dairies and Meat Inspector and Inspector under Diseases of Animals Acts
and Orders:*

G. A. OWEN

Shops Inspector:

R. L. BASCOMBE

Superintendent Health Visitor and School Nurse and Inspector of Midwives:

Mrs. A. PARKINSON

Health Visitors:

Miss E. A. TEGGINS

Miss A. J. EDGE

Miss C. E. MURRELL

Mrs. E. E. P. NOLAN

Mrs. A. J. SMITH

Miss I. D. BELLIS

Mrs. W. DOVEY

Miss M. E. ASPINALL

Miss K. E. HIGGINS

Miss E. M. MORGAN

Miss E. WHITBURN

Miss M. B. JONES

Mrs. K. SCHOFIELD

Mrs. E. SIMPSON

Mrs. L. M. JONES

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE E. KEELEY (to 30/4/56)

NURSE E. E. HINTON

NURSE F. E. BOYD

NURSE E. HOMER

NURSE M. E. CUNNINGHAM

NURSE E. WOODS

NURSE P. SHACKLADY

NURSE C. M. DEMPSEY

(from 15/12/56)

Public Analyst (Part-time Officer):

TENNYSON HARRIS

Weights and Measures and Food and Drugs Inspectors:

J. A. W. PRICE, Cert. Board of Trade

C. A. HARWOOD, D.P.A., Cert. Board of Trade (to 5/5/56)

J. A. ISHERWOOD, Cert. Board of Trade (from 16/7/56)

Chief Administrative Assistant:

N. SQUIRE

Clerical Staff:

G. A. LOXHAM, D.P.A. (Senior Clerk)
D. QUINN (to 15/1/56)
J. M. GIBSON (from 13/2/56)
A. C. HINTON (to 31/3/56)
H. S. FLYNN (from 1/4/56)
T. P. FEARON
A. E. LEWIS
Miss G. BOOTH
Miss M. BLENCOWE

Miss E. MASTERS
Miss P. WITTER
Miss B. FISHWICK
Miss U. HARDMAN
Miss G. NASH
Miss S. HARDMAN
Mrs. J. NICHOLSON
Miss A. E. BASCOMBE
Miss A. ELCOCK

Part-time Specialists discharging duties in connection with Special Clinics:

Dr. W. DUNLOP HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.O.M.S. (Ophthalmic)
Mr. H. DAVIES, M.B., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Orthopaedic)

Matrons of Day Nurseries:

Miss E. GREENLY, Central Park Day Nursery
Miss G. E. MORGAN, Oakdale Day Nursery
Miss WARNER, Eastway Day Nursery

Superintendent Home Nurses' Home:

Miss K. EUSTACE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certif.

Home Nurses—Whole-time:

Mrs. M. PRENDERGAST	Mrs. I. M. HUGHES (from 1/5/56)
Mrs. P. HUMPHRIES	Miss E. GLENCROSS (from 1/6/56)
Mrs. C. DUDLEY	Miss R. LYNN (to 4/5/56)
Mrs. M. D. WELSH	Miss M. CHADWICK (from 24/7/56)
Mrs. D. M. HILL (from 1/1/56)	Miss M. C. DAVIES (from 16/8/56)
Miss GEE (from 1/3/56)	Miss R. PEARSON (from 22/10/56)
Mrs. J. WALKER (from 9/4/56)	Miss B. JOY (from 5/10/56)
Miss W. M. DALY (from 16/4/56)	

Home Nurses—Part-time:

Mrs. JONES	Mrs. KING
Mrs. ELSON	Mrs. MATTHEWS
Mrs. V. BLUNT	Mrs. C. JONES

Domestic Help Organiser:

Mrs. G. M. FALLA

Supervisor Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives:

Miss R. A. REGAN

Duly Authorised Officers—Mental Health Service:

D. HUGHES

F. WALL

Miss E. A. HOPWOOD

Mental Health Worker:

Mrs. B. L. COLLINS (from 16/7/56)

WELFARE SERVICES

Senior Welfare Officer:

R. C. OLLIVE

Welfare Officers:

D. HUGHES

F. WALL

Miss E. A. HOPWOOD

Welfare Officer (Handicapped Persons):

Mrs. W. DAVIES (from 1/4/56)

Home Teachers of the Blind:

Miss A. ROGERS

Miss M. J. BIDDLE

Clerical Staff:

K. MERCER

A. C. HINTON (from 1/4/56)

Miss S. JONES

Matrons of Hostels for the Aged:

Miss D. GOLDINGAY, "Lamorna" (to 20/1/56)

Miss E. PARSONS, "Redcliffe" (to 19/1/56)

"Lamorna" (from 20/1/56)

Miss H. VOWLES, "Redcliffe" (from 20/1/56—3/9/56)

Mrs. A. P. JACKSON, "Redcliffe" (from 3/9/56)

Miss M. ROBERTS, "Newholme" (from 1/5/56)

PART I.

Vital Statistics

VITAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres, as ascertained by Ordnance Survey, January 1935				5,961
River and Sea frontage				Slightly less than eight miles
Census Population, April, 1951				101,369
Registrar-General's estimated population at middle of 1956				102,300
Inhabited houses at 31st December, 1956				30,605
Empty houses at 31st December, 1956				400
Rateable Value, 1939-1949				£877,164
" " 31st December, 1956				£1,334,547
Yield of a Penny Rate for 1956-7 (approx.)				£5,261
Est. " " 1957-8				£5,061
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>	
Live Births—Legitimate	859	806	1,665	
Illegitimate	45	35	80	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	904	841	1,745	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population				17.22
" " " 1,000 of estimated population adjusted by Area comparability factor of 1.01				17.39
Birth Rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales				15.7
Still Births, 68. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				37.51
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>	
Deaths to December 31st	617	564	1,181	
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population				11.66
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population as adjusted by Area comparability factor of 1.03.. .. .				11.91
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated population, England and Wales				11.7
Uncertified Deaths, Nil. Percentage of Deaths				Nil
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth (Heading 30 of Registrar-General's Short List):—				Nil
Puerperal Sepsis, nil; Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births				Nil
Other Puerperal causes, Nil; do.				Nil
Deaths of Infants under ONE year of age				42
Death-rate of Infants under ONE year of age:—				
All infants per 1,000 live births				24.07
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				23.42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				37.50
Neo-Natal Rate per 1,000 births				17.77
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (including Enteritis), under 1 year	Nil
do. do. do. 1 to 2 years..	Nil
Diarrhoea and Enteritis Mortality Rate under 1 year, per 1,000 live births	Nil
Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 of population (excluding Diarrhoea)	Nil
Phthisis Death-rate per 1,000 of population	0.13
Respiratory Death-rate per 1,000 of population (excluding Phthisis)	1.58

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease	367	Vascular lesions of nervous system	165
Cancer	228	Violent Deaths (including suicides)	44
Respiratory Diseases—			
Pneumonia 59	} 150		
Bronchitis 77			
Other 14			

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during 1956.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1956

CAUSES OF DEATH	SEXES		All Ages	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT							
	M.	F.		0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
All causes—Certified	617	564	1181	42	5	4	13	48	289	331	449
—Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—											
respiratory ...	9	4	13	—	—	—	1	4	3	2	3
Tuberculosis—other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute polio-myelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Malignant neoplasm—stomach ...	27	16	43	—	—	—	—	3	16	12	12
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus ...	32	5	37	—	—	—	—	4	21	7	5
Malignant neoplasm—breast ...	—	22	22	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	6
Malignant neoplasm—uterus ...	—	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	62	53	115	—	—	—	1	11	36	39	28
Leukaemia, Alcakacnia	4	1	5	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1
Diabetes ...	3	2	5	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	73	92	165	—	—	—	—	3	31	51	80
Coronary disease—angina ...	133	81	214	—	—	—	—	2	57	83	72
Hypertension with heart disease ...	13	15	28	—	—	—	—	2	7	11	8
Other heart disease ...	48	79	127	—	—	—	—	3	13	26	85
Other circulatory disease ...	18	14	32	—	—	—	—	1	8	5	18
Influenza ...	5	6	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	9
Pneumonia ...	27	32	59	4	2	1	—	—	8	13	31
Bronchitis ...	50	27	77	—	—	—	1	2	20	26	28
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	10	4	14	2	—	—	—	1	4	—	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	4	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	7	8	15	—	—	—	2	2	8	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	10	9	19	12	1	2	—	1	—	—	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	46	55	101	21	—	1	4	2	21	24	28
Motor vehicle accidents	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
All other accidents	17	14	31	2	2	—	2	1	7	7	10
Suicide ...	2	5	7	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	1
Homicide and operations of war ...	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
ALL CAUSES	617	564	1181	42	5	4	13	48	289	331	449

INFANT MORTALITY 1956

[illegible]

TABLE SHOWING (a) Infant Deaths and Death Rates.
 (b) Neo-natal deaths and Death Rates.
 (c) Deaths and Death Rates (infants 4 weeks to 12 months).

Year	Infants		Neo-natal			4 weeks—12 months		
	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	% of Total Infant Deaths	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	% of Total Infant Deaths
1944	77	43.0	34	19.0	44.16	43	24.0	55.84
1945	97	56.8	38	22.3	39.18	59	34.57	60.82
1946	87	42.2	51	24.7	58.62	36	17.48	41.38
1947	111	51.1	57	26.9	51.35	54	25.09	48.65
1948	78	43.5	38	20.67	48.72	40	22.35	51.28
1949	64	35.8	34	19.0	53.13	30	16.82	46.87
1950	49	28.7	28	16.41	57.14	21	12.31	42.86
1951	55	32.4	35	20.62	63.63	20	11.19	36.37
1952	56	33.3	43	25.62	76.78	13	7.75	23.22
1953	41	24.7	29	17.51	70.74	12	7.25	29.26
1954	43	25.1	29	16.94	67.44	14	8.12	32.56
1955	41	25.4	29	17.96	70.74	12	7.44	29.26
1956	42	24.07	31	17.77	73.81	11	6.30	26.19

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality rates of the Borough as compared with the figures for the whole of England and Wales and the County Boroughs and Great Towns for the census years from 1901 to 1951 and consecutive years up to 1956.

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births, England and Wales and Great Towns.

Year	Wallasey	England and Wales	County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) Number of towns shown in brackets
1901	142.0	151	168 (33)
1911	109.0	130	140 (77)
1921	59.0	83	87 (96)
1931	44.8	66	72 (107)
1941	78.9	60	63 (126)
1951	32.4	29	34 (126)
1952	33.3	27	31 (160)
1953	24.7	27	31 (160)
1954	25.1	25	25 (160)
1955	25.4	25	25 (160)
1956	24.07	23.8	23.8 (160)

ILLEGITIMACY.

During the year there were 80 illegitimate births recorded by the Registrar-General as belonging to the Borough, compared with 87 in 1955. This gives an illegitimate birth-rate of 45.84 per thousand total live births, as compared with 53.90 in 1955.

The infant mortality rate amongst illegitimate children was 37.5 per thousand illegitimate births.

The following table shows the comparison between the death rates of illegitimate children and others registered in the Borough during the past twenty years.

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Illegitimate Births		Total deaths under one year of age	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	Deaths of illegitimates under 1 year of age	Illegitimate infant mortality per 1,000 illegitimate births
		Legitimate	Illegitimate	to 1,000 pop.	to 1,000 births				
1937	94,910	1,220	58	0.61	45.37	75	58.7	4	71.4
1938	94,220	1,235	57	0.60	44.11	78	60.3	4	87.7
1939	93,990	1,239	54	0.57	43.58	63	48.9	2	37.7
1940	91,240	1,205	62	0.67	48.93	79	62.9	2	100.0
1941	72,060	1,037	54	0.74	49.41	80	78.9	6	92.6
1942	68,580	1,104	91	1.32	76.15	57	47.7	6	65.9
1943	74,310	1,454	107	1.44	68.53	76	48.6	5	46.3
1944	83,100	1,657	133	1.60	74.30	77	43.0	13	97.7
1945	87,890	1,523	183	2.08	107.26	97	56.8	14	76.5
1946	96,320	1,934	125	1.29	60.70	87	42.2	10	48.0
1947	98,780	2,044	108	1.09	50.18	111	51.11	9	83.33
1948	99,500	1,686	104	1.04	58.19	78	43.57	5	48.00
1949	100,750	1,704	80	0.79	44.84	64	35.87	6	75.00
1950	102,510	1,604	102	0.99	59.78	49	28.72	7	68.62
1951	101,100	1,624	73	0.72	43.01	55	32.41	3	41.09
1952	101,700	1,600	78	0.76	46.47	56	33.37	2	25.62
1953	102,100	1,578	78	0.75	47.10	41	24.76	2	25.64
1954	102,400	1,616	96	0.93	56.07	43	25.12	3	31.25
1955	102,500	1,527	87	0.80	53.90	41	25.40	2	22.99
1956	102,300	1,665	80	0.78	45.84	42	24.07	3	37.50

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The number of unemployed persons in the Borough in January, 1956, was 1,106, and in December, 1,047, as compared with 1,220 and 996 respectively in January and December, 1955.

The following amounts were expended on Unemployment, etc., Benefit by the Wallasey Employment Exchange:..

Unemployment Benefit	..	..	..	..	£62,924	0	0
Assistance Allowances	..	..	..	..	£28,248	0	0

Unemployment Benefit rates are the same for all people irrespective of occupation.

The number of persons on the Unemployment Register normally starts to diminish in February each year, until June, when it is at its lowest. The figures for June 1955 were 737, and for June 1956, 677.

PART II.

Occurrence and Control of Infectious Diseases

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Including Tuberculosis)
NOTIFIED IN WALLASEY DURING 1956**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Totals	Cases notified at ages									
		0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	39	3	4	5	6	6	6	2	5	1	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Scarlet Fever	137	—	3	10	12	17	72	20	1	2	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	49	3	4	—	2	1	3	—	2	3	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	78	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	23	22	20
Other forms of Tuber- culosis	4	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Measles	205	11	24	30	38	22	79	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	268	32	33	47	33	46	77	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	795	50	68	95	91	92	240	26	34	32	37

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—INVESTIGATIONS AND VISITS OF SURVEILLANCE

During 1956, health visitors made 800 enquiry visits to infectious cases and contacts. Public Health inspectors made 167 enquiries, 523 visits of surveillance, and submitted specimens to the laboratory in connection with the occurrence of cases of food poisoning, acute poliomyelitis, dysentery and meningococcal infections.

Diphtheria

Four cases were reported as diphtheria, but in no instance was the diagnosis confirmed.

The following table shows the number of notifications, confirmed cases and immunisations each year since 1934:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Notifications</i>	<i>Confirmed Cases</i>	<i>Number Immunised</i>	<i>Total Immunised</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1934	258	—	—	—	25
1935	275	239	181	181	18
1936	259	227	889	1,070	12
1937	241	209	451	1,521	12
1938	255	235	657	2,178	13
1939	187	185	110	2,288	11
1940	143	128	230	2,518	5
1941	220	182	951	3,469	10
1942	312	223	3,490	6,959	12
1943	157	79	2,263	9,222	3
1944	109	59	1,257	10,479	3
1945	120	66	1,411	11,890	1
1946	96	52	1,291	13,181	*1
1947	29	8	1,028	14,209	*1
1948	27	13	1,459	15,668	†3
1949	14	14	1,208	16,876	—
1950	11	6	1,301	18,177	—
1951	6	5	1,328	19,505	—
1952	7	3	1,321	20,826	—
1953	14	10	1,120	21,946	*1
1954	5	3	1,483	23,429	—
1955	3	2	1,325	24,754	—
1956	—	—	1,321	26,075	—

*Not immunised. †2 not immunised and 1 inward transfer.

The fall in the incidence of diphtheria continues as is shown by the following table of corrected notifications and deaths for England and Wales since 1944:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Corrected Notifications</i>
1944	934	23,199
1945	722	18,596
1946	472	11,986
1947	244	5,609

1948	156	3,575
1949	84	1,890
1950	49	962
1951	33	664
1952	32	375
1953	23	267
1954	9	176
1955	13	170
1956	2	63

Scarlet Fever

During the year 138 cases were notified or otherwise reported. The diagnosis was altered in respect of one case. No case was fatal.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There were 3 notifications of puerperal pyrexia during the year, none of which proved fatal.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Thirteen of the health visitors are qualified to treat the eyes of children suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum. No cases occurred during the year.

Whooping Cough

268 cases occurred during the year. There were no deaths.

Measles

The number of cases of measles notified during the year was 205, compared with 1,403 in 1955.

Food Poisoning

Only four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year; they were single cases, there being no outbreak involving two or more persons. All the cases occurred in the summer months—June to August—and the causative organism was *Salmonella typhi* murium in three cases and *Salmonella Newport* in one case.

In one case of infection by *Sal. typhi* murium, no information could be obtained of food likely to be the cause; in the two others, the food likely to have caused the illness was traced. In both instances, a prepared meat food was the probable cause and there was a record of 'carry-over' of the food from one day to the next, at a suitable incubating temperature; pork sandwiches kept for two days featured in one of the cases; in the second, minced meat was allowed to cool overnight in the oven, and was then used in Shepherd's Pie.

The infection by *Salmonella Newport*—a restaurant cook—was the first known case in Wallasey for many years. Two cases of the same infection at the same time, were traced in Liverpool and Bebington, but all efforts to associate the cases brought to light no useful information.

In addition to the four cases of confirmed food poisoning, eight other suspected cases were investigated, but these did not turn out to be food poisoning. Two other cases, notified as gastro-enteritis were investigated and specimens taken to exclude the possibility of the illness being food poisoning.

Paratyphoid Fever

A case of paratyphoid fever was notified during the year. The patient, an old lady of 76 years of age, had a history of illness over many months, involving chronic constipation and abdominal pain. Aggravation of the latter led to an operation for the removal of the gall bladder. Swabs from the post-operative wound led to the discovery of *Sal. paratyphi B*. The history of the case was such that the chances of tracing the source of infection were very slender.

Dysentery

41 cases of dysentery came to the notice of the Department during the year. Of these, stools were positive to *Shigella Sonne* in 32 cases and to *Shigella Flexner* in one case. The remaining eight cases showed clinical symptoms of dysentery, though the causative organism was not recovered despite a series of samples being taken.

Fourteen other suspected cases were investigated and specimens were taken, but they proved not to be cases of dysentery.

Nineteen out of the 32 positive cases of *Sonne* dysentery were discovered following an investigation of the 31 children and 7 staff at one of the Corporation's day nurseries. The investigation was conducted following reports from one general practitioner of a number of sporadic cases of diarrhoea among Moreton Children, including one or two attending the nursery. The investigation revealed that 16 of the children and 3 of the staff were excreting *Shigella Sonne*; most of them were symptomless.

It was decided not to close the nursery, to encourage the same children to attend but to temporarily stop new entrants. By arrangements with the family doctors, treatment was administered at the nursery. By this means, and by rigid hygiene, except for one relapse all cases were cleared within a month; there was no spread beyond the original cases and there was complete clearance in seven weeks.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Two cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified and confirmed during the year. In one case, a child aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, the paralysis affected the right leg; the case was first seen 24 days after onset and was not admitted to hospital. The second case, a married woman aged 26 years, was admitted to hospital two days after onset; paralysis was limited to the left leg and the patient was discharged after three weeks.

Meningitis

One case of meningitis was notified during the year and one case of meningococcal meningitis was noted on the list of discharges from Mill Lane Hospital.

The first of these is the fact that the present study is a preliminary one, and that the results are therefore preliminary. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this study, and the results are therefore preliminary.

The second of these is the fact that the present study is a preliminary one, and that the results are therefore preliminary. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this study, and the results are therefore preliminary.

Proposed Project

The third of these is the fact that the present study is a preliminary one, and that the results are therefore preliminary. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this study, and the results are therefore preliminary.

The fourth of these is the fact that the present study is a preliminary one, and that the results are therefore preliminary. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this study, and the results are therefore preliminary.

The fifth of these is the fact that the present study is a preliminary one, and that the results are therefore preliminary. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this study, and the results are therefore preliminary.

The sixth of these is the fact that the present study is a preliminary one, and that the results are therefore preliminary. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this study, and the results are therefore preliminary.

The seventh of these is the fact that the present study is a preliminary one, and that the results are therefore preliminary. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from this study, and the results are therefore preliminary.

PART III.

Services provided under Part III of The National Health Service Act, 1946.

Section 21—Health Centres.

- „ 22—Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- „ 23—Midwifery Services.
- „ 24—Health Visiting.
- „ 25—Home Nursing.
- „ 26—Vaccination and Immunisation.
- „ 27—Ambulance Service.
- „ 28—Prevention of Illness—Care and After-Care.
- „ 29—Domestic Help Service.
- „ 28 and 51—Mental Health Services.

Services provided under Part III of The National Health Service Act, 1946.

HEALTH CENTRES

No Health Centres have been constructed or are in course of construction in Wallasey.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The Clinics, at which a woman doctor is in attendance, are held on the following days:—

WATER STREET and MERTON ROAD—Alternate
Mondays, 1.45 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

OAKENHOLT ROAD, MORETON—Third Friday in
each month, 1.45 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

These clinics have altered a great deal since the National Health Service started in 1948, and there are now two types held in this borough:—

- (a) The midwife's clinic.
- (b) The Assistant Medical Officer of Health's clinic.

The midwife's clinic is attended by those expectant mothers who wish to have their babies at home, and have booked a midwife and doctor. This gives the midwife ample opportunity for examining and getting to know her patient before the actual confinement. These patients usually attend their own doctor as well.

The Assistant Medical Officer of Health's Clinic is attended only by those mothers who either do not want to book a doctor for the confinement and are content to leave themselves in the capable hands of our midwives, or by those who are going into hospital or institution and are therefore *not* being attended to by their own doctor; as these cases are in the minority it is a matter for regret that the numbers at these clinics have declined in latter years.

Since the commencement of the National Health Service, most mothers do take advantage of the free services of a General Practitioner Obstetrician although this is often quite unnecessary. There are really very few cases in which a well-trained Local Health Authority midwife is not capable of conducting the delivery perfectly well on her own—in fact it is a great pity that she has had to revert so frequently to the role of maternity nurse, and not midwife.

There is really no reason why the expectant mother should not attend both her own doctor and the Local Health Authority Clinic,

thereby getting the maximum benefit from both sources. At the Clinic she has a blood test which is most important; she may be referred for relaxation exercises to help her have a "natural birth", and there are educational facilities with which the busy general practitioner does not always have time to concern himself. At the first indication of an abnormality, or onset of toxæmia, the patient is referred back to her own doctor, and thus there is less likelihood of eclampsia or neo-natal catastrophes occurring.

A post-natal examination is also given by the doctor at the clinic 6 weeks after the confinement if her own doctor has not attended her at the delivery.

The following tables show the number of attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics; (a) Doctors' and (b) Midwives' during 1956:—

Ante-Natal Clinics (a) Doctors'

Expectant mothers on books at January 1st	..	..	..	10
New cases during the year	..	..	..	20
Names on books at December 31st	..	..	..	25
Attendances of Expectant Mothers	..	..	..	222
First-visits to homes of Expectant Mothers	..	..	..	734
Revisits do. do.	..	..	..	580

(b) Midwives' Clinics

	Sessions held	Expectant Mothers attending	No. of attendances
Water Street	51	111	477
Merton Road	49	161	504
Oakenholt Road	51	191	642
	<hr/> 151	<hr/> 463	<hr/> 1,623

Instruction in relaxation was given at sessions conducted, once weekly at Moreton Clinic and at Water Street Clinic, by the physio-therapist. During 1956 59 sessions were held.

Post Natal

Twelve mothers attended for post-natal examination during the year, making thirteen attendances.

Maternity Emergency Unit

The Corporation has an arrangement with St. Catherine's Hospital Birkenhead for the use in Wallasey of the Maternity Unit for dealing with difficult domiciliary obstetric emergencies.

It has not been necessary to call upon the services of the Maternity Unit during 1956.

Maternity Outfits

Maternity outfits are supplied free of charge on request to the Public Health Department in respect of all domiciliary confinements, whether attended by a Municipal Midwife or a Private Midwife.

The number of domiciliary confinements attended during the year by Municipal Midwives was 447. No confinements were attended by private domiciliary midwives. The number of Maternity Outfits issued during the year by those Midwives was 473.

Care of Premature Babies

The Midwives, Health Visitors, Maternity Hospitals and Nursing Homes work in close liaison with each other to ensure that premature infants receive the correct care and attention in the home.

The Maternity Hospital and Nursing Homes in the Borough also notify the Department of premature births, so that the delay between the date of discharge and the date of the health visitor's first call is as little as possible.

Home Helps are provided when necessary in cases where premature infants are born at home.

Number of premature infants born at home during the year (18 live, 6 stillbirths)	24
Number of premature infants born in hospitals or Nursing Homes (104 live, 28 stillbirths)	132

There were twelve deaths during the year, where the cause was given as prematurity.

The Public Health Department has scales which can be had on loan for weighing premature babies in the homes. No charge is made. Seventy-four parents took advantage of this service during the year.

The Health Visitors attended 50 Saturday morning sessions at Dr. Farquhar's premature baby clinics at Highfield during the year.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

It is a source of considerable satisfaction that in spite of the many changes brought about by the National Health Service, the Child Welfare Clinics in Wallasey continue to flourish and show excellent attendance figures.

A mother who has had a new baby is visited by the Health Visitor as soon as possible after the 14th day, and after a preliminary chat about the baby, she is encouraged to attend the nearest welfare clinic, providing that she is not receiving attention from the family doctor. There are many minor problems which arise in the early months of a baby's life which can be dealt with very satisfactorily at the clinic by the Health Visitor or Doctor. These are usually problems of feeding, hygiene and management, and though they present insurmountable difficulty to the inexperienced mother they are soon solved at the clinic, thereby saving the valuable time of the busy general practitioner.

Mothers are always encouraged to breast feed unless it is quite obvious that this has become impossible and when this *is* the case individual advice is given as to the best method of weaning the baby; the most suitable artificial food is chosen, and full details of quantity and quality of the feeds are written down and explained to the mothers, leaving no loop-holes for mistakes.

Vitamins provided by the Ministry, i.e., Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice—are recommended, and no excuses such as “baby spits them out” or “they make him sick” are accepted without a full investigation. Advice on when, and how, to introduce mixed feeding is always welcomed by the mother, and a trained eye focussed on the general growth and progress of the child will often nip some incipient defect in the bud. Here we have an excellent opportunity to practise preventive medicine in the best possible way.

Babies are immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough from the age of 4 months and mothers are encouraged, nay, urged, to have this valuable protection conferred on their children as soon as they attain this age; very few babies who are regular attenders at the Welfare Clinic escape this net.

The Special Toddlers’ Clinics which are now held twice a month at Moreton Clinic are proving quite successful. All children in the district are called up as near as possible to their 2nd, 3rd and 4th birthdays for a thorough medical check-up, and those mothers who accept the invitation to attend seem to appreciate this pre-school examination. It is possible at these sessions to detect early defects of vision and hearing, orthopaedic deformities, dental troubles and psychological problems, and when any abnormality is found, the mother is informed and advice offered. Usually the matter is referred to the family doctor, and finally a specialist opinion may be obtained.

In October, 1956, a new child welfare clinic was established at Leasowe Hospital, to cover the Leasowe area. The Liverpool Regional Hospital Board gave their consent and the Medical Superintendent has given us his co-operation and made us very welcome. So far, the numbers are not very high, and the site is perhaps not ideal in winter because it entails quite a long walk, pushing the pram against strong winds, but it is a beginning, and we hope that a new building will be available before very long which will be more central and convenient for the mothers. At present this clinic is only held on three Wednesdays in the month and I think the mothers find it difficult to remember *which* Wednesdays; I believe the attendance would improve if there were a clinic *every* Wednesday.

We are very grateful to the voluntary workers at the various clinics and would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their loyal service.

The Clinics at which a doctor attends on each occasion are held in the afternoon of the following days:—

Water Street Clinic—Tuesdays.	Church Hall, Princess Road—
Wallasey Village—Wednesdays.	Thursdays.
Trinity Hall, Liscard—Thursdays.	Oakenholt Road, Moreton—
Leasowe Children’s Hospital—1st,	Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.	

Attendances at the Child Welfare Centres have been satisfactory during the year, and the toddler's clinics at Moreton have also been well attended.

The number of attendances during the year was:

	Water Street	Moreton	Princess Road	Wallasey Village	Trinity Hall Liscard	Leasowe Hospital	Totals
Children under one year of age	2,344	3,244	2,777	2,976	2,025	90	13,456
Children between one and five years	809	1,271	915	1,209	847	12	5,063

TODDLER'S CLINIC

Number of Sessions held	..	..	..	..	..	24
Number of children called up	..	..	..	..	..	588
Number who attended	..	..	..	..	..	262*

*(This number is included in Moreton Child Welfare Clinic figures)

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods, i.e., National dried milk, cod liver oil, orange juice and vitamin tablets were distributed from the following points during the year:— 25a Liscard Village; Health Clinic, Moreton; Water Street Clinic, and at the Wallasey Parish Hall and Princess Road Church Hall.

The following table shows the amounts of welfare foods which have been distributed during the years 1952 to 1956 inclusive:—

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
NATIONAL DRIED MILK					
Number of packets given free ...	547	375	484	283	506
„ „ sold ...	58,075	60,749	55,528	48,569	46,644
COD LIVER OIL, FRUIT JUICES, ETC.					
Number of bottles of:					
Cod Liver Oil ...	20,762	16,992	14,905	12,672	11,154
Vitamin Capsules ...	5,862	5,949	5,085	4,773	5,313
Orange Juice (Free) ...	830	740	769	445	487
„ „ (Sold) ...	94,270	77,927	69,111	75,327	78,823

During the year the number of packets of dried milk (other than National dried milk) cereals, etc., sold at the Clinics was 10,566 realising a total of £1,465 10s. 5d.

PRIORITY DENTAL SERVICES

The following tables give particulars with regard to the dental care of expectant and nursing mothers, and children under school age:—

- (a) Number of officers employed at the end of the year on a salary basis in terms of wholetime officers to the maternity and child welfare service.
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Senior Dental Officer | 1/8th |
| 2. Dental Officers | 1/4th |
- (b) Number of officers employed at the end of the year, on a sessional basis, in terms of wholetime officers to the maternity and child welfare service 1/16th
- (c) Number of dental clinics in operation during the year 4
- (d) Number of sessions (i.e., equivalent complete half days) devoted to maternity and child welfare patients during the year 61

The following table shows the treatment completed in 1956:—

PERSONS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Children Under 5
Persons examined	78	166
Persons needing treatment	78	164
Persons treated	105*	164
Persons made dentally fit	22	164
Forms of treatment provided:		
Scalings and gum treatment	24	—
Fillings	16	8
Extractions	458	227
General anaesthetics	60	152
Dentures provided, Full	20	—
Partial	13	—
Radiographs	2	—

*Includes 27 cases brought forward from 1955.

DAY NURSERIES

Wallasey still has three flourishing Day Nurseries, and in spite of the inevitable increases in the daily fees I am convinced that there will always be a great demand for this important welfare service.

The children, whose ages range from about 3 months to 5 years, are happy, well-fed and healthy and everything is done to train them into well-disciplined little citizens with good social habits.

The matrons of our nurseries take their duties very seriously—it is not just a job for them, but a very definite responsibility in which they act “in loco parentis”; they also inspire their staff of nursery trained nurses and student nursery nurses with the same idea so that each one regards herself as a temporary mother to her little charges. The atmosphere of each nursery is as near that of a normal happy home as possible and I am sure the children who attend regularly are deprived of nothing, either mentally or physically because their mothers go out to work—in the majority of cases, in fact, I think they gain a great deal.

There is very little “fretting” and the newcomers settle down very quickly in the happy atmosphere of the nursery, soon enjoying the companionship of the other children, and revelling in the free play activities which go on all the time, under the supervision of the trained wardens.

Infection is kept down to a minimum thanks to the care and hygiene which is practised so efficiently although of course it is rather difficult to prevent the commoner infectious diseases of childhood from spreading, once they have been introduced into the nursery. The children have a regular medical check-up by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Esme Grant, who visits each nursery every fortnight and who is responsible to the Medical Officer of Health for the satisfactory conduct of these establishments. Any defect found in the children is dealt with at the earliest opportunity after consultation with the mother and the family practitioner. The mothers seem to appreciate that their children are cared for in every possible way and they are able to go to their work with an easy conscience.

Two of the nurseries are training schools for the diploma of the National Nursery Examination Board and there are always six students in training who do their practical work at the Nursery, but go to Birkenhead Technical College for their lectures and theoretical training. Our results have been exceptionally good—we rarely have a failure—and when these girls have obtained their Diploma they usually have no difficulty in securing good posts, either, by promotion in our own nurseries, other nurseries, or private posts; some go on to hospital and take their S.R.N., for which nursery work is an excellent stepping stone, and those who marry have had an excellent training for motherhood, and make good housewives.

There are very few feeding problems in the nurseries. Nearly all the children develop hearty appetites, ask for second helpings, and enjoy to the full the well-balanced meals which the matrons provide. Cod liver Oil and Orange Juice present no difficulty, and the well-regulated life with good food, exercise, rest and plenty of fresh air soon produces results in the form of healthy, well-nourished, well-adjusted, happy children.

The following table shows the number of places and average number of children attending the Day Nurseries in December, 1956:—

Nursery	Number on Register 31/12/56	Number of Places	Average Daily Attendances	
			0—2's	2—5's
Eastway	28	30	3	22
Central Park	48	50	15	25
Oakdale	55	50	10	32

MOTHER AND BABY HOMES

There is not a sufficient number of mothers seeking admission to such Homes to justify the Council maintaining a Home for this purpose.

The Corporation has an arrangement with the Wallasey Moral Welfare Association whereby any women dealt with under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are admitted before and after the confinement.

The Corporation also contributes, where necessary, to the maintenance of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children admitted to Homes maintained by the Salvation Army and other voluntary bodies. During 1956, contributions were made in respect of three cases.

MIDWIFERY SERVICES

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

The arrangements for this Service were similar to previous years, the Council continuing to employ directly seven Municipal Midwives.

Dr. E. I. Grant, Woman Assistant Medical Officer of Health, acts as Medical Supervisor of Midwives, and Mrs. A. Parkinson, Superintendent Health Visitor, as non-medical Supervisor.

There are no midwives in private practice in the Borough.

In 1956 the seven Municipal Midwives attended 447 cases; of these, 176 were attended as Maternity Nurses.

The following is a list of the causes for which medical help was sought:—

Condition of Mother

Laceration of perineum	1
Prolapsed cord	1
Born before arrival of midwife	1
Multiple birth	1
	<hr/>
	4

Condition of Child

Pallida. Bleeding from mouth	1
Sticky eyes	1
	<hr/>
	2

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR

	DOMICILIARY CASES					Totals	Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked				
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (2)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (3)	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked Doctor or another) (3)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child (4)			
(1)						(6)	(7)
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority	—	6	271	170	447	—	—
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations:—							
(i) Under arrangements with the Local Health Authority in pursuance of Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Otherwise (including Hospitals not transferred to the Minister under the National Health Service Act)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,096
(d) Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Homes)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	6	271	170	447	—	1,096

MATERNITY HOMES

There are no private maternity homes registered in the Borough.

HEALTH VISITING

The following is a summary of work done by the Health Visitors during the year:—

Total visits to children under 1 year	9,334
Total visits to children between 1 and 5 years	14,644
Total visits to Premature Births	157
Total visits re Stillbirths	58
Total visits re Neo-Natal Deaths	27
Total visits re Infant Deaths	8
Total visits re Infectious Diseases and contacts	800
Total visits to Ophthalmia cases	—
Total visits to Day Nurseries	41
Total visits re Immunisation	76
Total visits for Children's Officer	4
Total visits re Adoptions	16
Total visits for Hospital Almoners	20
Total visits to Expectant Mothers	1,314
Total visits to Post-Natal cases	272
Total visits re Tuberculosis	1,362
Total visits to Diabetics, per General Practitioners	4
Total visits re Care of Old People	242
Miscellaneous visits	1,108
	<hr/>
	29,487
Ineffectual visits (no response, etc.)	4,189
	<hr/>
	33,676
	<hr/>

*Included under "Visits to children under 1 year"

SESSIONS AT:—

Hale Road Occupation Centre

Attendances by Health Visitors/School Nurses for:—

Medical Inspections	6
Cleanliness Surveys	1
Special Supervision	1
	<hr/>
	8
	<hr/>

B.C.G.

Attendances in School by Health Visitors/School Nurses	45
Attendances in School by T.B. Health Visitors	65
	<hr/>
	110
	<hr/>

Birkenhead Children's Hospital

Attendances by Health Visitor School Nurses 26

Mill Lane Chest Clinic

Attendances by T.B. Health Visitors 96

HOME NURSING

TABLE SHOWING TOTAL COMPLETED CASES NURSED, AVERAGE DURATION OF TREATMENT, AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF VISITS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF DISEASE DURING 1956.

Disease	Completed cases	Percentage of total	Average duration of treatment (weeks)	Average number of visits
Infectious, etc.	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	67	5.63	9.9	56.0
Cancer and other neoplasms ...	103	8.66	5.8	35.1
Diabetes ...	27	2.27	24.7	71.9
Mental and nervous ...	13	1.09	24.1	84.8
Ear, eye, nose, throat and other sense organs ...	10	.85	2.4	17.8
Cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral thrombosis, hemiplegia, etc. ...	104	8.75	7.0	34.1
Heart and arteries ...	81	6.82	7.7	26.9
Veins and circulatory ...	50	4.20	7.5	46.1
Respiratory ...	142	11.94	3.1	17.8
Digestive (including intestinal) ...	179	15.06	2.2	11.7
Genito-urinary system ...	76	6.39	6.5	26.5
Pregnancy ...	7	.59	1.7	9.9
Skin (including septic conditions) ...	44	3.70	3.5	19.6
Bones and joints and muscular conditions (including rheumatism) ...	39	3.28	36.6	122.5
Injury ...	47	3.94	5.7	33.0
Blood ..	10	.84	3.5	9.7
Glands ...	2	.17	11.5	120.5
Diagnostic (preparation for X-Ray, etc.) ...	127	10.69	0.5	2.8
Senility ...	52	4.37	6.0	43.3
Other or ill-defined ...	9	.76	1.5	7.0
Total ...	1,189	100.0	6.4	24.7

Disease	Recovered, Relieved or Convalescent		Admitted to Hospital or Nursing Home		Died		Specific Treatment completed or discontinued		Other Causes *		Total	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Infectious, etc. . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. (all forms) . .	36	53.7	4	6.0	—	—	23	34.3	4	6.0	67	100.0
Cancer and other neoplasms	10	9.6	21	20.2	64	61.5	4	3.9	5	4.8	104	100.0
Diabetes	4	16.0	5	20.0	—	—	1	4.0	15	60.0	25	100.0
Mental and nervous . .	3	23.1	8	61.5	2	15.4	—	—	—	—	13	100.0
Ear, eye, nose, throat and othersenseorgans	8	80.0	—	—	—	—	1	10.0	1	10.0	10	100.0
Cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral thrombosis, hemiplegia, etc. . .	28	26.4	34	32.1	38	35.8	1	1.0	5	4.7	106	100.0
Heart and arteries . .	18	22.5	17	21.3	25	31.2	7	8.7	13	16.3	80	100.0
Veins and circulatory . .	26	51.0	9	17.6	8	15.7	—	—	8	15.7	51	100.0
Respiratory	100	70.4	15	10.6	14	9.9	6	4.2	7	4.9	142	100.0
Digestive (including intestinal)	119	66.5	29	16.2	6	3.3	15	8.4	10	5.6	179	100.0
Genito-urinary system	42	55.3	15	19.7	6	7.9	7	9.2	6	7.9	76	100.0
Pregnancy	6	85.7	1	14.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	100.0
Skin (including septic conditions)	32	72.7	3	6.8	—	—	2	4.6	7	15.9	44	100.0
Bones and joints and muscular conditions (including rheumatism)	5	12.8	12	30.8	5	12.8	6	15.4	11	28.2	39	100.0
Injury	30	63.8	9	19.2	2	4.2	—	—	6	12.8	47	100.0
Blood	2	20.0	3	30.0	—	—	—	—	5	50.0	10	100.0
Glands	1	50.0	—	—	1	50.0	—	—	—	—	2	100.0
Diagnostic (preparation for X-ray, etc.)	—	—	2	1.6	—	—	125	98.4	—	—	127	100.0
Senility	8	—	25	—	16	—	—	—	3	—	52	100.0
Other or ill-defined . .	5	62.5	—	—	—	—	1	12.5	2	25.0	8	100.0
Total	483	40.6	212	17.8	187	15.7	199	16.8	108	9.1	1,189	100.0

* "Other causes" include cases where relatives are able to manage, treatment has been refused by patients, reduction of case load, case left District, etc.

During 1956 the establishment of Home Nurses was increased by two, and now stands at the Superintendent and sixteen nurses.

In common with most local authorities great difficulty has been experienced in recruiting nurses and it is still necessary to employ part-time staff in order to carry on the Service.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Home Nursing Service during 1956:—

No. of cases attended	1,294
No. of cases completed	1,189
No. of visits paid	36,447

The above figures include 5,214 visits paid to 143 patients for the purpose of giving injections only.

There is no night service in the borough. When the staffing position permits, a nurse is on call until 10 p.m. every day, including Sundays. An urgent emergency is dealt with when required. There are very few true emergency cases where the services of a nurse are required immediately.

NURSING HOMES

There were four Nursing Homes on the Register at the end of 1956. 49 deaths occurred in the Homes during the year.

17 visits were paid to the Nursing Homes by the Superintendent Health Visitor.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

VACCINATION

During 1956 general practitioners notified that they had carried out 904 vaccinations and 138 re-vaccinations. The number of children under one year of age vaccinated was 784.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year 1,325 children received the full course of Immunisation treatment against Diphtheria, 822 being immunised by General Practitioners and 503 at the Council's Clinics.

In addition, 833 children who had received the full course five years ago were given a reinforcing dose by 234 General Practitioners and 599 at the Clinics.

The following table shows the number of children immunised each year from 1942.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED—BY AGE GROUPS

Age	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total under 5 yrs. of age at 31/12/56 4,231
Under 1 year ..	21	56	30	27	37	140	67	86	47	73	86	60	135	134	191	4,231
1 year +	357	290	478	835	730	635	865	740	772	762	718	621	770	700	705	
2 years +	309	251	78	168	160	78	279	181	229	236	232	172	277	160	177	
3 years +	295	169	58	60	91	47	75	77	85	71	71	64	89	97	70	
4 years +	306	144	51	39	50	25	33	38	55	46	44	42	62	61	48	6,880
5 years +	308	152	82	63	59	32	54	31	42	56	52	48	48	52	54	
6 years +	243	223	68	45	45	26	43	23	33	34	65	49	45	46	44	
7 years +	220	118	37	22	23	9	7	10	12	11	22	20	20	17	16	
8 years +	247	120	51	22	21	8	4	3	5	5	8	6	10	14	10	5,124
9 years +	238	96	74	43	15	7	7	6	9	7	5	4	6	11	10	
10 years +	228	115	44	24	16	7	11	4	3	6	8	8	10	4	9	
11 years +	188	107	60	19	13	5	5	3	3	7	—	20	7	17	7	
12 years +	203	110	39	12	13	3	4	1	3	10	3	6	2	8	8	5,124
13 years +	237	135	64	12	11	5	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	4	
14 years +	57	101	20	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	3	
15 years +	21	45	17	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	2	1	
Over 16 years ..	12	31	6	12	1	—	1	2	1	1	4	—	—	1	—	1,357
Total ..	3,490	2,263	1,257	1,411	1,291	1,028	1,459	1,208	1,301	1,328	1,321	1,120	1,483	1,325	1,357	

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

At the beginning of 1956 the Ministry of Health announced the introduction of a scheme for the vaccination of children against poliomyelitis. This vaccination was, in the first instance, to be made available to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. Publicity was given by announcements in the local press, and also by drawing the attention of parents of children attending the various clinics to the scheme.

The number of children whose parents registered them for vaccination was 852 (457 boys and 395 girls). The selection of children to be vaccinated was made by the Ministry of Health, in view of the limited quantity of vaccine, and local authorities were instructed to arrange for children born in specified months to be chosen. Up to the end of the year 106 children (50 boys and 56 girls) had received the full course of two injections. All of these vaccinations were carried out at special sessions held at Merton Road or Moreton Clinics.

In December 1956, in anticipation of increased supplies of vaccine, the Ministry decided that medical practitioners could take part in the scheme, and that parents could choose either to have their children vaccinated by their family doctor or at the Corporation clinics. This arrangement did not come into operation until the beginning of the year 1957.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The day-to-day administration of the Ambulance Service is carried out by the Chief Fire Officer, subject to the overall control of the Medical Officer of Health.

Ambulance vehicles are housed in the Central Fire Station premises, and in order to provide adequately for the conveyance where necessary of residents of the outlying western districts of the borough, an ambulance is stationed at Moreton between the hours of 0915 and 1745 each day.

Since the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation, the Ambulance Service has had to meet an increasing demand by the public.

The following figures show the number of cases carried each year from 1947 to 1956:—

TOTAL CASES CARRIED:

1947— 3,854	1952—24,416
1948— 9,115	1953—25,540
1949—16,680	1954—25,225
1950—21,385	1955—26,394
1951—24,891	1956—27,814

Since July 1956, a radio communication system has been in operation in connection with the Ambulance Service.

The installation consists of a master station at the Ambulance Depot and mobile stations—one in each ambulance and sitting case vehicle, and one in the Ambulance Supervisor's car. Quite a considerable saving, both in time and mileage has been effected by this installation. This is reflected in the comparative figures for 1955 and 1956:—

1955 26,394 cases.	149,905 miles—5.679 miles per case.
1956 27,814 cases.	146,209 miles—5.260 miles per case.

On page 40 is a table showing the different types of case carried in each month of the year.

The present personnel and vehicular strength of the Ambulance Service is twenty two men, six ambulances, one sitting case vehicle and two sitting case cars.

PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT

The demand for loan of articles of nursing equipment has shown a steady increase since the service commenced. In order to simplify administration the stock of equipment is now stored at one central depot, with the exception of a small number of articles which are kept at the Mary Elkin Home for emergencies. During 1956 a total of 984 articles were hired out, compared with 853 in 1955.

AMBULANCE SERVICE—NUMBER OF CASES CONVEYED—1956

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Maternity ..	70	79	75	77	70	56	68	66	77	62	76	63	839
Mortuary ..	16	21	14	15	19	14	10	16	14	10	10	17	176
Sudden Illness ..	7	19	20	18	26	28	40	31	21	18	23	30	281
Works and Street Accidents ..	101	72	117	111	170	123	189	146	127	110	106	85	1,457
Mental ..	25	23	29	20	18	14	33	35	41	32	27	23	320
Infectious Diseases ..	25	16	12	9	7	5	8	7	5	16	3	13	126
Malicious False Alarm and False Alarm ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Cases ..	2,104	2,122	2,154	2,142	2,449	1,945	1,935	1,969	1,871	1,979	2,107	1,837	24,614
Totals ..	2,348	2,353	2,421	2,392	2,759	2,185	2,283	2,270	2,156	2,227	2,352	2,068	27,814
Mileage ..	12,622	12,337	13,265	11,851	13,281	10,776	12,099	12,065	11,881	12,998	12,653	10,381	146,209

TUBERCULOSIS—PREVENTION, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
No. of Primary Notifications	83	91	95	104	121
Pulmonary	79 = 41 men	34 women		4 children	
Non-Pulmonary	4 = — men	1 woman		3 children	

Classification of Non-Pulmonary Cases

Rt. Ileum	..	..	..	..	1
Knee	..	..	..	..	1
Spine	..	..	..	..	1
Gland in Neck	..	..	..	..	1

The number of deaths from tuberculosis during the year was:—

17 Pulmonary Death rate per 1,000 population 0.16.

There were no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

No. of Notified Cases of Tuberculosis on Clinic Register

1st January, 1956	..	..	..	..	935
31st December, 1956	..	..	..	..	1,031
Transfers from other areas during 1956	..	..	..	..	81
Lost sight of cases returned during 1956	..	..	..	..	1
New cases diagnosed during the year	..	..	..	..	83
Total visits by Health Visitors	..	..	..	..	1,448
No. of new contacts examined in 1956	..	..	..	..	396
No. of new cases diagnosed	..	..	..	..	83
Contact Rate	..	..	..	..	4.77
No. of cases detected by contact examination	..	..	..	..	4
Home Nursing Service treated	..	..	..	..	77
B.C.G. Vaccinations	..	..	..	..	151

The falling notification figures for new cases (from 121 in 1952 to 83 in 1956) and the fall in death rate (from 0.32 per 1,000 in 1951 to 0.16 per 1,000 in 1956) are reasons for congratulations, but not reasons which can lead to complacency or any relaxation of effort on the part of the Health Department or the Chest Services. It is obvious that patients who are remaining alive have to be reviewed constantly. In some cases they have to be very well watched and treated as, in spite of drugs, they remain a potential danger to the community because they remain sputum positive. The two departments remain alive to this danger.

Prevention

Prevention continues to be done by two Tuberculosis Health Visitors who know and are in close touch with all other Health Visitors in Wallasey—an essential liaison, giving a very close survey of the tuberculous families in the town.

The work of B.C.G. inoculation has continued in the schools and 66 children who were Mantoux positive came to the Chest Clinic for x-ray, bringing with them 104 of their contacts. In no case was a close relative found to be responsible for infection of a child, but histories of contact with tuberculous relatives in other towns were frequently

obtained. Although no recent active tuberculosis was found in any of these 66 children, it cannot be stressed too firmly that all teachers, cleaners and personnel working in schools should be examined by x-ray at least yearly.

Care

The number of cases nursed at home by the domiciliary nursing service was 77. This duty was carried out in the usual efficient manner and patients have spoken very highly of the service.

The visits paid by the Health Visitors were 1,448 in number. When it is remembered that many of the tuberculous cases now live in Moreton and the visiting effort increases with distance, this is most creditable.

No. of patients receiving milk	..	..	..	14
No. of families receiving Clothes, etc.	..	..	..	6
Housing defects reported by Health Visitor	..	..	..	4
No. of cases rehoused	..	..	..	19

After Care

The Corporation make an annual grant to the Wallasey Tuberculosis Care and Welfare Committee.

This Committee provide, at the Anne Glassey Workshop, occupational therapy and rehabilitation training. Liaison is maintained between the Committee and the Wallasey D.R.O. As a result of this, and of the training received at the Workshop it has been possible to place a number of persons suffering from tuberculosis (19 men and 7 women) in full-time employment, six men have been accepted for a course of rehabilitation, and 7 men and one woman were accepted for a course of vocational training.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of hours worked by the domestic helps during 1956 was 67,700, compared with 60,966 in 1955.

Statistics for 1956	Maternity	T.B.	Others	Total
Application received	77	2	365	444
„ accepted	76	2	362	440
No. of cases to which help sent	80	2	401	483
No. of hours worked	3,870 $\frac{1}{4}$	891	62,938 $\frac{3}{4}$	67,700
Cancelled owing to cost	—	—	—	29
No. of O.A.P. and widows on pension	..	..	..	181
No. of chronic sick cases	..	..	..	56
Aged and Infirm cases	..	..	..	284
No. of helpers 31/12/56	..	..	..	50

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Authority is invested with the community care relating to Mental Health, and the Duly Authorised Officers, with the statutory duties for securing the detention and reception of mentally sick persons and mental defectives requiring hospital care.

The responsibilities placed upon the Local Health Authority in relation to Mental Health are:—

- (a) The ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency.
- (b) The administrative arrangements for obtaining Detention and Reception Orders, and the escorting of mentally sick persons to Hospitals under the Regional Hospitals Board.
- (c) The community care of the mentally defective.
- (d) The Administrative arrangements for the admission to hospital for treatment for the mentally ill and of mental defectives.
- (e) Prevention, care and after-care work in the community in the field of Mental Health.

Administration

The Local Health Authority carries out all duties in connection with the Mental Health Service, none being delegated to Voluntary Associations.

Administrative Officer—Medical Officer of Health. In addition, three medical officers of the Local Health Authority are approved under Sections 3 and 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, for the purpose of giving medical certificates.

Three Duly Authorised Officers—one woman and two men—are employed by the Local Health Authority. These officers also act as Mental Health Social Workers in the prevention, care and after-care section of the work. Two-thirds of the time of the three Duly Authorised Officers is allocated to Mental Health, and one-third to the Welfare Services under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

In July, 1956, a Mental Health Worker commenced duty. Her duties consisted of the visiting of mental defectives in their homes, and the after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals. In addition she was able to relieve the duly authorised officers by escorting patients to hospital.

General Observations

A considerable number of patients are still submitting themselves for voluntary admission to mental hospitals, 132 being admitted during 1956, compared with 147 in 1955, and 102 in 1954.

There has been a further decrease in the admission to hospital of certified patients, 54 being admitted compared with 70 last year. The total number of Wallasey cases in Mental Hospitals at the end of the year was 414, compared with 401 in December, 1955.

In spite of the acute shortage of hospital accommodation, the movement of patients during the year has been very active. The congestion in the observation wards has not diminished, but it is hoped that this may be relieved in the near future.

Prevention, Care and After-care

Close co-operation is maintained with the General Practitioners and the Out-patients Clinics, and arrangements are made for patients' attendance. Visits are made to homes to give advice and support to patients and relatives, and where admission to Hospital is advised, arrangements for this are made, and if necessary, the patient accompanied thereto.

After-care work is undertaken in respect of Ex-Service personnel, discharged on psychiatric grounds, in cases notified to the Local Authority by the Ministry of Health; and the Officers also carry out the work previously done by the Psychiatric Social Workers of the National Association for Mental Health.

The Officers work in conjunction with the Medical Superintendents of the Mental Hospitals in the following-up of patients discharged from hospital.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts

Number of Wallasey patients in Mental Hospitals on 31st December, 1955 was as follows:—

Certified patients (Section 16, Lunacy Act, 1890)	..	..	351
Voluntary patients (Section I, Mental Treatment Act, 1930)	..	..	63
Temporary patients (Section V, Mental Treatment Act, 1930)			—
Total	..	..	414

There were 288 Admissions to Mental Hospitals during the year as follows:—

Mental Treatment Act, 1930

Under Section I (Voluntary Patients)	Male	Female	Total
Deva Hospital	61	62	123
Rainhill Mental Hospital	3	—	3
Winwick Mental Hospital	1	—	1
Birkenhead Mental Hospital	—	1	1
Sefton General Hospital	—	1	1
Cheadle Royal Hospital	1	2	3
St. Ebba's Hospital, Epsom	—	—	—
Total	66	66	132
Under Section V (Temporary Patients)	Male	Female	Total
Deva Hospital	3	—	3

Lunacy Act, 1890

Under Section 20 (3 day Order) by Duly Authorised Officer to:—

	Male	Female	Total
Birkenhead Mental Hospital	7	16	23
Deva Hospital	15	7	22
Sefton General Hospital	6	4	10
Whiston Hospital	—	—	—
Total	28	27	55

Under Section 21 (14 day Order) by Justice of the Peace to:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Birkenhead Mental Hospital	1	17	18
Deva Hospital	11	12	23
Whiston Mental Hospital	—	2	2
Sefton General Hospital	—	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	12	32	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Under Section 16 (Certified Patients) to:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deva Hospital	8	40	48
Birkenhead Mental Hospital	4	—	4
Winwick Mental Hospital	2	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	14	40	54
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Domiciliary Visits by Duly Authorised Officers:—

To cases under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts	980
Prevention, Care and After-Care visits	236
	<hr/>
Total	1,216
	<hr/>

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38

Total number of Mentally Defective Persons on the Local Health Authority's Register (excluding children being dealt with by the Education Authority) on 31st December, 1956:—

<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
130	117	247

The above total is made up as follows:—

Defectives in Institutions	117
Defectives in "Places of Safety"	6
Defectives under Guardianship	1
Defectives under supervision in the Community	123
	<hr/>
Total	247
	<hr/>

Defectives in the Community

The Duly Authorised Officers make supervisory visits to the homes of Defectives in the Community under Guardianship and supervision, advising and assisting the parents in the care of the Defectives, by encouraging them to send their children to the Occupation Centre, where suitable, and informing them of all resources available for assistance under the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act, e.g., the provision of invalid chairs in suitable cases, and the financial assistance available for defectives over 16 years of age. Employment has been found for three high grade defectives.

Eight defectives were admitted to Hospital for short periods during the year, thus enabling the parents to take a much needed rest. It is hoped that these facilities may be extended next year to provide more parents with a period of relief from the constant care of their defective children.

During the year 545 visits were paid by Authorised Officers to the homes of defectives.

Defectives in Institutions

Co-ordination is maintained between the Hospital Management Committees of the various Institutions and the Local Health Authority. The duly Authorised Officers visit the homes and supply the following reports, as required:—

- (i) Reports for the information of the Visitors when carrying out their Statutory duties under Section II of the Mental Deficiency Act.
- (ii) Home circumstances reports in respect of applications for holiday leave or licence.
- (iii) Progress and Supervision reports with regard to patients on licence from Institutions.

Particulars of Mental Defectives Ascertained during the year.

(1) Ascertainment

Cases reported by Local Education Authorities
(Section 57, Education Act, 1944):—

	M.	F.	Total
(i) Under Section 57 (3)	2	4	6
(ii) Under Section 57 (5)	1	—	1
Reported from other sources	—	1	1
Reported, but not regarded as "subject to be dealt with"	—	—	—
Total cases ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with" during the year	3	5	8

(2) Disposal of Cases reported during the year

Cases ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with":—

	M.	F.	Total
Placed under Statutory Supervision ..	3	4	7
Admitted to Institutions	—	—	—
Placed under Voluntary Supervision ..	—	1	1
Total	3	5	8

- (3) Number of Mental Defectives under Community Care including Voluntary Supervision or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1956 who have ceased to be under Community Care or in "Places of Safety" during 1956.

			M.	F.	Total
(a)	Ceased to be under care	.. ..	10	—	10
(b)	Died or removed from area	.. ..	2	—	2
			—	—	—
	Total	.. ..	12	—	12
			—	—	—

At 31st December, 1956:—

Number of Mental Defectives awaiting vacancies in Institutions	18
Number of patients on Licence from Institutions	8
Number of patients under Guardianship including cases on Licence	1
Number of patients under Statutory Supervision	84
Number of patients under Voluntary Supervision	39
Number of patients receiving training at Occupation Centre	23

Occupation Centre

The Occupation Centre has accommodation for approximately 70 children.

Under an arrangement made with the Birkenhead Corporation, defectives from that area attend the Centre.

At the end of December, 1956, 27 Wallasey children and 42 children from other areas were on the register.

The ages of the children vary from 5 upwards. There is no upper age limit, and two or three young people of 18 to 20 years attend.

The Centre is open five days per week, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is closed for one month in the summer and approximately four weeks during the remainder of the year.

A mid-day meal is provided, cooked on the premises, and, in addition, each child has one-third of a pint of milk morning and afternoon.

Special transport by bus is provided and the parents appreciate this service.

Training is given in personal habits, cleanliness, and general behaviour. Marching, walking, hand and finger drill and singing to music form part of the curriculum. Action songs and mime are instructive and are thoroughly enjoyed by the children. At Christmas an entertainment for parents was provided, most of the children taking part.

The crafts taught include plain sewing, embroidery, knitting, weaving, woodwork, rush seating, rug-making, papier-mache work, painting, drawing, stool-making, raffia work, miniature basket work, etc. Some new equipment has been added during the year.

The high-grade children also receive instruction in reading, writing, simple spelling and arithmetic.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS ACT, 1948

No applications for registration of premises were received. There were two premises on the Register at the end of 1956.

Routine inspections were made and advice given.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948

Children are medically examined as soon as possible after admission to the Children's Homes, and also before discharge, and the medical staff of the Public Health Department give advice whenever necessary.

PART IV.

*General Provision of
Health Services, etc.*

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year 120 samples of milk and 285 samples of other food and drink were analysed. With the exception of the following all were reported as correct.

Channel Island Milk

2 samples were 0.25% and 0.31% deficient in fat. The producers were informed and subsequent samples showed improvement.

Milk

17 samples of milk were naturally deficient in non fatty solids. The fat content was up to standard.

Condensed Milk

1 sample contained a brownish spot. It was in no way harmful, and was due to overheating.

Fried Chipped Potatoes

4 samples found to contain slight traces of sulphur di-oxide (due to the use of an anti-discolouring preparation) which should have been dispersed by the cooking. Subsequent samples were correct.

Tea

1 sample contained excess stalk. The vendor was cautioned.

Fish Paste

1 sample was deficient in fish, it was old stock and the brand is out of production.

Orange Squash

2 samples were fermented and incorrectly labelled. The vendors were cautioned.

Cream Cakes

2 samples were improperly designated. The vendors were cautioned.

Luncheon Meat

2 samples were incorrectly labelled. This was packed in France and the packers had not informed the English distributors of the presence of the sodium nitrate. The distributors undertook to check any further consignments before labelling.

The average composition of 120 samples of milk was:—

Fat	3.75%	Solids—not-fat	..	8.70%
-----	---------	-------	----------------	----	-------

This can be described as very satisfactory.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS

Thirteen samples of feeding stuffs and eight samples of fertiliser were submitted to the analyst. All complied with the requirements of the Act.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT

During the year the following applications were made:—

For registration	..	..	..	..	..	10
For re-registration	..	..	..	..	..	145
Not re-registering	..	..	..	..	..	13

(1) CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLIES

One of the principal problems associated with milk which has demanded the serious attention of Health Departments over the years has been that of maintaining supplies free from the danger of infection.

Over a quarter of a century ago, this Council in pursuit of a policy which aimed at improving the hygienic standards and safety of milk, meat and other foods, within the Borough, appointed to the staff of the Medical Officer of Health, its first full-time Veterinary Officer.

The Veterinary duties embraced the inspection of meat and food and work connected with the Diseases of Animals Acts, whilst a great amount of time and attention was devoted to the production and distribution of safe and clean milk. The routine biological testing of each source of supply was introduced and continued for many years, resulting in the elimination and slaughter of a substantial number of diseased and infected cows.

It was also at that time that pioneer work was being undertaken in the Borough in connection with pasteurisation and the introduction of daily supplies of Tuberculin Tested milk.

Today, the circumstances which prevail are greatly improved.

The Tuberculosis Eradication Scheme which aims at the stamping out of bovine tuberculosis on a national basis has made great advances. A large volume of milk is produced and sold daily under special designation, and pasteurisation and sterilisation is carried out on an ever increasing scale.

These factors, coupled with the far reaching benefits which are afforded by modern hygienic standards, provide convincing proof of achievement in the quest for safe and clean milk.

The Health Department, by the continuance of frequent inspections and sampling, plays an important role in maintaining this improved position, and the following is a summary of the work carried out in this connection:—

Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples obtained 154,
of which

145 satisfied both the Methylene Blue
and Phosphatase Tests.
4 failed the Methylene Blue Test.
4 failed the Phosphatase Test.
1 failed both the Methylene Blue
and Phosphatase Tests.

154

Tuberculin Tested Milk—Pasteurised

No. of samples obtained 68,
of which

66 satisfied both the Methylene Blue
and Phosphatase Tests.
2 failed the Methylene Blue Test.

68

Sterilised Milk

Six samples of Sterilised Milk were submitted to the Turbidity Test, and the reports received indicated that the samples were satisfactory.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Wrapped supplies of Tuberculin Tested Milk Pasteurised are now purchasable in $\frac{1}{2}$ pint containers in this district.

RAW MILK

Farm bottled Tuberculin Tested milk derived mainly from the Channel Island breeds of dairy cattle is the only raw milk purveyed within the Borough. In a "specified area", in which the County Borough of Wallasey is included, it is compulsory for raw milk to be sold under special designation.

Information was received from an outside authority in connection with milk produced within their area and destined into this Borough daily for processing. This concerned milk from two farms in which the presence of tubercle bacilli has been demonstrated on biological testing. It was established that the supplies were being subjected to efficient pasteurisation at the reception end. Eradication of the infection at the farm involved was dealt with by officers of the State Veterinary Service.

The samples of milk taken by the Department were obtained from the following sources:—

Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Taken in shop	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Street delivery vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

Over shop counter	5
Outside dairy premises	4
<hr/>	
Total number of samples submitted for Laboratory testing	228
<hr/>	

A number of consumer complaints were received relating to supplies of milk which involved the following incidents:—

Milk supplied in improperly cleansed receptacles; alleged extraneous matter in milk; loose foil caps on milk bottles; sour milk; and dirty condition of clothing worn by a milk roundsman.

A number of complaints were received from outside authorities concerning supplies of milk and cream which had been purveyed within their districts from dairy premises situated in this Borough.

Visits were made to the dairies and milk premises concerned and check sampling was also resorted to in connection with these enquiries.

Dairy Festival

Wallasey was one of the provincial towns which staged in the public park by permission of the Council, a June Dairy Festival which was held under the auspices of the National Milk Publicity Council and the local branches of the National Dairymen's Association. The Festival proved highly successful and the public were given an interesting insight into the great amount of care and control which goes into milk production and distribution from cow to consumer.

It is understood that this means of milk publicity is to form an annual feature of the English farming and dairying year.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

There are four dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. The pasteurisation of milk under licence is carried out at each of these premises and frequent sampling is resorted to in order to check on the efficiency of the processing.

During the year, the pasteurising plant at one dairy proved unreliable and as the result of an intimation from this Department, the processing of milk has been suspended, pending the renewal and replacement of certain parts of the pasteurising apparatus.

There are 130 registered milk distributors licensed to retail bottled supplies of designated milk. The number of licences granted during the year was as follows:—

To use special designation "Pasteurised"	122
To use special designation "Sterilised"	104

To use special designation "Tuberculin Tested" ..	39
Pasteuriser's licences	4

345 visits were made to Dairies and other premises engaged in the handling and storage of milk.

Milk in Schools Scheme

During the year 2,611,525 one-third pint bottles of milk (108,813 gallons) were supplied under the Milk in Schools Scheme, an increase of 84,862 one-third pint bottles of milk (3,535 gallons) compared with the quantity supplied during the previous year.

During the year the supply of milk to schools under the terms of the Milk in Schools Scheme became the subject of tender. The existing contract held by one dairy undertaking was terminated and the new contract awarded to a group of dairies. With the operation of the new contract period, the schools in the Borough are catered for by six suppliers under the terms of the Milk in Schools Scheme.

(2) MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The amount of canned foodstuffs condemned during the year remains at a reduced level by comparison with the quantities dealt with during the war and post-war years.

The factors responsible are referred to in the previous year's Annual Report.

The granting of certificates certifying foodstuffs to be unfit for human consumption and the subsequent voluntary surrender of same for destruction by the Department, affords an additional and realistic means of ensuring consumer safeguards. Statutory enactments are, however, in force which govern the sale of foodstuffs and where, after due enquiry, it is found that their provisions are being contravened, enforcement is resorted to.

Visits made to food shops, including Butchers, Fishmongers and other shops engaged in the sale and handling of foodstuffs, resulted in the following quantities of food being disposed of as unfit for human consumption:—

Meat				Fish			
			lbs.				stone
Pork	..	..	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	Smoked Cod Fillets	..	..	4
Ham	..	..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cod Fillets	..	..	1
			<hr/>				<hr/>
Total	..	..	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	Total	..	..	5
			<hr/>				<hr/>
Canned Goods							
			cans				cans
Canned Fruit	..	..	272	Canned Fish	..	..	14
Canned Vegetables	..	..	187	Canned Shellfish	..	..	7
Canned Milk	..	..	51	Canned Soup	..	..	6
Canned Meat	..	..	4				

Provisions

Cheese 24 lbs.
28 cartons

Miscellaneous

Items of foodstuff .. 23

During the year, 65 containers comprising canned ham, ox tongue, canned veal, corned beef, mutton and stewed steak, representing a total weight of 370 lbs., were dealt with by the Department as unfit for sale.

At a Social Centre, 650 miscellaneous tins of foodstuff were condemned owing to deterioration caused by prolonged storage.

At a Canning Factory, 3,392 tins of miscellaneous fruit and vegetables were condemned owing to faulty seals and blown and rusted containers.

At a Milk Bar premises, 284 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs, 84 lbs. of dried milk powder, 168 lbs. of slab chocolate, 70 lbs. of cocoa and 280 lbs. of ice cream improver powder, were condemned owing to deterioration due to prolonged storage.

260 miscellaneous articles of foodstuff were condemned at a retail food shop owing to damage and contamination caused by polluted flood waters.

A number of complaints involving miscellaneous matters connected with food supplies were dealt with during the year. These included inefficient wrapping of meat; unsatisfactory handling and conveyance of fish cakes and stain on pie meat.

Consumer and retailer complaints were received in connection with foodstuffs necessitating special investigation and enquiry.

The retailer complaints concerned Australian apples; imported lamb's liver; canned ham; swiss rolls; pork; beef; cooked turkey carcasses; cheese; potato crisps and fish paste.

The consumer complaints related to:— imported lamb's kidneys; tinned beans; condensed milk; tea; fruit cake; swiss rolls; jam; cooked carcase of duck; canned carrots; mineral water; meat pies (3 instances); bread (6 instances); bacon (3 instances); cooked carcase of chicken (2 instances); cake (2 instances); meat and potato pie; dried apricots; baby food and potato crisps.

Cautioning letters were forwarded where enquiries revealed such action to be necessary, but in a number of instances, it was not possible to confirm the allegations made.

No legal proceedings were instituted.

The inspection of foodstuffs was carried out on one occasion on request of the Police.

Communications were forwarded to Health Authorities in connection with the production or manufacture of products in dispute.

Number of requests received to visit food and other premises in connection with supplies of food ..	211
Number of visits made to food premises	351
Special visits and inspections made in respect of foodstuffs	98
Visits to factories, hotels, canteens, etc.	32
Visits made to food premises on request or on reference from other Departments.. .. .	15
	<hr/> 496 <hr/>
Certificates issued certifying foodstuffs to be unfit for human consumption	345

Food found to be unfit for human consumption was disposed of for processing and inclusion in animal feeding stuffs or for industrial refining purposes. Foodstuff unsuitable for inclusion in either of these categories was disposed of under supervision by burial at the Corporation Controlled Tip.

WALLASEY AND ALFRED LAIRAGES

Landing place for Irish and Isle of Man animals and foreign animals landing wharf.

This year 69,429 store and fat cattle were accommodated and subsequently despatched by rail and road transport from the Lairage at this landing place. This figure shows an increase of 1,000 over the number of cattle handled in the previous year.

Of the animals detained by the Veterinary Officers, 197 were slaughtered.

Post-mortem examination of all carcasses, viscera and offal was carried out by this Department and the following is a tabulation of the diseased conditions met with and the condemnations made:—

	<i>Cattle</i>
Number killed	197
Number inspected	197
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	131
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	66.4%
Tuberculosis only	
Whole carcasses condemned	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.2%
Cysticercosis	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	} Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	
Generalised and totally condemned	

Total weight of meat and offal condemned

Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,120 lbs.
Offal	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,890 lbs.

210 visits were made during the year to the Slaughter House at this landing wharf.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS**Mussel and Cockle Beds—Wallasey Foreshore**

The Order made by the Liverpool Port Health Authority which modifies the original prohibition on the taking of shellfish for human consumption, continues in operation.

The organised collection of mussels which was practised on a commercial scale for many years has ceased, but the collection of cockles from the western stretches of the foreshore provides a popular diversion, both to residents and visitors alike, when tidal and weather conditions permit.

To many day trippers, the taking home of a few cockles is as significant as the customary bar of rock, as a token of their seaside visit.

It is a matter of conjecture, however, as to what percentage of the total quantity of cockles taken in this manner are actually consumed by these amateur "cocklers", particularly by those having neither knowledge nor experience of the methods practised in connection with their treatment, cooking and preparation.

It is quite impossible to prevent this type of small scale shellfish collecting owing to the absence of specific powers under the existing Regulations.

No complaints were received relating to shellfish during the year.

(3) DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS AND ORDERS**Notifiable Scheduled Diseases of Animals**

The County Borough remained free from movement restrictions and no suspected cases of any of the scheduled contagious diseases of animals were reported.

Under the Regulation of Movement of Swine Order of 1950, 264 store pigs were brought into the Borough under licence from the Chester, Doncaster and Mold markets, and whilst this is an increase by comparison with the previous year, a noticeable decline in the activities of pig keepers and feeders within the Borough has occurred over the past few years and this, it is believed, is due to unstable economic circumstances and to the fact that many pig keepers who operated during the war and post-war period are no longer active.

Visits were made to piggeries in connection with the detention of pigs moved from markets.

Advisory leaflets and reminders to stock owners concerning their obligation to dress cattle visibly infected with the warble fly maggot are now forwarded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Ministry co-operate with local authorities in cases where infestation is observed by their visiting Veterinary Officers.

It will be of interest to refer to the experiment carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in 1953 on the Isle of Wight, which was chosen because there is little movement of cattle from the mainland to cause reinfestation and because of the tendency of the adult warble fly not to cross large expanses of water.

The experiment was carried out to assess the effectiveness of thorough dressing under strict veterinary control and supervision.

The survey carried out in 1955 showed that the proportion of cattle visibly infested had already fallen from 40% to 4%.

The Ministry's conclusions are that whilst the experiment has shown what can be achieved, it would be quite prohibitive in cost and manpower to attempt to extend it throughout the country. Losses in meat, milk and hides and the resultant irritation and discomfort to animals caused by the presence of the warble fly maggot are matters which call for the strictest vigilance and attention on the part of all persons on whom responsibility rests for carrying out the requisite treatment.

A new tenant obtained the grazing rights of the "marshes" and during the season 180 breeding ewes and 152 lambs were gathered and dipped in compliance with the Dipping Regulations made under the Sheep Scab Order.

Periodic visits were made both to the marshes and to the dunes to ascertain that animals were being properly cared for and that there were no circumstances necessitating action under the Protection of Animals Act.

The owner of the sheep experienced trouble in the flock due to worrying by dogs and the local Police co-operated.

Observations were made, from time to time, on vessels entering the Wallasey Dock system, to ascertain if any dogs, poultry, or hay and straw were being carried with the intention of being landed contrary to the provisions of the relevant Regulations.

Orders made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, were, from time to time, publicised in the press and notices relating to Warble Fly and Colorado Beetle were displayed during the year.

THEATRICAL EMPLOYERS' REGISTRATION ACT, 1925

No applications for registration were received during the year.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS' REGISTRIES

There were no applications for registration as Domestic Servants Registries during 1956.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RAINFALL AND
SUNSHINE 1950-1956

YEAR	RAINFALL		SUNSHINE	
	Total in inches	Number of days	Total in hours	Number of days
1950	34.92	196	1454.1	288
1951	31.93	192	1435.5	302
1952	27.68	167	1363.1	305
1953	23.29	153	1516.6	296
1954	37.16	215	1291.1	295
1955	25.45	160	1692.0	293
1956	32.26	173	1445.2	295

METEOROLOGICAL

The Corporation's Observation Station at Harrison Park is recognised by the Air Ministry as a Climatological Station. Observations are taken throughout the year, telegraphic reports thereon being forwarded to the Air Ministry daily during the summer months. These reports are intended, not only for the information of the Ministry, but also for distribution by the Ministry to various daily papers, with the result that Wallasey figures in the lists of those Health and Holiday Resorts whose daily weather reports are published in many of the well-known newspapers.

The following table gives a summary of the readings for 1956:—

Months	Mean 09.00 hrs. Tempera- ture	Rainfall in Inches			Sunshine			Number of days of Frost	Number of days of snowfall
		Total	Mean Daily	No. of days with .01 or more	Total (Hours)	Mean Daily	No. of days with sunshine		
January ..	40.17	3.72	0.12	22	56.4	1.82	19	12	4
February ..	33.62	.25	0.01	7	75.4	2.60	23	23	10
March ..	42.70	1.49	0.05	14	133.7	4.30	27	10	1
April ..	45.35	2.69	0.09	11	173.0	5.77	27	4	—
May ..	54.45	.74	0.02	5	263.6	8.50	31	—	—
June ..	55.01	1.36	0.05	11	171.4	5.71	28	—	—
July ..	59.60	4.57	0.15	20	147.7	4.76	29	—	—
August ..	56.32	9.12	0.29	23	153.4	4.90	26	—	—
September ..	56.86	3.01	0.10	13	103.8	3.46	26	—	—
October ..	50.29	2.16	0.07	14	107.9	3.48	28	1	—
November ..	44.94	1.35	0.04	13	41.0	1.37	19	7	—
December ..	43.22	1.80	0.06	20	17.9	0.58	12	9	2
Means/Totals	48.54	32.26	0.09	173	1445.2	3.94	295	66	17

PART V.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

and

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT AND REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Introductory

Work done by public health inspectors during the year has been dominated by major tasks in two important sectors of their field of activity: slum clearance and food hygiene.

I reported in 1955 that at the end of that year, following a housing survey, the Council approved a programme designed to secure the removal of all unfit houses within five years. Some unfit houses have been cleared each year since 1947, since which time the Council have pursued the enlightened policy of allocating a small proportion of its new houses to families displaced from houses so unfit as to require demolition. But 1956 saw the resumption of slum clearance in Wallasey on a scale not known since the early twenties when the many hundreds of temporary shelters in Moreton were cleared following legal action by the Corporation. During the year, the legal formalities were completed in respect of the demolition of 111 houses, details of which are given in the section dealing with this work. In addition, other houses to be included in the following year's programme were surveyed and inspected.

Opportunities to secure advances in hygiene of food establishments were presented by the issue of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which were fully operative during the year. Full details of this work are set out in the appropriate section of this report. It is a sign of the "tightness" of inspectorial staff establishments, that despite all efforts in what is recognised to be a most important section of our work, it was possible only to inspect fully for the purposes of the regulations 843 of the 1,269 food premises in the borough. Even so, this is a distinct achievement having regard to the competing claims from other kinds of work, and one which by the end of the year was beginning to show visible results. Considerably more would have been achieved, of course, had it been possible within the year not only to inspect all premises, but also to make follow-up visits to press home the opportunities presented by the regulations. Requirements by local authorities are more acceptable by those to whom they are directed if they are made as soon as possible after the new legislation is promulgated. But these days, this is not possible in any single field without serious neglect of other work. Soon local authorities will be called upon to face a new environmental health task: that of vigorously implementing the Clean Air Act, 1956, an important part of which is operative from the 1st January, 1957. It is certain that serious work under this Act cannot be commenced at once, unless work under the Food Hygiene Regulations is suspended whilst the preliminary survey is still half finished. Probably the whole of 1957 will be needed to complete the initial survey under the Food Hygiene Regulations, and if the full benefits of this survey are to be secured, special revisits will need to be sustained. The maintenance of even moderate campaigns of slum clearance, food hygiene and action for clean air must entail increases of inspectorial staff. Fortunately, during 1956, the existing

vacancy was filled and the staff has been at full strength, which has helped the General Health Committee to face the obligations which new legislation has placed upon the Council.

During the year there occurred one special incident which does not normally feature in this report: the serious flooding which occurred in Moreton during August. This is briefly referred to on page 65.

Abatement of nuisances and house repairs

The year's work has followed the pattern of previous years. Main reliance has been placed on the nuisances provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, though some work has been undertaken under section 9 of the Housing Act, details of which are given in the section of the report dealing with housing.

Complaints received during the year numbered 2,801 which is the figure for an average normal year. The complaints and action arising out of them led to 14,445 visits being made to dwellinghouses. 1,807 preliminary and 936 statutory notices were served. The summary of the contents of the notices indicates the effectiveness of the enforcement procedure; the number of notices served during the year was balanced by the number complied with, though legal proceedings were resorted to on only seven occasions:—

	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices Abated</i>	<i>Notices Out- standing</i>
Dwelling Houses			
Roof Repairs	542	551	217
Gutters and Spout Repairs	444	406	201
External Walls and Chimney Repairs	262	235	115
Installation of Damp Proof Courses	224	226	108
Dampness	110	131	41
Yards: Paving and Repairs	97	81	45
Internal Walls and Ceiling Repairs	304	379	90
Doors: Repairs and Renewal	96	103	26
Windows: Repairs and Renewal	190	175	99
Floors: Repairs and Renewal	123	164	37
Sub-floor Ventilation	16	14	2
Rooms: Cleaning and Redecorating	22	19	3
Passages and Staircases: Cleaning and Redecorating	4	4	—
Staircase Repairs	8	3	9
Handrails: Repairs and Renewal	4	4	1
Fireplaces and Flues: Repairs and Renewal	132	148	49
Cooking Stoves: Repairs and Renewal	—	—	—
Sinks, Lavatories: Repairs and Renewal	16	26	8
Baths: Repairs and Renewal	—	1	—
Waste Pipes: Repairs and Renewal	116	104	50
Burst Water Pipe Repairs	195	207	31
Improvement and Reinstatement of Water Supply	52	47	6
Cleansing of W.C.s	4	6	—
W.C. Repairs and Renewals	403	369	150

Provision of Additional W.C.s	—	—	—
Soil Pipes: Repairs and Renewal	40	36	12
Disinfestation of Verminous Premises	22	19	5
Drainer Boards: Repairs or Renewal	13	24	4
Improvement of Ventilation	136	172	71
Total	3,475	3,544	1,380

	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices Abated</i>	<i>Notices Out- standing</i>
General Environmental Public Health			
Removal of Offensive Accumulations	35	43	5
Cleansing of Ditches and Streams	2	2	1
Cinemas, Dance Halls: Contraventions	5	5	—
Schools: W.C.s—Repairs and Renewal	—	—	—
Schools: Other Nuisances	—	—	—
Total	42	50	6

	<i>Served</i>	<i>Abated</i>	<i>Out- standing</i>
Total Number of Notices Served (all Acts)			
Preliminary	2,981	2,158	1,532
Statutory	1,010	938	324
Total	3,991	3,096	1,856

Legal Proceedings (Cases heard) .. ..	..	..	..	7
No. of Nuisance Orders applied for .. ..	..	..	..	5
No. of Nuisance Orders obtained .. ..	..	..	..	5
Total amount of fines and costs .. ..	..	..	£17	2 0
No. of prosecutions for non-compliance with Nuisance Order .. ..	..	..	..	None

In 2 other cases abatement notices were complied with only after the cases had been passed to the Town Clerk who had threatened legal proceedings or had actually applied for a summons to be taken out against the offenders.

Flooding at Moreton

During August serious flooding occurred at Moreton. This particular month was the wettest month ever recorded, and heavy incessant down pours between the 27th and 29th August coincided with early morning high tides. The Arrowe Brook overflowed its banks, sewers surcharged and flood water entered many homes and some shops. The role of the public health inspector during this period was that of giving advice as to methods of cleansing and disinfecting the interiors of flooded premises and the institution of precautions to safeguard water and food supplies, and sampling of water from premises was carried out (see page 84), analysis of the samples proved the wisdom of this advice which was only withdrawn when repeated samples were found to be safe. Floodwater gained access to some shops, food supplies were contaminated and in some cases submerged.

The containers of food in hermetically sealed tins were disinfected under supervision. All other food, irrespective of the type of container was certified to be unfit and was surrendered to the inspectors.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—FOOD HYGIENE

Reference has been made to this work in my introduction to this section of the Annual Report.

The Food Hygiene Regulations became operative in part on the 1st January, 1956, and fully operative on the 1st July, 1956. Some of the requirements are quite specific and require little by way of interpretation. Other requirements, however, are in general terms and their interpretation requires a greater exercise of discretion; the practical effect of the latter regulations depends on what the local authority may decide to be a reasonable standard capable and desirable of enforcement. Because of this, it was recommended that the enforcement of the regulations should be delegated to the Statutory Contraventions Sub-Committee—then a sub-committee of three members. In the event this recommendation was not approved by the Council and the duties of the local authority under the regulations remained with the Council through the General Health Committee. Before this decision was reached, however, the sub-committee met a number of times, considered each clause of the regulations in turn and as far as possible decided those things which were reasonably desirable and enforceable under the regulations. The products of these meetings were intended as an indication of broad policy to form a framework within which the public health inspectors would operate when carrying out their initial inspection and making their recommendations to occupiers of food businesses, etc. They were not intended as an immutable code of practice which would provide the solution to every problem encountered; the sub-committee were fully aware that in the final analysis each case would depend on its merits and the associated facts. The sub-committee found themselves capable, however, of considering many sets of circumstances known to repeat themselves in many premises in the town and of laying down the requirements which they considered to be reasonable in those hypothetical conditions.

When it was eventually decided that the Statutory Contraventions Sub-Committee should not be charged with the local authority's functions under the regulations, the 'policy code' produced by the sub-committee was made the basis of a report to the Council's General Health Committee, who considered it and laid down the following 'rules' for the guidance of the inspectors, subject to specific disagreements and new points arising out of experience, being reported to the Committee.

Regulation 6

This requires that articles or equipment which come into contact with food shall be readily cleansible and so far as is reasonably practicable, shall be non-absorbent and shall prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, any risk of contamination of the food. Attention will need to be given to such matters as the use of soft wood jointed preparation

tables, which are in common use for food-preparation in a variety of trades, e.g. cafes, restaurants, confectioners', etc. Similarly, the use of soft wood bakers' troughs and rolling pins, and uncovered wooden cake trays may, in certain circumstances, be prohibited by this Regulation.

Regulation 8

(1) This imposes a general requirement that all reasonable steps should be taken to protect food from risk of contamination and in particular it requires that no food shall be so placed as to involve any risk of contamination. This Regulation is clearly aimed, among other things, at the unnecessary exposure of food to contamination from dust and dirt, or contamination originating from members of the public. The committee considered that under this head the efforts of the inspectors should be directed towards:

- (a) securing a discontinuance of the use of open, unprotected shop windows where open food is displayed;
- (b) securing the protection of open food exposed for sale on or just behind counters by the installation of sneeze guards;
- (c) securing the protection of open food displayed in shop windows, the interior aspect of which is completely open, e.g. the committee decided it is reasonable to expect a screen of glass or other suitable material to be fitted to that portion of the window which is within the customers' side of the counter;
- (d) in connection with the matters set out in paragraph (c), the committee considered that it would be unreasonable to apply this provision generally to greengrocers' shops, but that it would be reasonable to expect some measure of protection to be afforded to those articles of food which are consumed without first being peeled or cooked, e.g. tomatoes, fruit, etc.;
- (e) some special consideration needed to be given to the exposure of food in butcher's shops. In addition to the protection of the interior aspect of the window, some thought was given to the common practice of hanging butchers' meat within the "public side" of the shop. This might involve re-siting hanging rails on to the retailers' side of the counter, or where this is impracticable, the erection of simple screens or barriers.

(2) The committee also considered it to be within the powers conveyed by this Regulation that the local authority should discourage the practice of cats or other animals being kept in open food shops.

Regulation 14

Subsection (5) of this Regulation requires that a hand-washing notice should be exhibited in the food premises. The Regulation only requires that the notice be clearly legible. In the past, specially made durable notices have been issued by the Health Department from a

stock which was obtained free of cost from the British Tourists and Holidays Association. The committee decided that this matter was so important as a health education matter that a supply of notices be obtained and issued free of charge.

Regulations 15, 16 and 19

These Regulations taken together relate to the provision of water supply, sinks and wash basins. Broadly speaking, in all food premises a wash hand basin and water supply must be installed. In open food premises the provision of one sink and one wash hand basin is a minimum requirement. Additional sinks or wash basins may be required according to circumstances. Each and every case must clearly be decided on its merits. Nevertheless, it was decided to approve the following points of guidance as a basis for initial working by the inspectors:—

- (1) That the wash hand basins referred to in the Regulations are builders' merchants' wash hand basins with taps and waste pipes.
- (2) That the sink used for domestic purposes in a combined house and shop does not afford satisfactory sink facilities for use in connection with an *open* food business. In certain circumstances, however, the committee were prepared to accept a bathroom wash basin in a combined house and shop as fulfilling the requirements of the Regulations as to the provision of a wash hand basin.
- (3) That though a sweet shop might be argued to be an open food shop by virtue of the small quantity of unwrapped chocolates and sweets sold therein, it would be unreasonable to require the installation of a wash hand basin in addition to a sink, or vice versa. The committee considered it reasonable and necessary, however, that a wash hand basin and sink should be installed in shops selling loose ice cream.
- (4) That in other open food trades such as greengrocers, grocers, butchers, fish shops, general shops selling groceries, etc. the minimum requirement will comprise the installation of a sink and a wash basin.
- (5) That the minimum facilities which normally would be required in any class of catering premises where food is prepared or cooked will comprise:—
 - (a) one sink for food-preparation;
 - (b) one large sink incorporating sterilising facilities for dish-washing or a double sink, and
 - (c) wash hand basin for hand-washing.
- (6) Special circumstances will clearly apply to the hotel and licensing trade. It is suggested that requirements should be made to secure constant hot water supply and double sinks in each bar. The committee did not consider it reasonable to insist on the installation of a wash hand basin in each bar, on the grounds that at busy periods the bar staff would find it difficult to use washing facilities elsewhere on the premises.

Regulation 25

This requires that particular foods which are "for immediate consumption" shall be stored either at specified cold temperatures or specified hot temperatures. The meaning of the words "for immediate consumption" was discussed. It was decided that for the time being it should be assumed that this Regulation is only intended to apply to catering premises, to premises where food is kept hot up to the time of sale and the food is sold as hot food and premises located at special places where the food is clearly intended for immediate consumption (e.g. at beaches, football grounds, etc.).

As a further means of securing the smooth implementation of the Regulations, discussions took place between your Chief Public Health Inspector and his colleagues of other Wirral local authorities, who met at the offices of Bebington Corporation. In Wallasey the Chief Public Health Inspector addressed six meetings on the subject of "Food Hygiene" to The School Meals Service, New Brighton-Wallasey Hotels, Boarding Houses and Restaurant's Association, Wallasey Master Bakers' & Confectioners' Association, the Young Wives' Fellowship Moreton Methodist Church, Wallasey Grocers' and Provision Dealers' Association and the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations. In addition to this, he also addressed the North West Centre of the Institute of Housing on the subject of Slum Clearance and gave a talk on the Work of the Public Health Inspector to The Claremont Church Friendly Hour.

In all, 2,476 visits were made to 1,325 food premises during the year. Many of these were routine visits, but 843 complete inspections were made under the Regulations and a report was sent to the occupiers of the premises enumerating the works which in the opinion of the council's officials were needed to effect compliance with the Regulations. A total number of 4,073 'items' requiring attention were noted in these 843 premises and an analysis of them is reproduced in the following table.

The General Health Committee approved a suggestion that the programme of inspections should be so arranged that the local authority's own premises should be followed by inspections of those types of premises where the need for hygienic food-handling was at its highest, e.g. cafes, restaurants, bakers, meat-manufacturing premises. This principle was followed as closely as possible consistent with the progress made on each public health inspector's district. The effect of the 'notices' was apparent at the close of the year, particularly in the main shopping streets and in the multiple and chain stores. Some of the occupiers of the smaller general shops, particularly of those which are combined houses and shop, objected more strongly to some of the recommendations, however. When revisits are possible it will probably be found that all of the council's recommendations have not been followed, particularly as respects those matters the remedying of which will involve the occupier in expense.

Only two certificates of exemption were granted under Clause 31 of the Regulations; one in respect of the provision of a sink; the other for the provision of a wash basin. The premises were temporary shops,

proposed to be replaced by new shops within the succeeding twelve months; in each case the committee had regard to the nature of the business and the alternative facilities provided at the shops.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955 : SP

	School kitchens and canteens	L.A. Hostels, Nurseries, etc.	Other L.A. Premises	Grocer's Shops	Cafes	Green- grocer's shops
Sinks to be provided... ..	6	5	9	60	54	38
Wash-hand basins to be provided ...	8	1	13	65	43	58
Provision for storage of special foods	4	4	8	—	20	—
Hot water to be provided	6	2	10	118	43	83
Walls, ceilings, windows, etc. to be repaired	5	—	3	15	24	15
Walls, ceilings to be cleansed or decorated	11	2	9	27	31	37
Floors to be repaired or cleansed ...	3	3	7	19	18	15
Hand-washing notices required ...	15	3	10	53	21	27
Drainer boards	22	7	5	4	19	4
Storage accommodation for outdoor clothing	4	1	7	27	23	20
Drainage to be improved	—	—	2	—	6	4
Precautions to be taken against contamination of food	46	6	18	148	99	151
First-aid boxes to be provided or improved	7	2	9	66	42	52
Soap, towels, nail-brushes required	4	—	2	13	15	33
Impervious surfaces to be provided	28	7	16	25	40	6
Other contraventions	30	13	26	22	43	17
TOTALS	199	56	154	662	541	560
Notices or memos issued	33	9	19	142	78	99
Total No. of premises in Wallasey	46	9	Included under Miscel- laneous	193	122	134

—In this classification, where premises are shared for the conduct of more than one type of trade, no account has been taken of trade unless it forms a substantial part of the business.

<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Visits</i>
Cafes, restaurants	285
Bakehouses	114
Fried Fish Shops	97
Offensive Trades	—
Other Food premises	1,779
School Meals Service	109
Licensed Premises	92
	<hr/>
Total Visits	2,476

Registered Food Premises

The Minister of Health has requested that a classification of registered premises be included in this report. The required information is as follows:—

	<i>No. of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Visits</i>
List of Registered Food Premises, 1956		
Section 16 (a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955 ..	498	368
Section 16 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1955 ..	137	175
..		
Total ..	635	543

(N.B.—A classification of the types of premises registered under section 16 (a) is given in the part of the report dealing with ice cream.)

Summary of Types of Food Premises Registered under section 16 (b) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Bakehouses, Meat Pies	44
Meat Pies and Cooked Meats	19
Butchers, Sausages	42
Sausages and Cooked Meats	22
Grocers, Potted Meats	2
Boiled Hams	3
Cooked Meat Factories	2
Other Premises, Meat Pies	3

Foreign Bodies, etc. in Food

Four incidents associated with the presence of foreign bodies or contaminated food were investigated by the public health inspectors during the year:—

1. Larvae and webbing of the Mediterranean mill moth in tins of baby food. Legal proceedings were instituted and the magistrates imposed a fine of £20 and £2 2s. 0d. costs.

2. A pin in a confectioner's chocolate roll. The pin had become detached from the price ticket. No legal proceedings were instituted and the shopkeeper introduced the use of a different kind of display ticket.

3. A larva of the brown house moth in a custard pie. The history of the mode of cooking made it apparent that the larva had gained access to the pie after cooking. No evidence could be found at the bakery and shop. No legal proceedings were taken.

4. Faecal *b. coli* in oysters. A report to this effect from a neighbouring public health authority was investigated and the source of supply in Wallasey was checked. All subsequent samples of the oysters proved satisfactory.

CONTROL OF ICE CREAM PREMISES

128 samples were submitted to the methylene blue test and only 2 of them were placed in Grades 3 and 4, the "unsatisfactory" grades. At least 12 samples were taken from each of the five Wallasey manufacturers, 1 of whom failed to reach the standard suggested by the Minister. About 6 samples were taken of each of the brands of ice cream manufactured outside the borough and none failed to comply with the desired standard. A summary of the gradings is given in succeeding pages. 386 inspections of ice cream premises were made; 18 of the visits being in respect of new registrations to sell ice cream. One application (in respect of a greengrocer's shop) for registration was refused.

ICE CREAM STATISTICS RELATIVE TO THE YEAR 1956

Registrations Approved during 1956

Sale only	—
Sale and Storage	17
Total	17

Registrations Refused	1
Registrations Cancelled	—

Number of Premises on Register at close of Year

Storage and manufacture	4
Sale only	175
Storage only	3
Storage and sale	309
Manufacture, storage and sale	5
Manufacture and sale	2
Total	498

Visits of Inspection

Visits <i>re</i> applications for registration	18
Routine visits	368
Total	386

ICE CREAM SAMPLING, 1956
Classification of Samples by Location of Manufacturer
Ice Cream Manufactured in Wallasey

Grade	Methylene Blue (hours)						No. of Specimens showing B. Coli in 0.1 ml.				Staph. Aureus	
	4½-hrs. or over	3½-4 hrs.	2½-3 hrs.	1½-2 hrs.	½-1 hr.	0-hrs.	Presumptive		Faecal		Pre-sent	Absent
1	54	—	—	—	—	—	25	29	1	53	—	54
2	—	8	—	—	—	—	7	1	3	5	—	8
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1
Total	54	8	—	—	—	1	33	30	5	58	—	63

Ice Cream Manufactured outside Wallasey

1	63	—	—	—	—	—	25	38	—	63	—	63
2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	63	1	—	1	—	—	27	38	1	64	—	65

Result classified according to identity of Manufacturer

Ice Cream sampled at point of sale within the
County Borough District of Wallasey during 1956

Factories outside Wallasey—Table I.

Manu- facturer Code No.	No. of Samples examined	No. of Samples in Provisional Grades				Grading of Manu- facturer by Ministry of Health recom- mended Standards	
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
1	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
2	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
3	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
4	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
5	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
6	5	5	—	—	—	*	—
7	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
8	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
9	6	6	—	—	—	*	—
10	6	5	1	—	—	*	—
11	2	2	—	—	—	Not classi	fied
12	2	2	—	—	—	Not classi	fied
13	2	1	—	1	—	Not classi	fied
	65	63 (97.0)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)	—	10 3 not class	ified

Factories located in Wallasey—Table II.

Manu- facturer Code No.	No. of Samples examined	No. of Samples in Provisional Grades				Grading of Manu- facturer by Ministry of Health recom- mended Standards	
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
1	15	11	3	—	1	—	*
2	12	11	1	—	—	*	—
3	12	12	—	—	—	*	—
4	12	11	1	—	—	*	—
5	12	9	3	—	—	*	—
	63	54 (85.71)	8 (12.7)	—	1 (1.59)	4 (80.0)	1 (20.0)

NOTES.—1. Figures in parenthesis denote percentages.

2. The manufacturers numbered 11, 12 and 13 in Table I above are not classified owing to insufficient number of samples taken.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SHOPS ACT, 1950

There is one full-time shops inspector employed in the department and all the provisions of the Shops Act are administered. To avoid duplication of visits the district public health inspectors enforce the Act in food shops, which they visit for other purposes. The shops inspector deals with other shops. Routine patrolling to check compliance with hours of closing and Sunday trading has been discontinued, visits only being made on receipt of complaints. One case of illegal trading on Sunday was discovered and a warning issued.

The health and welfare sections of the Shops Act were the main reason for the 4,587 routine visits made during the year. The general standard of compliance with these aspects of the Act continues to be good.

Nature of Contraventions remedied

Section 37 (1) Provision of seats for female employees ..	—
„ 38 (1) (a) Suitable and sufficient ventilation ..	1
„ (b) Maintenance of reasonable temperature ..	—
„ 38 (2) Provision of Sanitary Accommodation ..	2
„ 38 (3) Sanitary Accommodation cleansed and repaired ..	43
„ 38 (4) Provision of suitable and sufficient lighting ..	—
„ 38 (4) Provision of washing facilities ..	1
„ 38 (5) Provision of facilities for meals ..	2
Notices exhibited ..	231
Documents provided ..	96
General sanitary conditions improved ..	10

Hours of Employment

Contraventions detected and remedied ..	—
---	---

Hours of Closing and Sunday trading

Number of contraventions noted ..	—
„ warnings issued ..	—
„ prosecutions instituted ..	—

HOUSING

Repair of Houses

In addition to the enforcement of repairs by exercising the powers in the Public Health Act, which has been referred to previously, work has been undertaken under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Applications for Certificates of disrepair dwindled, and for all practical purposes came to a stop, only 32 being received during the year. Most of these were not from the tenants of the smallest cottage properties, few of which have been the subject of notices of increased rent. The practice was continued of serving notices under section 9 of the principal Act where such conditions were found as to warrant it. An analysis of this work is presented below:—

Certificates of Disrepair

No. of certificates of disrepair issued	26
No. of certificates of disrepair refused	6
No. of certificates of disrepair revoked	36
Section 9 Notices to render houses fit for habitation	
No. of section 9 notices issued	4
No. of section 9 notices complied with	12
Roofs repaired	22
Gutters and Spouts repaired or renewed	27
External Walls and Chimneys repaired	73
Damp Proof courses provided	34
Dampness remedied	24
Yards paved and repaired	22
Internal Walls and Ceilings repaired	47
Doors repaired or renewed	49
Windows repaired or renewed	70
Floors repaired or renewed	19
Staircases repaired	6
Handrails repaired or renewed	1
Fireplaces and Flues repaired or renewed	15
Sinks or Lavatory Basins repaired or renewed	2
Baths repaired or renewed	—
Waste Pipes repaired or renewed	13
Burst Water Pipes repaired	2
W.C's. cleaned	—
W.C. repairs and renewals	33
Soil Pipes repaired or renewed	4
Drains cleaned from obstruction	1
Drainer Boards repaired or renewed	6
Lighting and/or Ventilation improved	24
Miscellaneous repairs	12
Total	507

Execution of work in default

Work at one house was executed by the Council at a cost of £106 11s. 3d., the cost being recovered by instalments.

Clearance and demolition of unfit houses

A start was made on the clearance of the houses in the council's five-year programme. The work is necessarily arduous and the procedure protracted, involving detailed inspection, the service of notices and, where objections are lodged, the conducting of a public local inquiry by an inspector of the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The following orders, etc. were made during the year:—

Demolition Orders

"Greyholme", Burnley Road.

Demolitions by Voluntary Undertakings

*40 Burden Road
 *115 Bermuda Road
 113 Bermuda Road
 *"The Cottage", Old Hall, Barnston Lane
 *"Clifton Villa", Town Meadows
 8 Burden Road
 1-12 Wallasey Terrace (12 houses)
 9 Eleanor Road
 "Wyngate", Bella Vista Road

Demolition of unfit houses owned by the Council

*"The Cottage", Reeds Lane

Closing Orders

2 Abbotsford Street
 "Hill Cottage", Poulton Bridge Road
 4 Shaw Street
 2 John Street (Corporation Property)

Closure by Voluntary Undertaking

Basement at "Bella Vista", Fowell Road
 26 Belle Vue Road
 79 Bermuda Road

Confirmed Clearance Orders

Order No. 75—1, 2 Whitford Cottages, Back King St. (2 houses)
 „ 76—1, 2, 3 Back King St. (3 houses)
 „ 77—1, 2 Stone Cottages, Poulton Bridge Rd. (2 houses)
 „ 78—64, 66 Cobham Rd. (2 houses)
 „ 79—1-8 Victoria Grove (8 houses)
 „ 80—1-9 Mersey St. (5 houses)
 „ 81—1-23, 2-8 Brotherton St. (16 houses)
 „ 82—1-5 Gomer Gardens (5 houses)
 „ —6-12, 1-7 Chapel St. (8 houses)
 „ 83—11-15 Chapel Street (3 houses)

*Actual demolition of buildings was completed during the year.

Confirmed Compulsory Purchase Orders

- Order No. 84—3-13 Sutton Rd. (6 houses)
 4-8 Mount Pleasant Rd. (3 houses)
 1-7 Tower Buildings (7 houses)
 Order No. 85—7-13 Stringhey Road (4 houses)
 1-15 Northview Terrace (8 houses)

A total number of 111 houses occupied by 124 families were affected by these orders and undertakings for demolition or closure.

Progress Report of Action under Housing Acts, 1930-1954

Position as at 31st December, 1956

	No. of dwelling houses demolished		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit	Other	
(1) Land coloured "pink"	765	—	1,775

Unfit Houses not included in Clearance Areas

	Number of houses	Number of persons displaced
(1) Housing Act, 1936—		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Sec. 11	298	979
(b) Houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sec. 11	99	195
(c) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Sec. 11	6	16
(d) Parts of buildings closed (Sec. 12) ...	13	17
(e) Houses made fit—		
(i) as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12	251	—
(ii) as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sections 9 to 12	851	—
(2) Housing Act, 1949—		
(f) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	—	—
(g) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	—	—
(h) Demolition Orders quashed under Section 2	—	—

Overcrowding and Allocation of Tenancies

The council continued to operate its group-plus-points scheme for rehousing. A change was made in the allocations to different classes of applicant; the allocation of new houses to overcrowded families was increased from 45% to 55%, whilst the allocation to applicants who are subtenants (though not overcrowded) was correspondingly reduced from 30% to 20%. This is the first major change in allocations since the scheme was introduced in 1952. Allocations to other groups remained unaltered, so that the different streams were assigned the following shares of lettings which became available during the year:—

Overcrowded	..	..	55%
Subtenants	..	..	20%
Health	..	..	12%
Unfit houses	..	..	8%
Emergency	..	..	5%

The change made it possible to advance the qualifying date for inclusion in the Overcrowded group by twelve months for the second year in succession. Thus, applicants needed to have been continuously overcrowded since the 31st December, 1952 to be eligible for inclusion in the Overcrowded group. During the year, the housing circumstances of 624 families were investigated in connection with housing applications, 365 of these as a result of applications for inclusion in the Overcrowded group; 151 families were found to be overcrowded for the purposes of the points scheme, which employs a standard better than that of the Housing Act.

One class of applicant in real need of rehousing is being even more frequently encountered: aged couples or single persons invariably affected by the normal disabilities of old age, who are living either in rooms or upper floors or in multi-storeyed houses which are far too big for them to clean properly. The amount of suitable property in the possession of the Corporation is quite inadequate to relieve more than a fraction of the cases of this type, all of whom have a genuine need of small, manageable accommodation on the ground floor.

Applications for rehousing on health grounds showed an increase on the previous year. 259 applications were considered and these are analysed below. It is only possible for the most urgent cases to be recommended for rehousing, and only 40 applicants in this class received the approval of the Medical Officer of Health. In 19 of these instances, the illness giving rise to the need for rehousing was pulmonary tuberculosis.

Housing Applications, 1956

Analysis of 624 families investigated as a result of references from Housing Department.

	Overcrowded		Not over-crowded	Applications on Medical Grounds			
				Tuberculosis		Other Cases	
	Housing Act, 1936	Points Scheme		Approved	Rejected	Approved	Rejected
Tenants	11	27	143	6	13	11	52
Sub-Tenants living in r'ms	32	124	71	13	37	10	117
Totals	43	151	214	19	50	21	169

Provision of New Houses

The Borough Architect has provided the following report on the provision of new housing accommodation:—

	During 1956	Post-War Period incl. 1956	In Progress 31/12/56
Houses erected by private enterprise	134	1,277	91
Units of accommodation erected by Local Authority under Housing Acts	234	2,917	306
Tenant Ownership Houses erected by Local Authority	20	152	—

It is quite evident that the future prospects of applicants for rehousing must be seriously affected by the number of houses which will be needed to rehouse families displaced due to slum clearance. This did not begin to be felt during 1956, because only 30 families were rehoused from the 111 houses which were represented and confirmed to be unfit during the year. From 1957 onwards, however, slum clearance displacements are likely to command a half of the houses built by the council if the current rate of building is not to be increased. Only the remaining half will be available for rehousing other applicants, and the Housing Subsidies Act, which became operative during the year and which removed the government subsidy on houses built for general needs, will not encourage a local authority to make additional provision for them.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 292, a decrease of 13 compared with the figure for 1955. Owing to work in connection with food hygiene and slum clearance, the amount of time spent on factory inspections was further reduced, only 404 visits being made. An abstract of the results of these inspections in the form required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service is set out below:

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937
Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	No. on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices*
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced	28	56	4
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	247	295	14
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	17	53	2
Totals	292	404	20

*In addition 33 verbal notices were given to occupiers regarding various matters.

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	11	8	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	5	5	—	2
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—				
(a) Insufficient ...	8	7	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	100	76	—	2
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	6	—
Totals	124	96	6	4

Outwork

Wearing apparel-making, etc.

Number of outworkers in Aug.
list required by section 10 (i) (c) 9
Visits made 11

WATER SUPPLY

Town Area Supply

Quantity

The total consumption of water in the town area represented 37.0 gallons per head per day, of which 28.42 was for domestic purposes, 0.49 gallons for shipping, 8.05 gallons for industry and commerce, and for the Cleansing Department 0.04 gallons.

Source and Treatment

The source of supply, which was described at length in the report for 1950, continues to comprise a bulk supply from the Birkenhead Corporation's Lake Alwen reservoir and a similar supply from the Corporation's borehole at Liscard. The Lake Alwen water is treated by Birkenhead Corporation before delivery. The borehole water is softened and chlorinated. The mixed water is again treated with a precautionary dose of chlorine before distribution.

Chemical and bacteriological examination

Routine sampling of the supply both at the Seaview Road Pumping Station and at numerous points of distribution in the borough was carried out by the staff of the Water Department and by public health inspectors. 199 samples were subjected to bacteriological examination and 59 full chemical analysis by the Water Department. Details of average results of chemical examinations carried out by the Water Department were as follows:—

	Parts per 100,000	
	Alwen Supply	Gorsehill Supply
Colour (Hazen)	20	15
Hardness Total	2.75	13.7
Ammonia Nitrogen .. .. .	.001	.002
Albuminoid Ammonia Nitrogen ..	.005	.002
Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent	.12
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours at 37°C	.21	.07
Chlorides as Cl ₂	0.8	12.2
Total Solid Matter	6	39.0
pH Value	6.8	6.8
Iron	Trace	Trace
Copper and Lead	Absent	Absent

Analyst's note:—"The water is wholesome, clear and odourless."

Of the 199 bacteriological examinations conducted by the Water Department, 191 gave negative results.

Results of 20 samples taken by Public Health inspectors of untreated water at the borehole in Seaview Road and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service are as follows:—

Details of Bacteriological Samples

TOWN AREA SUPPLY

(i) Borehole at Seaview Road

No. of Organisms	No. of Samples		
	2 days at 37°C.	Pres. Coli.	Faecal Coli.
0	—	20	20
1—	10	—	—
5—	7	—	—
10—20	3	—	—
	20	20	20

69 samples were taken by Public Health inspectors from taps of premises within the town area. A summary of the results is given in the following table:—

(ii) Random Distribution Points

No. of Organisms	No. of Samples		
	2 days at 37°C.	Pres. Coli.	Faecal Coli.
0	2	64	67
1—	29	5	2
5—	19	—	—
10—	18	—	—
50—60	1	—	—
	69	69	69

The 5 samples showing the presence of presumptive coli and the 2 samples showing faecal coli were taken from houses which were involved in the flooding at Moreton, as also were 14 of the samples showing 10 or more organisms after incubation for 2 days at 37°C. During the period of the emergency all householders in the appropriate district had been advised to boil all water used for drinking and food-preparation, and this was continued until bacteriological examinations indicated the water to be safe for drinking.

One sample of the town supply taken by a public health inspector was submitted for full chemical examination. The result was as follows: Analytical results expressed in parts per million:—

Total solid matter in solution	407.6
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.20
4 hours	0.36
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	None
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	1.53
Combined chlorine	150
Hardness Carbonate	66
Non-carbonate	74
pH value 6.7	

The water was found to be free from pollution and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Saughall Massie Supply

323 dwellinghouses in the extreme western end of the borough receive their water supply from the West Cheshire Water Board. This water is obtained from deep wells at the Board's pumping stations with auxiliary supplies from Birkenhead as and when required. All water is subject to treatment by either simple chlorination or chloramination. On the basis of consumption throughout the entire area supplied by the Board, the total consumption per head per day is 53.7 gallons, of which 21.2 gallons were for industry and commerce.

During the year 25 samples of water from the pumping station were submitted by the Board to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London, S.W.1, for bacteriological examination and gave the following results:—

No. of Colonies (on Agar)	No. of samples		
	3 days at 20°C.	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.
—0	5	17	13
1—4	8	3	7
5—9	2	2	1
10—50	10	3	4
	25	25	25

In all samples, B.Coli and B.Welchii were absent from 100 mls.

An average of the quarterly chemical examination of the water is as follows (results in parts per million):—

Appearance	Bright with few mineral particles.
Colour	Nil
Turbidity	1.5
Odour	Slightly Chlorinous

pH reaction	7.225
Electric conductivity	587.5
Chlorine present as Chloride	78.5
Hardness: Non-carbonate	70.0
Carbonate	182.5
Total	252.5
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000
Free Carbon Dioxide	15.75
Total Solids	393.75
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	182.5
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.0025
Oxygen absorbed	0.1125
Residual Chlorine	0.0875
Iron	0.0075
Zinc	Absent
Other Metals.. .. .	Absent

During the year 34 samples of water were taken by public health inspectors and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Birkenhead, for bacteriological examination.

Details of Bacteriological Samples

West Cheshire Water Board

*Samples taken by public health inspectors
at selected distribution points*

No. of Organisms	No. of samples		
	2 days at 37°C.	Pres. Coli	Faecal Coli
0	2	33	34
1—4	17	1	—
5—9	10	—	—
10—15	3	—	—
16—30	1	—	—
31—60	1	—	—
	34	34	34

One sample of water supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board was taken by a public health inspector and submitted for full chemical examination. The result was as follows:—

Analytical results expressed in parts per million:—

Total solid matter in solution	389
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	None
4 hours	None
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	None
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	None

Nitrous nitrogen as N.	..	..	..	..	..	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	..	..	..	..	..	3.06
Combined chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	54
Total hardness	..	..	..	..	..	137
Hardness (non-Carbonate)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	..	..	..	..	..	178

pH value 7.3

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Due to economies in the capital expenditure programme, no large-scale sewerage works were undertaken by the Borough Engineer during the year. 110 yards of 9-in. diameter and 130 yards of 6-in. diameter sewer were laid for new buildings in Bayswater Gardens at a cost of £800; 75 yards of 15-in. sewer were laid in Cross Lane at a cost of £200. Later in the year, work commenced on a pumping station at Deal Point, to give relief to the North Wirral outfall sewer. The Borough Engineer's Department also undertook improvements to some of the more important drainage ditches and water courses in Moreton, at a cost of £1,000.

House Drainage

Visits by Public Health inspectors in connection with same	537
Drains cleansed from obstruction after service of notice	243
Minor repairs effected to existing drains	39
Entire reconstruction of existing drains	1
Partial reconstruction of existing drains	11
Drain Tests: (a) Smoke	19
(b) Water	1
(c) Colour	38
Cesspools emptied after service of notice	—
Cesspools repaired	—
Cesspools abolished	—
Choked sewers referred to Borough Engineer	17
Ditches and watercourses inspected	11
Ditches and streams cleansed	2
Ditches and streams—pollution remedied	—

RODENT CONTROL

Sewer Maintenance Treatments

Two routine sewer maintenance treatments were again carried out using zinc phosphide and arsenic as the rodenticides. In addition, a further experimental sewer treatment was carried out using Warfarin.

Prior to the first routine treatment involving the use of zinc phosphide, a 10% test baiting of 621 manholes was undertaken. The number of takes—26 complete and 4 partial—is a measure of the success of the work previously done. 149 manholes were baited as the result of the test and 27 takes, including 14 complete takes, were recorded. The second routine treatment involved baiting 157 manholes; 20 complete and 8 partial takes were recorded.

The experimental treatment using Warfarin, included the previous sewer trial area with a number of additional manholes on the fringe selected after test-bait. As a result, 222 manholes were baited and 29 takes (4 complete) were recorded. During the second treatment, 101 manholes were baited and partial takes were only observed at 2 manholes.

Surface Infestations

During the year 503 complaints of surface infestation were received compared with 513 in 1955. Details of the inspections and treatments carried out are given below in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 454 separate treatments were carried out at 397 premises by rodent operatives of the Public Health Department. 353 of these premises were treated once in the year, while reinfestation involving two treatments occurred in 35 premises; three treatments were required at six premises, four treatments at three premises and five treatments at one premises. The multiple treatments were invariably due to re-infestations. Warfarin has come to be accepted as the basic rat poison. During the year it was used in all except three of the 454 treatments by council rodent operatives. Reinspections have been carried out on the first, third, seventh, eleventh and fourteenth days, a system which was discussed in the annual report for 1952.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling-houses	Agricultural	All other (incl. Business & Industrial)	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	227	29,640	55	3,754	33,676
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority as a result of (a) notification or (b) survey under Damage by Pests Act (c) otherwise, i.e. when visited primarily for some other purpose ...	(a) 33	327	3	87	450
	(b) 11	537	32	94	674
	(c) 357	8,036	Nil	8,271	16,664
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats ...	Major Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Minor 2	83	5	19	119
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice ...	22	218	Nil	72	312
V. Number of infested properties (under III & IV) treated by the Local Authority ...	34	276	5	82	397
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:					
(1) Treatment ...	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII. Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX. Numbers of "block" control schemes carried out ...	—	—	—	—	3

NOTES

Note 1. A property means a property separately entered in the Valuation Roll for the area.

Note 2. Council houses are included under Dwelling Houses. Premises used by Local Authority for purposes of trade are included under Business or Industrial Premises.

Sewers are not included.

Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production are included under Agricultural Properties. Combined dwelling and business premises where occupied by the same person are included under Business Premises, otherwise they are entered separately.

Note 3. II, III, IV and V excepting II (c) relate to the number of properties inspected as defined in Note 1 and not to the number of inspections, infestations or treatment at each property.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL OF SWIMMING POOLS

88 visits of inspection were made to the council's four swimming baths by public health inspectors, compared with 97 in 1955. Tests for residual chlorine amounted to 70, samples for bacteriological examination numbered 100 or 19 more than during the previous year.

At Guinea Gap first class bath 31 tests for chlorine were made, the average result being 0.64 per million at the inlet and 0.5 parts per million at the outlet. The corresponding averages of 26 tests at the 2nd class bath were 0.74 and 0.6 parts per million.

The maintenance of residual chlorine in the open air pools at New Brighton and Harrison Drive is more difficult. At New Brighton pool the average of 10 checks gives inlet contents of 0.55 parts per million on the east side and 0.255 on the west side, with an outlet content of 0.09. At Derby Pool 3 tests were done and the average residual chlorine was 1.66 and 0.8 parts per million at the inlet and centre of the pool, with only a trace at the outlet. The results of the chlorine tests at the different pools are consistent with the results of bacteriological examinations of the water, details of which are tabulated below:—

Derby Pool

No. of Organisms	No. of Samples		
	2 days at 37°C.	Pres. Coli.	Faecal Coli
0	1	8	8
1—4	3	—	—
5—9	3	—	—
10—20	1	—	—
	8	8	8

New Brighton Pool

No. of Organisms	No. of Samples		
	2 days at 37°C.	Pres. Coli	Faecal Coli
0	3	20	20
1—4	8	—	—
5—9	6	—	—
10—19	1	—	—
20—30	2	—	—
	20	20	20

No. of Organisms	No. of Samples		
	2 days at 37°C.	Pres. Coli	Faecal Coli
0	4	71	72
1—4	39	1	—
5—9	17	—	—
10—24	10	—	—
25—35	2	—	—
	72	72	72

Chemical Examination—Specimen Analysis
Guinea Gap Swimming Bath (1st Class)

Analytical results expressed in parts per million:—

Total solid matter in solution	26,840.00
Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	0.40
4 hours	0.72
Albuminoid nitrogen as N.	0.22
Ammoniacal nitrogen as N.	0.02
Nitrous nitrogen as N.	None
Nitric nitrogen as N.	None
Combined chlorine	13,700.00
Free Chlorine	0.2
pH value	7.4

"The sample was clear, bright and colourless."

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

New legislation for the prevention of atmospheric pollution is still awaited. Meanwhile, work in this important sector of public health administration has followed the usual pattern, and has hardly proceeded beyond the fringe of the problem. It consists of conducting routine observations on industrial and commercial chimneys to enforce the byelaw which permits the emission of black smoke for two minutes in every half hour; visits to boiler houses, and discussions with managers and boiler operators. Even this class of work was of necessity curtailed during 1955, as it has been for the last three years. The number of smoke observations has fallen progressively from 352 in 1952 to 199 in 1956. The number of formal observations covering a full period of thirty minutes amounted to 76, the remainder being casual observations of about ten minutes each. Visits were made to boiler houses on only 13 occasions, which is much less than during the previous year.

At the end of the year, the Clean Air Act, 1956 came into force insofar as it relates to domestic premises and the making of smoke control areas. The next annual report will indicate whether any progress under the Act has been possible.

No. of formal (half-hourly) smoke observations	76
No. of casual smoke observations	123
No. of visits to boiler-houses	13
No. of interviews	7
No. of nuisances abated	1
No. of boiler plants improved	1
No. of visits to Deposit gauges	62

Table 1

Mean Monthly Rates of Deposit for Winter and Summer Periods
October, 1955—September, 1956

Station	Rainfall		Total Dissolved Matter		Total Undissolved Matter		Total Solids	
	M.M.		Tons per sq. mile per month					
	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer
Oakdale Road Oct., 1955— March, 1956	55		11.23		12.14		23.37	
April, 1956— Sept., 1956		91		11.73		12.25		23.98
Poulton Junior School Oct., 1955— March, 1956	43		8.50		13.15		21.65	
April, 1956— Sept., 1956		97		6.86		11.37		18.23
Saughall Massie Oct., 1955— March., 1956	46		8.13		4.28		12.41	
April, 1956— Sept., 1956		89		8.60		2.59		11.19
Seaview Road Oct., 1955— March, 1956	51		10.48		7.35		17.83	
April, 1956— Sept., 1956		91		9.29		7.12		16.41

Table 2

Mean Monthly Rates of Total Deposits for Winter and Summer Periods
October, 1955—September, 1956

Town	Station	Total Solids	
		Tons per sq. mile per month	
		Winter	Summer
Wallasey	Oakdale Road	23.37	23.98
	Poulton Junior School	21.65	18.23
	Saughall Massie	12.41	11.19
	Seaview Road	17.83	16.41
	Philips Park	37.8	31.6
Liverpool	Aigburth Vale	10.9	12.3
Brixham	Rea Barn	8.6	8.4

Table 3

Estimation of Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method for Winter and Summer Periods, October, 1955—September, 1956.
Rate of Absorption of Sulphur Dioxide expressed as $\text{Mg.SO}_3/\text{day}/100 \text{ Cm}^2$.

Station	Winter Period	Summer Period	Oct., 1955 Sept., 1956
Oakdale Road Oct., 1955—March, 1956 April 1956—September, 1956	3.98	2.15	3.07
Poulton Junior School Oct., 1955—March, 1956 April, 1956—September, 1956	3.57	1.93	2.75
Saughall Massie Oct., 1955—March, 1956 April, 1956—September, 1956	1.23	0.74	0.99
Seaview Road Oct., 1955—March, 1956 April, 1956—September, 1956	3.16	1.59	2.38
Town Hall, Wallasey Oct., 1955—March, 1956 April, 1956—September, 1956	6.06	3.27	4.67
Bitterne Reservoir, Southampton Oct., 1955—March, 1956 April, 1956—September, 1956	1.18	0.43	0.81

NOTE

- (1) In the above classification the figure for the winter period consists of an average of the recordings for the months of October, 1955, to March, 1956. The figure for the summer period consist of an average of the recordings for the months of April, 1956, to September 1956.
- (2) The Philips Park Station records the greatest degree of pollution of a number of strions in Manchester; it is situated in close proximity to large scale electricity, gas and colliery undertakings in addition to many other works from which atmospheric pollution may arise.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

The work of disinfection after infectious disease is dealt with in Part II of the Report. The same operator also does the work of disinfesting premises of insect pests. The incidence of bed bugs continues to decline; D.T.T. is the insecticide used for this class of infestation. Benzine hexachloride in kerosene and dieldrin powder have been used for the majority of infestations of cockroaches. Seven premises were also treated with an insecticidal lacquer. In addition to the work done by the Corporation's operator, details of which are set out below, surveillance was exercised over the hydrogen cyanide fumigation of a flour mill.

Disinfestation

Inspections

(1) No. of complaints investigated	166
(2) No. of private houses inspected as a result of (1)	108
(3) No. of local authority houses inspected as a result of (1)	17
(4) No. of premises other than dwelling houses inspected as a result of (1)	41
(5) No. of premises found to be verminous:	
(a) Bed Bugs	16
(b) Fleas	13
(c) Cockroaches	86
(d) Other Vermin	51
	<hr/>
	166

Notices Served and Abated

	<i>Served</i>	<i>Treated By L.A.</i>	<i>Abated Privately</i>
(6) Total No. of notices to disinfest given verbally	17	5	12
(7) Total No. of preliminary notices in writing	8	—	8
(8) Total No. of statutory notices	4	—	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	29	5	24

Treatment by Council's Operative

(9) No. of treatments on repayment	322
(10) No. of treatments without charge	6
(11) Total No. of treatments	<hr/> 328
(12) No. of premises covered by treatments outlined in (11)	<hr/> 150
(13) No. of treatments with D.D.T. Spray	35
(14) No. of treatments with other spray insecticides	275
(15) No. of treatments with other methods	18
	<hr/>
	328

(16) Fees received, £152 2s. 10d.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT

During this, the third year of the administration of this Act, 5 samples were submitted to prescribed analysts, and were found to comply with the prescribed standards of cleanliness.

Type of Filling Material

	<i>No. of Samples</i>
B.S.S. 1425: 1951	
Cotton Felt	2
Rag Flock	—

Washed Flock	1
Coir Fibre	2
B.S.S. 1762: 1951	
Woollen Mixture Felt.. .. .	—

12 premises are registered under the Act. In the main they are occupied by upholsterers whose main business is the repair or refilling of upholstered articles of furniture.

CONTROL OF CAMPING

104 visits were made to 9 sites which were licensed for the use of tents or caravans from the 1st April to 30th September. Unlicensed camping was less frequent during 1956, necessitating only 43 inspections of four incidents. In addition to long-term camping, two camps were held by the North Western Centre of the Caravan Club and by a troop of the Boys' Brigade on land situated on the promenade which is owned by the Corporation.

No. of licenses relating to sites issued during 1956 ..	9
No. of licenses relating to sites refused during 1956 ..	2
No. of cases of unlicensed camping detected during 1956	4
No. of visits to unlicensed land	43
No. of visits to licensed land	104
Inspection of structures	2,056
Nuisances abated after notice	—

KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND PET SHOPS

5 new applications for licences to keep pet shops were received of which 4 were granted during the year. This brings the total number of pet shops to 23, which is a disproportionately high number for the size of the town. All the licences are subject to standard conditions approved by the Council. These conditions are based on local conditions, regard having been taken of recommendations of the Association of Municipal Corporations and the R.S.P.C.A.

Visits to pet shops	63
„ other premises	85
Notices served	2
Stable, manure pits, cleansed	1
„ „ repaired or renewed	—
Piggeries cleansed or whitewashed	—
Piggeries repaired or reconstructed	—
Other animal nuisances abated	4

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS

	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Notices serve</i>	<i>Nuisances detected</i>
Schools	79	—	—
Cinemas, dance halls, etc.	40	3	5
Sub-let rooms	12	1	2
Public conveniences	81	—	1
Local Land Charges (search)	1,349	—	—

Measurements of rooms for permitted numbers	280
Interviews with building contractors	299
Offensive trades	—
Canal boats inspected	—
Other Visits	1,551
Cancer deaths investigated	110—1st six months
Visits in connection with same	269

PART VI

Welfare Service

National Archives, RG 226, 1940

PART VI.

Welfare Service

National Assistance Act, 1948

WELFARE SERVICES, 1956

Residential Accommodation

The year's most important item in this field was the opening, by the Mayor in July, of "Newholme", a newly built home situated in Moreton and able to accommodate 40 old people. This home is of advanced design, is gaily decorated throughout and the furnishings are contemporary in style. The residents without, I think, exception are enthusiastic about their new home and the policy of making the home bright and modern has been amply justified.

Since 1948 Wallasey's main source of residential accommodation has been St. Catherine's Annexe, Birkenhead. With the opening of "Newholme" it became possible to vacate this accommodation, and as the hospital authorities were in urgent need of the space it was agreed to move all the Wallasey residents to "Newholme". This has resulted in "Newholme" having to accommodate rather more infirm cases than was originally intended. Consequently, the opening of the new hostel has not helped the problem of reducing the list of those waiting for accommodation.

In fact, far from the waiting list being reduced, there were 82 persons on the list for accommodation at the end of 1956, almost double last year's figure. I make further reference to this matter under the heading "Community Welfare".

The other two hostels, "Lamorna" and "Redcliffe" have been busy all year. Vacancies have always been filled immediately.

For the future, plans are now being made for a hostel for the more infirm old persons, to be built in Leasowe. It is hoped that this hostel will accommodate about 50 people.

The following are the statistics relating to accommodation provided by, or on behalf of, the Council in 1956.

	No. <i>resident</i> on 1.1.56	Admissions <i>during</i> 1956	Discharges <i>during</i> 1956	No. <i>resident on</i> 31.12.56
"Newholme"	Nil	54	15	39
"Lamorna"	17	11	11	17
"Redcliffe"	17	7	6	18
St. Caths. Hosp. Annexe ..	40	34	70	4
Eastham House	1	—	1	Nil
David Lewis Epileptic Colony ..	4	—	—	4
Home for Epileptics, Maghull ..	4	—	—	4
Langho Epileptic Colony ..	Nil	1	—	1
Turner Memorial Home of Rest for Cripples	2	1	—	3
"Maryland", Formby	1	—	—	1
"Peacehaven", Southport ..	1	—	1	Nil
"Boxhurst", Dorking	1	—	1	Nil
"Holm Hill", West Kirby ..	1	2	—	3

"Southlands", Penketh	Nil	1	—	1
Old People's Hostel, Liverpool ..	1	—	—	1
"Bannow", St. Leonards-on-Sea, (Blind)	1	—	—	1
"Leeds House", New Brighton ..	1	1	1	1
Charles Best House (Diabetics), Parkgate	Nil	5	3	2
"Tany Bryn" (Holiday Home for Cripples), Abergele	Nil	1	1	Nil
Oldbury Grange, R.N.I.B., Reha- bilitation Centre	Nil	2	2	Nil
4 Tower St., Lower Flat	5	4	9	Nil
4 Tower St., Upper Flat	7	8	11	4
8 Tower St., Lower Flat	4	—	—	4
8 Tower St., Upper Flat	4	—	—	4
8 Church Rd., Flat A	4	1	—	5
8 Church Rd., Flat B	3	1	—	4
8 Church Rd., Flat C	4	—	1	3
10 Church Rd., Flat A	4	1	—	5
10 Church Rd., Flat B	Nil	4	—	4
10 Church Rd., Flat C	4	—	—	4
Totals	131	139	133	137

Temporary Accommodation

The ten flats in Tower Street and Church Road have once again all been full most of the year. The difficulty here is the small turnover of occupants. It was originally visualized that families would remain in these flats for a very short time; about 3 months maximum. Instead they remain for periods up to 3 years.

Almost all these families are purely housing cases. They cannot be called problem families and their plight is due solely, to the continued shortage of houses to rent. In confirmation of this point it is interesting to note that none of the families in occupation at the moment is in arrears with rent.

Further temporary accommodation should be available in 1957 if the plan to purchase and convert a house in Martins Lane is successful. It is intended that this house should be converted into a number of bed sitting rooms to provide emergency accommodation. Men will not be allowed to live in the house and it is hoped that this will spur the families on to find accommodation for themselves. A communal kitchen will be provided and it is hoped to employ a resident Warden. (This accommodation is intended as a Reception Ward in lieu of the Reception Ward accommodation at St. Catherine's Annexe.)

15 Percy Road

As previously reported this house is occupied by a large family who cannot otherwise be housed. During the year extensive repairs became necessary and the family was moved to 4 John Street while the repairs were carried out. They returned to Percy Road on the 7th January, 1957.

Registration of Old Person's Homes

There were, at the end of 1956, six homes in Wallasey registered under the provisions of the National Assistance Act, 1948. During 1956 one home was closed by the owner and in another case the owner was granted permission to increase the number of residents from 5 to 7.

Removal of Persons in need of care and attention (Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948)

The elderly woman removed by Magistrate's Order to Part III accommodation in 1954 is still accommodated and every 3 months the Order is renewed by the Magistrate.

There were no new cases of compulsory removal during the year.

Burial of the Dead

During the year four burials were carried out in cases where no other arrangements could be made. Costs of two of these burials have been recovered and it is hoped, in addition, to recover the cost of the third.

Persons buried included a man living in lodgings in Moreton whose relative was an invalid brother in South Wales. The remaining three cases were all residents of Part III Accommodation.

Protection of Property

It is the duty of the Welfare Committee to ensure the safety of movable property of persons when they enter homes or hospitals if no suitable arrangements are being made. This entails notifying the Police that the house is empty, checking that doors and windows are secure and possibly taking into protection valuables, cash or furniture.

All items except cash are stored at 42/44 Church Street, small items of value being kept in a safe. Cash is handed to the Borough Treasurer who places it in Suspense Account.

Occasionally advice is given to the relatives of mental patients on the procedure to be adopted when applying for appointment as Receiver of the Patient's estate.

The Court of Protection and the Official Solicitor are notified of cases which may be their concern. Both these bodies are given any assistance they require in dealing with these cases.

Recovery of Expenses from Persons liable to maintain Dependants

It has not been necessary to apply to the Petty Sessional Court for any recovery of expenses during the year.

Entertainments and Outings

The summer coach outing to North Wales was again pronounced a success by the residents of "Newholme," "Lamorna" and "Redcliffe" They also enjoyed the River Trip, which in 1956, was organised by Wallasey Corporation.

At Christmas the residents were entertained on a number of occasions by groups of amateur entertainers.

Gifts of fruit, flowers, sweets and reading matter were gratefully accepted from Schools, Churches and individuals, particularly at Christmas and Harvest Festival.

Community Welfare

The year's major problem has been the increasing demand for hostel accommodation. The waiting list at the end of 1955 comprised 46 names; at the end of 1956 it comprised 82 names.

This is not an unexpected development as it is well known that the proportion and number of old people in the community is steadily increasing. Population projection studies have shown that this state of affairs will increase until about 1970 when the ratio of working to retired population is expected to be between 3 and 5 to 1.

Obviously this is going to be a very major social problem and will entail a great increase in the various organisations which exist to deal with the problems of old age. New hostels will have to be built of course, but the solution seems to lie in the expansion and development of the services which assist old people in their own homes. I refer to such services as the Home Help Service, the Meals on Wheels Service and the Home Nursing Service. In addition it may prove necessary to provide a laundry scheme and chiropody treatment for old people.

Special housing will have to be developed. Small bungalows in the grounds of "Newholme" and any future hostel would be a valuable contribution as the staff could exercise a degree of supervision. Another possibility is in the conversion of old, large houses into bed sittingrooms with a Warden who could again exercise supervision.

The expansion of these various services and the provision of accommodation such as I mention above will leave the hostels free to deal with the serious cases. It will also enable people to live as normal members of the community for years after they would otherwise require residential accommodation.

BLIND WELFARE

Registration of Blind Persons

During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1956, 42 people were examined by Mr. W. Dunlop Hamilton, of these 27 were found to be blind, while 1 could not be certified.

The remaining 14 were placed on the Observation Register for the Partially Sighted.

Of the 27 certified blind, blindness occurred in the following age groups:—

(2 were re-certified)

Birth						
5-10 years	..	..	..	..	..	1
10-20	..	..	..	..	..	1
21-30	..	..	..	..	..	—
31-39	..	..	..	..	..	1
40-49	..	..	..	..	..	—
50-59	..	..	..	..	..	3
60-64	..	..	..	..	..	2
65-69	..	..	..	..	..	5
70 and over	..	..	..	..	..	14
Total	..	..	..	..	..	27

Statement re: Incidence of Blindness in Registered New Cases

	Cause of Disability		
	<i>Glaucoma</i>	<i>Cataract</i>	<i>Others</i>
(i) Number of cases registered during the year for whom the following is recommended			
(a) No treatment	5	4	9
(b) Treatment (Medical, Surgical, Optical)	—	4	3
Two Blind Persons were recertified			
(ii) Number of cases registered during the year at (a) and (b) above which on follow up action have received treatment			
	<i>Glaucoma</i>	<i>Cataract</i>	<i>Others</i>
	—	4	3
	<i>Ophthalmia neonatorum</i>		
(i) Total number of cases notified during the year ..			Nil
(ii) Number of cases in which:—			
(a) Vision lost			Nil
(b) Vision impaired			Nil
(c) Treatment continuing at end of year ..			Nil
No. on Register at 1st January, 1956 ..	<i>M.</i> 99	<i>F.</i> 110	<i>Total</i> 209
No. added during year:—			
New cases	5	20	25
Transfers from other towns	6	3	9
	110	133	243

Less No. of Removals from Register owing to:—

Leaving Wallasey	..	..	..	5	2	7
Deaths	..	..	..	10	9	19
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				15	11	26
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				95	122	217
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

From 1st January, to 31st December, 1956, two certificated Home Teachers were employed.

During the year 3,435 visits were made to Blind Persons. In addition to these visits the Home Teachers attended 25 Social functions given by organizations on behalf of the blind.

44 Classes teaching Occupational Therapy were held at the Friends' Meeting House, Withens Lane. The attendance continues to increase, and the following crafts have been taught:—

Seagrass seating, string bag making, rug making, basketry, bath mat making and knitting. Many new ideas in basketry have been introduced.

At the Fete and Gala held at Central Park in July, 1956, £24 worth of goods were sold—less than the previous year, but attendance was poor owing to the inclement weather.

Handicrafts have also been taught to blind people in their homes, in addition to Braille and Moon lessons.

Cookery Classes

Two three monthly courses have been held at the Gas Showrooms, King Street, Wallasey. Six blind persons have attended each course, which has proved very enjoyable and beneficial. The Home Teachers have attended all 23 classes.

Training and Employment

During the year two men were given a course of Social Rehabilitation at the Royal National Institution Centre at Oldbury Grange, Bridgnorth.

One girl completed her training at the School for Shorthand Typists, London, and was successfully reinstated at Owen Owens Ltd., Liverpool.

Another completed her Light Engineering Course at Letchworth and has been placed with an engineering firm in Liverpool.

A man was given a course of Industrial Rehabilitation at Torquay, and has returned to his former employer.

One man a St. Dunstaner returned to Wallasey in November unemployed (was trained as a Capstan Lathe Operator.)

A St. Dunstaner Physiotherapist and a Piano Tuner have removed to this area.

A blind lady has been accepted for training with the Guide Dogs Association for the Blind, and hopes to commence in January, 1957.

Welfare Services for the Partially Sighted National Assistance Act, 1948

There are 33 persons on the Observation Register for the Partially Sighted. During the year 80 visits were made to Partially Sighted persons. People on this register are permitted to attend all classes and social functions held for the Blind.

Partially Sighted Register

One man has been reinstated at the G.P.O. Liverpool as a Telephonist.

A girl completed a Shorthand and Typing course at the College of Commerce, Liverpool, and has been successfully placed with a Liverpool firm.

A boy, who was transferred from the Register for the Blind to the Partially Sighted, was admitted to Hethersett Training Centre for Adolescents.

A Talking Book Machine belonging to the Corporation is being lent to blind people in their homes for three monthly periods, and as it has proved so enjoyable, another one has been ordered.

Wireless Sets

The British Wireless Sets for the Blind Fund generously allocated 12 new Bush Model Wireless Sets to the Blind in Wallasey during 1956.

Free Travel Vouchers

Through the courtesy of the Wallasey Motor Bus and Ferries Committees, Registered Blind Persons still continue to receive travel vouchers enabling them to travel free on the buses and ferries.

Meals on Wheels

A number of blind persons have benefited by the Meals on Wheels Service run by the Womens Voluntary Service.

Thanks are due to all those Voluntary Agencies who have given their services to the blind of Wallasey, i.e., Social functions, theatre tickets and gifts in the past twelve months and especially to members of the Rotary Club who have conveyed many people to and from these functions.

Welfare of Handicapped Persons (other than Blind and Partially Sighted).

During 1956 the Welfare Visitor for Handicapped Persons made 1,307 visits to the homes of the disabled. In addition to these visits 24 social functions and clubs have been visited, and 16 excorts and visits to patients at hospitals were made in the year. While these figures give some indication of the work actually done, it must be pointed out that much of the help given has been of a personal nature which cannot be adequately recorded.

During 1956 in 12 cases structural alterations have been carried out to houses (both private and Corporation property) to enable invalid tricycles garages to be erected, the Ministry of Health supplying the tricycles and storage sheds. Several further applications for alterations of this nature have already been received and even more anticipated.

Various people on the Register for the Handicapped have had summer holidays arranged for them both in private accommodations and the Cripples' Holiday Home at Abergele. In one instance the Welfare Committee covered the cost of a fortnight's holiday for one needy case, and transport arranged.

A vacancy was secured at a Cheshire Home in York for a man suffering from Disseminated Sclerosis, transport was arranged for him and his maintenance charges met by the Welfare Committee. This made the second case of this kind where the charges have been covered by this department.

In many instances the Local Voluntary Organisations have been contacted to help where necessary with handicapped persons; their visits have been most welcome.

Training and Equipment.

The Disablement Section of the Ministry of Labour have arranged for numerous disabled persons to receive rehabilitation courses resulting in training and employment. The Remploi Factory provides employment to 31 Wallasey men and women in the manufacture of industrial gloves, and the Anne Glassey Workshops is proving invaluable in the rehabilitation of tubercular patients. They usually have 15 people working in different sessions, their knitted garments are of specially good quality and design, and they renovate Christmas cards, all of which brings in a reasonably good revenue.

Handicapped children on reaching the age of 16 years are immediately contacted and their needs ascertained. If at all employable the Juvenile Employment Bureau arrange for rehabilitation courses to ascertain their capabilities and later training. Close liaison is kept by the Welfare department with these cases. In some instances it has been found possible to find private employment for individual persons.

Social Clubs.

The Hard of Hearing Club, Hale Road, now consisting of 32 members is visited regularly by the Welfare visitor, their activities are mostly

social but they are meeting the needs of many hard of hearing persons who have been frequently found comparatively isolated.

A Wirral Group of the Invalid Tricycle Association has been formed and has 26 members. Their weekly meetings are held at 74, Penkett Road—premises belonging to the Wallasey Spastic Association to whom the Wallasey Corporation make a donation to their funds for the use of the room for the disabled. A concrete ramp has also been constructed to the three steps at the entrance at the Corporation's expense. This social club is already proving of great benefit to the physically handicapped in Wallasey and the number of members is steadily increasing.

The co-operation between the Voluntary Wallasey Spastic Association and the new group is a happy arrangement, beneficial to both.

The Welfare Department is now represented on the following committees:—

The Liverpool Adult Deaf and Dumb Benevolent Society
The Catholic Deaf Society of St. Vincent de Paul
The Liverpool Council of Social Service.
Their meetings are regularly attended.

Registration.

During the past year it was found preferable to make a slight alteration in the method of registration of handicapped persons and to transfer some of their names to an Observation Register.

Below are the statistics relative to persons on both the Register of Handicapped Persons and Observation Register:—

Register of Handicapped Persons.

		Aged 16—54 yrs.		65 yrs. and over		
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
Deaf	.. ..	20	12	2	1	— 35
Hard of Hearing	..	14	12	3	5	— 34
	Under 16 yrs.					
General classes	1	264	101	40	5	— 411
						Total 480

Observation Register.

	85	23	4	1	
					Total 113

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALLASEY
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Report

OF THE

Principal School Medical Officer

For the Year 1956

WINSTANLEY & WATKINS, LTD., BIRKENHEAD.

1957

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer

Dr. R. B. BERRY, M.D., D.P.H. (Retired. 31/3/56)

Dr. H. W. HALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Apptd. 1/4/56)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Principal School Medical Officer:

Dr. H. W. HALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (To 31/3/56)

Dr. W. F. CHRISTIAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Apptd. 26/5/56)

Assistant Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers:

Dr. E. J. O'REILLY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O.

Dr. ESMÉ I. GRANT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Principal School Dental Officer:

Mr. C. J. LUYA, L.D.S.

School Dental Officers:

Mr. W. A. HENDERSON, L.D.S.

Mr. E. G. MASON, L.D.S.

Mr. M. GOULD, L.D.S. (Part-time)

Dental Attendants:

Miss A. M. BARBER

Mrs. E. M. BROWNE

Miss M. HARRIS (Res. 29/2/56)

Miss P. BERGIN (Apptd. 1/3/56)

Superintendent Health Visitor/School Nurse:

Mrs. A. PARKINSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Health Visitors/School Nurses:

Miss E. A. TEGGINS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Miss A. J. EDGE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Miss C. E. MURRELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Mrs. E. E. P. NOLAN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Mrs. W. DOVEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Miss M. E. ASPINALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Miss E. M. MORGAN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Miss E. WHITBURN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Miss K. E. HIGGINS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Part I), H.V. Certificate

Miss I. D. BELLIS, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Part I), H.V. Certificate

Miss M. B. JONES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Mrs. K. SCHOFIELD, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate

Mrs. E. SIMPSON, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Part I), H.V. Certificate

Visiting Specialists:

Mr. W. D. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.O.M.S. (Ophthalmic)

Mr. H. DAVIES, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Ch.B., Ch.M., Orth. (Orthopaedic)

Physiotherapists:

Mr. K. JONES, M.C.S.P.

Mrs. A. ROBERTS, M.C.S.P. (Res. 31/8/56)

Mrs. R. H. LAMMIMAN, M.C.S.P. (Apptd. 15/10/56)

Speech Therapist:

Mrs. V. D. NEILL, L.C.S.T.

Educational Psychologist:

Mr. J. McLEOD, B.Sc., Ed.B.

Social Worker:

Mrs. U. BARRETT-LENNARD (Diploma in Social Science)

Administrative Staff:

Mr. S. D. LAWSON

Mrs. M. FRANCE

Mrs. B. H. MAUNDER (Part-time)

Miss L. M. P. DAVIES (Res. 30/4/56)

Mrs. P. BEVERS (Apptd. 16/4/56)

Town Hall,
Wallasey,
May, 1957.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Education Committee:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report for 1956 follows the usual pattern. Each medical officer on the staff, and the Principal Dental Officer, have contributed to the report and other members of the School Health Service and of the staff of the Education Department have commented on the particular activities for which they are responsible. There is no occasion, therefore, for me to add any lengthy comment to the report.

In 1956 a modest start was made with poliomyelitis vaccination and a number of school children in the initially selected age group, whose parents had registered them for vaccination, were immunised, and I am glad to report that there were no reactions or untoward symptoms following the use of the vaccine.

The work of the Child Guidance Clinic is still hampered by the lack of a visiting psychiatrist. Improvement in the service for Wallasey has been promised on a number of occasions by the Regional Hospital Board, but although the new outpatient department of the Victoria Central Hospital is now open with its greater facilities and amenities, Wallasey School children have still to go to St. Catherine's Hospital to see the Psychiatrist, and have to wait three to four months for an appointment.

I should like to thank the Director of Education and his staff for their co-operation and the members of the Education Committee for their sympathetic consideration and interest in the matters affecting the School Health Service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

HOWARD W. HALL,
Principal School Medical Officer,

ANNUAL REPORT—SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE, 1956

Dr. Christian, Deputy Principal School Medical Officer, makes the following observations:—

At the beginning of 1956, the Minister of Education introduced certain changes in the statistical returns required by him. The first of these changes relates to the classification of the General Condition of pupils when examined at Periodic Medical Inspections. Previously the general condition of all pupils examined has been recorded as either:— A = Good, B = Satisfactory, or C = Poor. Now two categories only are required. These are self-explanatory and are Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory. As will be seen from the table on Page xxii, the number of children examined at Periodic Inspections during the year was 3,984 and of these 3,904 or 98% were satisfactory as far as their general condition was concerned, and 80 or 2% were unsatisfactory.

These categories will form a base line for comparison with subsequent years, but cannot be compared with the previously used three categories. That is to say it would be wrong to assume that the children classified as Satisfactory correspond exactly with the children, who, in previous years, were classified as General Condition A and B.

As stated above, 3,984 children were examined at Periodic Medical Inspections in 1956. This is almost the same number as last year. The children examined belonged to the three age groups examined in previous years. Those children who at periodic inspections are found to have defects requiring either treatment or observation, are followed up by the School Medical Officers at the Reinspection sessions at school or at one of the School Clinics. As these reinspections can only take place at infrequent intervals on account of the pressure of work, the immediate follow-up of certain children to ensure that the advice of the School Medical Officers has been followed, is undertaken by the School Nurses on whose district the children live.

The second change required by the Minister in this year's Returns, relates to the number of children who were sent on convalescent holidays during the year. As will be seen from the table on Page xxv, five children were given convalescent holidays during the year.

The third change introduced in this year's Returns is the requirement to record the number of children attending school who have been supplied with hearing aids. The number ascertained as supplied with hearing aids is one.

Since taking up School Health work in 1947, I have inspected children in two county areas, namely Staffordshire and Lancashire, and in two nearby county boroughs. It has been interesting to compare the incidence of defect in these different areas.

Since I began inspecting Wallasey school children in June 1956, the first condition I have found to be relatively prevalent here is plantar warts or veruccae. It is probable that the high incidence of plantar

warts in Wallasey is related to the popularity of swimming. Here the children are well provided with indoor and open-air swimming pools and take full advantage of the facilities available. It is now generally recognised that plantar warts are caused by skin viruses and that the skin is most susceptible to invasion when it is wet. The most likely places, therefore, to pick them up are from duck-boards in the dressing rooms of the swimming baths.

In view of the fact that many children are unaware that they have these warts, I am arranging, with Dr. Hall's approval, for the School Nurses to inspect the feet of children in schools when they carry out their regular cleanliness inspections and to refer children with plantar warts for treatment.

Of course, on balance, the swimming pools, by the opportunities they provide for healthy enjoyment and for serious athletic training, are of great benefit to the school children of the town.

It may be that the low incidence of postural defects of the trunk observed at School Medical Inspections is partly due to the fact that most children are learning or have learned to swim. It is gratifying to record that a Wallasey schoolboy who trained at the Wallasey swimming baths represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games in Melbourne. His example should serve as a great stimulus to his fellow pupils in this health-giving sport.

Further information on the findings of the Medical Officers at Periodic Medical Inspections will be found in the reports of Dr. O'Reilly and Dr. Grant on subsequent pages.

Liaison between the hospitals admitting school children, and the Health Department continues to be satisfactory. The Principal School Medical Officer continues to receive discharge reports on individual children who have been treated in hospital for some major disability. In addition, he receives weekly lists of children discharged from hospital, with the diagnosis in each case. If the condition appears likely to affect the child's subsequent progress at school, arrangements are made for the child to be examined at a School Clinic by one of the School Medical Officers.

The Artificial Sunlight Clinics at the Merton Road and Moreton Clinics continue to be well patronised and are particularly beneficial in promoting a healthy appetite in children suffering from a combination of upper respiratory catarrh and loss of appetite. In this way they break the vicious circle of catarrh, poor appetite and lowered resistance to infection due to inadequate food intake. The statistics relating to these Clinics will be found on page xii.

The B.C.G. Vaccination scheme has continued. This is the second full year of the scheme. The number of children successfully vaccinated this year was 768, as compared with 660 in 1955.

The full statistical tables relating to the School Health Service as required by the Ministry of Education will be found at the end of the Report.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to the Headteachers of the schools I have visited for the arrangements they have made to ensure that the periodic Medical Inspections and the B.C.G. sessions ran smoothly.

Dr. O'Reilly, School Medical Officer, submits the following observations:—

The general rise in the standard of living was again this year reflected in the health of the children examined in the School Health Service.

Cases of undernourishment and avitaminosis, with consequent rashes, blepharitis and postural defects, were comparatively rare. Obesity, with resulting pes valgus and planus and genu valgum, was more evident than before.

It is remarkable how much better dressed the children are from year to year, and how much more zealous than formerly their parents are in matters of health. In the past, one of the problems was to get those children who needed glasses to wear them. Now all that is needed in most cases is a word with the parents.

But against this, it must be recorded that the "television faces" were again in evidence, pale and tired, with dark areas under the eyes.

Of the 1,780 children whose hearing was tested by the audiometer, 1.9% had a hearing loss of more than 15 decibels. In 0.8% both ears were involved, and in 1.1% one ear only was defective. In these latter cases, the parents and teachers and often even the children themselves, were unaware that there was any defect, until it was revealed by the test.

There were as usual a few cases of defective hearing, both congenital and acquired. Where no improvement was possible a hearing aid was the only solution.

The Special School in Elleray Park for physically handicapped and delicate children carried on its good work as usual. Every department produced good results, but the spastic unit provided especially striking examples of progress towards normality of children who began life with severe handicaps.

The unsuitability of the accommodation in the school has its compensations. The stairs give better opportunities to the children to exercise their limbs than are available in the more conventional open-air schools. On the other hand, the congestion in the rest room is excessive, the couches, on which the children have their mid-day rest, being much too close together.

Though we much regretted the withdrawal of Dr. Berry's experienced guidance during the year, the work of the service went on smoothly and efficiently under the kindly and tactful supervision of our new Chief.

Dr. Esmé Grant, School Medical Officer, makes the following comments:—

There have been no noteworthy changes in the administration of the School Health Service and the routine medical inspections and minor ailment clinics continue to be conducted in the usual manner.

It has been my duty to examine, mainly, the girl leavers at the Grammar, Secondary Modern, and Secondary Technical Schools, and I must confess that, on the whole, I find the standard of nutrition and hygiene in the Grammar Schools superior to that in the Secondary Modern Schools. The adolescent girl of today, however, takes a much greater pride in her appearance, and it is comparatively rare to find one who is not clean, healthy, well-nourished and well-groomed. They have, too, much more decided opinions on their subsequent careers and most of them are anxious to improve their social status, and to take jobs which have a future and lead to promotion; shops and domestic posts rank very low in their choice, and air hostesses very high!

The Minor Ailment Clinics continue to be well attended and I have been gratified at the number of cases of debility, malnutrition, bronchial catarrh, naso-respiratory disease and the like, which have benefited very considerably by the administration of simple tonics, vitamins, ultra-violet light and physiotherapy, which we are able to prescribe for them. We see these children at regular intervals, with their mothers, and weigh and measure them, thereby watching their progress and securing tangible evidence of their improvement.

I am convinced, in my own mind, that these measures contribute quite substantially to a lower rate of absenteeism at school, especially in the younger child who has just entered school, and comes up against the increased risk of infection which is inevitable in the communal life there.

Defects of feet and posture are still a problem and few mothers seem unduly concerned about these; pes valgus and hallux valgus are only too commonly seen, and this must be largely due to the tendency of buying cheap, ill-fitting footwear, and even the passing down the family of worn shoes—a habit which is understandable due to the high price of good shoes, but to be regretted and condemned.

Knock-knees are rarely seen now in school, but are dealt with quite frequently and apparently successfully at the child welfare clinics in the pre-school days. This proves that the earlier such orthopaedic defects are met and dealt with, the more likely they are to be eradicated.

Throat, nose and ear complaints figure largely at Minor Ailment Clinics, and where necessary, and with the family doctor's consent, these are referred for a second opinion. There no longer seems to be the tremendous delay in securing treatment for tonsils and adenoids, and this is no doubt due to the more conservative methods adopted by the ear, nose and throat surgeons, and to the more efficient management of the waiting lists at the hospitals.

Eye defects are dealt with satisfactorily at our own Eye Clinics, and there is again less delay in securing an appointment and receiving glasses where these have been prescribed.

Maladjustment is still encountered only too frequently, especially in the younger child, and it is a matter for regret that we have still no psychiatrist in charge of the Child Guidance Clinic in Wallasey. Cases are referred to Dr. Pinkerton in Liverpool or Birkenhead, but so much time elapses before a consultation is secured that the case has either become aggravated and therefore less amenable to treatment, or, more rarely, no longer requires treatment at all.

The routine medical examination of children in school is apt to be a little monotonous at times, especially when all seem to be in good health and free from any defects, but if we bear in mind the old adage that "prevention is better than cure", we shall feel that our work is worthwhile even if we only detect *one* defect which can be remedied, and might otherwise have been missed. Our aim is always to raise the standard of health of every child we see, however well they seem to be, and thus I think the School Health Service is contributing something towards the positive health of the community.

If we could persuade school children of all ages *and* parents, of the value of adequate sleep, we would be more than half-way towards producing a much fitter nation, both physically and mentally, but the modern child usually takes the law into his own hands, and, with but a weak protest from his parents, decides for himself when he shall go to bed.

My thanks are due once again to the majority of headteachers for their friendly welcome and close co-operation when we visit their schools, and for their efforts to provide us with suitable accommodation. There are unfortunately still one or two who adopt an unhelpful attitude towards both the School Medical Officer and the School Health Visitor when they visit their schools on what are after all duty visits required by the Education Acts.

Mr. C. J. Luya, Principal School Dental Officer, writes as follows:—

As in 1955 the staff of the School Dental Service consisted of three full-time dental officers, three full-time dental attendants, one part-time dental officer, one part-time medical anaesthetist, and a part-time dental attendant. The normal establishment is four full-time dental officers and attendants. Unfortunately it seems impossible to obtain another full-time dental officer and difficult to get another part-time officer prepared to stay for a reasonable length of time. Several efforts were made, but those who applied merely wanted part-time work for a few weeks or a few months and for that reason were not acceptable as it takes some time for a newly appointed dental officer to get into the routine if new to this type of work.

There is a general shortage of dentists and the competition is keen in the Merseyside area for the services of those dentists wishing to enter the public services. There seem to be few newly qualified

dental surgeons wishing to seek employment as Dental Officers with local authorities and even those who are appointed on a part-time basis make no secret of the fact that they are also engaged in building up a private practice and intend to resign as soon as such practice is on its feet.

The tragedy is that the School Dental Service may die out due, to a very large proportion of the full-time officers being over middle age, and to the fact that the few entrants to the Service are definitely not in sufficient numbers to replace those who retire. It is also a pity that the average age of the School Dental Officer is going up. Experience is a useful thing, but when dealing with children it is an advantage to have some younger men or women on the job.

Since the inception of the National Health Service some years ago, an increasing number of children have been treated by private practitioners and this, to some extent, depleted the pressure on the School Dental Service. It seems unlikely, however, that private practitioners would be able to cope with all children requiring treatment if the School Dental Service disappeared completely. If this happened it would be unfortunate for the many thousands of cases of school children with frantic toothache who are always dealt with expeditiously by the School Dental Service and for these at least, there surely must always be some sort of public service. Truly unexpected toothache can be avoided by the regular inspection and treatment and this is the aim of the School Dental Service, but although the number of parents knowing this increases year by year, the other kind are probably still in the majority. Education of the parents and older children is the answer to this problem. The parent who has come as far as the chairside is easy to get at, but the other kind can only be dealt with by means of lectures and talks which can only be given at the expense of chairside treatment and with so much to be done it is difficult to find time for such talks and propaganda.

A recent Act of Parliament makes provision for the training of women ancillaries to be employed by local authorities in the treatment of children, under the supervision of School Dental Officers and a scheme on these lines has proved successful in New Zealand. In this country, however, the ancillaries would require places where they can work. There are available in Wallasey at the moment five fully equipped School Dental surgeries for the use of four full-time dental officers or their equivalent. Should it be decided to employ a number of ancillaries to augment the present dental staff in this Borough, new premises of a special type would have to be built before they were engaged, as each ancillary *must* work under the close supervision of a Dental Surgeon.

The shape of things to come would probably be a Clinic having a number of surgeries, with one Dental Surgeon working and at the same time keeping an eye on his dental ancillaries.

The steady growth of the Moreton area demands that any School Dental Surgeon appointed in the future be allocated to this area.

An X-ray machine at the Dental Clinic, Moreton, would also be a great boon, as children from that area needing this service have, at the

moment, to make a journey of some miles to Wallasey where the present machine is situated.

There seems to be no diminution of decay in childrens' teeth, and the amount of such decay in the teeth of very young children is still distressing. A diet and method of feeding which would improve matters is probably impossible or impracticable in a country so highly civilised as Great Britain. There is, however, one bright spot as parents are at last beginning to realise that this state is neither a natural thing or a good thing. In consequence, the prejudice against fillings, particularly those of temporary teeth, is becoming less. Here some credit is due to the National Health Service which has encouraged private practitioners to do this sort of work.

During the year some interest has been taken in the fluoridation of water supplies as a method of prevention, and concerning which a good deal of experimental work has been done and a lot written. The evidence in favour seems impressive and the opposition, emotional rather than scientific.

Since the first of these Annual Reports was written in 1920, diphtheria as a children's disease has been practically stamped out. Is it too much to hope that as the result of fluoridation, dental caries may some day also disappear and thus do away with the necessity for a special service for the treatment of children's teeth?

Mr. H. Davies, Orthopaedic Surgeon comments as follows:—

The general pattern of work at the Liscard and Moreton school clinics continues on the same lines as previous years. The simple postural conditions of childhood naturally predominate and it was for these conditions that the clinics were originally started. Even though these defects seem relatively simple, the early correction, which is obtained by the weekly postural classes, is of great value in preventing static deformities in adult life. In particular, flat feet is the major trouble with the children. However, there are very few of these patients who do not respond to the therapy and the alterations to the shoes. Postural kyphosis or round shoulders, take longer to correct. I do feel that as much attention as possible should be paid by school teachers and Education Authorities to the size of desk needed by each individual child, and that graded changes of desk should be synchronised with the child's growth.

There was one new case of poliomyelitis and one new case of tuberculosis of the spine which was transferred to Leasowe Hospital for the necessary treatment.

I am pleased to report that the overall pattern of orthopaedic conditions among the school children of Wallasey is not of a serious nature but the corrective treatment of the prevailing postural errors has amply justified the continuation of our work.

Observations of Mr. K. Jones, Physiotherapist:—

Miscellaneous Treatments	430
Total Cases on Register	2,085

Total Attendances for Physiotherapy	10,437
Total Discharges	294
Number of Cases Treated	2,379
Orthopaedic Cases of School Age Treated ..	817
Orthopaedic Cases of School Age Discharged ..	145
New Orthopaedic Cases of School Age	256

REMARKS:

It will be noted that a new set of figures namely "Miscellaneous Treatments" is included. This group comprises electrotherapy, radiant heat treatments, massage and passive stretchings, and strappings.

It is interesting to note, that following the alleged summer, U.V.R. figures for October were extremely high for the beginning of the Autumn term.

PHYSIOTHERAPY REPORT, 1956

	Thursday Attend'cs. (Mr. Davies' Clinics)	Discharges	New Pts.	U.V.R.	Post Ts. & As. Operations	Asthma Patients	Rem. Exercises
January ..	37	10	76	513	24	37	393
February ..	89	9	79	557	—	64	459
March ..	110	28	56	648	15	75	538
April ..	119	38	47	551	17	42	332
May ..	121	42	47	582	20	55	547
June ..	86	35	25	552	39	64	504
July ..	64	29	34	297	14	69	349
August ..	50	14	11	—	—	—	—
September ..	75	41	18	165	—	12	71
October ..	86	11	61	641	12	36	177
November ..	138	26	45	454	21	61	567
December ..	68	11	68	410	19	52	382
TOTALS..	1,043	294	567	5,370	181	567	4,319

REPORT of Mr. HORACE DAVIES, Orthopaedic Surgeon

Number of Sessions held at the Authority's Clinics .. 44
 Number of New Cases 318
 Number of Re-examinations 694

	Disease Categories	New Cases				Re-examinations				Discharged				
		Pre-Sch Age		School Age		Pre-Sch Age		School Age		Cured	Relieved	Left	Treatment Refused	Died
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
Congenital Deformities	Trunk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	Upper Limb ..	2	1	1	—	2	2	1	10	—	—	—	—	—
	Lower Limb ..	3	1	1	—	7	1	7	3	2	—	—	—	—
Acquired Deformities	Flat Foot	19	18	55	45	31	26	151	143	107	—	—	—	—
	Hallux Valgus ..	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
	Postural Kyphosis and Scoliosis ..	—	—	6	4	—	1	12	13	6	1	—	—	—
	Knock Knee ..	26	11	6	8	46	27	12	19	36	—	1	—	—
	Bow Leg	2	1	—	—	4	3	1	—	4	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions ..	13	4	28	23	15	7	36	22	29	—	—	—	—
Affections of Skeleton	Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Nervous System	Spastic Paralysis ..	2	2	1	1	8	2	21	25	—	—	—	—	—
	Infantile Paralysis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
	Peripheral Nerve Lesions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Bones	Osteomyelitis T.B. ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	Other Conditions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Joints	T.B.	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
	Non-T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Spine	T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Non-T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affections of Epiphysis		—	—	—	2	—	—	4	6	5	—	—	—	—
Affections of soft tissues		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Complications of Trauma		—	—	6	1	—	—	5	6	3	—	—	—	—
Cases re-referred to Clinic and found normal		1	1	6	8	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—

SPEECH THERAPY

Comments of Mrs. V. Neill, Speech Therapist:—

Total number of Attendances	1,975
Number of Patients who have received regular treatment during the year	80
Number of Patients who have received treatment at intervals during the year	201
Number of Patients admitted	33
Number of patients discharged	84

Classification of New Admissions

Simple Dyslalia	2
Multiple Dyslalia	15
Stammer	7
Stammer and Dyslalia	1
Retarded Speech Development	4
Alalia	2
Alaxia	1
Retarded Speech Development due to Spasticity	1
	<hr/>
	33
	<hr/>

Classification of Patients Discharged

Cured	71
Left School	5
Non-cooperative	7
Receiving treatment at Hospital	1
	<hr/>
	84
	<hr/>

The total number of attendances has increased a little this year, possibly because, in an effort to reduce the waiting list more cases on the Supervision List have been seen. As can be expected, the average attendance of these cases is very high, since they are only called to the clinic periodically.

Although more patients have been discharged this year, the number admitted is about equal to that of the previous year. Many of those discharged were on supervision and not attending regularly.

It was hoped that this year would see a further reduction of the waiting list, but over sixty new cases have been referred, making the number to well over a hundred. Many of these new cases are very young children and it was pleasing to find that only ten of them were stammerers. The latter will be admitted as quickly as possible, whilst the others will receive periodical treatment and if seen as frequently as possible will come to no harm.

This waiting list, however, is a very grave problem, but fortunately the parents co-operate well and only a few complain that their children

cannot be admitted as soon as they are referred. It is to be hoped once again that the following year does not find too many new cases. The school holidays are of sufficient length to ensure that all on supervision can be seen at least twice a year, at the moment, but if more children are found to be in need of Speech Therapy this year, then I am afraid that some of them will find a considerable delay, before they can even be interviewed.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS OR INTENDING TEACHERS.—Min. of Education Circ. 249.

Total No. examined .. 58

Teachers				Intending Teachers			
Male ..	..	..	1	Male ..	..	..	10
Female ..	..	..	8	Female ..	..	..	39
<hr/>				<hr/>			
Total ..	..	..	9	Total ..	..	..	49
<hr/>				<hr/>			

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1956

During the year 106 children of school age were immunised for the first time, while 723 received a reinforcing dose.

ELLERAY PARK OPEN-AIR C. SCHOOL

Elleray Park Open-Air C. School

During the year 24 children were admitted, the classification of their defects or diseases being as follows:—

Asthma ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Perthe's Disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Nervous Debility ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Epilepsy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Psuedo Hypertrophic Muscular Dystrophy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Cataracts ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chorea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebral Palsy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Other Conditions ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
<hr/>							24
<hr/>							

During the year nine pupils were transferred to ordinary schools, three left the district, and two died. The number on the roll at 31st December was 108.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SCHOOL HEALTH NURSES DURING THE YEAR 1956

Infestation with Vermin

Cleanliness Surveys ..	..	..	..	..	..	88
No. of Sessions re Cleansing at Clinics ..	..	..	..	..	..	44

No. of Examinations	29,239
No. of Individual Children found unclean	686

Home Visits

Cleanliness	277
Medical Treatment	518
Hospital References	32
Miscellaneous	488
B.C.G.	46

Other

Visits to Nursery Class	10
Special Visits to Schools	293
Visits to Special Schools	7
Sessions for Medical Inspections	275
Sessions for Medical Re-Inspections	6
Sessions at Minor Ailments Clinics	749
Sessions at Ophthalmic Clinics	62
Sessions on Vision Testing of 8 year old pupils	54
Sessions on Weighing and Measuring (Medical Inspection)	67
Sessions spent on Surveys	318
Total Visits	1,673
Total Sessions	1,531

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST'S REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SCHOOLS' PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE, 1956

During the year ended December 31st, 1956, there was a slight overall decrease in the number of children dealt with at the Educational & Child Guidance Clinics. This was due mainly to the Educational Psychologist undertaking extra work with classification for secondary education and the absences of the Social Worker on residential courses connected with the Welfare section of Civil Defence.

Whilst the total number of children has decreased from 395 to 376, those referred to the Child Guidance Clinic showed an increase, numbering 58 as against 46 in the previous year.

There is still no visiting psychiatrist at the Child Guidance Clinic, so that extra work in this field has devolved upon the educational psychologist and social worker. This has advantages as far as the treatment of the children is concerned, as cases referred to the clinic are invariably seen within a week or fortnight of notification and in effect, the clinic acts as a screening device. Most cases are dealt with by the two full-time members of the staff whilst the consultant psychiatrist, whose time table is normally fully booked for several months, is called in only to those cases which definitely need his specialist attention. It is felt that, although born of necessity, this is a more effective arrangement than that of simply placing the recently referred child at the end of a long waiting list.

Nine Child Guidance cases were brought forward from 1955 and a further 49 were referred during the year. These are classified below:—

Emotional immaturity	4
Delinquent tendencies	10
Habit disorders	12
Tension habits	5
Behaviour—aggressive, sex, etc.	17
Emotional instability	4
Truancy	2
Nervousness	4
	<hr/>
	58
	<hr/>

Treatment and disposal were as follows:—

Case closed—improved	17
Advice only	5
Reports only for psychiatrist or pediatrician	3
Maladjusted school	1
Mental hospital	1
Referred for psychiatric treatment	2
Referred to family doctor	1
Refused help	1
Left district	1
Current cases	26
	<hr/>
	58
	<hr/>

In connection with the above cases, the educational psychologist conducted the following interviews and visits:—

Interviews with children	152
(Test interviews 56)	
(Other interviews 96)	
Interviews with parents	117
Home visits	1
Visits to Remand Homes	3
Visits to Children's Homes	1
Visits to Juvenile Court	2
Visits to Clatterbridge Hospital	2
Visit to Alder Hey Hospital	1
	<hr/>
	279
	<hr/>

Arrangements for children to see a psychiatrist were made as under:—

St. Catherine's, Birkenhead	22
Clatterbridge	2
Croxteth Road, Liverpool	1
Alder Hey, Liverpool	1
	<hr/>
	26
	<hr/>

In addition, some of the school visits recorded below were in connection with these cases.

Educational cases, although somewhat fewer than in previous years, continued to constitute the major part of the work at Church Street. The psychologist's educational activities are summarised below:—

Individual test interviews	218
Classification	5
Reclassification	88
Advice	75
Referred to M.O.H. (backwardness)	23
Attainment testing	27
Individual coaching sessions	45
Parent interviews	90
Home visits	4
Group testing sessions	13
11 + Classification	10
Reclassification	1
Pre-nursing	1
Other	1
Classification Board Meetings	4
Classification Board Panel Meetings	14
11 + Panels	4
Review Panels	7
Essay Panel	1
Head teachers	2
	<hr/>
	388

School visits by the educational psychologist concerned with both Educational and Child Guidance cases were:—

Secondary	91
Grammar	19
Modern	57
Technical	15
Junior	76
Mixed	30
Infants	28
Special	26
Private	2
Further Education establishments	10
	<hr/>
	263

The remedial education classes continued Miss Pilkington taking groups of 5 or 6 children, who were retarded in reading, for a two-hour session each week. Fifteen children were brought forward from 1955 and a further 30 were added during the year. Of these, 29 were closed, leaving 16 to be carried forward to 1957.

Miss Pilkington's work is classified into:—

Individual test interviews	100
Group coaching sessions (2 hours each)	101

The Social Worker has again been occupied with all the cases mentioned above together with School Welfare cases with which she has been solely concerned. Her activities have therefore been analysed under two heads:—

	<i>Clinic Cases</i>	<i>School Welfare Cases</i>	<i>Total</i>
Home visits	665	135	800
Clinic interviews	265	44	309
School inquiries	234	78	312
Consultation with other agencies (e.g., Children's Officer, Probation Officer, N.S.P.C.C., etc.) ..	569	116	685
Total	1,733	373	2,106

She has continued to represent the Borough on the Executive Committee of the Merseyside Marriage Guidance Council and has given numerous talks to Mothers' Unions, Young Wives' Clubs, etc.

Experience during the year has once again confirmed the observation that remedial measures, whether concerned with educational or emotional matters, are most effective if brought to bear as early as possible in the development of the particular difficulty. Sometimes parents and teachers hesitate to refer a child because, although they recognise the existence of a problem, it may appear to them to be too trivial to warrant action. It is in the best interests of everybody that such a problem should be nipped in the bud rather than that it should be allowed to grow into a major issue, which will be correspondingly difficult to resolve.

School Meals Service, 1956

Miss Dean, Organiser of School Meals, makes the following comments:—

The number of meals supplied during the year 1956 was 1,305,974 and of these 128,228 were served free to necessitous children.

In September the cost of the meal was increased by the Ministry of Education from ninepence to tenpence for children. No decrease in the numbers was noted, which would appear to indicate that parents are becoming increasingly conscious that in allowing their children to have a school dinner they are definitely getting value for their money.

During the year a new Dining Room in Demesne Street was opened to accommodate the three Riverside Schools in two sittings. Previously the departments had dined separately in their own halls with very inadequate washing up facilities. The new canteen is, therefore, a very pleasant improvement. It is light and airy, furnished with formica

topped tables to seat six and of varying sizes to suit different age groups.

Later in the year with the transfer of the Secondary Technical School for Boys from Coronation Avenue to Mosslands Drive a further much needed improvement was made. At the new school as well as a large pleasant kitchen there is a dining room attached with refectory tables which when set with place mats gaily coloured beakers, etc., provide a setting where the school meal can be enjoyed with some measure of dignity.

In a small way, therefore, it can be claimed that in 1956 the School Meals Service in Wallasey has made some progress towards the ultimate goal, which is to serve a well-cooked balanced meal in surroundings which give every opportunity for the inculcation of the social graces.

Report on Physical Education, 1956

Observations of Mr. Clare, Organiser of Physical Training:—

With the improvement of general health and nutrition in children and the decreased time which they are required to spend working at desks under cramped conditions, the work of Physical Education in schools is becoming less directly remedial in character. The emphasis has shifted from formal gymnastics to freer and more individual work, from localised corrective exercises to more general activities of a more pleasurable type. Modern work, whilst aiming to maintain—and increase where necessary—normal mobility and strength, aims to inculcate and then satisfy a desire for healthy and enjoyable physical activity which will endure throughout life.

Though progress has been made on these lines during the year, facilities have not greatly improved. There are still five secondary schools without access to a gymnasium and seven junior schools with no available indoor accommodation, whilst distance of many schools from playing fields and swimming baths seriously entails the time available for instruction in games and swimming.

The outstanding success of Wallasey schoolchildren in life-saving and competitive swimming continues, largely as a result of work out of school hours, and in spite of the limited facilities available. Class instruction in swimming can only be effectively carried out in sufficiently shallow covered pools. Lack of such facilities particularly affects children in the Moreton area and prevents achievement of the aim to make every child proficient in this most useful and recreative activity.

MEDICAL INSPECTION, 1956

MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

SCHOOLS

TABLE I.

(A) PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Entrants	1,565
Second Age Group	1,382
Third Age Group	1,037
Total	3,984
Other Periodic Inspections	—

(B) OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	2,220
Number of Re-inspections	267
Total	2,487

(C) PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Group	For Defective Vision (Excluding Squint)	For any of the other Conditions Recorded in Table IIA	Total Individual Pupils
(a) Entrants ..	65	369	321
(b) Second Age Group ..	73	239	204
(c) Third Age Group ..	67	118	105
Total (A-C) ..	205	726	630

TABLE I(D)

Classification of the Physical Condition of Pupils inspected during the year in Age Groups.

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
Entrants ..	1,565	1,531	97.8	34	2.2
Second Age Group ..	1,382	1,351	97.7	31	2.3
Third Age Group ..	1,037	1,022	98.5	15	1.5
Other Periodic Inspections ..	—	—	—	—	—
	3,984	3,904	98.00	80	2.00

TABLE II.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(1) Total Number of Examinations in the Schools by School Nurses or other Authorised Persons	29,239
(2) Total Number of Individual Pupils found to be infested	686
(3) Number of Individual Pupils in respect of whom Cleansing Notices were issued under Sec. 54 (2) Education Act, 1944	2
(4) Number of Individual Pupils in respect of whom Cleansing Orders were issued under Sec. 54 (3) Education Act, 1944	—

TABLE III

Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year 1956.

Disease or Defect	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
	No. of Defects		No. of Defects	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not Requiring Treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not Requiring Treatment
Skin	136	64	114	4
Eyes—(a) Vision	205	269	25	1
(b) Squint	43	70	6	1
(c) Other	24	31	73	6
Ears—(a) Hearing	9	84	6	—
(b) Otitis Media	14	31	7	—
(c) Other	59	43	94	10
Nose and Throat	96	303	75	11
Speech	19	29	18	1
Lymphatic Glands	—	89	4	1
Heart	4	40	48	2
Lungs	28	97	1	—
Developmental—				
(a) Hernia	11	19	1	—
(b) Other	32	112	3	1
Orthopaedic—				
(a) Posture	17	67	6	—
(b) Feet	104	90	75	3
(c) Other	69	98	46	3
Nervous System—				
(a) Epilepsy	2	15	3	1
(b) Other	9	27	10	2
Psychological—				
(a) Development	27	12	12	—
(b) Stability	11	42	25	2
Abdomen	3	6	2	—
Other	9	4	901	132

TABLE IV

GROUP 1.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	No. of Cases Dealt with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	289	not known
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	1,260	not known
Total	1,549	not known
Number of Pupils for whom Spectacles were:—		
(a) Prescribed	634	No information available
(b) Obtained	No information available	do.

GROUP 2.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	No. of Cases Treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received Operative Treatment:—		
(a) For Diseases of the Ear	—	3
(b) For Adenoids and Chronic Tonsil- itis	—	223
(c) For other Nose and Throat Condi- tions	—	8
Received other Forms of Treatment ..	177*	2
Total	177	236

*At Authority's Minor Ailments Clinics.

GROUP 3.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils known to have been Treated at Clinics or Out- Patient Departments	817	No information available

GROUP 4.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (Excluding Uncleanliness for which see Table II.)

	Number of Cases Treated or Under Treatment During the Year by the Authority
Ringworm: (i) Scalp	—
(ii) Body	—
Scabies	—
Impetigo	79
Other Skin Diseases	227
Total	306

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

Number of Pupils Treated at Child Guid- ance Clinics under Arrangements made by the Authority	36
---	----

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

Number of Pupils Treated by Speech Therapist under Arrangements made by the Authority	*281
---	------

*80 receiving regular treatment.

201 receiving treatment at irregular intervals.

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

Number of Cases of Miscellaneous Minor Ailments Treated by the Authority ..	2,594
Pupils who Received Convalescent Treatment under School Health Service Arrangements	5
Pupils who received B.C.G. Vaccination ..	768
Other:—	
Pupils who received Hospital In-Patient Treatment:—	
General Medical	123
Surgical	146
Total	3,636

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY**YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1956**

(1) Number of Pupils Inspected—						
(a) Periodic Inspections						5,512
(b) Specials						3,203
Total (1)						8,715
(2) Number found to require treatment						6,320
(3) Number offered treatment						6,109
(4) Number actually treated						4,943
(5) Attendances made by pupils for treatment						10,507
(6) Half-days devoted to—						
(a) Inspection						64
(b) Treatment						1,615
Total (6)						1,679
(7) Fillings: (a) Permanent Teeth						3,669
(b) Temporary Teeth						116
Total (7)						3,785
(8) Number of Teeth Filled: (a) Permanent Teeth ..						3,399
(b) Temporary Teeth ..						115
Total (8)						3,514
(9) Extractions: (a) Permanent Teeth						2,061
(b) Temporary Teeth						3,547
Total (9)						5,608

(10)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	..	3,347
(11)	Other Operations: (a) Permanent Teeth..	.. ..	2,088
	(b) Temporary Teeth	.. ..	—
	Total (11)	.. ..	<u>2,088</u>
(12)	Orthodontics:—		
(a)	Cases commenced during the year	.. ..	31
(b)	Cases carried forward from previous year	.. ..	11
(c)	Cases completed during the year	.. ..	10
(d)	Cases discontinued during the year	.. ..	7
(e)	Pupils treated with appliances	.. ..	45
(f)	Removable appliances fitted	.. ..	34
(g)	Fixed appliances fitted	.. ..	—
(h)	Total attendances	.. ..	276
(13)	Number of pupils supplied with Artificial Dentures	..	14

MINOR AILMENTS AND OTHER CLINICS

Monday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton .. Road, Wallasey	Minor Ailments
		Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton	Minor Ailments
		Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey	Minor Ailments and S.M.O.'s Clinic
	(p.m.)	—	—
Tuesday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey	Ophthalmic Clinic (Mr. Hamilton) and Minor Ailments (11.0 a.m. to noon)
		Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton	Minor Ailments and S.M.O.'s Clinic
		Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey	Ophthalmic Clinic (Mr. Hamilton) as required
			Minor Ailments
	(pm.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey	Ophthalmic Clinic (Mr. Hamilton) (Fortnightly)
		Other Clinics	—

Wednesday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton .. Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Moreton .. Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey	Minor Ailments and S.M.O.'s Clinic Minor Ailments Minor Ailments
	(p.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Moreton .. Health Centre, Water .. Street, Wallasey	Immunisation (1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month) — —
Thursday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Moreton .. Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey	Minor Ailments Minor Ailments Minor Ailments
	(p.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Moreton Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey	Orthopaedic Specialist's Clinic (Mr. Davies), (Except every 4th Thursday) do. (every 4th Thursday) —
Friday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Moreton .. Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey	Minor Ailments Minor Ailments Minor Ailments
	(p.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Moreton .. Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey	S.M.O.'s. Clinic (as required) Immunisation (Fortnightly) —
Saturday	(a.m.)	—	—

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINICS

Monday	(a.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton
	(p.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton
Tuesday	(a.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
	(p.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
Wednesday	(a.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey
Thursday	(a.m.)	Health Clinic, Water Street, Wallasey School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton
	(p.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton
Friday	(a.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey
	(p.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
Saturday	(a.m.)	School Dental Clinic, 47 Liscard Village, Wallasey School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

**(Psychiatric Department)*

50 Church Street, Wallasey.

**(Discontinued on resignation of Psychiatrist on 31/7/53. Post still vacant.)*

SPEECH THERAPY CLINICS

Monday	(a.m.)	Vaughan Road J. M. School, Wallasey
	(p.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
Tuesday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
	(p.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
Wednesday	(a.m.)	Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey
	(p.m.)	Elleray Park School, Wallasey
Thursday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
	(p.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey
Friday	(a.m.)	Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey
	(p.m.)	Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton

PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINICS

Monday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey (U.V.L. and Individual Treatments) Child Welfare Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton (U.V.L.)
	(p.m.)	Elleray Park Special School, Elleray Park Road, Wallasey (Individual Treatments) Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton (Remedial Exercises)
Tuesday	(a.m.)	Elleray Park Special School, Elleray Park Road, Wallasey (Remedial Exercises) Congregational Church Hall, Princess Road, Wallasey (Individual Treatments)
	(p.m.)	Elleray Park Special School, Elleray Park Road, Wallasey (Remedial Exercises) Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton (Individual Treatments)
Wednesday	(a.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Rd., Wallasey (U.V.L. and Individual Treatments) Elleray Park Special School, Elleray Park Road, Wallasey (Individual Treatments)
	(p.m.)	Health Centre, Water Street, Wallasey (Remedial Exercises) School Clinic, Merton Rd., Wallasey (U.V.L. and Individual Treatments)

Thursday	(a.m.)	Elleray Park Special School, Wallasey (Remedial Exercises) Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton (U.V.L.)
	(p.m.)	School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey (Orthopaedic Specialist's Clinic) Health Centre, Oakenholt Road, Moreton (Orthopaedic Specialist's Clinic once per month)
Friday	(a.m.)	Elleray Park Special School, Elleray Park Road, Wallasey (Remedial Exercises) School Clinic, Merton Rd., Wallasey (U.V.L. and Individual Treatments)
	(p.m.)	Grosvenor Assembly Rooms, Grosvenor St., Wallasey (Remedial Exercises) School Clinic, Merton Road, Wallasey (Remedial Exercises)

HANDICAPPED PUPILS—YEAR 1956

Details	Blind	Partially Blind	Deaf	Partially Deaf	Delicate	Phy- sically Handi- capped	Educa- tionally Sub- Normal	Mal- adjusted	Epilep- tic	Total
(A) Placed during the year in Special Schools or Homes	—	2	1	1	9	11	13	2	2	41
(B) Ascertained during the year as requiring education at Special Schools or Boarding Homes	—	2	1	1	10	11	13	2	3	43
(c) Attending Special Schools:—										
(a) Day Pupils	—	2	3	1	49	50	97	—	3	205
(b) Boarding Pupils ..	1	3	6	4	—	1	3	1	2	21
(c) Boarded in Homes ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(other than at b) Attending Independ- ent Schools under arrangements made by the Authority ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	5
Total	1	5	9	5	49	53	101	3	5	231
(D) Being educated:—										
In Hospital	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
At Home	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	9
(E) Requiring places in Special Schools at 31/1/57	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3

Number of children reported during the year:—
 (a) Under Sec. 57(3) 5
 (b) „ „ 57(4) —
 (c) „ „ 57(5) 4
 of the Education Act, 1944.