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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year ending 31st December, 1955

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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for the

Year ending 31st December, 1955

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
1955

PUBLIC HEALTH & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

* * *

Chairman

Councillor W. Morgan

Vice-Chairman

Councillor Mrs. B. Williams

Members

Councillor J. C. Airey
Councillor F. A. Cooper
Councillor W. P. Dickinson, J.P. (Deceased 16/11/55)
Councillor T. Hewlett
Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett
Councillor Averell Kidd (September, 1955)
Councillor W. McLaughlin
Councillor J. Miller
Councillor J. R. Mort (Retired August, 1955).
Councillor Mrs. M. P. M. Parker, J.P.
Councillor R. Prescott
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Councillor J. Spencer

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1955.

May I first of all pay a tribute to Dr. G. G. Wray, who died on January 16th, 1956, aged 71 years.

Dr. Wray was your Medical Officer from 1939 until the time of his death, and during that time has served the district and its inhabitants with such vigour and enthusiasm that he was known for his zeal not only by the Councillors and staff, but by most members of the general public particularly the mothers and children in whom he took a special interest.

His good humour and kindness were well known to all, and they will mourn his passing with the deepest regret.

The report follows similar lines to those of previous years, giving facts and figures on Vital Statistics and a broad picture of environmental conditions during the past 12 months.

In connection with vital statistics it is interesting to note that the Birth Rate is slightly lower than last year. The total number of births 221 against 245. The Death Rate is also lower, 172 against 189 (94 males, 78 females).

The Infantile Mortality Rate is lower, whilst the Neo Natal Mortality Rate is higher than the previous year. The Maternal Mortality Rate is again nil. These rates compare favourably with those published for England and Wales as a whole.

There was no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease. The total number of cases notified was the lowest on record. Scarlet Fever, 20; Measles, 69; and Whooping Cough, 10 accounted for the majority.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning or Poliomyelitis notified.

The population in the Urban District continues to rise. The figure of 15,360 (mid 1955) is an increase of 270 over 1954 and 480 over 1953.

The work of the department has proceeded smoothly, but each succeeding piece of legislation places additional duties upon the staff. We are able to cope with these at present but some of the other work is receiving less attention than in previous years.

J. WALKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Physical Characteristics of the Area

The shape of the district is roughly that of a quadrangle with the longer sides from East to West of 4½ miles and the shorter North to South of 3 miles. There is a pronounced slope in the area from South East to North West, falling from 300 feet above sea level to 20 feet above mean sea level.

Part of the northern boundary of the district is formed by the River Ribble for a distance of some two miles, and it is tidal in almost all that stretch. The River Darwen flows through a valley in the northern part of the area and joins the Ribble towards the north western boundary of the district.

Each of these rivers has given rise to extensive flooding in the lower lying parts of the district in times of heavy rains. The risk of flooding is accentuated by a West wind with a high tide level.

Geologically the area is based on Triassic Sandstone upon which are placed a layer of lower boulder clay, a layer of drift sand and finally a layer of upper boulder clay. The rock base forms an inclined plane which dips downwards from the East towards the sea. Outcrops of this rock are found in the beds of the rivers Ribble and Darwen. In the boulder clay layers stones of varying sizes are found. Most of these are of Lakeland origin brought down by the movement of ice or by its melting. In the Drift Sand layer there are deposits of gravel. Usually the layers of Glacial Drift fill the valleys, the hill tops being free of drift.

The thickness of the layers varies considerably in different parts of the district, and the three layers may reach 100 feet, but in most parts of the district the Upper Boulder layer approximates 10 feet, the Drift Sand 9 feet and the Lower Boulder layer from 2 feet upwards.

The two rivers form a flat tongue of land near their junction and the alluvial deposits provide a rich soil which is utilised for market gardening. This land has, unfortunately, been flooded on many occasions to the great detriment of the stock in the gardens.

Meteorological Conditions in 1955

The information contained in this section of my report has been provided, as in previous years, by Dr. Barocas of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory by permission of Mr. Tuson, Chief Education Officer, Preston, and the table of Sunshine hours by the Meteorological Station at Esprick

Weather Summary

Month	Rainfall Inches	Number of Rain Days	Sunshine Hours	Prevailing Wind Days.
January	2.5	19	37.5	S.6. S.W.6. S.6.
February	1.7	18	87.2	Calm 5. E.6. N.E.4.
March	1.27	11	168.5	N.E.6. E.6. N.W.6.
April	1.94	14	163.7	E.6. S.W.6. W.6.
May	2.45	19	210.2	N.W.8. W.6. E.5.
June	3.18	18	165.8	E.9. S.5.
July	1.23	3	317.9	Calm 4. E.7. W.7.
August	1.00	8	225.7	N.E.7. E.7.
September	3.27	22	149.6	W.8. N.W.7. S.5.
October	2.41	16	108.1	Calm 5. S.7. N.W.6.
November	1.62	13	56.7	Calm 13. S.E.5. S.4.
December	4.36	21	36.7	E.6. S.W.5. W.5.
Totals	26.98	182	1727.6	—

The year 1955 has been a memorable year for sunshine and dry weather following the previous very wet year. The mean temperature for the year, however, was not high; it was 0.4°F. lower than average and identical to the mean temperature of 1954. The total rainfall, on the other hand, was very low being only 26.98 inches. This was 10.67 inches less than average and 27.14 inches less than in 1954. The year 1955 was the driest year of the century in Preston, being the driest year since 1887 when the total rainfall was 24.63 inches. With the exception of June and December, all months had rainfall below average. August was well below average as the total rainfall for the month was 3.15 inches lower than average. It was also the driest month of the year with 1.00 inch of rain. This was very unusual as August is generally the wettest month of the year in Preston. The wettest month of the year was December, with 4.36 inches of rain, this amount, however, was only 0.72 higher than average.

The rainfall was fairly evenly distributed over the whole of the year with equal amounts for the summer and winter. The autumn was the wettest of the seasons.

Rain fell on 182 days, 15 days less than average and 67 days less than the previous year. The ground was flooded only on 30 days as against 132 days last year. The wettest day of the year was December 8th, when 0.82 inches in rain fell.

An absolute drought occurred from July 4th to August 1st, while a dry spell occurred from March 2nd to March 17th and from April 10th to April 24th.

As far as temperature is concerned, February again was the coldest month, the average temperature for the month being 33.7°F. This was 5.7°F. lower than average. The coldest day of the year was February 23rd when the minimum temperature reached 12.2°F.

The warmest month of the year was August with an average temperature of 63.7°F. , which was 3.7°F. higher than average. The highest temperature of the year was also reached in August when 83.9°F. were recorded on August 24th. On the whole, while the winter months were colder, the summer months were warmer than average.

Ground frost occurred on more nights than in the previous year. The total number for 1955 was 114 as against 80 in 1954. The lowest ground temperature recorded was 5.0°F. on the night of February 23rd. Air frost occurred on 88 days as against 49 in 1954.

Of the months of the year July and August were remarkable for dry sunny weather and high temperatures, but on the other hand the early months of the year, February and March in particular will be remembered for the cold, snow and ice. November had many days without wind, while December was warm. The deep snow of December 20th (7 inches in depth) disappeared very quickly with a sudden rise in temperature, and this rather high temperature for the time of the year persisted until the end of the year with daily maximum temperatures ranging from 44° to 56°F.

With the exception of January, February and December, the barometer during the other months of the year was higher than average.

Social Conditions and Amenities of the Area

The main portions of the district are closely associated with industry, but part is entirely residential. The chief industries are cotton manufacture, especially weaving, engineering, corn milling, market gardening and dairy farming.

There are eleven churches in the area with attached Sunday Schools covering the various aspects of religion. Many church halls are associated with these churches where in the winter months, lectures, concerts, debates, dances and dramatic society meetings are held.

The clubs in the district are thirteen in number, some political, some religious, some non-sectarian and some connected with sports. Games such as billiards, snooker, darts, dominoes, etc., are played in these clubs. Additionally a tennis club, a table tennis club and a cricket club are sited in the district. On the playing fields, five in number, football and cricket are played, each in its season, and there are three football clubs.

The local Archeological Society has made excavations, particularly in the area close to the junction of the Rivers Darwen and Ribble, where it is considered that there was, in the period of Roman occupation, a landing place for Roman shipping. The existence of a fort is suspected, its boundaries have not been fully traced. Many interesting relics, pottery, metals, portions of urns, etc., have been found there and are now displayed in the Council Offices and also in the Library in Station Road.

There are four branches of the County Council Library sited in different parts of the area.

Statistics

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,761
Population (census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,610
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,360
Number of inhabited houses (census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,314
Number of inhabited houses (Rate Book 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,952
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£82,357
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£323

Vital Statistics

<i>Live Births:—</i>								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118	99	217
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Total								122	99	221
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (mid 1955) crude								...	...	14.4
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (mid 1955) adjusted								...	...	15.0
<i>Still Births:—</i>								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total								2	2	4
Comparability factor for births								...	...	1.04
<i>Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—</i>								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total								5	—	5
<i>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age (Neo-natal deaths):—</i>								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total								4	—	4
Infantile Mortality Rate—								...	...	...
All Infants per 1,000 births								...	...	23
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate—								...	...	...
Mortality rate per 1,000 births								...	...	18
<i>Deaths:—</i>								...	...	...
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)								...	...	11.2
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)								...	...	11.9
Comparability factor for deaths								...	...	1.06
<i>Maternal Mortality:—</i>								...	...	...
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births								...	...	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population from Cancer								...	...	1.63
Death rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis								...	...	0.06

Comparative Table

		Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Per 1,000 of Population Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Infantile Mortality Rate
Of 5 years 1947-51	...	17.58	11.6	0.216	1.624	1.526	31
Year 1952	...	13.8	12.9	0.07	2.92	Nil	29
Year 1953	...	14.1	10.4	0.2	1.68	Nil	14
Year 1954	...	16.2	12.7	0.27	1.66	Nil	29
Year 1955	...	14.4	11.2	0.06	1.63	Nil	23
Increase or decrease in 1955							
On 5 year average 1947-1951	...	-3.18	-0.4	-0.156	+0.006	-1.526	-8
Previous Year	...	-1.8	-1.5	-0.21	-0.03	Nil	-6
England and Wales 1955	...	15.0	11.7	0.13	2.06	0.64	24.9

Analysis of Causes of Death, 1955

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	1	1
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
Meningococcal infection	—	1	1
Influenza	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic infections	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasms (all sites)	8	16	24
Leukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	14	8	22
Angina	14	8	22
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	14	15	29
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	3	6
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Bronchitis	11	4	15
Other Respiratory Disease	—	1	1
Stomach Ulcers	3	—	3
Gastritis and Enteritis	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Congenital Malformations	1	—	1
Other ill-defined Diseases	10	9	19
Accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	2	1	3
Totals	94	78	172

The table given below shows some interesting figures of comparison over the last 60 years.

Table of Six Decades

Period	Per 1,000 Population			Phthisis Death Rate	Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Deaths from Diarrhoea	Infantile Mortality Rate
	Birth Rate	Death Rate			Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths		
Ten Years												
1891-1900	...	30.8	18.9	1.25	133	27	46	16	211	15	122	188
1901-1910	...	26.3	14.7	0.95	116	21	98	15	291	16	58	128
1911-1920	...	18.7	13.7	0.91	54	5	166	16	565	11	46	107
1921-1930	...	16.0	12.0	0.72	7	0	66	5	310	0	11	64
1931-1940	...	14.0	12.7	0.44	5	2	47	3	414	0	5	56
1941-1950	...	16.5	12.28	0.33	0	0	27	1	280	0	6	42

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS. The number of Deaths from this Disease shows a record low figure only equalled in 1952, one death only being recorded. As previously there were no deaths from Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA. The number of deaths from this disease were similar to last year and this was in spite of an excellent summer and autumn.

CANCER. The number of deaths from Cancer showed a slight decrease. Five of the deaths were of cancer of the lungs or Bronchi.

OTHER CAUSES OF DEATH. It has already been mentioned that the diseases which particularly affect the older ages—those of the heart and the brain—caused the largest number of deaths. These are the deaths which mark the decline in the organism and might with equal truth be called the mortal diseases of the senescent.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. The Infantile Mortality Rate for Walton-le-Dale is slightly below the average for England and Wales 23.0 as to 24.9. Five deaths occurred in children under 1 year. Of these deaths 4 were Neo-natal (i.e. under 4 weeks) so that although the Infantile Mortality is lower than average the neo-natal rate is for the year under review slightly higher than average. The causes of death were as follows:—

Broncho Pneumonia	1	} Neo-natal
Haemorrhage	1	
Prematurity	3	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health	G. G. Wray, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (died 16/1/56)
Other Appointments	M.O.H. Fulwood U.D.C.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	} G. N. Corbishley, Cs.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
Cleansing Superintendent	
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	{ J. R. Williams, Cs.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. K. Walmsley, Cs.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (to 11/8/55)
Certifying Factory Surgeon	{ F. Burgin, Cs.R.San.I. (from 19/9/55) Dr. Logan, Leven House, Bamber Bridge.

County Council Services in the Area

Two midwives were employed wholtime in the district.

Mrs. Dobbie,
Chorley Road,
Bamber Bridge.

Telephone: 85280.

Mrs. M. L. E. Moore,
16, Lark Avenue,
Penwortham.

Telephone: Preston Priory 83434.

Ambulance Service

One ambulance and one sitting case car are at present sited in an ambulance station in the Council yard. The vehicles cover an area of the Urban District and portions of surrounding districts.

Domiciliary Nursing Service

Three nurses were employed in this district in 1955. They carried out the important duties of nursing in the homes of the patients.

Ante-Natal Clinic

Meetings were held fortnightly at the School Clinic, Brindle Road. A specialist (Mr. Robson) from Preston Royal Infirmary attended at each meeting in addition to the County Health Visitors and local Midwives.

Routine inspections and examinations were made and patients were advised or given minor treatment where necessary. Any further treatment necessitated transference to Preston Royal Infirmary or Sharoe Green Maternity Hospital. The majority of the babies were born in hospital.

Post natally, mothers also attended for advice or treatment.

Dental Treatment was given by the School Dentist.

Child Welfare Centres

There were three in the district, one at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, one at the Methodist Sunday School at Lostock Hall, and one at Gregson Lane. The Brindle Road Child Welfare Centre met weekly on Thursday afternoons, the Lostock Hall Child Welfare Centre fortnightly on Monday afternoons, and the Gregson Lane Child Welfare Centre the first and third Monday in the month, during the afternoon.

Home Help Service

Home Helps are employed in Walton-le-Dale and district, and help a variety of cases including confinements, sickness, old age and infirmity, and Tuberculosis cases. Night helps are also employed where needed.

School Medical Service

Medical and hygiene inspections are carried out at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge. Clinic sessions are held for a variety of treatments including minor ailments dental care and ophthalmic conditions. The County Council make special provisions for residential schooling for various categories of handicapped children such as the blind, partially sighted, deaf and dumb epileptics, delicate and backward.

Convalescent Care

In suitable cases arrangements are made for the admission of patients to convalescent homes.

Welfare Service

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who have no longer anyone to adequately care for them. Handicapped persons are also assisted.

Hospitals

The hospitals administered by the Preston and District Hospitals Management Committee were available for patients from this district. They were:—

- (1) Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (2) Sharoe Green Hospital.
- (3) Chorley Hospital.
- (4) Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley.

There were annexes, belonging to this group of hospitals for Continuation, Convalescent, or Specialised treatment. One of these—Lostock Hall Convalescent Home—is situated in this district.

All the hospitals were extensively used, for out-patient as well as in-patient treatment, by persons from this area, though the extent of this use was not known, as figures of attendances or lists of diseases were not available nor supplied by the hospitals. It would, therefore, be impossible to give even an appropriate estimate of the amount of illness or disability for which these hospitals cater.

Sufferers from Malignant Diseases received specialised treatment at the special unit at Preston Royal Infirmary staffed by personnel from the Christie Hospital, Manchester. Radium X-ray, Isotope and operative treatment were available.

Venereal Diseases were treated at a specialised clinic at Preston Royal Infirmary.

For Maternity cases accommodation was available in maternity blocks or beds at Preston Royal Infirmary, Chorley Hospital and Eaves Lane, Chorley. Ante-natal and Post-natal clinics were run weekly at each hospital.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, MOUNT STREET, PRESTON is outside the scheme of the National Health service. It provides beds for Medical, Surgical, Maternity and Special cases. It is fully equipped with X-ray and other diagnostic equipment.

The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The hospital to which patients were admitted was:—

Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston.

Notifiable Diseases

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases Notified all ages	Under 1 year	1 year	3 years	5 years.	10 years	15 years	25 years	45 years	65 & over
Scarlet Fever ...	20	—	1	2	14	3	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	69	2	13	17	35	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	10	—	2	2	6	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
Malaria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1
Non-Pulmonary „	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Nervous System ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	115	2	17	21	55	6	—	7	4	3

The number of patients removed to Hospital was—Scarlet Fever 16, Measles 1, Acute Pneumonia 1, and Erysipelas 1.

In addition 2 cases of Enteritis were removed to hospital.

Special comment must be made on the outstanding small number of Infectious Diseases notified by Medical Practitioners during the year. The total number of 115 is nearly one quarter of those reported during the previous year and the lowest on record since 1889 (the date when records were first kept). This is accounted for by the small number of Scarlet Fever occurring and the absence of such diseases as Food Poisoning and Dysentery.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

This was the responsibility of the County Health Division under the Divisional Medical Officer. There were no cases of Diphtheria reported in this district during the year.

Number of Children Immunised under School age 146

Number of Children Immunised of School age..... 61

Number of Children receiving Reinforcing Dose 329

Vaccination against Smallpox

Again a County responsibility administered via the Health Division from which the following figures were obtained:

Number of primary vaccinations ...	52
Number of revaccinations ...	27

Tuberculosis

The County Council supply the dispensaries and the Health Visitor staff, whilst the Regional Hospital Board supply the Medical staff. The Dispensary for this area was at Walton's Parade, Preston.

Inspections, examinations, X-ray, light treatment, and general medical treatment were given at this dispensary.

The individual cards used in this district for the last few years were continued and proved most useful.

On the register at the end of the year were 50 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 32 cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis compared with 45 and 31 respectively in 1954.

Notified during the year were 6 cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and 1 of the Non-respiratory types.

The ages of the patients notified are given in the table of Infectious Diseases.

Milk and Milk Production

The comments made in previous reports upon the difficulties encountered due to the dual control of the milk supply still could be made with equal truth in 1955. A better system of co-operation however between the local authority and the Ministry of Agriculture did much to smooth out the difficulties.

Visits to the farms except for cases of Infection or for the taking of samples were few in number and this particularly entailed the loss of useful contacts.

The sampling of milk was continued though with less vigour than in previous years as in the summer and autumn the staff were fully engaged on meat inspection and other duties.

During 1956 this district along with other surrounding districts will be declared a specified area which means that only Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk will be allowed to be sold. This will ensure a safer milk being consumed but will require more vigilance on the part of the Health Department staff to determine that Designated Milk only is sold in the district.

Milk in Schools Scheme

All the schools in the area received supplies of milk on each day the schools were open. Practically all the milk supplied was heat treated. Samples of the milk submitted to test proved to be free of the Tubercle Bacillus.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

Most of the samples of raw milk were submitted for Tuberculous examination, although at the latter end of the year the service was suspended due to a shortage of guinea pigs.

No positive results were returned and no action under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 was necessary.

Ice Cream

All the premises retailing Ice Cream were visited by the Sanitary Inspectors during the summer months. No action was necessary. Thirty-six retailers are registered and 2 producer retailers. Eleven samples of Ice Cream have been submitted to the Pathologist, Preston Royal Infirmary and these returned the following results:—Seven grade I. Three grade II. One grade III.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938-54

The County Council is the Food and Drug authority in this area. Samples were taken by the County Sampling Officer assisted by Mr. Williams.

The County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following figures:—

A total of 105 samples was obtained, of these 74 were of milk (this total includes one Channel Islands milk) and the 31 others comprised:—

2 Coffee	1 Vegetables canned
2 Malt Vinegar	1 Tapioca
2 Penicillin tablets B.P.	1 Orange drink
1 Gin	1 Ice Cream
4 Sweets	3 Ice Lollies
1 Gravy Browning	2 Extract of malt with cod liver oil
1 Pork Sausage	3 Ground almonds
1 Tea extender	3 candied peel
1 Orange crush	1 Orange

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

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1 Tea extender	List of ingredients includes the phrase "The essential ingredient of tea". This is not a specific description as required by paragraph 4 (3) (ii) of the Labelling of Food Order.	Packers communicated with.
1 Orange drink	No name of food or name and address of packer on bottle or cap.	Vendor interviewed and cautioned.

Housing and Housing Conditions

The number of new houses erected in the district in 1955 was 129:—37 by the Council, and 92 by other bodies or persons.

The number of applicants on the housing list was approximately 250, a decrease on that of the previous year.

In hand at the end of the year were 58 houses and in contemplation 84 houses, dependant upon the quota of houses allowed by the Minister.

Schools

There were 11 schools in the area and 3 of these had unsatisfactory yard surfaces. Ten of them were equipped with water closets, one with trough closets and all were connected to the public sewers.

It is distressing to report that only two of the schools had satisfactory washing facilities. This must be considered to be a severe criticism of our educational methods, where there are insufficient facilities to give practical lessons on the necessity for cleanliness, not only generally, but particularly before and after food.

Many of these schools are old but they should at least have some modern facilities.

Atmospheric Pollution

Increasing interest is shown in this subject by both the Council and public alike. Much improvement has been achieved during the period under review but much still remains to be done. The Clean Air Bill should be on the Statute Book during 1956 and will place a strong weapon in the hands of Local Authorities.

Of the eleven larger industrial firms 3 are now using oil for their boiler plants and a noticeable improvement in the smoke effluent has been observed from their chimneys.

Towards the end of the year a public meeting was held in the Council Chamber to which representatives of most of the Industrial firms in the district were present. Two papers were read on Atmospheric Pollution and its control, one by Dr. J Douglas, Medical Officer of Health, Bradford, and the other by Mr. F. Myers, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Bradford. A most interesting and fruitful discussion ensued.

New Legislation in 1955

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment Regulations) 1955.

The Transfer Functions (Food & Drugs) Order, 1955.

The Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Food & Drugs Amendment Act, 1954 (Appointed Day) Order, 1955.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the Year 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in preparing and submitting to you the following report for the year 1955.

Before proceeding with the report may I refer to the passing of Dr. Wray in the early part of 1956.

Dr. Wray, as Medical Officer of Health to this small district for the past 16 years was, apart from being a medical man, also a keen and ardent environmentalist. He could assess the needs of the population or a community in terms of Welfare and Clinical services for the young and the aged, and of Housing and social amenities for all classes. His advice on matters concerning the health of the population was often sought both individually and collectively and he could always be relied upon to champion the cause of the needy.

The Council and the community have lost a great professional gentleman.

It is said that a written annual report is the condensing of all the physical and mental activity of a few officials into a number of printed pages of smooth craft to keep as a permanent record, of the improvements effected in 12 months.

This is very true of the work of the Sanitary Inspector, for it is difficult to fully record all the various duties for which he is responsible.

The work proceeded steady and uneventful. New legislation continued to flow in a steady stream in the form of circulars, regulations and acts of parliament, all to be digested and acted upon where necessary, some requiring considerable time and trouble in order to ensure that the duties are faithfully understood by those who have to comply.

Housing and Food claimed the major attention throughout the year, Housing in the form of clearance of the bad and repair of the not so bad. Food consisting mainly of 10,000 animals for human consumption had to be thoroughly inspected and so controlled that none, other than fit, was passed to the housewife via the butcher's shop. Both these subjects are dealt with in some detail under their respective headings.

Many sub-headings found in the report such as shops, milk supply, etc., all indicate the varied nature of the work carried out by the department and with the co-operation of other departments ensured the smooth running of what is a "business" for the people.

The following detailed list gives some indication of the nature of the visits made during the course of the year.

1. Visits and Inspections made

Factories (specific)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	194
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Shops (specific)	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	157

2. Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	740
Visits paid for the purpose	...	1043
Filthy and verminous premises	...	22

3. Infectious Diseases

Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	...	41
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4. Meat and Food Inspections

Slaughterhouses	...	664
Butchers	...	40
Food Preparing Premises	...	47
Ice Cream	...	68
Milk (Bacteriological)	...	40
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	36

Closet Conversions and Sanitary Accommodation

Work of converting insanitary closets proceeded slowly during the year. Two Pail and Nine Waste Water Closets were converted. The position at the year end was:—

Water Closets	4,905	Pail Closets	101
Waste Water Closets	128	Privy Closets	2

There is a reluctance on the part of Contractors to tender for closet conversions. Whether it is that the work is so fetid or whether it is not sufficiently lucrative I do not know, but only two tenders were received after advertising and it took some six months for the work to be commenced.

Notices Served and Defects Remedied**Notices Served**

172 Informal	
30 Formal	
Informal Notices complied with	152
Formal Notices complied with	25
Notices served on Houses	164
Notices served on other than houses	8

Summary of repaired defects

Gutters made good	4
Roofs and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	10
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed	3
Fireplaces repaired	1
Floors repaired	2
Window reveals repointed	3
Plasterwork renewed	13
W.C.s repaired	6
House walls repointed	2
Drains repaired or relaid	103
Dustbins renewed	4
Window frames renewed	3
Yard walls rebuilt	5
Dampness remedied	10
Miscellaneous	29
Total defects remedied	198

Housing

In order to present to the Council proposals under section 1 of the 1954 Housing Act regarding the number of unfit houses likely to be dealt with during the next 20 years, it was necessary to carry out some form of Housing Survey. This took the form of a "Rapid Survey" over a period of three months. Most of the houses to be included in either Clearance Areas or Individual Unfit were known of beforehand. It was only necessary to view the outside of a house in order to decide whether it was likely to be included for demolition. When assessing the condition of the houses a number of categories were used, "A" for the perfectly good houses, "B" for the houses requiring only minor repairs, "C" for houses requiring major repair and/or improvement and "D" houses which were considered to be totally unfit and which could not at a reasonable expense be made fit. The final summary of the survey appears below in two statistical pages. The second table is a copy of the one sent to the Ministry under Part I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and which has since been approved.

WARD	TYPE					CATEGORY				TOTAL	SANITARY ACCOM.		
	Det.	S.D.	Terr.	Flat.	Bung.	A	B	C	D		W.C.	Other	B.R.
Central	86	482	541	11	31	615	279	208	18	1,120	1,118	2	739
West	66	494	454	16	28	494	428	100	8	1,030	1,027	3	748
South	66	183	633	—	31	245	398	216	23	882	864	18	370
St. Leonard's ...	141	329	415	1	78	375	311	196	4	886	884	2	576
All Saint's	116	174	407	—	40	206	223	240	28	697	686	11	252
TOTAL	475	1,662	2,450	28	208	1,935	1,639	960	81	4,615	4,579	36	2,685
Built 1952	62	—	—	2	} 36	64	—	—	—	64	64	—	64
" 1953	95	—	—	26		121	—	—	—	121	121	—	121
" 1954	138	—	—	—		138	—	—	—	138	138	—	138
GRAND TOTALS	2,432		2,450	56	244	2,258	1,639	960	81	4,938	4,902	36	3,008

Bungalows included in additive totals as Det. or S.D.

W.C. includes W.W.C. One W.C. allowed to each house, although many may have two.

B.R. this is a minimum figure from external appearances.

Abbreviations

Det — Detached. S.D. — Semi-Detached. Terr. — Terraced. Bung. — Bungalow.
W.C. — Water Closet. B.R. — Bathroom.

Housing Act, 1936: Parts II and III Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: Section 1 Required Form of Proposals

Local Authority: Walton-le-Dale.

County: Lancashire.

Total number of permanent dwellings in the Local Authority's Area 4,938

Part 1. THE TOTAL PROBLEM.

(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936	81
(ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)	5

Part 2. ORDERS ALREADY MADE, ETC.

(iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority	13
(iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative	Nil

Part 3. ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS.

(v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years	Nil
(vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	16
(vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation	Nil
(viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years ...	29
(ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	52

Drainage

Examination, inspection and tracing drains occupied a considerable amount of time during the year when 328 visits were made, in addition 10 drains were submitted to the hydraulic test. 127 new houses have been connected to the sewers, the total number of houses now on the water carriage system is 4,820.

Rodent Control

Whilst this important aspect of Public Health holds a prominent place in our duties it is looked upon by some people as a subject to be avoided and is often held to ridicule by members of the public particularly when the title Rodent Operator is used in place of Rat Catcher.

Nevertheless if this important service was ignored, the district would soon have a rodent population over twice that of the human one. Steady and thorough treatment of dwellings and business premises have been carried out by the Operator who spends about 50% of his time on this work. Some 160 premises have been visited and treatments carried out at 60 necessitating some 700 visits during the year.

Meat Inspection**Food Inspection**

The high standard of Meat Inspection at the two licensed Slaughterhouses has been maintained during the year. This, in spite of depletion in staff during the period when the "kill" was at its highest, Mr. K. Walmsley who was full time Meat Inspector at Messrs. Leyland's Slaughterhouse terminated his duties in July and in October Mr. F. Burgin, who had spent two years with the Bahrain Government, commenced his duties in succession to Mr. Walmsley. The number of animals killed during the year, the first full year of de-control, was 10,000 of which some 4,000 were beef animals. The percentage of rejected meat and offal were similar to 1954 and about average for the country. The amount of Bovine

Tuberculosis was slightly less than the previous year probably due to the increase of the Tuberculin Tested herds and the slaughter of reactors. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have established a slaughtering point at Leyland's for all T.B. reactors which are slaughtered, and inspected by us.

The total weight of offal and carcass meat rejected for all Diseases during the year under review was 47 tons, 4 cwts. 1 qr. 16 lbs.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	543	5479	28	4068	758	Nil
Number inspected	543	5479	28	4068	758	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	18	1	2	4	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	129	2277	0	818	65	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	25.125	41.88	3.57	20.10	9.10	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	43	—	—	4	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	79	1745	1	—	53	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	15.1	32.45	3.57	—	7.51	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	2	—	—	—	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	2	—	—	—	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Raw Milks

Samples taken from Producers in the District.								Samples taken from Producers outside the District.								
Year	No. taken		Satisfactory				T.B. present	No. taken		Satisfactory				T.B. present		
			No.	%						No.	%					
1945	37	...	21	...	59.5	...	0	...	54	...	13	...	25.0	...	5
1946	45	...	30	...	66.7	...	1	...	41	...	15	...	36.5	...	4
1947	61	...	41	...	66.7	...	3	...	55	...	26	...	47.2	...	3
1948	95	...	65	...	68.5	...	5	...	88	...	40	...	45.4	...	4
1949	100	...	85	...	85.0	...	1	...	53	...	26	...	49.0	...	3
1950	70	...	53	...	75.8	...	1	...	69	...	29	...	39.3	...	3
1951	69	...	53	...	67.0	...	3	...	76	...	31	...	40.7	...	3
1952	64	...	52	...	81.25	...	3	...	46	...	29	...	63.0	...	1
1953	64	...	48	...	75.0	...	0	...	43	...	25	...	58.0	...	1
1954	24	...	23	...	95.8	...	0	...	30	...	25	...	83.3	...	1
1955	44	...	42	...	95.5	...	0	...	41	...	21	...	51.2	...	0
Total	643	...	513	...	82.8	...	17	...	596	...	280	...	46.9	...	28

Pasteurised Milks

Year	Number Taken	Efficiently Heat Treated	Number	%
1945	13	...	13	100
1946	14	...	14	100
1947	12	...	12	100
1948	14	...	14	100
1949	15	...	15	100
1950	21	...	21	100
1951	27	...	27	100
1952	36	...	34	94.5
1953	23	...	21	91.3
1954	17	...	17	100
1955	12	...	12	100
Total	204	...	200	97

Bovine Tuberculosis

For the third year in succession no positive samples of milk have been reported by the Pathologist, Group Laboratories, Preston Royal Infirmary. It would appear that with the gradual elimination of cows suffering from Bovine Tuberculosis, particularly infection of the udder, and the increase of the Tuberculin Tested herds, the number of positive samples is bound to be nil or at any rate very low. It is also interesting to note that the number of non pulmonary cases of T.B. reported is the lowest on record.

Ice Cream

The premises producing and retailing Ice Cream were all visited during the year; all these premises are now registered under the Food and Drugs Act; there are 38 retailers, two of which are also producers.

Routine sampling was continued, 11 samples being submitted to bacteriological examination, the results being as follows:—

	Number	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
Wrapped Ice Cream	7	3	3	1	Nil
Loose Ice Cream	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

Other Foods

Below is a short summary of small items of tinned and loose foods rejected during the year:—

	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Tinned Meats	1	—	2
Tinned Vegetables	—	1	8
Processed Meats	7	1	—
Carcase Meats	2	1	22 (At Shops)
Margarine	—	1	—
TOTAL	11	1	4

Necessitating 24 Certificates and totalling 63 items.

Imported Egg

Information was received during the Summer that a Wholesaler had delivered imported egg and egg albumen to shops in the district. This egg was suspected of being contaminated by food poisoning organisms. Detailed investigations were carried out at all bakehouses and confectioners, samples were taken at one bakehouse and submitted to the Pathologist, at Preston Royal Infirmary; the food was reported sound. We are indebted to the Health Department, Bolton County Borough for so promptly passing on to us the information.

Food Premises

Towards the end of the year the long awaited Food Hygiene Regulations were published to come into operation on January 1st, 1956 (certain sections July 1st, 1956). These would appear to be a serious attempt to improve existing conditions at most Food Premises. The initial impression created on the traders has been one of slow realization that some money will have to be spent (and rightly so) in order to bring their premises up to the required standard. Time alone will tell how the Regulations will be applied.

Infectious Disease

Disinfection

Houses in which patients suffering from notifiable diseases had been removed to hospital were disinfected as soon as practicable after removal. In cases of Scarlet Fever nursed at home terminal disinfection was carried out.

The summary shows the number of premises and articles dealt with:—

Beds fumigated	32	Premises fumigated	26
Books fumigated	90	Clothing fumigated	359

Verminous Premises

Twenty-one properties have been treated for vermin including cockroaches, ants, silverfish, etc.; no serious infestation occurred.

It is significant that in nearly all the cases of cockroach infestation the site coverage on solid floors is constructed over filled in material of clinker and ash from boiler Plants. It must be assumed that the infestation was introduced prior to the house being occupied. It may be necessary to treat this material prior to being spread if there is an increase of complaints in the future.

Public Cleansing

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Cleansing Service of any Local Authority must always be ready to cope with any unusual task in its area, otherwise serious difficulty and possible danger to health may arise. Unlike most other non-trading services the Cleansing Service has always to maintain that continuity of action in order to cope with the waste material of all descriptions which is continually being accumulated in homes and factories. Vehicles must be properly maintained, personnel must be effectively protected against the weather and efficient control must be maintained at the Disposal Centre.

During 1955 no unusual difficulties were encountered in removing the household and trade waste, apart from holidays and sickness amongst employees which interrupted the general collections on occasions, a seven day collection service was maintained.

Trade waste deposited on the Tip by private firms was reduced due to the increased tipping charges (from 2/- to 5/- per load). There was, however an increase in the amount of trade waste collected separately for which a charge based on 13/6d. per hour inclusive of Driver is made.

Top soil stripping on the new Tip was not carried out during the year as sufficient had been removed previously. To enable tipping to continue a 21-in. surface water drain was laid in the valley and a new manhole built to a height of 25 feet.

There have been a number of attempts by unauthorised persons to enter the Salvage Building for the purpose of unlawfully removing scrap metal which to them was a profitable side-line if they could dispose of it. However, on two occasions the vigilance of the Police prevented robbing and the defendants were hauled before the Magistrates to be summarily dealt with.

Salvage

The amount of salvage collected was slightly lower than the previous year but the amount received was higher due to a change of contracts during the year. The Contract for removal of all waste paper held by the Thames Board Mills for 15 years was taken over by Messrs. Ribble Paper Mills, a local firm who offered a higher price than the former firm. This increase accounts for some £400 additional to the salvage receipts.

							£	s.	d.
Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,457	7	5
Gross Income	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,693	11	9
Net Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,763	15	8
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,360		
Houses scavenged	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,952		
Wages of Drivers at December	...	...	...	...	...	£8 4 4d. per week			
Wages of Collectors at December	...	...	...	...	...	£7 16 8d. per week			

Comparative Cost of House Refuse Collection for the Years 1924, 1944 and 1954.

Year		1924	1944	1954
No. of Houses Scavenged	...	2,823	4,126	4,885
Gross Cost of Service	...	£2,205	£4,402	£10,373
Salvage and other credits	...	Nil	£1,586	£2,256
Nett cost of Service	...	£2,205	£2,815	£8,116

Wages of house refuse collectors and motor drivers.

Collectors weekly	...	£2 0s. 0d.	£3 6s. 9d.	£7 3s. 0d.
Drivers weekly	...	£2 16s. 0d.	£4 0s. 0d.	£7 13s. 0d.

Collection and Sales of Salvage

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold and the amounts received for salvage during the year.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	197	—	2	—	1,800	5	1½
Textiles	11	9	3	1	274	17	2
Non-Ferrous Metal	1	7	2	15	204	5	11½
Kitchen Waste	57	3	1	—	221	9	6½
Cast Iron	11	9	2	—	54	6	8½
Light Iron	1	16	1	—	4	19	8
Trade Waste tipped	...	...	...	...	21	19	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	111	8	7
TOTALS	280	16	3	16	£2,693	11	9

The Council commenced the collection of salvage in May, 1940. The following table shows the tonnage sold and the amounts received each year by the sales of salvaged materials:—

Year			Tons	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
1940	...	...	129	3	3	18	426	18	4
1941	...	...	194	7	3	0	828	10	8
1942	...	...	280	5	1	5	1,148	5	1
1943	...	...	376	4	1	16	1,424	18	0
1944	...	...	463	6	2	0	1,576	17	8
1945	...	...	491	9	1	11	1,607	19	9
1946	...	...	335	1	2	24	1,360	0	7
1947	...	...	398	19	1	15	1,685	19	1
1948	...	...	510	0	2	0	2,211	15	7
1949	...	...	490	18	3	24	2,343	13	8
1950	...	...	412	7	0	7	2,108	15	7
1951	...	...	385	12	3	26	3,787	4	9
1952	...	...	388	18	1	1	2,521	13	2
1953	...	...	382	9	0	19	2,331	13	1
1954	...	...	282	6	3	21	2,256	16	3
1955	...	...	280	16	3	16	2,693	11	9

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation for the work carried out by the staff. To Mr. J. R. Williams and Miss A. Wood for their co-operation and loyalty at all times. To the Chairman Mr. Councillor Morgan and to the Members of the Council a grateful tribute for their support and encouragement.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. N. CORBISHLEY,

M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT on

Water Supply for year ending 31st December, 1955

1. Source of Water.

Thirlmere and Haweswater (Manchester Corporation)
Rivers Ribble and Hodder (Preston Corporation)

2. Quality of Water.

	Preston Water	Thirlmere Water
Permanent hardness	42.0 parts/million	5 to 10 parts/million
Temporary hardness	nil	11 to 15 parts/million
Total hardness	42.0 parts/million	16 to 25 parts/million
pH value	7.1	7.0 to 7.5

Of all bacteriological, etc., examinations made during the year, the results were satisfactory.

3. Area of Supply.

In addition to the Urban District, a small bulk supply is given to Cuerden Parish in Chorley R.D. by agreement with Manchester Corporation. Certain other private supplies are taken by consumers in the Parishes of Hoghton and Brindle.

Estimated population supplied:—

Walton-le-Dale U.D.	15320
Outside U.D.	90
	<hr/> 15180

4. Quantity Supplied.

Manchester Corporation	1955	Previous year
No. 1 Meter House, Hoghton	109,864,000	—
No. 2 Meter House, Hoghton (near railway)	147,678,000	—
	<hr/> 257,542,000	<hr/> 227,054,000
Less consumption en route to Brindle Reservoir	3,482,000	3,913,000
	<hr/> 254,060,000	<hr/> 223,141,000
Manchester water received in U.D.	54,776,000	71,332,000
	<hr/> 308,836,000	<hr/> 294,473,000
Total water received in U.D.	2,768,000	—
Supplied to Cuerden Parish	<hr/> 306,068,000	<hr/> 291,801,000
Total Consumption in U.D.		

NOTE.

As the reservoirs at Brindle and Gough Lane are not equipped to operate as storage reservoirs, the water contained in them at the beginning and end of the year has not been taken into account in the above calculations. These "reservoirs" have a total capacity when full of 980,000 galls. — a very small figure compared with the annual consumption—and have never been full, so far as I am aware.

5. Consumption.

Total consumption in U.D.	306,068,000 (55.7 gall/head/day)
Total metered supplies in U.D.	134,397,000
"Domestic" consumption in U.D.	171,671,000 (31.2 gall/head/day)

NOTE. "Domestic" consumption represents all unmetered supplies including water used for building purposes, main flushing, fire fighting, etc., and water lost through bursts.

6. Distribution.

6. (1) WATERMAIN NETWORK.

The distribution network was extended during that part of the year when under my control by the laying of the following mains:—

- 327 yds. 3" main on Cinnamon Hill Estate;
- 137 yds. 3" main in Laburnam Avenue;
- 15 yds. 6" main (replacement main) in Cann Bridge Street.

With the continuing increase in consumption of water, the sizes and conditions of many mains in the network, and the insufficient numbers of control valves are beginning to have effect—particularly when fractures occur. These problems are now being investigated in order that a scheme for main clearing, renewal and the provision of additional valves can be prepared.

Extensive schemes of private development have received planning consent, and it will be necessary to provide reinforcing mains to afford a satisfactory supply of water. Schemes are at present being prepared for this purpose.

6. (2) WATER METERS.

There are now approx. 435 water meters in use in the area supplied. The consumption recorded by many of these meters is so low that the continued metering of some premises should be reconsidered for economic reasons. The consumption recorded by other meters suggests that some premises, not at present metered, ought to be metered. These matters are being investigated.

6. (3) FIRE HYDRANTS.

Fire hydrants are provided in conjunction with the Lancashire County Fire Service in positions recommended by the Fire Service. These are constantly inspected by the Fire Service and repaired or maintained as required.

6. (4) WASTE PREVENTION.

The Council provides an Inspector who maintains a regular inspection service on mains, services and fittings. Taps, etc., are re-washed free of charge.

The following work was carried out (Previous years figures in brackets):—

1,167	(1,055)	visits to premises on inspection etc.;
755	(687)	taps re-washed;
245	(199)	cistern valves re-washed;
281	(230)	burst services reported and/or repaired;
32	(6)	fractures of mains repaired.

In addition, all new fittings installed in the U.D. were tested.

7. Control and Management.

Following the resignation of Mr. J. Whittle, A.R.S.I., in July following his acceptance of an appointment with Preston County Borough Council Water Department, the Council vested control and management of the Water Undertaking in the Engineer and Surveyor.

STANLEY RACE, A.M.I.C.E.,

M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.W.E.,

Engineer and Surveyor.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

This brief report covers the period 1st January, 1955, to 31st December, 1955.

1. Highways

There was an appreciable increase in money allotted for Classified Roads, which has allowed a start to be made in re-surfacing—work long overdue.

There was also a much needed increase for District Highways. Because of the very bad weather in 1954 much work approved was held over until 1955 and therefore the increased allotment did not provide as much additional improvement of roads as the figures below seem to suggest.

There still remains a great deal of arrears of maintenance to be done, and the continuing building development increases the length of highways in the U.D. and additional footpaths have to be constructed on existing highways.

During the year the necessary Orders were made to enable roads and footpaths to be diverted so that the Preston N-S Bye-pass can be built. This work should begin in 1956.

Various alternative methods of street cleansing were tried out during the year and it is hoped that the necessary expenditure will be approved in 1956 to enable an improved service to be maintained.

Authorised expenditure over the past 5 years.					
Classification	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Class I Roads (3.07 miles)	£7469 (£2435/mile)	£3228	£1145	£1950	£2775
Class II Roads (2.22 miles)	£3191 (£1440/mile)	£3231	£1150	£1330	£1333
Class III Roads (2.39 miles)	£1258 (£527/mile)	£1041°	£4445	£1370	£ 673
Unclassified Highways (14.81 miles—1955)	£10135** (£685/mile)	£6315	£8612	£7910	£7584
Totals	£22053	£13815	£15362	£12560	£12365

° Plus £3,900 for one Major Improvement Scheme at Hennel Lane.

** Plus £2,300 loan sanction for improvement of Gregson Lane at Gregson Lane Housing Estate.

The improvement of Hennel Lane from Chorley Road to the Council's Housing Estate was completed.

Street lighting schemes to Group "A" standard were prepared for A.675 and B.5257 to enable Tenders to be invited.

2. Private Streets

Schemes were approved and notices served under Private Street Works Act, 1892, for:—Teven Street, Oakland Street, Havelock Terrace and Bridge Street, Bamber Bridge. Objections were received affecting all four streets.

Objections to Oakland Street were withdrawn and objections to Teven Street dismissed by the Magistrates Court.

Objections to Bridge Street, Bamber Bridge led to the Magistrates quashing the Council's Resolution, etc.

Objections to Havelock Terrace have not yet been determined.

Tenders were accepted for the making up of Teven Street and Oakland Street.

Grove Road was made up by Atkinson's Vehicles Ltd., and adopted as a Highway.

Graham Avenue was made up by the Builder and adopted as a Highway.

Streets on Cinnamon Hill Estate continued to be made up by the Builder.

Notices were served under Section 19 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, in respect of Lark Hill, Higher Walton.

There are now some 68 unmade private streets (excluding back passages) within the Urban District:—

<i>Ward</i>	<i>No. of Streets</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
All Saints Ward	5	Bridge Street awaiting Contract Documents.
Central Ward	13	Dean Street, prepared but not approved by Council.
South Ward	20	Havelock Terrace awaiting decision on objections.
St. Leonards Ward	14	
West Ward	16	Lourdes Avenue, prepared but not approved by Council.

The Ministry does not now restrict or limit the making up of private streets unless the work is to be financed by loan.

3. Public Footpaths

Outstanding objections to the Draft Map prepared under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, were still not dealt with by the County Council, nor was the necessary Public Inquiry held. Therefore there is still no definitive Map of Public Rights of Way.

The closure of the unnecessary footpath from Brindle Road to Woodlands Avenue was finally authorised following a Public Inquiry.

The only outstanding problem concerning public footpaths at Walton Summit concerned the maintenance of Summit Bridge, in Chorley Rural District, and is being dealt with by the County Council.

4. Sewerage

Work in laying new main sewers under the Main Sewerage Scheme continued during the year, the good weather enabling very good progress to be made on those lengths of sewer lying under agricultural land.

The main section of the central main sewer, draining Bamber Bridge was completed and brought into service. There should now be no further trouble in this area from surcharging of sewers.

Schemes for extension of sewers in Hennel Lane and Cuerdale Lane were approved and the sewers constructed. The houses for which these sewers were provided were not all connected and some septic tanks on these sections were still in use. These will be connected early in 1956.

A scheme was prepared for the connection of Higher Walton Mill to the new sewer being laid in Cann Bridge Street. This scheme was approved by the owners of the mill and by the Council and should be completed early in 1956, enabling the Mill's septic tanks to be removed, and consequently, the discharge of effluent to the River Darwen will cease.

The septic tank at St. Saviour's Vicarage was abandoned and the drainage connected to a sewer.

5. Surface Water Drainage

A little progress was made with the survey of surface water drains despite the fact that the Council did not proceed with its proposal to engage an Assistant to carry out the survey and prepare any schemes for remedial works found necessary.

Schemes were prepared and approved for improving the surface water drainage of the Coupe Green area, and of the Brown Lane area.

A new surface water drain was laid to serve Bridge Bank and Ribble Crescent.

6. Sewage Disposal

Following the visit last year of a deputation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to discuss sewage disposal, the Council's Consulting Engineers presented a Scheme and Report on the proposal to reconstruct the Sewage Disposal Works.

The scheme is designed for a daily dry weather flow of 950,000 gallons (Domestic sewage 658,000 gallons; Trade effluent 207,000 gallons; Subsoil water 85,000 gallons). Present daily dry weather flow is approx. 820,000 gallons.

The scheme briefly comprises:—

1. New pump chamber, well and pumping plant for low level (Walton) sewers. (This plant will also pump storm water tanks).
2. Coarse screens, detritus channels, comminutor, grit pump, flow recorder and automatic penstocks.
3. Upward flow sedimentation tanks to be constructed within the present unused contact beds (Total capacity 245,000 gallons, i.e., 6.2 hrs. D.W.F.).
4. Filters (bacteria beds) dosed with recirculated effluent. As these filters will have their outlets above flood level to ensure free discharge, the sedimentation tank effluent will have to be pumped to appropriate dosing chambers. (Total capacity of filters—subject to review on analysis of sewage—6,600 cu. yds. i.e. 144 gallons/cu. yd./day).
5. Hopper-bottomed humus tanks to be constructed within an existing settling tank. (Total capacity 148,000 gallons, i.e. 3.72 hrs. D.W.F.).
6. Storm water tanks to be constructed within the existing settling tanks. (Total capacity 237,500 gallons, i.e. 6 hrs. D.W.F.).
7. Storm water storage tank to be formed within the existing settling tanks. This tank will come into use when the outfall from the works is tide-locked.
8. Primary digestion sludge tanks. (Capacity 3 cu. ft./head of population).
9. Sludge drying beds.
10. Sludge storage space.
11. Pump wells, pumps and pumping equipment for sedimentation tank effluent and sludge.

The estimated cost of the scheme is £120,000.

The Council has decided that approval of the scheme by the Minister shall be sought and that authority be sought to proceed with such of the works as will give partial treatment. Filters, humus tanks and some pumping equipment will not be constructed if partial treatment is approved for the present, and the saving in cost is estimated to be £45,000. Pumping costs of £600 per annum will also be saved.

During the year one Trade Effluent Notice was served on the Council and conditions of acceptance of the effluent (Leyland Bros. slaughterhouse) agreed.

7. Housing

At the beginning of the year 63 houses and flats were under construction. At the same time last year none were in progress.

37 houses were completed and occupied in 1955 (compared with 36 in 1954).

During the year, after the Ministry had raised the allocation from 20 to 32, tenders were accepted for 32 flats at Gregson Lane Estate. At the end of the year 58 houses and flats were under construction.

After much delay whilst the Council considered (and later abandoned) the acquisition of Adams Hall Camp site for housing purposes, authority was given in April to start negotiations for the purchase of Bullrun Farm site. This site was still not in the Council's possession at the year end and there will inevitably be a delay in constructing houses in 1956 for this reason.

Instructions were given for new house types to be designed and 10 different type plans were produced in my Office. None of these were approved and after inspecting "Unity" houses near York, the Council accepted (in November) a tender for the erection of 56 houses, flats and bungalows of Unity design. Ministry approval to these proposals had not been received at the year end.

Approval was given by the Council to a proposal to erect a further 24 "Unity" houses to complete Bullrun site and to provide the necessary houses to complete the present slum clearance programme.

Proposals to erect 12 further lock-up garages (6 at Ellen Street and 6 at Hennel Lane Estate) were approved.

During the year applications for housing improvement grants were made in respect of 24 houses. Grants were approved in 15 cases and refused in two cases.

8. Flooding

During the year the Lancashire River Board's schemes for anti-flood works on the banks of the Rivers Ribble and Darwen within the Urban District were almost completed, and it is expected that flooding which has occurred on various occasions in the recent past will now be prevented.

There were three instances of very minor flooding (2 houses affected) following heavy rain during the night 8/9th December. All these incidents were caused by blockages in sewers or drains.

9. Playing Fields

During the year, Ministry grants were re-introduced and one scheme (St. Cuthbert's Road Playing Field) approved by the Council and offered grant aid by the Ministry.

A tender was accepted for the work, but owing to the activities on the site of the main sewerage contractors, work could not be commenced before the end of the year.

The Council took over the unfinished conveniences on Gregson Lane Playing Field from the former Sports Club, and approved a scheme for the completion of them.

Two streets were selected to become "Play Streets" subject to Ministry approval.

The scheme to increase playing areas and facilities at The Holme Playing Field by straightening the river Lostock was not approved by the Council, the estimated cost being considered to be too high.

The provision of some playground equipment at King George's Field, Higher Walton, and at Gregson Lane Playing Field was completed and grants paid towards the work by the National Playing Fields Association.

10. Staff

At the beginning of the year the appointment of Deputy Engineer and Surveyor was vacant, being filled in March (having been vacant for 4 months). There was also a vacancy for an Assistant, but as repeated advertising did not produce any replies, it was decided to appoint a paid Pupil. The Pupil started work in the office in September.

These unfilled appointments, following on two difficult years (1953—one vacancy for 10 months; 1954—2 vacancies for 2 months each) left much arrears of work in my Office.

In August, Water and Street Lighting were added to my duties.

11. Plans and Planning

During the year 245 applications relating to 440 permanent buildings and 94 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Council's Byelaws and 159 applications dealt with under the Town and Country Planning Acts and Regulations.

12. Transport and Plant

No new vehicles or plant were acquired during the year, but the Tower Waggon and Morris Van came into my Department when Street Lighting and Water Supply were added to my duties in August, 1955.

Maintenance of vehicles and plant was improved during the year by improvements in the repair shop and in its equipment.

Mileage and petrol consumption of the Department's vehicles was:—

Vehicle	Miles	Petrol	miles/gall.	Remarks
Karrier Bantam 50 cwt. (1949)	9,803	929	10.55	—
Fordson Thames 50 cwt. (1955)	10,957	1222	8.95	—
Fordson Van 5 cwt. (1955)	12,779	448	28.5	—
Dodge Tower Waggon (1936)	1,016	106	9.6	5 months only
Morris Van 30 cwt. (1946)	4,983	295	16.9	5 months only
	39,538	3000		

STANLEY RACE,

A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.I.W.E.,

Engineer and Surveyor.

