

[Report 1967] / Medical Officer of Health, Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.

Contributors

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

Publication/Creation

1967

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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORTS

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1967



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CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1967

WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1967

Chairman of the Council

Councillor J. W. Schultz

Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor W. Morgan

Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee

Councillor Miss A. Birkenhead

Members of the Council and Public Health Committee

Councillor T. T. Bayes (retired, May 1967)
Councillor Mrs. R. Cohen (from May 1967)
Councillor F. A. Cooper
Councillor J. Coupe (from May 1967)
Councillor G. Gregson.
Councillor Mrs. E. E. Hewlett
Councillor R. Knowles
Councillor Mrs. E. Martin
Councillor K. W. Palmer
Councillor Mrs. M. P. M. Parker, J.P.
Councillor A. Sharples (retired, May 1967)
Councillor R. Smith
Councillor R. Welham
Councillor G. Woods

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: 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 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 :
N. T. W. Pover, L.R.F.P.S., L.R.C.S., L.M.S.S.A., D.P.H.

Chief Health Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent: G. N. Corbishley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Health Inspector: J. R. Williams, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., D.P.A.

Meat Inspector: F. Schofield, M.A.M.I.

Warden Brindle Road Old People's Community Centre: Mrs. M. Salmon.

Clerk/Typist: Mrs. N. Hodgson.

Student Public Health Inspector: J. L. Rose.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1967

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population of the District at mid June 1967 was 24,350, which is 990 higher than that for the previous year.

The number of live births assignable to the District was 610 (11 of which were illegitimate) which is 55 more than in 1966. The crude birth rate for the year was 25.1 (adjusted 22.6) per 1,000 population. This compares very favourably with the birth rate for the country as a whole — 17.2 — and that for the County of Lancaster — 17.55 (adjusted 18.07).

The number of deaths assigned to the District for the year 1967 was 253 which is 38 more than in the previous year. The crude death rate was 10.4 (adjusted 12.5) per 1,000 population. The death rates for England and Wales and Lancashire were 11.2 and 12.18 (adjusted 13.03) respectively.

The Registrar General provides a table giving the causes of death in age groups and this table is reproduced in the Report. From this it will be seen that no fewer than 107 of the 253 deaths occurred in persons 75 years of age or over and a further 68 were between 65 and 75 years of age. These two together account for 175 of the 253 deaths.

In regard to causes of death malignant disease claimed 4 more victims than in the previous year, cancer of the lungs increasing from 7 to 11, Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 8 fewer deaths but those from other circulatory diseases increased by 7. Deaths from cardiac diseases increased by 23, deaths from coronary heart disease numbered 57 as compared with 49. Heart disease, cancer and vascular lesions of the nervous system in fact accounted for 64% of the total deaths, Pneumonia and bronchitis was the cause of death in 31 cases, 9 more than in the previous year, and accounted for a further 12% of the deaths. It will be seen that these five diseases were responsible for 3 out of every 4 deaths. Tuberculosis, not so long ago a major killer, caused no deaths in 1967 and only one in the previous year. It is pleasing to note that for the second successive year there were no deaths from child-birth or abortion.

The numbers of deaths of infants under one year of age was 7 as compared with 4 in 1966. Four of these deaths actually occurred within 24 hours of birth. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 11.0 per 1,000 live births, which still compares favourably with the figure of 18.3 for the country as a whole.

Last year, in regard to the vital statistics, I made the remark that they were remarkably good and I am very very pleased to say that the same seems to me to be very true this year. Some credit at least for this happy state of affairs must be attributed to the high standard of medical and nursing care in the area and to the Council's efforts through its officers and staff to maintain a high level of efficiency in regard to matters likely to affect the health of the community.

Turning now to the incidence of infectious diseases it is found that the total number of notifications was 319 as compared with 635 in 1966. Measles notifications were reduced from 524 to 137. Notifications of scarlet fever increased by 10 to 33, whooping cough by 41 to 48, dysentery by 16 to 92 and respiratory tuberculosis by 6 to 8. The increase in the incidence of Tuberculosis is

something which must not be overlooked. Tuberculosis, in spite of modern treatment, is still a disease which requires respect. Fluctuations in the incidence of whooping cough in the country as a whole in recent years has been noted. One possible explanation which has been put forward is that the antigenic nature of the causal organism has changed. Another suggestion is that many illnesses notified as whooping cough are the result of infection with other organisms. These and other possibilities are being examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service. In the meantime there can be no justification for relaxing efforts to secure immunisation of infants against whooping cough. The majority of the 92 cases of dysentery were connected with an outbreak of this disease at the County Council Day Nursery. The disease, although of a mild nature, involved the Health Department in a very considerable amount of work. Although no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria were notified it is of vital importance that parents should take full advantage of the protection available to their children by vaccination and immunisation against these diseases and the same is equally true for smallpox and tetanus. Vaccination against tuberculosis is also available for contacts and older children who are found as a result of skin test to require it. A vaccine against measles has also been available to a limited extent for some time and the Ministry of Health is planning a campaign of vaccination against this disease, to commence this year. Although measles is generally regarded as a mild disease in this country the incidence is very high and serious complications more common than generally realised. It is hoped, therefore, that parents of children who have not had measles will co-operate in ensuring that they are protected by this new vaccine. A good response could well result in the virtual disappearance of yet another infectious disease.

A very considerable proportion of the Public Health Inspector's time has been spent in connection with food hygiene particularly meat inspection at the large private abattoir in the District and milk sampling. None of the milk sampled was found to contain tubercle bacilli, but several samples were found to contain brucella organisms. Brucella infected milk causes the disease known as undulant fever in man. A start has been made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the Brucellosis Eradication Scheme. This, however, is a long term aim, the first task being to build up a register of brucella free herds. Until eradication is achieved the consumption of untreated milk is not without risk. Pasteurisation of milk kills the brucella organisms. Farmers are co-operating well with the Health Department in dealing with this problem.

Housing development in the District continues and 350 dwellings were completed during the year as a result of private enterprise. A disappointing feature is that the Council have not yet decided to take any action in regard to the introduction of smoke control areas. It seems to me that the public are becoming more aware of the benefits which would accrue from such action and it is hoped that the Council will soon see fit to make a statement on this important aspect of environmental health.

Personal Health and Welfare Services continue to be developed by the County Council. One of the more recently introduced services is the screening examination to detect early cancer of the cervix uteri, and women are strongly urged to attend the local clinic in order to have this simple test.

During the year work was begun on the building of a Hostel and Training Centre for mentally handicapped children. Similar provision for adults was provided in the District a few years ago.

In conclusion, I should like to express my indebtedness to Mr. Corbishley and Mr. Williams for their willing assistance and co-operation at all times and my thanks to other officers of the Council for assistance and advice whenever this is required. I am very grateful to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the encouragement and support which they always give me.

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 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.

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.

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 textiles, 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.

Statistics of the Area

Area in Acres (census 1961)	4,733
Population (census 1961) (as published by Registrar General)	19,061
Registrar General's estimate of population (mid 1967)	24,350
Number of houses (census 1961)	6,265
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1967)	7,940
Rateable Value (31st December, 1967)	£777,739
Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1967)	£2,872

Vital Statistics

The Statistics in regard to 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 occurring during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfer.

Births

Live Births—							M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	274	325	599
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	9	2	11
							283	327	610
Birth rate per 1,000 population—Crude	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25.1
Adjusted	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22.6
Ratio of Local Adjusted Birth Rate to National Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1.31
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1.6
Still Births—							M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	4	9
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
							5	4	9
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15.0
Comparability factor—For births	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.90
Total Live and Still Births	....	....	....	....	....	....	M. 288	F. 331	Total 619

Deaths

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths all ages	114	139	253
Death rates per 1,000 estimated population (Crude)	....	....	10.4
(Adjusted)	....	....	12.5
Ratio of Local Adjusted Death Rate to National Rate	....	....	1.11
Comparability factor—For deaths	....	....	1.2
Infant Deaths			
Deaths of infants under one year	....	....	7
Infant Mortality Rate			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	....	....	11.0
Legitimate deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	....	....	11.0
Illegitimate deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....	....	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate			
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	....	....	6
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	....	....	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate			
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	....	....	21
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)			
Number of deaths	....	....	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	....	....	Nil
Malignant Neoplasms			
Number of deaths (groups 10-15 of Analysis)	....	....	38
Mortality Rate	....	....	1.56
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			
Number of deaths	....	....	Nil
Mortality Rate	....	....	Nil

**CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1967 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
WALTON-LE-DALE**

General Register Office, Somerset House, Strand, W.C.2

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over	
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast . .	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasms	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	2	2	
	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	2	2	
	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	
16. Diabetes	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	4	4	
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	F	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	12	12	
	M	30	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	8	3	13	13	
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	F	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	14	14	
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	
	M	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	5	5	
20. Other Heart Disease	F	23	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	4	15	15	
	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	1	1	
21. Other Circulatory Disease	F	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	7	
	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	
22. Influenza	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
	M	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	
23. Pneumonia	F	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	
	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	2	2	
24. Bronchitis	F	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	5	5	
	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	F	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
31. Congenital Malformations	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	F	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	3	3	
	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	F	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
34. All other Accidents	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	
35. Suicide	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
36. Homicide and Operations of War ..	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total All Cases	M	114	2	1	—	—	—	1	8	12	22	32	36	
	F	139	4	—	—	—	3	2	4	5	14	36	71	

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION						Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 Total births	Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 Live births
	BIRTH RATE		DEATH RATE		Pul. T.B. Death rate	Cancer Death rate		
	Crude	Adjusted	Crude	Adjusted				
Walton-le-Dale Mean of 5 years 1960-1964.. ..	23.88	22.22	10.32	13.40	0.02	1.83	nil	24.14
1964	23.70	21.10	9.60	12.60	nil	1.67	nil	27.40
1965	24.60	20.70	9.20	13.20	nil	2.00	1.78	18.10
1966	23.80	20.00	9.20	12.90	nil	1.46	nil	7.20
1967	25.10	22.60	10.40	12.50	nil	1.56	nil	11.00
Increase or decrease in 1967 compared to: 5 year mean	+1.22	+0.38	+0.08	-0.90	-0.02	-0.27	nil	-13.14
previous year	+1.30	+2.60	+1.20	-0.40	nil	+0.10	nil	+3.8
County of Lancaster 1967	17.55	18.07	12.18	13.03	0.04	2.20	0.16	20.0
England and Wales 1967	17.20	—	11.20	—	0.037	2.27	0.20	18.30

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

Death and Death Rates

There was a slight increase in the number of deaths occurring during the year, 253 compared with 215 in the previous year. Over two-thirds of the increased number of deaths (29 of the 38) is in the age group "75 years and older". It may be significant that there are now two fully occupied residential units in the area specializing in caring for the aged.

Infantile Mortality

There were seven deaths in infants under 1 year compared with four in 1966. The infantile mortality rate for the district is 11.0 and the rate for England and Wales is 18.3.

The cause of death of the infants is given below.

Age	Sex	Cause of Death
1/2-hour	F	Anencephaly
1 day	M	Atelactesis
1 day	F	Prematurity
1 day	F	Anoxia
3 weeks	F	Pneumonia
3 weeks	M	Trisomy Syndrome
2 months	M	Pneumonia

On the Register at 31st December, 1967, were 56 Pulmonary, 11 Non-Pulmonary and 1 Combined case.

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

Infective Hepatitis (Jaundice)

This infectious disease is not a notifiable disease, nevertheless it may be an extremely debilitating and prolonged condition. Six cases have been brought to my attention during the year. In each instance the patient has been visited and an enquiry made into the circumstances of the case. No controllable circumstances appear to have been ascertained in these cases, but observation of all known cases will continue.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

92 cases of Dysentery and 1 case of food poisoning were reported during the year.

The majority of the dysentery cases were reported when an explosive outbreak was detected in November. Routine specimens taken at the Day Nursery suddenly became positive and numerous family and contact cases developed. The outbreak had subsided by the year end. Patients responded to treatment and no serious after-effects have been brought to my notice.

Patients and contacts whose employment constituted a hazard to other people were excluded from their work until risk of passing on the infection had abated. Compensation for loss of earnings was paid in appropriate cases, for such payments the Council are insured.

The case of Salmonella Panama was reported by the Pathological Laboratory at Preston whilst the patient was hospitalised with a terminal illness not associated with food poisoning. There had been no contact with any other known case or infected food and the family contacts remained negative.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis have been reported during the year.

Measles

137 cases have been reported during the year compared with 524 in the previous year. The majority of the cases occurred in the early part of the year as an extension of the outbreak in 1966.

Whooping Cough

48 cases of whooping cough have been reported. This is an increase of 41 over the previous year and is the highest figure notified for over a decade.

Scarlet Fever

33 cases of Scarlet Fever have been reported. This is an increase of 10 over the previous year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

County Council Services in the Area

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service covering the area of the Urban District is radio-controlled from the Ambulance Headquarters at Broughton, where requests for ambulance transport are directed.

Child Welfare Centres

There are three in the district, one at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, one at St. James' Institute, Lostock Hall, and one at Gregson Lane. The Brindle Road Child Welfare Centre met weekly on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons with a Health Visitor session each Tuesday and Thursday morning, the Lostock Hall Child Welfare Centre weekly on Monday afternoons, and the Gregson Lane Child Welfare Centre on alternate Wednesdays during the afternoon.

Cervical Cytology

Facilities for the early ascertainment of cervical cancer are available for mature women, by appointment, at the School Clinic, Brindle Road.

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.

Chiropody Service

A free chiropody service for elderly people, expectant mothers and registered handicapped persons is available at the School Clinic, Brindle Road, on the second Wednesday afternoon each month.

In addition a free chiropody service for elderly people is available through the Walton-le-Dale Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee at two local chiropodist's surgeries.

Where persons are unable to attend the Clinic or surgeries a domiciliary service is available.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service

Five domiciliary midwifery sisters were employed in the Urban District during the year.

Miss H. W. Bamber, 14 Brownedge Road, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35789.

Miss M. Gould, 8 Cedar Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35518.

Mrs. J. M. Houlihan, 14 Woodville Road, Penwortham. Tel. 43434.

Mrs. H. M. Pownall, 97 Collingwood Road, Chorley. Tel. Chorley 2722.

Miss M. A. Wittner, 187 Chorley Road, Bamber Bridge. Tel. 35280.

Domiciliary Nursing Service

The Domiciliary Nursing Service is provided in the area by 7 district nursing sisters, one district nurse and 2 nursing auxiliaries.

Mrs. M. T. Antcliffe, 14 Cairnsmore Avenue, Preston. Tel. 53164.

Mrs. M. A. Arnold, 4 Lyndale Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35929.

Mrs. M. E. Hunter, 4 Kew Gardens, Farington. Tel. Leyland 22824.

Mrs. E. Oak, 6 Cromwell Road, Ribbleson, Preston. Tel. 51494.

Mrs. I. Smith, 42 Waldon Street, Preston. Tel. 55592.

Mrs. A. Smith, 82 Laburnum Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35812.

Mrs. K. M. Peet, 2 Houghton Road, Penwortham. Tel. 44676.

Mrs. J. M. Garnett, "Lever Edge," Chain House Lane, Whitestake. Tel. 35448.

(District Nurse).

Mrs. T. Longton, 6 Queensway, Bamber Bridge.

(Nursing Auxiliary)

Mrs. P. Bennett, 17 Fairfield Street, Lostock Hall.

(Nursing Auxiliary)

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.

Midwifery Sisters

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.

Welfare Services

Residential homes are provided to accommodate elderly and infirm persons who no longer have anyone to adequately care for them or who are unable to care for themselves. Arrangements can also be made for elderly persons to be admitted to a home for a short period (usually two weeks) to enable relatives to have a respite or take a holiday.

Handicapped persons can be helped in many ways by minor adaptations in their homes, or by instruction in handicrafts etc., by an Occupational Therapist. A Social and Handicraft Centre is held each Monday evening in Leyland, and Out-Work Centre is held during the week in Leyland, and woodwork and sewing classes are held in Bamber Bridge on Tuesday evenings. Transport to these centres is provided for those who are unable to travel themselves.

Holidays are also arranged for handicapped persons.

Hospitals

The hospitals administered by the Preston and Chorley 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

PRIMARY				RE-VACCINATIONS			
<i>Immunised against Diphtheria</i>	<i>Immunised against Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Immunised against Tetanus</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Immunised against Diphtheria</i>	<i>Immunised against Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Immunised against Tetanus</i>	<i>Totals</i>
<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>		<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	<i>0-15 years inclusive</i>	
605	601	606	1812	489	90	487	1066

Smallpox Vaccination

<i>Primary Vaccinations performed Age in years</i>					<i>Re-vaccinations</i>
<i>Under 2</i>	<i>2—</i>	<i>5—</i>	<i>15—</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
196	45	7	—	248	17

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

<i>Year of Birth</i>	<i>Primary Vaccinations</i>	<i>Reinforcements</i>
1967	70	—
1966	327	—
1965	34	2
1964	5	—
1960-1963	10	51
Others under 16 years ..	—	5
TOTAL	446	58

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 Sharoe Green Hospital, Fulwood.

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

Housing**(a) Statistics**

<i>Number of New Houses Erected during the year:</i>								<i>Houses</i>	<i>Flats</i>
(i)	By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	350	—
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)	..	..	..	..	..	469	—
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	624	—
	(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	..	..	..	..	..	297	—
(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	..	..	..	..	..	13	—
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	..	..	..	..	..	4	—
(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	..	..	..	..	..	—	—

Housing Statistics—continued

	Houses	Displaced during year Persons	Families
3. Unfit Houses Closed:—			
(1) Under Sections 16 (4) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	2	1	1
(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:—		By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by Local Authority		290	—
(2) After formal notice under:			
(a) Public Health Acts		6	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957		—	—
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957		—	—
5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):— Position at end of year:		No. of Houses (1)	No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation:—			
(a) Under Section 48		—	—
(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:— Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year		No. of Houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
		—	—
	Private bodies or individuals	Local Authority	
	Number of schemes	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	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	—	—	—
(b) Approved by local authority	—	—	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—	—
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—	—
(e) Work completed	—	—	—
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above	—	—	—
8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard Grant:— Action during year:			No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority			47
(b) Applications approved by local authority			47
(c) Work completed			36
(d) Remarks:			

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

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

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

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Formal Milk	Fat 2.90 % Deficient 3.3 % fat.	Producer notified.
Informal Milk	Fat 2.90 % Deficient 3.3 % fat.	Producer notified.
Pears (open can)	Contained a dead spider weighing 47 milligrams of a non-British species.	Complainant informed and importers communicated with.
Informal Milk	Fat 2.45 % Deficient 18.3 % fat.	Formal sample taken.
Dried Milk, full cream	Per cent. solubility only 92.5. Slightly poor in solubility.	Remaining stock used without delay.
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicates 0.3 % extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained.
Orange Jelly Marmalade	Contained one gnat (family Mycetophilidae) measuring 4 millimetres in length and weighing 1 milligram and a small bundle of coarse vegetable wool and artificial fibres 1in. long and weighing 1 milligram.	Prosecution: Fined £30; Costs £13/10/-
Edible Cake Decorations	Contained artificial blue colouring Blue VRS. As from June, 1967 this colour has been excluded from the list of Coal Tar colours permitted for use in food.	Manufacturers communicated with and stock withdrawn from sale.
Dried Peas	7 % of the peas were crushed by insect and other damage, and the bag contained 6 fragments of white glazed porcelain, and dried piece of fatty meat and 7 paper discs from a paper punch. Submitted separately and stated to have been found in the sample were a spent match, 3 more pieces of glazed porcelain, the separated parts of a dried bluebottle fly, 8 parts of other flies and 10 fragments of dried meat. The total weight of foreign matter was 1.04 gramme.	Pakers' premises and stock examined and packers cautioned and complainant informed.
Wholemeal Bread	Contained 0.35 % mineral oil. Should not contain more than 0.2 % (from contact with greased surfaces with which the bread must necessarily come in contact).	Bakery cautioned.

A total of 188 samples was obtained comprising 119 milks (of which 5 were Channel Islands milk) and 69 others as follows:—

3 Liquid Paraffin B.P.	1 Edible Cake Decorations
3 Camphorated Oil B.P.	1 Dried Peas
2 Tapioca	1 Stout
2 Ice Cream	1 Beer
1 Aludrox	1 Olive Oil
2 White Pepper	1 Condensed Milk, skimmed, sweetened
1 Fruit Curd	1 Christmas Pudding
1 Gravy Browning	2 Condensed milk, full cream, unsweetened
2 Coffee & Chicory Essence, Liquid, Unsweetened	2 Sauce
4 Flour Confectionery	1 Tonic Wine

1 Sweets	1 Green Ginger Wine
1 Pears (open can)	2 Wholemeal Bread
1 Milk, condensed, full cream, sweetened	1 Mincemeat
1 Lard	1 Potted Meat
1 Boric Acid Ointment B.P.	1 Meat Paste
2 Fresh Fruit	1 Drinking Chocolate
2 Cocoa	1 Boric Acid Powder B.P.
1 Plain Flour	2 Boric Acid Crystals B.P.
1 Blancmange Powder	1 Orange Jelly Marmalade
1 Baking Powder	1 Butter
2 Margarine	1 Bacon
1 Sugar	1 Marzipan
1 Dried Milk, full cream	1 Saccharin Sodium Tablets B.P.C.
1 Boric Ointment B.P.	1 Cooking Fat
	3 Bread

Milk and Milk Production

Eleven samples of milk have been examined for tuberculosis, all have remained negative.

605 samples of milk have been examined for Brucellosis. 35 samples have been reported as ring test positive. Of these 11 culture samples and 5 biological specimens have been reported positive.

In the latter part of 1966 a scheme was implemented for Brucellosis examination of all raw milk being retailed in the area. The scheme was discussed with and agreed to by all of the farmers in the area and written confirmation of the scheme was sent to each.

Throughout the year systematic bulk sampling of all retail herds in the area was carried out. One sample from each kit of milk produced on every farm having a retail round was obtained at two month intervals. Animals providing positive M.R.T. results were removed from the herds but there is no control of their disposal. All newly purchased and newly calved cows have their milk tested before it is included in retail sales.

Due to active co-operation of all the farmers it has not been necessary to use statutory powers. It is gratifying to record this continued co-operation on the part of farmers, particularly when faced with the tardy ministerial progress in formulating an adequate eradication scheme.

Milk in School Scheme

All schools in the area receive heat treated milk. Bottles of milk are distributed daily throughout term periods to all schools in the district.

Tuberculosis Order 1938

No action has been necessary under the Order.

Ice Cream

The two producers in the district continued to make a satisfactory product and samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. On each occasion they were found to be satisfactory. The majority of retailers in the district continued to sell the well-known products of ice-cream and ice lollies, and spot checks during the year proved satisfactory. Samples were taken of five ice-creams and five ice lollies.

Food Hygiene

The importance attached to the hygienic handling, preparation and sale of food is just as necessary now as it was at the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations in 1956. Special attention is given to food preparation at the large abattoir in the district who provide meat supplies for a large area both inside and outside the district.

It has not been possible to provide the same attention to the bakehouses, shops and other food establishments due to pressure of work in other directions.

Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

No action has been necessary under the Regulations. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

Housing the Aged

The aged persons bungalow scheme in Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge, continues to be appreciated by the residents and run very efficiently by the Council's Warden. Few changes have taken place in bungalow occupants most of whom continue to enjoy life in this retirement.

Excellent liaison exists between the Warden, the Council Offices and the Welfare Officials of the Divisional Health Office. Home helps and other welfare services are always at hand in case of need.

In addition to the Brindle Road scheme there are four bungalows adjoining the County Council Charnley Fold Hostel in Cottage Lane built by the Council and occupied by tenants allocated through the Housing Selection Committee. They enjoy the welfare facilities provided at the Hostel and have a call-bell system in cases of need connected to the Warden's room in the Hostel.

Schools

At the end of the year there were 17 schools in the district, these were:—

- All Saints' Primary
- Bamber Bridge Methodist Primary
- Lostock Hall County Primary
- Manybrooks Primary
- Severn Drive Primary
- St. Aiden's Primary
- St. Gerard's Primary
- St. Leonard's Primary
- St. Mary's Primary (Duddle Lane)
- St. Mary's Primary (Brownedge Lane) (old school)
- St. Mary's Primary (Brownedge Lane) (new school)
- Brownedge St. Mary's Secondary Modern
- St. Patrick's Primary
- St. Saviour's Primary
- Walton-le-Dale County Secondary Modern
- Todd Lane North County Secondary Modern
- St. Leonard's Primary, Walton Green

The improvements previously mentioned in my last Annual Report at St. Aiden's School have been carried out. Additional sanitary accommodation has been provided in a room formerly used as a cloakroom. Improved facilities have also been made available for school meals.

Air Pollution

Unfortunately I have to report the fact that action towards the establishment of smoke control areas is not yet being taken. 350 more new dwellings have been built during the year making a total of 3,335 since the Clean Air Act 1956 was placed on the statute book.

It is inevitable that the Council must face their responsibilities under the Act and the problem is growing year by year. More dwellings are being erected and no action is being taken to control their emissions, so that when action is at last decided upon the work involved will be much greater than it needed have been.

Water Supply

The water supply to the district, provided by the Preston & District Water Board, has remained satisfactory as regards quantity and quality throughout the year.

Special attention has been paid to the fluorine content of the water supply and the possibility of lead content. Samples obtained in February and submitted to the County Laboratory showed a nil return for lead and a very small natural fluorine content in the water. Copies of the chemical results are given below.

Mark or denomination of sample	Longridge	Thirlmere
Lead	Nil	Nil
Fluorine	0.030	0.033
pH. Value	8.75	7.35

Home Safety Committee

This Committee has only functioned spasmodically. There being very little interest amongst members.

Public Baths

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

Factories

Following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1967.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1967 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 (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	20	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	20	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	7	—	—	—
	110	20	6	—

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").

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

NEW LEGISLATION

Road Traffic Act, 1967

Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967

Refreshment Houses Act, 1967

Dangerous Drugs Act, 1967

Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act, 1967

Private Places of Entertainment (Licensing) Act, 1967

Civic Amenities Act, 1967

The Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations, 1967

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1967

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present to you my Annual Report for 1967.

In my report for last year comment was made on the varied nature of the environmental services controlled by the Health Department and this year has seen a continuation and a development of those services to which the residents of this district are entitled to see carried out to the advantage of all. With the tendency to expand existing large authorities and swallow up the smaller units, there is also a fear that services provided by a small authority which cater for the needs of the individual may be lost to the large authority who cater for the mass on a large scale and the complaint of Mrs. X which normally receives prompt attention by the official on the spot may not receive the same attention by an official in a larger unit.

Complaints, advice, and help are readily dealt with and every endeavour is made to deal with any complaint within 24 hours of it being received. The amount of time spent in investigating complaints of dispute between neighbours is on the increase. Likewise with noise, which is a growing problem in this changing social world. Most of these are dealt with by powers of persuasion and co-operation generally to the satisfaction of all concerned rather than resorting to legal action.

Two aspects of public health which are time consuming in the field of enquiry have been dealt with during the year, namely, Dysentery and Brucellosis. Dysentery again reared its ugly head and an outbreak at the Day Nursery resulted in 946 stool specimens being submitted for examination, which involved 282 visits to the nursery and other residents affected in the district. Milk sampling for the detection of Brucellosis has continued and 165 milk samples from bulk supplies, together with 460 samples from the animals of each herd were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. Arrangements are now completed for the regular two monthly sampling of milk from each farm where milk is produced and retailed. By this means a complete check is kept on all animals and a positive reactor is immediately removed from the herd.

The hygienic control of the district's food supplies has played a major role in the department's activities particularly the inspection and preparation of food animals for human consumption. A record total of 35,021 animals have been dealt with at the large private abattoir and the "kill" is on the increase. The Council's full-time meat inspector has been fully committed assisted by two other members of the Health team when required.

It was not possible to continue with the same vigour as last year the inspection of premises under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, but nevertheless, some visits and inspections were made and 9 new premises visited, 15 premises were found not to comply.

Clean Air or a cleaner air is one of the conditions we continually strive for but are not achieving much progress in this sphere due to the large amount of pollution discharged from domestic chimneys. It is true to say (and this can be so readily seen) that the visible pollution from factory and business chimneys has practically disappeared. Likewise, with smoke from steam trains, seldom do we see a passenger or goods engine travelling through the district. They have nearly all been replaced by near smokeless diesels. Surely the time has arrived to control the domestic smoke. The wasteful inefficient method of burning coal on open grates, discharging its filthy products into the atmosphere at a comparatively low level is, to say the least, disgraceful for a district which prides itself on its development and progress towards a better environment.

The collection and disposal of household and trade waste which comes under the control of the health department is forever expanding with the development of the district. Close on 10,000 dustbins are emptied regularly and 10 tons of trade waste removed weekly to the Hennel Lane Disposal Site. Recruitment of labour has presented no difficulty during the year, but the sickness record for a staff of 30 is somewhat appalling. The department is on average without the services of 4 of its employees throughout the whole year due to sickness. In winter when the refuse service is hard pressed it is often that six or more men are off work during any one period. Under these circumstances it is difficult to maintain a regular collection, consequently complaints are received.

The extension to the disposal tip is now under way. The water-course has been culverted for 60 yards and side drains are in position. It should be possible to commence tipping on the new site towards the end of 1968. The present method of disposal by tipping leaves much to be desired and the Council will have to face this growing problem of finding improved methods of disposal and an alternative site within the next seven years if we are to contain the increase in bulk and nature of household refuse. The matter is one for regional survey through the Lancashire County Council and it is hoped that the Planning Department will use their efforts to develop regional or sub-regional disposal of refuse because we are not the only authority with this problem.

Although I report to the Council as head of a department which has seen a substantial increase in the administration and the work, it would not be possible to cope with these additional duties nor would it be possible to present to you this comprehensive report without the help and excellent co-operation of the health department staff. In particular I would like to thank Mr. Williams, my Deputy, who continues to play a major role in the work, particularly the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, and to Mrs. Hodgson, my secretary, who maintains an excellent contact with the callers at the department and listens patiently to their requests or complaints.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee Councillor W. Morgan, and Dr. J. Walker the Medical Officer of Health for help and guidance during the year.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.

1. Visits and Inspections Made

Water Supply	6
Drainage	293
Movable Dwellings	8
Factories	20
Refuse Collection	50
Refuse Disposal	81
Rodent Control — Private	46
Rodent Control — Business	70
Air Pollution	32
Schools	33
Shops Act	6
Re-inspection	3
Noise Abatement	40
Miscellaneous	139
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	97
Civic Amenities Act	46

2. Housing

P.H.A. Houses Inspected	319
H.A. Houses Inspected	150
Verminous, etc., houses	41
Old Age People and Welfare	93
Miscellaneous	21

3. Infectious Diseases

General Inquiries	57
Miscellaneous Inquiries	21
Dysentery	282

4. Meat and Food Inspections

Food Preparation	41
Hygiene Regulations	142
Licensed Premises	17
Slaughterhouses	691
Miscellaneous	43

5. Sampling

Milk	45
Ice Cream	11
Food and Drugs	8
Brucella Abortus (milks)	130

6. A total of 2,863 visits were made.**Notices Served****Notices:**

Informal	297
Formal	—
Informal complied with	290
Formal complied with	—

Housing

The standard of housing remains good. Improvement of substandard houses, the demolition of the individual or small block of unfit houses, and the building of over 350 new dwellings ensures the continuing high standard of housing in the district, which always has had an excellent record.

In the early part of the year a report was prepared for the Council and some extracts from this report are worthy of reproduction in this annual report.

The Housing Act 1964 gave Local Authorities power to examine their District and if satisfied that any area contained dwellings lacking one or more of the standard amenities and that at least half of the dwellings in that area are capable of being improved to the full standard, then they may declare it an improvement area.

The Council gave me instructions some months ago to survey the District with this Section of the Act in mind.

This survey has now been completed and the following statistical information (see Appendix 1) indicates that there is no serious lack of standard amenities such as baths, hot water, etc. The majority of houses in this district comply fully with all the standard amenities.

It is estimated that there are approximately 880 households without baths and 1,128 households not complying with full standard grant amenities which include bath, hot water, internal W.C., wash-hand basin, and ventilated food store, this is out of a total of 7,830 dwellings.

There is an estimated 912 rented houses excluding Council houses and it is probable that the majority of the 880 houses without fixed baths are rented.

A number of houses may for various reasons not be suitable for "grants".

i.e. Limited life —	Club Street	62 houses
	Darwen Street	15 houses
i.e. Possible limited life —	Brandiforth Street	47 houses
	School Street	40 houses
	Withy Grove and	
	Withy Place	33 houses
	Alma Row	15 houses
	Gregson Lane, opp. Mill	10 houses
i.e. Road widening and alterations		say 50 houses
i.e. Designated open spaces	Ribble Crescent	) Area
	North Ribble Street)

The actual houses in the estimate of 880 are not known, but if the areas listed above are removed from the gross estimate the problem may be reduced to around 665 houses.

During the period 1961-65, 186 Standard Grants have been made. If no action is taken to speed up the applications for grants and assuming the same rate of progress it will be 18 years before all the houses in the area have a fixed bath.

The general position in the district is good and I cannot see any serious reason for compulsory improvement and would suggest that the present method of dealing with Standard Grant applications be continued.

Report on Sub-Standard Housing within the District

Appendix I

Houses per census (Private households)	6,222
Houses built census year (April-December)	193
Houses built since end of census year to December, 1966	1,465
	<hr/>
	7,880
Less houses demolished	50
	<hr/>
	7,830
	<hr/>

Estimate of houses having a fixed bath

Census figure of houses with fixed bath	5,042
Houses built since census	1,658
Standard Grants since census to December 1966)	
Discretionary Grants since census to December 1966)	228
Estimate of baths fixed without grant (say 10% of Grants)	23
	<hr/>
	6,951
	<hr/>

Therefore no bath in 880 households.

Ownership of houses.

Total houses in District — Census)	
Total houses in District — December 1966)	7,830
	<hr/>
O/O per census	4,240
Local Authority owned	800
Estimate of O/O since census (grants)	228
Total built since census (—8 built for rent)	1,650
	<hr/>
	6,918
	<hr/>

Therefore estimated rented houses — 912.

Note:

Census houses with hot and cold water, W.C. and fixed bath	4,919
All new property to December 1966 from census (estimated)	1,658
	<hr/>
	6,577
Plus all grants to full standard	228
	<hr/>
	6,805
	<hr/>
Estimated total houses	7,830
Estimated to full standard	6,805
	<hr/>
Therefore not to full standard	1,025
	<hr/>

29th DECEMBER, 1966.

Rent Act

No action was necessary under the Rent Act.

All the rent problems are now referred to the Rent Officer under the control of the County Council. Two such queries were sent to him during the year.

Improvement Grants

The improvement of dwellings under the Housing Act 1949, Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, the House Purchase & Housing Act 1959 and the Housing Acts 1961-64 is the responsibility of the Engineer & Surveyor. No applications have been received for discretionary grants. applications have been submitted for improvement to the full standard. The work has been carried out in all cases.

Movable Dwellings

There are now no licensed sites within the district. Only three caravans are occupied and these are adjacent to dwellings and are used for sleeping by members of the family. Fortunately we have not been troubled with the itinerant nomad or gypsy which have on occasions by their unauthorised camping and dumping caused both the police and ourselves much trouble in the past.

Drainage

293 visits have been made to investigate drainage problems. 271 complaints have been dealt with.

The biggest single problem is the open water-course which is usually polluted and always a danger. I must re-affirm my concern over the lack of effective control of such water-courses when housing layouts are approved and the lack of improvement in the quality of the waters flowing in them. It appears obvious that such water-courses should be piped as housing development proceeds and without waiting for public health dangers to arrive.

Rodent Control

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	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district	8,705	91
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	187	10
(c) No. of (b) infested by — Rats	156	10
Mice	31	—
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	62	8
(e) No. of (d) infested by — Rats	2	2
Mice	1	—

Surface infestations have increased during the past year principally on rats and mice. The increase in the rat population is allied to the infestations in the sewers and once effective control is obtained below ground level it is anticipated that surface infestations will or should reduce.

The Council have been reticent about using Fluoracetamide in sewers. This is an effective poison, but it is also very toxic to humans. After being assured by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food representative that the danger to humans could be minimized to a very small proportion the Council agreed to have the sewers treated with this poison.

Air Pollution

Visible pollution from sources other than domestic is being effectively controlled. Smoke from industrial premises is maintained at a minimum and except for cases of mechanical breakdown, gives no cause for concern. British Railways are increasingly using diesel locomotives which produce very little smoke. It has not been necessary to report any case of excess smoke from steam locomotives during the year. Observations have been continued of road vehicles and in several instances I have written to the registered owner drawing their attention to excessive smoke emissions.

Pollution from domestic premises is not being effectively controlled, it is not being controlled at all. No work has been carried out towards the establishment of smoke control areas, and no work is envisaged for 1968.

In only a small majority of new houses is smokeless fuel being burnt.

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)	4,335	4,275	10	17,933	8,468
Number inspected	4,335	4,275	10	17,933	8,468
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	13	4	68	27
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2719	3,150	8	5,368	4,620
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	62.8	78.7	80.0	29.9	64.53
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	4	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration Generalised and totally condemned	—	4	—	—	—

Meat Inspection

The past twelve months has shown a considerable increase in production at the British Beef Co. with pigs slaughtered exceeding 8,000 and sheep 1,750 the number of cattle slaughtered has varied little over the past three years.

During the early part of the year several visits were made by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture inspecting the premises in response to a request from British Beef Co. for a licence to export meat. If this happens and there is a further increase in production, the Council still have a statutory duty to inspect all animals slaughtered, although that which is intended for export requires a further certificate of soundness from a Veterinarian.

Later in the year British Beef Co. extended an invitation to any Councillor wishing to visit the premises during working hours, several accepted and a visit was arranged for June 12th, with Mr. Corbishley, Mr. Williams and Mr. Schofield acting as guides. The Councillors were able to see the "cattle line" in operation working as a demolition line rather than as a production line in other industries, and the way in which almost all the offals are utilised one way or another. The afternoon's visit was rounded off with a discussion in the Manager's office.

In the latter part of the year this country experienced the most severe outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease for over 40 years, which obviously affected the throughput of some local slaughterhouses. British Beef Co. greatly increased their kill. Due to the geographical location of infected areas animals could be brought to Bamber Bridge for slaughtering yet could not be taken further south to Manchester or Liverpool, therefore companies in these areas contracted their slaughtering to British Beef Co. This necessitated lengthening of the working day and for a few weeks slaughtering on Sundays. Requests to exceed the agreed hours of slaughter were acceded to, requiring the inspector on duty to commence work sometimes as early as 4 o'clock in the morning. This period was followed by an application for extension of hours of slaughter by British Beef Co. The Council had not given their consideration to the request at year end.

Poultry Inspection

1967 has been the first year when regular weekly visits have been made to the two poultry processing plants in the district, visits commenced in April.

Records are being made of the number of inspections carried out, the type of birds inspected and the reason for rejection plus the weight of those unfit for human consumption.

The larger of the two premises slaughters all types of domestic poultry, i.e. hens, chickens, turkeys, capons, etc. Chickens, turkeys, capons, are birds which have been specially reared for the table and are slaughtered at an early age, therefore the incidence of disease is very small indeed. The hens being comparatively older birds of up to 2 years are slaughtered because their capacity for egg laying is diminishing, show a carcass rejection rate of around 3 per cent. this being composed mainly of chronic diseases connected with unnaturally increased egg production.

At the smaller of the two processing stations production is geared solely to "Petit Poussins". These are chickens slaughtered at approximately 8 weeks old and producing a carcass of about 1½ lbs. in weight, very few of these type of bird require rejecting as any showing illness during the growing period are taken out as being uneconomical.

Modern slaughtering methods are employed at both premises based on the "line system" demanded by most industries, this facilitates more hygienic handling of carcasses therefore, ensuring a better product for the consumer.

The Royal Assent was given to the Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 on 10th May, 1967. although a date when it will come into operation has not been fixed.

The following is a table of the records compiled during 1967 from the 1st May.

	Chickens	Hens	Turkeys	Duck	Geese
No. Slaughtered	94,449	132,225	800	—	—
No. Inspected	2,612	2,957	20	—	—
As a %	2.7	2.3	2.5	—	—
No. rejected by Proprietor	130	3,340	—	—	—
No. rejected by Inspector	21	450	—	—	—
Total weight as a % of total .. .. .	.16	.03	—	—	—

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>		
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	
1963	22	20	90.9	0	41	27	65.9	0	
1964	4	3	75.0	0	41	40	97.7	0	
1965	24	23	95.7	0	35	25	71.4	0	
1966	9	3	33.0	0	37	25	67.5	0	
1967	5	5	100.0	0	28	25	89.3	0	

Pasteurised Milks

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Taken</i>	<i>Number Efficiently Heat Treated</i>	<i>%</i>
1957	28	28	100
1958	29	29	100
1959	33	32	94
1960	30	30	100
1961	36	35	97
1962	22	21	95
1963	33	32	97
1964	16	16	100
1965	30	30	100
1966	45	39	87
1967	23	23	100

Ice Cream

The majority of ice cream and ice cream products sold in the district are from large firms and invariably their products are found to be bacteriologically satisfactory. There are still two producer/retailers in the district at which regular sampling has been carried out and during the whole of the year we had no unsatisfactory samples.

Brucellosis

The department's scheme for the control of brucella infection in farm bottled milk being retailed in the area has been in operation throughout the year. Farmers have been most anxious to co-operate and the scheme is operating quite smoothly. 605 samples have been obtained, 11 samples have been positive. Six of these were from farms in the area and five from a farm in an adjacent local authority. The proportion of positive samples has shown a decline for the past few years, the year under review being the lowest recorded.

It appears that the care put into the scheme in recent years is at long last beginning to indicate the value of systematic sampling and to show a satisfactory downward trend in infected animals.

Food Hygiene

For a district of its size it is surprising the varied type of food businesses which exist, from the small corner shop selling most foods to the large food establishments producing and processing milk, cream and meat. There are 26 large food businesses and 86 shops and small food producers which by their very nature of their operation necessitates regular inspection in order to keep control of food hygiene. The "proof of the pudding is in the eating", likewise with food hygiene the proof of control is in the absence of any ill-health due to food poisoning. This is mainly brought about by attention to detail and personal cleanliness by the food handler. Health Education is very necessary in this field.

Other Foods

There has been an increase in complaints from the public of foreign objects in small quantities of food purchased locally such as crushed insects in dried peas, mineral oil in wholemeal bread, a small insect in a jar of orange marmalade. These and other similar complaints were investigated in conjunction with the County Health Inspector. In one case the firm concerned were prosecuted by the Lancashire County Council, and the magistrate imposed a fine of £30 with costs.

Verminous Premises

An increase in the number of premises treated for cockroaches is apparent. 13 Dwellings affected and these insects eliminated with the use of insecticide and DDT/Lindane.

Fly infestation in dwellings in close proximity to poultry houses caused a little concern and many visits were made and advice given on the control of these pests. Although wasps cannot be considered as vermin it would seem appropriate to comment under this heading that advice was sought and help given in destroying five nests in or near to houses.

In addition 13 premises were treated for ants, five for flies, two for red spider and one each for silver-fish and snails.

Ermine Moth

Once again for the tenth successive year the Y.Padella caterpillar reared its head on hawthorn hedges and other allied trees causing concern to some residents. Control by spraying Dipterex 80 on affected hedgerows was carried out by the health team.

Noise Abatement

Noise in any form outside normal and which appears to be an annoyance generally prompts one or other resident to complain to the health department. From a noisy musical instrument to the whinning of an electrical saw, all seven complaints were investigated. Visits after normal office hours are common but invariably pin-point the source, and in five cases we were able to deal with the complaint on the spot and by co-operation from all concerned achieved satisfaction all round.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

Inspection of premises continued during the year with a total of 97 visits being made compared to 134 in the previous year.

No accidents have been reported despite the fact that opportunity is taken at each visit to remind the responsible person of their duty.

Notices have been served on seven premises to rectify 15 contraventions of the Act.

105 premises were registered at the year end and 425 people were employed in these premises.

Factories Act, 1961

Some factory premises have been visited in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and in addition to the normal inspection of sanitary conveniences an opportunity has been taken to carry out an inspection under the Factories Act and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

20 visits have been made to factories and six notices were sent for unsatisfactory or defective sanitary accommodation.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

It is estimated that there are over 10,000 dustbins in use throughout the district. These include all business premises, shops and schools. Many dwellings require two dustbins due to the increase in the refuse produced i.e. cartons and packages which increase the bulk, and where four or more are in a family, one 2½ cu. ft. dustbin is insufficient.

A second Shelvoke & Drewry collector vehicle was brought into service during the year to replace a dual tip Karrier now 10 years old. This vehicle has been reconditioned and is now in use as a spare vehicle when one of the other vehicles on full-time collection requires servicing or some necessary repair. I cannot hope to maintain a weekly collection if I cannot keep all the vehicles on rounds for a full week.

Sickness amongst the staff has been rather high and it has been found necessary to employ additional labour to replace men off sick. Fortunately, I have had no difficulty in recruiting labour. Applications from men who seek outside work continue in a steady stream, so there is a small waiting list to call upon in times of difficulty.

During the summer months the Council agreed to engage students to help with the collection service. This proved most successful and the two weeks of the annual holiday were adequately covered. Very few complaints were received.

Salvage in the form of paper, metals and woollens continue to increase and this year saw a record weight of materials salvaged. The comparative table of salvage collected is shown at the end of the report.

The refuse disposal centre continues to receive an increasing amount of refuse both domestic and trade. The life of the present tip is estimated at four years. Tip extension is in process of being prepared with major work in culverting the water-course completed and side drains connected. A further five years' tipping space should be assured.

Mr. I. Watson has continued as foreman during the year and I thank him for his valuable service and conscientious attention to all the details of the work involved in running the Public Cleansing Service.

Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage

Service Costs:—

Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£32,376
Gross Income	...	...	...	...	...	£4,404
Net Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£27,972
Dustbins emptied per week	...	...	...	...	...	10,000
Weekly Standard Wage: Driver	...	...	...	...	...	£14-0s.-4d.
Collector	...	...	...	...	...	£13-8s.-4d.

Collection and Sales of Salvage 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	352	6	—	—	3,143	13	0
Textiles	13	17	—	4	272	15	9
Non-Ferrous Metals	2	11	—	3	231	1	10
Cast Iron Scrap	5	16	2	—	69	18	0
Use of Tip					477	2	1
Miscellaneous					209	9	4
TOTALS	374	10	2	7	£4,404	0	0

Year	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
1957	292	14	1	5	2,999	1	4
1958	292	14	2	20	3,021	8	10
1959	291	15	3	23	3,218	0	0
1960	305	10	1	9	3,467	0	0
1961	309	4	3	20	3,543	0	0
1962	297	11	3	15	2,865	0	0
1963	315	19	—	20	3,109	0	0
1964	323	19	3	4	3,153	0	0
1965	342	12	1	15	3,829	0	0
1966	370	8	—	13	4,283	0	0
1967	374	10	2	7	4,404	0	0

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1967.

1. Highways

1.1 Authorised expenditure on maintenance and minor improvements:—

Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years

Road Class	Length	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Class I	3.07 miles	£4,213* (£1,370/mile)	£10,317 (£3,360/mile)	£8,420 (£2,745/mile)	£3,814 (£1,242/ml.)	£3,810 (£1,240/mile)
Class II	2.22 miles	£3,505 (£1,580/mile)	£7,703 (£3,470/mile)	£9,930 (£4,380/mile)	£7,583 (£3,420/ml.)	£11,740† (£5,300/mile)
Class III	2.39 miles	£13,084** (£5,470/mile)	£6,380 (£2,670/mile)	£5,700 (£2,385/mile)	£5,933 (£2,480/ml.)	£4,450 (£1,860/mile)
Unclassified ..	28.41 miles††	£24,010 (£844/mile)	£25,385 (£965/mile)	£24,580 (£942/mile)	£26,441 (£1,080/ml.)	£18,945 (£805/mile)
TOTALS	36.09 miles	£44,812	£49,785	£48,630	£43,771	£38,945

* Plus major improvement at A.675/A.6

** Plus major improvement at School Lane — part of scheme — £3,000.

† Widening of part of Church Brow, Walton-le-Dale (estimated cost £2,500) approved in addition to total shewn in table.

†† Last year's mileage — 26.34 miles.

Public Footpaths (not included in the total) — 26.75 miles.

1.2 Chorley Road A.6 — "Unicorn" improvement.

The Lancashire County Council finally found a Contractor to carry out the building alterations at the "Unicorn" Cafe, to enable the much-needed improvement to the road, including the provision of a footpath on the west side, to be carried out.

1.3 Level Crossings

Discussions were held with the various interested authorities, on British Rail's proposal to establish a Continental-style half-barrier crossing at Station Road A.6.

This proposal was opposed by the Council, and at the time of writing this Report, all such proposals are in abeyance following fatal accidents at similar crossings in this country.

The level crossing at Brindle Road is incapable of being converted to half-barriers owing to the short distance between the crossing and Bank Head Lane.

Brownedge Road crossing was not considered for conversion as British Rail have not yet determined the future of the railway at this position.

1.4 Access to A.6 Station Road

Further unsuccessful attempts were made to secure the Ministry of Transport's approval to an additional access near A.6/A.49 junction to Atkinson's Club Street works.

1.5 Traffic Regulations

Approval was given for a "one-way street" Order to be sought on Moon Street to prevent traffic entering Moon Street from Station Road A.6.

Approval was given for a variation of the "no-waiting" Order in Collins Road.

Various changes in bus-stop sitings were approved, in the interests of road safety.

1.6 Public Footpaths

A scheme for signposting the main public footpaths was approved.

2 Private Street Works

2.1 There are now very few unmade private streets (excluding back passages) in the Urban District, and most of them are serving properties the sites of which are designated for uses other than residential in the Approved Town Map.

2.2 Schemes were prepared for making up of 5 streets:—

Lord's Avenue (final section), Lostock Hall;
Bannister Hall Lane (final section), Higher Walton;
Princess Street, Bamber Bridge;
Oxford Street (final section), Bamber Bridge;
Cambridge Road (final section), Bamber Bridge.

2.3 Works were completed in 5 streets:—

Water Street, Bamber Bridge;
Whalley Street, Bamber Bridge.
Passage from Water Street to Whalley Street, Bamber Bridge;
Berry Street (final section), Lostock Hall;
The Green, Lostock Hall.

2.4 Estate Developers completed road making under Agreements in 17 streets, and the streets were adopted as "highways maintainable at public expense":—

Ampleforth Drive, Lostock Hall;	Withy Grove Road (part), Bamber Bridge;
Cooper Hill Close, Walton-le-Dale;	New Road, Lostock Hall;
Cooper Hill Drive, Walton-le-Dale;	Arrowsmith Close, Gregson Lane;
Lodge Close, Bamber Bridge;	Arrowsmith Drive (part), Gregson Lane;
Poplar Avenue (part), Bamber Bridge;	Friths Avenue, Gregson Lane;
Poplar Grove, Bamber Bridge;	Mintholme Avenue, Gregson Lane;
St. Saviour's Close, Bamber Bridge;	Withy Trees Avenue (part), Bamber Bridge;
Withy Grove Close, Bamber Bridge;	Withy Trees Close, Bamber Bridge.
Withy Grove Crescent, Bamber Bridge;	

3. Street Lighting

3.1. Administrative changes introduced by Act of Parliament resulted in the control of street lighting on Trunk and Classified Roads passing to the Highway Authority. In every case this Council has been asked to continue the maintenance and to prepare improvement schemes for the Highway Authority.

3.2 During the year 136 new street lamps were provided, making a total of 1,560 street lamps in the Urban District:—

Sodium 100 watt	320
Sodium 80 watt	1
Fluorescent 2/20 watt	37
Tungsten 500 watt	7
Tungsten 150 watt	497
Tungsten 100 watt	697
Tungsten 60 watt	1

Note. Technical improvements in sodium lamps, whereby the new integral SOX/100 watt lamp has a greater light output than the previous jacketted 140 watt lamp resulted in all 140 watt lamps being replaced (at the end of their useful tube life) by 100 watt SOX lamps.

4. Sewage Disposal

4.1. The new Treatment Works has now completed 3 full years operation and is "settling down" very well, though problems of recruiting and maintaining a full staff continued.

4.2. On a few occasions the final effluent failed to reach the extremely high standard required by the River Authority—an excessively high standard, in my opinion, for a discharge taking place below the upper limit of spring tides in the River Ribble.

4.3. The design dry weather flow of the works is 2.2 million gallons per day, and the average D.W.F. in 1967 had reached 2.17 m.g.d. as house building continued at a high rate within the Urban District.

4.4. The design load had to be based on the Planning Authority's population forecast — a wildly inaccurate figure. The inaccuracy of the forecast was pointed out to the Ministry when the Council objected to the Review Town Map, but the Council's comments were ignored.

4.5. It is interesting to note that the population at the time of writing this Report (June 1968) is around 26,000, and the Planning Authority in 1962 forecast a population of only 24,800 in 1981!

4.6. Certain parts of the treatment plant will very soon require extending; sludge consolidation and drying plant, for example. Other parts will shortly require extending, but design work cannot begin until the future population, considering "New Town" proposals, can be forecast.

4.7. Other Authorities continued to show interest in the coil-filter sludge drying plant, and several visits were made to the works; including one by Preston Scientific Society.

5. Trade Effluent

5.1. A little further progress was made in obtaining Agreements with effluent-discharging industries.

5.2. After two full years working of the treatment plant, accurate cost figures became available, and charges for trade effluent treatment were based on actual costs instead of estimates.

5.3. Notice was given to the Council that Lancashire Condenseries gluten plant was to close. This plant produced the most difficult effluent received into the sewers.

6. Sewers

6.1. During the year, the scheme for surface water sewers and storm-water overflow at Houghton Lane (near Fox Lane) was prepared, and discussions began with the River Authority concerning the discharge to Black Brook.

6.2. This scheme, when complete, will eliminate problems of overflowing sewers, and provide capacity for the private housing development both in progress and still to be approved, in the Coupe Green area.

7. Flooding

7.1. The total annual rainfall was 43.41 inches; higher than 1966, and well above the long-period average.

7.2. Minor flooding by surface water occurred during the weekend 25/26/27th February at the following locations:—

7.2.1. Bannister Hall Drive area—gardens and roadway;

7.2.2. Withy Grove—gardens and roadway;

7.2.3. Gregson Lane/Alma Row—surface water entered two houses.

7.3 In each case the trouble occurred down-stream of housing development under construction, and the cause was partial blockage of the sewers by debris washed down from incomplete sewers.

7.4. Investigations were begun in the Bannister Hall area, to find out whether it would be an economic proposition to divert the watercourses flowing down the steep hillside into the now-disused goit.

7.5. Investigations were begun into the surface water system from Gregson Lane to Alma Row.

8. Council Housing

8.1. A further 13 garages were erected; 7 off Collins Road and 6 at the rear of Countessway; on sites adjacent to Council Housing Estates.

8.2. Schemes were prepared for the re-wiring to modern standards of 10 "houses in possession" and the house at Brindle Waterworks.

9. Private Housing

Private house building continued at a similar rate to previous years, and during the year 333 dwellings were completed by private builders (386 in 1966) and at the year end 261 were under construction (224 at end of 1966).

10. Housing Improvement Grants

Approval was given to 51 applications for Standard Improvement Grants.

11. Playing Fields

11.1 Withy Grove—"reserved future open space".

The discussions initiated with a view to purchase of this site following refusal of planning consent for housing development, came to nothing because of the very wide differences of opinion of the value of the house and land.

The owner was invited to re-instate the planning appeal in order to dispose of the "hope value" in the land.

11.2 St. Cuthbert's Road

A Children's Playground, equipped with an assortment of climbing frames, was provided, and approval given to the surfacing of the playground area with tarmacadam.

The football pitch at this field was taken out of play to enable additional drains to be laid, and surface regulation work to be carried out.

11.3 Mounsey Road Playground

This site was acquired from Wimpey's at a nominal price of £1, and a scheme prepared and approved for layout as a childrens' playground.

12. Plans and Planning

12.1 During the year 605 applications relating to 660 permanent and 120 temporary buildings were dealt with under the Building Regulations.

12.2 Planning applications to a total number of 201 were received; several relating to extensive building sites.

12.3. Many problems of interpretation of the Building Regulations arose, and several applications for relaxation of various requirements were granted.

12.4 It is obvious from my experience at Walton-le-Dale, and from reading in the technical papers of other Surveyors' problems, that the Building Regulations are needlessly complicated, unnecessarily restrictive and in urgent need of amendment, despite the fact that they only came into force in February 1966.

13. Staff

For the first time for many years, I can report with pleasure that there were no changes in the staff of my Department.

14. Transport

In April the Bedford truck was taken off the road and replaced in August by a new Morris truck.

The usage of the Department's vehicles was:—

<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Petrol (gallons)</i>	<i>M.P.G.</i>	
Bedford Sweeper	June 1957	7,242	1,330	5.45	
Karrier Gulley-emptier ..	April 1958	4,012	1,017	3.95	
Bedford flat truck	Mar. 1959	2,780	154	18	Jan. - April only
Morris Van	Apr. 1965	15,320	513	29.9	
Fordson 3-ton tipper (PTE)	Aug. 1965	9,789	1,038	9.4	
Fordson 3-ton tipper (RTC)	Sept. 1965	8,308	828	10	
Morris flat truck	Aug. 1967	3,666	154	17	Aug. - Dec only
Totals:	—	51,117	5,034	—	

STANLEY RACE,

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

Engineer and Surveyor.

Printed by
Frank Coupe & Co., Ltd.,
Walton-le-Dale,
Preston.