

Contributors

Walton-le-Dale (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1962

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bqzz7frw>

License and attribution

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

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

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

Library
3.10.63



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, 1962

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, 1962

Frank Coupe & Co. Ltd., Walton-le-Dale.

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1962

Chairman of the Council

*Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead

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 W. Birkenhead (retired May, 1962)

*Councillor T. A. Bamford

Councillor J. Halpin

Councillor Mrs. M. Hetherington

Councillor T. Hewlett

*Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett

Councillor R. Howard, Junr.

*Councillor R. Knowles

*Councillor Mrs. E. Martin

Councillor W. McLaughlin, J.P. (retired May, 1962)

Councillor Mrs. M. P. M. Parker, J.P.

*Councillor A. Sharples

Councillor G. G. Smith (retired May, 1962)

Councillor J. Spencer

*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.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant Divisional Medical Officer :

Dr. N. T. W. Pover, L.R.F.P.S., L.R.C.S., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H.

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., D.P.A.

Meat Inspector : D. R. Cook, M.I.M. (to September, 1962).

Meat Inspector : Vacant (from October, 1962).

Warden Brindle Road 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, 1962.

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 1962.

The population of the District at Mid-June, 1962 was 19,770, according to the published Registrar General's estimate; which is 810 higher than that for the previous year.

The number of live births attributable to the District during 1962 was 526 or 78 more than the previous year. This gave a birth rate of 26.6 (adjusted 25.3) which is the highest crude birth rate recorded for the District since the year 1909. The birth rate for England and Wales for 1962 was 18.0.

The number of deaths assignable to the District was 204 which is 18 fewer than in the previous year; giving a death rate of 10.3 (13.4 adjusted) as compared with 11.9 for the country as a whole. Deaths from influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis increased by 12 from 23 to 35. The number of deaths from all forms of cancer was 3 more than in the previous year, deaths from cancer of the lung increasing from 2 to 9. In connection with the latter the Report of the Royal College of Physicians published in 1962 confirmed the previous evidence regarding the relationship between tobacco smoking and the incidence of lung cancer. The death rate from all forms of cancer for the District was 1.87 and that for cancer of the lung and bronchus 0.41 whilst the corresponding national figures were 2.18 and 0.51 respectively. The number of deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system decreased by 13, those from heart disease decreasing by 23. The largest fall in this group of causes was in deaths due to coronary disease of the heart—43 to 25. It would be very satisfactory if this lessening of deaths from coronary thrombosis could be maintained as the reverse has been the case in recent years. It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year. In the previous year there were two deaths from this cause. Deaths from motor vehicle accidents rose from 1 to 3 and those from other accidents from 2 to 9. Again there were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth which has been a pleasing feature of this report since 1958.

The number of infants who died before reaching one year of age was 14 as compared with 8 in 1961. This gave an infantile mortality rate of 26.6 as against the national figure of 21.4. Such a considerable increase in infants deaths must be regretted but there is no reason to believe that it is other than a temporary lapse in the steady improvement which has taken place over the years. Although there were seven deaths due to congenital deformities as compared with four in the previous year none, so far as is known, was associated with the administration of the drug thalidomide.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases received was 366 including 3 of tuberculosis. In the previous year there were 110 including 5 of tuberculosis. The increase is mainly accounted for by the fact that notification of measles rose from 85 in 1961 to 331 in 1962. Notifications of scarlet fever were 13 as compared with 10, dysentery 11 as against 4 in the previous year. There was one case of whooping cough notified and one of meningococcal infection. No cases of these diseases were notified in 1961. It is pleasing to report again that there were no notifications of poliomyelitis or diphtheria but it is of vital importance that vaccination and immunisation against these diseases be maintained at a high level.

The introduction of smallpox into the country and subsequent outbreaks in the early months of the year resulted in a much increased demand for vaccination against this disease. Primary vaccination is now being recommended between the age of 1–2 years and is a protective measure which should not be neglected. Several requests for a second opinion were received from general practitioners during this period but in no instance was smallpox diagnosed.

The many aspects of environmental hygiene have received careful attention as will be seen from a perusal of the report.

The private slaughterhouse in the District is a very busy one and meat inspection there occupies the full time of one of the Public Health Inspectors. Development of the new slaughterhouse to be completed in 1964 was commenced towards the end of the year.

The Council is well aware of the Health Department's keenness to embark on a scheme to combat atmospheric pollution by means of Smoke Control Areas but is still reluctant to agree to this. No doubt the cost and difficulties in regard to the adequacy of premium smokeless fuels had a bearing on this decision.

Housing conditions in the District are on the whole of a reasonably high standard and no clearance areas were represented during the year. There was no house building by the Local Authority but 239 houses erected by private enterprise were completed during the year.

Work on the complete reconstruction of the sewage disposal works which is to cost over £300,000 was commenced in February, 1962. The importance of efficient sewage disposal requires no emphasis.

A very pleasing feature of the District is the amount of voluntary work which goes on particularly in this so in regard to the welfare of the elderly in the community.

Mr. D. R. Cook, Meat Inspector, resigned in September, 1962, and the post was still vacant at the end of the year. Mr. Corbishley and Mr. Williams must be congratulated on the splendid manner in which they coped with the work of the Department and I am very grateful to them.

My thanks are due to the other Officers of the Council for assistance or advice whenever required.

I desire also to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement which I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Council and in particular from the Chairman of the Public Health Committee.

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.

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 (census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	4,733
Population (census 1961) (as published by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	19,061
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1962)	...	...	...	...	...	19,770
Number of houses (census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	6,265
Number of inhabited houses (December, 1962)	...	...	...	...	...	6,593
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£618,906
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£2,400

Vital Statistics

<i>Births</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	..	..	..	272	247	519	276	250	526
	..	..	..	4	3	7			
Still Births—Legitimate	..	..	..	6	4	10	7	4	11
	..	..	..	1	—	1			
							283	254	537

Vital Statistics—continued.

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population crude	...	...	26.6
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population adjusted	...	...	25.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	20.5
Area Comparability Factor for Births	...	...	0.95

<i>Deaths</i>							M.	F.	Total
Total Deaths from all causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	111	93	204

				M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Infantile Mortality	—Legitimate	..	..	9	5	14			
	Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—	
							9	5	14
Neo Natal Mortality	—Legitimate	..	..	7	4	11			
	Illegitimate	..	..	—	—	—	
							7	4	11

Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.6
Neo Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.9
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Crude	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.3
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population Adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.4
Area Comparability factor for deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.30

Comparative Table

<i>Walton-le-Dale</i>	<i>Crude Birth Rate</i>	<i>Crude Death Rate</i>	<i>Pul. T.B. Death Rate</i>	<i>Cancer Death Rate</i>	<i>Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births</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
1961	23.60	11.70	0.05	1.79	Nil	17.90
1962	26.60	10.30	Nil	1.87	Nil	26.60
Increase or Decrease in 1962 compared to:						
A: 5 year average ..	+9.82	-1.10	-0.05	+0.08	-1.48	+2.24
B: Previous year ..	+3.00	-1.40	-0.05	+0.08	Nil	+8.70
Rates for County of Lancs. for 1962	18.28	12.85	0.06	2.1	0.38	24.0
Rates for England and Wales for 1962	18.0	11.9	0.059	2.18	0.35	21.4

Table of Decades

Period	Per 1,000 Population				Enteric Fever		Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Deaths from Diarrhoea
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Pul. T.B. Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
Ten Years											
1891-1900 ..	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 was 276 males and 250 females. This is an increase over the previous year of 78 (24 males, 54 females).

Crude Birth rate for the District was 26.6 and the adjusted rate 25.3. This is the highest recorded Crude Birth Rate since 1909. Birth rate for England and Wales is 18.0.

Illegitimate live births numbered 7, one less than in 1961.

There was 11 still births, one being illegitimate. The still birth rate was 20.5 per 1,000 total births. The comparable figure for England and Wales was 18.1.

Deaths

Deaths allocated by the Registrar General to the Walton-le-Dale District for the year, numbered 204 (males 111, females 93). This was a decrease of 18 compared to the previous year. The Crude Death rate for the district was 10.3. This was the lowest rate since 1951 when the death rate was 10.1. Death rate for England and Wales was 11.9.

Analysis of Causes of Death, 1962

Causes of Death

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms—Stomach	6	2	8
Lungs and Bronchus	8	1	9
Breast	—	2	2
Uterus	—	1	1
Other	9	8	17
Leukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	15	21
Angina, Coronary Disease	16	9	25

Causes of Death—continued.

	M	F	Total
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	11	23	34
Other Circulatory Disease	3	3	6
Influenza	2	2	4
Pneumonia	8	5	13
Bronchitis	16	2	18
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	5	2	7
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4	11	15
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3
All Other Accidents	6	3	9
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide	—	—	—

Causes of Death

Diseases of the heart continued to be the main cause of death in both males and females, but it is pleasing to note the considerable decrease in deaths from coronary disease, from 43 to 25.

Deaths from all forms of malignant disease were 3 more than the previous year, and those from cancer of the lung increased from 2 to 9.

Deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis also show an increase—31 as against 22 in the previous year. Vascular lesions of the nervous system produced 21 deaths as compared with 34 in 1961.

Infantile Mortality

Age	Sex	Cause of Death
4 hours	M.	Anaemia
15 hours	F.	Atelectasis
17 hours	M.	Atelectasis
1 day	F.	Prematurity
30 hours	F.	Neo-natal Asphyxia
2 days	M.	Anoxia
2 days	F.	Cyanotic Congenital Heart Disease
1 week	M.	Oesophageal Atresia
1 week	M.	Ventricular Septal Defect
2 weeks	M.	Cyanotic Congenital Heart Disease
3 weeks	M.	Inter Cranial Haemorrhage
1 month	M.	Ulcerative Colitis
2 months	F.	Toxaemia
5 months	M.	Broncho Pneumonia

Infantile Mortality has shown an increase on the previous year, 14 compared to eight. The rate for 1962 was 26.60 and for 1961 it was 17.90. Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales was 21.4.

Neo-natal, Early Neo-natal and Perinatal Mortality

In order to show further detailed information on deaths in early infancy, separate mortality figures are given for the Neo-natal period covering the deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, the Early Neo-natal period covering the deaths of infants under 1 week of age and for the Perinatal mortality which in addition to Early Neo-natal deaths include the figures for still-births.

The rates for Neo-natal and Early Neo-natal deaths were 13.3 per 1,000 live births respectively and that for Perinatal Mortality was 33.5 per 1,000 total births.

Maternal Mortality

It is gratifying to be able to report once more that no maternal deaths occurred in the District from causes associated with pregnancy and childbirth. No such deaths have occurred in the district since 1958.

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 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	10 years	15 years	25 years and over
Scarlet Fever	13	—	—	—	1	4	5	1	2	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	331	17	39	32	63	36	139	4	1	—
Dysentery	11	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	3	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notifiable Diseases	Total	0 years	5 years	15 years	45 years	65 and over
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	3	—	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	2	—	—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis Other	1	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	3	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

During the year 5 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified to the department. These consisted of 3 new cases and 2 "Transfer In".

Pulmonary :—

New Cases	2
Transfers In	2

Non-Pulmonary :—

New Cases	1
Transfers In	—

Removed from the Register during the year were :—

Pulmonary :—

Recovered	4
Diagnosis not confirmed	—
Removed from District	2
Died	2

Non-Pulmonary :—

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

On the Register at 31st December, 1962 were Pulmonary 48, Non-Pulmonary 10, Combined Cases 1.

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

No cases, or suspected cases of undulant fever have been reported during the year. *Abortus* organisms continue to be isolated from raw milk. In four instances the organism was isolated by the Public Health Laboratory. It is difficult to appreciate the attitude of consumers who persist in placing themselves and their families at risk by consuming milk in its raw state when it is well known that efficient pasteurisation destroys disease producing organisms which may be present.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

Three cases of food poisoning have been notified to the Department during the year.

An organism of the *Salmonellae* type Senftenberg, was isolated from the stools of the patients. It was not possible to determine the mode of infection. It may be significant, however, that the father of the family was employed as a builders' labourer at a local slaughterhouse, where a similar *salmonellae* organism was isolated from the drain some two months previously.

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

Four nurses were employed in this district in 1962. They carried out the important duties of nursing in the homes of the patients.

Ante-Natal Clinic

Sessions 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 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 1st and 3rd 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.

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

Immunisations and Vaccinations

<i>Immunised against Diphtheria only</i>		<i>Immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Immunised against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus combined</i>		<i>Immunised against Whooping Cough only</i>		<i>Immunised against Diphtheria and Tetanus combined</i>	
<i>Total under 5 years</i>	<i>Total aged 5-14 years</i>	<i>Total under 5 years</i>	<i>Total aged 5-14 years</i>	<i>Total under 5 years</i>	<i>Total aged 5-14 years</i>	<i>Total under 5 years</i>	<i>Total aged 5-14 years</i>	<i>Total under 5 years</i>	<i>Total aged 5-14 years</i>
—	—	—	—	357	16	—	—	—	32

Vaccination

Primary Vaccinations performed Age in years					Re-vaccinations
Under 1	1—	5—	15—	Total	Total
235	188	476	353	1,252	478

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Year of Birth	Number
Up to 1942	178
1943-1946.. .. .	—
1947-1957.. .. .	54
1958	6
1959	15
1960	37
1961	207
1962	20

Tuberculosis

The County Council supply the Health Visitor Staff, whilst the Regional Hospital Board supply the Medical Staff. The Chest Clinic for this area is at Walton's Parade, Preston.

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

Mass Radiography Survey

During this survey we X-rayed 2,304 examinees as against 2,364 in 1960.

One case of active tuberculosis requiring treatment was discovered—a rate of .43 per thousand examined. Three cases of tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision at the Chest Clinic were found—a rate of 1.3 per thousand examined. There was one case of malignant neoplasm.

Analysis of Persons Examined

	Males	Females	Total
General Public	326	506	832
Industry	822	650	1,472
GRAND TOTAL	1,148	1,156	2,304
ABNORMALITIES DISCOVERED:			
Tuberculosis requiring treatment	—	1	1
Tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision	2	1	3
Healed Tuberculosis	10	6	16
Bronchial Carcinoma	1	—	1
Cardio-Vascular Lesions acquired	8	14	22
Pneumoconiosis	1	1	2
Non-Malignant Neoplasm	—	1	1
Pneumonitis	1	5	6
Bronchiectasis	2	2	4
Fibrosis	1	1	2
Pleural Thickening	3	1	4
Abnormality of Diaphragm	1	4	5

Number of New Houses Erected during the year:		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i)	By the Local Authority	—	—
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	239	—
1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during this year:—		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(1)	(a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	457	—
	(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	689	—
	(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	233	—
(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 ..	61	—
2. Houses Demolished:—		<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Displaced during year Persons Families</i>
In Clearance Areas:			
(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	1	—
(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	—	—
3. Unfit Houses Closed:—		<i>Houses</i>	<i>Displaced during year Persons Families</i>
(1)	Under Sections 16 (4) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	2	18
(2)	Under Sections 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(3)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ..	—	—
4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:—		<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
(1)	After informal action by Local Authority	221	—
(2)	After formal notice under:		
	(a) Public Health Acts	3	—
	(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	—	—
(3)	Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	—	—
5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—		<i>No. of Houses (1)</i>	<i>No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)</i>
Position at end of year:			
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation:—			
	(a) Under Section 48	—	—
	(b) Under Section 17 (2)	—	—
	(c) Under Section 46	—	—
(2)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	—	—
6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:—		<i>No. of Houses (1)</i>	<i>No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)</i>
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year		—	—

Housing Statistics—continued

	Private bodies or individuals		Local Authority	
	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected
7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—Improvement Grants, etc.:—				
Action during year:—				
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	1	—	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	1	—	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—	—	—
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—	—	—
(e) Work completed	1	—	—	—
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	—	—	—	—
8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grants:—				No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
Action during year:				
(a) Applications submitted to local authority				32
(b) Applications approved by local authority				32
(c) Work completed				40
(d) Remarks:				

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 159 samples were obtained, consisting of 111 samples of milk (2 of which were samples of Channel Islands milk) and 48 other comprising:—

1 Vitamin C Tablets	2 Compound codeine tablets B.P.
1 Baby cereal food	2 Full cream milk food
1 Throat pastilles	1 Syrup
1 Potatoes	1 Portion of cake
3 Rum	2 Whisky
1 Gin	3 Ice cream
2 Lard	1 Dehydrated carrots
1 Baking Powder	2 Coffee
1 Vinegar	2 Self-raising flour.
1 Pork sausage	1 Beef sausage
2 Margarine	2 Plain flour
1 Sodium bicarbonate B.P.	1 Compound syrup of figs
1 Tea	1 Tapioca
1 Meat and vegetable, canned	1 Sweets
1 Fruit, canned	1 Sago
1 Cereal, oats	1 Rice
1 Sliced loaf of bread	1 White pepper
1 Ammoniated tincture of quinine, B.P.C.	1 Skimmed milk powder

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 portion of cake ..	Contained a splint of soft wood charred at one end, of the nature of a spent match, which measured 1·4" long × ·09" square, and weighed ·119 gramme	Legal proceedings instituted. Bakers fined £10 and ordered to pay £7. 7s. 0d. costs
1 informal milk	Contained ·3 international units antibiotic per ml.	Farmer interviewed and milk production officer informed
1 canned fruit	Contained permitted artificial food colour without declaration	Packers notified
1 plain flour	Creta praeparata only 223 mgs. per 100 grams flour. Should be not less than 235 mgs. per 100 grams	No action taken
1 part sliced loaf of bread	Contained part of a dead house fly weighing 3·5 m./gms.	Legal proceedings instituted. Bakers fined £10 and ordered to pay £7 7s. 0d. costs
1 ammoniated tincture of quinine B.P.C.	Ammonia 0·57% w/v whereas the B.P.C. limits are 0·85–1·05% w/v	Vendor communicated with and stock withdrawn from sale

Milk and Milk Production

Milk samples taken during the year have all been negative for Tuberculosis. This cannot be said for *Brucella Abortus*. Routine sampling revealed the presence of *Brucella* organisms in four samples of raw milk being retailed in the Area, 64 samples having been submitted. Raw samples submitted for keeping quality numbered 33, of these 25 were satisfactory. Heat treated milk gave better results. Of 27 samples submitted 26 were satisfactory.

The number of samples of milk taken in the course of monthly routine sampling is less than in previous years. There are two reasons for this. The first concerns lack of staff during the latter four months of the year and the second reason being the more widespread development of retail door-to-door sales by the large dairy combines. The small retailer seems to be going out of business. Consequently there is a less number of purveyors from which to take samples.

Milk in Schools Scheme

All Schools in the area receive Heat Treated Milk. Some 2,800 $\frac{1}{2}$ pint bottles are distributed daily throughout the schools in the district.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938

No case of tuberculosis in milk was recorded during the year. All milk sold in the district is designated. No raw milk other than Tuberculin Tested milk is sold.

Ice Cream

Producer retailers in the district remained at two as in previous years. Retailers numbered 49 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.

It is increasingly important that food hygiene, particularly amongst food handlers at canteens and large food businesses is kept at the forefront.

Organisms of the Salmonella group are responsible for many outbreaks of food poisoning and these are commonly associated with meat, meat products and egg products, such as imported frozen and dried egg and various types of egg albumen. Various animal feeding stuffs have been found to be infected with these organisms and no doubt this is the source of salmonella infection in animals. In order to produce more information on this important matter the Director of the Public Health Laboratory has had swabs from the drains of the private slaughter house in the District submitted for examination and a report will be available in due course. This has been done with the full co-operation of the slaughterhouse management.

In the course of slaughtering, surface contamination of carcasses with the organisms present in the intestines can readily occur. Processed fresh meat, such as minced meat, boned meat or sausages is liable to be contaminated during preparation as a single infected carcass may infect hands, appliances and working surfaces. Samples of the above mentioned products have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, some of the results cannot be considered satisfactory. Anyone handling raw products must wash their hands before proceeding to deal with cooked ones. More information on the ways in which meat may cause food poisoning outbreaks is required but in the meantime strict adherence to hygienic handling at all stages from slaughterhouse to table will certainly play an important part in minimizing the dangers.

Routine sampling of stool specimens at the Day Nursery continued during the year in connection with the Public Health Laboratory's investigation into incidence of polio.

Housing the Aged

The importance of caring for the aged continues to be felt amongst the younger and middle aged population. It is also an increasing problem to the authorities, whose responsibility for the welfare of these people is, or should always be one of their primary duties.

We are fortunate in having a bungalow scheme in the district where welfare facilities are also provided in the form of a resident warden, communal facilities, a laundry and a call bell system.

During the latter part of the year the Warden gave notice of her intention to resign, having decided to emigrate with her husband. We hope to fill this position without difficulty by someone with nursing qualifications, which is so necessary in a scheme of this kind.

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. Unsatisfactory conditions for washing crockery and utensils after school meals were found on inspection. A report on these matters was sent to the Divisional Education Officer in 1960.

List of Schools

Brownedge St. Mary's Secondary Modern	Bamber Bridge Methodist Primary
St. Gerard's R.C. Primary	St. Saviour's Primary
St. Patrick's R.C. Primary	All Saints' Primary
Walton-le-Dale County Secondary Modern	St. Leonard's Primary
St. Patrick's Manybrooks Infants	St. Mary's Girls
Lostock Hall County Primary and Infants	St. Mary's Boys
St. Aidan's Primary	St. Mary's Infants

Atmospheric Pollution

Measurement of atmospheric pollution has been continued during the year. The Department has continued observations and pressure on industry when necessary, but nothing at all is being done to reduce the insidious pollution from domestic sources.

Industry has realised that optimum efficiency in boiler plant goes "hand in glove" with minimum atmospheric pollution. With this realisation has come considerable modernisation of plant to Clean Air Act standards. Industry now causes little concern other than when a defect occurs.

It is regrettable that I cannot report progress in the abolition of atmospheric pollution from domestic sources. The reverse would in fact be true. 239 new dwellings have been erected during the year, adding their pollution to that already being poured out.

Council have maintained their attitude of "the time is not opportune". This is despite the progressive policy of an adjacent authority who have declared a smoke control area up to our mutual boundary.

Someday as the clouds of smoke roll away Genesis will be re-born and "let there be light" will be seen in a new context.

Water Supply

The Preston & District Water Board who supply water to the Urban District continued to make progress during the year in laying new water mains to relieve the difficulties of insufficient supplies at peak demand periods. The main from the Gough Lane reservoir to School Lane was completed and the preliminary laying from Hoghton to Gough Lane was commenced. Already an improvement has been felt in the Brindle Road area, and during the latter six months of the year there were no complaints from the residents concerning lack of water.

Regular sampling for bacteriological examination was carried out, 11 samples being submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston. In addition samples of water are taken by the Preston & District Water Board and submitted to their own Laboratory for examination. All the samples were found to be highly satisfactory except one taken in June and this showed the presence of Coliform Bacilli. For a chlorinated supply this was not satisfactory. The Water Board were notified and their own samples showed this to be satisfactory in every respect. However, following samples taken by the Public Health Inspector were found to be satisfactory and it may be that a local contamination had occurred at the time of sampling.

Complaints were received during the year concerning the unusual taste in the water; this was referred to the Preston & District Water Board for investigation. Discolouration of water was also reported in two instances, but this was due to rust in the pipes, particularly where the water main terminates at the top of a cul-de-sac.

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

Following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1962.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1962 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)

<i>PREMISES</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Number of Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	17	23	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	85	47	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	10	—	—	—
	112	70	7	—

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").

<i>Particulars</i> (1)	<i>Found</i> (2)	<i>Remedied</i> (3)	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i> (6)
			<i>REFERRED To H.M. Inspector</i> (4)	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i> (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Accessories ..	4	—	—	—	—
	7	—	—	—	—

NEW LEGISLATION

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Amendment) Act, 1962

The Act amends Section 31 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and empowers Local Authorities to make such arrangements as they think fit for providing meals and recreation for old people in their homes or elsewhere and may employ voluntary organisations as their agents for this purpose. They may also recover any such charges as they may determine and may assist any voluntary organisation who are providing meals for old people by contributing to their funds, permitting the use of premises and by making available furniture, vehicles or equipment either as a gift or loan or otherwise.

Health Visiting and Social Work (Training) Act, 1962

This Act establishes two Councils with functions relating to the training of health visitors and training in social work and for securing suitable facilities by courses, etc. as may be appropriate. Authority is also given for these Councils to conduct examinations.

Shops (Airports) Act, 1962

This Act exempts shops at certain designated international airports from the provisions of the Shops Act, 1960, relating to hours of closing.

Landlord and Tenant Act, 1962

This Act requires that where rent for a house is payable weekly it is the duty of a landlord to provide a rent book or similar document for use in respect of the premises, and such rent book shall contain the name and address of the landlord and other relevant information.

The Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962

These Regulations re-enact, with amendments, the previous nine Regulations dating from 1925 to 1958. The principal changes include an extension to the list of permitted preservatives; certain foods may contain preservatives in excess of the limits provided the food is covered by a statement in the prescribed form; and that where food is certified by a public analyst as containing any preservative not permitted by the Regulations, the food may be condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

The Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations, 1962

These Regulations prescribe a list of permitted emulsifiers and stabilisers and prohibit the sale or importation of food which contains such materials other than those on the permitted list. Such substances are prohibited for sale in flour and the particular emulsifiers which bread may contain are specifically mentioned. The sale of cream containing thickening substances is prohibited as also is the sale or advertisement of the thickening substances themselves. Where a public analyst certifies any food as containing any emulsifier or stabiliser so as to constitute an offence under these Regulations, then such food may be treated as unfit for human consumption.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations (Appointed Day) Orders, 1962

These two Orders further extend the above Regulations to certain named Local Authorities situated throughout the country.

Food and Drugs (Legal Proceedings) Regulations, 1962

These Regulations amend various other Food and Drugs Regulations by applying specifically certain sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in regard to legal proceedings.

The Housing (Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation) Regulations, 1962

These Regulations do not automatically apply to houses let off to different families but the Local Authority may, if they think fit, by means of an Order apply these Regulations to particular houses, if it appears to them that the house is in an unsatisfactory state by reason of failure to maintain proper standards of management.

Having made the Order, the Local Authority may then serve on the manager of the house notice requiring him to execute all works to make good the neglect, and in default the Local Authority may do the work and recover the expenses. "Manager" in this context means the owner or lessee who receives the rents or other payments from tenants or lodgers therein. The Regulations provide that premises shall be in good order, repair and cleanliness, and leave satisfactory water supply and drainage; lighting and heating installations; provisions for rooms, halls and staircases in common use; windows and other means of ventilation, and means of escape in case of fire. Managers are required to ensure that refuse is satisfactorily dealt with and steps are to be taken to protect residents from injury as a result of structural conditions in the premises. The manager of a house to which the Regulations have been made to apply is required to display a copy of these Regulations for the information of the occupants and provide the Local Authority on request with particulars of all such occupants and use of rooms. The Local Authority is also required to keep a Register of such managers. These Regulations were primarily introduced to deal with the worsening situation of such houses, most of which appear to be confined to the larger cities of this country.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR for the Year 1962

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure once again to present to you my tenth Annual Report on the environmental services and administration of the Public Health Department.

It has been a year of much progress in many spheres, always with a view to improving the health services in the district to the benefit of the public. It has been noticeable during the year of the increase in the number of complaints which we have received of various kinds. With the development of the district and a substantial number of new dwellings being erected it is inevitable that some problems arise which affect the living conditions and well being of this new population, and we are asked to sort out these problems which vary from a complaint of a wasp nest in an adjoining hedge to a dispute between neighbours concerning an alleged nuisance of one kind or another. One of the difficulties we have experienced is the increased number of complaints of occupiers of these new dwellings concerning the water courses and open streams which adjoin their gardens. The trouble spots can be defined as rat infestations, offensive smells, silting-up, depositing litter and waste vegetation, and danger to children. The obvious solution to prevent these complaints is to pipe the water course before building is commenced, and provision is made in the Public Health Act to do this. It is most difficult to try and attempt the culverting of water courses once the buildings have been erected.

In the realm of atmospheric pollution, which is still with us to a substantial degree, it is interesting to note that most of the industrialists have now toed-the-line concerning the pollution from their chimneys and with two exceptions can be considered to be fully complying with the Clean Air Act. It is in their interest to do so as smoke discharging from a chimney is wasted money. By July, 1963 it will be seven years since the passing of the Clean Air Act, during which time the industrialists were given a chance to "put their house in order," this has been successfully carried out and I am hoping by July of next year that we should have achieved 100% co-operation from industry. If one can class British Railways as an industry then this statement is not correct, but I would like to class this as a special industry requiring special attention and this attention will be paid in no small way during the course of the next few months. We hope to substantially improve the present pollution from the Marshalling Yards at Lostock Hall. Concerning the domestic pollution I am afraid that no progress has been made in this direction. The gap between industry and that from the domestic source has so widened that it is now estimated that the domestic pollution of Walton-le-Dale is in the region of 90% whilst that from industry is at 10% or thereabouts. One must also remember that pollution from domestic source is discharged at a low level, where it can do the most harm to the health of the residents.

The caterpillar infestation was with us once again during the months of June, July and August and the usual steps were taken to try and combat this plague. Although not a Public Health nuisance, it can be considered a very serious annoyance to people who in some cases were so badly infested that these insects were crawling up the inside walls of their kitchens in their thousands. Fortunately we were able to deal with this menace with a very effective knock-down insecticide, and free treatment was given to all hedgerows on the highway whilst a charge was made for treating the hedgerows of private houses and other premises.

Food hygiene claimed our most serious and demanding attention throughout the year especially in relation to meat inspection where the control of 115,332 animal units was necessary to ensure the wholesale despatch of meat for human consumption to supply a weekly population of some 80 to 100,000, both within and without the Urban District. To ensure a wholesome product means vigilant, detailed inspection and one can realise both the magnitude of the task and the responsibility entailed in maintaining a high standard of hygiene and to ensure that all meat that leaves the abattoir is fit for human consumption and free from disease.

During the year we lost the services of Mr. D. Cook, the Meat and Food Inspector, who found another position with the Bechuanaland Protectorate. We were sorry to lose the excellent services of Mr. Cook and at the end of the year had not found a replacement. As a result of this, the work of the Department suffered, due to the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector having to spend the whole of his time at the Slaughterhouse. However, we hope to be fortunate in the early part of 1963 and obtain the services of another Meat Inspector.

May I conclude by thanking the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for his unfailing help during the year, to the staff of the Public Health Department, Mr. J. R. Williams and Miss N. Dawson for their conscientious co-operation at all times.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.

1. Visits and Inspections Made

Water Supply	27
Drainage, General	219
" Testing	55
" C.C.	12
" Survey	41
Movable dwellings	25
Factories	41
Refuse Collection	16
" Disposal	108
Rodent Control—Private	35
" " Business	12
Atmospheric Pollution—General	21
" " Survey	30
Schools	14
Shops Act	6
Re-inspection	57
Middensteads	9
Noise Abatement	18
Caterpillars	2
Miscellaneous	209

2. Housing

P.H.A. Houses Inspected	210
H.A. Houses Inspected	102
H.A. Class "D" Properties	5
Verminous, etc. houses—Council	3
" " " Other	20
Problem Families	10
Old Age People and Welfare	37
Re-inspection P.H.A.	22
" H.A.	14

3. Infectious Diseases

General Inquiries	58
Miscellaneous Inquiries	25

4. Meat and Food Inspections

Butchers' Meat ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Preparation ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk and Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hygiene Regulations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Licensed Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	273
Hawkers' Premises and Vehicles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Brucella Abortus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89

5. Sampling

Milk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

6. A total of 1,457 premises were visited and 1,948 visits made.

Notices Served and Defects Discovered

Notices .							
Informal ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	233
Formal ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Informal complied with ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Formal complied with ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Housing

The development of private houses in the district has brought its attendant problems of drainage, refuse collection and various other complaints. These were dealt with satisfactorily, and we became aware during the year, of the increase in the number of various complaints from tenants of new property.

The housing situation from the Public Health point of view is fairly satisfactory as far as can be ascertained. There is no statutory overcrowding in the district although there may be one or two bedrooms which occupy more than two people, nevertheless, a note was made of these cases and action will be taken to relieve this position where possible. With the large development of private building there would appear to be a lesser demand for Council houses than in other districts, consequently there is not the same need for the Council to spend money in building new property to let. There is however, in the next few years a developing problem concerning the housing of old people. With the expectation of life being extended many more old couples and people living on their own will be apparent and if Hospitalization and Hostel accommodation is to be kept to the minimum, then special housing accommodation will have to be considered for all these people. We already have one bungalow scheme in operation which is running most successfully and it would be a tremendous advantage for a plan to be evolved over the next five or ten years whereby a small bungalow community with a resident warden could be established in each of the five villages within the district. However atomonous one can consider this district to be, one cannot get away from the fact that there are five distinct villages and residents from one area are not willing to move into the next village or another part of the district. Therefore, it is considered essential to house them in their own area where they have lived for the greatest part of their life amongst their friends and relatives. The problem of caring for the aged is a big one and must be faced up to by the Local Authority.

The Housing Slum Clearance Programme is proceeding steadily and the five year programme to the end of 1965 should be completed by the end of that year. The majority of Mill Street and School Lane houses have been dealt with and during 1963 a further batch of these unsatisfactory houses will have been demolished. Other unfit houses are being Closed and will be subsequently Demolished. We do not anticipate any problems which are likely to arise over clearance of worn out houses.

Rent Act

It has not been necessary to issue any Certificates of Disrepair on houses within the district. The Rent Act, as far as repairs are concerned, appears to have served its purpose, although very few occupiers have taken advantage of the opportunity to get essential repairs done after the rent was increased to twice the gross value.

Although the number of rented houses is lower than in 1957, nevertheless, there are a few "pockets" of houses in the district which are rented and which could be repaired if the occupier would take the trouble to serve a Notice on the Landlord asking for certain defects to be remedied.

When a complaint is made from a rented house it is found that it is sometimes easier to have repairs done under the Rent Act than by resorting to a preliminary or Statutory Notice.

There have been no undue difficulties in the administration of the Rent Act since its inception in 1957.

Movable Dwellings

We have had no serious problems concerning the siting of caravans in the district during the past 12 months. Apart from the licensed site in Walton-le-Dale, where two caravans are permanently stationed, there are only five other individual sites in the district. These are used by people who are either building their homes, or housing workmen on adjoining building sites.

Many requests have been received during the year from people, principally outside the district, asking for a site on which to place their caravan. Although preliminary approval was given by the Council some three years ago for a site to be considered ripe for development in Meanygate, Bamber Bridge, no further progress has been made due to the lack of proper access for caravans. Although the need in this district is not quite as pressing as what it has been previously, nevertheless, I am of the opinion that a suitable site should be set up by the Local Authority to hold about ten or twelve caravans, half of which could be permanent, and the other half temporary sites.

The standard of accommodation in these 'homes on wheels' has improved tremendously during the past few years, in fact they nearly become permanent structures when a water supply, electricity and drainage is coupled to the caravan.

Sanitary Accommodation

Sanitary accommodation in the form of water closets are now satisfactorily installed in most of the dwellings, with the exception of a few pail-closets and waste water closets which are still to be converted to fresh water types.

Wash hand basins and baths, however, are only installed in just over 60% of the houses in the district, there is still a long way to go before every house has its own bath, although, with the increased number of improvement grant applications the older houses are gradually being brought up to an improved standard and it is hoped before the end of the present decade all the houses will have satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

Drainage

Drainage of private property and its attendant problems of stoppages and defects claimed quite a considerable amount of attention during the year. It can be said that the drainage system of the district is generally satisfactory and provided that the drains are used with common sense there should be no trouble from blockages, etc., but it is surprising how easily some drains become choked by mis-use of the occupier.

Some 218 drain stoppages were cleared by the Council's workman and 86 drainage defects discovered as a result of opening out the ground.

SEPTIC TANKS :

The number of septic tanks in the district is now 88. During the year 4 premises were converted to the sewer and the septic tank abolished. These were in the Kellet Lane part of the district where sewer extensions enabled this to be carried out. Whilst the installation of a septic tank, according to proper design, is theoretically satisfactory, inevitably this causes trouble through

lack of attention. The effluent from these fittings finds its way to water courses and unfortunately to smaller streams and rivers. Pollution does occur and the Rivers Board have now wider powers in the control of these polluted water courses. The only satisfactory method of ensuring an efficient septic tank is the introduction of a rotating circular filter which ensures satisfactory filtration prior to entering the water course. This is rather costly, but nevertheless should be insisted upon in all new applications for septic tank installations.

Another trouble spot concerns the unauthorised overflows from farm tanks. General speaking, the drainage from farm premises, i.e., cow-sheds, etc., cannot be connected to the sewer due to the nature of the sewerage, therefore, it is discharged into an underground tank which is emptied by the farmer on to his land at certain parts of the year and when the tank is full this sewage becomes an embarrassment to the farmer, many unauthorised overflows have, therefore been made to these tanks with a connection to the nearest water course.

An investigation is to be commenced to try and ascertain the number of these such overflows and steps will be taken to abolish them and prevent serious pollution in the future.

Rodent Control

Control of rodents, principally rats and mice, was continued during the year under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. One of the Council's workmen who is trained in rodent control was engaged part time on this work and dealt with some 94 complaints from occupiers of dwelling-houses and business premises.

Test baiting of the sewers in the whole of the district, where an infestation was found, was carried out; full treatment of the affected area was carried out with bait and poison. We were able to carry out inspections on what is known as "block control" schemes, and twelve of these were dealt with during the year. This necessitates doing a detailed inspection of each property in a block or area and if evidence of rodents is found, then free treatment is given in the case of dwelling-houses, and a charge on a time and material basis where evidence of rodents is found on business premises and authorization given by the owner for treatment.

Of the 94 agricultural premises, 21 were inspected and evidence of rats was found at all but three. Most of the farmers concerned have their own methods of dealing with them and some engaged outside service firms to treat their premises. Of the business premises affected 40 treatments were given for which a charge was made. The total income from this amounted to £65. 0s. 0d.

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	6,593	186	94
(b) No. of properties inspected	84	50	21
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections) ..	320	164	64
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
Rats—major	—	2	—
minor	79	48	21
Mice—major	—	—	—
minor	5	—	—
(e) No. of infested properties treated	84	50	21
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments) ..	96	58	21
(g) No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	12	—	—
(h) Any other action	—	—	—

Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution

The Council's volumetric smoke meter and SO² bubbler have continued in operation throughout the year. All calculations have been carried out by Computer at Warren Springs Laboratory. The deposit gauge situated at School Lane Clinic has continued in use throughout the year. Analysis has been carried out by the County Analyst.

Industrial and Domestic Pollution

Observation has been maintained on industrial premises for the detection of avoidable emissions of smoke, no statutory action has been necessary. Smoke from domestic premises continues unabated and in increasing quantities. No action is being taken to reduce, to minimize, or to educate the public into accepting the principles of a clean atmosphere. The Local Authority are adamant against smoke control areas.

Pollution from Road Vehicles

Observations have continued throughout the year. Seventeen cautionary letters have been sent to owners of vehicles emitting an excess of smoke. This is a reduction of 10 on the previous year. No doubt the reduction is due to a high proportion of "heavies" using the M.6 and by-passing the district.

MEAT AND FOOD

Slaughterhouses

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

Carcases and Offal inspected and rejected in whole or in part

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	1,626	7,626	14	9,292	2
Number inspected	1,626	7,626	14	9,292	2
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned	5	42	1	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	329	4,158	—	665	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	20.5	55.1	7.1	7.0	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	39	2	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.37	0.52	28.5	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	3	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	3	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Meat inspection has been maintained at 100%. Staff changes created difficulties but meat inspection was given priority over other duties and the service maintained.

Construction of the abattoir at Gregory Hall has been continued. Work, in the main, has been concentrated on the administrative block. Slow progress in the construction of the abattoir is causing concern. The operative date for the Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations is the 1st January, 1964. It may now be impracticable for the new abattoir to be constructed by the operative date.

Raw Milks

<i>Samples taken from Producers in the District</i>					<i>Samples taken from Producers outside the District</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>T.B. present</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>		<i>T.B. present</i>	
		<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>			<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>		
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	
1961	15	11	73.3	0	37	29	80.0	0	
1962	13	9	69.2	0	20	16	80.0	0	

Pasteurised Milks

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Taken</i>	<i>Number Efficiently Heat Treated</i>	<i>%</i>
1952	36	34	94
1953	23	21	91
1954	17	17	100
1955	12	12	100
1956	38	35	92
1957	28	28	100
1958	29	29	100
1959	33	32	94
1960	30	30	100
1961	36	35	97
1962	22	21	95

Brucellosis

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>No Result</i>
Culture	64	15	39	10
Ring Test	7	1	6	—
Biological Test	33	3	30	—

Routine sampling of milk revealed the continued presence of *Brucella Abortus* in farm bottled Tuberculin Tested Milk being retailed in the District.

One of the infected herds was on a farm in the District. A detailed investigation found one infected animal. The farmer agreed to have the animal slaughtered. Two other infected samples, retailed in the area, but produced and bottled elsewhere have been referred to the appropriate authority.

Ice Cream

Sampling of ice cream at retailers revealed that all samples taken were satisfactory. Two small manufacturers produce products of a satisfactory quality.

Food Hygiene

A national study by the Public Health Laboratory Service has been in progress throughout the year investigating the incidence and variety of food poisoning organisms in drainage systems at abattoirs. The Department has co-operated in this work. 244 sewer swabs have been submitted for examination and 15% have contained organisms which could cause food poisoning in man.

Samples of raw, cooked and prepared meats have been obtained from a food factory which obtains supplies of meat from the same abattoir. In no case was a similar type of organism isolated from both premises. The study will continue through 1963.

Other Foods

A total of 1,010 items, weighing 1 ton 2 cwt. 2 qrs. 9 lbs. was rejected during the year. As in previous years the major proportion of this food is from one wholesaler in the district. This work is not a Public Health matter, it is a co-operative service for the wholesaler's benefit. Most of the food is rejected because of damaged packaging and it is not financially rewarding to have the goods returned to the factory for re-packing. Only a very small proportion of this food is unfit for human consumption.

Infectious Diseases

Of the 366 cases of infectious diseases reported during the year the largest number 331, were of Measles, 13 Scarlet Fever and 3 cases of Food Poisoning. The remainder were Whooping Cough, Dysentery and Pneumonic Infections.

58 enquiries were made, principally to the Scarlet Fever, Dysentery and Food Poisoning cases. Disinfection of premises was carried out only on request of the occupier and these were mainly Scarlet Fever cases in children who were nursed at home. Formalin was the disinfectant used.

Verminous Premises

Complaints received from Council tenants of verminous premises, i.e., cockroaches, bugs, and fleas numbered three as against one in 1961. Complaints investigated at houses other than Council property numbered 20, this is an increase of 11 over last year. Two bug infestations were dealt with, the remainder being cockroaches. All were successfully treated with Gammexane Powder and Malathion Liquid.

The black caterpillar, Y. Padella, visited us again during the summer and an extension of its activities was noticed in the Brindle Road and Bamber Bridge areas. In previous years this infestation had been confined to the Higher Walton and Hoghton districts but a spread over the whole of the district appears to be developing. Whilst not a public health matter, it was still considered advisable to treat affected hedgerows particularly near dwelling houses, and this was carried out free of charge to the owners with hedgerows on the highway, but a charge was made to other people who owned affected private hedgerows. In addition a quantity of the Malathion powder was sold on request, particularly to people with large lengths of hawthorn hedge surrounding their property. It was noticeable that affected hedgerows treated in previous years were not affected to the same extent this year and in some cases they were not affected at all.

Noise Abatement

An increase in the number of complaints of noise was noticed during 1962. Six complaints were investigated which necessitated many visits in order to try and ascertain whether the noise constituted a nuisance within the meaning of the Noise Abatement Act and the Public Health Act. Eighteen visits were made, mainly in the evening or late at night to try and satisfy the complainants and to listen to the noise without other background noises which are normally present during the day time. This is a most difficult problem as what becomes a noise nuisance to one person may not be a nuisance to another and although it is possible to record the volume of noise by means of registering decibels on a scientific instrument it is not possible to record the frequency of the noise which is generally of a type which causes the greatest nuisance.

It was possible, however, to obtain co-operation from the offending parties and four of the noises were stopped or considerably reduced.

However, two noises from industry are still persisting in spite of efforts by the Management to reduce or abolish. It is not easy to control noises from high pitched motors, particularly when they are situated in a position where the noise can be disseminated over a wide area. Two of these noises still persisted at the end of the year and efforts are being made to obtain further co-operation from the firms concerned in order to abate the nuisance caused.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

A seven day collection of house refuse was maintained throughout the year except for holiday periods. Separate collections of trade wastes were made from Factories, Shops and Offices, and in addition considerable quantities of paper and cardboard were collected, principally from the shops in the district, which adds to the salvage disposed of to a large local paper mill. The amount of paper collected in the form of salvage showed an increase on last year, but during the latter part of the year notification was received from the paper mill that the price per ton would have to be reduced from £7. 10s. 0d. to £4. 0s. 0d. There is apparently a decreasing demand for paper made with mixed wastes and although the Council have a contract with the paper mill it is unfortunate that we have to receive such a low price for this product. Alternative sources of disposal will have to be considered if the price is likely to remain at this low figure.

The refuse collection has been maintained at its seven day collection in spite of an increase in the number of houses of 239, with the same number of men and vehicles. The refuse is much more bulkier due to the reduction in the amount of cinders and ash now placed in dustbins. The change in the character of the refuse continues.

An increase in the amount of polythene and associated products is causing difficulty in disposal, unless compaction on the tip is carried out within a few hours of tipping this polythene, in the form of small or large bags and pieces of varying sizes can be carried by the wind on to adjoining land. Although efforts are made to prevent the dispersal of this material and other refuse such as paper, etc., from finding its way on to the adjoining farm land, it has not been possible to control this 100% and a complaint from a farmer in an adjoining field was received during the year. He is apparently worried that should the cows grazing in the meadow eat some of this polythene or a polythene bag, serious consequences may result with a possible loss of the animal.

The average tonnage of refuse deposited on the tip has increased to 25 tons per day, this is about the national average. The amount disposed of is obviously far more than in previous years.

Composting of Domestic Wastes

Composting of domestic wastes (household refuse and sewage sludge) was continued during the year. Over 100 tons of compost was produced and 70% of it sold, for an income of £285.

There was a loss on this project during the year but in spite of this the Council thought it advisable to continue making and selling this product providing a quarterly report was submitted to them on the income and expenditure.

In September a Council delegation visited the Ministry of Housing and Local Government concerning discussions for the proposed expenditure of over £100,000 to purchase a mechanical plant for composting the whole of domestic wastes within the Urban District. The Ministry was not favourably impressed with the Council's arguments in favour of a plant, and as a result of these discussions the Council decided to postpone the introduction of a 'Danq' plant which had been envisaged previously.

Meanwhile, the Refuse Disposal Tip is becoming rapidly filled as each year passes and alternative means of disposal will have to be found by 1968-69.

There will be a considerable amount of sewage sludge to dispose of when the new Sewage Works is completed, although the responsibility for this rests with the Engineer and Surveyor nevertheless, it is a public health problem and it may be necessary for the Council to consider some form of mechanical means for rendering the material more easily disposable.

Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage

Service Costs :—

Gross Expenditure	£19,471
Gross Income	£2,865
Net Expenditure	£16,606
Dustbins Emptied per week	7,020
Weekly Standard Wage : Driver	£11. 11s. 0d.
Collector	£10. 18s. 9d.

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	278	8	—	—	1,926	17	—
Textiles	14	14	2	22	232	4	5
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	17	3	21	149	2	3
Cast Iron	2	10	2	—	25	5	—
Loads on Tip					37	3	—
Use of Tip					162	4	—
Composting					285	—	—
Miscellaneous					47	4	4
TOTALS	297	11	—	15	£2,865	—	—

The Council commenced collection of salvage in May, 1940, from this period until 1952 a total amount of £20,500 was received from the sales of salvage. The table below shows the amount per year from 1952 up to the present date :—

Year	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
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
1961	309	4	3	20	3,543	0	0
1962	297	11	—	15	2,865	0	0

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1962.

1. Highways

Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years

Road Class	Length	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Class I	3.07 miles	£10,635 (£3,470/mile)	£5,720 (£1,867/mile)	£6,380 (£2,084/mile)	£3,695 (£1,205/mile)	£8,004 (£2,620/mile)
Class II	2.22 miles	£2,225 (£1,000/mile)	£5,110 (£2,300/mile)	£2,200 (£992/mile)	£5,675 (£2,560/mile)	£2,107 (£950/mile)
Class III	2.39 miles	£2,169 (£907/mile)	£5,244 (£2,200/mile)	£6,420 (£2,690/mile)	£5,130 (£2,150/mile)	£2,889 (£1,210/mile)
Unclassified ..	21.47 miles	£15,962 (£743/mile)	£18,295 (£927/mile)	£19,109* (£1,005/mile)	£17,214 (£957/mile)	£17,454 (£1,019/mile)
	TOTALS	£30,991	£34,369	£34,109	£30,714	£30,454

* In addition £5,619 was received from the Ministry of Transport as a contribution to repair of unclassified roads damaged by Motorway's Contractor's traffic.

In the approved expenditure for Unclassified Roads, provision was once again made for the completion of Duddle Lane Improvement, but again, owing to continued difficulties of acquisition of land, the work was not completed.

2. Highway Improvement Schemes

2.1 Three schemes approved by the Ministry of Transport last year were completed :—

1. Traffic control signals at Walton-le-Dale (A.6 junction with A.675).
2. Sight-line and junction improvement at Kittlingborne junction with A.675.
3. Improvements of Bamber Bridge at the U.D. Boundary on Wigan Road (A.49).

2.2. The improvement of the south end of Duddle Lane, near Browndge Lane, was completed. A Public Inquiry was held into the Council's proposals to acquire land at Chestnut House so as to complete the improvement of Duddle Lane.

2.3. The second access road to the Wimpey Pear Tree Estate was brought a step nearer by the approval of construction of one of the footpaths which will form part of the future link-up of Longworth Street.

2.4. Waiting restrictions were introduced on 3 lengths of highway.

3. Street Lighting

3.1. As private building continued apace, the Council's policy of lighting the estate roads as buildings proceeded was also continued and further existing district roads were provided with lighting improved to group "B" standard.

3.2. As an experiment and innovation, the lighting of the widened and improved Duddle Lane was changed to "group B" standard fluorescent lighting.

3.3. The lighting in the Urban District is now of very high standard, and certainly off the main roads, outshines the immediately neighbouring and covetous County Borough.

4. Private Streets

4.1. Street works were completed in 6 streets :—

The Drive;	Linden Drive (part);
Passage off The Drive;	Footpath in Bannister Hall Lane.
Queen's Road;	Passage off Cranbourne Street;

4.2. Schemes were prepared and notices served for 5 streets :—

Passage behind 1 to 31, Collins Road;
 Emily Street;
 Service Road in Hoghton Lane;
 Linden Drive (part);
 Passage off Cranborne Street.

4.3. Builders completed 7 streets under Agreement, and the streets were adopted as highways maintainable at public expense :—

Severn Drive (part);	Maureen Avenue;
Heaton Close;	Linden Drive (part);
Lyndale Avenue;	Camwood Drive.
Mercer Road (part);	

5. Sewage Disposal Works

5.1. Work was commenced and proceeded rapidly in the construction of the completely new sewage disposal works.

5.2. The approved scheme was modified in order to make adequate provision for further extensions of primary settling tanks, filters and humus tanks in the future. Such parts of the inlet works as necessary were increased in capacity to cover future extensions of the rest of the works.

5.3. A final decision on sludge treatment was reached. After considering various methods, the Council decided to instal Komline-Sanderson Coilfilters to enable the sludge to be dried mechanically under cover, and avoid the provision of a large expanse of air-drying beds. As coil-filters are more economically operated on raw sludge, it was decided not to proceed with the sludge digestion plant originally proposed.

6. Composting

6.1. Following a deputation to the Ministry of Health, the Council decided not to proceed with the design of a Compost Plant to deal with the whole of the domestic refuse and sewage sludge.

6.2. Although the Ministry officers did not refuse to consider a scheme, it was obvious to the deputation that they were not very enthusiastic.

6.3. Many engineers and health officials believe that composting of domestic wastes must be carried out, both as a means of disposal and in the interests of the soil. It seems that public—and some official—opinion is not yet educated to the idea. No doubt the pioneers of water-borne sewage met with a similar lack of enthusiasm.

7. Sewerage and Surface Water Drainage

7.1. SEWERS

A scheme was prepared and approved by the Ministry, for extensions of sewers in the Gregson Lane area to deal with the imminent building development in that area. The scheme included the construction of a storm-overflow which was approved (but not built) as part of the Main Sewerage Scheme for the U.D.

7.2. SEPTIC TANKS

The Council approved financial assistance to the construction of a private sewer, which enabled 4 septic tanks in Kellet Lane to be abandoned.

7.3. SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

The surface water sewer from St. Aidan's Road to Chorley Road was found to be defective, and was relaid.

The investigations into pollution in Cockshott Brook and Hennel Brook were continued, and further sources of pollution were eliminated.

8. Flooding

There were extensive periods of heavy rain during the year, but on only one occasion (in September) was any flooding reported—and that was of a very minor nature.

Until completion of the pumping station at the Sewage Works, minor trouble from surcharging of the low level sewer in Victoria Road, Walton-le-Dale, is expected to continue.

9. Housing

9.1. COUNCIL HOUSING

Consideration was given to a proposal to erect one-bedroom flats at The Holme, and it was finally decided to seek Tenders for 20 flats in 5 blocks of 4 flats, to a modified proprietary design.

Revised Tenders were invited for the alteration of 88 houses where the W.C.'s were entered directly from the kitchens.

9.2. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Approval was given to 32 applications for Standard Grants and 1 application for a Discretionary Grant.

9.3. PRIVATE HOUSING

The rate of construction of private houses for sale increased over last year, and the rapid growth of the district continued.

10. Playing Fields

Consideration was given to the acquisition of two sites for additional Playing Fields:—

1. Mounsey Road—2½ acres—playing field and playground. This scheme was finally modified to a proposal for a small playground, because of the cost of the site and its position, being separated only by the railway line from the very extensive Public Open Space proposed in the Town Map Review.

2. Collins Road (near G.P.O. Workshops)—1½ acres. The Council decided to proceed with the purchase of this site.

11. Plans and Planning

524 applications, relating to 720 permanent buildings and 218 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Building Byelaws.

197 planning applications were received.

The Review of the Town Map was submitted by the County Council but agreement could not be reached on some matters of detail and an important matter of principle. The Council continued to press for the inclusion in the Review Map of all the areas of land for which provision was made in the recently completed Main Sewerage Scheme. This the County Council refused to accept, and consequently a Public Inquiry was held at which the Council's objections were heard by one of the Minister's Inspectors.

The provision of one additional County Infants School was advanced to the detail plans stage, but all the others remain as sites on paper. The programme for the provision of schools for the rapidly increasing child population of the district is now badly lagging.

12. Transport

The following table shows the usage of the Department's vehicles :—

<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Petrol (galls.)</i>	<i>Miles per Gallon</i>
Thames 3-ton Tipper	November, 1954	8,033	844	9·5
Fordson 3-ton Tipper	December, 1956	10,072	991	10·1
Bedford Sweeper	June, 1957	6,455	1,055	6·12
Karrier Gully-emptyer	April, 1958	5,171	1,368	3·78
Bedford Flat	March, 1959	11,838	503	23·5
Austin Mini-Van	January, 1961	13,084	343	38·2
	TOTALS	54,653	5,104	—

STANLEY RACE,

A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.Inst.H.E.,

Engineer and Surveyor.



