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Warrington
Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

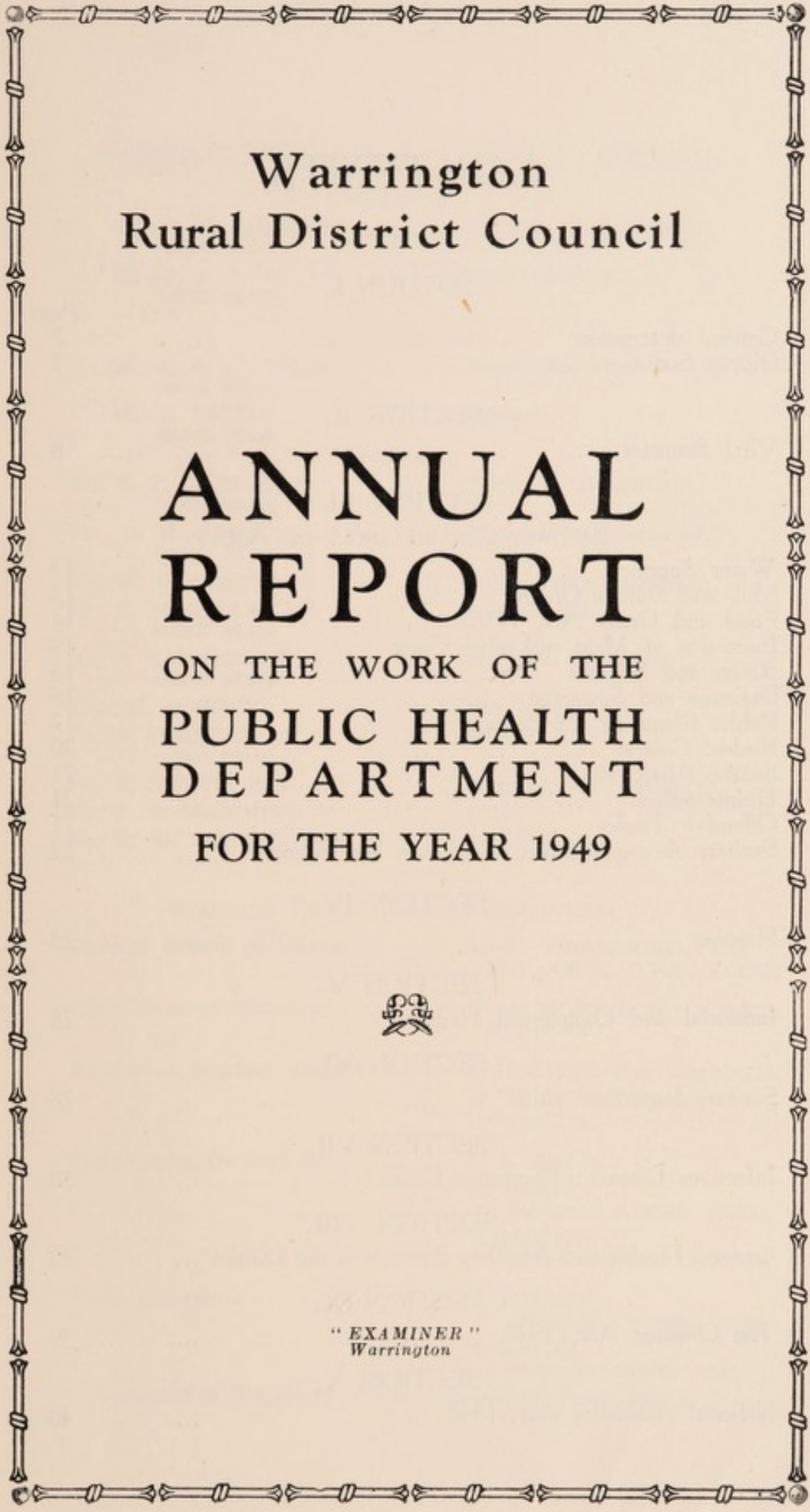
ON THE WORK OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1949



" EXAMINER "
Warrington





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Rural District Council

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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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(until May)		
Mr. J. J. P. PALIN	Great Sankey.
(since May)		

Vice-Chairman:

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(until May)		
Mr. J. UPTON	Penketh.
(since May)		

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(since May)		
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STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health	A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	.. ..	W. A. MORRISON,* M.R.S.I., A.M.Inst.P.C.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	.. ..	S. REEVES,* B.A., Cert.S.I.B. W. T. DITCHFIELD,* Cert.S.I.B.
Clerical and General Staff	.. ..	F. A. SMITH. H. HIRST (resigned August, 1949). J. BARLOW (since October, 1949).
Pupil Inspectors	.. ..	L. FOXLEY (resigned October, 1949). B. L. FOX (since November, 1949).

*—Qualified Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.).

WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN,
MRS. NICOL AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your perusal my Report on the health conditions of the Rural District for the year 1949, a year which has seen the steady consolidation and fulfilment of schemes engendered by the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, both of which became operative on the "appointed day" of 5th July, 1948. As stated in my report for the previous year, changes in administrative responsibilities proceeded smoothly, and have since continued to do so: the last major amendment being the assumption of full responsibility for the Ambulance Service by the County Council, on 1st February, 1949. Thus only one of the major provisions of the Health Service Act which prescribe the Local Health Authorities' duties now remains unfulfilled, i.e., the provision and administration of Health Centres: but the implementation of this plan must perforce remain in abeyance pending improvement in the national and international political and economic situations, and a more ready supply of labour and building materials.

So far as the Vital Statistics of the district are concerned, there has been a slight decline in the Live Birth Rate and a slight increase in the Crude Death Rate over the figures for 1948: but both these rates are lower than those for the given general average of the years 1944-48, especially in the case of the Live Birth Rate, which shows a drop of 4.4 live births per 1,000 population on the previous quinquennial mean. The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis, which is the same as for 1948, is somewhat less than the mean for the previous five years, whereas the Cancer death rate shows an increase not only on that for the previous year, but also on the quinquennial average. It is satisfactory to note

that no maternal deaths associated with child-birth occurred during the year, nor were any notifications of puerperal pyrexia or of puerperal fever recorded: but the number of infant deaths, and the infant mortality rate rose steeply over the corresponding figures for 1948 (when the rate was naturally low at 35 per 1,000 live births) to a rate of 50 as against a mean rate of 53 for the years 1944-48. Although this circumstance can only be regarded as disappointing, it is not considered that it need cause undue alarm; having regard to the relatively small numbers involved, considerable fluctuations on the annual figure are only to be expected. Nevertheless, this important index figure compares unfavourably with the general downward trend throughout the country as a whole, the rate for England and Wales for the same year being a new low record of 32.

In regard to causes of death, diseases of the heart continue to be the principal causes of death, contributing 56 out of a total of 228, or almost one quarter of the total. Next comes "Cancer," claiming 46 victims, which in turn is followed by intra-cranial vascular lesions (20), bronchitis (19), pneumonia (14) and other circulatory diseases (12).

Out of a total of 341 cases of notifiable diseases (excluding Tuberculosis), no fewer than 126 cases of Scarlet Fever were included, the majority of which occurred in school children between 5 and 10 years of age: the incidence of this disease thus showed a very considerable increase over the figure of 1948 (30). On the other hand, the incidence of both Measles (143) and of Whooping Cough (26) was considerably less than the figures of the previous year, the figures for which were 326 and 106 respectively.

Seventeen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, as against 21 in 1948; eight deaths occurring as compared with seven in the previous year. It need not, of course, be emphasised that with such small numbers it is not possible to draw conclusions which would be sound statistically.

The sanitary circumstances which give rise to most concern are: unsatisfactory and insufficient houses, lack of proper drainage and sewerage facilities in many areas, lack of piped water supply to isolated dwellings, nuisances arising from offensive trades, the pollution of natural water-courses, the last of which is of necessity closely allied to and dependent on adequate drainage and sewerage schemes,

The year 1949 is the first full calendar year during which the changes in administration brought about by the National Health Service Act, 1946, have been in operation, and I have therefore thought it relevant and advisable (and in accordance with my duties as prescribed by the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935) to report as concisely as I may on the ancillary Health Services of the County Council (as the "Local Health Authority") — which are available to the public of the Rural District. Without doubt, these services must of necessity have a most important bearing on Communal Health.

On balance it would be fair to say that the general position, whilst on the whole satisfactory, gives no ground for complacency. Much remains to be done, and constant vigilance and effort is called for in order not merely to maintain, but to improve the true health of the populace.

I would take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all members of the Council and to my colleagues on the staff, particularly those in the Health Department, for their ever-ready assistance, support and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Nicol and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SECTION I.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Warrington Rural District is situate in the South-west of the County of Lancaster. It is bordered on the North by the districts of the County Borough of St. Helens and the Urban Districts of Newton-le-Willows and Golborne; to the East is the Urban District of Irlam, and on the West is the Rural District of Whiston and the Borough of Widnes. The southern boundary, which is also the County boundary, is the Manchester Ship Canal.

The area of the district is approximately 35 square miles, being 14 miles from east to west, with a narrow waist of about two miles in the centre between Warrington and Newton, broadening to an average width of about six miles.

Agriculture is the principal occupation in the area, but there are in the more urban parishes a variety of industries, including tanning, light engineering, brewing, brick and paint works.

The area is, as a whole, comparatively low lying with only a gentle undulation to relieve the otherwise flat landscape. The fall of the land is to the south, with the streams and brooks discharging into the River Mersey, which winds its way across the southern portion of the district only slightly to the north of the Manchester Ship Canal.

DISTRICT STATISTICS..

Area (acres)	22,840
Estimated population — 1949	27,560
Number of inhabited houses	6,493
Rateable value	£171,144
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£670
Births assignable to district	417
Deaths assignable to district	228
“ Natural increase ”	189

SECTION II.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births — Legitimate	223	184	407
Illegitimate	8	2	10
	<u>231</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>417</u>

Live Birth Rate — 15.1 per 1,000 population.

	M.	F.	Total
STILL BIRTHS :	7	5	12

Still Birth Rate — 28.0 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total
DEATHS :			
General	117	111	228
Death Rates	"Crude" 8.3	"Adjusted" 10.2	

The "Adjusted" death rate is the "Crude" death rate after adjustment by a "comparability factor" supplied by the Registrar General.

INFANT DEATHS (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age):

Total Infant Mortality Rate — 50.

	M.	F.	Total
	15	6	21

Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants — 49.

Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants — 100.

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Nil.

Maternal Death Rate — Nil.

RATES PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000		Rate of Deaths under one year per 1,000 Live Births
					Live Births	Total (live & still) Births	
Mean of 5 years—							
1944-1948	19.5	9.7	0.33	1.45	3.07	2.98	53
Year 1948	16.5	7.8	0.22	1.14	2.23	2.17	35
1949	15.1	8.3	0.22	1.67	Nil	Nil	50
Increase or decrease in 1949 on 5 years average							
1944-1948	-4.4	-1.4	-0.11	+0.22	-3.07	-2.98	- 3
Previous year ..	-1.4	+0.5	Nil	+0.53	-2.23	-2.17	+15

COMPARISON OF BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND
ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY.

	Warrington Rural. 1948.	1949.	England & Wales. 1949.
	Rate per 1,000 population.		
BIRTHS—			
Live	16.5	15.1	16.7
Still	0.40	0.28	0.39
DEATHS—			
All causes	7.8	10.2	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0.03	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.22	0.28	0.45
Influenza	0.07	0.25	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis...	0.00	0.03	0.01
Pneumonia	0.33	0.50	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS—			
Typhoid Fever	0.03	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.03	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.00	0.00	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.11	4.57	1.63
Whooping Cough	3.92	0.94	2.39
Diphtheria	0.03	0.00	0.04
Erysipelas	0.11	0.21	0.19
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	12.07	5.18	8.95
Pneumonia	0.88	1.27	0.80
Ac. Poliomyelitis	0.00	0.03	0.13
Ac. Polio-encephalitis	0.00	0.03	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.00	0.14
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births		
DEATHS—			
All causes (under 1 year of age)...	35	50	32
Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0.00	3.20	3.00
MATERNAL MORTALITY—			
Abortion with Sepsis	0.00	0.00	0.11
Abortion without Sepsis	0.00	0.00	0.05
Puerperal Infections	0.00	0.00	0.11
Other causes	0.00	0.00	0.71
Total	0.00	0.00	0.98
NOTIFICATIONS—			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	0.00	0.00	6.31

BIRTHS—	Males	Females	Total
Born in and belonging to the District	217	180	397
Born outside but belonging to the District	14	6	20
	<u>231</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>417</u>

DEATHS—

The total number of Deaths registered in the District was 263. 125 of these were of non-residents and have been transferred to the district in which they usually reside.

90 residents of this area died in other districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	117	111	228
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	3	6
Tuberculosis — other forms	—	2	2
Syphilis	—	—	—
Influenza	2	5	7
Measles	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	1	1
Infec. encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav. oesoph, uterus	3	1	4
.. .. stomach and duodenum	5	3	8
.. .. breast	—	3	3
.. .. all other sites	22	9	31
Diabetes	1	2	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	13	20
Heart disease	25	31	56
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	9	12
Bronchitis	12	7	19
Pneumonia	9	5	14
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3

	Males	Females	Total
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	7	1	8
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	1	2	3
Nephritis	1	2	3
Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	—	—
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	5	2	7
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Act	2	2	4
Other violent causes	3	3	6
All other causes	3	4	7

SECTION III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

A piped supply of water extends throughout the area, with the exception of some isolated farms and cottages. The principal supplier is Warrington Corporation, but a small area of Cuerdley parish is supplied by Liverpool Corporation.

In general, the supply is good both as to quantity and pressure. However, serious shortages have occurred in both Burtonwood and Great Sankey. Strong representations have been made to the Warrington Corporation, in particular regarding the supply to Knockers Green Estate, Great Sankey. The Water Engineer promised to have this question investigated with a view to appropriate remedial measures being undertaken.

Representation was made to the owners of several farms for a public supply to be laid on, full information as to the availability for grants being given. It is unfortunate that so few farm owners took advantage of these facilities, although it must be admitted that the farmers in question were not themselves prepared to pay an increased rental for this improvement.

PARISH	From Public Mains			From Private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses	By means of stand pipe		No. of dwelling houses	No. of population
	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population		
Burtonwood	573	4	16	6	24
Croft	363	4	15	2	7
Cuerdley	37	—	—	—	—
Penketh	1175	—	—	2	6
Poulton	1437	—	—	3	13
Rixton	444	—	—	4	14
Sankey	1332	1	1	—	—
Winwick plus Mental Hospital...	407	1	2	3	8
Woolston	694	—	—	—	—
Total	6462	10	34	20	72

MILK SUPPLIES.

The duties of inspection and registration of producers of milk have been transferred as from the 30th September to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is to be regretted that this further duty of Local Authorities should be transferred, and no doubt the tracing and remedying of dirty milk will be rendered more difficult than ever, due to the administrative set up. However, more time should be spent on the remaining Local Authorities' functions, i.e., registration and control of dairies and the sampling of milk for Tubercle Bacilli. This class of sampling must be pressed forward with the utmost vigour if supplies of Tuberculous milk are to be eliminated.

The routine inspection of all cow-sheds and dairies was carried out up to the 30th September, 1949, and, where considered necessary, notices were served on the cow-keeper for the improvement of his premises.

Milk sampling was regularly carried out and milk was tested for B.Coli, B.Tuberculosis and Methylene Blue Test.

The following statistics indicate the extent to which this work has been pursued :—

Number of registered Producers	45
.. .. Retail Dairymen registered	13
.. .. Producers of Accredited Milk	15
.. .. Bacteriological samples taken	72
.. .. Samples satisfactory	40
.. .. Samples examined for T.B. Bacilli	26
.. .. Samples found to contain T.B. Bacilli	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Number of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	6
.. .. Pasteurised Milk	10
.. .. Supplementary licences	16

The number of samples of milk considered satisfactory appears, from these results, to be very low, but this is entirely due to the fact that the samples taken were, in the main, ^{From} unsatisfactory producers, and includes a large proportion of "follow up" samples.

FOOD HYGIENE.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the details of food samples taken under the above Act.

A total of 91 samples was obtained, 52 being of milk and the 39 others comprising :—

3 butter.	5 cooking fat.
3 margarine.	4 table salt.
3 aspirin tablets.	1 disprin tablets.
1 prunes.	1 candid peel.
2 dried beans.	1 extract of malt with cod liver oil.
2 blancmange powder.	1 cornflour.
1 pudding mixture.	1 cheese.
4 epsom salts.	4 cocoa.
2 gravy browning.	

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following :—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
One formal milk ...	Freezing point indicated the presence of 3.1% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned.
One formal milk ...	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.1% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned.

FOOD POISONING.

No notifications were received in respect of Food Poisoning.

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

All premises used for the preparation and storage of foodstuffs, grocers, butchers, ice-cream suppliers and bakehouses were regularly inspected.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1544
Number inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1544
All diseases, except <i>T.B.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	165
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than <i>T.B.</i> ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	11%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	19
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	98
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7.6%
4,513 lbs. Sweetened			20 tins	Peaches.	
Piccalilli.			6 ..	Plums.	
170 .. Pork and offal.			5 ..	Pears.	
168 .. Frozen beef :			30 ..	Pineapple.	
Argentine.			4 ..	Fruit salad.	
1 .. Vegetable pickles.			6 ..	Tomatoes.	
11 .. Salmon.			24 ..	Peas.	
6 .. Baked beans.			36 ..	Evaporated milk.	
62 .. Tinned tomatoes.			2 ..	Celery cuts.	
14 .. Apples.			2 ..	Carrots.	
10 .. Special margarine.			5 ..	Herrings.	
7 .. Dried prunes.			2 ..	Beef loaf.	
4 .. Prunes in syrup.			3 ..	Meat and vegetable stew.	
60½ .. Various jams and marmalade.			2 ..	Russian soup.	
1 .. Dried figs.			3 ..	Veal loaf.	
36 .. Black puddings.			1 ..	Mince beef loaf.	
6 .. Corned beef.			2 ..	Grapes.	
2 .. Oxford sausage.			5 ..	Cherries.	
12 .. Tongue.			2 ..	Vegetable soup.	
3¾ .. Meat and gravy.			2 ..	Fruit juice.	
5½ .. Tea.			1 ..	Mixed vegetable.	
4 .. Salmon : Grade II.			1 ..	Strained carrots.	
2 .. Pork and vegetable rations.			1 ..	Spinach.	

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The area is traversed from north to south by two main streams—the Sankey Brook and the River Glaze. Across the southern boundary runs the River Mersey, the eventual outlet for these streams. There are several smaller brooks winding through the area, but none of any particular note.

The fact that these brooks exist seems to have provided a wonderful opportunity for building development — a ready-made drainage system to hand. The rapid development of the area since the middle twenties has now changed these brooks into open sewers.

The development of a proper sewerage system is required to remove the extensive pollution and, until this occurs, then our rivers and streams will remain as such in name only.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The drainage from over 70 per cent. of the properties in the area consists of treatment in a so-called septic tank with a subsequent discharge of the effluent into the nearest ditch or stream. The effluent, in the majority of cases, resembles far too closely the sewage at the intake pipe, and the consequent fouling of the ditch into which it pours does not need any description.

The cleaning of these septic tanks and ditches is carried out by the Surveyor's Department. At the present time the whole of the work is performed manually — an unenviable task. However, the provision of a mechanical cesspool emptier, which is to be delivered during 1950, should do much to speed up and simplify certain aspects of this work.

The sewerage systems in the area are small and out-of-date. A small area of willow beds in Burtonwood is supposed to deal with the sewage from that parish but, in actual fact, little benefit is derived from this treatment. A small settling tank and circular filter deals with a small estate in Glazebrook but, again, the effluent is unsatisfactory. The remaining sewage drains via septic tanks of varying size and construction to the open sewers, i.e., the streams.

Several schemes are in course of preparation to clear up these abominable systems. A scheme for the parishes of Poulton and Woolston is being prepared by the Surveyor's Department, the Public Enquiry for which is to be held in 1950. The scheme for the parishes of Penketh and Great Sankey is in the hands of a firm of consulting engineers, and it is expected that the Enquiry into this scheme will be held in the not-too-distant future. One can only hope that these schemes will be speedily transferred from paper into actual fact.

The Sankey Valley Scheme has been commenced but is progressing slowly. The project is vast and no doubt several years will elapse before

the trunk sewers will relieve Sankey Brook of its load of filth and enable it to assume a more natural colour.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse, together with its ancillary functions by the Local Authority, is under the control of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. The collection service, which is weekly, is carried out by special-type refuse vehicles, namely Karrier "Derby" type, with loaders' cab. This type of machine has a good overall appearance and, when kept in a clean condition, is no more objectionable in a public thoroughfare than any other commercial vehicle. This type of machine was decided upon because the body design reduces, to a great extent, the dissemination of dust while being loaded, and although not as dustless as the specialised rear-loading machine, it is sufficiently effective, while being at the same time simple in construction and easy to maintain.

Due to the fairly long distances that machines have to travel from the depot, the inclusion of the loaders in the driver's cab is obviously a desirable feature. Certainly the weather protection and additional safety provided appear to be thoroughly appreciated by the workmen.

The collection of pail contents is carried out weekly by a similar machine. A detachable tank is mounted on rollers inside the body, a method which simplifies both loading and unloading. Supplies of both liquid and powder disinfectants are carried in order that pail compartments and pails may be treated as required. This machine is kept particularly clean and eye-sweet, but the fact remains that the only effective solution to this objectionable task is the conversion of every pail closet in the district.

All workmen are provided with protective clothing, and although this provision is by no means cheap, yet it is a feature that is now a necessity if workmen are to be encouraged to engage in this class of work. The scheme, briefly, is that a new set of overalls is issued in April and October; rubber boots are provided during inclement weather as required, and an issue is made of a heavy twill mackintosh to each man. The mackintosh is retained in the depot each night and is not allowed to be taken home. Each man is made responsible for the care of his own clothing and must hand in each article of equipment before a re-issue is made.

The provision of dustbins and sanitary pails is carried out by the Local Authority as a rate charge and enables unsatisfactory bins and pails to be replaced with the minimum of delay. The storage of refuse at the home, pending collection, must obviously be in a hygienic manner, and this can only be effected by the provision of a proper receptacle. B.S.S. bins are purchased in bulk and delivered weekly. Weekly reports are received from each driver of the bins and pails requiring replacement, the addresses are checked in a card index file, the bin or pail is inspected, and delivery notes are signed by the house-

holder. Where a bin is being mis-used, a visit is paid by an inspector, when the householder is warned that they will be held liable for replacement. Three sizes of bins are issued — $3\frac{1}{4}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 cubic feet, the size of bin being decided by the type of house and size of family.

A depot was provided at a site in Hawthorne Avenue, Woolston, during the year and consists of an eight-bay garage provided with two pits, a small storeroom and a small room for the storage of clothing and messing purposes. A large washdown area is provided, and when this depot is fully developed the district will have facilities of which it can be justly proud. Equipment provided includes an air compressor, battery charger, plug cleaner, and pressure greaser. Regular cleaning and maintenance is carried out each week on a task system. Thorough and regular maintenance is an essential to any transport fleet and ensures that the minimum of standing time occurs to any vehicle. The washing and polishing of the vehicle inculcates a feeling of pride among the workmen and enables faults to be quickly spotted and rectified.

The disposal of dry refuse takes place at several tips throughout the area and, although sometimes they are not as "controlled" as one would wish, they are a decided improvement over past methods of disposal. A Chaseside Light Excavator-cum-Bulldozer is employed to excavate soil and cover the tipping sites. Wire netting screens are provided to prevent nuisance by blowing paper, and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the sites are satisfactory.

Disposal at the Sankey tip is made difficult, due to the reception of waste from the Burtonwood aerodrome, this difficulty being due to both the quantity and type of refuse. This site, unfortunately, appears to be the only suitable area in the district where disposal can be made. A fixed charge is made for each load delivered to the site.

The gradually-increasing number of houses of the semi-detached and detached type, and the conversion of hostel sites into flats has, because of long carries, considerably increased the collection time since the end of the war. A special twice weekly collection of refuse is made from certain hostel sites, and a thrice weekly emptying of pails is made from the aerodrome. For these additional services a special charge is made.

STATISTICS :

Machines employed—

Austin 2-ton general purpose lorry	1
Karrier Bantam, with detachable top	1
Karrier Bantam, with "Derby" body	1
Karrier CK.3, with "Derby" body	3
Chaseside excavator	1
Trailers	3

Workmen—

Number of Drivers	7
„ Labourers: all classes	20
Foreman	1

Dustbins and Pails—

Number of Dustbins provided	784
„ Pails provided	216

Loads tipped by the R.A.F., Burtonwood, at Sankey Refuse Tip:—

1949.	No of loads at 2/6d. per load.	£	s.	d.
May	133	16	12	6
June	222	27	15	0
July	223	27	17	6
August	102	12	15	0
September	65	8	2	6
October	82	10	5	0
November	458	57	5	0
December	568	71	0	0
Total	1,853	£231	12	6

Number of sanitary pails emptied for the U.S.A.F. at Burtonwood:—

20 pails emptied three times per week:

Total income	£141	1	2
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SALVAGE.

The direct collection of Salvage has been confined solely to waste paper and cardboard. Due to the scattered nature of the area and the number of tipping sites, it is not considered that other materials could be separated and sold at a profit.

The collection of waste paper is made by means of large covered trailers behind a refuse collection vehicle. The provision of a smart trailer serves a two-fold purpose — a good advertisement, and, secondly, a more suitable collection method. The system of using a number of sacks swaying drunkenly from the back of a vehicle reminds one of a rag and bone merchant, and a Local Authority must surely use a much more prepossessing method.

Shops and large business premises are visited once each week by a special vehicle. The sorting of paper at the tips has had to be confined to cardboard boxes, due to the unsatisfactory condition of the paper after mixing with the household refuse.

Each vehicle carries a large daylight reflector sign bearing the words "WE COLLECT YOUR PAPER." No posters are posted on the vehicle or trailer, as this is considered unsightly. Any district from which collections fall off is visited by a workman temporarily attached to the refuse collection gang, who visits each house prior to the ashbin-men and asks for all wastepaper, etc., to be put out on the bin each week. These personal visits have a good effect on the householder and emphasise to the ashbin-men the continual necessity of this class of work. No special drives or publicity displays were held.

No difficulty was experienced during the year in disposing of this material, and although the price was considerably reduced, the net income can be considered most satisfactory. This is in no small measure due to the fact that only one baler is employed.

Kitchen waste is collected by a private contractor from two hostel sites. These sites were canvassed, bins were hired out to the contractor, and arrangements made for suitable collection times. No complaints have been received of this service.

STATISTICS :

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	Value
				£ s. d.
Amount of waste paper sold ...	178	10	1	1,093 3 11
Bonus from Board of Trade on collection				71 5 0
Totals	178	10	1	£1,164 8 11

The weight of kitchen waste collected was approximately 60 tons.

The salvage figures represent an increase of 49 tons 6 cwts. 1 qr. above the 1948 figures, at an increased value (including bonus) of £297 17s. 5d.

RODENT CONTROL.

The recommendations of the Ministry of Food are pursued in this sphere of work. One operative is engaged whole-time and the methods used are those recommended by the Ministry. Both the operative and the general foreman have undertaken special instruction courses organised by the Ministry.

All Local Authority's properties, refuse tips, sewerage works, etc., were regularly inspected and treated. The sewers and sewer ditches were test-baited and treated where necessary. Fortunately, no major infestations were discovered, due, no doubt, to the fact that the systems flood in periods of heavy rain.

On private properties, treatment is carried out by agreement. Private houses are charged where the costs are recoverable, but all business

premises are charged the full cost of treatment. The two offensive trade factories are both classed as areas of reservoir infestation, and both have private contracts in force with service operators.

This work is now the duty of a Local Authority, and effective measures must be undertaken to ensure that the rat population is kept to a minimum. The interest of the Central Authority is obvious by the fact that a 50 per cent. grant on approved expenditure is obtained from the Ministry of Food.

STATISTICS :

The number of infestation treatments were as follows :—

	Major.	Minor.
Business premises	25	4
Private dwellings	2	152
Local Authority	21	56

In addition, 110 manholes were test-baited.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Regular observations have been made of all factory chimneys for smoke emission. No serious problem is created in the area, but where necessary, informal steps have been taken to bring to the notice of the management the nuisance being created. In each case, prompt action has been taken. It is pleasing to note that in this branch of work pleasant and effective relations are maintained with the factory managers, so that formal proceedings have been completely unnecessary.

VERMINOUS AND FILTHY PREMISES.

The days when the serious infestation by bugs, of numbers of houses, seems to have gone, certainly so in this district. The residual toxicity of D.D.T. seems to have provided a long-awaited answer to the problem. Very few houses required treatment and, of these, the infestations were not heavy.

Occasional filthy houses have been dealt with, and what appears most surprising is the fact that the houses in question are of comparatively modern construction.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two offensive trades in the area, both of which require considerable supervision. The trades carried out are fat extraction, bone boiling, and glue making. One factory is also combined with a Knackers' yard and produces pet foods.

Improvements and the remedy of nuisances have been obtained by informal measures, but it is regrettable that the nature of the work and the class of premises necessitate so much inspectoral time. The com-

plaints received were not in themselves numerous in number, but in each case were more than justified.

Control is exercised by means of issuing quarterly licences only to each factory. This procedure is considered more effective than the issue of statutory notices.

To prevent flies, each factory was asked to inaugurate a fly spray patrol, whereby the whole of the premises were treated with D.D.T. insecticides twice per day. This system has proved of marked benefit.

The production of pet foods, particularly those which have an appearance similar to cooked foods sold for human consumption, would seem to require stronger statutory control. These foods are not produced to the same standards of cleanliness as human food and are based on knacker meat. The confusion that exists with this meat and the fact that it is handled, cut and prepared in the homes with household utensils, and on the same table as the family meal is prepared, seems to indicate that a loophole of not inconsiderable dimensions exists in food legislation.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION OF HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.

The fact that the majority of houses in the area are of comparatively modern construction, and that ditches and streams were available for the discharge of effluents has, in spite of the lack of sewerage systems, been responsible for the majority having water closets with treatment by means of a septic tank. Over 70 per cent. of the houses in the district are so fitted. The remaining number are provided with pail closets. Middens and ashpits are now things of the past, and one can but hope that the same could be said for pail closets.

It is regrettable that some schools have not yet been equipped with water closets. The generous offer of the Council to provide a 50 per cent. grant towards approved schemes has been treated as a poor incentive. One school only — and that the smallest in the area — saw fit to take advantage of this offer. There are now four schools still provided with pail closets: Rixton C.E., Woolston C.E., Martinscroft R.C., and Padgate C.E.

Every school is provided with a piped supply of water, but the method of supplying drinking water is very much out of date.

One of the most disturbing features of sanitary facilities at the schools is that the standard of repair and cleanliness leaves much to be desired in many cases. Far too often, cisterns are left unrepaired, lavatory seats broken or missing, doors broken, and with an air of neglect pervading the whole layout. More attention should, and must, be paid to these conditions — and without the necessity of a notice from this department.

SECTION IV.

HOUSING.

The housing problem still looms large as the major problem requiring an early solution. This problem may be considered in three sections :—

1. The re-housing of those people living in lodgings and overcrowded conditions.
2. The re-housing of those people living in houses requiring demolition.
3. The repair of insanitary houses.

The answer to sections 1 and 2 is easy — the speedy erection of a sufficient number of houses of all types, but section 3 brings forward a difficulty not wholly connected with the question of supplies or building problems. The fact that the maximum number of houses able to be constructed in any one year is allocated by the Central Authority, coupled with the serious administrative delays occasioned by present-day controls, would seem to indicate that it will be many years before our problem is settled. The repair of insanitary houses, unfortunately, is all too closely connected with the value of the pound and while the rents of these houses remain at their present level, owners are very loathe to put their houses into a satisfactory condition.

The repair of these houses has been pressed most strongly. The two principal methods available to enable this work to be done are :—

- (1) The nuisance section of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (2) Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

In the main, action has been taken under the Public Health Act, and, although procedure is slow, action in Court has indicated that Statutory Notices must be complied with. The alternative measure means that a considerable amount of public money would be tied up in carrying out the necessary repairs and the Council, in their wisdom, have been loathe to incur this heavy expenditure.

The statistics below indicate the housing progress.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

	Prefabricated		Traditional permanent.
	Temporary.	Permanent.	
Local Authority	Nil	52	22
Other bodies and persons ...	Nil	Nil	12

INSPECTION OF EXISTING PROPERTIES.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	415
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,297
2. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
3. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	414

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

1. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	296
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	77
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By Owners	63
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	4

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

LEGAL ACTION.

Action through the Courts has been pressed during this year, a procedure not previously adopted. In each case the Council has been represented by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The principal effect of this policy has been that the resultant publicity of each case has caused Statutory Notices to be treated with much greater respect, especially by the larger agents. Prompt attention is being given to all notices and, as the year progressed, the number of Statutory Notices decreased.

The experience gained this year indicates that the support of the Court will be given when the case is properly presented and the case warrants their powers. The extra work involved in preparing the cases has been amply repaid.

COURT CASES.

<i>Address :</i>	<i>Nuisance :</i>	<i>Court decision :</i>
16-24 Chapel Lane, Burtonwood.	Housing defects	(1) Nuisance Orders granted. (2) Fine of £5 on each summons imposed for non-compliance.
194-195 Manchester Road, Woolston.	Housing defects.	Application for Nuisance Order withdrawn. Work completed after adjournment.
74 Penny Lane, Collins Green.	Housing defects.	Nuisance Order granted for 56 days.
20 Chapel Lane, Burtonwood.	Housing defects.	(1) Nuisance Order granted. (2) Daily penalty of £1 after 14 days for non-compliance.
74 Penny Lane, Collins Green.	Housing defects.	(1) Nuisance Order granted. (2) Fine of £5 for non-compliance.
20 Chapel Lane, Burtonwood.	Obstruction by tenant to building contractor	Tenant to allow access.
74 Penny Lane, Collins Green.	Housing defects.	Nuisance Order suspended for 14 days on promise of early start on work.
24, 26, 28, 30 Victoria Road, Penketh.	Housing defects.	Nuisance Order to carry out repairs within 21 days.

Attendance at the Court is necessary on the application for a Nuisance Order, followed by a further visit when a penalty is applied for on the owner's non-compliance with the Nuisance Order. A total of 11 attendances was made at Court in connection with these cases,

SECTION V.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are now 37 factories registered in the area, the principal being engaged in tanning, light engineering, wire-rope making, and brewing.

Routine inspections are made and, where considered desirable, the attention of H.M. Inspector of Factories has been drawn. Particular attention has been paid to the standards of hygiene practised in the canteens. Some of these are maintained and run to the highest standards, but, in others, constant supervision is necessary. A special approach is made to each manageress and staff to ensure that scrupulous attention is paid to personal hygiene. Circulars and posters have been provided for use within the canteens and kitchens.

Good co-operation has existed with all factory managements, and in no case has there been any necessity for statutory action on any of the matters for which the Local Authority is responsible.

The duty of issuing certificates for the means of escape in case of fire is one for which this department is responsible. These certificates need to be amended from time to time, due to the alteration in the number of employees and building extensions.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Certain duties in the inspection of shops devolve on this Authority and certain on the County Council. The inspectoral duties of the County Council have now been delegated to this Authority. The procedure is for bi-annual reports to be sent to the County on the matters for which they hold responsibility, and for action to be taken where needed by the County Council. It is unfortunate that this procedure discourages the Inspector concerned in taking more than a cursory interest in this sphere of work.

It has not been found necessary to take any statutory action for any of the requirements under the purview of this Council, all recommendations having been dealt with informally.

The inspection of offices is a duty imposed by the Public Health

Act, 1936, and is, fortunately, one which does not give rise to any serious problem. No instances have arisen where any action has been necessary.

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE STORAGE.

The number of Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium are as follows:—

Number of Licences to store Petroleum	51
,, gallons of storage capacity	67,910
,, Licences to store Carbide	7
Total amount of Carbide permitted	6,382 lbs.
Number of Licences to store other spirits	5

Total amount of Fees paid:—

	£	s.	d.
Petroleum	36	15	0
Carbide of Calcium	2	5	0
Cellulose	1	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£40	5	0
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SECTION VI.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS,
1949.

Water supply	15
Drainage	235
Stables and Piggeries	17
Offensive trades	7
Fried fish shops	34
Common Lodging-houses	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	50
Factories	52
Workshops	12
Bakehouses	28
Theatres	6
Refuse collection	242
„ disposal	236
Defective bins	370
„ pails	80
Rats and Mice	11
Smoke observations	1
Schools	8
Shops Act	249
Swimming Baths	3
Salvage	550
Petroleum	36
Housing applications and visits	49
Miscellaneous	65

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Number of houses inspected	408
Visits paid to above houses	1,284

UNDER HOUSING ACTS

Number of houses inspected	7
Visits paid to above houses	13

OVERCROWDING

Number of houses inspected	1
Visits paid to above houses	2

VERMINOUS PREMISES

Number of houses inspected	7
Visits paid to above houses	12
Miscellaneous housing visits	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	79
Visits re disinfection	68
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	3

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD

Visits to Slaughter-houses	68
" " Shops and Stalls	2
" " Other premises	1
Total Meat Inspection Visits	71
Visits to Butchers	5
" " Fishmongers and Poulterers	5
" " Grocers	31
" " Greengrocers and Fruiterers	6
" " Cowsheds	47
" " Dairies and Milk-shops	44
" " Ice-cream premises	46
" " Food-preparing premises	13
" " Restaurants	5
" " Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	6
Milk samples—	
Bacteriological	67
T.B.	20
Miscellaneous food visits	5

SECTION VII.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE — INCIDENCE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1949.
There were 341 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. This table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified and the number removed to Hospital.

DISEASE	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total cases removed to Hospital	C.M.H. Winwick
Scarlet Fever	126	...	2	6	10	19	72	15	...	1	1	...	...	73	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	143	7	22	26	19	12	53	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	26	1	5	8	1	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	35	1	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	4	2	4	8	...	12
Dysentery	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
Polio-myelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Polio-encephalitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Paratyphoid Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Totals	341	9	29	42	30	40	129	20	—	7	4	6	8	76	17

TUBERCULOSIS.

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
10 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	1	2	1	...	2	1	...	...
35	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
45	2	1	...	...	2	2	...	...
55 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...
Totals	7	7	2	1	4	3	...	1
Grand Totals ..	14		3		7		1	

SECTION VIII.

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens, samples of milk, food, "swabs," etc. for bacteriological investigation are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service, either at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, or at the Laboratory at Monsall Green, Monsall, Manchester. The chemical analysis of water samples and of samples of food and drugs is undertaken at the County Analyst's Department, County Offices, Preston.

(2) HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board: Warrington and District Hospital Management Committee.)

The district contains no general hospitals within its boundaries, but it is, of course, well served by those within the County Borough of Warrington: the Warrington Infirmary and the General Hospital, Warrington, for general and specialised types of cases, e.g., orthopaedic and maternity cases; the latter type of cases from the Rural District are admitted also to the Warrington Maternity Home, Victoria Park, Latchford. Cases of infectious disease (other than Smallpox) requiring hospital treatment are accommodated at the Isolation Hospital, Warrington; cases of Smallpox, should these occur, are admitted to the special Smallpox Hospital at Great Sankey, which is the only hospital actually situated within the district.

In addition to the above, accommodation in hospitals administered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee is not uncommonly utilised by residents in the Rural area, particularly the County Hospital, Whiston, for maternity cases. Finally, cases requiring highly specialised treatment for pediatric orthopaedic, ophthalmic, gynaecological and ear, nose and throat defects may be admitted by arrangement to any of the "teaching hospitals" attached to the Universities of Liverpool or Manchester.

(3) AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Full responsibility for the Ambulance Services to be provided under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act was assumed by the Lancashire County Council as the Local Health Authority, from the 1st February, 1949. This Rural District, enclosing as it does the northerly boundaries of the Warrington County Borough, for its greater part is serviced by ambulances of the County Borough operating on behalf of the County Council, the parishes so served being those of Penketh, Great Sankey, Burtonwood, (part), Winwick (part), Croft, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Woolston, Rixton-with-Glazebrook. The

remainder of the district is served directly by the County Ambulance Service from the ambulance stations at Newton-le-Willows (Newton-le-Willows 3134), which deals with the northerly parts of the parishes of Burtonwood and Winwick, and at Mill Brow, Widnes (Widnes 2121), which deals with the Parish of Cuerdley.

Cases conveyed by ambulances from the Newton-le-Willows station during the period 1st February - 31st December totalled 289, of which 53 were emergency, 222 general and 14 cases of infectious disease.

(4) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

School Health Service : School Clinics.

It is to be regretted that no school clinics have as yet been opened within the district, but the County Council, as the Local Education Authority, propose to build a school clinic (possibly centred with a Child Welfare Centre) in the Woolston area within the next year or two. Children in attendance at schools within the Rural area, and who require advice and treatment at a school clinic, are referred to the Clinics at Widnes, Prescott, Earlestown and Cadishead, where general medical advice and treatment facilities for minor ailments, dental, ophthalmic and orthopaedic defects, are available.

Child Welfare Centres.

Sessions are held at the Infant Welfare Centres, as detailed below. At these centres medical and nursing advice is available for all infants and children of pre-school age and for expectant mothers and those recently confined in relation to mothers, affecting their general health. Supplies of a variety of infant foods, vitamin preparations, etc., are also available at cost price. In addition, in special cases, school children may be examined and parents advised, although of course this is not a regular feature of the work at such centres.

(a) BURTONWOOD :

Methodist Sunday School, Phipps Lane.
 Medical Officer — Dr. Paterson.
 Health Visitor in charge — Miss Henry.
 Services — Weekly, each Thursday, 10.0 a.m. - 12 noon.

(b) PADGATE :

Methodist Sunday School, Padgate Lane.
 Medical Officer — Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge — Miss C. M. Smith.
 Services — Weekly, each Wednesday, 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

(c) PENKETH :

Methodist Sunday School, Chapel Lane.
 Medical Officer — Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
 Health Visitor in charge — Miss W. Henry.
 Services — Weekly, each Monday, 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

(d) WINWICK :

Methodist Church Hall, Golborne Road.

Medical Officer — Dr. Paterson.

Health Visitor in charge — Mrs. D. H. Creighton.

Services — Fortnightly, alternate Thursdays, 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

During the year under review the following attendances were made at the above Welfare Centres :—

Number of individual children attending :

Under 1 year of age	536	
1 - 2 years of age	204	
2 - 4 " "	196	
		936
		<hr/>
Total		936

Number of attendances made by children :

Under 1 year of age	5,247	
1 - 2 years of age	1,069	
2 - 4 " "	1,125	
		7,441
		<hr/>
		7,441

In addition, 42 expectant mothers made 107 attendances at these Centres.

(5) MIDWIFERY ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) Domiciliary. Two whole-time domiciliary midwives and four district nurse/midwives are engaged on this work within the Rural District, in the employment of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and the supervising Authority under the Midwives' Act. These ladies normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their home, but the principle of the expectant mother's free choice of midwife (as of doctor) is well established. Each has motor-car transport at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls, and to carry apparatus for Anaesthesia.

The names and addresses of these ladies are :—

WHOLE-TIME MIDWIVES :

Mrs. M. A. Lawton, 21 Marina Avenue, Sankey.

Miss M. Leech, 162 Liverpool Road, Cadishead.

WHOLE-TIME NURSE/MIDWIVES :

Miss A. G. Carter, 409 Manchester Road, Paddington.

Miss T. F. Mason, Elm Tree Farm, Chapel Lane, Burtonwood.

Mrs. T. Thompson, 30 Haig Avenue, Great Sankey.

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23 Bevin Avenue, Culcheth.

A total of 170 babies were born in their own homes during the year; with possibly one or two exceptions, their mothers were either actually delivered or attended by, the midwives and nurse/midwives detailed above. The fact that there has been no cases of puerperal pyrexia or puerperal fever and no maternal deaths associated with child birth is surely the highest tribute to the skill and care bestowed on the mothers both during and after confinement.

(6) MATERNITY HOMES — PRIVATE.

One maternity home, duly registered and situated in the Woolston district, voluntarily surrendered its registration certificate during the summer, and ceased to admit maternity patients. During the first half of the year, 18 live births took place in this Home, which had a high reputation and was the only one situated in the Rural District.

Health Visiting Arrangements.

This work has been carried out by three whole-time and fully-trained Health Visitors (who combine with health visiting duties those of School Nurse). These domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision and of the health education of the families, are, of course, complimentary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above. The names and addresses of the Health Visitors are :—

Mrs. D. Creighton, Red Bank School, Warrington Road,
Newton-le-Willows.

Miss W. Henry, 38 Greens Road, Whiston, Prescot.

Miss C. M. Smith, 9 Worsley Road, Walton, near
Warrington.

(7) HOME NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Home nursing is undertaken by four whole-time nurse/midwives who formally practice as " District Nurse/Midwives " and have since agreed to be transferred to the Local Health Authority's Staff and to continue their beneficent roles in the homes of the sick. The demand for their services has grown very considerably during the year, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, an extension of the staff is contemplated within the near future.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are :—

Miss A. G. Carter, 409 Manchester Road, Paddington.

Miss T. F. Mason, Elm Tree Farm, Chapel Lane, Burton-
wood.

Mrs. T. Thompson, 30 Haig Avenue, Great Sankey.

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23 Bevin Avenue, Culcheth.

(8) HOME HELP ARRANGEMENTS.

This is a "permissory" service provided by the County Council through the No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public. Its aim is to provide domestic help, when required, by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, pregnancy, maternity, mental deficiency, or to assist in the care of a child or children. The service has been used during the year in question to a moderate degree only, probably because the public, not having had previous experience of this recently formulated scheme, have not been very fully aware of the facilities provided.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time "Helps"; no whole-time workers are employed. The Home Help Organiser and Welfare Worker is responsible for the immediate day-to-day operation of the scheme and is, of course, one of the Divisional Medical Officer's staff. She is:—

Miss D. C. Wilson, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick.

(9) MENTAL HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS.

The district is covered for this purpose by the duly Authorised Officer of No. 10 Health Division and by a lady mental health worker, who deals with the various aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts and the Mental Treatment Act. The names and addresses of these officers are:—

Mr. P. D. Parker, 12 Kenyon Lane, Lowton, near Warrington.

Miss M. Hargan, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick.

(10) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (INCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND THE PROVISION OF CONVALESCENT ACCOMMODATION.

(1) Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis: "illness" includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of nursing and ancillary equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

(2) Two Tuberculosis Health Visitors carry out their duties within the district: these duties consist essentially of the maintenance of super-

vision in the homes of the patients suffering from all forms of Tuberculosis, both prior and subsequent to their admission to hospital or sanatorium; the supervision of contacts; enquiry into and report on the environmental circumstances; the completion of arrangements for the examination (including X-ray examination) of patients and contacts at Chest Clinics, and attendance at such clinics assisting the Chest Physicians and Assistant Chest Physicians of the Regional Hospital Boards.

Unlike the General Health Visitors, they do not undertake any of the duties of School Nurse. They are, however, officers of Divisional Committee of the Local Health Authority (the County Council) and are borne on the establishment of the Health Division. The names and addresses, etc., of the Health Visitors working in the Rural District are :—

ON STAFF OF HEALTH DIVISION No. 10 — Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick :

Miss A. E. Webster, 11 Oaklands Road, Liverpool, 19.

<i>District</i>	<i>Chest Clinic</i>
Burtonwood and Collins Green.	St. Helens (branch) Chest Clinic, 90 Hardshaw Street, St. Helens.
	Sessions : Tuesday afternoon — 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

ON STAFF OF HEALTH DIVISION No. 9 — Divisional Health Office, Health Centre, Widnes :

Miss A. K. Rayner, 32 Peel Green Road, Barton, Manchester.

<i>District</i>	<i>Chest Clinic</i>
Warrington R.D. (less Burtonwood and Collins Green).	Widnes (branch) Chest Clinic, Chapel Street, Widnes.
	Sessions : Monday morning — 10.0 to 12.0 noon. Tuesday afternoon — 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

As regards Health Education (a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness), it is pertinent here to emphasise that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant, and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

(11) VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria are available to all who desire it for themselves or for their children, either through the family Doctor (who undertakes it at his home or at his surgery as part of his duties to the patient) or, on request, by appointment. Such services may be obtained at one of the Immunisation sessions which are held at approximately monthly intervals in schools at Great Sankey, Penketh and Padgate. Immunisation of infants and small children is also undertaken — when circumstances warrant — at the Child Welfare Centres at Burtonwood and Winwick.

As regards the Immunisation position, there are no grounds for complacency, whilst the vaccination state is, to my mind, deplorable and potentially dangerous.

During the year, a total of 255 children under 15 years of age completed the full course of Immunisation, of which 247 were under the age of five years. In addition to the above, 137 children, of which 134 were of school age, received reinforcement or "booster" injections, making a grand total of 392.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population (under the age of 15 years) in an immunised state as at 31st December, 1949, was 53.01% as against a figure of 57.45% for the child population in No. 10 Health Division as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 56 children under one year of age underwent primary vaccination, of which cases all but one were successful, whilst of 11 persons over the age of 15 years who received primary vaccination, 10 were vaccinated successfully. In addition to the above a total of 18 persons were re-vaccinated, 17 successfully.

If one deducts from the total of 448 live births in 1948 belonging to the district the 21 infant deaths of 1949 — this means that out of the 427 survivors only 56 underwent primary vaccination, or approximately one in every eight babies. This can only be regarded as an unsatisfactory state of affairs

SECTION IX.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

This Act became effective on the 5th July, 1948, and 1949 has, therefore, been the first full calendar year of its operation.

In the main, it provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of this Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day-to-day operation of the service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Warrington Rural District lies administratively within the purview of the Area Children's Officer of the Wigan area, who is assisted by Children's Social Workers, the latter being responsible for all matters relating to "deprived" children, *e.g.*, the provision of accommodation, the inspection and report on prospective foster homes, infant life protection, supervision of adopted children during the probationary period, the care and conveyance to suitable "places of safety" of children committed by the Courts to the care of the Authority as a "fit person" under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, and so on.

The Area Children's Officer and their Visitors work in close co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officers and their staffs, and I am happy to say that in this district (included in No. 10 Health Division), the relationship is most effective and cordial.

The Wigan Area Children's Officer is:—

Mr. W. J. Payne, 41 Ince Green Lane, Higher Ince,
Wigan;

and the Children's Visitor for the Rural District is:—

Miss J. W. Cole, 41 Ince Green Lane, Higher Ince,
Wigan

SECTION X.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The year 1949 has also been the first full calendar year during which the above Act has been in operation. So far as the Rural District is concerned, the Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of the Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case, also, is on the divisional basis. The main provisions of Part III relate to accommodation for persons who, by virtue of circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, are without lodging; and to Welfare Services in general, for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities.

The approved scheme of the County Council in regard to welfare utilises very fully the services rendered by the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation.

Section 50 of the Act is of importance in that it places on this County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when "it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority."



