

Contributors

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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1959

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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1959

Chairman of the Council

Councillor W. McLaughlin, J.P.

Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor W. Morgan

Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor F. A. Cooper

Members of the Council

- *Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead
- Councillor W. Birkenhead
- Councillor J. Gardner (Retired 15-11-59)
- Councillor T. Hewlett
- Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett
- *Councillor Mrs. E. Martin
- Councillor J. Miller
- Councillor Mrs. M. P. M. Parker, J.P.
- *Councillor A. Sharples
- Councillor G. G. Smith (From 27-10-59)
- Councillor J. Spencer
- Councillor R. Wignall (Died 24th June)
- *Councillor Rev. A. Williams

*Members of Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

Other Appointments: Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Lancs. C.C. No. 4 Division;
and Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Chorley, the Urban Districts
of Adlington, Longridge, Withnell, Fulwood and Leyland and the Rural Districts
of Preston and Chorley.

Chief Public Health Inspector

and Cleansing Superintendent: G. N. Corbishley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

(Deputy Chief): J. R. Williams, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Meat Inspector): F. Burgin, Cs.R.S.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Walton-le-Dale for the year 1959.

The estimated population of the Urban District continues to rise. The Registrar General's estimate of 16,800 is an increase of 470 over the figure for 1958.

The number of live births registered in the District during 1959 was 318, or 27 more than in the previous year. This gave a birth rate of 18.9 (18.9 adjusted) as compared with 16.5 for England and Wales. The birth rate is the highest recorded for the District since the "bulge" years immediately after the war.

The number of deaths was 182 or 9 fewer than the previous year, giving a death rate of 10.8 (13.2 adjusted) as compared with 11.6 for the country as a whole. The principal cause of death was heart disease which accounted for 63 as compared with 66 in 1958. Deaths from cancer numbered 29, one more than in the previous year, cancer of the lung or bronchus was the cause of 8 deaths, as against 4 in 1958.

The number of infants who died before reaching 1 year of age was 9—1 more than in 1958. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 28.3 as against a national figure of 22.0.

It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths attributable to childbirth, there was one death from this cause in 1958.

One death occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, there was also one such death in the previous year.

The number of notifications of infectious disease was 187 as compared with 105 in 1958. The increase is mainly accounted for by the 144 cases of measles notified. Scarlet fever notifications numbered 23 compared with 76 in the previous year. Reference is made in the Report to two diseases which are not generally notified, Undulant fever, and Hepatitis or Jaundice, although the latter disease is not notifiable, intimations were received through the medical practitioners. Hepatitis which was fairly prevalent was believed to be of the infective type caused by a virus. This infection is spread in much the same way as dysentery and is encouraged by low standards of personal hygiene. In all, 57 cases were investigated. Although no cases of undulant fever were reported, samples of milk from six herds in the district revealed the presence of brucella organisms which are the cause of contagious abortion in cattle and may give rise to undulant fever in man. Fortunately so far as is known, the incidence of this disease is not high and heat treatment of milk destroys all disease producing organisms including those which caused undulant fever and tuberculosis.

All the various aspects of environmental conditions continued to receive careful attention as will be seen from a perusal of the Report.

In view of increasing public concern about the sewage contaminated state of beaches it is a matter of much satisfaction to report the decision of the Council to proceed with the sewage disposal scheme which will give complete treatment of sewage before discharge into the River Ribble. The hot Summer of 1959 made bathing in the river very popular and concern was felt regarding the possible danger of bathing in such contaminated water. The dry Summer also produced complaints of smell and fly nuisance arising from the low state of some water courses.

The question of Atmospheric Pollution received considerable attention during the year, but no decision was reached on the establishment of Smoke Control Areas. It should be borne in mind that industrial concerns are not the only source of smoke and domestic dwellings make a very considerable

contribution to the problem. A determined effort should be made to rid the atmosphere of smoke with all its harmful effects on the health of the community. A smoke laden atmosphere cuts off much beneficial sunshine, aggravates disease of the chest and gives housewives much unnecessary cleaning and washing.

It is a matter for gratification to be able to report that the bungalow scheme for the elderly and the appointment of a resident warden, call bell system, and other welfare facilities was nearing completion at the end of the year. Such housing accommodation will without doubt prove a blessing to many in their declining years.

Another welcome development during the year was the inauguration of a meals-on-wheels service by the members of the Women's Voluntary Service. The Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee carried on their many useful activities including a chiropody service in the district.

During the year the periodic inspection of the District was carried out by the County Health Department and recommendations in the subsequent report mainly referred to matters which were either in hand to be dealt with or of a comparatively minor nature.

I am very grateful to Mr. Corbishley, Chief Public Health Inspector, and the Staff of the Health Department, for their willing assistance at all times. My thanks are also due to the other officers of the Council for their ready co-operation whenever required.

In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued support and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

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 $4\frac{1}{4}$ 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 1959

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

Weather Summary

Month	Rainfall Inches	No. of Rain Days	Sunshine Hours	Prevailing Wind Days
January	2.61 ...	17 ...	82.2 ...	S.W. 6
February	0.47 ...	7 ...	43.4 ...	E. 5
March	1.79 ...	18 ...	92.0 ...	E. 6
April	2.15 ...	16 ...	143.2 ...	E. 5
May	1.35 ...	10 ...	242.6 ...	E. 6
June	3.30 ...	17 ...	244.0 ...	W. 6
July	3.98 ...	16 ...	210.4 ...	W. 8
August	0.64 ...	7 ...	198.7 ...	W. 7
September	0.46 ...	3 ...	198.6 ...	S.W. 5
October	4.09 ...	14 ...	130.4 ...	S.W. 5
November	5.24 ...	24 ...	47.5 ...	S.W. 5
December	6.73 ...	27 ...	29.7 ...	S. 6

A short summary of the weather of each month follows.

JANUARY. The month of January was a very cold one. The average temperature for the month being 4.4°F lower than normal. It was a month of snow, ice, hail, fog, gales and thunderstorms. After the first four days of the month with temperatures in the upper forties the cold spell started. Snow fell on the 7th, a maximum of 3 inches was measured at the Observatory, but the snow was very slow to disappear. It covered the ground for 11 days. Very low temperatures were recorded during this period, the lowest air minimum being 13.3°F on January 11th, with a grass minimum of 4.6°F on the same night. On January 13th the maximum was 30.5°F—this cold day stopped the thaw which had started the day before. The second half of the month was cold at night, but with fine sunny days and maximum temperatures in the lower forties.

A feature of the month was the number of calm days (19). On the other days of the month the wind was light, with the exception of January 1st, when a gale was recorded.

Fog was common during the month and dense fog occurred on three days. Particularly dense fog (smog) was recorded on the evening of January 13th and morning and January 30th.

The precipitation for the month was 0.64 inches lower than average.

Snow fell on nine days, air frost was recorded on 23 nights, and ground frost on 24 nights.

The Moor Park Pond was frozen on 22 days, the maximum depth being 4 inches of ice.

FEBRUARY. The cold weather which had started on January 3rd, continued for the first half of February.

Ground and air frost were recorded every day from February 1st to February 11th. After this date the temperature rose, and the month ended with unusually high maximum temperature and sunny bright days. The average temperature for the first 11 days of the month was 35.3°F while the average temperature for the whole of the month (41.1°F) was 2°F higher than the average for February.

The lowest minimum, 27°F, was recorded on February 1st and 11th, the lowest grass minimum, 19°F, was recorded on February 2nd. A very high maximum, 61°F, occurred on the 27th of the month.

Following the general tendency for Preston, February was a dry month. This year, however it was drier than usual with 2 inches below average and with only three wet days.

No snow was recorded this month. Visibility was generally poor with occasional dense fog at night and early morning. Winds were light, southerly.

Moor Park Pond was frozen on three days.

MARCH. The mild weather of the end of February continued throughout this month, when only two days of air frost and four days of ground frost were recorded.

The average temperature for the month was 3.5°F higher than average. The highest maximum (59°F), occurred on March 2nd, and the lowest minimum (29°F) was recorded on March 13th.

March, too, was a month with total rainfall lower than average. In spite of the ten wet days recorded, neither the intensity nor the duration of the rain was very great.

Winds were Easterly and light. The ground was mainly dry throughout the month. Visibility was better than in the previous month and fog was recorded only once.

No snow or sleet fell in March.

During the month seven solar halos and one solar corona were observed.

APRIL. This month was about normal as far as rainfall is concerned. The temperature was higher than average and there was a good deal of sunshine.

The first days of the month were cold and sleet showers occurred. Ground frost and air frost were recorded. Gradually, however, the month became sunny and warm.

Cloud amount was average and winds were light and westerly.

At the end of the month the weather was again cold, and air frost was recorded as late as April 30th.

On April 22nd a lunar parhelia and on April 23rd a solar parhelia with arc of contact were observed.

MAY. The month of May was sunny, warm and dry.

From May 6th with the exception of two days in the middle of the month, the maximum temperature was above 60°F , and on several days it reached the seventies. The warmest day was May 10th when the maximum reached 75°F . The average temperature for the month as a whole was 55.7°F , that is 3.9°F higher than the normal average for this month.

Air frost was recorded on May 5th and ground frost was recorded on three days at the beginning of the month.

Rainfall was 1.15 inches lower than the average and a dry spell occurred from May 13th to May 30th. Rain fell on ten days and in most cases it was light.

Throughout the month winds were light and easterly, and cloud amount was less than average. Relative humidity was lower than average, and visibility was very good on several days.

Thunderstorms occurred on two consecutive days, May 10th and May 11th, and on May 11th thunder lasted for several hours.

Of the nine solar halos observed, the one of May 29th at 20.00 G.M.T. was the most conspicuous with well developed parhelia, parhelic circle and arc of contact.

JUNE. This was a fine sunny month on the whole.

The average temperature was higher than normal and there were several days of bright sunshine.

The highest temperature for the month (77.2°F) was recorded on June 24th.

The total rainfall was higher than average and there were 17 rain-days. Most of the rain fell at night in the first and last week of the month, and on several occasions the rain was heavy, but the ground, on the whole, was dry and no flooding occurred.

Visibility was moderate throughout the month and winds were light and westerly.

Hail was recorded on one occasion, and towards the end of the month there were heavy thunderstorms.

Barometric pressure was higher than normal.

JULY. The very first day of this month was wet with strong winds. This bad weather, however, lasted only for a few days, and soon the temperature increased reaching 80.9°F on July 4th.

As a whole the month was a little warmer than average, but it was also wetter than average.

The third week of the month was warm and sunny, but the last few days of the month brought heavy rain, cloudy skies and violent thunderstorms.

Temperatures in the eighties were recorded on two days. Nights were warm, the ground dry, and the average temperature was normal for the time of the year.

Winds were light southerly.

AUGUST. This month which started wet and cool was to develop into a very dry month, with a total rainfall 3.58 inches below average.

The third and fourth weeks of the month were dry and very warm.

The highest maximum of the year, 83.5°F, was recorded on August 20th, making this the warmest day since 1955.

On the whole, August proved to be a real summer month with average temperature 2°F higher than normal, little rain, a good deal of sunshine and clear skies.

Only seven rain-days were recorded, and there was a lack of heavy thunderstorms which are usually experienced in Preston towards the end of the month.

The heaviest rainfall was recorded on August 2nd, when 0.29 inches of rain were measured.

Visibility was good throughout the month and winds were light westerly.

A dry spell began on August 15th and an absolute drought began on August 22nd.

SEPTEMBER. This was another sunny and dry month.

The total rainfall for the month was 3.14 inches below average, and only three rain-days were recorded compared with an average of 16 for this time of the year. The heaviest rainfall (0.35 inches) was recorded on September 21st.

The average temperature was 2.3°F higher than normal and temperatures in the eighties were recorded during the month.

The ground was very dry indeed, and there was a lack of water in Lancashire in general.

The absolute drought which had started on August 22nd, came to an end on September 20th when heavy rain fell. The second absolute drought of the year began on September 26th.

The month ended with blue skies and the return of warm and dry weather, but with a few nights of ground frost.

Winds were light and easterly and no thunder was heard during this month.

OCTOBER. The first half of this month was still dry and warm with sunny days. A change, however occurred in the middle of the month, and the long-awaited rain started on the 11th, bringing the second drought of the year to a close. The total rainfall for the month was a little above average, and the wettest day was October 26th, when 1.46 inches of rain were measured.

The temperature remained high so that the average temperature for the month was 6.3°F higher than normal.

Winds were generally easterly and light, but on October 26th a heavy gale was experienced in the town, and trees were blown down in Moor Park.

The first air frost of Autumn was recorded on October 29th.

NOVEMBER. This was a wet month with 24 rain-days and a total rainfall higher than normal. On the other hand fog was not as common as is expected at this time of year, indeed only on three occasions moderate fog was recorded.

The month as a whole was cloudy and warm, the average temperature being 1.8°F higher than normal.

Winds were southerly and moderate, reaching gale force on November 19th. This gale caused a small amount of damage in Moor Park.

The month ended with heavy daily rain and with temperatures in the forties.

Air frost was recorded only on two nights and ground frost on seven.

DECEMBER. The month of December was a warmer and wetter month than normal.

It was the wettest month of the year with a total rainfall of 6.73 inches, which is 3.08 inches above average. The number of rain-days was 27 and the ground was flooded on five days.

The average temperature for the whole month was 2.7°F higher than usual. Air frost was recorded only on two nights and ground frost only on six.

Winds were light and southerly. Visibility on the whole was good throughout the month and fog was recorded on five days.

The month and the year ended with very stormy weather and temperatures in the fifties. Gales and heavy rain lashed the country and Preston had its share. Christmas Day had a total rainfall of 0.30 inches and Boxing Day 0.91 inches, making it the wettest Christmas Holiday on record in Preston.

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 thirteen churches in the area, a number have attached Sunday Schools covering the various aspects of religion. Many church halls are associated with these churches where in the winter months, social functions are held.

The clubs in the district are political, religious and non-sectarian; some are connected with sport. Games such as billiards, snooker, darts, dominoes, etc., are played in the clubs. Additionally, a tennis club, a table tennis club, and a cricket club are sited in the district.

The district is fortunate in having a number of playing fields, some of which are owned and controlled by the Local Authority and others by the sports organisations from churches and clubs. Good use is made of these for the usual seasonal sports. Some of the playing fields are now equipped with a children's play section.

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.

A report on the first 10 years' "dig" has been published; it indicates that one of the gate houses to the original fort has been discovered. Further work has been done in excavating this gateway during the past year.

Statistics

Area in Acres ...	4,761
Populations (census 1951) ...	14,709
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1958) ...	16,800
Number of inhabited houses (census 1951)...	4,484
Number of inhabited houses (Rate Book 1959 ...	5,700
Rateable Value ...	£191,279
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£768

Vital Statistics

<i>Births</i>					M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	161	151	312			
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	2	6			
								165	153	318
Still Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	5	2	7			
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
								5	2	7
Total Births								170	155	325
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population crude								18.9		
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population adjusted								18.9		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births								21.5		
Area Comparability Factor for Births								1.0		
<i>Deaths</i>								M.	F.	Total
Total Deaths from all causes								90	92	182
					M.	F.	Total			
Infantile Mortality—	Legitimate	...	...	...	5	4	9			
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
								5	4	9
Neo Natal Mortality—	Legitimate	...	...	...	2	2	4			
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
								2	2	4
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births								28.3		
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births Legitimate								28.3		
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births Illegitimate								Nil		
Neo Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births								12.6		
Illegitimate live births as a percentage of live births								1.9		
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births								Nil		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude								10.8		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Adjusted								13.2		
Area Comparability factor for deaths								1.22		

Comparative Table

	Crude Birth Rate	Per 1,000 of Population Death Rate	Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Infantile Mortality Rate
<i>Walton-le-Dale</i>						
Mean of 5 years 1950-54	15.18	11.99	0.16	1.88	Nil	22.8
Year 1955	14.4	11.2	0.06	1.63	Nil	23
Year 1956	15.3	11.9	Nil	2.09	4.02	25
Year 1957	17.5	11.4	0.06	1.8	Nil	18
Year 1958	17.8	11.7	0.06	1.71	3.37	27.5
Year 1959	18.9	10.8	0.06	1.73	Nil	28.3

Increase or decrease in 1959
compared to:—

A. 5 year average ...	+3.72	—1.19	—0.1	—0.15	Nil	+5.5
B. Previous year ...	+1.1	—0.9	Nil	+0.02	—3.37	+0.8
County of Lancs. for 1959 ...	16.58	12.68	0.07	2.07	0.52	23.65
England & Wales for 1959	16.5	11.6	0.077	2.14	0.38	22.0

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

Births

The statistics in regard to both births and deaths, have again been supplied by the Registrar General, through the County Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfer.

According to the Registrar General, the total live births registered in, or belonging to the District during the year 1959 was 318, males 165—females 153) 27 more than in the year 1958.

The live birth rate for the District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 18.9 per 1,000. The previous year the rate was 17.8. Area comparability factor for births supplied by the Registrar General 1.00 leaving the adjusted birth rate the same as the crude—i.e. 18.9. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1959 is 16.5.

Illegitimate live births belonging to the District and registered during 1959 numbered 6, 3 less than in the previous year.

The number of registered still births assigned to the District during 1959 was seven. The resultant rate for the District is 21.5 per 1,000 total births, compared with 21.05 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Deaths allocated by the Registrar General to the Walton-le-Dale District for the year 1959 number 182 (Males 90, Females 92) This was a reduction of 9 on the previous year. Death rate for the Urban District calculated on an estimated mid-year population of 16,800 is 10.8 per 1,000. Death rate for the previous year was 11.7.

Analysis of Causes of Death, 1959

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	1	—	1
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasms—Stomach	3	1	4
Lungs and Bronchus	7	1	8
Breast	—	6	6
Uterus	—	2	2
Other	3	4	7
Leukaemia	2	—	2
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	16	27
Angina, Coronary disease	15	10	25
Hypertension with heart disease	—	3	3
Other heart disease	16	19	35
Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
Influenza	—	3	3
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis	7	4	11
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	3	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	9	14
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other Accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	3	1	4
Homicide	—	—	—

Causes of Death

Diseases of the heart were again the main cause of death. Coronary heart disease, however, showed a decrease of 10, the figures for 1959 and 1958 being 25 and 35 respectively. Deaths from malignant diseases numbered 29, including 2 from leukaemia, deaths from these causes in the previous year were 28, with no cases of leukaemia occurring.

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of infants under one year numbered 9 compared with 8 in 1958. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 28.3 per 1,000 live births compared with 27.5 for the previous year. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales in 1959 was 22.0.

Details of age, sex and causes of death:—

Age	Sex	Cause of death
1 hour	F	Cerebral Haemorrhage
1 hour	M	Cerebral Haemorrhage
2 days	M	Prematurity
3 months	M	Gastro Enteritis
2 months	F	Meningitis
1 month	F	Heart Failure
5 months	M	Asphixia
9 months	M	Pneumonia
½ hour	F	Anencephalus

Early Neo-natal and Perinatal Mortality

The Registrar General, in addition to supplying particulars of neo-natal Mortality (deaths of infants under four weeks of age) has also supplied information as to the deaths of infants under one week of age (early neo-natal mortality) and has also included the pre-natal mortality rate, i.e., the number of still-births and early neo-natal deaths per 1,000 total live and still births. The early neo-natal Rate for the District was 12.6 per 1,000 live births and the Perinatal mortality rate 33.8 per 1,000 total live and still-births.

Maternal Mortality

It is gratifying to be able to report that no maternal deaths occurred in the District from causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The hospital to which patients were admitted was:—

Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston.

The table below gives details of notifications for the year under review.

Notifiable Diseases

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases Under at all ages	1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	25 years	65 years age un-	Total
									15 years and over	45 years and over	known dths
Scarlet Fever ...	23	—	—	1	3	1	16	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	144	7	19	24	21	16	55	1	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
<hr/>											
	Total	0 yrs.	5 yrs.	15 yrs.	45 yrs.	65 & over					
Acute Pneumonia (prim. and infl'zal)	...	8	—	1	1	1	5				
Erysipelas ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	1	—	—	—	1	—				
Tuberculosis Other	...	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Food Poisoning	...	5	—	—	5	—	—				

Hepatitis (Jaundice)

During July a number of cases of hepatitis were reported in School children. Between July and the end of the year 57 cases were notified. The Public Health Inspector visited all the cases and prepared reports on 41 cases. All (with the exception noted below) occurred in children between the ages of 6 to 12 years old. In the first instance the outbreak appeared to be confined to the Methodist School, Bamber Bridge, but gradually it spread throughout the area. In one instance the whole family became infected, onset was simultaneous so that it was necessary to remove the entire family to Hospital. They were nursed at Deepdale Isolation Hospital.

A Memorandum was prepared and circulated to all teachers and parents giving recommendations to help prevent the spread of infection and to assist in its early detection. A close liaison was maintained with the Education Welfare Officer on the early notification of children absent from School. Excellent co-operation was obtained from all concerned.

Tuberculosis

During the year 3 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified to the department. These consisted of 1 new case and 2 "Transfers in".

Pulmonary:—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Non-Pulmonary:—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Removed from the Register during the year were:—

Pulmonary:—

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Removed from District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Non-Pulmonary:—

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Removed from District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

On the Register at 31st December, 1959 were Pulmonary 50, Non-Pulmonary 22, combined Cases 2.

The Tuberculosis Register is periodically checked with the County Medical Officer of Health in order that the records of these cases are correctly recorded.

Undulant Fever

Undulant Fever is not a notifiable disease and therefore a General Practitioner has no statutory duty to bring cases to the notice of the Local Authority.

As may be read under that section of my report dealing with milk supply, a high incidence of the causative organism is being isolated from samples of raw milk submitted to the Laboratory.

This problem has received much attention in spite of the fact that the legislation for dealing with it is unsatisfactory and difficult to apply.

Influenza

The incidence of influenza was high for a few weeks, February and March. Three deaths were attributed to this cause.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Certifying Factory Surgeon Dr. P. McK. Logan, Leven House, Bamber Bridge.

County Council Services in the Area

Two Midwives were employed in the District.

Mrs. Dobbie, Chorley Road, Bamber Bridge. Telephone: 85280.

Miss Bamber, 140, Browndedge Road, Lostock Hall. Telephone: 85789.

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service covering the area of the Urban District is now radio-controlled from the Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton, where requests for ambulance transport are directed. The ambulance station in the Council Yard was closed early in the year and the personnel and machine operating from the station were transferred to the new station at Leyland.

Domiciliary Nursing Service

Three nurses were employed in this district in 1959. They carried out the important duties of nursing in the homes of the patients.

Ante-Natal Clinic

Meetings were held monthly 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 are 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 the 2nd and 4th 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 and District 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.

Immunisations and Vaccination

Immunised against Diphtheria only		Immunised against Diphtheria & Whooping Cough		Immunised against Diphtheria/Whooping Cough & Tetanus combined		Immunised against Whooping Cough only				
Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years	Total under 5 years	Total aged 5-14 years			
1	39	...	2	—	...	224	7	...	—	—

Vaccination

Primary Vaccinations performed					Re-vaccinations
Age in years					
Under 1	1—	5—	15—	Total	Total
170	14	11	16	211	18

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year Of Birth	No.	Year of Birth	No.	Year of Birth	No.	Year of Birth	No.	
1959	...	21	1954	66	1949	81	1944	59
1958	...	148	1953	68	1948	87	1943	59
1957	...	88	1952	86	1947	104	1933 to 1942	736
1956	...	67	1951	71	1946	55	1932 or earlier	68
1955	...	61	1950	84	1945	44	Total	2053

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.

Housing and Housing Conditions

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	403
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	557
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number found during year	43
(b) Total Number (or estimated number) existing at end of year	42
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	199

2. Houses Demolished :— In Clearance Areas—

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during Year Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957	1	7	2
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. Unfit Houses Closed :—

	Number		
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	3	11	4
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied :—

	By Owner	By Local Authority	
(1) After informal action by local authority	208	Nil
(2) After formal notice under—			
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):— Position at end of year:

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation—		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(2)	Nil
(c) Under Section 46	Nil
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil

6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—

	No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year ...	Nil	Nil

7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—Improvement grants, etc.:—	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling- houses or other build- ings affected	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling- houses or other build- ings affected

Action during year:—

(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	16	16	Nil	Nil
(b) Approved by local authority	15	15	Nil	Nil
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	11	11	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(g) Any other action taken under the Acts	None			

Milk and Milk Production

The Public Health Laboratory, Preston, under the direction of Dr. Robertson examined all the milk samples. Out of 26 raw milk samples submitted for examination 15 failed to satisfy the methylene blue test. Out of 33 pasteurised samples one failed the phosphatase test. All four sterilised samples satisfied the turbidity test.

A marked change in the retailing of milk is to be found in the area when compared to one or two years ago. Most of the milk producing farms are now selling milk wholesale to the large dairies who heat treat the milk. Upon survey it was found that only 12 producers now retail raw milk within the area. It is estimated that 75% of the milk consumed in the area is heat treated milk. The high proportion of unsatisfactory raw milk samples compared to the very high proportion of satisfactory heat treated samples lends support to those urging that all milk should be heat treated before retail sale. Many of the people who pay extra money for farm bottled T.T. milk are under the impression that they are obtaining a safe, better quality milk, whereas in fact it only gives a reasonable assurance that the milk is not infected with the organisms of tuberculosis. No other claim is made for it and from the results obtained from samples, it is certainly not as safe as heat treated milk. We do not, of course, wish to make heat treated milk a 'Graveyard of Bacteria' and sampling would clearly indicate if unsatisfactory production methods required alteration.

Milk in Schools Scheme

All the Schools in the area receive Heat Treated Milk.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

No case of tuberculosis in milk was recorded during the year.

Ice Cream

Producer retailers in the district remained at two as in previous years. Retailers numbered 38, all selling wrapped products obtained from the large wholesale producers.

During the Summer months sampling was carried out. It is pleasing to report that all samples gave satisfactory results.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938-55

The County Council is the Food and Drug Authority in this area. Samples were taken by the County Sampling Officer, Mr. A. Kewley.

A total of 118 samples was obtained, consisting of 84 samples of milk and 34 others comprising:

1 Malt extract compound and vitamins	1 Flour confectionery
2 Nasal inhalers	2 Lard
2 Soup, canned	2 Butter
1 Sauce	2 Fruit curd
3 Bread	1 Mustard
2 Fruit, Dried	1 Meat and potato pie
2 Margarine	1 Potatoes
1 Marmalade	1 Chocolate drink
1 Salt	1 Ground almonds
1 Tea	2 Pickles
2 Ice-cream	2 Parrishes Food

I give below details of those samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Bread	Butter or milk solids not detected yet described as "Buttercrust—the loaf with the farmhouse flavour"	Bakers communicated with
Formal Milk	Fat 2.85%, deficient 5% fat	Vendor notified
Formal Milk	Fat 2.60%, deficient 13.3% fat Low in solids-not-fat	Farmer notified
Formal Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 4.8% extraneous water	Producer cautioned and further sample taken
Meat & Potato Pie	A dead earwig was embedded in the exterior surface of the crust of the pie.	Bakers cautioned

Food Hygiene

Progress continues to be maintained in this important field. No undue problems are being found and co-operation of retailers is satisfactory. It has not been necessary to resort to legal action in any case.

Housing the Aged

Brindle Road Old People's Bungalow scheme was almost completed during the year. Mrs. Hughes, S.R.N., S.C.M., was appointed as Resident Warden in April, although it was not practicable for her to take up residence during the year.

The Bungalow Scheme is a result of co-operation between the Walton-le-Dale Urban District Council as a Housing Authority concerned for the Health and Welfare of its senior residents, and the Lancashire County Council meeting its obligations under their approved scheme for Part III of the National Assistance Act.

Schools

A re-inspection of all the schools was carried out during the year, in order to ascertain progress on some of the undesirable features found and reported in 1956.

One potentially dangerous practice found was the washing up of crockery and utensils after school meals in a detergent only. It is considered in this respect that a good quality sterilant is essential. Another similar practice is the weekly washing of cloth tea towels. If it is necessary to use cloth tea towels daily sterilising should be carried out.

Wooden drainers and food preparation tops provide a pervious surface when an impervious surface is to be preferred. Some alterations are required in this respect.

Wash hand basin facilities are not in all cases satisfactory either for school children and staff or the kitchen staff.

Sanitary accommodation requires alteration in some schools, in particular St. Aidan's, St. Mary's, Brownedge, Boys' and Girls', Manybrooks and Lostock Hall County School. In some cases staff toilets are not separated from the pupils.

The two new "Modern" Schools have to some extent relieved the amount of usage made of these unsatisfactory facilities. One School, Manybrooks, has no artificial lighting system, it is a small infant school and closes early, nevertheless, it is desirable to have artificial lighting.

Atmospheric Pollution

Although the Walton-le-Dale Urban District is contiguous to a Ministry defined "Black Area", the Council are of the opinion that the time is not opportune to commence smoke control areas. This opinion is strengthened by the large number of residential properties compared to industrial properties. Industrial premises in this area do not create a serious problem, many new appliances having been fitted in recent years a reasonable effluent is produced in the main.

The Atmospheric Pollution recording gauges have been in operation throughout the year.

A member of the Institute of Fuel, Mr. A. Harris, gave a lecture to Members of the Council outlining the main provisions of the Clean Air Act. Much interest was shown and many questions asked particularly on the use of smokeless fuel.

Water Supply

During the course of the year the Preston and District Water Board was formed and control of water supply was lost to this Authority. It is thought that the larger economic unit of a joint water undertaking will result in an efficient service, supplying water of a good quality, safely, and in sufficient quantity.

Sampling of water was continued by the Public Health Inspectors and in addition sampling was carried out by the Water Board Officials. All the results have been satisfactory.

The following is a facsimile of a Bacteriological Examination Report submitted by the Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

Public Health Laboratory Service

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health)

Public Health Laboratory

Royal Infirmary, Meadow Street, Preston

Water

Bacteriological Examination Report

Copy sent to

Authority or Sender: M.O.H., Walton-le-Dale U. Lab. Ref. No. 665

Sender's Ref. No.

Nature of Sample: Tap water taken from Thirlmere Piped Supply.

Date and hour of collection: 12-7-59 4-0 p.m.

Date and hour of arrival: 12-7-59 4-45 p.m.

Result telephoned

REPORT. Date of report: 14-7-60

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 24 hours 37°C. Aerobically 0 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C

0 per 100ml.

Probable number of Bact. Coli (Type 1)

0 per 100ml.

Other examinations

Remarks:

Highly Satisfactory.

Public Baths

There are no open or covered Public Baths in the District, but as Preston is easily accessible, the residents who wish to use Public Baths at Saul Street are free to do so. Part of the River Ribble at a place known as Church Deepes in Walton-le-Dale has been found in the past to be suitable for bathing at certain times of the year, but due to the condition of the River water this is not considered advisable.

Factories

The chest physician referred to me a case in his care which was suspected of being associated with unsatisfactory working conditions in a weaving shed at one of our textile mills.

Upon investigation I considered that the matter was within the field of H.M. Factory Inspector. The complaint has been investigated by the Factory Inspector and a member of their Medical Staff. I am informed that the problem is rather complex and is still under observation.

The following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1959.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WALTON-LE-DALE IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not incl. in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	22	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
	83	22	—	—

2—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

New Legislation

National Assistance Amendment Act, 1959.
House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.
Housing Underground Rooms, Act, 1959.
Factories Act, 1959.
Mental Health Act, 1959.
Meat Staining and Sterilization Regulations, 1959.
Meat Staining and Sterilization Revocation, 1959.
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.
Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations, 1959.
The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1959.
Slaughterhouse Licence Forms and Records Regulations, 1959.
Food Standards (Ice Cream) Regulations, 1959.
Condensed Milk Regulations, 1959.
Fluorine in Food Regulations, 1959.
Arsenic in Food Regulations, 1959.
Acute Rheumatism Amendment Regulations, 1959.
Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) Order, 1959.
Ice Cream (Heat Treated) Regulations, 1959.
Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the Year 1959

To the Chairman, Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting to you my Annual Report of the environmental services in the District I am pleased to report a year of progress in many spheres.

Each year sees a change or improvement in one or more of the various sections dealing with Public Health, the most notable of which during the past year has been the virtual completion of the five year slum clearance programme. Most of the unfit houses have been either closed or demolished and many of the families re-housed in Council houses, flats or bungalows.

One of the housing problems which still baffles many officials is the increase in the permanent occupation of caravans. These moveable dwellings or homes on wheels have found favour with many people probably due to the luxurious amenities provided and the easy to manage, warm and comfortable homes, which in these days of high pressure living has a distinct advantage, for some people over the traditional type dwelling.

In spite of the housing problem being solved and large-scale building of private houses, caravan life is on the increase the problem of suitable siting is no small one. The Council, realising the need to avoid indiscriminate permanent parking of these homes are to consider developing a site in Bamber Bridge with full sanitary amenities, a site for some twenty permanent and temporary vans would help to overcome this problem.

Atmospheric Pollution and food hygiene have been in the forefront of all our activities during the year.

Industrial pollution is being considerably reduced whilst domestic pollution is on the increase, pollution from industry now takes second place to the domestic effluent problem and will continue to do so whilst no embargo is placed upon the use of coal in domestic grates.

Improvements continued in the hygienic handling of food for sale, storage and preparation, particularly in retail shops. Food shops on new housing estates are the last word in cleanliness and the proprietors are proud of the hygienic practices they employ.

Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food visited the district during January to photograph some of the clean food displays in shop premises. Each retailer received three plate size copies of glossy photographs and a copy of each plate was sent to the Public Health Department.

A considerable amount of time was spent milk sampling at farm premises where the milk borne disease *Brucella Abortus* was found. This entailed early morning sampling from each animal and then taking the samples to the Public Health Laboratory, Preston, before 10.0 a.m. As the battle against bovine tuberculosis is being won this comparatively new disease is rearing its ugly head and is proving as difficult to control and eradicate as tuberculosis was. It is so important for the public to realise that they still take a risk when consuming raw milk. The only sure safeguard is to provide heat treated milk.

An unusual task was undertaken during the early Summer when a large infestation of caterpillars invaded parts of the rural areas of the district. Complaints were received that "Millions of caterpillars were invading the houses having come from the hawthorn hedges nearby." The pest control division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was consulted and after some consideration the caterpillar was identified as the small ermine moth (*hyponomeuta* spp.) Meanwhile a firm of fumigators was contacted and spraying of the hedgerows was advocated with "malathion", a water soluble Insecticide powder. Some eight miles of hawthorn hedge was treated by the Department's staff, immediate relief was noticed, and within twenty-one days this black army had practically disappeared. At the time of the infestation the hedgerows became stripped of all leaf and appeared dead. After treatment it was interesting to watch their rejuvenation and to find fresh leaf late into the Autumn. Although not strictly a Public Health matter, Authority was given by the Public Health Committee to carry out this treatment and so prevent a general nuisance to the residents adjoining the sites of these infestations.

The foregoing comments are some of the important and interesting duties dealt with during the year; other routine matters will be found in the following pages.

I would like to conclude by extending my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the help and support received during the year, to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. Councillor W. Morgan for his help and detailed interest in the work of the Department. To the staff of the Public Health Department, Mr. J. R. Williams, Mr. F. Burgin, and Mrs. A. Barrow for their unfailing help and full co-operation at all times.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY

1. Visits and Inspections Made

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	355
Factories (Specific)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Refuse Collection Service	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130

2. Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
Filthy and verminous premises	35

3. Infectious Diseases

Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	180
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4. Meat and Food Inspections

Slaughterhouses	473
Food Preparing Premises	73
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk (Bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

A total of 1,610 premises were visited and 2,220 visits made.

Work of converting insanitary closets proceeded slowly during the year. No pail and 2 waste water closets were converted.

Notices Served and Defects Discovered

Notices:

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
Formal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Informal complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Formal complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Notices served on dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Notices served on premises other than dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Summary of Defects:

Unclean and verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs and Rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors and Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Windows and reveals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plasterwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains	158
Dampness	6
Dustbins	26
Miscellaneous	2

Total defects discovered	208
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Housing

The housing position in the district is fairly satisfactory; most of the unfit dwellings in the first five year programme having been either closed or demolished. A further survey of all the houses in the district will be made and a report submitted to the Council in 1960 on proposals regarding future demolition. The standard of existing houses is being improved by reconditioning and the fixing of such amenities as baths, hot water, wash-hand basins, etc., financial assistance being provided in the form of a standard grant.

The condition of tenanted houses can always be reflected by the number of complaints received concerning housing defects. These have been comparatively few in number which indicates that tenants must be reasonably satisfied with the homes in which they live.

The rapid development of private house building within the district is partially responsible for the increasing number of older houses remaining unoccupied. This could in time present a problem by the deterioration of the fabric of these houses to the detriment of adjoining houses.

The Rent Act, 1957

Activity under this legislation is one the decline, only five applications were made for Certificate of Disrepair and in no case was it necessary to issue certificates.

Many more tenants could take advantage of this method of repairing their house, but few do so. When visiting a house on complaint it may be justifiable in some cases to effect repair through the Rent Act than under the nuisance section of the Public Health Act. Often, items can be included on a Form G which could not strictly be dealt with as a nuisance.

Moveable Dwellings

Many enquiries were received from people outside the District asking for accommodation on Caravan Sites, having read in the local newspaper of a proposal to establish such a site in the district. Ten individual caravans are occupied on sites scattered throughout the district and it was thought by the Council that a site to house all these would be far easier to control. This project has only progressed as far as the planning proposal. Difficulty is also being experienced in obtaining the owner's permission to allow access to the site. It could be some little time before any firm decisions are made.

Meanwhile an application was dealt with by the County Planning Department from an owner of a site in Walton-le-Dale to allow three vans to be occupied on land adjoining his house. The final outcome was "No objection raised to two caravans which had been occupied over 4 years."

Sanitary Accommodation

The survey of water closets, pail closets, and septic tanks carried out last year to ascertain the true numbers of these fittings has proved most useful during the current year. It has enabled us to plan the gradual replacement of the pails and to recommend, when practicable, the conversion of the septic tank to the sewer.

The provisional figure of ninety-five waste water closets existing in the District has been reduced by two and the number of pail closets still stands at 52. Very little time has been spent on this work during the year, but it is hoped to reduce the above figures more substantially during 1960.

Drainage

Septic Tanks

The number of septic tanks existing (104) revealed by last year's survey have been reduced by 10 due to drainage conversions to the sewer. Some of those remaining were found to be choked and cleansing was effected by the Council's Gully Emptier without charge to the owners.

Drain Clearing

Some 158 requests for clearing choked gullies and drains were acceded to and in 20 cases drainage repairs were necessary. These being carried out by the owners. The figures for 1958 were 213 and 44 respectively.

Drain Testing

Drain testing by means of smoke or water was continued on some 261 privately built houses and 48 existing houses. The service has increased due to the rapid expansion of housing development. It is pleasing to record that the standard of underground drainage is fairly good having regard to the general standard of building work during the present time.

Rodent Control

The control of rodents (rats and mice) has proceeded apace, there being an increase in the number of treatments. There is an increase in these unwanted vermin probably due to the comparatively mild winter and warm summer. Nevertheless the Rodent Operator was able to cope with this work. Six contracts were signed by farmers for quarterly treatments of their buildings for an inclusive annual charge of £5 0s. 0d. Initial treatments proved expensive but this will be evened out by easier subsequent visits. Many Industrial firms employ their own servicing companies who maintain control by similar methods to ours.

Where treatments are carried out at business premises a full charge is made, but the cost of ridding domestic premises is still a charge on the rates.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1959

NAME OF LOCAL AUTHORITY — Walton-le-Dale

(COUNTY) Lancaster

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses)	All other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	6	5511	334	5845	100
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	51	32	83	—
(b) Survey under the act	—	610	10	620	59
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited for some other purpose) ...	—	—	—	—	—
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	54	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major	2	Nil	1	3	—
Minor	4	51	31	86	8
(b) Mice Major		10			
Minor					
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. 4) treated by the L.A. (Figures should not exceed those given at Sect. 4)	6	61	32	89	6
6. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
7. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural work (i.e. proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Legal Proceedings (see overleaf)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10. Number of "Block" Control schemes carried out	Nil				

Clean Air

Clean Air is almost a taboo subject in and around the Walton-le-Dale Urban District. Advocates for clean air are looked upon as being anti-social, wishing to rob the man in the street of a cherished possession.

It has not been possible to raise any enthusiasm within the district to promote clean air, at least insofar as domestic premises are concerned. In my opinion this is partially a result of prejudice, and partially due to adverse publicity from proposals to establish smoke control areas in an adjoining County Borough. Industrialists have realised that a dark smoke effluent is a sure sign of an inefficient boiler-house and that means higher operating costs. This aspect has been exploited by the Department and has achieved results.

Inevitable as it is to the 20th Century, clean air has as many antagonists, as the paving of roads and covering of drains and sewers had in the 19th Century.

Measurement of Pollution

Recording instruments continued to be used during the year. Results provide incontrovertible evidence of the amount of pollution and its variation. It is only by the mundane day by day recording of pollution that the Local Authority can rebut the multitude of voices against clean air who bring up false arguments and unsubstantiated opinions.

Monthly pollution figures are set out in the table below.

Month					Smoke							SO ₂		
					Min.	Max	Mean					Min.	Max	Mean
January	...	...	...	...	10	111	39	...	1.0	63.0	17.5	...	...	...
February	...	...	...	...	8	92	38	...	2.7	22.5	10.4	...	...	...
March	...	...	...	...	12	43	24	...	3.1	9.0	6.4	...	...	...
April	...	...	...	...	4	37	20	...	2.4	10.0	5.4	...	...	...
May	...	...	...	...	6	27	11	...	1.1	7.4	3.7	...	...	...
June	...	...	...	...	2	16	7	...	0.6	4.5	2.8	...	...	...
July	...	...	...	...	2	16	7	...	*0.0	1.8	0.8	...	...	...
August	...	...	...	...	1	13	6	...	*0.0	0.8	0.3	...	...	...
September	...	...	...	...	8	36	19	...	0.2	5.8	2.3	...	...	...
October	...	...	...	...	3	33	13	...	1.0	9.2	3.6	...	...	...
November	...	...	...	...	5	36	15	...	3.2	9.4	5.6	...	...	...
December	...	...	...	...	4	40	11	...	1.3	16.4	4.3	...	...	...

Smoke — P.P. 100M

SO₂ — Milligrams per 100 cubic metres

* — a trace.

Pollution of Road Vehicles

Interest has been maintained in this source of pollution which is discharged at breathing height. All cases (20) of vehicles emitting dark smoke have been referred to the owner. Experience indicates that the owner is unaware his vehicle is giving off noxious fumes and causing offence. In each case a courteous letter has been received from the owner, thanking us for the information and assuring us of prompt attention. In no instance was the same vehicle noted on two or more occasions.

A copy of each letter is forwarded to the Police Superintendent, Chorley Division, for any action he may wish to take. It was noticed during the latter part of the year that some improvement in vehicle smoke emission had taken place. It may be presumptuous to assume that owners and drivers of vehicles are becoming increasingly aware of our interest and of possible court action, if they are reported under the Road Traffic Act, and consequently pay more attention to their maintenance.

MEAT AND FOOD

Slaughterhouses

The long awaited Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations came into force on the 1st January. They were disappointing inasmuch as they still only touch the fringe of the problem of efficient protection against contamination. Like similar legislation in other food spheres there is still the only terms used "suitable and sufficient" or "adequate" which are too vague to be of any real value. On the other hand they are an improvement on existing regulations which have practically no standard at all.

Early in February the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order came into operation. This order instructs Local Authorities to submit a report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, by November, 1960, on the existing and probable future requirements of their districts for slaughterhouse facilities, and the facilities which are likely to become available to meet these requirements. This report is in process of preparation and will be submitted to the Council in 1960.

A time consuming operation during the latter half of the year concerned an application by Messrs. Leyland Bros., Wholesale Butchers, to operate an Offensive Trade (processing of slaughter offal) from a site adjoining their existing slaughterhouse premises. Whilst the applicants have a right to process this material which is a by-product, from their own slaughterhouse, they wished to process material from outside the district which the Council thought was a dangerous practice and therefore refused the application. Leyland Bros. appealed to the Local Magistrates Court but the Magistrate upheld the Council's decision.

A further appeal to the County Appeals Committee at Preston Sessions House went against the Council. The Chairman of the Committee indicated that the Walton-le-Dale Council and the Local Magistrates allowed their belief that the processing of these inedible products is a menace to Public Health, to unduly influence their decision, and they based their decision on a fallacy.

The Clerk was very concerned after the hearing at the reasons given by the Magistrates for their decision.

His point was that the only medical evidence given before the Appeals Committee was by Dr. Walker and this evidence was that the processing would be a menace to health.

The Council, in reaching its earlier decision, and the Walton-le-Dale magistrates in supporting it had accepted the medical evidence and yet the Appeals Committee presumably had rejected it and described it as "a fallacy" even though the Appellant Company called no evidence to rebut it.

The Clerk discussed the question of a further appeal with Mr. Leslie Rigg, Q.C., who appeared for the Council, but Mr. Rigg took the view that the Court of Appeal would probably hold that the Appeals Committee had reached their decision on a basis of fact, against which there is virtually no appeal and that a further appeal would be costly and likely to be unsuccessful.

It remains to be seen, however, whether Dr. Walker's opinion turns out to be justified.

Carcases and Offal inspected and rejected in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	2,234	...	5,376	...	344	...	11,356	...	1
Number inspected ...	2,234	...	5,376	...	344	...	11,356	...	1
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>									
Whole Carcases condemned .	1	...	24	...	6	...	2	...	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1,139	...	4,108	...	7	...	2,882	...	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci ...	51.0	...	76.4	...	2.0	...	25.4	...	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	1	...	14	...	—	...	—	...	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	68	...	419	...	2	...	—	...	—
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis ...	3.0	...	7.7	...	0.6	...	—	...	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>									
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—

A decline is recorded in the number of adult bovines slaughtered compared to 1958. 9,862 to 7,610. At the same time the number of calves slaughtered has increased from 4 to 344 and sheep from 5,129 to 11,356. The change in pattern is associated with the removal of inspection fees.

The increase in the percentage of animals infected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci is confined exclusively to *Distotum Hepaticum* (Liver Fluke) and is of minor importance to meat inspection or the suitability of the carcase for human consumption.

The incidence of tuberculosis has continued to decline. In clean cattle the decline has been steady since decontrol, in cows it has tended downwards but in an erratic manner. In the year under review the decrease has been remarkable; 21.32% in 1958 reducing to 7.7% in 1959.

The figures for tuberculosis in cattle slaughtered in this district for the next few years, will probably differ from the figures of most Local Authorities, due to the slaughter of "reactors" to the tuberculin test. This scheme to slaughter "reactors" started towards the latter part of the year under review but is not revealed in the figures although it consists of a not unsubstantial proportion of the cows slaughtered. If "reactors" had not been slaughtered the percentage of cows infected with tuberculosis would have been lower than the recorded figure. *Cysticercus Bovis* infected only one carcase compared to 34 in 1958.

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		No.	Satisfactory		%	T.B. present
			No.							No.			
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
1956	40	...	31	...	77.0	0	42	...	30	...	71.5	...	0
1957	37	...	28	...	75.0	0	33	...	23	...	70.0	...	3
1958	21	...	16	...	76.0	0	53	...	42	...	79.0	...	1
1959	21	...	18	...	85.7	0	28	...	15	...	53.6	...	0

Pasteurised Milks

Year	Number Taken	Number Heat Treated	Efficiently	%
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
1956	38	35	...	92.4
1957	28	28	...	100
1958	29	29	...	100
1959	33	32	...	94

Four sterilised samples satisfied the turbidity test.

Brucellosis

In addition to the raw milk samples shown above it was necessary to obtain 148 samples from cows at the farms. The farmers at these premises retail tuberculin tested farm bottled milk and previous samples had indicated brucella infections in the bulk milk. Upon investigation of the individual samples it was found that 12 cows suffered from Brucellosis. The milk from the infected animals was not sold for human consumption in its raw state. Ultimately the farmers sold the animals, by arrangement, this was for slaughter, but as we have no legislative backing to insist or check upon the method of disposal some doubt exists.

Other Foods

The following amount of other food was rejected for human consumption.

Tinned Meat and Meat Soups	...	...	...	296 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables and Veg. Soups	...	...	...	243 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	20 lbs.
Calvesfoot Jelly	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Bottled Marmalade	...	...	...	17 lbs.
Sauces, Savouries and Herbs	...	...	...	10½ lbs.
Butchers Meat	...	...	...	75 lbs.

One large wholesaler of tinned and bottled food in the area uses the Health Department for certifying amounts of damaged goods which, whilst being in an unsaleable condition may not be unfit. As a result of this service the figures appear larger than in previous years.

Ice Cream

The bacteriological standard of Ice Cream and Ice Lollies remains fairly high. Although there is no legal purity standard, all 11 samples were found to be Grade I. Two producer retailers continued to operate and the remaining 38 registered retailers sold a variety of well-known ice cream products.

Food Hygiene

Continued improvement to shops and other food premises was found although it is not generally realised that whilst the standard of premises and equipment shows many improvements in the design, fixing and finish to minimise the danger to food by contamination, methods of handling, and hygiene practices, must also improve if any benefit is to be derived from these alterations. Labour problems in the larger establishments tend to laxity in the handling of food because the manager or proprietor cannot afford to risk losing an employee by retaliation for an admonishing. It is interesting to note on the other hand that there were no known causes of illness due to contamination from food handlers. Some 73 visits were made to food shops, canteens and other food premises during the year.

Infectious Diseases

All 76 cases of Scarlet Fever were investigated principally to determine the school attended (where of school age) whether isolated at home or hospital, and whether any of the occupants are engaged in the food trade. Terminal disinfection is only carried out on request and County Library Books are fumigated before being returned to the book-shelves.

Sonne Dystentery cases numbered four, and were all visited. This year is not one of the dysentery cycle years, but no doubt many cases will be reported during 1960.

Verminous Premises

Complaints received from Council Tenants of vermin infestation (cockroaches, bugs, fleas) numbered 15, 6 more than last year, whilst complaints from all other premises totalled 19, 16 fewer than in 1958.

The majority of the complaints were of cockroach infestations, which were successfully treated with Gammexane Powder.

Although not strictly called vermin an increasing number of tenants are becoming infested with the soft wood beetle and although not entirely a Public Health matter arrangements have been made to hold stocks of woodworm fluid for residents to purchase at cost.

Rivers, Streams, etc.

Due to the exceptionally dry Summer the low state of water in the watercourses brought into the limelight some pollution which previously had been masked by the comparatively large volume of water discharging down to the estuary. In one case this pollution was serious, and it was eventually found after prolonged investigation that crude effluent from farm premises was being discharged into a small subsidiary water course. This matter has now been resolved, the farm is to be demolished to make way for private house building.

Near panic seized some residents when it was thought that the Ribble at Church Deepes (the well-known bathing spot) was likely to be contaminated with polio and other disease producing organisms and it was suggested that notices be erected near the place advising people not to bathe. It was also thought that pollution of a chemical nature was affecting the water from a large factory in Preston.

Samples revealed the presence of no undue chemical contamination, but a considerable amount of contamination of a sewage effluent was reported. No other dangerous infectious disease organisms were found.

Whilst notices prohibiting bathing would be desirable, the real answer is, of course, to control river pollution and to cease the discharge of crude or near crude sewage into the river.

Detailed Inspection of District by County Council

The County Sanitary Officer acting on instructions from the County Medical Officer, began a detailed inspection and survey of the district. This is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1933 and the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959. The last inspection took place some thirty-two years ago, when the principal item of interest was bad housing and insanitary closets. It is interesting to contrast the details in each report. Such matters as water supply, housing and food hygiene all received commendation which reflect the achievements made during the past thirty-two years.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Cleansing Service has continued on an even keel during the year, although the rapid growth of the District by private house building will necessitate some expansion of the service, if we are to maintain a regular collection.

Two new Karrier Fore and Aft, tipper vehicles were ordered to replace two Karrier Vehicles purchased 10 years ago. One of these new vehicles was delivered in October and the second will be delivered early next year.

One of the replaced vehicles will be used as a spare to be brought into use for special loads and for use when one of the other vehicles is off the road.

It has been noticed that the refuse collected from domestic premises is becoming lighter in bulk. Less ash and more paper is placed in the dustbin, probably due to the more efficient use of better fuels on improved heating appliances. This change is having the effect of causing difficulty at the disposal centre by increasing the risk of fire if the refuse becomes wet. This is being overcome by improved methods of tipping and covering over with soil, etc., as advocated in "Controlled Tipping."

Few staff changes occurred and the amount of sickness amongst the men was again very low.

Protective clothing in the form of overalls, gloves, gum-boots where necessary, and waterproof coats and leggings were supplied to all the outdoor staff. These are now established requisites which help to ease the dusty conditions under which the men work.

The disposal centre, where tipping of the refuse takes place, is staffed by four men, which includes the tractor driver on loan part-time from the Highways Department. The increase in the amount of refuse calls for the use of a full-time caterpillar type tractor which the Committee have given favourable consideration for the 1960/61 estimates. This should enable greater control of the refuse and also will be valuable if a full scale composting plant is developed.

Composting of Domestic Wastes

Some two years ago experiments were commenced at the Disposal Centre on composting of domestic waste, principally by the mixing of screened domestic refuse and sewage sludge.

The need for composting of these materials is being pressed vigorously by the Lancashire Branch of the Soil Association whose members take every opportunity of stressing the need to return material wastes back to the soil.

From a Local Authority angle the economic side looms rather prominently when dealing with disposal of these wastes, but it would appear sensible to assume that if there is difficulty in disposing of such material without creating a nuisance then to spend money on returning it back to the land would solve a two-fold problem.

Some 100 tons of the material was produced as an experiment and is being sold to the public for £1 per ton.

A full report on the potential development of a composting plant is soon to be presented to the Council.

Salvage

The total amount for salvage is similar to last year.

Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£15,806
Gross Income	...	...	...	...	...	£3,218
Net Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£12,588
Population	...	...	...	...	...	16,800
Dustbins Emptied	...	...	...	...	...	5,990
Wages of Drivers at December, 1959	...	...	...	...	£9 19 2 per week	
Wages of Collectors at December, 195	...	...	...	...	£9 11 6 per week	

Comparative Cost of House Refuse Collection for the Years 1924, 1944, 1954 & 1958

Year	1924	1944	1954	1958
No. of Dustbins Emptied	2,828	4,126	4,885	5,511
Gross Cost of Service	£2,205	£4,402	£10,373	£14,360
Salvage and other credits	Nil	£1,586	£2,256	£3,128
Nett cost of Service	£2,205	£2,815	£8,116	£11,140

Wages of house refuse collectors and motor drivers

	1924	1944	1954
Collectors weekly	£2 0s. 0d.	£3 6s. 9d.	£7 3s. 0d.
Drivers weekly	£2 16s. 0d.	£4 0s. 0d.	£7 13s. 0d.

Collections and Sales of Salvage, Compost and Tipping Charges

The following table shows the tonnage and materials sold and the amounts received for salvage:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	268	19	—	—	2,565	9	6
Textiles	12	13	2	20	178	7	1
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	18	3	3	204	11	2
Cast Iron	6	4	—	—	44	16	4
Light Iron	2	—	—	—	4	0	0
Use of Tip					29	18	0
Loads on tip					93	0	0
Composting					65	0	0
Miscellaneous					32	17	11
Total	291	15	1	23	£3,218		

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
1956	240	9	1	21	2,790	19	7
1957	292	14	2	5	2,999	1	4
1958	292	14	3	20	3,021	8	10
1959	291	15	1	23	3,218	0	0

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1959.

1. Highways

Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years.

Road Classification	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Class I (3.07 miles)	£3,695 (£1,205/mile)	£8,004 (£2,620/ml)	£5,109 (£1,665/ml)	£3,678 (£1,195/ml)	£7,469 (£2,435/ml)
Class II (2.22 miles)	£5,675 (£2,560/mile)	£2,107 (£950/ml)	£5,612 (£2,530/ml)	£3,742 (£1,685/ml)	£3,191 (£1,440/ml)
Class III (2.39 miles)	£5,130 (£2,150/mile)	£2,889 (£1,210/ml)	£2,279 (£952/ml)	£4,580 (£1,915/ml)	£1,258 (£527/ml)
District Highways (18 miles) ...	£17,214 (£957/mile)	£17,454 (£1,019/ml)	£5,383 (£326/ml)	£8,642 (£580/ml)	£10,135* (£685/ml)
Totals ...	£30,714	£30,454	£18,383	£20,642	£22,053

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

The reduced expenditure on Class 1 roads was due to the resurfacing scheme for part of Higher Walton Road and Cann Bridge Street being postponed for a year. Increased funds were then available for Class II and III roads, and further improvements to carriageway surfaces were carried out on these roads.

Extensive resurfacing work was done on those district highways which suffered damage by Contractor's traffic when the Motorway was being constructed. The amount of the Ministry of Transport's contribution to the cost of this work was finally agreed.

Further work was carried out on the improvement of the bad bends in Bank Head Lane near its junction with Brindle Road, and the re-construction of Charnley Fold Lane was at last approved and the work carried out.

The scheme for Duddle Lane corner diversion was approved and Messrs. Wimpeys, whose land is crossed by the diversion, offered the necessary land and a substantial contribution to the cost of the works.

Minor improvements to district highways, following building development, were continued.

2. Street Lighting

All Trunk, Class I and Class II roads (except Cuerdale Lane) are lighted to "Group A" standard. Minor improvements were carried out at certain "dark spots" on classified roads.

The Ministry of Transport approved the Council's proposal to replace all the open-type lanterns on Trunk Road A.6 with enclosed lanterns and agreed to contribute 50% of the cost.

The lighting of School Lane, Cottage Lane and Kittlingborne (Class III) was brought up to "Group B" standard.

The Council's policy of lighting to "Group B" standard all private streets and building estates as they are made up, was continued in order to maintain the high standard of lighting in the Urban District.

3. Private Streets

The making up of 13 private streets was completed during the year. Ten completed private streets were adopted as public highways:—

Sergeant Street, Smith Street, Tyne Street, Kingsway (part), Hodson Street, Prince's Road, St. Aidan's Road, Cranborne Street, Co-operative Street (part) and Duke Street.

Further lengths of 9 streets made up by Builders on private estates were adopted as public highways:—

St. Mary's Close (part), St. Mary's Avenue (part), St. Jude's Avenue, Allerton Road (part) Norfolk Road, Marlborough Drive (part), Methuen Avenue (part), Service Road at Hoghton Lane (Methuen), and Stephendale Avenue.

4. Sewerage and Surface Water Drainage

Septic Tanks

The scheme approved last year for the connection to the sewer of septic tanks in Todd Lane (north of Todd Lane Station) was completed.

Arrangements were made to enable three premises without main drainage to be connected to private sewers being laid by developers of adjoining private estates (Green Lane Farm, Duddle Lane Farm and Duddle Lane smallholding).

Craigflower Farm, Brindle Road was provided with a sewer connection.

Sewer Extensions

Sewer extensions were approved at Kittlingborne, Duddle Lane to Central Sewer near Horsley Smith's, and Duddle Lane to Central Sewer at Cinnamon Hill. This last scheme will involve the construction of a pipebridge across the Cockshott valley.

Blocked Sewers

There were two serious sewer blockages during the year—

Foul sewer in Watkin Lane, beneath railway tracks and sidings;

Surface water sewer in King's Croft.

The first blockage was extensive and involved engaging a specialist firm to bore through the blockage and clean out the sewer. The second was smaller in extent and was cleared by the Council's own equipment.

5. Flooding

It is pleasing to report that once again there was no serious flooding in the district.

Following 1½" of rain in 24 hours on 27th October, there was minor flooding of cellars in some houses in Victoria Road. The sewer to which these houses are connected is below the river level and when heavy rain raises the river level at the time of high tide, the well to which the sewer drains becomes tide locked and the pumps cannot operate effectively. This problem has been partially cured by the house owners fitting "ball gulleys" to their drainage systems. When the sewage works is re-built and the Paper Mill effluent reduced in quantity, this problem should be solved.

The same rainstorm caused minor flooding in Higher Walton Road near the Motorway Bridge. There is considerably more surface water in the culvert crossing Higher Walton Road at this point due to the addition of the drainage from the Motorway. The risk of flooding from this additional water was foreseen when drawings were first available for the Motorway and the County Council advised of it. The culvert has since been enlarged by the County Council.

6. Sewage Disposal

The Ministry held an Inquiry into the Council's proposal to seek borrowing powers for the re-construction of the sewage Disposal Works.

Up to the day before the Inquiry the Council proposed to seek to construct only that part of the new Works which would produce an effluent suitable for discharge into tidal water (comminutors, detritus tank, settling tanks, storm water and storage tanks, and sludge drier and beds), but at the Council meeting before the Inquiry it was decided to seek to construct a Works to produce an "inland water standard" of effluent (addition of "filters," humus tanks and additional pumps).

The outline proposals were approved and the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to proceed with detail designs for submission to the Ministry for approval.

7. Council Housing

All houses for slum clearance and general housing were completed and occupied at the end of the previous year and the Council's programme for such housing needs had been completed.

At the beginning of the period under review the only building in progress was to meet the needs of old people—4 bungalows at Moon Street and 16 bungalows with Warden's Flat and Community facilities at Brindle Road.

On 14th June the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 came into force and introduced a new type of improvement grant—a standard grant. During the period, applications for standard grants on 30 houses were approved and 14 applications approved for discretionary grants.

8. Staff

After the first year in 12 years when there were no staff changes, there were movements during the year under review. One Assistant was called up for military service in February and a temporary Assistant left in October.

A Pupil was appointed in August and a General Clerk (newly established post) was appointed in September.

9. Plans and Planning

During the year 416 applications relating to 1166 permanent buildings and 140 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Council's Byelaws.

There were 192 applications dealt with under Planning legislation relating to approximately 700 buildings (6 applications being for approval of large building sites).

The large increase in numbers of buildings for which applications were considered illustrates the rapid growth of the district, mainly due to the larger building firms being attracted to the district.

The quinquennial review of the Town Map will be due in 1961 and very careful consideration will have to be given to the provision of additional building land—certainly to the limits of the recently completed Main Sewerage Scheme.

10. Transport and Plant

Mileages run and petrol used by my Department's vehicles were:—

Vehicle	Date registered	Miles	Petrol gallons	m.p.g.	Remarks
Ford 5 cwt. Van	June 1954	10,223	367	27.9	
Fordson Thames	Nov. 1954	11,672	1,062	10.95	
Fordson Thames	Dec. 1956	10,695	1,045	10.23	
Bedford Sweeper	June 1957	7,830	1,185	6.72	
Karrier Gulley Emptier	Apr. 1958	4,860	817	5.95 (Part estimated)	
Totals		45,280	4,476		

The Department also owns the following vehicles not recorded in the above table:—

Nuffield Tractor—registered July, 1953;	Steam Roller—registered Jan. 1923;
Bedford Flat Truck—registered March, 1959;	Petrol Roller—registered Sept., 1948;
Karrier Tower Wagon—registered May, 1949;	Auto-scythe—registered May, 1951.

STANLEY RACE,

A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E., A.M.I.W.E.
Engineer and Surveyor.

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY

Note. This Report covers the period 1st January, 1959 to 30th September, 1959. On October 1st, 1959, the Council's Water Undertaking became part of Preston and District Water Board.

1. Sources of Water

Thirlmere and Haweswater—Manchester Corporation.

Rivers Ribble and Hodder and Longridge Fell—Preston Corporation.

The Council's own wells at School Lane and Brindle have not been used for over 24 years.

2. Quality of Water

	<i>Preston Water</i>	<i>Manchester Water</i>
Permanent hardness	42	5 to 10 parts/million
Temporary hardness	Nil	11 to 15 parts/million
Total hardness	42	18 parts/million
pH value (average)	7.1	7.5

Thirlmere water has lime added at the strainer well in the lake and is chlorinated at Kendal. This water is again chlorinated by the Council before distribution, at both intake houses where the Council draws from the aqueducts at Hoghton.

Preston water is chlorinated at Grimsargh, and will shortly be passed through micro-strainers when the construction of those at Grimsargh is completed.

3. Area of Supply

Supplies are given to certain consumers at Hoghton and Brindle and a bulk supply was provided to part of the parish of Cuerden up to November, 1958, all within the Chorley R.D.

All premises (except 3 farms with private supplies) in the Urban District are supplied with mains water.

The estimated total population supplied was 17,000.

4. Quantity Supplied

Source	1959	1958
Manchester Corporation—	(9 months only)	
No. 1 Meter House	82,130,000	103,657,000
No. 2 Meter House	174,564,000	205,080,000
Preston Corporation	26,948,000	50,888,000
Total Supply	283,642,000	359,625,000
Less Bulk supply to Cuerden	Supply ceased in 1958	3,114,000
Total Consumption in U.D. and parts of Hoghton and Brindle	283,642,000	356,511,000

Note. Water retained in the service reservoirs at Brindle and Gough Lane has been disregarded in the above table, as the total storage capacity is only 980,000 gallons, or about 23 hours consumption.

5. Consumption

	1959 (9 mths. only)	per head per day	1958	per head per day
Total Consumption	283,642,000	61.2	356,511,000	59.2
Metered Consumption	119,607,000	25.8	173,582,000	28.8
"Domestic" consumption	164,035,000	35.4	182,929,000	30.4

Note. Domestic consumption includes all un-metered uses of water including fire-fighting builders' water, mains flushing, sewer flushing, street watering and losses from bursts.

The domestic consumption again shows an increase of the order of 36,000,000 per year. 1958 showed an increase of 13,000,000 over 1957. The increase is accounted for by the continuing high rate of building in the district, and the increasing number of older houses being improved by the addition of bathrooms.

The number of applications for planning consent for private housing estates showed a considerable increase over 1958, and as these houses are completed the water consumption will increase further.

6. Distribution

Watermain Network

The network was extended by the laying of the following mains:—

Rhodesway estate, Gregson Lane ...	156 yds. of 3" mains;
Stephendale Avenue estate	60 yds. of 3" mains;
Brownedale Close estate	80 yds. of 3" mains;
Lyndale Avenue estate	60 yds. of 6" mains;
	60 yds. of 3" mains;
Pear Tree estate	30 yds. of 3" mains;
	332 yds. of 4" mains;
Methuen Avenue estate	115 yds. of 3" mains;
	38 yds. of 4" mains;
Cinnamon Hill estate	166 yds. of 3" mains;
	285 yds. of 6" mains.

Water Meters

The numbers of water meters was unchanged (about 450 meters) in the District.

Fire Hydrants

As in previous years all proposals for extensions of the watermain network were submitted to the County Fire Department for determination of hydrant positions.

The L.C.C. paid the cost of providing hydrants in the selected positions.

All repairs to existing hydrants were carried out at L.C.C. expense.

Waste Prevention

Inspection of premises and fittings continued, though due to illness of one of the two Inspectors, less visits were carried out than during the previous year.

	1959 (9 mths. only)	1958	1957
Visits to premises by Inspectors	2,050	4,398	3,293
Taps re-washed	915	2,415	1,320
Cistern valves re-washed	273	478	374
Burst services discovered	312	443	311
Fractured mains repaired	19	27	18

7. Reservoirs

The reservoirs at Brindle and Gough Lane have a combined capacity of less than one day's full supply when full, and as they are fed in series from Houghton No. 1 connection, they operate more as "balancing tanks" and except in holiday periods, when industrial demand for water falls sharply, they operate at approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ full.

Brindle reservoir was built in 1880 in connection with Brindle Pumping Station.

Gough Lane reservoir was built in 1922 to provide additional storage for water from School Lane Pumping Station.

Neither reservoir needed any repairs during the period January to September, 1959.

8. Water Treatment

In addition to treatment of Thirlmere water given at the source and en route, this water is chlorinated at both of the points at which the U.D.C.'s mains are connected to Manchester's aqueducts.

Slight difficulty was experienced with the chlorinators during the winter owing to the water in the "dosing bells" freezing despite there being thermostatically controlled heaters in both chlorination chambers. The trouble was overcome by suspending infra-red lamps connected to the thermostat circuit over each "dosing bell".

9. Re-grouping

The Preston and District Water Board came into being on 1st October, 1959, and took over the water undertakings of Preston Corporation, the Urban Districts of Fulwood, Leyland, Longridge and Walton-le-Dale, the Rural District of Preston and parts of West Lancashire Rural District.

10. Conclusion

The water undertaking in Walton-le-Dale began to supply water in 1881 when the Walton Local Board's Brindle Waterworks came into service.

The Local Board had begun a search for water in 1877, and in 1878 engaged an Engineer to prepare a scheme for pumping underground water from Brindle. By 1882 the Brindle waterworks was supplying $7\frac{1}{4}$ gallons per head per day to a population of about 5,000 (during the last month of the Council's water undertaking 61.3 gallons per head per day was supplied to a population of about 17,000!)

In 1896 the first connection was made to Manchester Corporation's Thirlmere aqueducts and in 1889 a connection was made at Walton Bridge to Preston Corporation mains.

In 1911 the Council began the construction of School Lane Waterworks (pumping underground water) as the Council considered the cost of Thirlmere water to be too high. The cost was then less than 6d. per 1000 gallons.

In 1934 an additional connection was made to the Thirlmere aqueducts and a new trunk water main was laid in order to supply the U.D. by "ring main" from the new connection together with the existing connection.

The cost of softening the water pumped at School Lane had by this time reached such a level that the pumping station was scrapped and since 1935 all water supplied in the U.D. has been obtained from Manchester Corporation and Preston Corporation.

During the last 5 years of the Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.'s water undertaking growth of the district was rapid and almost 5 miles of new mains were laid. Supplies had risen from 3,000 gallons per day in 1882 to over 1,000,000 gallons per day in 1959.

A great deal of credit is due to the Council and its predecessors for a record of over 78 years of supplying the population and industries of the growing district with wholesome and abundant water, and so being able to hand over to the newly constituted Water Board a sound undertaking as a "going concern".

STANLEY RACE,

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

Engineer and Surveyor

