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Public Health Department

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE

West Lancashire Rural District

DURING THE YEAR


1956



BY

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

Medical Officer of Health.



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WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1956.

Chairman.....JAMES SEPHTON.
Vice-Chairman.....JOHN P. CROPPER.

Aintree	....	....	....	....	....	Arthur Davenhill, J.P. Richard Martland. Albert Tasker.
Altcar	....	....	....	....	....	Stanley Ashcroft.
Aughton	....	....	....	....	....	Wm. E. Rothwell. John Leigh. G. H. McElroy, M.A.
Bickerstaffe	....	....	....	....	....	James Heyes. John Stockley.
Bispham	....	....	....	....	....	T. J. Glover.
Downholland	....	....	....	....	....	R. Woods.
Halsall	....	....	....	....	....	John P. Cropper. A. P. Trower.
Hesketh-with-Beaconsall	....	....	....	....	....	E. E. Iddon.
Ince Blundell	....	....	....	....	....	Chas. F. Kuhl.
Lydiate	....	....	....	....	....	Miss M. J. Barnes, J.P. E. O. Thomas.
Maghull	....	....	....	....	....	Samuel H. Hudson. H. Stafford Moreton, J.P. A. W. Glenn. Mrs. W. M. Mitchell. Mrs. B. E. Long. W. E. Long. J. R. Broadbent. W. W. Kenney.
Melling	....	....	....	....	....	Tom Sergeant.
Netherton	....	....	....	....	....	E. M. Houghton.
North Meols	....	....	....	....	....	J. Schwartzman. Miss E. Rushton.
Rufford	....	....	....	....	....	Mrs. V. A. Haigh.
Scarisbrick	....	....	....	....	....	James Sephton. G. Ainscough.
Sefton	....	....	....	....	....	Wm. Stubbs. James H. Ellison.
Simonswood	....	....	....	....	....	R. E. Gregson.
Tarleton	....	....	....	....	....	John Hunter. A. R. Lund, J.P.,
Thornton	....	....	....	....	....	Ernest Letter. Reginald Phillips.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Miss M. J. BARNES, J.P.....Chairman.

Mr. CHAS. F. KUHL..... Vice-Chairman.

All Members of the Council.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

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

Public Health and Meat Inspectors

ROBERT W. BINGHAM, Chief Inspector.

J. HAILWOOD.

H. JACOBS.

Housing Survey Assistant

F. PENNINGTON.

Clerical Staff

Miss B. A. JOSLYN

All are whole-time Officials.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eleventh Annual Report on the Health of the West Lancashire Rural District during the year 1956.

The district has remained healthy and the number of infectious diseases notified has remained low. 492 cases were notified, compared with 457 in 1955. The great bulk of these infectious diseases was Measles of which 386 cases were notified—the majority in October, November and December when a small outbreak was developing. There was an increase in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified—33 compared with 16 a year ago, and indicates that this disease is still much with us. 5 cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, and although this is only a small number, it is more than the number of cases notified in previous years. I hope that the newly developed Poliomyelitis vaccine is going to prove of value and will enable us to reduce the incidence of this disease which causes a high morbidity, although not a high mortality.

The birth rate for the year was 17.9 per 1,000 population—a considerable increase on the figure of 14.9 in 1955 and comparing very favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales at 15.7. At the same time, the death rate showed a reduction at 10.3 per 1,000 population, compared with 10.9 in 1955. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7. The infant mortality rate was 24, a decrease on the figure for 1955 which was 31. There was 1 maternal death.

It is gratifying to see the general improvement in housing conditions throughout the Rural District. The Council's programme of housing estates in most parishes has resulted in most of the poorer housed families being re-housed and has enabled steady progress to be made in demolishing the poorer cottages. 29 houses were either demolished or closed in accordance with the Housing Acts as unfit for human habitation. Few Rural Districts can have such a high standard of housing as now exists in West Lancashire, and it is interesting to note that 99.6% of all houses have a main water supply, while 83.2% have water closets and sewage systems, and 91.3% are provided with bins which are emptied regularly by the Council.

In conclusion, I would thank the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year, and the members of the staff for their willing assistance at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1957.

Section A

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR 1956.

Area of the District (acres)	65,993
Population (Registrar General's Mid-1956 Estimate)	44,510
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	14,561
Rateable Value	£513,994
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,958
Births	760
Deaths	459
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	24

BIRTHS.

There were 760 births recorded during the year, of which 406 were male and 354 female; and including 20 illegitimate births, 12 male and 8 female. The crude birth rate was 17.1 per 1,000 population. The adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population (comparability factor 1.05) was 17.9 compared with 14.9 in 1955. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.7.

Still Births.

The number of still births during 1956 was 28, of which 16 were male and 12 female. This is equivalent to a rate of 36 per 1,000 live and still births. 3 of these births were illegitimate.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during 1956 was 459, an increase of 2 over the previous year. The crude death rate was 10.3 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.10) was 11.3 per 1,000 population, compared with 10.9 in 1955. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one death connected with childbirth. The Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 births (live and still) was 1.27, compared with none for 1955. The figure for England and Wales was 0.56.

Infant Mortality.

There were 18 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 24 per 1,000 live births, a decrease on the figure for 1955 which was 31. The rate for England and Wales was 23.8.

Causes of Deaths in the West Lancashire Rural District 1956.

							Male	Female
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
Cancer	....	....	....	....	....	....	38	40
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	....	....	....	....	32	24
Heart Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	90	73
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	—
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	....	14	14
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	....	12	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
Congenital malformations	....	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	....	....	....	....	....	....	29	32
Motor vehicle accidents	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
All other accidents	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	7
Suicide	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	....	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
							<hr/> 243	<hr/> 216

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—

					M.	F.		
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	8	9		
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	1	—		
					<hr/>	<hr/>	9	9

Still Births :—

Legitimate	....	....	....	....	13	12		
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	3	—		
					<hr/>	<hr/>	16	12

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION 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.

All infectious disease cases are 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 Burscough, Crosby, Formby and Maghull. 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 1956.

Admissions from West Lancashire :—

Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	2
Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	....	....	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	....	3
Dysentery	....	....	....	....	....	1
Meningococcal Infection	....	....	....	....	....	1
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	2
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	1
Total	....	....	....	....	....	<hr/>14 <hr/>

These admissions were from the following townships :—

Aintree	....	....	Two cases of Poliomyelitis.
Altcar	....	....	One case of Poliomyelitis.
Aughton	....	....	Two cases of Measles.
Bispham	....	....	Two cases of Scarlet Fever.
Ince Blundell	....	....	One case of Puerperal Pyrexia.
Maghull	....	....	One case of Poliomyelitis, two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and one case of Dysentery.
North Meols	....	....	One case of Whooping Cough and one case of Meningococcal Infection.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of bedding and clothing is carried out by steam disinfection at either Crosby or Southport by arrangement with these Local Authorities. The articles are carried in a van owned by the West Lancashire R.D.C. and the service is also carried out for Ormskirk U.D.C. on a percentage of costs basis.

DETAILS OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

West Lancashire R.D.C.

					<i>Disinfections</i>	<i>Disinfestations</i>
Journeys	....	....	....	....	72	23
Rooms sprayed	....	....	....	....	81	70
Houses	....	....	....	....	40	23
Articles taken for disinfection	....	....	....	....	79	—

Other Journeys.

Drain clearing	....	....	....	....	84
Removal of condemned food	....	....	....	....	31

Ormskirk U.D.C.

					<i>Disinfections</i>	<i>Disinfestations</i>
Journeys	....	....	....	....	11	—
Rooms sprayed	....	....	....	....	18	—
Houses	....	....	....	....	10	—
Articles taken for disinfection	....	....	....	....	9	—

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN TOWNSHIPS.

The following table shows the population, number of births and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 in each township in the Rural District for the year 1956 :—

TOWNSHIPS	Estimated Population middle of 1956	BIRTHS		DEATHS	
		No. of Births	Rate per 1,000	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000
Aintree	4,407	112	25·4	27	6·1
Altcar	830	—	—	8	9·6
Aughton	4,063	54	13·3	50	12·3
Bickerstaffe	1,378	13	9·4	19	13·8
Bispham	213	4	18·8	1	4·7
Downholland	758	2	2·6	11	14·5
Halsall	2,065	26	12·5	23	11·1
Hesketh Bank	1,826	64	35·04	24	13·1
Ince Blundell	460	8	17·4	4	8·7
Lydiate	3,220	89	27·6	23	7·1
Maghull	12,211	198	16·2	111	9·1
Melling	1,386	21	15·2	17	12·3
Netherton	344	3	8·7	4	11·6
North Meols	2,418	20	8·2	29	12·0
Rufford	1,237	29	23·4	11	8·9
Scarisbrick	2,847	33	11·6	35	12·3
Sefton	433	6	13·9	9	20·8
Simonswood	231	5	21·7	1	4·3
Tarleton	2,808	29	10·3	37	13·2
Thornton	1,375	44	32·0	15	19·01
Whole District	44,510	760	17·1	459	10·3

DISTRICT NURSES WORKING IN THE DISTRICT.

- Miss A Vidler, 25 Princes Avenue, Crosby. Tel. No. Gt. Crosby 1029.
Mr. W. Bushell, 94 Park Lane, Netherton. Tel. No. Aintree 1255.
Miss M. Hutchinson, 2 Glenholme Road, Maghull. Tel. No. Maghull 1828.
Mrs. A. Hooton, 5 Whalley Drive, Aughton. Tel. No. Aughton Green 3277.
Miss W. Schofield, "Lyndeth," Waddicar Lane, Melling. Tel. No. Kirkby 2149.
Mrs. A. Ashurst, 290 Southport Road, Scarisbrick. Tel. No. Scarisbrick 218.
Mrs. K. Slater, 82 Station Road, Banks. Tel. No. Southport 87914.
Mrs. O. Trafford, 10 Bellair Avenue, Great Crosby. Tel. No. Gt. Crosby 3770.
Miss M. Catterall, "Burnside," Gorse Lane, Tarleton. Tel. No. Hesketh Bank 580.
Mrs. B. Stephens, 21, Buckingham Road, Maghull. Tel. No. Maghull 2960.

MIDWIVES RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

- Mrs. E. Bibby, 160 Northway, Maghull.
Tel. No. Maghull 428 S.C.M.
Mrs. M. N. Foulkes, "Arbutus," Bold Lane, Aughton.
Tel. No. Aughton Green 2269 S.C.M., S.R.N., R.S.C.N.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

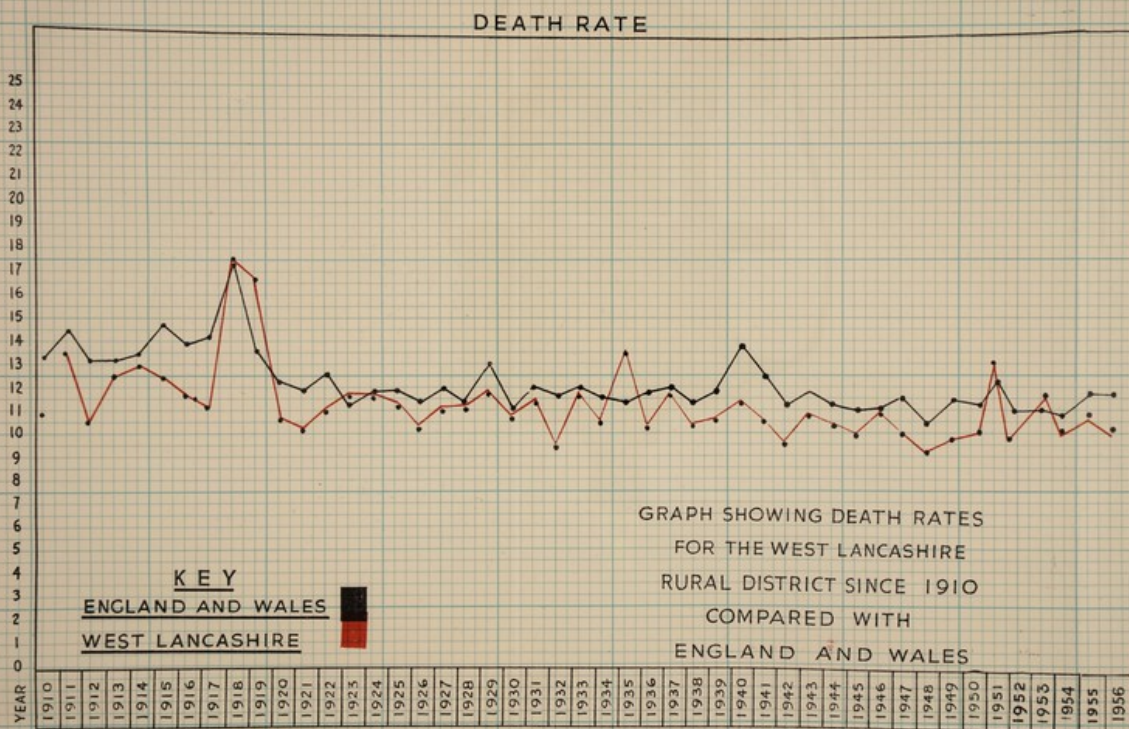
Litherland Clinics—

LINACRE ROAD.

Monday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Dental.
	2-00—4 p.m.	Dental.
Tuesday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Minor Ailments.
Wednesday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Dental.
	2-00—4 p.m.	Dental.
Thursday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Ophthalmic.
Friday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Minor Ailments.

SEFTON AVENUE.

Monday	....2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
Wednesday	....2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre
Thursday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Orthopaedic Clinic.
	2-00—4 p.m.	Ante-natal Clinic.

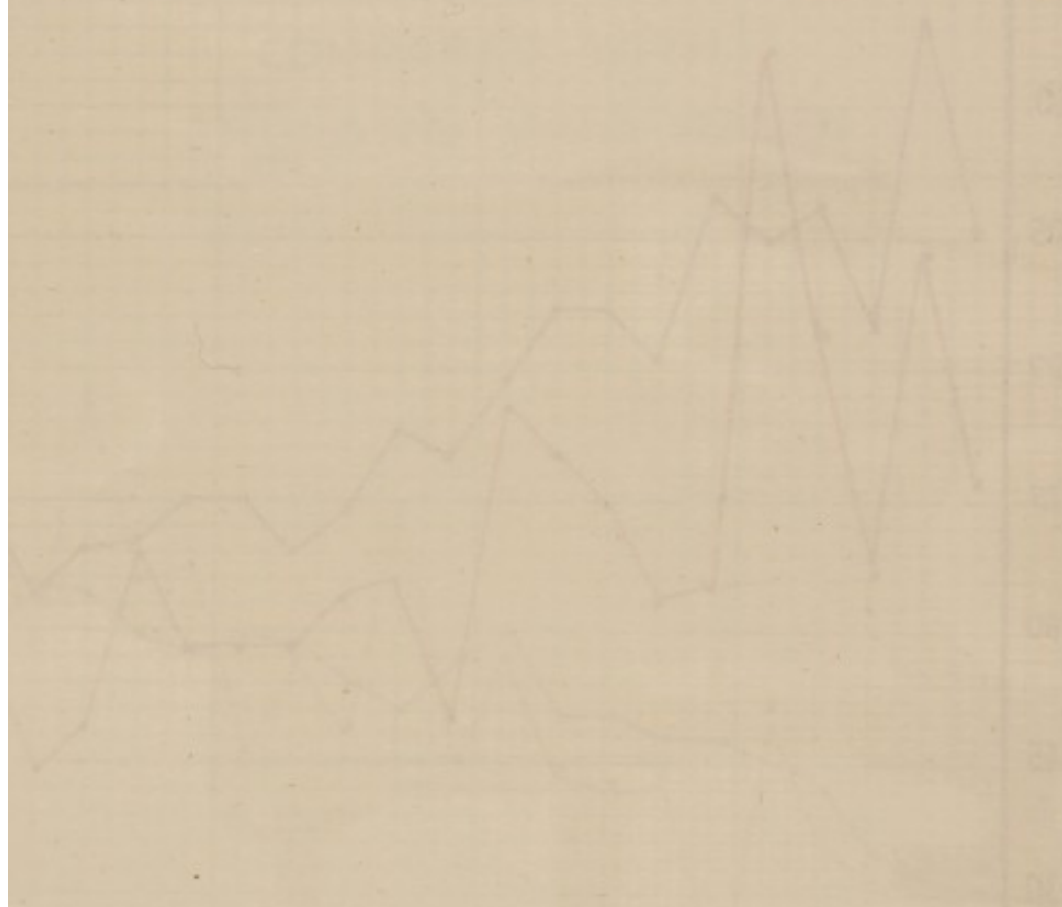


TABLE

SHOWING INFANT MORTALITY RATE

IN WEST LANCASHIRE

1891-1900



KEY

ENGLAND AND WALES

WEST LANCASHIRE

Year	West Lancashire	England and Wales
1891	12	10
1892	14	11
1893	13	10
1894	15	11
1895	14	10
1896	16	11
1897	15	10
1898	18	11
1899	35	25
1900	25	15

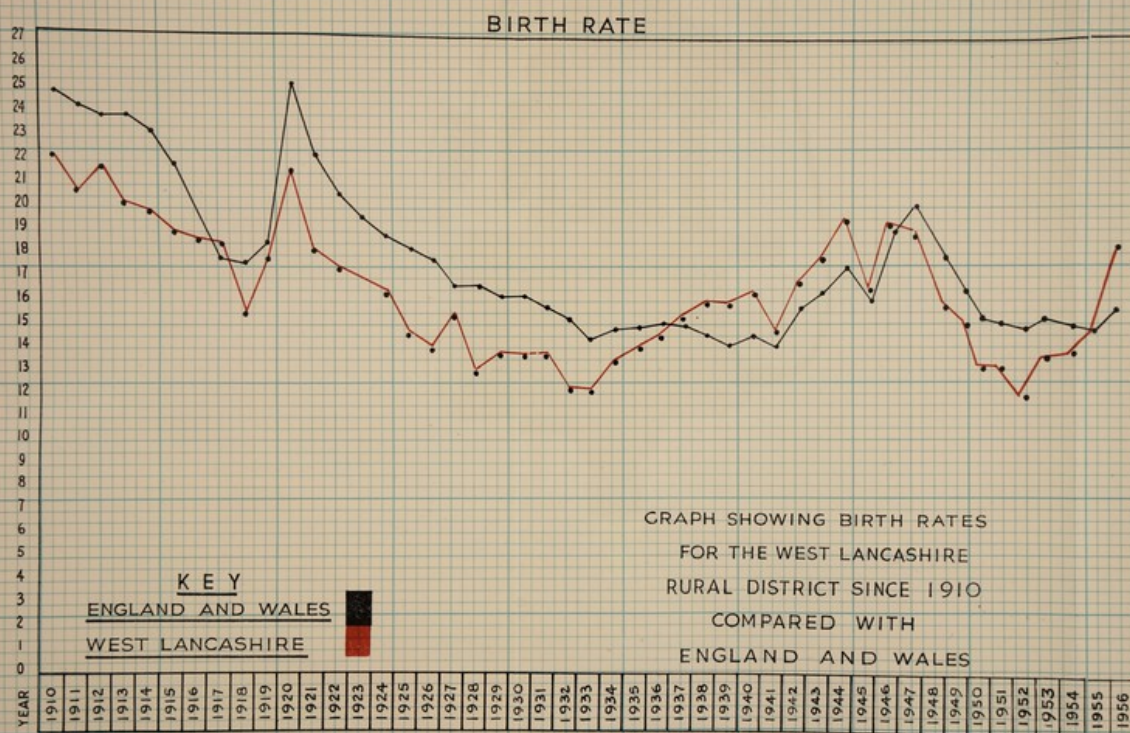
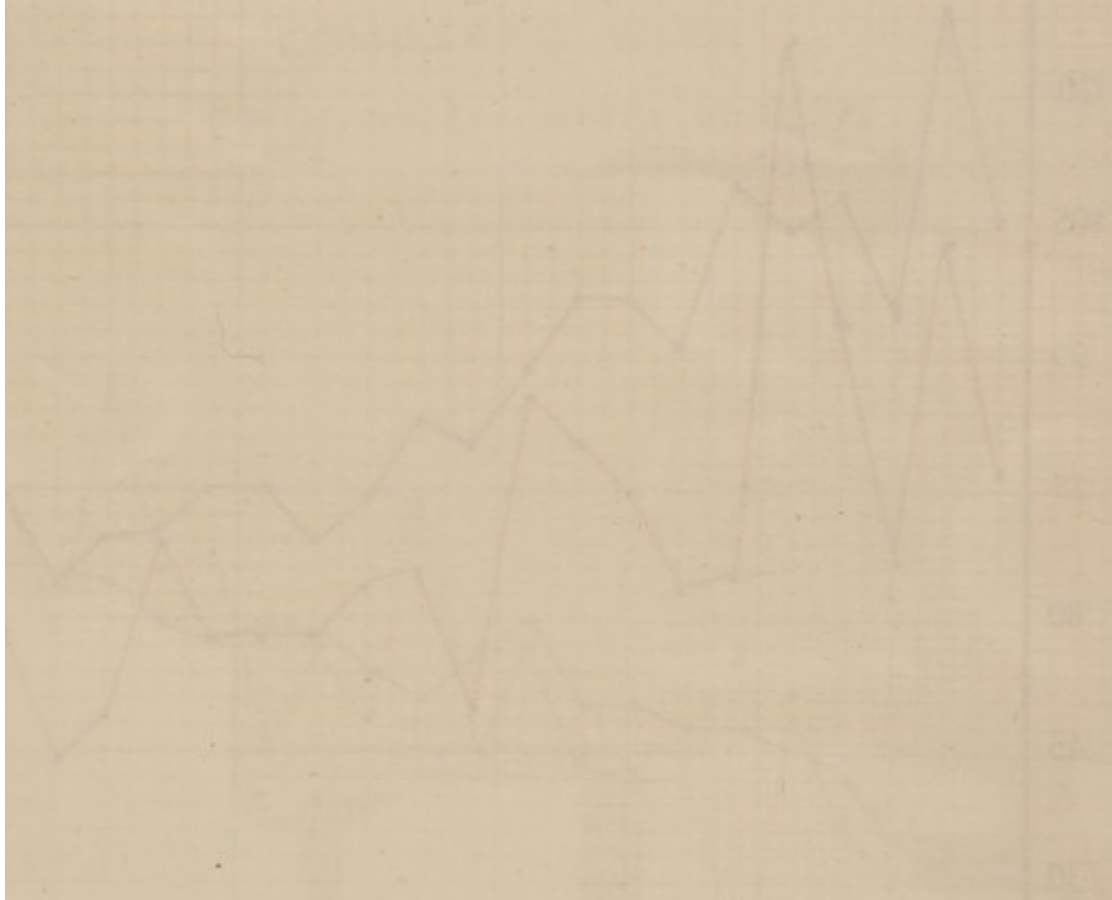


TABLE 1

SHOWING MEAN MORTALITY RATES
FOR THE WEST LANCASHIRE
RURAL DISTRICT 1910-1919



KEY

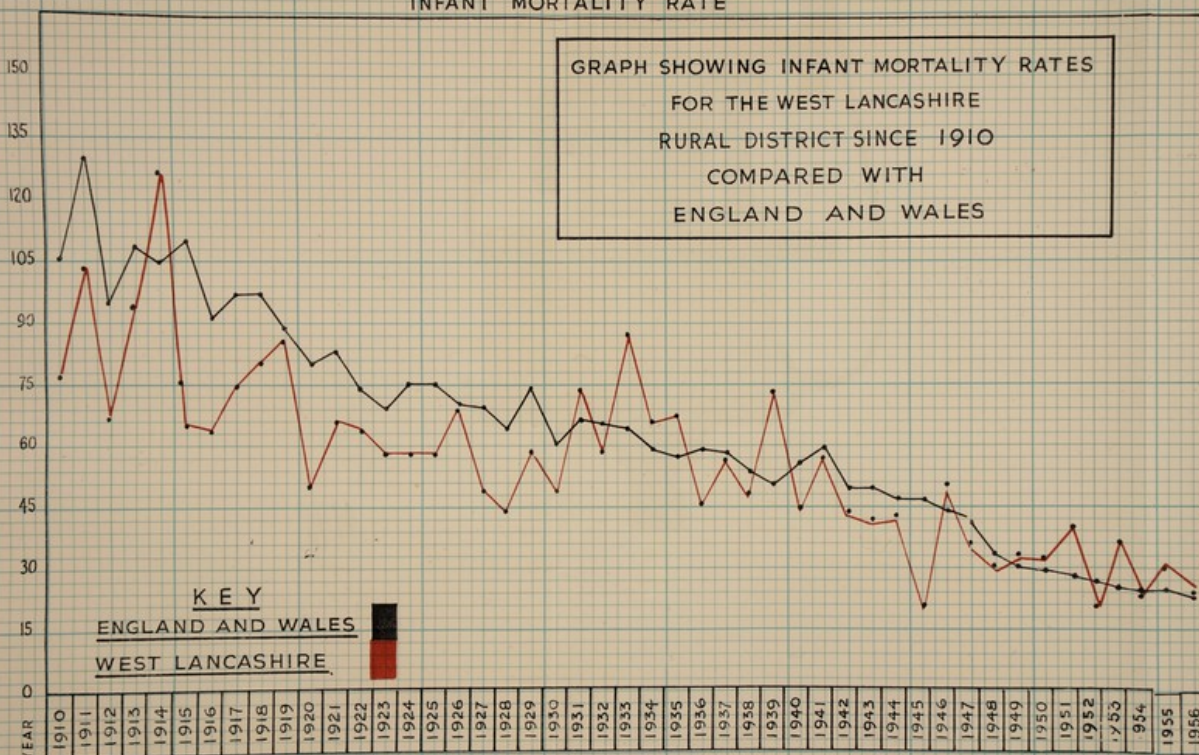
— WEST LANCASHIRE
- - - ENGLAND AND WALES

1910	12	12
1911	10	11
1912	12	12
1913	11	11
1914	13	12
1915	12	11
1916	15	12
1917	14	11
1918	28	12
1919	18	11

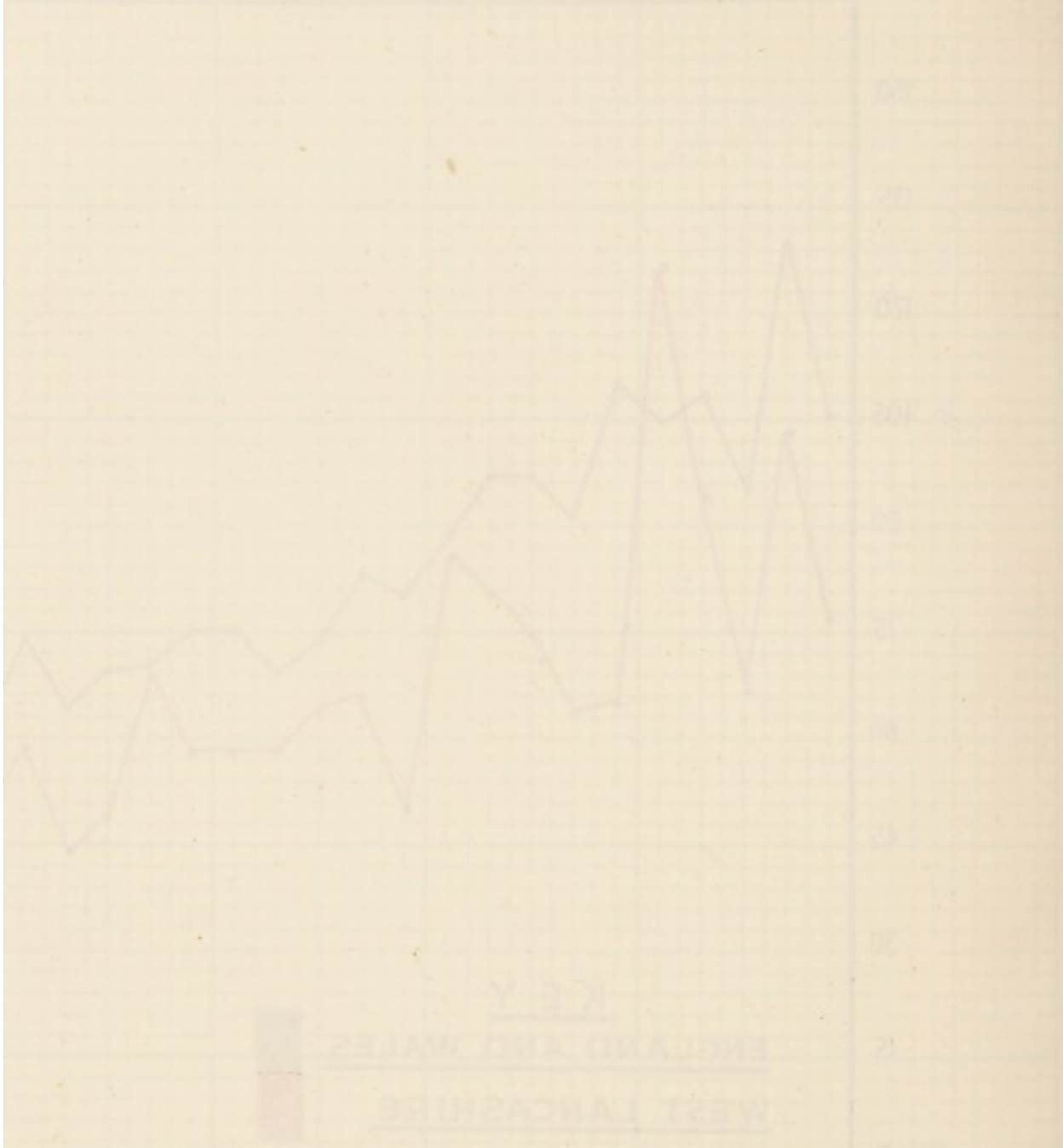
INFANT MORTALITY RATE

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

KEY
ENGLAND AND WALES
WEST LANCASHIRE



INFANT MORTALITY



1900	45	40
1901	48	42
1902	45	40
1903	48	42
1904	45	40
1905	48	42
1906	45	40
1907	48	42
1908	45	40
1909	48	42
1910	55	50
1911	58	52
1912	55	50
1913	58	52
1914	55	50
1915	58	52
1916	55	50
1917	58	52
1918	55	50
1919	58	52
1920	55	50

MAGHULL CLINIC, NORTHWAY.

Monday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Minor Ailments.
	a.m. & p.m.	Dental.
Tuesday	....a.m. & p.m.	Dental.
Thursday	....2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
	a.m. & p.m.	Dental.
Friday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Minor Ailments.
	a.m. & p.m.	Dental.

ORMSKIRK CLINIC, GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Monday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Minor Ailments.
	2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
	a.m. & p.m.	Orthopaedic.
Tuesday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Dental.
	2-00—4 p.m.	Dental.
Wednesday	....p.m.	Minor Ailments.
Friday	....9-30—12 a.m.	Ante-natal.
	a.m. & p.m.	Dental.

LATHOM AND BURSCOUGH, OLD COUNCIL OFFICES, BURSCOUGH.

Thursday2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
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JUBILEE HALL, AINTREE.

Monday2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
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POST OFFICE, SCARISBRICK.

Monday2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.
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FIRE STATION, TARLETON.

Tuesday2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.	Alternate weeks.
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METHODIST CHURCH HALL, LYDIATE.

Wednesday2-00—4 p.m.	Child Welfare Centre.	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
4	Hesketh-with-Becconsall C.E.	28	107 infants and juniors
4	North Meols, Banks Primitive Methodist	24	149 infants and mixed
4	North Meols, St. Stephen's	25	95 infants and mixed
4	Tarleton Mere Brow C.E.	26	32 infants and mixed
4	Tarleton County	31	242 infants, juniors and seniors.
4	Tarleton C.E.	27	169 infants and juniors
11	Halsall C.E.	30	240 juniors and seniors
11	Haskayne C.E.	31	46 infants and juniors
11	Bickerstaffe C.E.	32	119 infants and juniors
11	Maghull C.E.	16	525 infants and juniors
11	Maghull County Secondary	100	659 seniors
11	Maghull Grammar	131	273 seniors
11	Maghull, St. George's R.C.	17	369 infants and mixed
11	Maghull Hudson	32	358 infants and juniors
11	Melling-Aughton R.C.	14	59 infants and juniors
11	Melling C.E.	15	82 infants and juniors
11	Scarisbrick St. Mark's C.E.	32	49 infants and juniors
11	Scarisbrick St. Mary's R.C.	33	73 infants and mixed
11	Scarisbrick County	34	75 infants and juniors
11	Aughton Christ Church	20	95 infants and mixed
11	Aughton Parochial	21	188 infants and juniors
11	Lydiat R.C.	19	65 infants and mixed
11	Lydiat C.E.	18	44 infants and mixed
11	Lydiat County Primary	33	362 juniors and seniors
11	Rufford C.E.	22	87 infants and mixed
11	Holmeswood Methodist	23	51 infants and mixed
11	Durning's Endowed Primary (Formerly Bispham Free Grammar)	24	67 infants and mixed
11	Aintree Davenhill County	31	462 infants and mixed
12	Ince Blundell R.C.	26	36 infants and mixed
12	Sefton County Primary	27	41 infants and mixed
12	Netherton St. Benet's R.C.	28	84 infants and mixed
12	Thornton County Primary	9	260 infants and mixed

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Necessary improvements are slowly being carried out. It is satisfactory to record that at last attention is being paid to the conversion of out-of-date toilet arrangements to water-carriage systems. Much still remains to be done.

The health of the school child has, however, remained good and no large numbers of infectious diseases have occurred.

THE IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT ARE :—

AUGHTON, CHRIST CHURCH.

School yard re-surfaced.
Repairs to toilets.

BISPHAM, DURNING'S ENDOWED.

Additional indoor boys' sanitary accommodation provided.
Hot water to kitchen.

HALSALL C.E.

Immersion heaters installed for washbasins.

HASKAYNE C.E.

School yard re-surfaced.

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL C.E.

New washbasins installed.
School walls re-pointed.

INCE BLUNDELL R.C.

School yard re-surfaced.

LYDIATE C.E.

School yard re-surfaced.

NORTH MEOLS, METHODIST.

Sanitary accommodation converted to water-carriage system.

RUFFORD, HOLMESWOOD METHODIST.

Has been re-painted externally.

SCARISBRICK, ST. MARKS' C.E.

School yards re-surfaced.
Washbasins installed to cloakrooms.

SEFTON COUNTY PRIMARY.

New central heating boiler installed in new boilerhouse.

TARLETON C.E.

New floor to main building.
Washbasins installed in cloakrooms.

THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS ARE
REQUIRED :—

AUGHTON, HOLT GREEN PAROCHIAL.

Paving of school yard.

BICKERSTAFFE, C.E.

Conversion of pail closets to water closets, with provision of
satisfactory drainage.

HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL C.E.

Conversion of pail closets to water closets.

LYDIATE R.C.

Conversion of pail closets to water closets.
Hot water to cloakroom washbasins.

MAGHULL GRAMMAR.

Repairs to school yard.

RUFFORD C.E.

New washbasins to both cloakrooms.

SEFTON, COUNTY PRIMARY.

Hot water to cloakroom washbasins.

TARLETON C.E.

Hot water to new staff toilet accommodation.
Replacement of obsolete sink in staff room with modern type.

Section C

PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

Eleven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year.

All cases were of a mild type, but it was necessary to remove 2 of them to hospital. The general policy is to remove to hospital such cases of Scarlet Fever as are living under over-crowded conditions, or in such circumstances that they become conveyors of infection through inefficient isolation.

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

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
CASES	33	47	61	63	18	52	56	15	31	11
DEATHS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MEASLES.

During the year 386 cases of Measles were notified.

This was an increase on the figure for 1955.

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

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
CASES	189	421	412	254	581	233	431	126	296	386
DEATHS	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

WHOOPING COUGH.

Seventy two cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, compared with 58 in 1955 and 132 in 1954.

ACUTE PNEUMONIA.

Six cases of Acute Pneumonia were notified during 1956. Deaths from Acute Pneumonia number 4.

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.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Five cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from this disease.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning notified during the year, neither were any deaths recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Summary of notifications under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations 1930) received during 1956.

Age Periods Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	3	6	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—45	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	14	19	1	3	5	1	—	—
	33		4		6		—	

CHEST CLINICS.

“ ELLESMERE,” CROSBY ROAD NORTH, WATERLOO.

Sessions are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m., and 9—12 a.m. on Thursdays.

A Children's Clinic is held at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, and a B.C.G. Clinic on Fridays at 9 a.m.

Dr. J. H. Gifford is the Tuberculosis Physician for the area.

CHEST CLINIC, COUNTY HOSPITAL, ORMSKIRK.

Sessions are held on Tuesdays at 9—12 a.m. and 1-30—5 p.m., and on Thursdays at 1-30—5 p.m. Dr. D. N. Leeming and Dr. Mary Foley are the Tuberculosis Physicians in attendance.

One Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinics and follows up patients in their own homes.

A Pulmonary Hospital of 52 beds is situated at Rufford.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows an increase of seventeen over the previous year.

NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM 1 BY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HOSPITALS.

	Sanatoria and Pulmonary Hospitals	Military and General Hospitals
Pulmonary :		
Male	—	2
Female	—	2
Non-Pulmonary :		
Male	—	1
Female	1	2

The following table is an analysis of the occupations of the 37 new cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1956 :—

Occupation	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—
School Child (5-14)	1	1	—	1
Housewife	—	4	—	1
Occupation Unknown	4	8	1	—
Clerk	1	2	—	1
Fitter	1	—	—	—
Student Nurse	1	—	—	—
Seamstress	—	1	—	—
Draughtsman	1	—	—	—
Motor Engineer	1	—	—	—
Taxi Owner	1	—	—	—
Factory Worker	—	2	—	—
Night Watchman	1	—	—	—
Transport Manager	1	—	—	—
Laundry Worker	—	1	—	—
Railway Signaller	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	14	19	1	3

In 41 houses inspected during the year by reason of tuberculosis inmates, 27 slept in separate bedrooms, and in 14 cases the patients did not have separate beds.

DIPHTHERIA.

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

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, monthly clinics are held at the Clinic, Ormskirk General Hospital, Maghull Clinic, Scarisbrick Clinic and Tarleton Clinic.

DIPHTHERIA IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT 1947-1956.

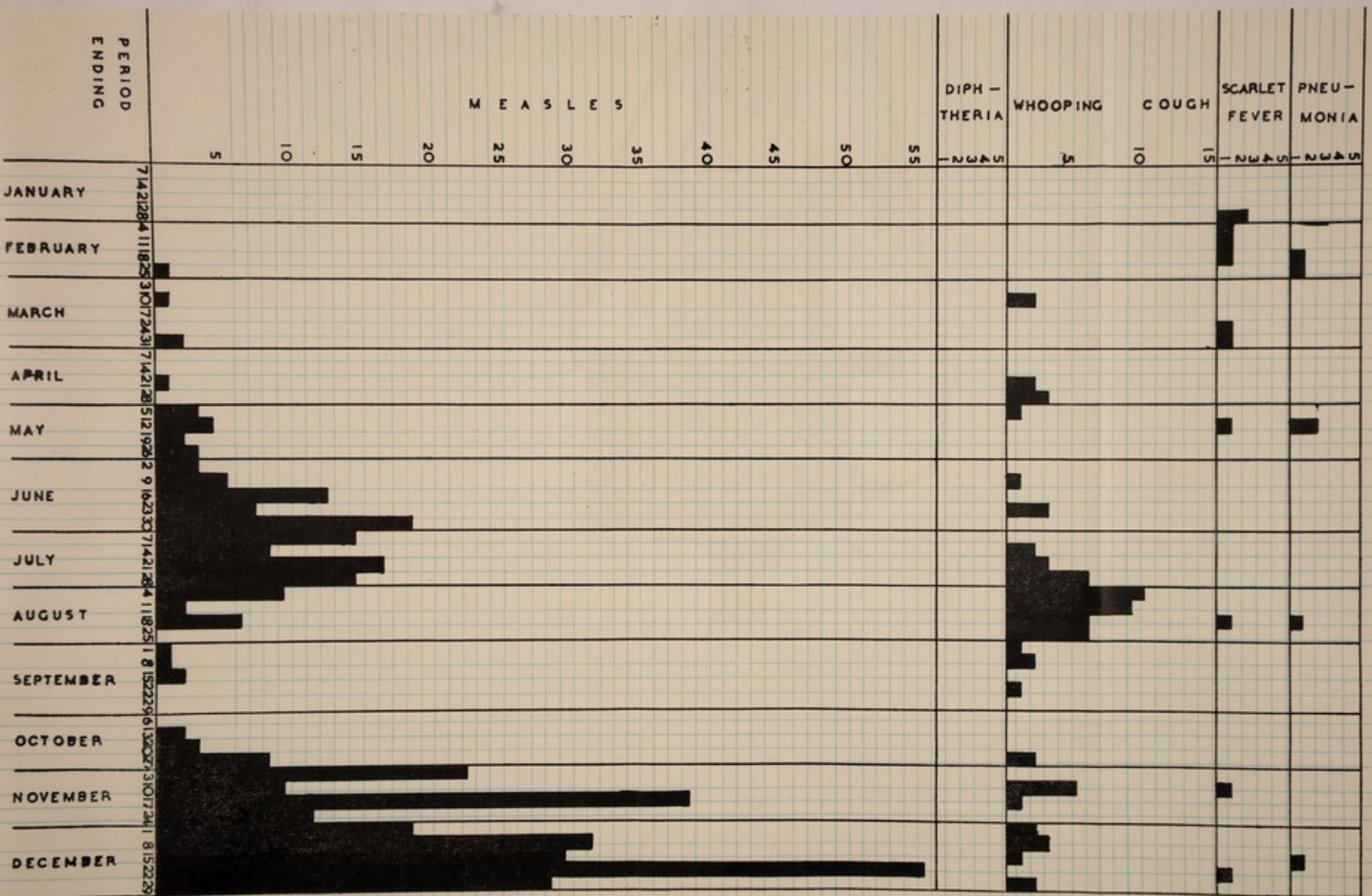
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
CASES	16	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
DEATHS	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation during the year ending 31st December, 1956 is as follows :—

Children between the ages 0-4 years—523, and children between the ages 5-14 years—438, making a total of 961.

WEEKLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE WEST
LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1956



DIPHTHERIA INCIDENCE DURING 30 YEARS

5 Year Periods	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & up	TOTAL at all ages
1921-1925	—	—	1	5	2	16	13	3	5	2	1	—	48
1926-1930	1	3	5	3	9	57	31	13	17	3	2	1	145
1931-1935	—	3	3	3	3	25	28	19	15	5	—	1	105
1936-1940	—	—	4	9	6	48	27	13	18	3	1	—	129
1941-1945	2	1	2	5	10	30	10	8	15	3	3	—	89
1946-1950	1	—	3	1	1	6	8	2	2	3	—	—	27
1951-1955	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1956	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.

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

Age	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	
Under 1 Year	2	14	41	30	22	17	25	85	58	192	171	241	196	206	218	259	360	
1 Year	10	88	221	203	181	205	175	186	293	173	163	145	119	155	160	158	106	Total under 5 yrs. at end of 1956 1,561
2 "	24	101	173	71	47	76	36	34	51	22	27	24	20	40	36	37	21	
3 "	33	97	137	55	17	23	23	28	24	10	30	16	10	18	22	18	14	
4 "	24	102	144	63	26	13	16	17	19	10	19	13	10	23	15	18	22	
5 "	127	189	225	139	87	28	24	33	26	13	29	24	21	47	35	39	85	
6 "	81	157	124	90	51	19	13	17	41	9	27	13	19	44	39	31	98	Total 5-9 years at end of 1956 2,425
7 "	57	111	66	51	9	11	12	11	5	7	16	9	7	29	17	10	61	
8 "	38	68	57	52	14	5	7	12	5	8	13	5	6	17	19	10	37	
9 "	28	69	50	31	7	6	5	11	4	9	7	2	9	10	6	5	33	
10 "	35	63	38	29	9	3	1	11	3	2	3	1	4	12	9	4	31	
11 "	11	45	29	36	3	7	4	3	2	3	10	3	3	3	5	4	40	Total 10-14 years at end of 1956 2,185
12 "	5	39	31	28	3	3	1	2	2	1	4	1	—	11	1	6	27	
13 "	13	26	12	14	5	2	4	1	—	1	7	—	—	7	—	1	15	
14 "	12	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	2	6	
15 yrs. & over	7	2	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	4	1	—	2	—	1	5	
TOTAL	507	1171	1352	892	483	420	346	453	533	461	531	498	424	630	582	603	961	

Total number of children under 15 years now fully immunised 6,171

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 1956.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total	Removed to Hospital
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	2	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	11	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	1	1	—	4	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	4	3
Non-Paralytic	—	2	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	—	2	2	3	17	47	53	7	3	39	89	124	386	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	6	1	5	23	18	1	7	6	3	72	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Monthly Totals	6	6	6	9	22	55	79	29	5	48	97	130	492	14

Table showing the number of Infectious Diseases occurring during the year in each Township in the Rural District and the number of deaths.

	Acute Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Para-typhoid Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia		Polio-myelitis		Dysentery		Food Poisoning		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Meningococcal Infection		Tuberculosis		TOTALS	
	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D
Aintree	1		2								7		108						2		3								7	1	129	2
Altcar											1		17						1											19	2	
Aughton											33		33		1														6	2	73	2
Bickerstaffe																													1	1	1	1
Bispham			2																												2	2
Downholland																													1			
Halsall	2	1									2		4																1		8	1
Hesketh Bank											1		4																		5	
Ince Blundell																	1														1	
Lydiate	1		3								2		74																1	1	81	1
Maghull	1	1	3								12		79		2		2		2		1							13	1	115	2	
Melling	1												23				1													25	2	
Netherton													2																		17	
North Meols											2		12																		29	
Rufford																																1
Scarisbrick	1										1		25				1														4	
Sefton											1																				5	
Simonswood											1		1																		10	1
Tarleton											4		1																			
Thornton		1	1								5		2																			
Totals	6	4	11								72		386		3		4		5		4						1		37	6	529	10

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1956.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											Total Deaths	HOSPITAL		
		YEARS												Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District	
		Under one Year	YEARS													
			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	11	—	—	1	2	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Poliomyelitis	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	386	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
Measles	72	5	22	32	54	48	221	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	4	2	7	9	10	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Totals	529	10	24	40	64	61	271	10	3	23	7	12	4	30	9	6

Section D
REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.
WATER SUPPLY

The following table summarises the water supply in the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

SUMMARY OF WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

PARISHES	SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC MAINS									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 Tanks, etc.	Increase	Decrease	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES	Percentages
Aintree	—	—	—	1687	—	—	—	—	1687	—	—	—	1687	100.00
Altcar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	284	284	2	—	—	286	99.3
Aughton	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1352	1354	3	—	—	1357	99.7
Bickerstaffe...	6	—	—	4	—	1	—	405	416	4	—	—	420	99.0
Bispham	—	2	68	—	1	—	—	—	71	1	—	—	72	98.6
Downholland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	256	256	4	—	—	260	98.4
Halsall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	678	678	6	—	—	684	99.1
Hesketh Bank	—	—	—	—	—	—	602	—	602	1	—	—	603	99.8
Ince Blundell	—	—	—	127	—	—	—	12	139	2	—	—	141	98.5
Lydiate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1102	1102	7	—	—	1109	99.3
Maghull	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	3761	3766	2	—	—	3768	99.9
Melling	—	—	—	—	—	435	—	—	435	1	—	—	436	99.7
Netherton	—	—	—	101	—	—	—	—	101	—	—	—	101	100.0
North Meols	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	766	772	8	—	—	780	98.9
Rufford	—	—	—	—	402	—	—	—	402	1	—	—	403	99.7
Scarisbrick	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	872	878	11	—	—	889	98.7
Sefton	—	—	—	138	—	—	—	—	138	—	—	—	138	100.0
Simonswood	—	—	—	1	—	63	—	—	64	1	—	1	65	98.4
Tarleton	—	—	—	—	2	—	887	—	889	3	—	—	892	99.6
Thornton	—	—	—	527	—	—	—	—	527	—	—	—	527	100.0
TOTALS	6	2	68	2585	411	506	1495	9488	14561	57	—	1	14618	99.6

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

Main Supplies.

Regular samples of all mains water supplies are taken throughout the year to ensure the purity of the supply. All samples during 1956 showed 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.

1956—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following conversions have been effected during the year :—

Privies to Water Closets	....	....	....	2
Pails to Water Closets	....	....	....	42
Privies to Pails	....	....	....	3
Fixed Receptacles to Metal Bins	....	....	....	5

SUMMARY OF CONVERSIONS FOR THE YEARS 1947-1956.

Year	Privies to Water Closets	Pails to Water Closet	Privies to Pails	Ashpits to Bins
1947	12	2	5	19
1948	17	5	11	33
1949	26	11	12	48
1950	40	2	29	71
1951	26	24	3	47
1952	27	15	10	52
1953	3	6	2	11
1954	14	34	4	52
1955	15	51	6	72
1956	2	42	3	25

SANITARY CONVENIENCES 1956.

PARISH	CLOSET ACCOMMODATION			REFUSE ACCOMMODATION		
	W.C's	Pails	Privies	Dry Ashpits	Privy Middens	Bins
Aintree	1,682	3	2	—	2	1,685
Altcar	227	45	14	8	14	1,744
Aughton	1,256	19	82	9	82	1,241
Bickerstaffe	225	98	97	6	97	275
Bispham	18	6	48	—	48	24
Downholland	151	14	95	4	95	155
Halsall	398	76	210	—	210	472
Hesketh Bank	406	166	31	—	31	543
Ince Blundell	106	20	16	—	16	84
Lydiate	997	26	85	16	85	1,001
Maghull	3,720	15	33	8	33	3,715
Melling	323	86	29	—	29	387
Netherton	96	5	—	—	—	96
North Meols	423	195	93	—	93	532
Rufford	289	57	55	—	55	322
Scarisbrick	534	76	279	—	279	593
Sefton	107	18	13	—	13	121
Simonswood	27	24	14	3	14	22
Tarleton	614	188	90	3	90	669
Thornton	519	2	6	—	6	519
TOTALS	12,118	1,139	1,292	57	1,292	14,200
Percentage	83·2%	7·1%	8·8%	0·37%	8·3%	91·3%

TABLE SHOWING MATTERS DEALT WITH BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1956.

PARISH	PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.							WATER SUPPLY PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936			FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955						SHOPS ACT, 1950	FACTORIES ACT 1937	SCHOOLS	Total Number of Inspections
	Inspected Premises	Nuisances Found	Nuisances Abated	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Drains Cleared	Re-inspections	Section 137	Section 138	Samples Taken	Dairies Inspections	Licensed Premises Inspections	Bakehouse Inspections	Ice Cream Premises Inspections	Other Food Premises Inspections	Food Condemned lbs.	Inspections	Inspections	Inspections	
Aintree	12	15	13	11	—	5	41	202	—	—	4	3	—	12	26	6	12	13	2	332
Altcar	3	3	3	3	—	1	8	61	—	—	7	—	—	3	10	—	2	2	—	88
Aughton	32	36	32	26	—	14	64	69	—	—	—	12	6	21	52	6	16	6	309	
Bickerstaffe	9	12	12	9	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	3	6	5	12	—	3	1	61	
Bispham	2	2	2	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	6	—	4	1	19	
Downholland	4	6	6	4	—	4	17	1	—	—	—	9	—	—	11	—	7	2	67	
Halsall	18	22	20	17	—	7	51	3	—	—	7	4	—	6	16	—	10	12	3	137
Hesketh Bank	19	23	19	16	—	4	45	8	—	—	7	2	7	17	31	—	20	8	1	169
Ince Blundell	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	6	—	1	1	1	18
Lydiate	11	14	11	12	—	7	36	138	—	—	10	6	—	12	22	—	16	14	5	277
Maghull	152	296	273	198	—	21	284	468	—	—	21	14	15	51	78	150	38	26	7	1175
Melling	19	26	25	21	—	4	47	5	—	—	—	6	5	16	28	—	7	16	2	155
Netherton	12	14	14	12	—	—	26	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	47
North Meols	24	29	27	23	2	1	61	1	—	—	18	—	8	14	45	—	13	19	3	207
Rufford	9	12	12	9	—	1	19	—	—	—	12	6	—	8	26	248	23	16	2	110
Scarisbrick	25	31	26	24	1	6	65	8	—	—	12	12	—	24	38	—	22	25	4	241
Sefton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	6
Simonswood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	45	41	2300	1	52	—	146
Tarleton	12	15	12	11	—	5	41	17	—	1	7	5	9	19	22	—	35	34	4	211
Thornton	3	5	4	3	—	4	19	10	—	—	2	4	—	2	12	—	7	3	1	67
TOTALS	367	562	512	402	3	84	849	991	—	1	101	99	56	262	485	2710	227	271	49	3842

Section E

HOUSING

STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :	<i>Flats</i>	<i>Houses</i>
(i) By the local authority	24	66
(ii) By other local authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	8	889

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	495
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1038
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :	
(a) Number found during the year	5
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	56
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	14

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

(1) Number of dwelling houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses	—
(b) Other houses	—
(2) Number of persons displaced	—

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas :

	<i>Number of</i>	
	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons Displaced</i>
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year.		
(a) Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	24	29
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	—	—
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	—	—
(b) Housing Act, 1949 :—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3 (1) and 3 (2)	—	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1) and 11 (2)	5	14

(2) Repairs during the year :

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	Houses
	446
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied :	
(i) By Owners	3
(ii) By local authority in default of Owners	—
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit :	
(i) By Owners	—
(ii) By local authority in default of Owners	—
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :— Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	—

4 Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954)

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	—
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	—
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	—

5 Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc :
Action during year

	Private bodies or Individuals.		Local Authority.	
	Number of schemes.	Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.	Number of schemes.	Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	9	9	—	—
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—	—	—
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—	—	—
(d) Work completed	—	3	—	—
(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	—	—	—	—

(f) Any other action taken under the Act. nil.

Section F

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

There are 42 milk distributors registered with the Local Authority, 16 of which have dairy premises in the district.

101 visits were made to these dairies and the premises were found satisfactory.

2. The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949.

Dealers' Licences (including Supplementary Licences) issued under the above Regulations are as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested	38
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The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations 1949.

Pasteurised	....	....	....	33
Sterilised	....	....	....	26

3. Milk Sampling.

One Hundred and ten samples for Tuberculosis were taken by the Inspectors during the year, one proved positive, one hundred and six negative, and there were three with no results.

The positive case was referred to the Divisional Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

4. Ice Cream.

There are two manufacturers and one hundred and six dealers of ice cream in the area.

Two hundred and sixty-two visits were made to the premises where the ice cream is manufactured and sold.

During the year fifty-four samples of ice cream were obtained and submitted for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Results of these samples were :—

Grade I	—	44
Grade II	—	8
Grade III	—	2
Grade IV	—	—

Of the total samples taken 96.3% were in Grades I and II.

5. Meat and Other Foods.

Byelaws under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act 1938, are in operation for securing observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold.

All hawkers premises within the area and all hawkers of food are registered under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act 1951.

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

PLACE	WEIGHT CONDEMNED		
	tons	cwts	lbs.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Depot, and various retail shops	1	4	22

Meat and Food Inspection.

Carcases inspected and condemned within the district :—

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	182	28	4	693	1196	—
Number inspected	182	28	4	693	1196	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	66	9	—	37	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	36.4%	32.1%	—	5.3%	2.2%	—
Tuberculosis only :—						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	9	—	—	16	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.8%	3.2%	—	—	1.3%	—
Cysticercosis :—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

6. Food Hygiene.

On the 1st January, 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation, and in consequence, a complete survey has been made of all food premises, clubs, canteens and schools in the area. Several cafes and one food factory have been closed, new shops are being erected, and many minor improvements have or are being carried out. Generally the standard of food hygiene is considered satisfactory.

7. Factories.

The total number of factories with and without mechanical power is 194.

271 inspections were made and 11 defects found, 11 defects being remedied.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written Notice	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	69	95	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	114	161	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority	11	15	3	—
TOTAL	194	271	11	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (Sec. 7) :					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	11	11	—	2	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955.

The Lancashire County Council Sampling Officer obtained a total of 208 samples of food during the year.

Of this total, 126 were of milk, the remainder comprising :—

4 Butter	1 Lemon curd
1 Margarine	1 Gravy salt
3 Meat paste	1 Cream—canned
1 Chicken—bottled	1 Vegetables—canned
1 Pork sausages—canned	1 Creamed rice—canned
1 Arrowroot	1 Flour confectionery
1 Camphorated oil	1 Custard powder
3 Baking Powder	2 Cornflour
1 Castor sugar	1 Oatmeal
1 Barley	1 Table salt
4 Tapioca	1 Bicarbonate of soda
4 Semolina	3 Chocolate
3 Rice	1 Sweets
4 Gravy browning	2 Mincemeat
1 Golden syrup	1 Vanilla flavour
1 Treacle	1 Almond flavour
4 Tea	1 Xmas pudding
5 Flour	1 Dried herbs
3 Coffee and Chicory essence	2 Whisky
4 Malt and cocoa beverage	1 Rum
1 Malt extract with cod liver oil	2 Vegetables—dried
1 Castor oil	1 Liquid paraffin
1 Olive oil	1 Coffee

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

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS.	ACTION TAKEN
1 Milk	Genuine but contained 15 aggregate fragments of carbon—probably derived from paper ash.	Dairyman cautioned. (School milk).
1 Milk	Deficient 3.3% fat.	Vendor notified.
1 Flour	Contained only 9.1 ozs. Creta Praeparate per 280 lbs. of flour.	No action taken.
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 2.6% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.6% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 1.6% extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

This Act came into being on 31st July, 1956. Some provisions of the Act came into force on 31st December, 1956, and it is expected that the remaining provisions will come into force during the Spring of 1958.

The provisions of the Act, within certain limits, will prohibit the emission of dark smoke from any chimney.

Much preliminary work has been done in the way of inspections and surveys of Industrial plants in the area. The provisions of the Act have been explained to the persons concerned, and advice has been

given where warranted. It is considered that, except where smokeless fuels are used, hand firing must be superseded by mechanical stoking, in order that the provisions of the Act may be complied with.

There are twenty four chimneys connected with Industrial establishments in the area. These establishments include Brickworks, Cotton Mill, Silk Works, Cable Works, Water Pumping Stations, Bedding Manufacturers, Epileptic Homes and Hospitals.

Mechanical stoking is in operation in some of the Industrial plants already. Where hand firing is in operation, consideration is being given to mechanical stoking or else the sole use of smokeless fuel. Unfortunately, this process is in reverse in the case of New Hall Hospital, where for many years smokeless fuel only was used on the boiler fires, but now coal of low grading with a high volatile content is being used with resulting emissions of dark smoke for periods varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. It is suggested that this degrading step has been taken for reasons of financial economy.

Special measures and investigations have been made in relation to boilers used in soil sterilization.

Soil sterilization is perhaps a special feature applicable to market garden areas, although the use of similar types of boilers (mainly Loco type plus a few vertical boilers) will be experienced in other spheres.

From observation of the boilers used in soil sterilization, it was found that they were big offenders of smoke pollution. In the main, the boilers used are of the Locomotive type (Mobile), and with the odd exceptions, 30 years old and upwards.

The fuel allocated for the use of such boilers was usually of a very low grade coal with a high volatile and ash content, and the amounts of such fuel used per season (November—March) varied from 6 to 80 tons per boiler.

Various methods of firing, draught control and admission of secondary air were tried, but at the best, such experiments brought only reductions in the amount of smoke emitted. There appeared no solution to this problem as far as the allocated fuel was concerned.

Coke was then tried on these boilers, but at first it was found to be slow in burning with inability to maintain the required pressure (80—100 lbs.).

By the fitting of a metal ashpan underneath the entire fire box and the introduction of a forced draught fan driven by a half horse-power electric motor at the side of the ashpan, it was found that the boiler could be fired with gas coke, and the pressure maintained with ease, and of course without the emission of smoke.

This was found to be most economical in comparison with cost of using coal, the fuel bill being reduced by one-third.

The efficiency of the boilers was increased by the installation of modified fire bars, especially when used in vertical cross tube type boilers.

Since the recognition of the fact that it is not necessary to produce smoke especially in boiler furnaces, the public has been found to complain more often, with a consequence of speedier investigation.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The two Rodent Operators employed by the Council have continued with the routine work of investigating, baiting and poisoning at various properties in the District.

The methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are employed, and they have proved very successful.

The treatment of sewers and sewage works is undertaken by the Surveyor's Department, and periodical re-treatments are carried out to prevent major infestations.

The close co-operation which has existed over the years with the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee in respect of farm lands continues, and gives excellent results.

**REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1956.
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.**

	TYPE OF PROPERTY Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (Including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) and (3)	
(1) Number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	14,518	555	15,085	701
(2) Number of properties inspected as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	12	215	34	261	6
(b) Survey under Act	—	1,220	81	1,301	102
(c) Otherwise (visits primarily for other purposes)	—	572	322	894	101
(3) Total inspections carried out	92	2,007	437	2,536	209
(4) Number of properties inspected and found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats { major	—	—	—	—	—
{ minor	11	149	27	187	8
(b) Mice { major	—	—	—	—	—
{ minor	—	62	13	75	—
(5) Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	11	211	40	262	8
(6) Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	11	211	40	262	8
(7) Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work	—	3	4	7	—
(8) Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
(9) Legal proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
(10) Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	—	—	—	—	—



