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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH and SANITARY
INSPECTOR OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT OF WHITWORTH
DURING 1949

WHITWORTH :
H. Howard, Printer and Stationer, 669 Market Street
1950



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mrs. Hilda Ann Garsland

I have pleasure in submitting the Report on the Health of
the Urban District for the year 1949.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH and SANITARY

INSPECTOR OF THE URBAN

DISTRICT OF WHITWORTH

DURING 1949

as required by the Public Health Act, 1936, and the
Public Health (Whitworth Urban District) Regulations, 1949.

The Medical Officer of Health has the honour to
acknowledge the assistance of the following persons in the
preparation of this report:—

Mr. J. W. Garsland, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.R.C.P.,
Sanitary Inspector and Public Health Inspector.

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN—COUNCILLOR MRS. ISABELLA HEYS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLORS F. HOLT, J.P.

A. RHODES

A. TAYLOR

J. W. TAYLOR

Medical Officer of Health :

J. WALKER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector :

F. COOKSON, M.S.I.A., CERT. MEAT AND FOODS

Clerk : JULIE NOLAN, D.P.H.H.

Clerk and Solicitor to the Council :

MR. H. HOYLE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health 1949.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have pleasure in submitting the Report on the Health of the Urban District for the year 1949. Although not appointed as your Medical Officer of Health until April, 1950, it has fallen to me to present this Report on behalf of my predecessor, Dr. J. Walker.

During the period under review this Department has continued to be responsible for the environmental health services and the control of infectious diseases, but much of the effort directed towards safeguarding and maintaining the health of the community is seriously handicapped on account of the highly unsatisfactory state of housing in the District. In this connection I would stress the importance of the remarks made in the Sanitary Inspector's Report, in his section dealing with housing. There is urgent need for a detailed survey of housing accommodation in Whitworth, without which no accurate assessment of housing needs, over-crowding, and the true number of sub-standard dwellings can be arrived at.

The vital statistics show no marked variation from those of the previous years, and those relating to mothers and infants show a continued improvement in conformity with the statistics for the whole country. In regard to the incidence of Infectious Diseases, Measles was again the most prevalent. There were two cases of Infantile Paralysis, but Gastro-Enteritis, which accounted for twenty-five cases in 1948, was not reported during 1949.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, the Local Authority retains its responsibility for those provisions which deal with the distribution of Milk as opposed to the production side of the Milk Industry, for the supervision of which the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are now responsible.

The continued co-operation given to the Medical Officer by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and by Mr. Cookson and Miss Nolan is gratefully acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Total	M.	F.	} Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popula- tion : 16.0
		Legitimate 107	59	48	
		Illegitimate 11	7	4	
	{	Total ... 118	66	52	
Still Births	...	0	0	0	Rate per 1000 Total (live and stillbirths) ... Nil
Deaths	...	112	57	55	Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated resident popu- lation ... Crude ... 15.2 Adjusted 15.2

Deaths from Puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 Total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :

Number of Deaths : 3 Males, 2 Females...	5
Legitimate deaths (Infants)	4
Illegitimate deaths (Infants)	1
Death-rate all infants per 1000 live births	42
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	36
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	91

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Population 7,377	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth- rate	Crude Death- rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death- rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 total (live and still) Births	
Mean of 5 years							
1944-1948	19.2	14.1	0.36	1.59	1.52	1.46	47
1948	18.6	14.4	0.53	1.87	Nil	Nil	35
1949	16.0	15.2	Nil	1.22	Nil	Nil	42
Increase or Decrease in 1949 on 5 years average							
1944-48	-2.0	+1.1	-0.36	-0.37	-1.52	-1.46	-5
Previous Year	-2.6	+0.8	-0.53	-0.65	Nil	Nil	+7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1949.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED													HOSPITAL		
	Total Cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS												Total deaths	Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
		Under 1	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	28	...	...	3	3	4	17	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	10	...
Diphtheria, (including Membranous Croup) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... }	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	4	1	...	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... }	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... }		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumococcal Meningitis..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Acute Polio-Encephalitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Gastro Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria { Contracted in this Country ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e g. :—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German measles ...	101	2	10	20	16	22	30	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	15	2	3	4	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	161	5	13	27	20	28	51	0	3	2	6	5	1	...	13	...

ALL CAUSES	M.	F.
57	55	
Enteric fever		
Small-pox		
Measles		
Scarlet fever		
Whooping cough		
Diphtheria		
Influenza	1	1
Meningococcal meningitis		
Respiratory Tuberculosis		
Other Tuberculosis		
Cancer	4	5
Rheumatic fever		
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage	9	5
Heart disease	23	14
Other circulatory diseases		7
Bronchitis	2	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Other respiratory diseases		1
Peptic ulcer	1	2
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)		
Appendicitis		1
Liver diseases		
Other digestive diseases	1	1
Nephritis	3	2
Encephalitis Lethargica		
Syphilis		
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth..	2	1
Other diseases of pregnancy and parturition		
Suicide	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	
Other deaths from violence	1	1
Other defined causes		
Ill-defined or not known	5	5
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	<div> <div>Total</div> <div>Legitimate</div> <div>Illegitimate</div> </div>	<div> <div>3</div> <div>2</div> <div>0</div> </div>
LIVE BIRTHS	<div> <div>Total</div> <div>Legitimate</div> <div>Illegitimate</div> </div>	<div> <div>66</div> <div>59</div> <div>7</div> </div>
STILLBIRTHS	<div> <div>Total</div> <div>Legitimate</div> <div>Illegitimate</div> </div>	<div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> <div>0</div> </div>
RESIDENT POPULATION	7,377	

INFANT MORTALITY.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes. { Certified { Uncertified	3	1	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	5
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Diphtheria and Croup
{ Whooping Cough...
{ Diarrhoea
{ Enteritis
{ Tuberculous Meningitis...
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis...
{ Other Tuberculous Disease
{ Congenital Malformations
{ Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
{ Atrophy, Debility
Marasmus...
Atelectasis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets
Meningitis <i>not Tuberculous</i>
Convulsions
Gastritis
Laryngitis
Bronchitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	...	...	...	1
Suffocation... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza
Endocarditis
Pemphigus...
Accident
Total.....	3	1	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	5

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 year .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 „ .....	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 „ .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 „	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 „	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35 „	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45 „	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
45—55 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—65 „ .....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
65 and upwards.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
	8		1		0		0	
	9				0			
Total 1948 ...	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	0
	4		2		3		1	

The following is a list of the occupations, if any, followed by notified cases during the year 1949.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
School Children	1	—
Housewife	1	1
Cotton Operative	1	—
Asbestos Worker	1	—
Transport Worker	1	—
Nursery Help	1	—
App. Electrician	1	—
Baby	1	—
	8	1

GENERAL NOTES.

Vital Statistics.

The total number of Births during the year 1949 was 118, 66 Males and 52 Females, which is equivalent to a **Birth Rate** of 16.0 as compared with 18.6 for the year 1948.

The total number of Deaths during the year 1949 was 112, 57 Males and 55 Females, which is equivalent to a **Death Rate** of 15.2 as compared with 14.4 for the year 1948.

The Births for the year exceeded the deaths by 6.

Infantile Mortality. There have been 5 deaths under one year of age, which is equivalent to a Death Rate of 42 per 1,000 live births, against 5 deaths and a rate of 35 in 1948.

The **Maternal Mortality Rate** is NIL.

The incidence of deaths arising from **Cancer** is 9 as compared with 14 for the previous year.

The children of the district are cared for at the Lancashire County Council School Clinic and come under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, who also carries out the administration of the School Health Service as the Divisional Medical Officer for Division No. 13.

School children attend for dental treatment also at the Lancashire County Council School Clinic.

The general health and nutritional state of the population remains satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year under review. Twenty-eight cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the district. These were of a mild character and no deaths were recorded.

Measles and Whooping Cough. There were 116 cases notified, *i.e.*, 101 Measles and 15 Whooping Cough. There were no deaths recorded.

Scabies. Arrangements are in operation for the cleansing of Scabies, the treatment taking place at the Rochdale Cleansing Centre, when necessary, but during the year no cases were treated.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations. These are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the Laboratory, Birch Hill, Rochdale.

Pathological Specimens are examined at the Laboratory, Birch Hill, Rochdale.

Bacteriological Examinations of Milk, Foodstuffs and Ice Cream are carried out at the Monsall Laboratory, Monsall, Manchester.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Whitworth.

MRS. HEYS AND GENTLEMEN :

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

76 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 7 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers.

It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of premises visited	296
Number of Sanitary Defects found.....	188
Number of sanitary improvements effected	141
Food premises inspected	49
Factories inspected	3
Offensive trades.....	2
Premises under Shops Acts.....	130

SANITARY DEFECTS FOUND.

Houses :

Dampness of walls and ceilings	25
Defective Roofs.....	12
Defective Floor Boarding or Flagging	2
Defective Chimney Flues.....	2
Defective Wall and Ceiling Plaster	8
Defective Fire Ranges, Fixed Boilers, etc.....	5
Defective Skirting Board	1
Defective Eavestroughing	2
Defective Slop-stone Waste-pipes	4
Defective Slop-stones	1
Defective Window Frame or Sash Cords	2
Filthy Rooms and Bedding.....	3

Badly fitting House Door	1
Defective External House Wall	2
Insufficient Water Supply	36
Insufficient Window Opening	1
Dry Rot.....	1

General :

Choked Water Closet or branch drainage	10
Insanitary Closet accommodation	3
Insufficient Sanitary accommodation	4
Choked or defective House Drainage	16
Choked or Defective Drainage, etc.....	3
Defective Sanitary accommodation buildings	5
Defective Sanitary accommodation fittings	19
Burst water service pipes.....	2
Water Supply unprotected from contamination	1
Defective Rain Water Pipes	9
Flooded Cellars.....	1
Defective or dangerous Yard Wall.....	1
Accumulation or depositing of Refuse	3
Burning of Refuse	1
Emission of smoke into living rooms	2
Keeping of Animals	1

188

HOUSING.

The question of housing was the subject of a joint report by the Medical Officer of Health and myself.

A large percentage of the houses in the Area are definitely below a reasonable standard—in addition to lacking amenities which are now considered essential in housing. It is a matter of great difficulty to decide how far it is practicable to enforce modern requirements.

There are approximately 750 houses of the back-to-back type and 170 houses of the back-to-earth type, with a cavity at the rear of little consequence. In both of these types the majority are so built as to be incapable of re-conditioning.

Many of these houses have only living room and bedroom accommodation, with out-of-date sinks, lacking cooking and washing facilities, proper food storage accommodation, etc.

There are also many houses where more than one family use the same sanitary convenience.

The solution is not easy under present circumstances, and many houses for re-housing from the unfit house will be required.

Due to the shortage of suitable houses many difficulties are experienced in dealing with the question of over-crowding.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no serious epidemic of any infectious disease.

18 houses were fumigated for Tuberculosis and other diseases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

The inspection of all premises used for the preparation and sale of foodstuffs has received attention, and it is satisfactory to note that no action was necessary.

There is room for improvement generally in the methods of food handling and distribution. The lack of compulsory wrapping of bread and other foodstuffs by the producer is to be deplored, but I understand this matter is being considered by the appropriate Ministry. The existing method of the distribution of meat still leaves much to be desired.

Slaughter-houses.

As reported previously the slaughtering of animals for human food is still restricted in the seven licensed slaughter-houses under the Regional Slaughter Scheme.

General opinion is that slaughtering in this type of slaughter-house will not be recommenced, but that establishments large enough to deal with all cattle for each area will be advocated.

During the year 60 pigs were slaughtered for private consumption under the Ministry of Food Licence.

Food.

The following foodstuffs have been surrendered from food shops and stores as unfit for human consumption :—

Canned Meats	26 tins
Canned Peas and Beans.....	8 tins
Evaporated Milk.....	37 tins
Canned Sausages.....	2 tins
Canned Fish	2 tins
Canned Tomatoes	1 tin
Meat and Vegetables	2 tins
Canned Jam.....	2 tins
Canned Fruit	6 tins
Butter	11 lbs.

Bakehouses.

The number of premises being used as bakehouses is 19 and inspections have been carried out from time to time. A satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The provisions of the above Act, so far as they relate to the sampling of food for nature, substance and quality are administered by the Lancashire County Council in co-operation with the Local Authority.

38 samples of milk were obtained, including one appeal-to-cow sample, and 6 other sundry commodities. 6 Samples of milk were reported upon adversely, and legal proceedings were instituted in relation to three of them.

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing bottled milk is 23. There are no shops selling unbottled milk.

Fish Frying.

There are 12 fish fryers in the district. Mixing of business, *i.e.*, the sale of other foods, from fish-frying premises occurs in some of these. The tendency of mixing of business is not good and I consider detracts from a high standard.

Ice Cream.

17 samples were submitted for Bacteriological examination and 6 were reported unsatisfactory in view of the presence of *Bacillus Coli*.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION.

Due to restrictions in the building trade little change has taken place in regard to alterations or improvements to farm buildings.

Throughout the district there are 35 dairy farms and 41 cowkeepers (including dairy farms) representing approximately 600 head of cattle.

Tuberculosis.

51 samples of Milk, as compared with 55 in 1948, have been obtained from farmers during the course of delivery and submitted for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. One of the samples was found to contain Tubercle Bacilli, and was referred to the Lancashire County Council for their attention. Notification was received that the affected cattle had been traced and slaughtered.

Bacteriological.

40 samples of milk as compared with 60 in 1948, obtained in the course of delivery, were submitted for Bacterial Count and Bacillus Coli examination. 21 of these samples complied with the standard required for Accredited Milk. Suggestions for improvement were put forward to the farmers producing the unsatisfactory samples. Up to the 30th September, 1949, this fact was made known to them, calling for an early improvement. After the 30th September, 1949, any unsatisfactory sample was reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for their attention.

Methylene Blue.

16 Samples of milk for Methylene Blue tests were taken during the year. These samples were obtained during the course of delivery and only two of the 16 did not conform with the required standard.

General.

The bulk method of distribution, *e.g.*, the delivery can method, is still very much in evidence. There is to be seen, however, a gradual increase of the bottled milk supply.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1938

PART I OF THE ACT.—1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
SECTION I : Factories in which Sections I, II, III, IV and VI are to be enforced by Local Authorities	49	2	...
SECTION II : Factories not in- cluded in (I) in which Sec- tion VII is enforced by the Local Authority	3	1	...
SECTION III : Other premises in which Section VII is en- forced by the Local Author- ity (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...
Total	52	3	...

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of offences in respect of which prose- cutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	1	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :				
insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	1	...
not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act	2	2	...	...
Total	4	4	2	...

PART VIII OF THE ACT.—OUTWORKERS : TWO.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two in the Area, *i.e.*, one Tripe Boiling and one Hide Curing. These trades have been carried on in a satisfactory manner.

RODENT CONTROL.

With the co-operation of the Surveyor the Main Sewers were treated for the infestation of Rats. The operation was carried out twice during the year, and the treatments were successful in disposing of a fair number of these pests.

Several industrial and domestic premises were also treated for rat and mice infestation.

A part time man is employed for industrial premises and dwelling houses, and a charge is made for his work when engaged on industrial premises.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary accommodation of the area is as follows :—

Fresh Water Closets	1836
Waste Water Closets	162
Pail Closets	59
No. of houses on the Water	
Carriage system	2558

The Pail Closets existing are situated at the following premises :—

Dwelling-houses	35
Mills and Workshops	6
Farms	7
Churches, etc.	11

With very few exceptions they cannot be converted to the fresh water carriage system, in view of the fact that they are situated in outlying parts where there is no sewer available.

In many instances the Waste Water Closets are unsatisfactory, and although the Council grant a contribution towards the cost of conversion to the fresh water carriage system the progress is slow. There is no authority for compulsory conversion.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Public Water Supply is good and abundant, and examinations are frequently made by Rochdale Corporation.

Thirty-five houses were transferred to the public mains supply, due to the insufficiency of the private supply.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Domestic refuse is collected from all dwelling-houses, the collection being carried out by motor waggon. It was not found possible to maintain a weekly collection, but efforts were made to avoid any complaint. The collection was made approximately every ten days.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land at Landgate. The position is suitable, being situated a good distance from dwelling houses, yet at the same time easy of access.

No trouble has been experienced due to fire or the infestation of rats, crickets, etc.

Salvage.

The following table shows the weights of materials recovered during the twelve months under review. The collections again show a decrease upon previous years, particularly with reference to waste paper. During the latter six months of the year there was difficulty in disposing of the paper, and in consequence the collection ceased.

	Tons	Cwts.
Waste Paper.....	14	8
Scrap Iron.....	3	10
Textiles (Rags, String, etc.)...	1	10
Kitchen Waste	27	12

The following gives the details and cost of collection and disposal :—

Loads removed	1356
Cost per load	£1 11s. 8d.
Refuse in tons (estimated)	3318
Cost per ton	12/11d.
Number of houses and premises	2962
Cost per house and premises per an..	14/6d.
Average length of haul	1½ miles

SEWAGE WORKS.

The method of treatment is by precipitation tanks, continuous filters and humus tanks. Three samples of effluent were taken by the Rivers Inspector, two being classed satisfactory and one borderline.

Difficulties have again been experienced in obtaining materials such as hessian and lime and in consequence the pressing of sludge and the smooth working of the works was interfered with.

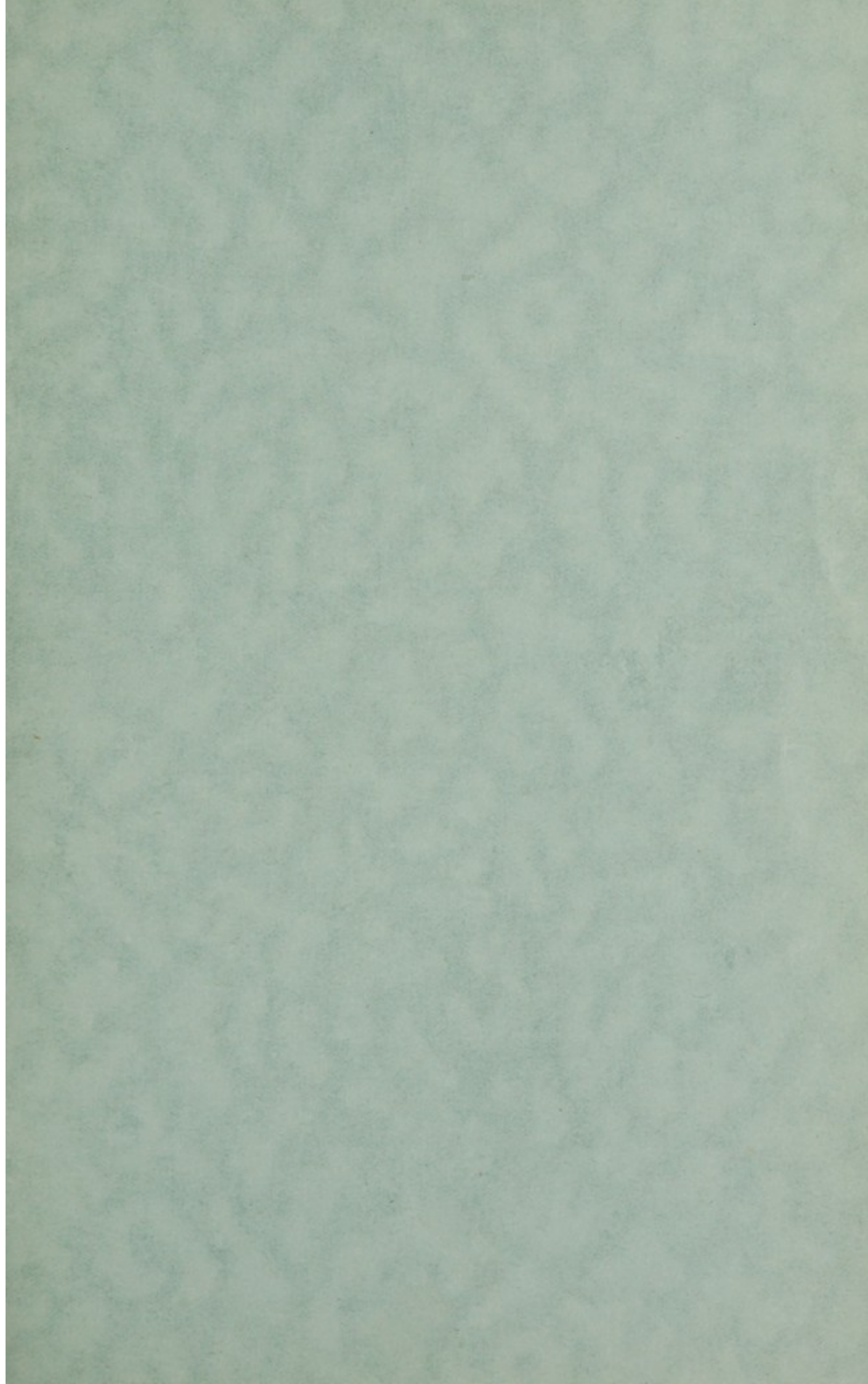
In conclusion, Gentlemen, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also tender my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and Miss J. Nolan for their assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Your obedient servant,

FRED COOKSON, C.R.S.I.,

*Health Department,
Council Offices,
Whitworth.
July 1950.*

*Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Foods Inspector.*



HEALTH
A 1 SEP 50
C.R. 31