

[Report 1968] / Medical Officer of Health, Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.

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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, 1968



WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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WALTON-LE-DALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1968

Chairman of the Council

Councillor G. Gregson, J.P.

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 Mrs. R. Cohen
Councillor F. A. Cooper
Councillor J. Coupe
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 J. W. Schultz
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 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 :

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.

Additional Public Health Inspector: P. W. Stanley, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (from 21st October).

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. (to 30th April).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
BAMBER BRIDGE

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1968

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1968.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population of the District at mid-June 1968 was 25,280 which is 930 more than that for the previous year — another quite considerable increase.

The number of live births assignable to the District was 628 (26 of which were illegitimate) which is 18 more than in 1967. The crude birth rate for the year was 24.8 (adjusted 22.3) per 1000 estimated population. This again compares favourably with the birth rates for the country as a whole — 16.9 — and that for the County of Lancashire — 17.3 (adjusted 17.8).

The number of deaths assigned to the District for the year was 226 which is 27 fewer than in the previous year. The crude death rate was 8.90 (adjusted 10.50) per 1000 estimated population and it is worth noting that this is the lowest death rate ever recorded for the District. The corresponding rates for England and Wales and Lancashire were 11.9 and 12.3 (adjusted 13.3) respectively.

The Registrar General provides a table giving the causes of deaths in age groups and this table is reproduced in the Report. From this it will be seen that 75 of the 226 deaths occurred in persons 75 years of age or over and a further 65 were between 65 and 75 years of age. These two groups together account for 140 of the 226 deaths.

In regard to causes of death the International Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death has been revised and the table uses the new classification which makes accurate comparison with previous years' figures difficult in some instances. It is possible, however, to compare the main causes. Deaths from malignant disease were increased by 6, cancer of the lung being responsible for 12 of these deaths as compared with 7 in the previous year. Deaths from all forms of cardiac disease decreased by 7, those from coronary heart disease increased by 11. Cerebro-vascular disease accounted for 33 as compared with 48 in 1967. Heart disease, cancer and cerebro-vascular disease in fact accounted for 72% of the total deaths. Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Emphysema and other diseases of the respiratory system were the causes of death in 16 cases as compared with 34 in the previous year. Deaths from tuberculosis numbered 1 whilst there were no deaths from this cause in 1967. For the third consecutive year there were no deaths attributable to child-birth or abortion.

It is very disappointing to note the increase in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age — 17 as compared with 7 in the previous year. This is particularly disconcerting in view of the very favourable figures in recent years which make the number of deaths this year look rather worse than they really are. I regard this as a regrettable but only temporary set-back as is not unusual when dealing with vital statistics of this kind. The figure gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 27.0 per 1000 live births compared with 18.3 for England and Wales and 19.4 for Lancashire.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 225 including 5 notifications of tuberculosis compared to 319 including 5 cases of tuberculosis in 1967. It should be noted, however, that these figures are not strictly comparable as certain important changes have been made regarding notification procedure, in the list of notifiable diseases and in the provisions applicable to each disease. These changes were brought about by the coming into operation of the Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations 1968 on the 15th June 1968, the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 (Part III) and the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 on 1st October 1968. Further reference to these changes are made in the Report. Measles accounted for 177 of the 212 notifications received during the year. In this connection, attention must be drawn to the introduction of a general scheme of vaccination against Measles during the year. Vaccination against measles involves only one injection and is available from general medical practitioners, child welfare centres, and school clinics for children aged 1-15 years. Parents are urged to take advantage of this protection for children who have not had measles, but it must be stressed that vaccination and immunisation against smallpox, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus and whooping cough are still as vitally important as ever.

As in previous recent years a very considerable proportion of the time of the department's staff has been spent in connection with food hygiene, particularly meat inspection at the large private abattoir in the District and milk sampling. The demands on the department have increased to such an extent that the Student Public Health Inspector has been replaced by a qualified Additional Public Health Inspector and I am sure that the Council were very wise to make this appointment.

A matter for satisfaction was the Council's decision to have a preliminary survey of a proposed smoke control area carried out in order to ascertain the probable cost of a smoke control order. It is sad indeed that the economic state of the country is such that the population is denied the benefits of clean air. One cannot help wondering how much longer we can afford to tolerate the health hazards and the deleterious effects attributable to our polluted atmosphere.

Personal Health and Welfare Services continue to be developed by the County Council. During the year a Hostel and Training Centre for mentally handicapped children was completed and brought into use. Similar provisions for adults were provided a few years ago.

I am very grateful to Mr. Corbishley and the staff for their willing assistance and co-operation at all times. My thanks are also due to other officers and staff for their ready help whenever this is required.

Whilst dealing with the subject of staff it gives me the greatest pleasure to record here that Mr. Corbishley, Chief Public Health Inspector, had during the year bestowed on him the Honour of a Serving Brother of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem for his services in connection with setting up of a Medical Comforts Depot in a room loaned for the purpose by the Council.

Finally I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council and particularly to the Chairman of the Health Committee for the encouragement and support which I continue to receive.

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 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.

A preliminary move towards the establishment of a proposed Central Lancashire New City was made during the year when a meeting was convened in December. The proposed constituent Local Authorities were invited to appoint delegates to submit representations on their behalf. Other Local Authorities which may be affected by the proposed new city also attended and submitted their point of view.

The Council agree in principle to the proposals for establishing a new city.

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-1968)	25,280
Number of houses (census 1961)	6,265
Number of inhabited houses 31st March, 1968)	8,189
Rateable Value (31st December, 1968)	£813,496
Sum represented by a penny rate (31st March, 1968)	£3,094

Vital Statistics

The statistics in regard to births and deaths have been supplied by the Registrar General through the County Health Department. The number of deaths allocated are those registered during the year as adjusted for inward and outward transfers. The number of births and stillbirths relate to occurrences in the year and are similarly adjusted for inward and outward transfers.

Births

Live Births—(Occurring during the year)						M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	330	272	602
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	15	11	26
						345	283	628
Birth rate per 1,000 population—Crude						....	....	24.8
Adjusted						....	....	22.3
Ratio of Local Adjusted Birth Rate to National Rate						....	....	1.32
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births						....	....	4.1
Still Births—						M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	3	4	7
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	0	1	1
						3	5	8
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still births)						....	....	13
Comparability factor—For births						....	....	0.90
						M.	F.	Total
Total Live and Still Births (Occurring during year)						348	288	636

Deaths

						M.	F.	Total
Deaths all ages (registered during the year)						120	106	226
Death rates per 1,000 estimated population (Crude)						....	....	8.9
(Adjusted)						....	....	10.5
Ratio of Local Adjusted Death Rate to National Rate						....	....	0.88
Comparability factor—For deaths						....	....	1.18
Infant Deaths								
Deaths of infants under one year						7	10	17
Infant Mortality Rate								
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births						....	....	27.0
Legitimate deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births						....	....	25.0
Illegitimate deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births						....	....	77.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate								
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age						....	....	9
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births						....	....	16.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate								
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths						....	....	27.0
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)								
Number of deaths						....	....	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths						....	....	Nil
Malignant Neoplasms								
Number of deaths (groups B19 of Analysis)						....	....	42
Mortality Rate						....	....	1.66
Pulmonary Tuberculosis								
Number of deaths						....	....	1
Mortality Rate						....	....	0.04

**CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968 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	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS										75 and over
						1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-			
B4.	Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	M	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B5.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B6	Other Tuberculosis, including late effects	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	3	—	—	—
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
B19(6)	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	—	2	—
		F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	—	2	—
B20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B21	Diabetes Mellitus	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46(1)	Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46(3)	Mental Disorders	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
B27	Hypertensive Disease	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	10	16	—	13	—
		F	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	15	—
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	—
		F	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	—
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	M	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	—	3	—
		F	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	8	—	10	—
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
		F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
B32	Pneumonia	M	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
		F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
		F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B46(7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
B46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
B42	Congenital Anomalies	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
BE48	All Other Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	M	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total, All Causes		M	120	3	4	1	2	2	—	5	11	30	36	—	26	—
		F	106	7	3	—	—	1	1	2	2	12	29	—	49	—

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 1960/4	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
1968	24.80	22.30	8.90	10.50	0.04	1.66	nil	27.00
Increase or decrease in 1968 compared to: 5 year mean ..	+0.92	+0.08	—1.42	—2.90	+0.02	+0.10	nil	+2.86
previous year ..	—0.30	—0.30	—1.50	—2.00	+0.04	—0.17	nil	+16.00
County of Lancaster 1968	17.3	17.8	12.3	13.3	0.03	2.2	0.21	19.4
England and Wales 1968	16.9		11.9		0.03	2.3	0.24	18.3

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 decrease in the number of deaths registered during the year compared to the previous year, 226 as against 253. The crude death rate of 8.90 is the lowest figure on record.

Infantile Mortality

There were seventeen deaths of infants under one year of age compared with seven in the previous year and four in 1966. The infantile mortality rate for the district is 27.00 and the rate for England and Wales is 18.3. With the relatively small number of births there is a tendency for the rate to show considerable variations for small changes in actual deaths. Whilst all infant deaths are regrettable I do not place too much significance upon variations in the short period.

The cause of death in each case is given below.

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
F	$\frac{1}{2}$ -hour	Congenital disease
M	1 hour	Exonphalus
F	5 hours	Prematurity
F	10 hours	Prematurity
F	16 hours	Prematurity
F	3 days	Prematurity

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
F	3 days	Anoxia
F	5 days	Prematurity
M	5 days	Prematurity
M	3 weeks	Congenital heart disease
M	2 months	Asphyxia
M	2 months	Asphyxia
M	2 months	Gastritis
M	5 months	Gastro Enteritis
F	6 months	Gastro Enteritis
F	9 months	Broncho Pneumonia
F	9 months	Asphyxia

Neo-Natal, Early Neo-Natal and Perinatal Mortality

In order to show further detailed information of 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 stillbirths.

Ten of the infants who died within one year of birth are within the Neo-Natal and 9 are in the Early Neo-Natal classification.

Maternal Mortality

During the year no maternal deaths occurred associated with childbirth.

The Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Regulations 1968.

These Regulations came into operation on 15th June 1968 and made Infective Jaundice a statutorily notifiable disease. For some years now I have been concerned about the number of cases of this disease which have been brought to my attention from various sources. Public Health Inspectors have been visiting these cases and reporting to me on the varied environmental factors. Twelve cases have been notified since the operative date of these regulations. All have been investigated.

Health Services & Public Health Act 1968 (Part III)

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968.

The above legislation which came into operation on 1st October 1968 has amended certain aspects of the notification of infectious diseases. Responsibility for notification of a case of notifiable disease now rests exclusively on the doctor attending the patient whether in hospital or elsewhere. The fee of 2/6d. for each certificate has now been increased to 5/-d. for each certificate. All existing Regulations have been consolidated so as to allow uniformity in notification procedure. Tetanus and Yellow Fever are made notifiable for the first time in this country as well as Leptospirosis which was previously notifiable only in certain areas. Acute Primary Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, Puerperal Pyrexia, Erysipelas and Acute Rheumatism cease to be notifiable.

The hospital to which patients were admitted was:—

Deepdale Infectious Diseases Hospital, Preston.

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

Non-Pulmonary:—

New cases	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Transfers In	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—

Removed from the Register during the year were:—**Pulmonary—**

Recovered	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Diagnosis not confirmed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Removed from District	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Died	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

Non-Pulmonary:—

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

On Register at end of 1968

Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Combined Cases
60	11	1

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

Ten cases of dysentery have been reported and investigated during the year. During the course of investigation 168 specimens have been submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory.

The examination of 920 routine specimens submitted by Matron at the Day Nursery revealed six positive cases. It was the investigation of these cases which resulted in four family contact cases being detected. All cases responded to treatment by their doctor. Routine sampling of children and staff attending the Nursery is a policy of the Dept. and a screening sample is obtained prior to any new admission of a child. One case of salmonella infection was found in a student nursery nurse. The student was resident in an adjoining authority to whom the case was referred.

Of the four family contact cases found during the investigation, two, a husband and wife, were food handlers and excluded from all food preparation until the infection had cleared.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported. The last reported case of food poisoning was in 1962.

Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis have been reported during the year.

Measles

177 cases have been reported during the year compared with 137 in the previous year. The cases were spread evenly throughout the year.

Whooping Cough

3 Cases of whooping cough have been reported during the year.

Scarlet Fever

14 cases of Scarlet Fever have been reported. This is a decrease of 19 over the previous year. Two home contacts of cases who had employment in food trades were excluded from their work until the infection had been cleared from the household.

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.

Mental Health Services

There are now two hostels and two training centres for mentally handicapped adults and children. All these premises are situated in Bamber Bridge but the facilities provided are not confined to the Walton-le-Dale District.

Day Nursery

This provides accommodation for 50 children under the age of 5 years.

Health Visitors

A staff of Health Visitors are based at the School Clinic, Cottage Lane, Bamber Bridge. Telephone No. Preston 35171.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service

Five domiciliary midwifery sisters are employed in the Urban District.

Miss H. W. Bamber, 140 Browndge Road, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35789. (Relief).

Miss M. Gould, 33 Wellington Place, Walton-le-Dale. Tel. 35518.

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

Miss H. Gibson, 8 Cedar Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 37020.

Mrs. M. Gibson, 6 Westerlong, Lea. Tel. 29850. (Relief).

Domiciliary Nursing Service

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

- Mrs. M. A. Arnold, 4 Lyndale Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35929.
- Mrs. M. E. Hunter, 4 Kew Gardens, Farington. Tel. Leyland 22824.
- Mrs. E. M. Vincent, 25 Aldersleigh Crescent, Hoghton. Tel. Hoghton 827.
- Mrs. J. I. Abbott, 3 Haysnorth Street, Preston. Tel. 56812.
- Mrs. A. Smith, 82 Laburnum Avenue, Lostock Hall. Tel. 35812.
- Mrs. J. M. Urwin, 9 King Street, Lostock Hall. Tel. 37201 (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.

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 Fulwood, 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.

Smallpox Vaccination

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

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.

(a) Statistics

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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	320	—

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)								835	—
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose								1,000	—
	(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								219	—
(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	—

Housing Statistics—continued

2. Houses Demolished:— In Clearance Areas:	<i>Houses Demolished</i>	<i>Displaced during year</i>	
		<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
(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	—	—	—
(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:—			
(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:—		<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
(1) After informal action by Local Authority		213	—
(2) After formal notice under:			
(a) Public Health Acts		2	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957		4	—
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957		—	—
5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):— Position at end of year:		<i>No. of Houses (1)</i>	<i>No. of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)</i>
(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		<i>No. of Houses (1)</i>	<i>No. of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)</i>
		—	—
7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—Improvement Grants, etc.:—	<i>Private bodies or individuals</i>		<i>Local Authority</i>
	<i>Number of schemes</i>	<i>Number of dwelling- houses or other buildings affected</i>	<i>Number of schemes</i>
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 Grants:—

Action during year:

(a) Applications submitted to local authority	64
(b) Applications approved by local authority	64
(c) Work completed	38
(d) Remarks:	

No. of
dwellings or
other buildings
affected**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:—

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Informal milk	Freezing point indicates 0.5% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained.
Pork Sausages	Meat content 56%. Recommended minimum 65%. Contained 250 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned.
Beef Sausages	Contained 345 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor cautioned.
Steak with Gravy, canned	Contained 70% meat. Recommended minimum meat content for steak with gravy 75% (becoming statutory in 1969) after when it will not be sufficient to print the disclaimer "contains 70% meat" shown on can.	No action taken.
Formal milk	Fat 2.55%. Deficient 15% fat. and slightly low in solids-not-fat.	Producer cautioned and further sample obtained.

A total of 152 samples was obtained comprising 106 milks (of which three were Channel Islands milk) and 46 others as follows:—

2 Soda Mint Tablets	1 Beef Sausages
1 Throat Lozenges	1 Dairy Ice Cream
2 Soluble Aspirin Tablets B.P.	2 Meat, canned
1 Cold Tablets	1 Meat Paste
1 Boric Lint B.P.C.	1 Fish Paste
1 Boric Acid Lint B.P.C.	1 French Mustard
1 Cold Capsules	1 Margarine
2 Butter	1 Steak with Gravy, canned
1 Camphorated Oil B.P.	1 Salted Peanuts
1 Fersamel Tablets	2 Flavouring Material
2 Eucalyptus Oil B.P.	1 Sponge Pudding, canned

1 Multivitamin Pellets	1 Shrimps, canned
1 Malt Extract with Cod Liver Oil B.P.C.	1 Pie Filling, canned
1 Vitamin Tablets	1 Ice Cream
1 Fresh Pears	1 Peppermint Cordial
3 Pork Sausages	1 Lemon Cheese
1 Soft Drink (to be diluted)	1 Oatmeal
1 Breakfast Food	1 Mixed Peel
1 Syrup	1 Treacle

Milk and Milk Production

Priority was once again given to sampling raw milk for Brucellosis. 374 samples were tested. 34 produced positive ring tests and of these six returned positive culture results. 30 specimens were inoculated into guinea pigs (two from each farm) as a further control against Brucellosis and Tuberculosis. All returned negative tubercle tests and only one was positive for Brucella.

Upon receiving notification of a ring test positive bulk sample a telephone message to the farmer is made and individual samples obtained the following morning. Upon receipt of the individual results action is taken. In all cases this has been the prompt removal of the positive animal or animals from the herd. This excellent co-operation with the farmers on the ring test results has once again made statutory action unnecessary.

Five untreated milk samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and two gave unsatisfactory results.

Thirty nine samples of heat treated milk submitted for examination gave satisfactory results.

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

Ice Cream sampling was not carried out during the summer due to pressure of work in other directions. There are only two small manufacturers producing ice cream for their own shop use. All the remaining premises (36) retail the products of national companies.

Food Hygiene

Inspection of food premises is a high priority in the work of the Dept. Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons (detailed in Mr. Corbishley's report) it has not been possible to devote the time to this work which I would desire. 143 visits have been made to the many small food premises on the district.

Meat Inspection and food control at the Abattoir has taken considerably more time than in previous years as throughput of animals slaughtered has increased and the amount of meat in transit through the Dept. has also increased. 646 visits have been made for this purpose and 272,000 animal units inspected.

200 visits have been made to two premises in which poultry are slaughtered. 490,000 birds have been processed during the year.

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 bungalow scheme for elderly people which opened in 1960 continues to provide a very important unit of housing accommodation for people over the age of 65 and who are in need of some care and attention. The bungalows are let at a rent tailored to the occupants' financial resources with the services of a part-time Warden, a laundry, a call-bell system and the use of a communal room.

The social side of the Centre continued with many pleasant social evenings being held. Outstanding was the Golden Wedding celebration of the oldest residents on the estate and over 50 people came to the reception held for them. Many bouquets were received, in particular one from a County Councillor and his wife and one from the Chairman of the Council and Councillors.

For the third year the residents were invited by the pupils of Brownedge Secondary School to their annual presentation of a Gilbert & Sullivan opera and afterwards to a hot meal prepared by the senior girls. This was appreciated by all the residents who look forward to this annual event. The Luncheon Club continues to be a success and an average of 18 meals are served each Tuesday and Thursday by the ladies of the W.R.V.S. Dominoes and Bingo continue in the afternoon.

The annual Christmas Party was held at the end of December and the Chairman of the Council and his wife had tea with the tenants at the Centre. This was followed by a very excellent concert.

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

Air Pollution

During the year the Council authorised a preliminary sample survey of a proposed smoke control area in order to ascertain the probable cost of making a smoke control order. The survey was not completed at the year end.

Coal fired locomotives ceased to operate from Lostock Hall sidings in the first week of August. With the closure of the yard the last regular steam locomotive service in the country ceased.

Nuisance from industry has been slight and when it has occurred the cause could be traced to mechanical failure or maladjustment. Co-operation from industrialists has been satisfactory.

One problem which was not resolved at year end was pollution and odour from two cold blast cupolas preparing good quality cast iron by reclaiming scrap material.

Water Supply

The supplies of water to the district from Thirlmere and Longridge under the control of the Preston & District Water Board, continued to be highly satisfactory. During the year four samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and they were found to be satisfactory in quality. In addition regular monthly samples are taken by the Preston & District Water Board and copies of reports forwarded were all found to be satisfactory. Three samples were also taken for chemical analysis and again nothing untoward was found on examination.

The natural fluoride content of the main water supply from Thirlmere is 0.033 parts per million and Longridge is 0.030 parts per million. All dwellings, 8474 in number, are served by a public supply direct to the house covering an estimated population of 25,280 and there are no dwellings on private supply.

Factories

Following is a facsimile of the Report sent to the Ministry of Labour for 1968.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1968 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT
OF WALTON-LE-DALE IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937-61

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	9	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	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)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Accommodation	6	5	—	—	—
	6	5	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1968

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 1968. In the field of environmental health, which can also be classed as preventative medicine, for which the Public Health Inspector is primarily responsible, the changing pattern still continues. With the substantial development and the improvement of house building the standard of housing within the district continues to rise, and, having virtually completed the slum clearance programme in which over 190 houses have been demolished since 1956, it is felt that this standard compares favourably with adjoining districts. There are still some isolated pockets of houses classed as sub-standard which have a limited life. These will be dealt with in the course of the next five years. It is estimated that not more than 10% of the total houses in the district are rented and many owner occupied houses are being improved to comply with standards similar to those in our new houses.

One of the most important duties carried out by the department is the inspection of food for human consumption and in particular meat and meat products. The large private abattoir in the district has increased its "kill" 500% over the 1954 throughput. Later in the report you will see details of the service. A large part of the finished product is distributed in the southern part of the country and it is possible that meat will be exported to the continent in the near future.

Coupled with the inspection of meat is the increase in the number of poultry inspected at the two licenced poultry packing stations. Approximately 500,000 birds are processed each year. It is not possible to see all the throughput but spotters employed by the firm reject suspect carcasses for the Inspector's detailed examination later in the day.

Food hygiene also plays a large part in the work of the department and regular inspections are made to premises, where food is prepared and sold to ensure hygienic preparation and sale to the public. Normally with the increase in packaging most foods are sold wrapped, but unwrapped cream cakes, pasties and meat pies are being sold in some shops generally exposed on counters (without covers) and liable to contamination.

Most licenced premises in the district are now selling food in the form of snacks, or catering on a large scale for full meals. It is our intention to make a detailed inspection of all those premises as soon as possible.

Our endeavours in the field of air pollution have achieved some success and there is now less aerial sewage than 10 years ago. This is mainly a reduction from industrial sources but the problem of pollution from the domestic chimney still remains.

At the end of the year I was instructed by the Public Health Committee to report on the possibility of introducing smoke control in the district, and I am hoping that by the time I report on this matter in the 1969 report some substantial progress will have been made to achieve this end.

Constant attention has been paid to milk sampling, in particular the control of infected milk from farm animals who excrete milk affected with *Brucella Abortus*. This disease in the animal transferred to man is known as Undulant Fever. Although not a notifiable disease some cases have occurred in the district during the past. Regular herd sampling is carried out at two monthly intervals and any infected animal is removed immediately from the herd by the farmer. There is a Brucellosis eradication scheme at present being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and like Tuberculosis this disease should be completely eradicated within the next few years.

In this day and age of speed it is natural that we should receive complaints of noise. These are reported by the public and such problems arise from industrial machines, noisy instruments in dwellings and noise emanating from organs in licenced premises have caused many investigations particularly visits outside normal hours. It has not been found necessary to take any statutory action, the nuisance in nearly all cases being abated by co-operation with the person concerned.

The Civic Amenities Act of 1967 was introduced to help to control the problem of abandoned vehicles and refuse. During the early part of the year we were faced with very many abandoned vehicles found on open land in the district and much time was spent in trying to locate the owners in accordance with the provisions of the Act. We are fortunate in having in the district a firm of car breakers who remove on request by us all abandoned vehicles free of charge. This has lightened the load from an administrative point of view and at the end of the year the district was virtually clear of vehicles which were considered to be abandoned. The problem of course is still with us and we will still have to deal with an increasing number of abandoned vehicles during the coming years.

During the year it was found necessary to consider the staffing position in the department due to increase of duties mainly connected with meat inspection. An additional Public Health Inspector was appointed and Mr. Peter Stanley commenced his duties in the department on the 15th October. Mrs. N. Hodgson, the Health Department Secretary, also gave in her notice and in December Mrs. M. Holden was appointed in her place. She will commence duties early in January. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Hodgson for her services during the past nine years and in her "retirement" I wish her every happiness. To Mr. Williams, my Deputy, I am indeed grateful for the detailed attention to many aspects of the work in the department and I thank him for his loyal service. Mr. Schofield the authorised Meat Inspector (who can be classed as one of the backroom boys, because most of his work is carried out at the Slaughterhouse) is doing an excellent job and takes an awful lot of responsibility off my own shoulders. To Mr. Watson, the Cleansing Foreman, I give a special thanks for his work and devotion to duty. Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor Morgan and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Walker, for their help and assistance at all times.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. N. CORBISHLEY.

Housing

The housing situation remains satisfactory. No serious shortage exists. No demolition of unfit houses was carried out by the Council although a number have been demolished by other bodies. Construction of the new motorway link removed two and the construction of a carpark next to a factory another five. The Housing Bill when it becomes law will give the landlord a further opportunity to bring houses owned by him up to a required standard. Controlled tenancies will become regulated tenancies and the Rent Officer service will be affected by two types of cases. Firstly, a landlord who seeks to improve his dwelling to the standard of the qualifying conditions may apply to the rent officer for a certificate of fair rent having first obtained from the Local Authority a certificate of provisional approval for the work proposed in the order to bring the dwelling up to standard. Secondly, as from January 1971 rent officers can expect to receive applications for a fair rent supported by qualification certificates issued by Local Authorities for those dwellings which already had the standard amenities at the commencement of this Act.

This is something entirely new and will be interesting to see if it has the desired effect of persuading more landlords to improve their houses up to standard amenities.

Rent Act

No action was necessary under the Rent Act during the year.

Improvement Grants

The Engineer & Surveyor is responsible for implementing the Improvement Grant Scheme. All applications have been for discretionary grants up to the full standard. 64 applications have been made and approved and the work has been completed on 38 houses.

Movable Dwellings

There are three caravans in use in the area. As the dwellings are all used in conjunction with an adjacent permanent dwelling, no difficulties have arisen with their use.

Once again I can report that no problems have arisen from unauthorised caravan dwellers of the nomadic trader type "setting up shop" then departing and leaving the Council with the expense of clearing up their temporary camp.

Drainage

352 complaints of blocked drains have been dealt with during the year. Drainage defects have necessitated 291 visits by the Public Health Inspector to premises. In the majority of cases the defect is a simple blockage relieved by rodding but defects of a structural nature are not uncommon. I am rather concerned at the number of blockages and defects being found in new housing developments and over which the builders are not co-operative in effecting repairs.

Once again I must draw attention to the unsatisfactory condition of open watercourses adjacent to housing development and the unsatisfactory situation which develops where they are not culverted as development proceeds. Stockdale Crescent and Coniston Drive are obvious examples of undesirable open watercourses.

Sub-Standard Housing

With the continued high interest in sub-standard housing and proposed legislation to improve rented houses, I have once again included the statistics produced for my last Annual Report.

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

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

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

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

Estimated total houses	7,830
Estimated to full standard	6,805
	<hr/>
Therefore not to full standard	1,025

Rodent Control

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

1. No. of rodent operatives employed—(a) Full time —
(b) Part time 1
2. Action relating to rodent control during year—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district, April 1st, 1968	9,339	87
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	192	—
(c) No. of (b) infested by — Rats	125	—
Mice	67	—
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	50	—
(e) No. of (d) infested by — Rats	7	—
Mice	1	—

In spite of new and improved methods on Rodent Control we still receive numerous complaints from all parts of the district of small infestations of mice and rats, and these are successfully dealt with by poisoning. One part-time operator is employed. Details of the visits made are to be found above.

Air Pollution

Visible pollution from industrial sources is being effectively controlled and, except for occasional mechanical faults, give no cause for concern.

A major problem was removed when British Railways finally ceased to operate coal fired locomotives and the Repair Depot at Lostock Hall became redundant as a servicing depot for coal locomotives. I would like to record my thanks to Mr. Sedgebeard, Shed Master of Lostock Hall for all the courtesy he has shown and the prompt action he has taken whenever I have had cause to make representations to him for offences caused by others on his premises.

The first step towards the establishment of a smoke control area was taken when Council gave instructions to conduct a survey to estimate a costing. A 10% sample survey was in hand at the year end.

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 overleaf.

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)	5,082	7,505	3	29,842	12,307
Number inspected	5,082	7,505	3	29,842	12,307
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned	6	53	1	188	47
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2817	5,513	2	9,038	6,551
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	55.4	73.4	66.6	34.0	53.2
<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	2	6	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration Generalised and totally condemned	2	6	—	—	—

Meat Inspection

With a total of 54,000 animals slaughtered at British Beef Co. in 1968 this shows a 50% increase on the 1967 total. This figure makes the throughput of the Depot comparable with that of the surrounding Municipal Abattoirs, Preston, Blackburn etc.

The number of cows slaughtered has almost doubled, with a high proportion of these being older type manufacturing cows, the incidence of disease is consequently greater and this explains the large number of totally condemned cow carcasses. The decision to totally condemn a carcass is based on the extent of the disease or condition with consideration as to the effect if allowed to enter the human diet. This decision cannot be taken lightly and regard must be given to high value of meat these days, the average cost of the 53 carcasses condemned this year being between £50 and £60.

The 188 sheep carcasses condemned is chiefly made up of old and worn out ewes which have been culled out of flocks. The main reason for condemning being emaciation, with dropsy, this having been brought about by heavy parasitic infection or by inability to forage through loss of teeth with old age.

Pigs present a different problem to the Meat Inspector due mainly to the artificial environment in which they now live. This causes the animal to lose its natural immunity and therefore lowers resistance to infection. Small wounds can lead to abscesses e.g. small bites on tails and ear frequently lead to abscesses in the vertebrae requiring splitting of all carcasses showing this type of wound.

The management at British Beef Co. were successful in their application for extended hours of slaughter earlier in the year; these now stand at 6-00 a.m. — 5-30 p.m. on weekdays and 6-00 a.m. — 1-00 p.m. on Saturdays. This increased throughput has required regular assistance for Mr. Schofield throughout the year. If the throughput is increased to a maximum daily 'kill' of 150 plus cattle, then the staff situation will have to be reviewed.

The smaller of the two Slaughterhouses, Brindle Bros. continue to slaughter sufficient for their own trade, total yearly kill varying very little.

Poultry Inspection

There are two poultry processing stations in the area. 208 visits have been made to these premises during the year.

Birds processed:

Turkeys	....	....	....	....	....	....	1500
Hens	....	....	....	....	....	....	301970
Broilers & Capons	....	....	....	....	....	....	186544
Birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	....	....	....	....	....	....	9746
Weight rejected as unfit for human consumption	....	....	....	....	....	....	27916 lbs.

There were almost $\frac{1}{2}$ million birds processed at two poultry processing stations in the district. Both establishments using the "line system" employing automatic machinery, which speeds up considerably the throughput of birds, whilst ensuring more hygienic handling.

Inspection of poultry consists of detaining those birds which show symptoms of disease e.g. emaciation, oedema etc. and examining these in detail. As in all animals the incidence of disease increases with age, and therefore the rejected rate is directly related to the type of bird being slaughtered. Hens which are laying birds of between 1 and 2 years of age show the highest rejection rate and are prone to conditions associated with the egg-laying mechanism. Broilers are chickens of both sexes up to 12 weeks old, which are kept in an artificial environment involving constant high temperatures, artificial lighting extending the length of daytime, in turn increasing the food intake. The muscle development is consequently accelerated giving a carcass weight of around 5 - 6 lbs. when slaughtered. Certain conditions are becoming associated with this type of bird and being of an acute nature the bird usually dies or is culled out before arrival at the poultry processors.

The "Petite Pousoins" are reared under the same conditions as broilers only they are slaughtered at 7 to 8 weeks old to provide a smaller carcass for the hotel trade. These also show a very low rejection rate for the same reason as broilers.

Milk Sampling (Brucellosis and Tuberculosis)

Routine milk sampling for brucellosis continued throughout the year, 374 samples having been obtained. By arrangements with adjacent Local Authorities sampling has been confined to producers within the area. This prevents duplicating of samples. 30 samples were examined for tuberculosis and all returned negative results. 39 samples of heat treated milk submitted for examination of heat treating efficiency were all satisfactory. No sample was reported as "containing antibiotics".

Raw Milks

Samples taken from Producers in the District					Samples taken from Producers outside the District				
Year	No. taken	Satisfactory		T.B. present	No. taken	Satisfactory		T.B. present	
		No.	%			No.	%		
1958	21	16	76.0	0	53	42	79.0	3	
1959	21	18	85.7	0	28	15	53.6	1	
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	
1968	3	3	100.0	0	2	2	100.0	0	

Pasteurised Milks

Year			Number Taken	Number Efficiently Heat Treated	%
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
1968	..	..	35	35	100

Ice Cream

The bacteriological standard continued at the same high state as in previous years. The two producers in the district consistently produced grade 1 results, likewise with all the wrapped ice cream from the large producers such as Walls and Lyons.

Food Hygiene

It was found impractical to carry out work to the extent usually considered necessary. This was due to a staff shortage which existed for most of the year plus a large increase of slaughtering at the abattoir which necessitated two inspectors working long hours. Absence of staff through sickness was also a contributing factor.

Other Foods

A general check is kept on shops in the district particularly those selling open food and when making inspections to these premises for other purposes careful note is made of any food liable to contamination and the proprietor advised to cover or protect these foods.

It was not necessary to reject any food for human consumption as a result of requests from large and small retail shops. A number of residents came to the department to complain about the condition of food purchased in the district and in three cases these were referred to the County Health Officer for action under the Food & Drugs Act.

Verminous Premises

A large increase in the number of premises (25 compared to 13 in the previous year) requiring treatment for the eradication of cockroach, has caused me concern and the Council no little expense. In the majority of cases the infestations have been reported in houses built in the past few years and frequently in the last 5 years. In some cases I have had to make representations to builders regarding the use in new houses of rubble from clearance areas in adjacent Local Authorities. Such rubble is a possible source of cockroach infestation and it is on the sites of builders using this type of filling that most cases are occurring.

Ermine Moth

The usual annual invasion occurred in the early spring and persisted throughout summer. Treatment was carried out at infested properties but it is not effective due to the impracticability of treating in depth and treating on agricultural premises. These palliative measures have been undertaken for a number of years but the degree of infestation does not appear to be lessening.

Noise Abatement

Six complaints of noise nuisance have been investigated during the year. One case was not satisfactorily cured at the year end, other cases have been resolved by negotiation. The outstanding case was a recurrence of an old problem associated with paper making. The Company have employed a specialist firm to make a study of their works and machinery and report upon effective means of reducing the noise to a reasonable level. The study and report have been made and accepted by the Company. As a result appliances have been commissioned which it is expected will mute the noise processes.

Other noise nuisances investigated include grass track riding of motor cycles in the evening and at weekends. Radio noise played loudly in the late evening on domestic premises. Organ noise from a Hotel and industrial noises.

It was not necessary to undertake legal action.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

26 visits have been made during the year compared with 97 in the previous year. Extra work within the department combined with staffing problems have prevented many inspections being carried out. There is no reason to suspect that the small amount of work carried out during 1968 has led to the deterioration of standards or working conditions.

Three new premises have been registered during the year and one premise has been deleted.

No accidents have been reported during the year.

Notices have been served on 6 premises to rectify 11 contraventions.

At the end of the year 107 premises remained on the register and 431 people were employed on these premises 150 males and 281 females.

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Total Registered Premises at December 1967</i>	<i>Total Registered Premises at December 1968</i>
Offices	19	19
Retail Shops	72	75
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	3	2
Catering Establishments	11	11
Fuel Storage Departments	—	—

<i>Class of Premises</i>	<i>Premises deleted during 1968</i>	<i>Premises added during 1968</i>
Offices	—	—
Retail Shops	—	3
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	1	—
Catering Establishments	—	—
Fuel Storage Departments	—	—

Factories Act 1951

A number of small factories have been built or developed during the past 12 months. Light engineering and a food factory brings the total of factories in the district to 110. The Health Department is responsible for administering certain sections of the Act mainly in connection with the provision of sanitary accommodation and the number of visits made for the purpose was 14.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal

With the continuance of development in the district, domestic and business premises have both increased in number with the consequent increase in household and trade waste.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain an efficient refuse collection service due to sickness amongst the staff and the need for some incentive or productivity scheme in order to encourage the men to work that little extra hard in order to maintain a weekly collection service. We are very much hamstrung by the Government's Prices & Incomes policy which restricts the payment of bonuses or incentives without an increase in productivity. In order to achieve additional productivity, work study schemes are advocated before consideration of new incentive schemes. This is a costly business for small Authorities and we are trying to avoid it if possible.

Refuse disposal is also presenting a further problem. The Council have purchased additional land for tipping which should extend the life of the present tip for a further five years, but the increase in house and trade waste is such that it is likely that by 1975 the whole of the tip at Hennel Lane will be completely full, 7,500 tons of domestic and 4,000 tons of trade waste each year obviously takes some disposing of. If the increase in refuse continues it is obvious that other methods of disposal will have to be found in the near future. Preston Corporation have been approached to accept the material on a similar basis to that which now exists, whereby all the sewage sludge from the Council's works is transported to their large controlled tip at Freckleton.

Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage

Service Costs:—

Gross Expenditure	....	....	....	....	....	....	£36,900
Gross Income	....	....	....	....	....	....	£4,238
Net Expenditure	....	....	....	....	....	....	£32,662
Dustbins emptied per week	....	....	....	Approx.			10,000
Weekly Standard Wage: Driver	....	....	....	....			£14 0 0
Collector	....	....	....	....			£14 12 6

Collection and Sales of Salvage and Tipping Charges

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

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
Paper	346	—	2	—	3,176	16	8
Textiles	14	7	3	3	296	11	0
Non-Ferrous Metals	2	16	2	5	292	0	6
Cast Iron Scrap	5	4	2	—	62	14	0
Use of Tip					129	0	0
Miscellaneous					338	12	0
TOTALS	368	9	1	8	£4,166	14	2

<i>Year</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	£	s.	d.
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
1968	368	9	1	8	4,166	14	2

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT

This brief Report covers the period 1st January to 31st December, 1968.

1. Highways

1.1 Authorised expenditure on maintenance and minor improvements:—

Authorised expenditure over the last 5 years

Road Class	Length	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Class I	3.07 miles	£7,363 (£2,400/mile)	£4,213* (£1,370/mile)	£10,317 (£3,360/mile)	£8,420 (£2,745/mile)	£3,814 (£1,242/ml.)
Class II	2.22 miles	£5,007† (£2,250/mile)	£3,505 (£1,580/mile)	£7,703 (£3,470/mile)	£9,930 (£4,380/mile)	£7,583 (£3,420/ml.)
Class III	2.39 miles	£5,925 (£2,480/mile)	£13,084** (£5,470/mile)	£6,380 (£2,670/mile)	£5,700 (£2,385/mile)	£5,933 (£2,480/ml.)
Unclassified ..	30.13 miles††	£26,505 (£880/mile)	£24,010 (£844/mile)	£25,385 (£965/mile)	£24,580 (£942/mile)	£26,441 (£1080/ml.)
TOTALS	38.81 miles	£44,800	£44,812	£49,785	£48,630	£43,771

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

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

† Plus widening at Church Brow, Walton-le-Dale (including retaining wall)—£8,400.

†† Last year's mileage—28.41.

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

1.2 M.61 Motorway

Work was begun on the construction of the M.61 Motorway (Manchester to Preston) which joins M.6 near Kittlingborne.

Bridge construction was commenced at:—

Brindle Road—motorway passes under Brindle Road at the U.D. boundary;

Bank Head Lane—motorway passes over Bank Head Lane and the Preston-Blackburn railway;

Blacow Barn Farm—Northbound carriageway of M.61 passes over M.6, and over the re-sited access to Shutlingfields Lane.

1.3 Level Crossing—Station Road A.6

The proposal to provide automatic half barriers was deferred pending the outcome of the Inquiry into the fatal accident on a similar crossing at Hixon.

Emergency work was carried out to the tracks and surface over the crossing by British Rail and the County Council.

1.4 Pedestrian Traffic across A.6

A traffic and pedestrian census was taken on A.6 Station Road near Club Street in order to assess the need for a pedestrian crossing.

The census figures proved conclusively that a crossing was not required.

1.5 Access from A.6 to Atkinson Vehicles maintenance depot.

The new maintenance depot, opened off Club Street, by Atkinson Vehicles, offers a day and night service, and further investigations were made with the object of securing an additional access to A.6 which would be acceptable to the Ministry of Transport.

Agreement was finally reached with the Ministry for a new access to be constructed immediately west of the Queen's Hotel.

Unfortunately the access has not been constructed as Atkinsons met difficulties when attempting to acquire land for the construction of that part of the road which will be between the Company's land and Church Road A.6.

1.6 Club Street—waiting restrictions.

As an expedient and to maintain access to Atkinsons via Club Street, the procedure was begun for introducing a prohibition of waiting along the south side of Club Street.

1.7 A.6 Chorley Road/A.675 Higher Walton Road junction.

The widening of Higher Walton Road to provide two "exit lanes" into A.6 was completed, but the full advantage was not obtainable because of indiscriminate parking of vehicles in the roads approaching the junction.

The preliminary procedure was begun for introducing an extensive prohibition of parking and loading on both sides of A.6 and A.675 approaching the junction.

1.8 Church Brow, B.6230

Following further deterioration of the retaining wall on the south side of Church Brow, the Ministry of Transport was persuaded to amend the priority given to Church Brow improvement scheme.

A scheme, involving the construction of a new retaining wall and widening and improving the road from Victoria Road A.6 to Cooper Hill Drive, was approved and work commenced.

1.9 Knot Lane

Further stages of widening Knot Lane were carried out and a scheme for the final stage was approved, to be carried out after approval of proposals for building on two sites in Knot Lane.

1.10 Public Footpaths

All the important public footpaths were provided with signposts at their junctions with public highways, in anticipation of the powers now conferred by the Countryside Act, 1968.

2. Private Street Works

2.1 The unmade private street problem (excluding back passages) common in most local authorities areas, can be considered to be solved, unless the Council made a policy change where the few remaining unmade streets are within sites designated for other than residential uses.

2.2 Works were completed in 5 streets:—

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

2.3 Estate developers completed road making under Agreements in 17 streets, all of which were adopted as "highways maintainable at public expense":—

Alder Drive, Gregson Lane	Highfield Grove, Lostock Hall;
(Alma Row to No. 15);	Linden Close, Lostock Hall;
Arrowsmith Drive, Gregson Lane (part);	Sergeant Street, Bamber Bridge (part);
Knowsley Drive, Gregson Lane;	Grove Street, Bamber Bridge;
Knowsley Close, Gregson Lane;	Princess Street, Bamber Bridge (part);
Brookhouse Close, Gregson Lane;	Bannister Hall Drive, Higher Walton (part);
Brookhouse Drive, Gregson Lane;	Bannister Hall Crescent, Higher Walton
Lyndale Grove, Lostock Hall;	(part);
Lyndale Avenue, Lostock Hall (part);	Greystock Close, Bamber Bridge.
Un-named street, off Lyndale Avenue;	

3. Street Lighting

3.1 The Council decided that the policy of lighting private builders estates and private streets should be changed and in future street lighting provision be included in builders' road-making Agreements or private street works Apportionments.

3.2 During the year 75 new street lamps were provided, making a total of 1661 in the Urban District:—

Sodium 100 watt	318
Sodium 80 watt	1
Fluorescent 2/20 watt	37
Fluorescent 8 watt	8
Tungsten 500 watt	7
Tungsten 150 watt	501
Tungsten 100 watt	789

3.3 All classified road lighting and some district road lighting (where controlled from classified roads) was changed to all-night lighting.

3.4 Approval was given by the Council to the conversion of all clock controls to light-sensitive controls, and preliminary work was done.

4. Sewage Disposal

4.1 There were some changes in staff at the Pollution Control Works, including the Assistant Manager/Chemist, but there were no difficulties in maintaining service.

4.2 Although house building continued at a high rate, with a consequent increase in population, the average dry weather flow remained at 2.17 million gallons per day, as there were reductions in various trade effluents. The design DWF is 2.2 mgd, which will almost certainly be reached, if not exceeded, during 1969/70.

4.3 "Royal Commission" standard of effluent was consistently maintained—the closing of a factory producing a difficult effluent no doubt assisted in maintaining the standard.

4.4 Extensions of the plant will undoubtedly be required in the near future, but until the present uncertainties of the "New City" are resolved, little can be done, as the future sewage/trade effluent load cannot be forecast.

4.5 The final effluent brick culvert to the River Ribble continues to cause anxiety owing to its age and condition, and a closed circuit TV survey was made of it during the local holidays when tides and flows made this possible. No decision can be taken concerning the future of this culvert until more information is available about the "New City" proposals.

4.6 Various organised parties visited the Works during the year, and an "Open Day" was held and was much better attended than the previous open day.

5. Trade Effluent

5.1 Lancashire Condenseries closed their gluten plant, and therefore it was not necessary to proceed further with their Agreement.

5.2 Further progress was made towards completion of Trade Effluent Agreements, and of the two outstanding, only one presents any further difficulties.

6. Sewers

6.1 The scheme for surface water sewers and storm overflow at Houghton Lane (Coupe Green) was completed and brought into use. All problems arising with the River Authority were satisfactorily resolved.

6.2 Minor works to alleviate overflowing, were carried out to the surface water sewers in Alma Row/Gregson Lane.

7. Flooding

7.1 Total annual rainfall was 41.19 inches, with rather high daily rainfall on 5 occasions:— 1.15 ins. on 13th January; 1.2 ins. on 2nd July; 1.03 ins. on 19th August; 2.41 ins. on 20th September and 1.34 ins. on 1st October.

7.2 Minor flooding by surface water occurred in October at:—

Gregson Lane/Alma Row—2 lower-than-road-level houses;
Withy Grove estate—30" culvert blocked by builders' debris;
Bannister Hall Drive—blocked ditches and drains;

and in November at:—

Withy Grove estate—30" culvert blocked by builders' debris;
Bannister Hall Drive—blocked ditches and drains.

7.3 With the exception of the two low-level houses in Gregson Lane near Alma Row, water did not enter any houses.

7.4 There were no cases of foul sewers overflowing.

8. Council Housing

8.1 Apart from routine maintenance, the only work carried out was to replace the electrical circuits to modern standards in all (except one) "houses in possession".

8.2 A further block of 5 garages was erected at Hennel Lane site.

8.3 A scheme was prepared for the installation of a bathroom and septic tank at the former Waterworks House at Brindle.

9. Private Housing

Private house building continued at a similar rate to last year—320 dwellings being completed during the year (333 in 1967). At the year end 168 dwellings were under construction (261 at the end of 1967).

10. Improvement Grants

Approvals were given for all 39 applications for standard improvement grants.

11. Playing Fields

11.1 Withy Trees—future public open space.

As there was no progress whatever towards acquisition of the site by the Council, or to have the long outstanding planning appeal determined, the Council instructed the Clerk to ask the Minister to reinstate the planning appeal.

Unfortunately no date was fixed for hearing the appeal.

11.2 Children's Playgrounds.

The Council approved a programme for the further phased improvement of children's playgrounds, and:—

St. Cuthbert's Road playground was surfaced and additional drainage provided to the field games area;

Mounsey Road playground was constructed;

A scheme for Gregson Lane playing field, including a car park, access road and improvements to the playground was prepared;

The original cricket wicket area at Gregson Lane was relaid to enable the cricket club to move its wicket and so make the second football pitch available.

11.3 At various Conferences and Meetings held during the year Government and County Officials continued to pay a considerable amount of "lip-service" to joint use and joint planning of recreational facilities, but practical action in Lancashire remains extremely minimal.

12. Plans and Planning

12.1 Building Regulations applications totalled 629, relating to approximately 790 permanent and 119 temporary buildings.

12.2 Planning applications totalled 264—some relating to sites several acres in extent.

13. Staff

For the second successive year there were no changes in the staff of my Department — a pleasant change from the constant staff movements of past years, and probably due to the Council having accepted "career grades" covering technical staff.

14. Transport

The usage of the Department's vehicles is shewn by the following table:—

<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Miles</i>	<i>Petrol (gallons)</i>	<i>M.P.G.</i>	
Bedford Sweeper	June 1957	6,500	943	6.9	To be replaced
Karrier Gulley-emptier ..	April 1958	4,004	1,176	3.7	
Morris Van	Apr. 1965	16,214	530	30.6	
Fordson 3-ton tipper (PTE)	Aug. 1965	8,383	841	10.0	
Fordson 3-ton tipper (RTC)	Sept. 1965	9,311	876	10.6	
Morris flat truck	Aug. 1967	10,232	572	17.9	New Vehicle
Ford 3-ton (NTJ)	Nov. 1968	2,780	156	9.0	
Totals:	—	56,450	5,094	—	

Demonstrations of modern suction road sweepers were arranged, and an order placed for a Yorkshire Karrier suction sweeper to replace the Bedford sweeper.

STANLEY RACE,

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

Engineer and Surveyor.

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