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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, 1960

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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1960

Chairman of the Council

Councillor F. A. Cooper, J.P.

Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor W. Morgan

Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor F. A. Cooper, J.P.

Members of the Council

- *Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead
- Councillor W. Birkenhead
- *Councillor R. Knowles
- Councillor T. Hewlett
- *Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett
- *Councillor Mrs. E. Martin
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- *Councillor A. Sharples
- Councillor G. G. Smith
- Councillor J. Spencer
- *Councillor Rev. A. Williams
- Councillor W. McLaughlin

*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.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector J. R. Williams, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector F. Burgin, Cs.R.S.H.
(to 31st November)

Meat Inspector D. R. Cook (from 21st November)

Warden Brindle Rd. Old People's Community Centre Mrs. J. Hughes, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Clerk Typist Miss N. Dawson

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1960

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 1960.

The estimate of population at mid 1960 by the Registrar General of 17,540 is an increase of 740 over the figure for the previous year.

The number of live births attributable to the District during 1960 was 354 or 36 more than in 1959. This gives a birth rate of 20.2 (19.8 adjusted) as compared with 17.1 for England and Wales. The birth rate is the highest recorded for the District since 1947.

The number of deaths was 177 or 5 less than in the previous year, giving a death rate of 10.1 (12.7 adjusted) as compared with 11.5 for the Country as a whole. The principal cause of death was heart disease which accounted for 66 as compared with 63 in 1959. Twenty-eight of these deaths were attributed to coronary disease of the heart. In spite of increased knowledge as to the cause and more effective drugs for the treatment of this condition the number of deaths, often of persons in the prime of life, continues to be high. Deaths from cancer, including leukaemia, numbered 34, which was 5 more than in the previous year. The number of deaths from cancer of the lung was 7—one fewer than in 1959—and the increase was due to cancer in unspecified sites. In both the past two years there have been 2 deaths from leukaemia. Deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia at 8, were exactly half the previous year's figure. It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths from tuberculosis. In 1959 there was one death from this cause. The number of deaths from motor vehicle accidents—6—and from all other accidents—5—gives cause for concern as also does the 5 deaths from suicide. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

The number of infants who died before reaching one year of age was 7—2 fewer than in 1959. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 19.8 as against the national figure of 21.7.

It is pleasing to report that, as in the previous year, there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases shows a marked increase over the previous year—724 as against 187. This was mainly accounted for by 378 more notifications of measles, but notifications of scarlet fever, whooping cough, and dysentery were also considerably increased.

Details of the attention given to all the various aspects of environmental hygiene are given in the Report.

The question of Atmospheric Pollution again received much attention during the year including the holding of a Public Meeting. The proposed establishment of a Smoke Control Area did not receive support and this is perhaps not very surprising, although disappointing. Nevertheless, I am convinced that common sense will prevail and the public will soon realise that clean air is as important for good health as clean food and pure water supply.

A considerable amount of attention was, as usual, devoted to the supervision of food and milk supplies. As in the previous year, milk from six herds in the District was found to contain brucella organisms. The consumption of raw milk containing these organisms can give rise to the disease known as undulant fever. This disease is not notifiable and although only one suspected case was brought to the attention of the Health Department the condition is not readily diagnosed and may be more common than is realised. Efficient heat treatment destroys brucella and other organisms which may occur in milk. Whilst agreeing that every effort should be made to eradicate this infection from cattle, one is nevertheless forced to the opinion that the only safe milk is milk which has been efficiently heat treated.

Reference was made in last year's Report to the growing public concern about the sewage contaminated state of beaches, and the fact that the Council had decided to proceed with the sewage disposal scheme which will give complete treatment of sewage before discharge into the River Ribble. This decision was made in advance of the enactment in 1960 of the Clean Rivers (Estuaries and Tidal Water) Act which, no doubt, would have made such a procedure compulsory. During the past year this scheme was waiting the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Two events of particular interest to the Health Department took place in 1960. One was the official opening of the Council's Bungalow Scheme for the elderly by Councillor W. McLaughlin, J.P., Chairman of the Council, on 21st April, 1960. This scheme, provided as it is with a Warden and call-bell system, is of great value in permitting elderly persons to retain their independence in their own homes. The other was the opening of the Medical Comforts Depot by the Superintendent of St. John Ambulance on 1st October, 1960. This Depot was provided from funds made available from the Trust of the late W. W. Galloway, Esq., and provides for a wide variety of nursing equipment being available at a nominal charge.

During the year, the Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee continued to do much to bring happiness into the lives of the elderly. Meals-on-Wheels provided by the Women's Voluntary Service continued and this service is proving a great blessing to these old people unable otherwise to obtain adequate meals. We are indeed grateful to all those in the District who are mindful and prepared to help those who are less fortunate than themselves.

I am very much obliged to Mr. Corbishley, Chief Public Health Inspector, and the staff of the Health Department, for their willing assistance at all times. I am also indebted 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 and in particular the Chairman of the Public Health Committee 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 $4\frac{1}{2}$ 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 1960

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	5.39	19	39.9	S.W.6
February	2.28	20	84.7	E.5
March	1.23	14	100.5	E.6
April	1.98	14	177.4	E.5
May	2.13	12	225.3	E.6
June	0.94	11	279.7	W.6
July	5.69	25	194.8	W.8
August	5.51	23	183.0	W.7
September	3.34	16	156.4	S.W.5
October	2.52	19	72.0	S.W.5
November	3.17	27	47.2	S.W.5
December	4.32	22	56.2	S.6

A short summary of the weather of each month follows:—

JANUARY. This was a wet month; the total rainfall was 2.14 inches higher than average. In contrast with other parts of the country, Preston had very little snow. On no days was snow lying on the ground at the time of observation. Most of the precipitation was in the form of rain and sleet.

The day temperature was warmer and the night colder than normal, but the average temperature for the month was normal. The lowest temperature recorded was 24.9°F. on January 10th and on January 17th. Morning temperatures were, however, fairly high for the time of the year. In fact, in the middle of the month temperatures in the fifties were recorded at 9 a.m.

During the month there were 12 days of air frost and 17 of ground frost.

On no occasion was the maximum temperature below freezing. The Moor Park pond was frozen during only four days.

Fog occurred on seven days and on two occasions it was very dense. Bright days of sunshine occurred throughout the month. Winds were light and easterly, but two gales were recorded.

FEBRUARY. The month started with mild and wet weather. The second week, however, brought a sudden change and the average temperature dropped from the upper forties to give a cold spell. From the 13th to the 19th snow fell every day, the quantity, however, being very small. Most of the snow fell during the night and the days were bright and sunny. On only two days was the snow covering the ground at the time of observation. The maximum depth of snow measured at the observatory was just under 1 inch.

Air frost and ground frost occurred frequently during the second and the third weeks of the month. Hail, snow, sleet, and thunder were recorded in these weeks. The Moor Park pond was frozen on nine days.

The last few days of the month brought a sudden change and a rise in temperature. On February 29th the maximum reached 60.0°F., a very high maximum for the time of the year. The average temperature for the month was normal. Rain fell on 20 days and the total was only 0.16 inches lower than average. No heavy rain occurred during the month.

Winds were mainly light and southerly, on 12 days there was no wind. A gale was recorded on the evening of February 26th, but no damage was caused. Visibility was generally poor throughout the month. Fog was recorded on three occasions.

MARCH. During this month there was a good deal of sunshine. The month as a whole was warmer than average. Only three days of air frost were recorded and the average temperature for the month was 1.8°F. higher than normal. A maximum of 59.2°F. was recorded towards the end of the month.

Rainfall was 1.12 inches below average and no heavy rain fell on any day of the month; on only one occasion was the total rainfall more than 0.20 inches. The ground was mainly dry and ground frost was recorded on four occasions.

Visibility throughout the month was moderate and the relative humidity was well below average. Dry air (relative humidity less than 60%) was recorded on March 8th. Winds were mainly easterly and light. No snow fell during the month, but sleet was recorded on two days. The Moor Park pond was never frozen during the month. Very little fog occurred.

APRIL. The month of April started warm and wet. After the second week, however, the weather improved considerably and there were many sunny and dry days. Generally there were warm days and cold nights. The average temperature for the month was 1.5°F. higher than normal. During the second half of the month ground frost was frequent, being recorded on 11 occasions. There was only one day of air frost.

Rainfall was again below average and a dry spell started on April 13th. During the first part of the month it rained daily and there was particularly heavy rain in the second week, but the ground was flooded on only one occasion.

Winds were westerly and light. Two gales were recorded on April 10th and 13th, but no damage was reported. Thunder was heard on two occasions and hail fell on one day.

Dry air was recorded twice during the month with relative humidity of 54 and 55%. Visibility on the whole was poor, but no fog was recorded.

The most common of the optical phenomena in April was the solar halo, which was observed eight times.

MAY. This was on the whole a warm and sunny month. The dry spell which had started on April 13th came to an end on May 4th. The rainfall for the month was 0.36 inches below average, but May 12th and 13th were very wet days. In spite of this the ground was flooded on only one occasion. Thunderstorms were recorded on four days.

As far as temperature is concerned, the average temperature for the month was 3.2°F. higher than normal and maximum temperatures in the seventies were recorded on three days.

No air frost occurred and only one ground frost at the beginning of the month.

Visibility was moderate; dry air was recorded on two days. Winds were easterly and light.

Of the optical phenomena seen, once more the solar halos were the most frequent. During the month six were recorded.

JUNE. Another sunny, warm, and dry month.

The average temperature for the whole month was 2.4°F. higher than normal for the time of the year. On many days the maximum temperature was in the seventies and eighties, and it was during this month that the highest maximum of the year was recorded.

The total rainfall was 0.94 inches and on only one day was the rainfall above 0.20 inches. In fact the wettest day of the month had a rainfall of 0.25 inches. A dust storm followed by thunderstorm was observed on June 5th in the afternoon.

The ground was very dry and began to show signs of caking.

June 12th was a very stormy day with gales blowing, but little rain.

The month ended as it started with a dry and warm week.

June was by far the best month of the year.

JULY. After the previous dry and sunny month July started wet and cloudy, and went on to become a very wet month with a total rainfall of 5.69 inches. In spite of 25 days of rain the ground remained only moist and it was never flooded. Gales, thunderstorms, hail, and rain were all recorded this month.

A rain spell started on July 9th and ended on July 28th; that is there were 20 consecutive days of rain. On July 10th, 0.20 inches of rain fell in four minutes, giving a rate of 3 inches per hour.

The average temperature for the month was 1.7°F. cooler than normal. The maximum temperature never reached the seventies.

AUGUST. The wet and cool weather continued this month. The total rainfall, 5.51 inches, was 1.33 inches above average.

Of the 23 days of rain, 20 had a rainfall greater than 0.04 inches. In spite of this the ground was flooded on only one day towards the end of the month.

The average temperature for the whole month was 1.9°F. lower than normal. On only three days did the maximum reach 70°F. It was mostly in the lower sixties.

Thunderstorms were recorded on three days. Most of the time if it was not actually raining, it was dull and overcast.

Mist rather than haze was common and on one day even fog occurred. Winds were light and southerly.

SEPTEMBER. This month started wet, but it improved and ended with a dry week.

The total rainfall was less than average, but the ground began to show the results of the heavy rain of the previous months. The ground was flooded on seven days.

Skies were less cloudy than in July and August and there was a moderate amount of sunshine. Visibility was rather poor and fog was recorded on three days.

Only one thunderstorm occurred in September and the first ground frost of the Autumn came in the third week of the month.

The average temperature for the month was slightly lower than normal. The temperature dropped towards the end of the month giving a much cooler last week.

OCTOBER. The first week of the month was wet and mild, and was followed by a cold, dry, second week with ground frost every night. The last two weeks were wet and milder.

On the whole it was an average month with mist and fog on several mornings. The rainfall was 1.36 inches less than average, in contrast with the heavy rain and flooding which occurred in many parts of the country particularly in the South-West.

Winds were easterly and light. On two occasions during the month air frost was recorded.

On the 30th, a very well developed solar halo with bright colours was observed in the morning with halos of 22 and 46 degrees, parhelic circle, arc of contact of 22 degrees, circumzenithal arc, and parhelia.

Visibility was poor throughout the month and relative humidity was a little higher than average for the time of the year.

NOVEMBER. The rainy weather which seemed to have decreased in October returned this month.

November, with a total rainfall of 8.17 inches was the wettest month of the year and the wettest November on record in Preston since records started in 1876. It rained for 27 days and on 25 out of the 27 the rainfall was 0.04 inches or more. The second rain spell of the year started on November 19th. The ground, now saturated with rain, was flooded on 26 days and flooding was reported in Fulwood.

November was a month of rain, hail, thunderstorms, fog, gales, and frost.

Winds were easterly and light. The gale of November 2nd caused some structural damage in the town.

The average temperature for the month was 0.8°F. higher than normal. Very little sunshine was experienced.

Ground frost occurred on six nights and air frost on four nights.

The month ended as it had started, wet and mild with temperatures in the lower fifties.

DECEMBER. The last month of this wet second half of the year was a continuation of the November weather.

The total rainfall was above average. The rain spell which had started on November 19th ended on December 5th. It was during this month that the wettest day of the year occurred (1.30 inches on December 3rd). The ground was flooded on 11 days.

December was also a cold month, in fact the coldest month of the year, with an average temperature 1.9°F. below normal.

The month which had started with temperatures in the lower fifties, ended with temperatures in the upper thirties. From December 6th to December 16th ground and air frost were recorded every day.

Sleet and snow fell five times during the month. Hail and thunderstorms were recorded. Fog was very frequent and at times very dense. Often the fog was denser in the Moor Park area than in the town itself. Indeed, on some occasions while fog was present in Moor Park, the town centre was quite clear. On December 12th, fog persisted all day from early morning and was very dense at times.

The Moor Park pond was frozen on six days and glaze occurred on December 14th.

Christmas and Boxing Day were very wet, but mild, and the year ended with wet and milder weather.

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
Population (census 1951)	14,709
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1960)	17,540
Number of inhabited houses (census 1951)	4,484
Number of inhabited houses (Rate Book 1960)	6,057
Rateable Value	£197,571
Sum represented by a penny rate	£780

Vital Statistics

<i>Births</i>				M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate				175	174	349			
Illegitimate				4	1	5			
							179	175	354
Still Births—Legitimate				2	3	5			
Illegitimate				1	—	1			
							3	3	6
Total Births							182	178	360
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population crude						20.2			
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population adjusted						19.8			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births						16.7			
Area Comparability Factor for Births						0.98			
<i>Deaths</i>							M.	F.	Total
Total Deaths from all causes							78	99	177
				M.	F.	Total			
Infantile Mortality—Legitimate				2	5	7			
Illegitimate				—	—	—			
							2	5	7
Neo Natal Mortality—Legitimate				2	5	7			
Illegitimate				—	—	—			
							2	5	7
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births								19.8	
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births Legitimate								19.8	
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births Illegitimate								Nil	
Neo Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births								19.8	
Illegitimate live births as a percentage of live births								1.4	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births								Nil	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude								10.1	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Adjusted								12.7	
Area Comparability factor for deaths								1.26	

Comparative Table

			Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Pul. T.B. Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Total Births.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births.
<i>Walton-le-Dale</i>								
Mean of 5 years 1955-59			16.78	11.40	0.05	1.79	1.48	24.36
1959			18.90	10.80	0.06	1.73	Nil	28.30
1960			20.20	10.10	Nil	1.94	Nil	19.80
Increase or Decrease in 1960 compared to:—								
A: 5 year average ...			+3.42	—1.30	—0.05	+0.15	—1.48	—4.56
B: Previous year ...			+1.30	—0.70	—0.06	+0.21	Nil	—8.50
Rates for County of Lancs. for 1960			17.07	12.54	0.07	2.11	0.45	25.0
Rates for England and Wales for 1960 ...			17.10	11.50	0.068	2.16	0.39	21.7

Table of Decades

Period	Per 1,000 Population		Pul. T.B. Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Deaths from Diarrhoea
	Birth Rate	Death Rate			Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
Ten Years											
1891-1910 ...	30.8	18.9	1.25	188	133	27	46	16	211	15	122
1901-1910 ...	26.3	14.7	0.95	128	116	21	98	15	291	16	58
1911-1920 ...	18.7	13.7	0.91	107	54	5	166	16	565	11	46
1921-1930 ...	16.0	12.0	0.72	64	7	0	66	5	310	0	11
1931-1940 ...	14.0	12.7	0.44	56	5	2	47	3	414	0	5
1941-1950 ...	16.5	12.3	0.33	42	0	0	27	1	280	0	6
1951-1960 ...	16.4	11.7	0.09	23	0	0	0	0	514	0	0

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 1960 was 349 (males 175—females 174), 31 more than in the year 1959.

The crude live birth rate for the District, calculated on the estimated population, corresponds to 20.2 per 1,000. The previous year the rate was 18.9. Area comparability factor for births supplied by the Registrar General 0.98 leaving the adjusted rate 19.8. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1960 is 17.1

Illegitimate live births belonging to the District and registered during 1960 numbered 5, 1 less than in the previous year.

The number of registered still births assigned to the District during 1960 was 6. The resultant rate for the District is 16.7 per 1,000 total births, compared with 19.7 for England and Wales.

Deaths

Deaths allocated by the Registrar General to the Walton-le-Dale District for the year 1960 number 177 (males 78, females 99). This was a reduction of 5 on the previous year. Death rate for the Urban District calculated on an estimated mid-year population of 17,540 is 10.1 per 1,000. Death rate for the previous year was 10.8.

Analysis of Causes of Death, 1960

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms—Stomach	3	2	5
Lungs and Bronchus	4	3	7
Breast	—	2	2
Uterus	—	—	—
Other	8	10	18
Leukaemia	—	2	2
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	16	26
Angina, Coronary disease	17	11	28
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
Other Heart Disease	9	24	33
Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7	12
Motor Vehicle accidents	3	3	6
All other Accidents	4	1	5
Suicide	—	5	5
Homicide	—	—	—

Causes of Death

Diseases of the heart were again the main cause of death. Coronary heart disease showed an increase of 3 over the previous year. Deaths from malignant diseases numbered 34, including 2 from Leukaemia. Deaths from these causes in 1959 were 29. Deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia at 8 were half the number from these causes in the previous year.

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of infants under one year numbered 7, compared with 9 in 1959. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 19.8 per 1,000 live births compared with 28.3 for the previous year. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales in 1960 was 21.7.

Details of age, sex, and causes of death:—

Age				Sex	Cause of death
1 week	...	...	...	M	Congenital Heart Disease
1 day	...	...	...	F	Respiratory Failure
12 hours	...	...	...	M	Atelectasis
30 minutes	...	...	...	F	Prematurity
30 minutes	...	...	...	F	Atelectasis
5 minutes	...	...	...	F	Prematurity
1 minute	...	...	...	F	Asphyxia

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 16.9 per 1,000 live births and the Perinatal Mortality Rate 33.3 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 at all ages	Under 25 years									
		1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	25 years and over	
Scarlet Fever	41	—	1	2	5	2	25	5	—	1	
Whooping Cough	45	5	5	5	3	3	21	3	—	—	
Measles	522	10	36	64	62	82	261	6	—	1	
Dysentery	92	3	7	18	7	8	18	9	2	20	
<hr/>											
		Total	0 yrs.	5 yrs.	15 yrs.	45 yrs.	65 & over				
Acute Pneumonia (prim. and infl'zal)	...	5	1	—	—	3	1				
Erysipelas	...	4	—	—	1	3	—				
Tuberculosis Respiratory	...	5	—	—	4	1	—				
Tuberculosis Other	...	1	1	—	—	—	—				
Food Poisoning	...	9	2	2	2	3	—				

Tuberculosis

During the year, 14 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified to the department. These consisted of 6 new cases and 8 "Transfers In."

Pulmonary:—

New Cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Transfers In	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Non-Pulmonary:—

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

Removed from the Register during the year were:—

Pulmonary:—

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Removed from District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Non-Pulmonary:—

Recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Removed from District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Diagnosis not Confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Died	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

On the Register at 31st December, 1960, were Pulmonary 57, Non-Pulmonary 18, 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

With having a large number of samples of milk in the area infected with brucella organisms I took the opportunity of writing to all General Practitioners practising in the area, drawing to their attention the presence of this infection and requesting information of any cases which they may diagnose.

Only one case of suspected undulant fever was reported during the year. *Brucella abortus* organisms which cause this condition were nevertheless recovered from the milk of six herds in the District. Pasteurisation of milk kills brucella organisms and renders the milk safe.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

In the first part of January, the Matron at Cottage Lane Day Nursery reported that a number of children had developed "loose stools". Specimens obtained and submitted to the Group Laboratory of Preston Royal Infirmary gave negative results. "Loose stools" persisted and further specimens showed the causative organism to be *Shigella Sonnei*. This outbreak was first found at the Day Nursery, although Diarrhoea and Sickness has been rather prevalent in the area. Specimens from family contacts of known cases brought further cases to light.

Sonne Dysentery persisted throughout the year.

The following cases of food poisoning were investigated during the year.

Sal. Menston	5 cases	Suspected vehicle of infection, Sausage consumed at home.
Staph. Aureas	3 cases	Suspected vehicle of infection, Corned Beef consumed at home.
Sal. Typhi Murium	1 case	Suspected vehicle of infection, Not traced.

The cases of Sal. Menston occurred in one family. It was not possible to trace the suspected food, after exhaustive investigation and sampling. Twenty-seven different brands of sausage sold locally were examined, in no case were food poisoning organisms isolated.

With the three cases of Staph. Aureus it was necessary to remove the patients to hospital. Dr. Robertson of the Public Health Laboratory investigated swabs and specimens obtained from the shop where the corned beef was purchased. It was not possible to isolate the organism from the specimens.

The Sal. Typhi Murium case was found incidental to an investigation of Shigella Sonnei.

During the year stool specimens from 321 people were examined. One hundred specific infections being isolated. Eight hundred and twelve specimens were submitted for examination.

Hepatitis (Jaundice)

Reference was made in my last Report to the fact that 57 cases of this disease had been reported from Schools during 1959. During the year under review 21 cases were reported. This disease believed to be of the infective type is caused by a virus and is spread in much the same way as dysentery.

Notification of Anthrax

As from the 1st December, 1960, all cases of Anthrax coming to the notice of General Medical Practitioners were required to be notified to the Medical Officer of Health in whose district the case occurred. A circular which accompanied the New Regulations stated that the Ministry felt that this notification would allow investigation into the source of any infection and for whatever action was necessary to be taken. Prior to these Regulations, cases of Anthrax were only notifiable if they were contracted inside a factory. A copy of the Regulations, a circular and a covering letter was sent to all Medical Practitioners in the District in November.

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.

Domiciliary Nursing Service

Three nurses were employed in this district in 1960. 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 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 nately, 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 Continuation Hospital—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 approximate 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
5	40	1	—	292	25	2	—

Vaccination

Primary Vaccinations performed					Re-vaccinations Total
Under 1	Age in years			Total	
	1—	5—	15—		
168	4	4	10	186	20

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	No.	Year of Birth	No.	Year of Birth	No.	Year of Birth	No.
1960	21	1954	6	1948	3	1942 or earlier	583
1959	140	1953	5	1947	2		
1958	55	1952	2	1946	2		
1957	18	1951	2	1945	—	Total	864
1956	8	1950	1	1944	2		
1955	7	1949	4	1943	3		

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

(a) Statistics

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Local Authority	16	1
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	336	—

1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during this year:—

(1) (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	437
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	544
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitations but capable of being rendered fit	209
(2) Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	72

2. Houses Demolished:—

In Clearance Areas:	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas:			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1, Housing Act, 1957	12	38	11
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—

Food & Drugs Act, 1938-55

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority in this area. Samples were taken by an Assistant County Sanitary Officer.

A total of 91 samples was obtained, consisting of 61 samples of milk (one of which was Channel Islands milk) and 30 others comprising:—

2 Fruit curd	1 Sugar
1 Demerara sugar	1 Golden raising powder
1 Sausages and Beans, canned	1 Table jelly
2 Meat pies	1 Semolina
1 Mustard paste	1 Zinc ointment
1 Sulphur ointment B.P.	1 Bread
1 Potatoes	1 Brussels sprouts
3 Christmas puddings	1 Sweets
1 Popcorn	1 Cinnamon and Quinine liquid
1 Cough candy	4 Soup, canned
1 Plum pudding	1 Nougat
1 Ammoniated tincture of quinine	

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>
1 Informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 7.4% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Formal samples taken.
1 Informal milk	Fat content 2.85%, deficient 5% fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 7.4% of extraneous water.	
1 Informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 6.5% of extraneous water.	
1 Informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 6.8% of extraneous water.	
1 Informal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 8.0% of extraneous water.	
1 Informal milk	Fat 2.80%, deficient 6.6% fat.	Farmer notified.

Milk and Milk Production

Extensive work was carried out in tracing brucellosis in cattle and its eradication from dairy herds. One compulsory pasteurisation notice was served on a dairy herd found to be infected.

In an attempt to form a uniform procedure for sampling and interpretation, a meeting was arranged between Dr. Robertson of the Public Health Laboratory and Public Health Inspectors. The discussion was informative and I feel helpful.

Reference is made elsewhere in the Report to the danger of Undulant Fever arising from the consumption of raw milk infected with *Brucella* organisms.

Information was received during the year that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is making a survey on a number of farms throughout the Country with a view to obtaining information regarding the evidence of brucella infection in cattle. The outcome of this survey is awaited with interest.

During the year 146 "appeal to cow" samples were submitted to examination, following upon evidence of infection in the bulked supply. These samples spread over 6 herds entailed early morning sampling on the farms. In addition 51 samples submitted for routine bacteriological examination from milk being retailed in the area, were examined for brucellosis.

			Brucellosis		Negative	No Result
			Positive	Equivocal		
Ring Test	...	...	63	24	110	—
Cultures	...	...	11	—	27	13
Biological	...	...	6	—	33	4

Routine examination of Cream at the Milk Marketing Board revealed that the cream was unsatisfactory in its keeping qualities. This was found to be due to the obsolete machinery and methods of production.

New machinery is in process of being installed which it is hoped will produce a good quality safe product.

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 67 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 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

The Old People's Bungalow Scheme was officially opened on the 24th April, 1960. All the bungalows have been occupied, and a short waiting list of suitable approved people await any vacancies.

Schools

There are fourteen schools in the District. Two new schools have been built in recent years and a number of the existing ones modernised. Nevertheless it is still considered that toilet and hand washing facilities in several of the schools are inadequate. Unsatisfactory conditions for washing crockery and utensils after school meals were also found on inspection. A report on these matters was sent to the Divisional Education Officer.

Atmospheric Pollution

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution has been continued with the Council's appliances. No practical work towards the formation of Smoke Control Areas has been carried out.

During April a Public Meeting was held in St. Mary's School, Duddle Lane, in order to test public reaction to the formation of a Smoke Control Area in Duddle Lane. The meeting was well attended but it was evident that the residents rejected the principle of Clean Air when they became involved in any work or cost towards achieving it.

Water Supply

The Department procured 13 water samples, 3 of which the Public Health Laboratory considered unsatisfactory for a chlorinated supply. In addition the Preston and District Water Board furnished reports on 24 samples taken in the District that their Laboratory had examined, 2 of these samples were reported as unsatisfactory.

Representations were made to the Water Board regarding these samples and the explanation for the unsatisfactory supply was stated to be due to repairs carried out on the Thirlmere Aqueduct by the Manchester Corporation Water Works and the cause of this poor quality was "transient disturbance of sediment in the aqueduct."

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 able to do so. Part of the River Ribble at a place known as Church Deeps 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 following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1960.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1960 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	85	44	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
	88	44	1	—

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")

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Number of cases in which defects were found REFERRED		Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Tempera- ture (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective Sani- tory Accessories ...	7	7	—	1	—
	7	7	—	1	—

New Legislation during 1960

Requisition Houses Act.

Caravan Site and Control of Development, Act.

Offices Act.

Public Health Laboratory Services Act.

Oil Burner (Standards) Act.

Clean Rivers (Estuaries and Tidal Water) Act.

Noise Abatement Act.

Authorised Officers (Meat Inspectors) Regulations.

Civil Defence Diseases Regulations.

Meat (Staining & Sterilization) Regulations.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

The Food Hygiene (Dock & Karrier) Regulations.

Public Health Infectious Diseases Amendment Regulations.

Arsenic in Food Amendment Regulations.

Skimmed Milk with Non-Milk Fat Regulations.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the Year 1960

To the Chairman, Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is pleasing to present to you my eighth annual report on the environmental services of the district.

The steady growth of building has been particularly noticeable this year especially with the virtual completion of two large housing estates. This tempo will no doubt be increased as the proposed areas at Adams Hall and Brindle Road are developed. Some seven new dwellings have been "added to" the refuse collection round each week, giving a round figure of 352 houses added in a full year.

There has been no important change or development in the services administered, but progress in some directions has been made. More food shops have been improved and brought fully into line with the Food Hygiene Regulations. A further 18 unfit houses were demolished or closed, the families being rehoused. This brings the total of unfit houses dealt with during the past five years to 81. Some progress has been made in reducing atmospheric pollution from industrial premises but unfortunately it is not possible to make a similar comment on domestic pollution.

The Caravan Control and Development Act which became law towards the end of the year is designed to control the indiscriminate parking and occupation of these homes on wheels. Planning permission is now necessary before any new caravan is occupied and similar control is also exercised over existing caravans. Where planning permission is obtained a site licence is automatically granted by the Local Authority with such conditions attached as to control of the sanitary and other arrangements in and around the caravan site.

In this district no serious problem exists but a few scattered caravans are being brought under the control of this Act.

A small licensed site controlled by the Local Authority would fill an urgent need for the many local enquiries made to site a caravan in the district.

With the take-over of many small milk purveyors by the large combines, the task of milk sampling has been made easier and what is more important the bacteriological standard of milk has improved due to the firmer control exercised at the larger premises over the treatment and bottling of the milk.

The annual licensing of milk purveyors passed from the Local Authority to the County Council at the end of the year.

Detailed reports on the administration of other services under my control will be found in the following pages.

Meanwhile, may I conclude by extending my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their unfailing help during the year, to Mr. Councillor Morgan, Chairman of the Public Health Committee, for his keen interest and help in the work of the department. To Mr. J. R. Williams, my deputy, who has been most assiduous and loyal in his duties.

During the year we lost two members of the staff. Mr. F. Burgin, Meat & Food Inspector, left to take up a position as District Health Inspector with the County and Town of Poole. Mrs. A. Barrow, Clerk/Typist, who had been with us for 12 years, decided that her responsibilities at home were more important than the Health Department, so we reluctantly had to find someone to fill her place. We welcomed Miss N. Dawson early in May who has proved a worthy successor to Mrs. Barrow. Mr. D. R. Cook came to us in November from Scotland to replace Mr. Burgin. He is proving a valuable servant to the Department.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.

1. Visits and Inspections Made

Drainage	290
Factories (Specific)	44
Rodent Control	49
Atmospheric Pollution	41
Refuse Collection Service	102
Moveable Dwellings	15
Miscellaneous	35

2. Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	437
Filthy and verminous premises	13

3. Infectious Diseases

Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	381
---	-----

4. Meat and Food Inspections

Slaughterhouses	586
Food Preparing Premises	63
Milk (Bacteriological)	116
Miscellaneous Food Visits	52

A total of 1,995 premises were visited and 2,217 visits made.

Work of converting insanitary closets proceeded slowly during the year. Three pail and five waste water closets were converted.

Notices Served and Defects Discovered**Notices:**

Informal	193
Formal	12
Informal complied with	170
Formal complied with	12
Notices served on dwellings	177
Notices served on premises other than dwellings	16

Summary of Defects:

Unclean and verminous premises	1
Roofs and Rainwater pipes	3
Yards	2
Windows and reveals	1
Drains	187
Dampness	1
Miscellaneous	2
Total defects discovered	197

Housing

The fitness standard for existing houses continues to improve, particularly so in relation to owner/occupied houses. There is an increasing number of "sitting tenants" who are being offered the houses by their landlords at reasonable purchase prices. These new owners are taking advantage of improvement grants and consequently both the owner and the district profit accordingly.

Now that most of the "unfit" houses have been either closed or demolished the number of complaints from tenants has been reduced considerably. Many people are moving from the more congested parts of the district in older houses to the many new houses being built privately, whilst younger families are taking over these older houses and having them reconditioned.

Rent Act

Applications under this Act for Certificates of Disrepair are now reduced to a trickle. Only one application was received and in this case the work was done by the owner before the Certificate was issued. In six other cases advice was given concerning the issue of a Notice by the tenant to his landlord asking for certain repairs to be carried out. In all cases the owners acted on these forms and carried out the work to the satisfaction of the tenant.

Moveable Dwellings

The Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act came into force during the year. This piece of legislation will have the effect of controlling caravans proposed to be sited in this district as well as those at present existing. It will now be necessary to obtain planning permission for every caravan proposing to be sited and occupied in the district. After this is granted a site Licence follows to which conditions are attached. These conditions are in the Ministry's Model Form and have been approved in their entirety by the Council. They deal with satisfactory provision for sanitary accommodation, water supply, refuse storage, space about caravans and provision of other facilities. Many applications were received from owner/occupiers to site caravans in the district. In three cases temporary licences were given, but in all other cases alternative accommodation was found outside the district by the applicants. One application was pending at the end of the year, to develop a large site for caravans on land off the Old Tram Road. This was refused by the Council and will be a subject of a planning appeal during next year.

Sanitary Accommodation

With the steady increase in applications for improvement grants it has been found that the standard of these sanitary fitments is being still further improved. In most cases the outside toilet, either waste or fresh water closet, is being abolished and replaced by an inside toilet in, or adjoining the bathroom. Very few of the old waste water closets exist and these are being gradually abolished. About forty pail closets still exist at farms and other premises in unsewered areas. These are likely to remain with us for some time until the sewerage system is extended to those parts not now served.

Drainage

Septic Tanks

Four septic tanks have been abolished during the year and the drainage system connected to the sewer. This has been made possible by extending the drainage on two housing sites to premises just outside the site.

There are now 95 septic tanks still in existence most of which will remain for some considerable time. Emptying and cleansing of these, on request, is still carried out by the Surveyor's Department's gully emptier.

Drain Clearing

Some 194 requests for clearing choked gullies and drains were dealt with. In addition repairs were effected in 26 cases by outside contractors.

Drain Testing

The drainage system at all the 364 new houses built during the year were smoke or water tested.

The standard of drainage construction is good. In only three or four instances was it necessary to instruct the contractor to make alteration to the systems. Although the building bylaws do not ask for the construction of inspection chambers on drainage systems, it is pleasing to note that contractors construct these in plenty which will facilitate cleansing of the drain in future years.

Rodent Control

Treatment for rat and mice infestation at business premises and dwelling houses was continued during the year.

A slight increase in the number of complaints over 1959 was noticed. Where treatment is carried out at business premises a full charge of 15/6 per hour is made. This includes poisons, bait and labour. Dwelling houses are treated free of charge.

The number of yearly contracts at present in force now number twelve. These are signed principally by farmers who, in return for a sum of £5 0s. 0d. per year paid in two instalments, receive four full treatments for rats or mice during this period.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

1. No. of rodent operatives employed—

(a) Full time ...	Nil
(b) Part time ...	1
2. Action relating to rodent control during year—

					TYPE OF PROPERTY		
					Non-agricultural Dwelling- houses	All other	Agricultural
(a)	No. of properties in district	...	...	...	6,110	341	100
(b)	No. of properties inspected	...	...	...	125	56	72
(c)	Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	...	...	...	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
(d)	No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:						
	Rats—major	...	...	...	—	—	2
	minor	...	...	...	84	56	70
	Mice—major	...	...	...	—	—	—
	minor	...	...	...	5	—	—
(e)	No. of infested properties treated	...	...	...	89	56	72
(f)	Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments)	...	...	...	104	56	72
(g)	No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	...	...	...	4	6	—
(h)	Any other action	...	...	...		None	
3.	Particulars of other infestations under the Act (Sect. 28)	...	...	...		None	

Clean Air

The non-declaration of smoke control areas is causing some administrative concern. Smoke control areas are inevitable sooner or later. In the meantime, large undeveloped portions of the district are being built up at an alarming rate. Smokeless combustion is not being achieved on these estates, in only a small portion of the houses is smokeless fuel being burned. These desirable undeveloped sites could have been retained as clean developed sites. Lack of foresight and imagination has permitted them to add to the smoke problem already present rather than act as an example to the unenlightened of the value of smoke control areas.

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	1	65	18	2.8	14.2	4.5
February	14	66	30	3.9	13.5	7.4
March	8	40	16	3.4	12.0	6.0
April	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
May	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
June	1	9	5	0.7	8.7	2.4
July	1	13	5	0.2	3.1	0.7
August	*0	21	10	0.6	5.4	2.8
September	7	31	16	1.8	7.2	4.1
October	5	44	24	3.0	10.7	7.0
November	15	73	33	3.2	19.3	8.6
December	8	101	47	5.8	29.5	10.7

Smoke — P.P. 100M

SO₂ — Milligrams per 100 cubic metres

* — a trace.

Staff difficulties necessitated the discontinuance of recordings during April and May.

Pollution from Road Vehicles

Observation has continued on this insidious source of pollution by peripatetic offenders. Continuous observation is kept during normal routine work on the district. The owners of vehicles emitting visible fume which is avoidable receive a courteous letter requesting abatement of the nuisance. This year a marked decrease in the number of offenders was noted, when compared to last year 6 ... 20. In no case was it necessary to refer the same vehicle for attention on two or more occasions.

Our experience shows that the haulage contractor is the person who creates most nuisance. This is associated with enormous loads, suggestive of overloading. The dangers of this practice, smoke nuisance apart, are self evident.

MEAT AND FOOD

Slaughterhouses

The two licensed slaughterhouses continued to operate on similar lines to previous years and details of the amount of meat inspected are found below.

Some improvements were effected in the construction of Messrs. Leyland Bros. Slaughterhouse although this is only temporary in view of the proposal to build a new slaughterhouse.

The Council's Slaughterhouse Report was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Slaughterhouses Reports (Appointed Day) Order in August. By the end of the year notice was received that this report had been approved without modification by the Ministry. The operative date for coming into force of the Hygiene Regulations relating to existing slaughterhouses has been fixed by the Ministry as the 1st January, 1964. The existing slaughterhouse at Messrs. Leyland Bros. will be demolished and replaced by an entirely new slaughterhouse built on an adjoining site. This will incorporate lairages, hanging and cooling rooms, slaughterhall, offices, toilets, etc., and should be quite a palatial edifice when completed.

The second slaughterhouse of Messrs. Brindle Bros., although much smaller, requires some alteration to the Slaughterhall and cooling premises, this will be carried out within the next two years.

Carcases and Offal inspected and rejected in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	2,168	...	7,918	...	363	...	7,114	...	—
Number inspected ...	2,168	...	7,918	...	363	...	7,114	...	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>									
Whole Carcases condemned .	5	...	30	...	4	...	1	...	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	900	...	5,142	...	—	...	1,635	...	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci ...	41.73	...	65.31	...	1.1	...	22.99	...	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>									
Whole carcasses condemned	40	...	56	...	12	...	—	...	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	244	...	697	...	—	...	—	...	—
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuberculosis ...	13.1	...	9.16	...	3.30	...	—	...	—
<i>Tuberculosis Reactor cattle:</i>	374	...	771	...	12	...	—	...	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>									
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	13	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	13	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ...	Nil	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—

An increase is recorded in the number of adult bovine slaughtered compared to 1959, 7,610 to 10,086. At the same time the number of calves slaughtered increased by 19 making a total of 363. A sharp decline is recorded in the number of sheep slaughtered compared to 1959, 11,356 to 7,114. The change in pattern is associated with the increase in slaughter of adult bovine and the lack of space to handle both sheep and cattle in the slaughterhouse at the same time.

Of the disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis, D. Hepaticum (Liver Fluke) continues to be the main cause of rejection. It is of minor importance to meat inspection and does not affect the suitability of the carcase for human consumption.

The total of 10,086 adult bovines slaughtered includes 1,145 animals slaughtered under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food scheme for the eradication of Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis found upon inspection of "reactor" carcasses was very high. 97% in cows and 76% in cattle excluding cows.

Most of the infections found were localised to organs or lymph nodes and consisted of degenerating calcified lesions or recent infections. The typical widespread active purulent infections which Meat Inspectors found common a few years ago, are on the decrease, although it was necessary to reject 96 whole reactor carcasses (8.5%).

Tuberculosis in cattle other than "reactors" was almost non-existent due to the practice of purchasing through "Attested" markets.

Cysticercus Bovis infected 13 carcasses as compared with one last year.

Raw Milks

Samples taken from Producers in the District.									Samples taken from Producers outside the District.							
Year	No. taken			Satisfactory			T.B. present		No. taken			Satisfactory			T.B. present	
				No.	%				No.			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	
1960	21	...	16	...	76.0	...	0	30	...	22	...	73.3	...	0	

Pasteurised Milks

Year	Number Taken	Number Heat Treated	Efficiently Treated	%
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
1960	30	30	...	100

Ice Cream

The bacteriological standard of Ice Cream and Ice Lollies remains fairly high. Although there is no legal purity standard 4 of the samples were found to be Grade 1 and one Grade 2. Two producer-retailers continued to operate and the remaining 61 registered retailers sold a number of ice cream products.

There were 16 applications to sell retail ice cream particularly from new shops on, or near, to housing estates. Some 5 licences lapsed, the dealers having decided to terminate their sale of this product. Whilst this product is, and always will be, a bacteriological source of danger from a food poisoning angle, it is interesting to note the high quality and purity standard. With the pre-packed type of the large manufacturer there would appear to be no undue danger from consuming this sweetmeat. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that a bacteriological standard should be set up and anything below such standard should be considered as being unfit for human consumption.

Infectious Diseases

Some 45 cases of Scarlet fever were visited to determine the age of the child and if of school age, which school the child attended. Also to ask whether the isolation was satisfactory, either at home or at hospital. Another point of interest concerned the other members of the household who were engaged in the food trade and in three cases it was necessary to exclude the parents from engaging in the handling of food for human consumption at their place of work. This was done by arrangement with the employers who made their wages up to normal. Certificates were issued by the Medical Officer of Health in order for them to claim sickness benefit during the time of absence from work. Terminal disinfestation was carried out on request at ten cases and some 50 library books fumigated before being returned to the bookshelf.

Nine cases of food poisoning were investigated, the details of which are found in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

Brucellosis

As a result of samples submitted towards the end of 1959 it was necessary to take "appeal to cow" samples from six herds in the area. This necessitated early morning visits to the farm. One hundred and forty-six samples were submitted for *Brucella* examination, forty-four gave positive ring test results and further examination of these by culture produced eight positive results. In all cases the result of guinea pig inoculation was negative.

By agreement with the farmers concerned three animals were sent for immediate slaughter and undertakings given to have another five slaughtered when the lactation was completed. In the interim the milk was sent into the Milk Marketing Board for pasteurisation. The Manager of the Milk Marketing Board co-operated.

An additional fifty-one samples of raw milk submitted for routine sampling were examined for Brucellosis, forty-three positive and equivocal ring tests resulted. From these samples three positive cultures were obtained. Guinea pig inoculation of the positive and equivocal ring tests resulted in six positive results.

The majority of these samples (51) were produced in surrounding areas and five of the infected ones. Results of infected samples have been referred to the appropriate Local Authority.

	Total	Ring Test		Culture Positive	Guinea Pig Positive
		Positive & Equivocal	Negative		
Appeal to cow	146	144	102	8	—
Routine	51	43	8	3	6
	197	87	110	11	6

Food Hygiene

The standard of Hygiene in food shops and other food preparing premises continued to show improvement. Food handlers are becoming more conscious of the need for personal cleanliness when handling food and it is principally on this link in the chain of food handling which can so easily break down. One act of carelessness or lack of attention to detail can so easily have disastrous effect upon sections of the community partaking of contaminated food. Pre-packing of foods susceptible of carrying food poisoning organisms is on the increase and I think the public appreciate the improved hygienic practice even though they may have to pay a little extra for the service.

Other Foods

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

Tinned Meat and Meat Soups	...	...	...	...	...	...	706 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables and Veg. Soups	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,003 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Tinned Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	142 lbs.
Butchers Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	110 lbs.
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	99 lbs.
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,066 lbs.

The Miscellaneous class consists of Mayonnaise, Salad Cream, Calves foot jelly, Rennet, Jam, Sauce, Pickles and Herbs.

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.

Verminous Premises

Complaints received from Council tenants of vermin infestation, i.e., cockroaches, bugs, fleas, numbered 3, as against 15 in 1959. Complaints from other premises numbered 10 which was nine fewer than last year.

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

An unusual number of complaints of ants were received, these were again treated satisfactorily with Gammexane Powder.

It was again necessary to treat the hedgerows for a small caterpillar infestation in the Hoghton Lane district. Whilst this is not strictly a Public Health matter it was considered by the Council a necessary service to prevent this nuisance from finding their way into dwelling houses. The Ministry have issued a pamphlet upon this new type of infestation recommending certain measures to be taken to prevent their breeding and spreading.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

The rapid growth of the district necessitated some alteration in the collection of house refuse, in order to provide a weekly service to the district.

All the district with the exception of Cinnamon Hill and part of Lostock Hall have a seven day service but it is hoped to overcome this deficiency during the coming year.

There is a change in character in the domestic refuse collected. More fine ash replaces the large cinder (this is due to improved methods of combustion in the domestic grate) and there is an increase in the amount of paper contained in the refuse. This type of material is more difficult to

dispose of by controlled tipping and leads to difficulties such as lack of consolidation and danger from fire.

The potential wealth in salvage thrown away by these unsatisfactory methods is fantastic. Most of this organic and inorganic material is of value. Salvage by separation and composting of the remainder is the only sensible and satisfactory way of disposing of this material. Why some local authorities are content to dispose of waste material by either burning, dumping or tipping, is difficult to comprehend. The need for the return to the land of these natural wastes is most urgent.

The part time use of the Nuffield tractor for spreading and levelling refuse was replaced by the full time use of a Bristol caterpillar tractor purchased early in the year. This has improved the methods of control at the tip, and large areas of uncovered tip surface can be more easily dealt with although difficulty is being experienced in obtaining suitable covering material for this purpose.

Composting of Domestic Wastes

Further developments were made on composting and some 150 tons was under compost by December. A slightly different method of heaping was adopted with some improvement in the finished product. Approval was given for the purchase of 1,000 polythene lined paper sacks for bagging this product. The council decided to sell this at 2/6 per bag. Screening of compost to overcome the glass problem proved successful, and only a very small percentage of glass now remains.

In June a full report on composting together with some proposals for setting up a compost plant in the district were considered by the Council. As a result of these favourable observations they instructed the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, the Chairman of the Sewerage Committee, and two officials to visit the Composting plant at Kirkconnel. This visit was most worthwhile and a report was considered by the Council. A similar plant is to be visited at Radcliffe, Lancashire, when it is completed in May of next year.

Salvage

The total amount for salvage is £250 more than last year.

Gross Expenditure	£17,120
Gross Income	£3,467
Net Expenditure	£13,653
Population	17,540
Dustbins Emptied	6,057
Wages of Drivers at December, 1960	£9 19s. 2d. per week
Wages of Collectors at December, 1960	£9 11s. 6d. per week

Comparative cost of House Refuse Collection for the Years 1924, 1944, 1954 & 1960

Year	1924	1944	1954	1960
No. of Dustbins Emptied	2,828	4,126	4,885	6,057
Gross Cost of Service	£2,205	£4,402	£10,373	17,120
Salvage and other credits	Nil	£1,586	£2,256	3,467
Nett cost of Service	£2,205	£2,815	£8,116	£13,653

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	...	...	...	288	12	2	—	...	2,741	18	9
Textiles	...	...	...	11	4	—	10	...	132	2	10
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	1	19	2	27	...	223	7	4
Cast Iron	...	...	...	3	14	2	—	...	26	1	6
Use of Tip	...	...	...						98	13	6
Loads on tip	...	...	...						45	2	0
Composting	...	...	...						105	9	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...						94	4	4
Totals				305	10	3	9	...	£3,467	0	0

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
1960	...	...	...	305	10	3	9		3,467	0	0

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief Report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1960.

1. Highways

Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years.

Road Classification	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Class I (3.07 miles)	£6,380 (£2,084/ml)	£3,695 (£1,205/ml)	£8,004 (£2,620/ml)	£5,109 (£1,665/ml)	£3,678 (£1,195/ml)
Class II (2.22 miles)	£2,200 (£992/ml)	£5,675 (£2,560/ml)	£2,107 (£950/ml)	£5,612 (£2,530/ml)	£3,742 (£1,685/ml)
Class III (2.39 miles)	£6,420 (£2,690/ml)	£5,130 (£2,150/ml)	£2,889 (£1,210/ml)	£2,279 (£952/ml)	£4,580 (£1,915/ml)
District Highways (19 miles) ...	£19,109 (£1,005/ml)	£17,214 (£957/ml)	£17,454 (£1,019/ml)	£5,383 (£326/ml)	£8,642 (£580/ml)
Totals ...	£34,109	£30,714	£30,454	£18,383	£20,642

Note. £5,619 was received from the Ministry of Transport for damage to district roads caused by Motorway Contractor's traffic.

The increased allotment on Class I roads enabled a further section of A.675 (Motorway bridge to Kittlingborne) to be resurfaced.

The increased allotment on Class III roads included for a further section of Hennel Lane to be widened. Unfortunately this work was not completed as the County Council had not completed land purchase by the year end. A section of Todd Lane was heated and planed in order to improve the riding qualities of the road.

The increased allotment for district roads included the widening and reconstruction of Duddle Lane from Chorley Road A.6 to Wimpey's Estate. Unfortunately no progress could be made with one land owner for purchase of land and therefore the scheme was not carried out.

2. Highway Improvement Schemes

2.1. Two classified road schemes were approved by the Ministry of Transport:—

Hennel Lane—completion of widening at the "cutting";

Kittlingborne/Blackburn Road A.675 junction—sight line improvement.

Unfortunately neither scheme was carried out as in both cases the County Council failed to purchase the necessary land before the end of the year.

2.2. The Ministry of Transport at last approved the proposal to erect traffic control signals at the junction of Victoria Road A.6 and Higher Walton Road A.675.

2.3. The improvement of Duddle Lane near its junction with Chorley Road A.6 could not proceed as agreement was not reached with one of the 6 landowners involved.

3. Street Lighting

The lighting in several more streets was brought up to Group B standard—a continuation of the Council's policy over the past few years.

Private streets and private builders estates were lighted to Group B standard as work proceeded.

Approx. £6,000 was spent on improvements to lighting and the provision of new lamps on newly developing estates.

The Council's progressive policy must have made Walton-le-Dale one of the best lighted of the smaller Authorities in the country.

4. Private Streets

4.1. Schemes were prepared during the year for the making up of 16 more private streets, including 4 back passages:—

Queens Road;	St. Patrick's Place;
Baldwin Street;	Lourdes Avenue (part);
Bournes Row (part);	Cambridge Road (part);
Oxford Road (part);	Brown Street (part);
The Drive (part);	Ellen Street (part);
Access to R.C. Secondary School;	Longworth Street (part);
Passage off Alma Row;	Passage off Collins Road;
Passage off Larkhill;	Passage off The Drive.

4.2. Further lengths of streets made up by Builders on their private estates, were adopted as highways maintainable at public expense:—

Brownedge Close;	St. Mary's Close (part);
Lydrick Avenue;	Rhodesway (part);
Holland Avenue;	Pear Tree Crescent;
Renshaw Drive;	Sefton Road;
Allerton Road (part);	Marlborough Drive (part).
Lyndale Avenue (part).	

5. Sewerage and Surface Water Drainage

5.1. SEWER EXTENSIONS

The connection of the newly-developing Duddle Lane Estate (Mouldings) to the main sewer in Cockshott Wood was completed following the erection of the pipe bridge over the Cockshott Valley.

Sewer extensions were carried out to provide for new housing developments in Daub Hall Lane; Shop Lane and Bannister Hall Lane; and Dalebrook Estate (Lindsay Parkinsons).

5.2. TRADE EFFLUENT.

Terms and conditions were finally agreed with F. A. Gatty & Co. Ltd., for the proposal to accept their dyeworks effluent into the sewer at Shop Lane.

A little progress was made towards the reduction in quantity of the effluent from Ribble Paper Mills Ltd. When the Company was informed of the probable cost of treatment after the new sewage works is constructed, they began to take action to investigate "Saveall" plant to recover their effluent.

6. Flooding

Despite several periods of very heavy rainfall, there was again no serious flooding in the Urban District.

Following continuous heavy rain in December there was minor flooding (no houses were flooded):

Rhodesway, Gregson Lane—flooding of house gardens due to the former field ditch having been filled but not piped;

Fox Lane, Hoghton—flooding of roadway and cellar of Old Oak Inn due to a ditch on private land having been improperly filled;

Mounsey Road—flooding of roadway due to surcharge in Wesley Street surface water sewer. Investigations have shown that this sewer is of inadequate size;

Todd Lane, near Lyndale Avenue—flooding of roadway due to blocking of ditch on farm land.

7. Sewage Disposal

7.1. SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The scheme for reconstruction of the sewage works was modified by the Consulting Engineers and details supplied to the Ministry of Health. It is expected that Tenders will be invited for the work to start in 1961.

7.2. SLUDGE DISPOSAL.

When the sewage works is re-built, the amount of sludge to be disposed of will probably be 3 to 4 times the present amount. With this problem in mind, consideration was given to the possibilities of using all the sludge in composting with domestic refuse. Many enquiries were made into such schemes, and a visit was made to Kirkconnel, Dumfries, to inspect a small composting plant.

There does not appear to be any difficulty in constructing and operating a composting plant at Walton-le-Dale, nor should there be any difficulty in disposing of the compost. The big problem is the refusal of the Ministry to consider such proposals for loan sanction.

7.3. RIVER POLLUTION.

During the year the Clean Rivers (Estuaries and Tidal Waters) Act 1960 was passed. This Act, which was a Private Member's Bill, defines the seaward limit of every river in the Country, in order to strengthen River Boards' powers to deal with pollution.

8. Council Housing

The completion of slum clearance, and the extensive private building in the Urban District, reduced the demand for Council houses and additional Council house building was not contemplated.

The only Council building in progress was the scheme for Aged Persons Bungalows and Community Block at Brindle Road. This scheme was completed during the period under review.

With the completion of its Housing Programme, the Council gave consideration to improving the first post-war houses in which the W.C. is entered off the kitchen without an intervening ventilated space.

There are 88 such houses, and alternative schemes were prepared for consideration by the Council.

With rising costs of repairs, consideration had to be given to an increase in rent or a reduction in repairs. The Council decided to make tenants responsible for more minor repairs and so was able to avoid increasing the rents of Council houses.

9. Housing Improvement Grants

During the year, applications for 45 Standard grants and one Discretionary grant were dealt with.

Some difficulties arose with the Ministry owing to a difference of opinion in the meaning of "contiguous" when applied to a W.C., and the lack of definition of "dwelling" in the relevant Act.

10. Building Development

The growth of the District by the activities of private builders continued to increase in pace and is well illustrated in the following table which covers 11 years:

Year	Private Houses Completed	Council Houses Completed	Other Housing
1950	10	57	
1951	12	46	
1952	21	44	
1953	49	74	
1954	98	37	4 (Police)
1955	92	37	
1956	130	58	
1957	160	47	30 (Prison Commission)
1958	159	38	
1959	261	8	
1960	336	21	
Totals	1,328	467	34

11. Staff

During the year Mr. Colin Greaves, A.M.I.Mun.E., Deputy Engineer and Surveyor, resigned to take up the appointment of Engineer and Surveyor at Kearsley U.D.

12. Plans and Planning

414 applications relating to 640 permanent buildings and 149 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Council's Building Byelaws.

There were 206 applications under Planning legislation, relating to approx. 1350 building plots. Several of these applications were for large building sites.

The number of building sites for which applications are received suggests that the rate of growth of the district (see 10. above) is continuing to accelerate.

The first 5-yearly review of the Town Map will be due in 1961 and the closest consideration will be needed to ensure that building sites are made available to meet the continuing need. There are many sites within the drainage area of the recently-completed Main Sewerage Scheme which have not yet been included in the Town Map.

The rapid rise in the child population will require extensive provision of school sites on the revised Town Map. No doubt the Divisional Education Committee is aware of this problem.

13. Transport

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	8,978	303	29.7	Scrapped in Dec.
Fordson Thames	Nov. 1954	11,250	1,124	10.0	Part estimated
Fordson Thames	Dec. 1956	10,977	1,088	10.1	
Bedford Sweeper	June 1957	6,760	1,257	5.38	
Karrier Gulley cleaner	April 1958	5,475	1,503	3.65	
Bedford flat	Mar. 1959	12,721	603	21.1	
Totals		56,161	5,878	—	

During the year the very old hand operated petrol pump was scrapped, and a new 1,000 gallon tank with an electric meter pump was installed at School Lane Depot.

STANLEY RACE,

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

