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Public Health Department



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE

West Lancashire Rural District

DURING THE YEAR

1949


BY

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

WIGAN:

E. SIDEBOTHAM, 25/27, WIEND



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WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1949.

Chairman CHAS. F. KUHL

Vice-Chairman HERBERT PARKINSON, J.P.

Aintree	Arthur Davenhill, J.P. B. J. Moss.
Altcar	Stanley Ashcroft.
Aughton	W. E. Rothwell. John Leigh. G. H. McElroy.
Bickerstaffe	James Heyes. John Stockley.
Bispham	T. J. Glover.
Downholland	T. A. Park.
Ford	Patrick J. Reilly.
Halsall	John P. Cropper.
Hesketh-with-Becconsall ...	Herbert Parkinson, J.P.
Ince Blundell	Chas. F. Kuhl.
Lydiate	Miss M. J. Barnes.
Maghull	Samuel H. Hudson. H. Stafford Moreton A. W. Glenn. James Cain. Mrs. B. E. Long. Mrs. W. M. Mitchell.
Melling	Tom Sergeant.
Netherton	E. M. Houghton. F. V. King. George Halliwell.
North Meols	J. Sharrock. J. Taylor.
Rufford	Harvey Haigh, J.P.
Scarisbrick	James Sephton.
Sefton	F. W. Preston. J. Alfred Birch.
Simonswood	R. E. Gregson.
Tarleton	John Hunter. Rev. L. N. Forse.
Thornton	Ernest Letter. Reginald Phillips.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. JOHN LEIGHChairman

Mr. A. W. GLENNVice-Chairman

All Members of the Council

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Officers and Meat Inspectors.

JAMES AINSWORTH, Chief Officer.

R. W. BINGHAM.

J. HAILWOOD.

Housing Survey Assistants.

F. PENNINGTON.

JAMES BELL.

Clerical Staff.

Miss P. McKENZIE.

Miss J. WHITE.

Mrs. F. KENYON (Resigned 31st July, 1949).

All are whole-time officials.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report on the Health of the West Lancashire Rural District.

Generally the health of the District has been good and the number of cases of infectious diseases notified has been low. It may be remarked that no cases of Diphtheria occurred throughout the year, the first time that the complete absence of this disease has been recorded in West Lancashire. This satisfactory position may be attributed to the policy of Immunisation against Diphtheria which the Council has pursued during the last ten years and now continued by the County Council since it became their responsibility under the National Health Service Act 1946.

The Birth Rate has again declined as it has done throughout the country. The Death Rate (adjusted) at 10.4 was higher than 1948 but continues to compare favourably with the figure of 11.7 for England and Wales. The Infant Mortality Rate remained low at 33 per 1,000 live births. The Maternal Mortality Rate was nil for the second successive year.

On the 1st October 1949, the control of Dairy Farms passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. On that date there were 83 dairy farms on the register, all of which had been regularly and carefully inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors for many years and had resulted in a high standard being maintained at the majority of these farms. It would appear to be a retrograde step to have removed this control from the Local Authority to a Government Department which is not concerned with matters of health. Prior to the transfer of these premises, 121 inspections of cowsheds were carried out during the first nine months of 1949. It would be interesting to know how many inspections took place during the last three months.

The National Health Service Act 1949 has now had a full year's operation and, while the provision of general hospital beds appears to be satisfactory, there is a distressing lack of beds for Tuberculosis patients resulting in many months of waiting for even the most urgent cases. It is to be hoped that Regional Hospital Boards will improve their present Tuberculosis Services, since otherwise a rise in the Tuberculosis Mortality Rate will undoubtedly occur. There is room for increased liason between the various branches of the Health Services, and such co-operation would assist the Preventive Health Services in their aim to keep the people healthy.

Finally, I should like to thank all the Members of the Health Committee for their interest in the health of West Lancashire and the Members of the Staff for their ready help at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD.

August, 1950.

Section A.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR 1949.

	1949	1948
Area of the District (acres)	67,560	67,560
Population (Registrar General's estimate) ...	44,020	44,010
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate		
Books	12,752	12,510
Rateable Value	£287,321	£266,987
Sums represented by a Penny Rate	£1,094	£1,081
Birth	669	708
Deaths	429	421
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ...	33	32

BIRTHS

There were 669 births recorded during the year, of which 345 were male and 324 female; and including 27 illegitimate births, 14 male and 13 female. The birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (mid 1949) was 15.2 compared with 16.0 in 1948.

The number of births shewed a fall of 39 births compared with 1948, a decrease of 0.8 per 1,000 population. The rate for England and Wales shews a decline from 17.9 to 16.7.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during 1949, was 429, an increase of 8 over the previous year. The crude death rate was 9.7 per 1,000 population compared with 9.4 in 1948. The adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.07) was 10.4 per 1,000 population. The death rate continues to compare favourably with the death rate for England and Wales which was 11.7.

Maternal Mortality.

The Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 births (live and still) was nil, the same as in 1948, and compared with 2.50 in 1947. The figure for England and Wales was 0.98. It is satisfactory to record that no maternal deaths have occurred in the Rural District during the last three years and it is hoped that the position will continue.

Infant Mortality.

There were 22 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 33 per 1,000 live births, an increase of one on the figure for 1948. This figure continues to be satisfactory. The rate for England and Wales was 32 per 1,000 live births.

Still Births.

The number of still births during 1949 was 23, of which 9 were male and 14 female. This is equivalent to a rate of 33 per 1,000 total live and still births. One of these still births was illegitimate.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL
DISTRICT, 1949.

	Male.	Female.
Typhoid -Fever	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	8	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	3
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—
Influenza	1	2
Measles	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	1	1
Cancer	30	34
Diabetes	1	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	24	26
Heart Diseases	71	63
Other Diseases of the circulatory system	3	10
Bronchitis	10	7
Pneumonia	10	7
Other respiratory diseases	3	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Other digestive diseases	6	6
Nephritis	6	6
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—
Premature birth	3	6
Congenital causes	5	1
Suicide	4	1
Road traffic accidents	7	—
Other violent causes	5	5
All other causes	21	11
	226	203

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

	M.	F.
Legitimate	11	10
Illegitimate	1	—
	12	10

Still Births—

	M.	F.
Legitimate	9	13
Illegitimate	—	1
	9	14

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Hospital Accommodation.

There are no General Hospitals in the District, but patients are accommodated in the Ormskirk County Hospital, which has a Maternity Block, or in the hospitals of the adjacent towns of Liverpool, Southport and Preston.

The Ormskirk Isolation Hospital was closed down during the year by the Regional Hospital Board, and all infectious diseases cases are now admitted where necessary to the Fazakerley Isolation Hospital, Liverpool, or to the New Hall Isolation Hospital, Scarisbrick.

Ambulance.

Ambulance Services are provided by the Lancashire County Council from stations at Ormskirk, Crosby, Formby, Tarleton and Banks. In general, an ambulance can reach any part of the Rural District within 15 minutes.

SUMMARY OF ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FROM THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1949.

Admissions from West Lancashire:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Influenzal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
						Total	27
							—

These admissions were from the following townships:

Altcar	...	...	One case of Scarlet Fever.
Aughton	...	...	One case of Influenzal Meningitis.
Bispham	...	...	One case of Scarlet Fever.
Halsall	...	...	One case of Scarlet Fever.
Hesketh Bank	...	...	Three cases of Scarlet Fever, one case of Para-Typhoid Fever.
Maghull	...	...	Three cases of Scarlet Fever, two cases of Poliomyelitis, one case of Tonsillitis.
Netherton	...	...	One case of Scarlet Fever, one case of Tonsillitis, one case of Polio-encephalitis.
North Meols	...	...	Two cases of Scarlet Fever.
Scarisbrick	...	...	Five cases of Scarlet Fever.
Tarleton	...	...	Two cases of Scarlet Fever.
Thornton	...	...	One case of Scarlet Fever.

The outside work in connection with the Infectious Diseases Ambulance was as follows:—

For West Lancashire Rural District.

Journeys with ambulance for patient	...	...	Nil
Journeys with ambulance for bedding	...	...	122
Houses attended for disinfection	...	...	75
No. of times disinfectant used	...	...	—
Rooms sprayed	...	...	172
Schools sprayed	...	...	—
Articles stoved	...	...	874
Fumigation	...	...	2

For Ormskirk Urban District.

Journeys with ambulance for patient	...	...	Nil
Journeys with ambulance for bedding	...	...	24
Houses attended for disinfection	...	...	15
Number of times disinfectant used	...	...	—
Rooms sprayed	...	...	52
Articles stoved	...	...	119

DEATHS IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT.
Percentage of Deaths in Age Groups.

Five Year Period	AT AGES — YEARS									
	Under 5 Years	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
1926-1930 (Average)	8.85	1.85	2.5	4.0	4.5	7.4	9.8	20.7	27.6	12.7
1931-1935 (Average)	11.34	0.9	2.78	3.46	4.48	6.24	11.3	19.92	25.14	12.4
1936-1940 (Average)	9.58	1.2	1.8	3.58	4.62	7.46	11.56	21.26	24.82	14.12
1941-1945 (Average)	8.48	1.0	1.7	3.0	4.8	6.86	10.8	21.2	26.6	15.4
1946	9.5	0.2	0.5	1.7	5.3	6.2	12.6	20.3	26.4	17.3
1947	7.5	0.7	2.6	2.1	4.6	6.0	12.6	15.3	30.9	17.7
1948	5.93	0.23	1.42	1.16	3.32	4.51	10.45	26.36	28.36	28.50
1949	6.2	1.9	2.6	4.2	3.2	6.2	12.0	22.0	31.0	14.8

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN TOWNSHIPS.

The following table shews the population, number of births and deaths, and the rates per 1,000 in each township in the Rural District for the year 1949:—

TOWNSHIPS.	Estimatee Population middle of 1948.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.	
		No. of Births.	Rate per 1,000.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
Aintree	2,625	47	17.9	21	8.0
Altcar	686	14	20.4	6	8.7
Aughton	3,485	45	12.9	46	13.2
Bickerstaffe ...	1,478	21	14.2	17	11.5
Bispham	237	4	16.9	3	12.7
Downholland ...	620	5	8.1	8	12.9
Ford	152	14	12.2	10	8.7
Halsall	2,221	30	13.5	38	17.1
Hesketh Bank ...	1,850	52	28.1	20	10.8
Ince Blundell ...	528	3	5.7	6	11.4
Lydiate	1,641	26	15.8	29	17.7
Maghull	9,884	162	16.4	85	8.6
Melling	1,536	26	16.9	12	7.8
Netherton	3,668	52	14.2	19	5.2
North Meols ...	2,853	26	9.1	22	7.7
Rufford	909	9	9.9	13	14.3
Scarisbrick ...	3,138	63	20.1	29	9.2
Sefton	460	4	8.7	5	10.9
Simonswood ...	337	5	14.8	2	5.9
Tarleton	2,985	45	15.1	28	9.3
Thornton	1,727	16	9.3	10	5.8
Whole District ...	44,010	669	15.2	429	9.7

**MIDWIVES RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT AT
31st DECEMBER, 1949.**

Miss I. K. Paisley, c/o "Brooklands," Carr Cross, Southport Road, Scarisbrick	S.C.M.
Mrs. E. Bibby, 160, Northway, Maghull	S.C.M.
Miss M. A. Bond, New Street, Halsall	S.C.M.
Mrs. J. E. MacKellar, Finger Post Cottage, Liverpool Road, Aughton	S.C.M.
Miss Ruth Freeman, District Nurse, "Burnside," Gorse Lane, Tarleton	S.C.M., S.R.N.
Miss A. Vidler, 94, Park Lane, Netherton	S.C.M., S.R.N.
Miss G. Johnson, District Nurse, "Burnside," Gorse Lane, Tarleton	S.C.M., S.R.N.
Miss J. McGuinness, 2, Parkfield Avenue, Netherton ...	S.C.M., S.R.N.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—NURSING HOMES.

The Misses Mary A. Wharton and E. J. Jones, 32, Gainsborough Avenue, Maghull	Two maternity or medical cases.
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SCHOOL CLINICS

Litherland Clinics—

Linacre Road.

Tuesday9-30—12 a.m. Minor Ailments. 2— 4 p.m. Dental.
Friday ...	...9-30—12 a.m. Minor Ailments. Nurse only for dressings.

Sefton Avenue.

Monday ...	...9-30—12 a.m. Dental. 2— 4 p.m. Dental. 2— 4 p.m. Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Rutherford and two nurses. 2— 4 p.m. Minor Ailments.
Wednesday ...	2— 4 p.m. Child Welfare Centre. Dr. Rutherford and two nurses.
Thursday ...	...9-30—12 a.m. Ophthalmic. 9-30—12 a.m. Orthopaedic. Nurse every Thursday. Surgeon attends second Thursday of each month only. 2— 4 p.m. Ante-natal. Dr. Mayeur and two nurses.

Maghull Clinic, Parish Institute.

Monday	...	...9-30—12 a.m.	Minor Ailments.	Nurse only for dressings.
Thursday	...	... 2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.	Dr. Rutherford attends alternate weeks.

Ormskirk Clinic, General Hospital.

Monday	...	...9-30—12 a.m.	Minor ailments.	Dr. Wilson attends.
		2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.	Dr. Hailwood attends.
Tuesday	...	... a.m. & p.m.	Orthopaedic.	Nurse every Tuesday. Surgeon attends second Tuesday, p.m. in each month only.
Friday	...	... a.m.	Minor ailments.	
		a.m. & p.m.	Dental.	
		9-30—12 a.m.	Ante-natal.	Dr. Meyeur and Dr. Hailwood.

Lathom and Burscough, Old Council Offices, Lathom.

Thursday 2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.	Dr. Wilson attends alternate weeks.
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Banks Clinic, Gravel Lane, Banks.

Wednesday 10—12 a.m.	Minor ailments (Alternate weeks only)--	Dr. Wilson.
		2— 4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre (Alternate weeks only)—	Dr. Wilson.
Friday	...	... a.m. & p.m.	Dental.	

Jubilee Hall, Aintree.

Tuesday 2— 5 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.	Dr. Rutherford attends alternate weeks.
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The following is a list of Schools in the district:—

Division No.	SCHOOL.	School No.	No. of children normally Resident in the District attending the school.
6	Hesketh-with-Becconsall C.E. ...	28	89 infants and juniors.
6	North Meols, Banks Primitive Methodist	24	152 infants and mixed.
6	North Meols, St. Stephen's ...	25	117 infants and mixed.
6	Tarleton Mere Brow C.E.	26	40 infants and mixed.
6	Tarleton Council	31	37 infants, 67 juniors, 126 seniors.
6	Tarleton C.E.	27	64 infants, 79 juniors.
16	Halsall Central School	30	189 juniors and seniors.
16	Haskayne C.E.	31	14 infants and juniors.
16	Bickerstaffe C.E.	13	101 infants and juniors.
16	Maghull C.E.	16	494 infants and juniors.
16	Maghull Secondary Modern ...	100	490 seniors.
16	Maghull St. George's R.C. ...	17	201 infants and mixed.
16	Maghull Hudson School	32	303 infants and juniors.
16	Melling (Aughton) R.C.	14	49 infants and juniors.
16	Melling C. of E.	15	118 infants and juniors.
16	Scarisbrick St. Mark's C.E. ...	32	36 infants and juniors.
16	Scarisbrick St. Mary's R.C. ...	33	116 infants and mixed.
16	Scarisbrick Council	34	83 infants and juniors.
16	Aughton Christ Church	20	126 infants and mixed.
16	Aughton Parochial	21	110 infants and juniors.
16	Lydiat R.C.	19	74 infants and mixed.
16	Lydiat C.E.	18	86 infants and mixed.
16	Rufford C.E.	22	52 infants and mixed.
16	Holmeswood Methodist	23	36 infants and mixed.
16	Bispham Free Grammar	24	49 infants and mixed.
16	Aintree Temporary Council ...	31	250 infants and juniors.
17	Ince Blundell R.C.	26	50 infants and mixed.
17	Netherton R.C.	28	54 infants and mixed.
17	Netherton Temporary Council ...	29	502 infants and juniors.
19	Sefton Council	27	32 infants and mixed.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year owing to the presence of infectious disease.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The re-surfacing of playgrounds is still the most urgent requirement in many of the West Lancashire Schools. 12 schools have made this specific complaint repeatedly and it is considered that the complaints are more than justified. Unfortunately the limitation of expenditure on schools gives little hope of this work being carried out at the present time.

A new school in Maghull, "The Hudson J. & I. County School," was opened on the 2nd May, 1949, and has relieved the shortage of school facilities in Maghull, although it has been necessary to continue the use of the shop premises in Dover Road for a further year.

Free milk is provided in all schools. The milk is in most cases heat treated and is regularly checked and sampled by the Health Department. No unsatisfactory samples have been reported. It is found that some 70% of the Children in Schools throughout the District take the milk regularly although there is a tendency for a higher percentage of under 11's and a lesser percentage of over 11's to take free milk, while less is consumed in winter than in summer. There seems no reason why all children should not drink free milk in Schools, and I should like to see a figure approaching 100%.

A number of improvements have been carried out during the year, while some alterations are still required.

The improvements carried out are:—

Tarleton Mere Brow C.E.

Has been re-decorated throughout.

Hesketh-with-Beconsall C.E.

Girls' yard has been resurfaced.

Bickerstaffe C.E.

Electric hot water heater has been installed. Erection of screen in one classroom to form a small kitchen has improved dining facilities.

Maghull C.E. Junior School.

Interior has been re-decorated.

Lydiate C.E.

Water carriage system has been installed to replace pail closets.

Aughton Christ Church.

Has been re-decorated throughout and the school yard re-surfaced.

Haskayne C.E.

The substitution of a stove in place of the open fire has improved the heating of this school.

Scarlsbrick R.C.

Internal decoration has been carried out.

Scarlsbrick C.E.

The unsatisfactory privies have been converted to chemical closets, which are a considerable improvement.

Netherton Primary.

Additional huts have been added to the school and a playing space has been concreted.

The following alterations are required:—

Bickerstaffe C.E.

New central heating to be installed. Sanitary accommodation is primitive and requires replacement. New boiler required for central heating system.

Melling C.E.

Conversion of pail closets to water carriage system is still urgently needed.

Lydiate C.E.

Interior decoration is badly needed.

Holmeswood Methodist.

Heating by open coal fires is inadequate and additional heating facilities should be installed.

Banks Methodist.

New sanitary arrangements needed.

Section C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATISTICS.

	Smallpox.	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Polionyelitis Polio-encephalitis	Malaria.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Pneumonia.	Para-Typhoid Fever	Influenzal Meningitis
Cases ...	—	—	61	421	—	—	3	—	1	174	18	38	1	1
Deaths ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	17	—	—

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution and nature of cases of Infectious Diseases coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1949.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTALS	Removed to Hospital
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	4	4	9	7	6	6	1	3	5	10	4	61	20
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	1	2	3	2	—	2	1	1	1	2	1	18	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	3
Polic-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	8	1	7	2	6	1	—	6	—	1	3	3	38	Not known
Measles	55	66	32	33	34	59	38	80	8	1	3	3	412	—
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	15	19	18	5	13	7	26	51	11	3	3	3	174	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Anthrax	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Influenzal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	1
Monthly Totals	82	92	63	52	62	73	74	141	23	11	22	14	709	25

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
	Total Cases at all Ages	YEARS															
		Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	61	1	1	10	39	6	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	412	48	64	50	47	177	6	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	174	22	30	26	23	50	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	38	—	1	2	1	3	—	1	5	7	11	7	—	—	—	—	17
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-Encephalitis	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Encephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenzal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	765	32	71	96	89	111	243	16	10	36	21	29	11	40	52	12	40

DIPHThERIA

Central Clinics are held at certain of the schools in the Rural District where children from the neighbouring schools attend for immunisation treatment, together with pre-school children from the surrounding districts. In addition, a monthly clinic is held at the Out Patients Department, Ormskirk General Hospital, a monthly clinic at the Maghull Parish Institute and a fortnightly clinic at the Banks School Clinic.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Rural District during the year—the first year in which there has been complete freedom from the disease. There is no doubt that this is due to the energetic policy of Immunisation which has been carried out over the last ten years.

DIPHThERIA IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT 1937-1949.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases	33	34	37	20	40	25	12	12	7	6	16	5	—
Deaths	1	2	5	1	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	—

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

Total Number of Children who have completed a full course of
Immunisation up to and including 31st December, 1949.

	Age Groups		Total under 15 years.
	0-4 years.	5-14 years.	
Total Population in Age Group	3,616	6,140	9,756
Total Number Immunised ...	1,665	4,443	6,108
Percentage	46.0%	72.4%	62.6%

DIPHTHERIA.

Number of persons, in age groups, completely immunised, or found to be Schick Negative:—

Age	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	
Under 1 Year	—	—	3	2	3	1	1	2	14	41	30	22	17	25	85	58	192	
1 Year	—	4	6	12	18	13	7	10	88	221	203	181	205	175	186	293	173	
2 "	2	6	3	10	22	21	14	24	101	173	71	47	76	36	34	51	22	Total under 5 years at end of 1949 1,665
3 "	8	4	14	11	15	18	10	33	97	137	55	17	23	23	28	24	10	
4 "	12	13	11	6	38	30	21	24	102	144	63	26	13	16	17	19	10	
5 "	63	86	43	72	103	75	36	127	189	225	139	87	28	24	33	26	13	
6 "	78	41	22	60	63	71	32	81	157	124	90	51	19	13	17	41	9	
7 "	67	41	14	40	46	46	16	57	111	66	51	9	11	12	11	5	7	Total 5-9 years at end of 1949 2,032
8 "	76	28	21	36	41	40	12	38	68	57	52	14	5	7	12	5	8	
9 "	80	30	18	15	33	29	16	28	69	50	31	7	6	5	11	4	9	
10 "	59	27	22	22	17	30	12	35	63	38	29	9	3	1	11	3	2	
11 "	75	19	22	15	22	18	11	11	45	29	36	3	7	4	3	2	3	
12 "	58	23	9	19	16	26	5	5	39	31	28	3	3	1	2	2	1	Total 10-14 years at end of 1949 2,420
13 "	44	28	11	10	5	7	3	13	36	12	14	5	2	4	1	—	—	
14 "	8	3	3	4	2	1	—	12	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	
15 years and over	1	—	1	5	1	2	2	7	2	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	Total over 15 years at end of 1949 3,128
Total	631	353	223	339	445	428	198	507	1181	1352	892	483	420	346	453	533	461	9,245

* November, 1932, to December, 1933.

Particulars of Work Done in Connection with Immunisation against Diphtheria since the Commencement of the Scheme in November, 1932, to December, 1949.

SCHOOL	YEAR	Number of acceptances	Total on Register.	% of children actually in school 31.12.49 who have completed course	Received complete diphtheria course.	Diphtheria course not completed.	No. of children given booster dose.	REMARKS.
Aintree Council ...	1940-48 1949	175	250	91.2	163	11	175	3 absent for and 2 refused 2nd injection.
Aughton Christ Church	1932-48 1949	231	126	67.5	226	5	63	4 positive, 1 left before completing, 1 parent refused and 2 absent for 2nd injection.
Aughton Parochial .	1932-48 1949	137	110	91.8	128	9	92	1 positive, 3 absent for and 1 refused 2nd injection.
Banks P. Methodist	1932-48 1949	147	152	71.7	128	19	60	4 treated previously by us.
Banks St. Stephens	1932-48 1949	111	117	80.3	105	5	28	2 positive, 3 treated previously by us.
Bickerstaffe C.E. ...	1932-48 1949	269	101	78.2	255	14	95	2 positive, 1 refused and 2 absent for 2nd injection.
Bispham Free Grammar	1932-48 1949	101	49	71.4	94	7	39	
Halsall Central ...	1932-48 1949	326	189	80.4	301	25	125	2 positive, 2 absent for and 2 refused 2nd injection.
Haskayne C.E. ...	1932-48 1949	57	14	85.7	53	3	7	
Hesketh Bank C.E.	1932-48 1949	137	89	77.5	131	6	48	2 absent for 2nd injection.
Holmeswood Meth.	1932-48 1949	68	36	97.2	63	3	23	3 treated previously by us.
Ince Blundell R.C.	1932-48 1949	93	50	74.0	82	11	37	1 absent for and 2 parents refused 2nd injection.
Lydiate R.C. ...	1932-48 1949	115	74	81.1	105	10	49	3 positive, 1 treated previously by us.
Lydiate C.E. ...	1932-48 1949	117	86	76.7	113	4	36	
Maghull R.C. ...	1932-48 1949	184	201	65.7	162	22	89	6 absent for 2nd injection, 1 treated previously by us. 2 children treated by General Practitioners.

	1932-48	1949	680	494	83.8	641	32	232	10 positive, 6 absent and 1 refused 2nd injection. 1 child given primary and 1 given Booster Dose by General Practitioners.	
Maghull C.E. Junior	1932-48	1949	32	494	83.8	641	32	232	10 positive, 6 absent and 1 refused 2nd injection. 1 child given primary and 1 given Booster Dose by General Practitioners.	
Maghull Secondary Modern	1932-48	1949	89	490	77.6	82	7	280	2 absent for 2nd injection, 17 treated previously by us, 1 treated in hospital.	
Maghull Hudson	1942-48	1949	115	303	82.5	112	3	254	1 absent for and 1 refused 2nd injection, 4 treated previously by us. 1 absent for 2nd injection.	
Melling C.E.	1932-48	1949	210	118	78.0	197	13	87	3 absent for 2nd injection, 2 treated previously by us.	
Melling R.C.	1932-48	1949	100	49	91.8	93	7	70	6 absent for 2nd injection, 1 treated previously by us.	
Netherton R.C.	1932-48	1949	159	54	64.8	147	12	38	6 positive, 3 absent for 2nd injection, 2 treated previously by us.	
Netherton Council	1940-48	1949	142	502	42.4	128	9	171	5 not treated as they were Schick negative, 3 absent for and 1 left before 2nd injection, 4 treated previously by us.	
Rufford C.E.	1932-48	1949	100	52	90.4	94	5	33	1 positive, 1 had no injections, 6 treated previously by us, 2 absent for 2nd injection.	
Scarlsbrick Council	1932-48	1949	67	83	75.9	64	3	35	2 absent for 2nd injection.	
Scarlsbrick St. Mark's	1932-48	1949	111	36	100.0	102	9	19	2 absent for 2nd injection.	
Scarlsbrick St. Mary's R.C.	1932-48	1949	192	116	81.9	176	16	73	1 positive, 8 absent for 2nd injection, 9 treated previously by us.	
Sefton Council	1932-48	1949	125	33	87.8	112	8	22	2 had no injections, 3 treated previously by us, 1 absent for 2nd injection.	
Tarleton Mere Brow	1932-48	1949	100	40	75.0	86	13	28	1 treated after preliminary test, 3 absent for 2nd injection, 1 treated previously by us.	
Tarleton C.E.	1932-48	1949	162	143	88.1	155	8	74	4 treated previously by us, 3 absent for 2nd injection.	
Tarleton Council	1932-48	1949	231	230	75.2	206	22	131	1 immunised after preliminary test, 2 positive, 1 treated previously by us, 1 parent refused 2nd injection, 2 absent for 2nd injection.	
TOTALS	1932-48	1949	4761	36	4387	4504	323	2434	11 immunised after preliminary test, 5 had no injections, 35 positive, 68 absent for 2nd injection, 2 left before and 11 refused 2nd injection, 64 treated previously by us, 1 treated in hospital. 2 treated by General Practitioners, 1 given primary and 1 given Booster Dose by General Practitioners, 1 absent for 2nd injection.	
				Children Pre-School			Children attending Schools elsewhere.		Scarlet Fever Patients in hospital.	
				3,457			106		Adults.	
				407					10	
									1	
				TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS COMPLETELY IMMUNISED — 8,595.						

SCARLET FEVER.

Sixty-one cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

All cases were of a mild type, but it was necessary to remove 21 of them to hospital. The general policy is to remove to hospital such cases of Scarlet Fever as are living under overcrowded conditions, or in such circumstances that they become conveyors of infection through inefficient isolation.

The following table shews the incidence and mortality from Scarlet Fever during the past ten years:—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases ...	38	50	12	66	75	121	57	33	47	61
Deaths ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MEASLES.

During the year 412 cases of Measles were notified.

This was a decrease on the figure for 1948.

The following table indicates the incidence and fatality of this disease during the past ten years:—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases ...	560	292	251	178	180	138	139	189	421	412
Deaths ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

WHOOPING COUGH.

One hundred and forty-seven cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year compared with 227 in 1948 and 189 in 1947.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

No notifications were received during the year, no deaths were recorded.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

Thirty-eight cases of Pneumonia were notified during 1949, a decrease of 7 on the figure for 1948. Deaths from Pneumonia number 17.

There are no facilities locally for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera, such work being of necessity performed in one of the large towns adjacent to the District.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified during the year. There were two deaths from this disease in the Rural District, one of which had not been notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Summary of notifications under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations 1930) received during 1949:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	3	3	—	1	1	1	—	—
25—35	5	7	1	2	3	2	—	—
35—45	5	1	—	3	3	2	—	—
45—55	5	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals ..	26	15	7	8	11	6	—	1
	41		15		17		1	

The Urban Districts of Ormskirk and Skelmersdale and the Rural District of West Lancashire are included in the County Dispensary Area No. 5, with Headquarters at the Dispensary, "Ellesmere," Crosby Road North, Waterloo. Dispensary Sessions are held there on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m. X-ray examinations are performed on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. Evening consultations may be arranged by appointment. Dr. C. Berry is the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the area, and has, as his Staff, two Assistant Tuberculosis Officers and six Tuberculosis Nurses.

A Pulmonary Hospital of 52 beds is situated at Rufford.

The number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shews an increase of six over the previous year, while the deaths have increased by two.

NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM 1 BY MEDICAL OFFICERS
OF HOSPITALS.

	Public Assistance Hospital.	Sanatoria and Pulmonary Hospitals.	Military and General Hospitals.
Pulmonary:			
Male ...	—	1	6
Female ...	—	1	2
Non-Pulmonary:			
Male ...	—	—	—
Female	—	1	3

The following table is an analysis of the occupations of the 56 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1949:—

Occupation.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Housewife	—	7	—	2
Occupation unknown	3	2	—	1
Child 0-5 years	—	—	—	1
School Child (5-14)	2	—	4	1
Carpenter	2	—	—	—
Lorry Driver	—	—	1	—
Domestic Worker	—	3	—	1
Army Corporal	—	1	—	—
Army Private	1	—	—	—
Fitter	1	—	—	—
Polish Worker	—	—	—	1
Confectioner	—	1	—	—
Farmer	1	—	1	—
Traveller	1	—	—	—
Clerk	1	—	—	1
Painter	1	—	—	—
Wax Paper Worker	—	1	—	—
Catering Manager	1	—	—	—
Student	1	—	—	—
Chief Steward	1	—	—	—
Farm Worker	1	—	—	—
Butcher's Assistant	—	—	1	—
Student Nurse	1	—	—	—
Dental Mechanic	1	—	—	—
Mentally Defective (Adult).	1	—	—	—
Dock Labourer	1	—	—	—
Electrician	1	—	—	—
Mechanic	1	—	—	—
Bank Manager	1	—	—	—
Airman	1	—	—	—
Seaman	1	—	—	—
	26	15	7	8

In 35 houses inspected during the year by reason of tuberculosis inmates, 13 cases were found not to be sleeping in separate bedrooms, and in each of these cases 12 were not even sleeping in separate beds; 22 cases slept in separate bedrooms.

Section D.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.— WATER SUPPLY.

The following table summarises the water supplies in the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1949

SUMMARY OF WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

PARISHES.	SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC MAIN.									OTHER SUPPLIES		TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES AND PERCENTAGES		
	Upholland Urban District Council	Chorley Rural District Council	Wigan Rural District Council	Liverpool Corporation	Ormskirk Urban District Council	St. Helens Corporation	Preston Corporation	Southport & Dist. Water Board	TOTALS	Wells & Rainwater, etc.	Increase or Decrease	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES	Percentage with Main Water Supply	
Aintree	—	—	—	859	—	—	—	—	859	—	—	859	100.0	
Altcar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	194	194	14	—11	208	93.2	
Aughton	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1082	1084	4	—	1088	99.6	
Bickerstaffe ..	6	—	—	3	—	1	—	402	412	5	—	417	98.8	
Bispham	—	2	57	—	1	—	—	—	60	6	—2	66	90.9	
Downholland ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	203	203	5	—5	208	97.6	
Ford	—	—	—	342	—	—	—	—	342	—	—	342	100.0	
Halsall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	606	606	14	—2	620	97.7	
Hesketh Bank ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	564	—	564	2	—	566	99.6
Ince Blundell ...	—	—	—	120	—	—	—	6	126	2	—	128	98.4	
Lydiate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	575	575	15	—9	590	97.4	
Maghull	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2768	2772	8	—	2780	99.7	
Melling	—	—	—	1	—	371	—	—	372	2	—	374	99.4	
Netherton	—	—	—	1049	—	—	—	—	1049	—	—	1049	100.0	
North Meols ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	744	750	18	—	768	97.6
Rufford	—	—	—	—	320	—	—	—	320	4	—	324	98.7	
Scarisbrick ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	825	831	22	—	853	97.4	
Sefton	—	—	—	110	—	—	—	—	110	—	—2	110	100.0	
Simonswood ..	—	—	—	1	—	66	—	—	67	1	—1	68	98.5	
Tarleton	—	—	—	—	2	—	822	—	824	3	—	827	99.6	
Thornton	—	—	—	451	—	—	—	—	451	—	—	451	100.0	
Totals	6	2	57	2936	329	444	1392	7405	12571	125	—32	12696	99.0	

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WATER.

Main Supplies.

Regular samples of all mains water supplies are taken throughout the year in order to ensure the purity of the supply. All samples during 1949 shewed a pure and satisfactory water for human consumption.

Other Supplies.

Samples of water have been taken from wells and other local sources of water from time to time. Where these samples on bacteriological examination have proved to be unsatisfactory for human consumption the householder has been advised, and action has been taken to require an alternative supply of water to be provided.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following conversions have been effected during the year:—

Privies to Waterclosets	...	...	...	...	26
Pails to Waterclosets	...	...	...	...	11
Privies to Pails	...	...	...	...	12
Fixed Receptacles to Metal Bins	...	...	...	...	48

SUMMARY OF CONVERSIONS FOR THE YEARS 1940-1949.

Year	Privies to Water Closets	Pails to Water Closets	Privies to Pails	Ashpits to Bins.
1940	10	2	13	4
1941	1	—	—	1
1942	5	26	18	19
1943	10	1	4	9
1944	5	—	32	34
1945	4	9	17	4
1946	6	—	3	9
1947	12	2	5	19
1948	17	5	11	33
1949	26	11	12	48

SANITARY CONVENIENCES, 1949.

	Closet Accommodation.			Refuse Accommodation.		
	W.C.'s	Pails.	Privies.	Dry Ashpits.	Privy Middens.	Bins.
Aintree	851	1	7	2	6	851
Altcar	125	16	67	12	65	124
Aughton	973	19	96	9	96	956
Bickerstaffe... ..	184	106	127	6	127	231
Bispham	12	6	48	—	48	21
Downholland... ..	75	17	116	4	116	82
Ford	322	6	14	—	14	328
Halsall	330	71	219	—	219	401
Hesketh Bank	270	136	160	2	159	390
Ince Blundell	85	22	22	—	22	63
Lydiate	455	26	103	18	103	463
Maghull	2719	16	45	9	45	2727
Melling	225	25	114	—	106	316
Netherton	1040	—	9	—	9	1040
North Meols	342	299	117	—	117	606
Rufford	192	66	66	—	66	251
Scarisbrick	484	86	283	—	283	570
Sefton	64	2	44	3	43	57
Simonswood	22	1	45	3	45	18
Tarleton	542	191	94	—	94	655
Thornton	342	1	18	—	17	432
TOTALS	9744	1113	1814	68	1800	10582
Percentage	76.9%	8.8%	14.3%	0.5%	14.5%	85.0%

TAB E SHOWING MATTERS DEALT WITH BY SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1949.

	PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.				WATER SUPPLY (Public Health Act, 1936).				FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.				SHOPS FACTORIES ACT, 1937.		SCHOOLS								
	Premises Inspected	Nuisances Found	Nuisances Abated	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Reinspections	Sec. 137	Sec. 138	Samples Taken	Cowsheds Inspected	Dairies Inspected	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Milk Samples Taken	Food Premises Inspected	Food Condemned	Inspections	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Inspections	Total Number of Inspections		
Aintree	73	86	94	51	—	111	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	12	2	2	1	214	
Altcar	5	3	3	2	—	7	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	35	
Aughton	63	84	236	26	—	79	28	—	—	5	5	1	—	—	—	1 lb.	—	23	6	6	2	257	
Bickerstaffe	44	98	31	44	—	51	16	—	—	6	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	2	1	150	
Bispham	3	2	3	1	—	3	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	2	1	30	
Downholland	9	4	4	3	—	6	19	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	60	
Ford	5	9	9	5	—	6	—	—	—	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	23	
Halsall	43	25	33	21	—	56	1	—	—	15	17	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	2	2	1	175	
Hesketh Bank	46	61	53	27	—	31	3	—	—	16	16	2	—	—	—	8 lbs.	—	12	1	1	1	179	
Ince Blundell	3	6	5	2	—	4	—	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	30	
Lydiate	21	39	47	15	—	27	46	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	2	1	2	138	
Maghull	111	194	201	94	2	121	2	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	—	55 lbs.	—	85	5	5	5	439	
Melling	36	45	198	23	—	61	1	—	—	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	18	3	3	2	165	
Netherton	87	85	95	57	—	119	32	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	1	321	
North Meols	52	87	85	42	—	79	1	—	—	15	18	2	—	—	—	3 cwt. 83 lbs.	—	50	1	1	2	248	
Rufford	17	14	19	11	—	25	2	—	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	83 lbs.	—	16	1	1	2	103	
Scarisbrick	61	111	115	51	—	91	35	—	—	8	12	1	—	—	—	61 lbs.	—	29	2	2	3	282	
Sefton	4	3	3	2	—	6	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	28	
Simonswood	1	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	31	1	1	51	
Tarleton	31	42	40	24	—	45	4	—	—	8	12	1	—	—	—	1 cwt. 56 lbs.	—	58	48	1	3	231	
Thornton	12	18	16	7	—	14	4	—	—	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	53	
Totals	727	1017	1291	509	2	944	194	33	3	121	153	14	14	14	33	278	7 cwt. 11 lbs.	357	331	31	31	30	3203

Section E.

HOUSING.

The Rural Housing Survey made good progress during the year. The total number of houses inspected was 2,262 and they were classified.

Category 1. (Fit in all respects)	1179
Category 2. (Requiring minor repairs)	317
Category 3. (Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement)	501
Category 4. (Reconditioning)	207
Category 5. (Unfit for habitation)	58
	Total... 2262

A grand total of 4,346 houses have now been inspected and classified which includes the Parishes of Bispham, Rufford, Downholland, Aughton, Halsall, Scarisbrick, Tarleton and Bickerstaffe.

The classifications to date are as follows:—

Category 1. (Fit in all respects)	2081
Category 2. (Requiring minor repairs)	651
Category 3. (Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement).....	1092
Category 4. (Requiring reconditioning).....	376
Category 5. (Unfit for habitation)	58
	4346

Categories 3, 4 and 5 amount to 58% of the total and in the main, represent the houses lacking in amenities, adequate drainage and sanitation, and having inherent dampness and varying degrees of disrepair.

The general standard of maintenance is poor.

The great majority consists of "old controlled houses" and tied cottages belonging to the local farms.

Because of the low rents and the present high costs of building repair work, it is seldom found practical to have more than the more serious nuisances abated.

Regarding repair notices served upon owners under the Housing Act, 1936 (Section 9), two main factors must be borne in mind. First, the general standard of housing conditions in the area, and secondly, the reasonableness of the cost of repairs or alterations.

Considering the first point, the general standard of housing conditions in the Rural District as a whole is a high one. The pre-war urbanisation of several of our Parishes, and the Council's post-war housing programme, have had a considerable influence over the whole of the District.

Bearing in mind the implication of a repair notice that the house shall, upon completion of the repairs or alterations, be in all respects fit for human habitation, the notice must necessarily include all defects and shortcomings so that the completed house compares favourably in every practicable way with a modern house.

The second point, "reasonable expense" is difficult to ascertain. No definition is given in the Housing Acts.

Reference to County Court decisions on appeal against the serving of repair notices does not help very much.

Repairs estimated to cost 35, 43, 67 and 78 per cent. of the value of houses have been held to be "reasonable expense," whereas repairs costing 46, 87, 91 and 119 per cent. have been held to be unreasonable. Each case, it would seem, must be considered on its merits.

Having regard to these factors, and carefully working out the costs of repair and the estimated value of the house, it is seldom possible to obtain a figure below 150% of the house value.

During the year, Demolition Orders were placed on seven cottages after the owners had been given the opportunity of submitting schedules of repair. Two owners representing six of the cottages objected to the orders on economic grounds, but made no offer to carry out repairs.

Of the tenants, six were re-housed by the Council, the seventh refused because of too high a rental.

The number of Council houses completed during the year was 148, and the total of post-war brick built houses is now 672. This figure, together with the 410 pre-war houses, and the 46 'prefabs' makes a total of 1,128 Council houses. Thus one in every eleven of all the occupied houses in the Rural District is owned and controlled by the Rural Council.

Section F.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Dairies and Cowsheds.

On the 1st October 1949 the Food & Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944 came into operation and consequently the control of dairy farms passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. On that date there were 83 dairy farms on the register.

Prior to the transfer of these premises 121 inspections of cowsheds were carried out.

14 requests were made for limewashing of cowsheds and this work was carried out.

2. Distributors of Milk.

There are now 25 milk distributors registered with the Local Authority.

33 visits were made to the dairies of the above persons and the premises are satisfactory.

3. Milk Sampling.

Thirty-three samples were taken by the Inspectors during the year.

Twenty-seven of the samples for Tuberculosis, and all proved negative.

Six samples were submitted for Methylene Blue reduction and were satisfactory.

All the examinations were carried out by the Pathological Department of the Liverpool University.

4. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1948.

As from July 1940, this Act has been administered by the County Sanitary Inspectors.

The accompanying figures have been supplied by the County Council:—

	Samples taken	Prosecutions
Milk	180	1
Miscellaneous	66	—

5. BAKEHOUSES.

There are fifteen Bakehouses in the district distributed as follows:—

Aughton 2, Bickerstaffe 1, Hesketh Bank 2, Maghull 4,

Netherton 2, North Meols 1, and Tarleton 3.

Alterations and improvements have been completed at three of these bakehouses and all premises are kept in good condition.

Forty inspections have been made during the year.

6. Ice Cream.

There are eight manufacturers and forty-four dealers of ice cream in the area.

All premises at which this commodity is manufactured or sold were inspected and thirty-one samples were submitted for analysis.

Eighty-eight visits and inspections were made during the year.

7. Meat and other Foods.

Shops, vehicles and premises where food is prepared, stored, conveyed or sold are kept under constant supervision.

The following meat and other foods were condemned during the year:

Place	Weight Condemned.		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Aintree Cold Stores	3	1	5
Various retail shops and food manufacturing premises	3	3	6
	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11</u>

Inspections carried out at Aintree Cold Stores consisted of imported meat and meat products.

8. FACTORIES.

The total number of factories with and without mechanical power 216. 331 inspections were made and 31 defects were found, 31 defects being remedied.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Notices	Prosecution.
Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	81	179	—	—
Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	129	146	—	—
Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority .	6	6	—	—
	<u>216</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Number of cases in which defects were found.

Premises	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		Prosecutions.
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	15	15	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4) ...	1	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (Sec. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ...	3	3	—	—	—
	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

9. **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The Soap Works situated in Park Lane, Netherton, is under good management and the conditions are satisfactory.

**Rat and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919.
Infestation Order 1943.**

The Rodent Operative employed by the Council has continued his re-inspection of premises following the initial survey which was commenced in 1944. He has also dealt with infestation complaints which were found to be of minor character only, and all have been treated satisfactorily.

The Council adopted the scheme in April 1948 whereby all infestations to private premises are dealt with free of charge.

Under the same scheme business premises are charged the full amount for disinfection, but by close co-operation and arrangement these premises receive frequent inspection and treatment when necessary.

The treatment of sewers and sewage works has been dealt with by the Surveyor's Department and periodical re-treatment is carried out to prevent serious re-infestation.

The fullest co-operation which exists with the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee continued during the year in respect of treatment of farm lands and ditches adjacent to dwelling houses and factories.

The following particulars reveal the work carried out during the year:—

1. Number of premises.....	1611
2. Number of premises found to be infested—	
(a) Reservoir infestations	—
(b) Major infestations	—
(c) Minor infestations	96
3. Number of premises treated—	
(a) Reservoir infestations	—
(b) Major infestations	—
(c) Minor infestations	93

4. Sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tips—

The Council's Sewage Works had periodical treatments during the year and maintenance treatments have been carried out to the sewers. The six refuse tips received treatment during the year by the Rodent Operative.

5. Agricultural Lands—

Owing to the rural characteristics of the area close co-operation is essential with the Agricultural Executive Committee and arrangements have been made so that such co-operation exists.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

At present a Housing Survey is being carried out parish by parish throughout the Rural District.

At the present time Surveys of the following parishes have been completed:—

Aughton
Bickerstaffe
Bispham
Downholland
Halsall
Rufford
Scarisbrick
Tarleton

and a full report of each of these parishes is contained in the following pages.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

PARISH OF AUGHTON.

Acreage.....4102.

Number of houses	1071
Estimated population (1947)	3368
Number of persons per house	3.14
Birth rate (1947)	18.6
Death rate (1947)	11.3

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890 ...	3753 ...	710 ...	5.28
1910 ...	3856 ...	796 ...	4.84
1930 ...	4214 ...	958 ...	4.40

The 1071 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category 1—Fit in all respects.....	597	
„ 2—With minor defects	129	Informal action taken.
„ 3—Requiring structural alteration or repair	283	No action taken.
„ 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	51	No action taken.
„ 5—Requiring demolition	11	To be represented for demolition when the housing situation improves.

The amenities are:—

Water Supply.

With mains supply	1067	No comments.
With well supply	2	
With rain water tank	2	

Sanitary Accommodation.

With water closets	952	Comments—The majority of the pails and privies are situated in the scattered Clieves Hills area which remains unsewered.
With pail closets	21	
With privies	98	

Foul Drainage.

Connected to sewer	896	No comments.
Septic tank	56	
Cesspool	98	
None	21	

Houses without adequate washing facilities	46
" " adequate cooking facilities	—
" " hot water supply	340
" " a fixed bath	339
" " a sink	6
" " suitable food storage	127
" " separate access to bedrooms	32

Household Refuse.

Houses with bins	939
" " middens	117
" without any provision made	15

Artificial Lighting.

Houses with electric light	867
" " gas lighting	159
" " oil lamps	45

The standard of housing in the Parish is fairly good. Houses more than 60 years old total 65%. Many of these are of the large type and are well maintained.

Of the small cottage property, dampness and insufficient natural light and ventilation are the chief sanitary defects. A total of 334 cottages require extensive repairs to render them fit in all respects, whilst 11 cottages are considered so unfit that they cannot be repaired at anything like reasonable cost.

Where serious nuisances were discovered, the landlords were notified and the work carried out without formal action being found necessary.

PARISH OF BICKERSTAFFE.

Acreage.....6045.

Number of houses	424
Estimated population (1948)	1478
Number of persons per house	3.48
Birth Rate (1948)	16.9
Death Rate (1948)	14.2

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890 ...	2661 ...	400 ...	6.65
1910 ...	2137 ...	390 ...	5.47
1930 ...	1959 ...	403 ...	4.86

The 424 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category 1—Fit in all respects.....	125
„ 2—With minor defects	51
„ 3—Requiring structural alteration	245
„ 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	3
„ 5—Requiring demolition	—
Total	424

The amenities available are:—

Water Supply.

With main supply	420
With well supply	2
Rainwater tanks	1

Comments.—An isolated cottage off Coach Road, at present dependant on a field drain, will shortly be connected to the mains supply.

Sanitary Accommodation.

With water closets	191
With pail closets	106
With privies	127

Comments.—The new sewer makes it possible to connect a further 47 houses to the sewer.

Foul Drainage.

To sewer	63
To septic tank	72
To cesspool	235
None	54

Comments.—The total houses connected to sewer will be 110 upon completion of above.

Houses without adequate washing facilities	8
„ „ hot water supply	252
„ „ a fixed bath	254
„ „ a sink	1
„ „ suitable food storage	30
„ „ separate access to bedroom	33

Household Refuse.

Houses with bins	238
„ „ privy ashpits	133
„ without any provisions made	53

Artificial Lighting.

Houses with electric light	338
„ „ gas lighting (Calor gas)	5
„ „ oil lamps	81

Bickerstaffe is the third largest Parish in West Lancashire.

The total number of houses is equivalent to one house for each 14 acres of area. Mainly agricultural, the changes that have taken place during the last sixty years appear to be a large decrease in population, with a slight increase in the number of houses. Two notable improvements in amenities are mains water supply and electric supply. The present water extension

scheme which is nearing completion will bring the total number of houses receiving mains water supply to 421. Only three cottages will then remain on other supplies. The sewerage of the Stanley Gate area, recently completed, will provide main sewerage for 110 houses—representing one quarter of the total houses in the Parish.

PARISH OF BISPHAM.

Acreage.....926.

Number of houses	66
Estimated population (1947)	246
Number of persons per house	3.7
Birth rate (1947)	16.2
Death rate (1947)	16.2

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890 ...	276 ...	50 ...	5.5
1910 ...	341 ...	60 ...	5.6
1930 ...	248 ...	62 ...	4.0

The 66 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category		No. of houses	Comments
1—Fit in all respects.....	8		
” 2—With minor defects	19		Informal notice served.
” 3—Requiring structural alteration or repair	29		No action taken.
” 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	7		No action taken.
” 5—Demolition	3		Demolition orders will be recommended to the Council when houses become available.

The amenities available are:—

Water Supply.

With mains supply	58	Comments. —Four of the latter will shortly be connected to the mains.
With well supply	8	

Sanitary Accommodation.

Water closets	12	Comments. —Owing to the scattered area, main sewerage is impracticable at present. It is hoped that the scavenging scheme will be extended to include the emptying of pails. House owners will then be urged to convert privies to pails.
Pail closets	6	
Privies	48	

Foul Drainage.

Sewer	—	No comments.
Septic tank	3	
Cesspool	61	
None provided	2	

All 66 houses are provided with household washing facilities, cooking facilities and sinks. Only 4 have a hot water supply and a fixed bath. Bins are provided at 30 houses, the remaining 36 dispose of dry refuse in their gardens. Artificial light is provided by means of electric supply in 18 houses, the remaining 48 use oil lamps.

The general standard of housing accommodation in the Parish is very low. Nearly all the houses are more than 60 years old, and with the exception of a piped water supply which now supplies all but 8 of the houses, practically no improvements have taken place during that time.

Most of the cottage property is maintained in a reasonable condition, but because of the ageing and decay that has taken place, it will be noticed that 29 houses have been placed in category 3 and 7 houses in category 4.

These houses are of a type that require a considerable amount of money spending on them and should at the same time be brought up to-date by additions and structural alterations giving increased amenities.

PARISH OF DOWNHOLLAND.

Acreage.....3,475.

Number of houses	195
Estimated population (1947)	602
Number of persons per house	3.08
Birth rate (1947)	4.9
Death rate (1947)	14.7

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890 ...	739 ...	142 ...	5.2
1910 ...	739 ...	147 ...	5.02
1930 ...	655 ...	158 ...	4.14

The 195 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category 1—Fit in all respects.....	73	
„ 2—With minor defects	20	Informal action taken.
„ 3—Requiring structural alteration or repair	54	No action taken.
„ 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	20	No action taken.
„ 5—Requiring demolition	28	To be represented for demolition when more houses become available.

Total 195

The amenities available are:—

Water Supply.

With main supply	188	Comments. —Three cottages isolated on the Moss are supplied with water daily by rail.
With well supply	3	
Rainwater tank	1	

Sanitary Accommodation.

With water closets	61	No comments.
With pail closets	17	
Privies	117	

Foul Drainage.

To sewer	22	Comments —The new Council houses represent the 22 on the sewer. There are no sewers in the remainder of the Parish.
Septic tank	37	
Cesspool	131	
None	5	

The standard of housing in the Parish is very low. Houses more than 60 years old represent 73% of the total, and excluding the post-war houses completed to-date, this figure would be raised to 82%.

The only notable improvement throughout the years has been the gradual extension of the water mains. Commenced in 1895, this service now supplies all but six houses in the Parish.

The majority of the cottage property is maintained in a reasonable condition, but it will be noticed that more than half the total has been placed in Categories 3, 4 and 5.

All the houses in the Parish are provided with cooking facilities. 189 have washing facilities provided. The number with hot water and fixed baths is 38 (19%), and all but 14 have sinks fitted.

75 houses are without proper food storage accommodation, and just over half (i.e. 106) still use oil lamps for illumination.

Household refuse is collected from 105 dustbins and 64 middens. The remaining 26 cottages have no provision made and dispose of dry refuse in their gardens.

PARISH OF HALSALL.

Acreage.....6,995.

Number of houses	578
Estimated population (1947)	2176
Number of persons per house	3.76
Birth rate (1947)	17.0
Death rate (1947)	11.5

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890 ...	1308	231	5.66
1910 ...	1436	305	4.70
1930 ...	1738	449	3.87

The 578 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category 1—Fit in all respects.....	185	
„ 2—With minor defects	117	Informal action taken.
„ 3—Requiring structural alteration or repair	191	No action taken.
„ 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	67	No action taken.
„ 5—Requiring demolition	18	3 of the 18 have Demolition Orders which were made in 1938. All the houses are occupied.

The amenities available are:—

Water Supply.

With mains supply	562	No comments.
With well supply	15	
With rainwater supply	1	

Sanitary Accommodation.

With water closets	289	No comments.
With pail closets	71	
With privies	218	

Foul Drainage.

To sewer	—	Comments—The new Council houses at Summerwood Lane and Heathey Lane are included in septic tank drainage.
Septic tank	272	
Cesspool	285	
None	21	

The standard of housing in the Parish varies considerably.

The majority of the old property which constitutes about 40% of the total, is situated around the village of Halsall. On the outskirts of the Parish and principally at the Birkdale end, much development took place between the wars. The latter consists of small bungalow types and whilst it can be said to be reasonably well maintained, the septic tank drainage on to low lying flat moss land is very bad and is the cause of recurring nuisances.

The older types of cottage property on the moss lands and in the hamlets are in poor conditions and do not readily lend themselves to structural improvements.

The most serious of all the defects is, as usual, dampness, to which very often there is no reasonable remedy.

The most notable improvement throughout the years is the supply of piped water. Only 16 homes remain without mains supply.

PARISH OF RUFFORD.

Acreage.....3,120.

Number of houses	333
Estimated population (1947)	945
Number of persons per house	2.84
Birth rate (1947)	11.50
Death rate (1947)	16.80

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890	816	166	4.90
1910	798	179	4.45
1930	892	231	3.86

The 333 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category 1—Fit in all respects.....	171	
„ 2—With minor defects	89	Informal notices served.
„ 3—Requiring structural alteration or repair	51	No action taken.
„ 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	6	No action taken.
„ 5—Requiring demolition	16	Demolition orders will be recommended to the Council when more houses become available.

333

The amenities available are:—

Water Supply.

With mains supply	330	Comments. —One of the latter is included in Category 5 above.
With well supply	3	

Sanitary Accommodation.

Water closets	200	Comments. —The Rufford sewerage scheme will upon completion make available water borne sanitation to approximately two thirds of the houses in the Parish.
Pail closets	66	
Privies	68	

Foul Drainage.

Sewers	43	No comments.
Septic tanks	128	
Cesspools	162	

The general standard of housing in the Parish is moderately low. Approaching half the total number of inhabited houses are 60 years and more old, and it is amongst this group that we find the absence of hot water supply and fixed bath, and proper provision for the storage of food and for household washing.

Inherent dampness due to lack of damp proof coursing in the walls, and flagged floors laid directly on the earth is also very pronounced. Amongst other contributory causes are bad siting and the gradual weathering of the bricks which increases their porosity.

Bins are provided in 221 houses, and hot water supply and fixed baths are fitted in 176 houses. Household washing facilities and adequate food storage arrangements were found in 299 of the houses visited.

Artificial light was provided by means of electric supply in 281 cases, the remaining 52 cottages still use oil lamps.

The majority of the older cottage property was found to be reasonably well maintained, and in those instances where serious defects and nuisances were found, the landlords when approached did the work required of them without formal action being found necessary.

A total of 57 houses (Categories 3 & 4) require extensive repair and alteration in order to bring them up to a satisfactory standard and 16 houses are considered to be so unfit that it would not be reasonable to ask the owners to carry out repair. They have therefore been placed in Category 5.

PARISH OF SCARISBRICK.

Acreage.....7,943.

Number of houses	853
Estimated population (1948)	3,185
Number of persons per house	3.73
Birth rate (1948)	14.60
Death rate (1948)	8.60

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890 ...	2317 ...	420 ...	5.50
1910 ...	2296 ...	487 ...	4.70
1930 ...	2638 ...	722 ...	3.65

The 853 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category 1—Fit in all respects.....	457	
„ 2—With minor defects	91	Informal notice served.
„ 3—Requiring structural alteration or repair	100	No action taken.
„ 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	170	No action taken.
„ 5—Requiring demolition	35	To be represented when more houses become available.

The amenities available are:—

Water Supply.

With mains supply	831	Comments.—The Martin Mere Water Scheme will when completed abolish 10 rainwater tanks and 1 bore hole supply.
With well supply	9	
With rainwater tanks	13	

Sanitary Accommodation.

Houses with water closets ...	484	No comments.
With pail closets	86	
With privies	283	

Foul Drainage.

To sewer	58	Comments.—A total of 280 houses will be connected to the sewer on completion of the Bescar Lane and Carr Cross Sewerage Scheme.
Septic tank treatment	426	
Cesspool	367	
None	2	

Houses without adequate washing facilities	164
„ „ hot water supply	384
„ „ a fixed bath	382
„ „ a sink	8
„ „ suitable food storage	66
„ „ separate access to bedrooms	94

Household Refuse.

Houses with bins	612
" " privy ashpits	241

Artificial Lighting.

Houses with electric light	617
" " gas lighting	68
" " oil lamps	168

48% of the total number of houses in the Parish are at least 60 years old. Privy sanitation and absence of hot water supply and fixed baths were found in this group. Maintenance of the older property varies considerably. In many instances it is very good and in others—chiefly the small cottage type—it is for practical purposes absent.

In those instances where serious defects and nuisances were found, the landlords of the property were approached and the work was done without formal action being found necessary.

A total of 270 houses are in need of extensive repairs and structural alteration and improvements in order to bring them up to a satisfactory standard, and 35 houses are considered to be so unfit due to sanitary defects and disrepair that they could not be made fit at a reasonable cost. They are, therefore, placed in Category 5 and will be dealt with when circumstances permit of suitable alternative accommodation being made available.

PARISH OF TARLETON.

Acreage.....5,545.

Number of houses	826
Estimated population (1948)	2985
Number of persons per house	3.60
Birth rate (1948)	16.30
Death rate (1948)	8.60

Year	Population	No. of houses	Persons per house
1890 ...	1885 ...	369 ...	5.10
1910 ...	2100 ...	485 ...	4.30
1930 ...	2555 ...	637 ...	4.01

The 826 houses have been placed in the following categories:—

Category 1—Fit in all respects.....	465	
" 2—With minor defects	135	Informal action taken.
" 3—Requiring structural alteration or repair	139	No action taken.
" 4—Requiring reconditioning or reconstruction	52	No action taken.
" 5—Requiring demolition	35	To be represented when more houses become available.

826

The amenities available are:—

Water Supply.

With main supply	823	No comments.
With well supply	1	
With rainwater tank	2	

Sanitary Accommodation.

With water closets	541	No comments.
With pail closets	191	
With privies	94	

Foul Drainage.

To sewer	266	No comments.
Septic tank treatment	255	
To Cesspools	342	
None	3	

Houses without adequate washing facilities	44
" " hot water supply	335
" " a fixed bath	334
" " a sink	10
" " a suitable food storage	25
" " separate access to bedrooms	114

Household Refuse.

Houses with bins	654
" " privy ashpits	94

Artificial Lighting.

Houses with electric light	768
" " gas lighting (Calor gas)	2
" " oil lamps	56

The greater part of the housing development in Tarleton is concentrated along the eastern boundary of the Parish.

The standard of housing varies from the primitive single storey cottage lacking all the amenities (except water supply) to the modern types of detached and semi detached two storey dwellings possessing most of the amenities which constitute a fit house.

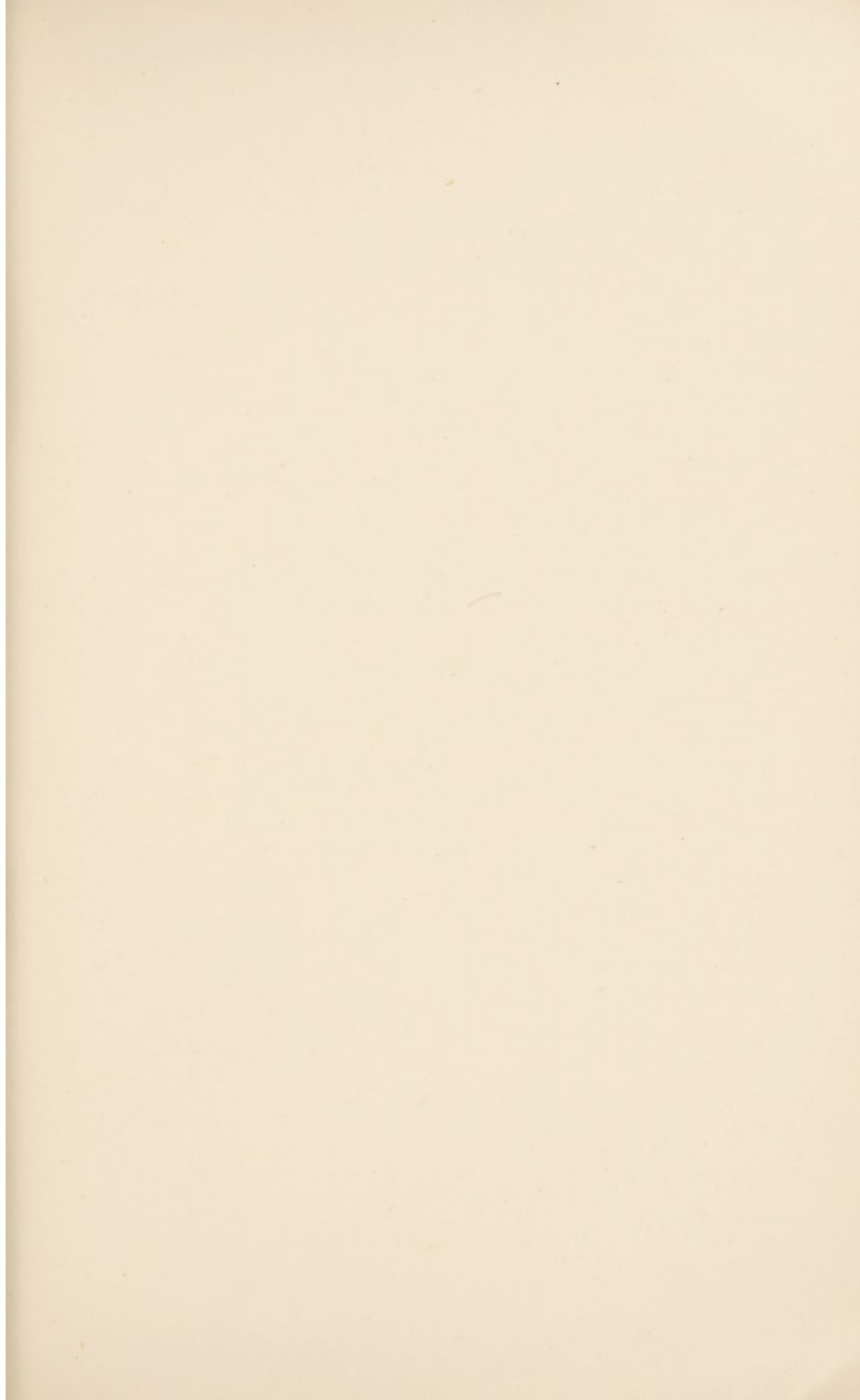
46% of the total are 60 years or more old, and the majority of this type are scattered about on the moor.

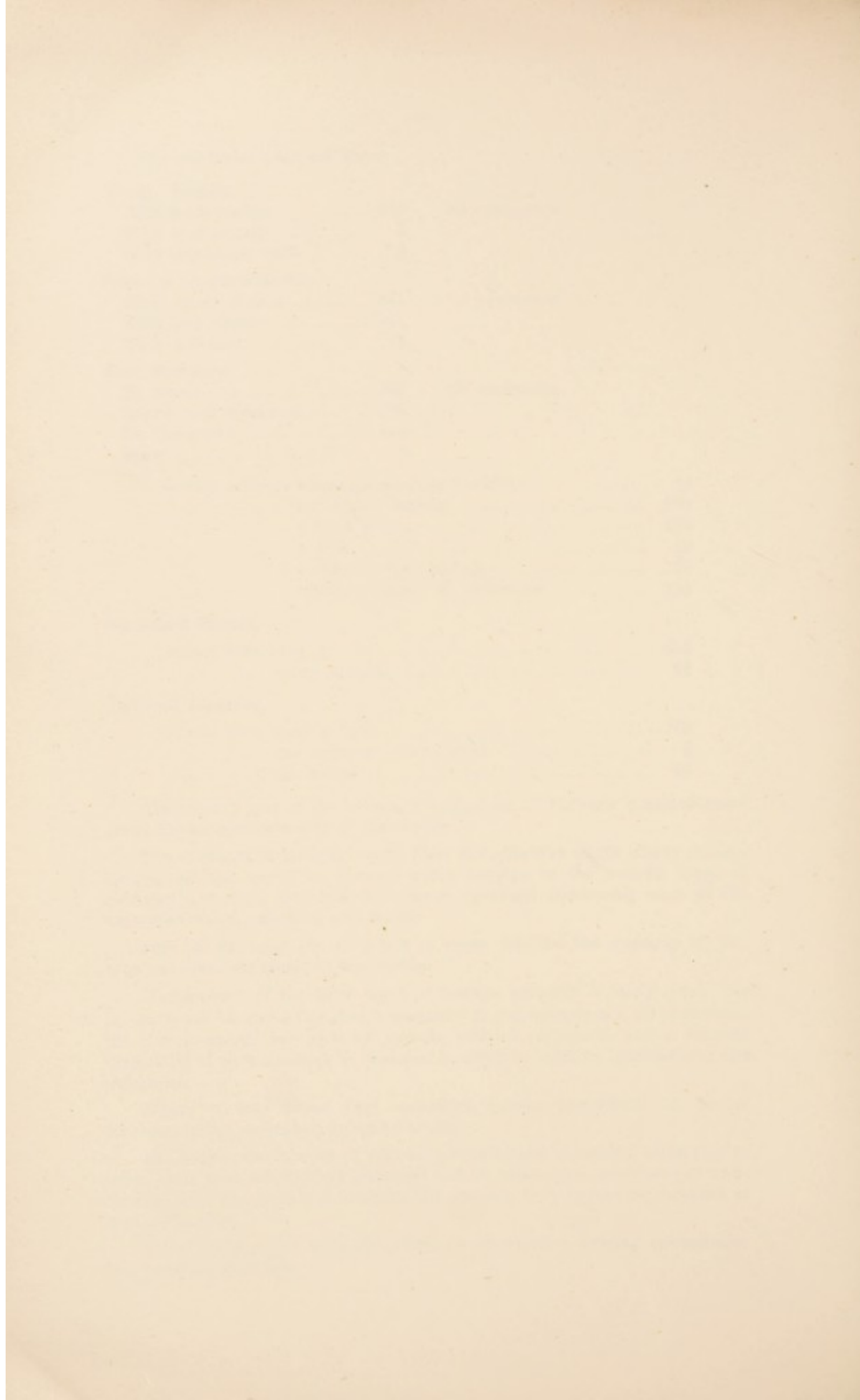
Maintenance of the older types of cottage property is fairly good. As in nearly all the rural Parishes, complaints by the tenants are not numerous, the low standards are accepted usually without complaint, and a detailed inspection of each dwelling is required in order to bring to light defects and nuisances.

Where it was found that nuisances existed prejudicial to health, informal action was taken up with owners.

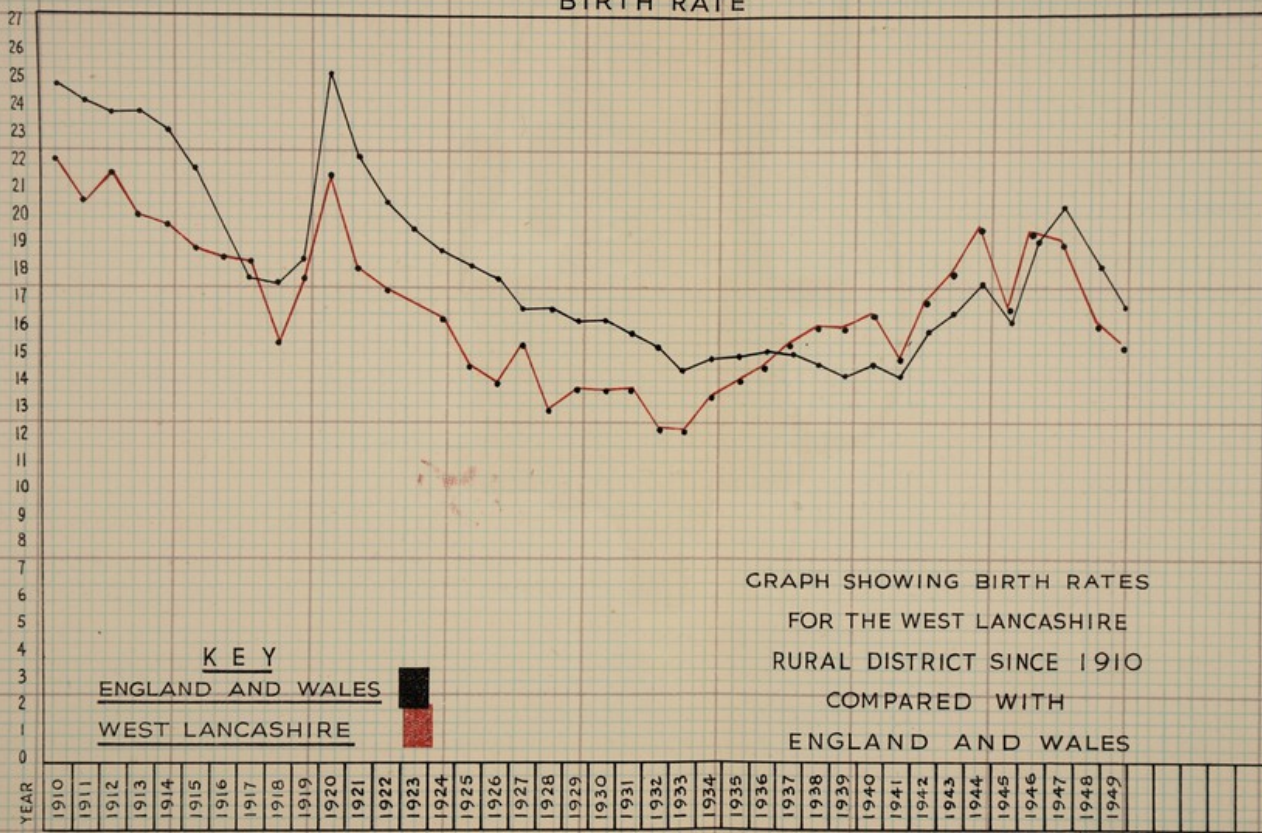
191 houses are in need of extensive repairs and structural alteration to bring them to a satisfactory standard and 35 houses are considered so unfit by reason of disrepair and sanitary defects that they cannot be repaired at reasonable cost.

They will be dealt with when suitable alternative housing accommodation becomes available.



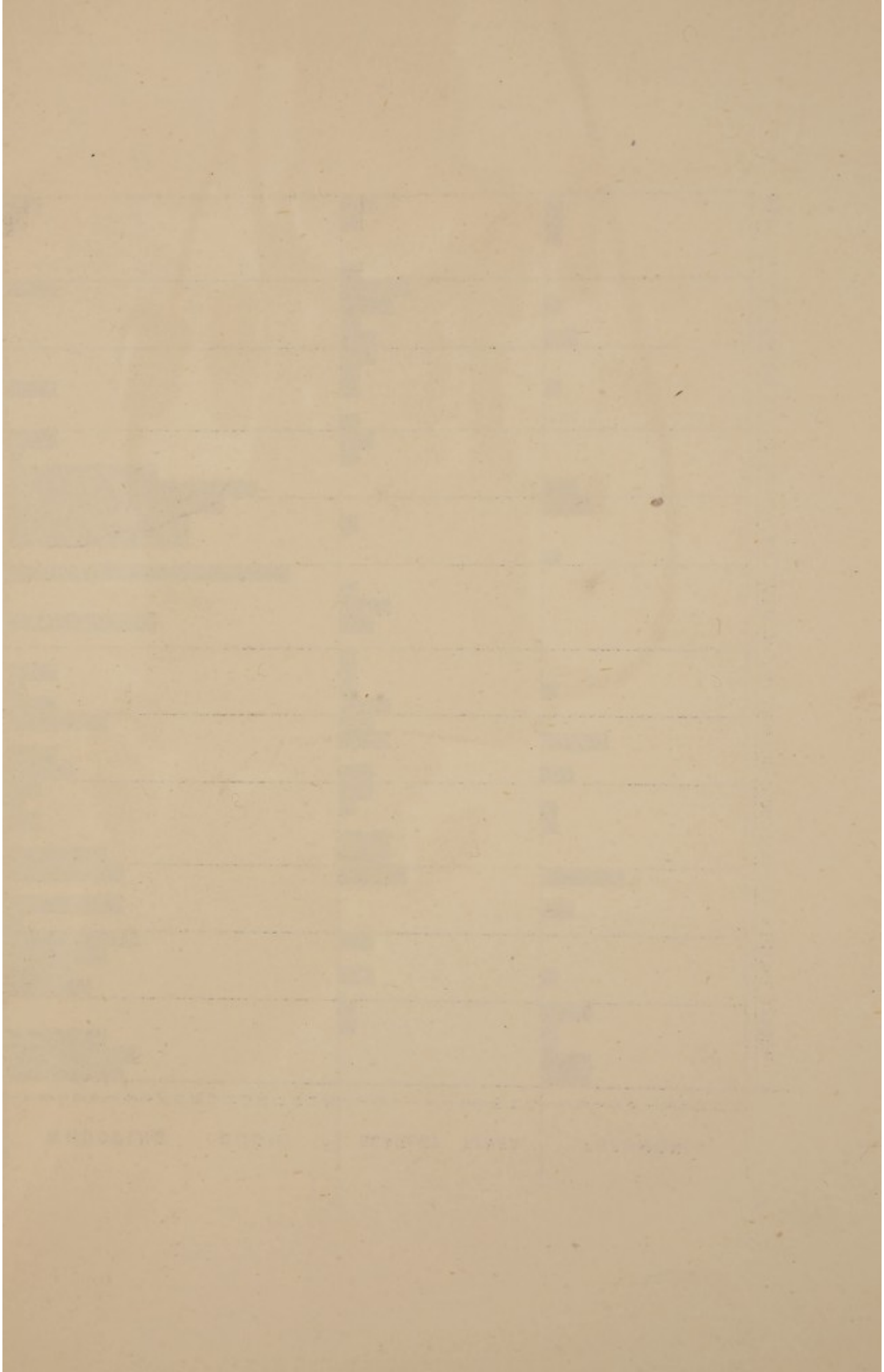


BIRTH RATE

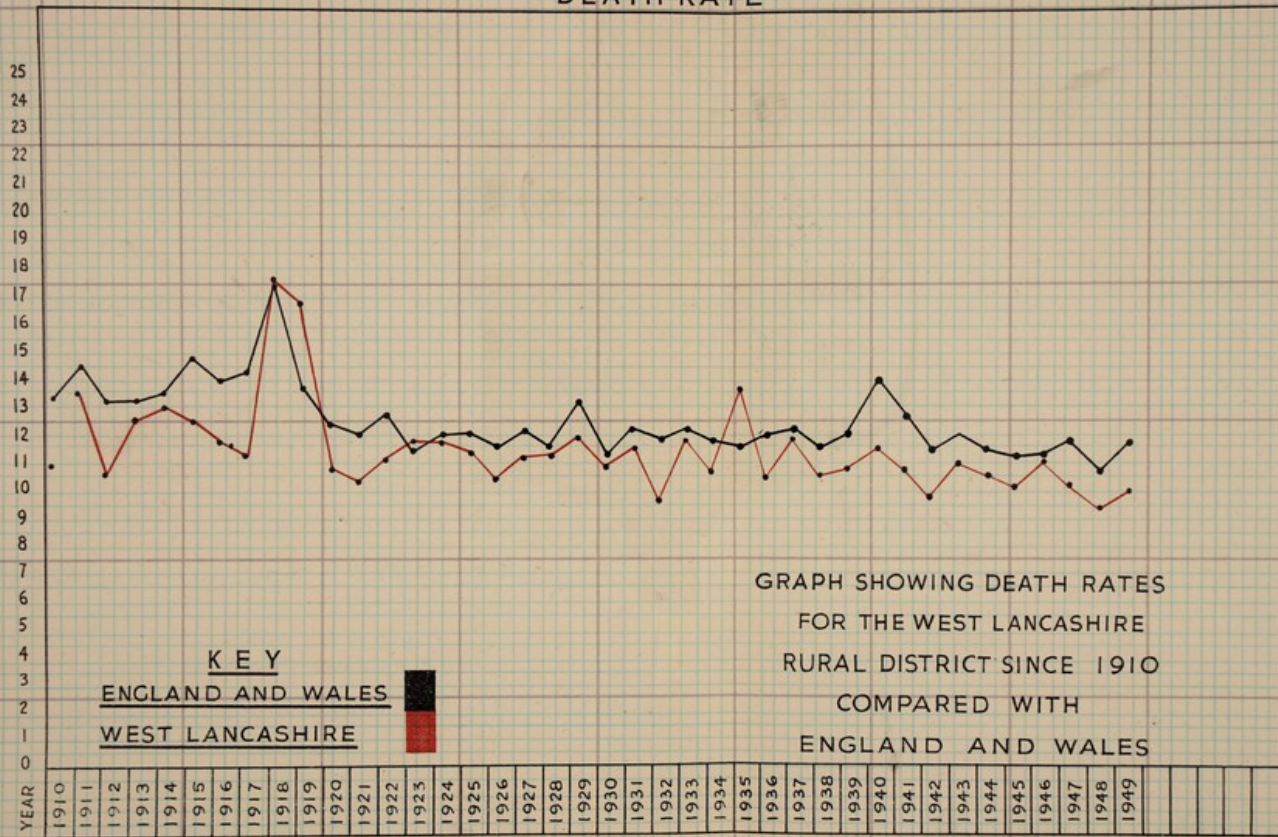


GRAPH SHOWING BIRTH RATES
FOR THE WEST LANCASHIRE
RURAL DISTRICT SINCE 1910
COMPARED WITH
ENGLAND AND WALES

KEY
 ENGLAND AND WALES
 WEST LANCASHIRE



DEATH RATE



GRAPH SHOWING DEATH RATES
FOR THE WEST LANCASHIRE
RURAL DISTRICT SINCE 1910
COMPARED WITH
ENGLAND AND WALES

KEY
ENGLAND AND WALES
WEST LANCASHIRE



