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1948

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# Annual Report

on the

# Health

of the

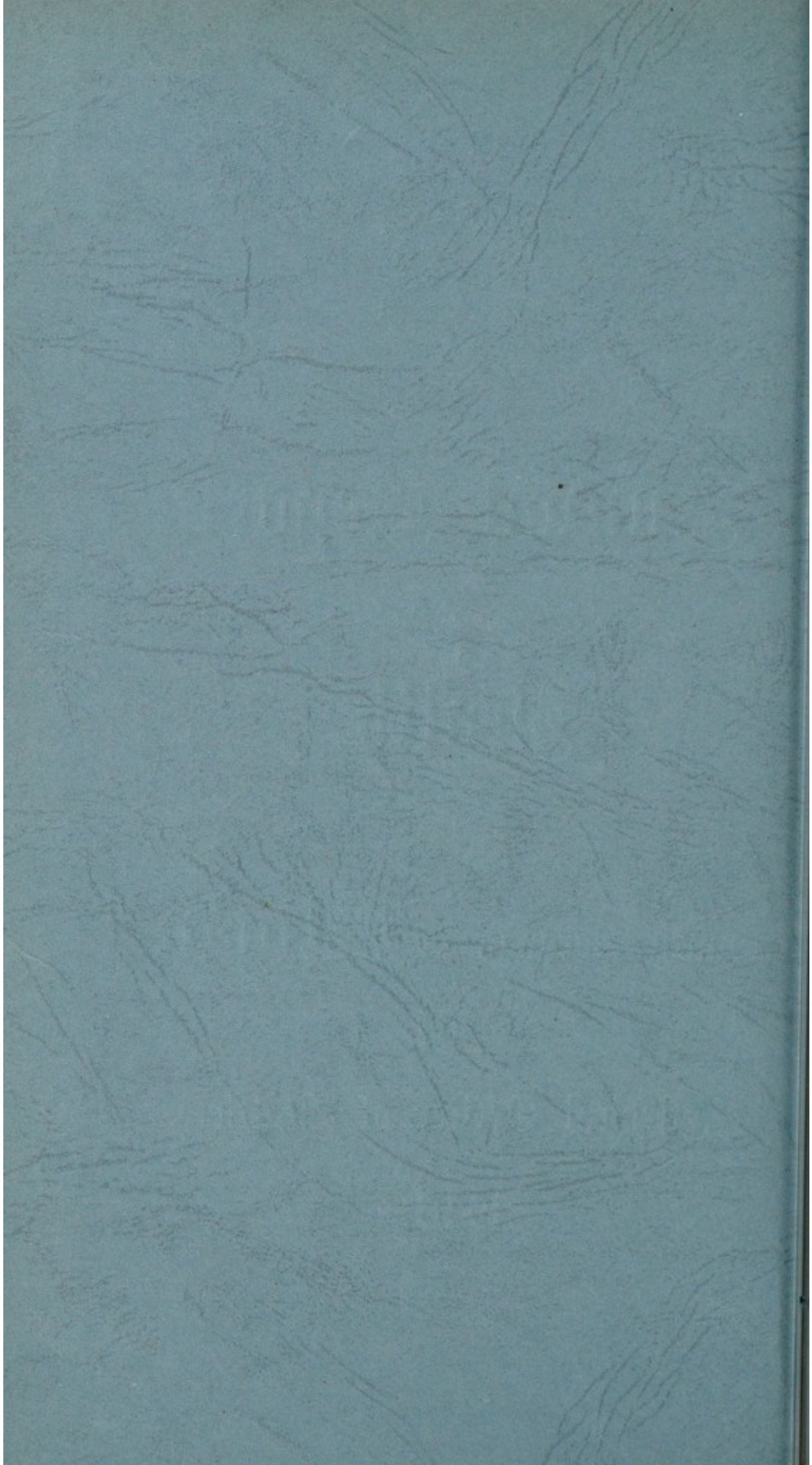
County Borough of **Wigan**

by the

Medical Officer of Health

1948







ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
HEALTH  
OF THE  
COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN  
FOR THE YEAR 1948

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J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.



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**HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948.**

Chairman	....	....	Alderman T. RAMSDEN.
Vice-Chairman	....	....	Alderman Mrs. E. ASHURST.
The Mayor	....	....	Councillor E. MALONEY, J.P.
The Ex-Mayor	....	....	Councillor W. SHAW.
Aldermen	....	....	J. HORNE, J. LOWE, F. W. ROBERTS.
Councillors	....	....	E. P. EABORN, H. HOUGHTON, J. T. LYNCH, M. McNICHOLAS, T. MONKS, (Mrs.) A. L. I. SMITH, J. TABERNER, J. W. WHITEHEAD.
Co-opted Members	....	....	Mrs. M. FRODSHAM, Mrs. M. E. FISHWICK, Mrs. E. LEWIS, Mr. C. E. MARSDEN, Dr. G. A. TALWRN-JONES.

**WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE, 1948.**

Chairman	....	....	Alderman F. W. ROBERTS, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	....	....	Councillor J. T. LYNCH.
The Mayor	....	....	Councillor E. MALONEY, J.P.
The Ex-Mayor	....	....	Councillor W. SHAW.
Aldermen	....	....	(Mrs.) E. ASHURST, T. RAMSDEN.
Councillors	....	....	J. BOWDEN, E. DRONEY, T. HIGHAM, M. McNICHOLAS, R. PRESTT, J.P., O. SOMERS, J. TABERNER, A. H. WALKER, J. W. WHITEHEAD.

**STAFF, 1948.**

Medical Officer of Health	....	J. S. G. BURNETT, M.D., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Clinical Tuberculosis Officer		H. RICHMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (to 4th July)
Assistant Medical Officers	....	I. M. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. E. R. M. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B.
Dentist	....	C. F. L. PURSLOW, L.D.S., R.C.S. Eng.
*Clinical V.D. Officer	....	H. BARDSLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
*Orthopædic Surgeon	....	Miss M. F. JOHNSTONE, M.B., Ch.B.
*Consultant Obstetric Surgeons		C. H. WALSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.C.O.G. T. N. HART, M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G.



*Public Vaccinators and District Medical Officers	E. D. PORTMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 4th July) D. N. MACKINNON, M.B., Ch.B. (to 4th July)
*Public Analyst	S. ERNEST MELLING, F.I.C.
Vaccination Officers	S. TURNER, *C. LATCHFORD, *J. D. BAXENDALE.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	J. ASHTON ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ).
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector	V. JONES ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> )
Sanitary Inspectors	T. MCKNIGHT ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) (died 13th June) R. C. WOODS ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) P. STRAFFORD ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) F. L. THOMAS ( <i>a</i> ) J. B. MARSH ( <i>a</i> ) (from 1st July) E. S. J. BLACKWOOD ( <i>a</i> ) (from 1st August) G. DUNN ( <i>a</i> ) (from 1st October) H. C. ORMEROD ( <i>a</i> ) ( <i>b</i> ) ( <i>f</i> ) (from 13th December)
Matron of Whelley Infectious Diseases Hospital and Penn- berton Tuberculosis Hosp.	L. ROTHWELL, S.R.N., R.F.N.
Health Visitors	M. E. WHEAT ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) E. HANSON ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) E. M. WRIGHT ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) A. G. FORSHAW ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) (to 13th July) C. W. CAMPBELL ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) (from 22nd February) C. JACKSON ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) ( <i>g</i> ) (from 12th July) C. LAVIN ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ) ( <i>e</i> ) ( <i>h</i> ) (from 16th August)
Tuberculosis Nurse	E. CODY ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> )
Chief Clerk	A. N. BYERS.
Supervisor of Midwives : E. M. READING ( <i>c</i> ) ( <i>d</i> ).	

## STAFF, 1948—Contd.

## Midwives :

E. B. BROOKS (c)	C. MORRIS (c)
M. QUINN (nee FORREST) (c)(d)	C. RYDER (c) (d)
E. HIGHTON (c)	E. WILLIAMS (c) (d)
L. JACKSON (c) (d)	M. WOODWARD (c)
M. L. LYNCH (c)	E. KERNICK (c) (d) (to 29th Dec.)
M. MCGOUGH (c)	R. M. HADDOCK (c) (d) (from 15th Nov.)
M. MAGEE (c) (d)	E. S. ROGERS (c) (from 15th Nov.)
H. E. MAXWELL (c)	

## Ellesmere Road Nursery :

Matron .... M. F. LAVIN (d) (h)

## Home Nursing :

Superintendent .... L. MAHER (c) (d) (g)  
(from 5th July)

## Occupation Centre :

Supervisor .... J. HANSON (from 5th July)

## Mental Welfare Service :

Authorised Officers and Mental Health Visitors	}	V. CROWLEY (from 5th July)
		J. A. PIETRASZKIEWICZ (from 11th Nov.)
Authorised Officer & Clerk		J. AINSCOUGH (from 5th July)

## Welfare Services :

Senior Clerk.... J. C. DAVENPORT (from 10th Nov.)

## \* Part-time Officers.

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Meat and Other Food Inspection.
- (c) Certificate, Central Midwives Board.
- (d) General Trained.
- (e) The Royal Sanitary Institute Health Visitors Certificate.
- (f) The Royal Sanitary Institute Smoke Inspectors Certificate.
- (g) Queen's Nurse.
- (h) Registered Fever Nurse.



Health Department,  
Municipal Buildings,  
Library Street,  
WIGAN.

December, 1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the annual report on the health of the Borough of Wigan for the year 1948.

The work of the department during the year under review was carried out under the supervision of Dr. J. S. G. Burnett, who left the Office shortly after the close of the year.

During the first six months of the year, Schemes which had been drawn up under the National Health Service Act, 1946, were finally approved by the Minister of Health, and commencing on July 5th (the Appointed Day), the Council's Health Services under the Act were administered as provided for in the proposals.

Little change was noticed in the administration of the old services as the Health Committee had in the past been fully aware of their powers and responsibilities, and in providing comprehensive services had largely anticipated the requirements under the Act.

Although the loss of the hospitals was keenly felt, the Committee will note with pride that Billinge Hospital is likely to be designated the Primary Hospital Centre of the group of hospitals administered by the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee.

Of the new services under the Act it is probably sufficient to say that during the period 5th July to the 31st December covered by this Report, no insurmountable difficulties were met and the work proceeded with increasing momentum.

Details of the work accomplished are set out in the body of the report.

When the National Health Service Bill became an Act in 1946, it was considered by many that the golden era of public health had passed and that the local government departments were being stripped of their responsibilities.

I am convinced that the stature and the importance of the Health Committee within the framework of Local Government organisation has never been greater or more important than it is to-day. Indeed, from an administrative standpoint, far more responsibility has been gained than was lost due to the new legislation. Furthermore, there is for those who wish to broaden their field in public health work, an unrivalled opportunity to break new ground. To quote only one example, an extension of the study of the prevention of illnesses other than notifiable infectious disease would bring immense benefit to the community.

The decision of the Council to administer their functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, through a section of the Health Department and to appoint the Medical Officer of Health as Executive Officer of the Welfare Services Committee, was a wise and far-sighted policy.

Since its establishment, the Health Department has been concerned with various aspects of public welfare. Although these were, in the early years of Public Health, more especially linked with applied environmental hygiene; personal care on an individual as well as a community level has been added with the evolution of the Personal Health Services. It is natural that we should welcome the opportunity to extend our field to cover the aspects of Welfare as envisaged by the National Assistance Act, for it cannot be denied that the provision of specialised services for the blind, deaf, dumb and other handicapped persons, and residential accommodation for the aged, etc., who may require constant supervision, are the duties of the Medical Officer of Health with his staff of experienced social workers.

The health of the community during the year has, on the whole, been well maintained.

The birth rate, 18.84 per thousand of the population, showed a decrease on the figure for 1947, but was in keeping with the experience elsewhere in the country.

The death rate at 11.55 per thousand is almost identical with the average for the 126 county boroughs and great towns, and as one would expect of an industrial area, it is rather higher than the rate for England and Wales as a whole.



There was only one maternal death during the year, details of which are given on page 34. The maternal mortality rate, .61 per thousand births, is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough, and although too much importance must not be attached to the figure for a single year, it is gratifying to see that the continued downward trend which has been apparent for many years is continuing.

There is no doubt that the ante and post-natal services, the improved obstetrical care at confinement, the vitamin supplements and the Government's policy of food priorities to expectant mothers have each contributed towards solving the problem of maternal mortality.

Less satisfactory is the infant mortality rate which, at 54 per thousand live births, is far higher than the Registrar General's average for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns. Even so, it is, except for the year 1946 (52 per 1,000 live births), the lowest recorded since the first published observation in 1876, when the rate was 186 per 1,000 live births. Much has therefore been achieved but there is still a long way to go.

The neo-natal deaths, deaths occurring in the first four weeks of life, numbered 35, of which 25 occurred during the first week of life. The majority of the deaths in this group are caused by prematurity. This is an extremely difficult group to attack, but there is evidence to show that adequate ante-natal care, especially as regards the selection of suitable diet during the later weeks of pregnancy, can help to reduce the numbers of premature births.

Recent observations have shown that premature births are more likely to occur when the intervals between pregnancies are too short or too long, and are least likely to occur when the interval is of the order of two years. It may be that some attempt at family planning might help to reduce the numbers of infants born prematurely.

In Wigan we lack a modern premature baby hospital unit and it is hoped that the authority now responsible for the hospital services will give due consideration to the establishment of such a unit as soon as circumstances permit.



The next largest group of infant deaths occurs in the period after the fourth week of life, under the heading "Pneumonia (all forms)". It is this group, along with the deaths ascribed to Diarrhoea and Enteritis, which should be the most amenable to administrative action, but improvement will be delayed until the acute housing situation is relieved. Insanitary dwellings and overcrowding, with its associated evils, can set at nought the best efforts of the department to help mother and baby.

The prohibitive cost of private building and the policy of the Government in restricting this type of development, has placed the task of housing the bulk of the population squarely upon the shoulders of the Local Authorities.

The Council is well aware of this and is making every effort to build new houses but the pace is slow and the need urgent.

The provision of flats and hostels for the aged and others living alone in large houses which have become a burden to them would do much to relieve the problem.

Our experience of infectious disease during the year has been mixed. An epidemic of Scarlet Fever which commenced in 1947 continued into 1948, and 839 cases were notified, mainly during the months January to June. There were no deaths.

During the latter part of the year, an epidemic of Measles occurred and was responsible for the majority of the 1,465 cases notified during the year. There was one death.

In the period under review, only 8 cases of Diphtheria were notified. There is no doubt that the record low figures noted in recent years are largely the outcome of the immunisation campaign, and every effort has been made to continue this work and to achieve a high percentage of protected children of both school and pre-school groups. Often our work is disturbed by the unco-operative attitude of parents who are ignorant of the tragedies associated with diphtheria only 15 to 20 years ago. Comparative freedom from the scourge is producing amongst parents a feeling of complacency which is ill-founded.



In conclusion, I would like to thank the Officers of other Corporation departments who have supplied statistical material for inclusion in this report, and on behalf of my predecessor I wish to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Health and Welfare Services Committees for the courtesy and kindness with which they have considered the various suggestions and recommendations made to them.

Also I would acknowledge the loyalty and assistance rendered by the Staff of the Department in the common effort to maintain the Public Health.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. HAWORTH HILDITCH,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Section I*

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**Natural and  
Social Conditions  
of the Area**



1872

Natural and  
Social Conditions  
of the Arts

**GENERAL.**

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	5,082
Rateable value of the Borough	....	....	....	....	....	£452,733
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£1,758
Registrar General's estimated population on 1st July 1948 (on which figure statistics in this report are based)	....	....	....	....	....	84,390
Number of inhabited houses on the 31st December, 1948 (according to the rate books)....	....	....	....	....	....	22,735
Number of marriages in the Borough during 1948	....	....	....	....	....	866

A considerable portion of the Borough is used for agricultural purposes. These areas are sparsely populated. The average number of persons per acre varies in the fourteen wards within the Borough from 5 to 105, the average being 16.8. The Borough of Wigan forms a considerable part of the valley of the River Douglas. The river is the boundary on the north side, continues its course to the centre of the town and finally becomes the boundary at the west side. The levels on which the river enters and leaves are respectively 150 and 69 feet. Water is taken from the river for feeding the Leeds and Liverpool Canal which traverses the town. Due to the meagre drop in level the river water flows slowly and the bed is self-cleaning only during the winter months. The waters are badly polluted before they enter the Borough and as a result of this and subsequent pollution the river maintains little or no life—plant or animal. The maximum elevations of the town are at the extreme north 254 feet and at the south-west 260 feet. The lowest level is at the north-west boundary which is 69 feet above sea level.

Geologically, the whole of the Borough rests on the lower coal measures, or Gannister beds, which are here very superficial. This has led to outcrop mining in several parts of the district. The subsoil is mainly clay which in places has a depth of nearly 20 feet ; but there is an important layer of sand covering a large part of the centre of the town and extending northwards in the direction of Standish. This sand is also found in "pockets" in other parts of the Borough. Much of the western portion, beyond the Park, lies on a fairly extensive gravel bed.

Extensive mining operations over several generations have brought about subsidence in many parts of the Borough. In some areas subsidence has had a disastrous effect on property and is a constant source of worry both as regards the condition of old sewers and water mains and planning sites for new buildings.

The population is essentially an industrial one, the principal industries being coal, iron, cotton, and the manufacture of clothing.



**BATHS.**

The local authority possess only one Public Bathing establishment, which is situate in Millgate. This accommodation is insufficient for a town with a population of 84,390, especially when it is realised that the great majority of dwellinghouses are not and cannot in the foreseeable future be provided with a private bath. The provision of pit-head baths will do something to alleviate the conditions of the very large number of the male population engaged in the coal mining industry. It is felt, however, that bearing in mind the recent accent on physical education in schools, urgent steps should be made to provide more commodious and more modern bathing facilities.

The Baths Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Cockrell, has kindly supplied me with the following figures and report :—

Number of bathers during the past five years :—

Year ending 31st March :

1944	....	....	....	....	160,586
1945	...	....	....	....	149,132
1946	....	....	....	....	154,437
1947	....	....	....	....	149,323
1948	....	....	....	....	142,543

**PARTICULARS OF THE BOROUGH BATHING ESTABLISHMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1949.**

Number of Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	2
Number of Private Baths	....	....	....	....	16

*Bathers.*

Male Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	73,239
Male Private Baths	....	....	....	....	19,713
Female Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	16,819
Female Private Baths	....	....	....	....	19,744
Mixed Bathing : Adults and Juniors	....	....	....	....	8,587
Contracts, Free Passes, Season Tickets, etc.	....	....	....	....	27,527
Total	....	....	....	....	<u>165,629</u>

The above figures show an increase as compared with the previous year, partly due to the fact that the epidemic of infantile paralysis necessitated a ban being placed on juvenile bathing during the summer and autumn of 1947.

Tests are taken three times a day by the Baths Superintendent to determine the residual Chlorine and Alkali content of the water.

It is compulsory for patrons using the swimming bath to pre-cleanse in the shower bath before entering the water.

Plans for a new and up-to-date Bathing Establishment, including remedial baths, have been incorporated in the new town planning scheme, but due to the urgency of the housing programme the scheme has been shelved indefinitely. It is, however, not unlikely that a bathing establishment may be included as one of the amenities associated with the Borough's Educational programme.

### **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.**

**MESNES PARK** which is centrally situated and of about 20 acres in extent has been in the possession of the Corporation for 60 years and during that time has been given a most attractive appearance by means of constant improvements and additions. Every effort has been made by the Corporation to cater for recreation in this and other parks: Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts, Putting Green and a Children's Playground are provided.

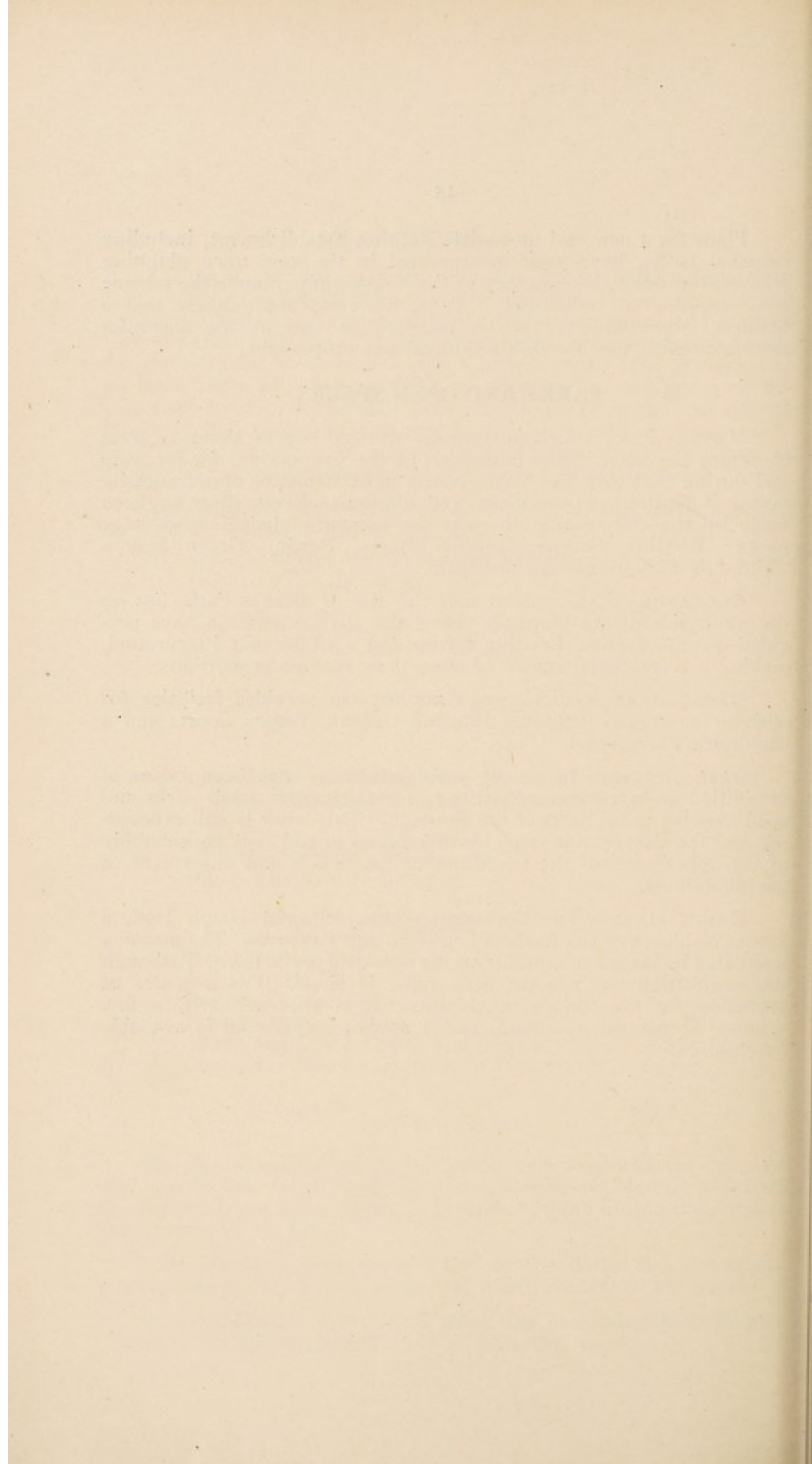
**ALEXANDRA PARK**, about half the size of Mesnes Park, lies on the south side of the Borough. Here also the Corporation have provided Tennis Courts, Bowling Green and a Children's Playground, making a recreational centre of more than average proportions.

**GREAT ACRE RECREATION GROUND** also provides facilities for open-air exercises, including Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts and a Children's Playground.

**OPEN SPACES.**—In recent years advantage has been taken of demolition and clearance activities to form attractive small parks and open gardens in all parts of the Borough. This work is still proceeding and the Corporation hope by this means to add very considerably to the appearance of the town and to the health and enjoyment of the inhabitants.

**HAIGH HALL.**—The Corporation have acquired Haigh Hall, a former residence of the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres. The mansion is situated in extensive grounds on the outskirts of the town. Although this acquisition has not yet been fully developed it is a centre of attraction for the town's inhabitants. It is approached by a fine expanse of natural woodland, and a special playground is available for children.





*Section II*



Statistics



Section 11

Statistics

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1947-1948.

	1947.	1948.
Population estimated July 1st	84,150	84,390
Births : Males 835	}	}
Females 755		
Total	1,886	1,590
Annual Rate of Births per 1,000 on Registrar General's estimated population	22.41	18.84
Ditto, for England and Wales	20.5	17.90
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns	23.3	20.00
Illegitimate births number 56, or .66 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of	3.55	3.52
Deaths : Males 513	}	}
Females 462		
Total	1,125	975
Corrected death rate, on Registrar General's estimated population	13.37	11.55
Ditto, in England and Wales	12.0	10.80
Death Rate in 126 County Boroughs and great towns	13.0	11.60
Excess of Registered births over deaths	761	615
Maternal Death Rate...	3.59	.61
Tuberculosis Death Rates :—		
Pulmonary	}	}
Other than Pulmonary		
Total	0.79	0.47
Total deaths from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	23	11
Annual rate of mortality from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	0.27	0.13
Total deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years	14	10
Death rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	7.42	6.29
Infantile rate (deaths per 1,000 births)	67	54
Ditto, for England and Wales	41	34
Ditto, for 126 County Boroughs and great towns...	47	39
Deaths of Infants under 1 day old (number)	19	11
Ditto 1 year (legitimate)	121	82
Ditto 1 year (illegitimate)	6	4



## DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE

(Classified locally under the Registrar-General's  
causation, age and

Causes of Deaths.	Class. No.	Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District						
		All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	31	—	1	—	20	8	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	7	6	1	1	—	2	2	—
Syphilitic Disease ... ..	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza ... ..	9	19	—	—	—	3	10	6
Measles ... ..	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis ... ..	12	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	13M	6	—	—	—	—	2	4
Cancer of Uterus ... ..	13F	10	—	—	—	—	3	7
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	14	22	—	—	—	—	11	11
Cancer of Breast ... ..	15	13	—	—	—	2	7	4
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	16	79	—	—	—	6	37	36
Diabetes ... ..	17	5	—	—	—	2	1	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	18	134	—	—	—	1	40	93
Heart Disease ... ..	19	259	1	—	2	14	69	173
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	20	38	—	—	—	1	9	28
Bronchitis ... ..	21	76	—	—	—	4	26	46
Pneumonia ... ..	22	54	29	5	—	5	2	13
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	23	15	—	—	—	3	7	5
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum ...	24	3	—	—	—	1	—	2
Diarrhoea (under two years) ... ..	25	12	12	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ... ..	26	3	—	—	—	1	2	—
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	27	24	3	—	1	4	9	7
Nephritis ... ..	28	23	—	—	1	5	8	9
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ...	29	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ... ..	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ... ..	31	18	18	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ... ..	32	20	20	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide ... ..	33	7	—	—	—	—	5	2
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	34	4	—	—	2	—	2	—
Other Violent Causes ... ..	35	16	—	—	1	2	7	6
All Other Causes ... ..	36	84	1	2	1	2	4	74
Totals ... ..		985	86	9	8	80	271	531

53 WEEKS ENDED 1st JANUARY, 1949.

short list—grouped according to ward residence)

## Deaths at all Ages.

Class No.	St. George Ward.	Lindsay Ward.	St. Catharine Ward.	St. Patrick Ward.	St. Thomas Ward.	Poolstock Ward.	Victoria Ward.	St. Andrew Ward.	Swinley Ward.	All Saints Ward.	West Pemberton Ward.	North Pemberton Ward.	Central Pemberton Ward.	South Pemberton Ward.	Total Deaths.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	7	—	1	—	2	7	3	31
7	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	6
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
9	2	4	1	—	1	2	—	1	1	1	3	—	2	1	19
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
13M	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	6
13F	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	10
14	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	5	5	—	1	3	2	1	22
15	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	3	13
16	4	4	5	6	6	2	1	16	13	2	2	2	13	3	79
17	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	5
18	9	2	6	12	9	8	4	24	19	3	6	8	19	5	134
19	7	16	23	21	10	13	5	62	29	6	7	14	25	21	259
20	3	1	3	3	3	3	4	5	4	—	—	1	2	6	38
21	3	3	2	7	7	3	4	5	10	2	—	8	15	7	76
22	2	1	—	6	3	1	4	9	6	—	3	4	9	6	54
23	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	2	3	—	1	—	3	—	15
24	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
25	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	2	12
26	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
27	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	7	3	—	—	2	3	2	24
28	1	3	2	3	—	2	—	2	2	—	1	—	4	3	23
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31	1	—	2	6	—	2	1	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	18
32	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	2	—	6	2	20
33	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	7
34	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
35	2	1	—	1	—	—	3	4	1	1	2	1	—	—	16
36	5	7	6	7	—	1	4	16	12	5	2	6	8	5	84
	45	54	61	88	48	45	37	181	119	23	32	53	126	73	985



## CAUSES OF DEATH WITH DEATH RATES, 1948.

Disease.	No. of Deaths.	Rate.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ....	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ....	—	—
Scarlet Fever ....	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	—	—
Diphtheria ....	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ....	35	0.41
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ....	5	0.06
Syphilitic Disease ....	2	0.02
Influenza ....	19	0.23
Measles ....	1	0.01
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ....	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis ....	1	0.01
M. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus ....	5	0.06
F. Cancer of Uterus ....	9	0.11
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum....	23	0.27
Cancer of Breast ....	13	0.15
Cancer of all other sites ....	79	0.94
Diabetes ....	5	0.06
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ....	129	1.53
Heart Disease ....	254	3.01
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	31	0.37
Bronchitis ....	73	0.87
Pneumonia ....	49	0.58
Other Respiratory Diseases ....	10	0.12
Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum ....	2	0.02
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ....	10	0.12
Appendicitis ....	2	0.02
Other Digestive Diseases ....	23	0.27
Nephritis ....	23	0.27
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis ....	1	0.01
Other Maternal Causes ....	—	—
Premature Births ....	16	0.19
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ....	21	0.25
Suicide ....	7	0.08
Road Traffic Accidents ....	4	0.05
Other Violent Causes....	17	0.20
All Other Causes ....	106	1.26
Total ....	975	11.55

POPULATION OF WARDS, WITH COMPARATIVE DEATHS  
AND DEATH RATES.

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Ward No.</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Death Totals</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
St. George ... ..	1	2743	45	16.40
Lindsay ... ..	2	5106	54	10.58
St. Catharine ... ..	3	5860	61	10.41
St. Patrick ... ..	4	6784	88	12.97
St. Thomas ... ..	5	2713	48	17.69
Poolstock ... ..	6	3925	45	11.46
Victoria ... ..	7	3040	37	12.17
St. Andrew ... ..	8	16869	181	10.73
Swinley ... ..	9	10728	119	11.09
All Saints ... ..	10	2213	23	10.39
West Pemberton ... ..	11	2962	32	10.80
North Pemberton ... ..	12	6617	53	8.01
Central Pemberton ... ..	13	9813	126	12.84
South Pemberton ... ..	14	5017	73	14.55
Totals ... ..	...	84390	985	*11.55

\*Death Rate is based on the Registrar General's estimated Population of 84,390.

DEATH-RATES FOR WIGAN DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
12.97	15.81	13.72	12.95	14.30	12.92	11.42	11.55	13.37	11.55

AVERAGE FOR TEN YEARS, 13.05.



## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948.

CAUSES.	Sex.	All Ages.	0+	1+	5+	15+	45+	65+
ALL CAUSES ... ..	M. F.	513 462	47 39	2 8	4 4	43 37	169 97	248 277
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
5. Diphtheria ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M. F.	19 16	— —	— 1	— —	9 14	8 1	2 —
7. Tuberculosis Other Forms ...	M. F.	3 2	— 1	— 1	— —	1 —	2 —	— —
8. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	M. F.	2 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 —
9. Influenza ... ..	M. F.	14 5	— —	— —	— —	3 —	7 3	4 2
10. Measles ... ..	M. F.	1 —	1 —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis ... ..	M. F.	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	M. F.	1 —	— —	— —	— —	1 —	— —	— —
13. M. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Os. F. Cancer of Uterus ... ..	M. F.	5 9	— —	— —	— —	— —	2 3	3 6
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	M. F.	10 13	— —	— —	— —	— —	8 4	2 9
15. Cancer of Breast ... ..	F.	13	—	—	—	2	7	4
16. Cancer of all other sites ... ..	M. F.	52 27	— —	— —	— —	6 1	27 9	19 17
17. Diabetes ... ..	M. F.	— 5	— —	— —	— —	— 1	— 1	— 3
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	M. F.	63 66	— —	— —	— —	— 1	21 17	42 48

## REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948—

CAUSES.				Sex.	All Ages.	0+	1+	5+	15+	45+	65+
ALL CAUSES ... ..				M.	513	47	2	4	43	169	248
				F.	462	39	8	4	37	97	277
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	M.	138	—	—	—	7	42	89
				F.	116	—	—	1	5	24	86
20.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	M.	17	1	—	—	—	6	10
				F.	14	—	—	—	—	1	13
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	M.	42	—	—	—	3	17	22
				F.	31	—	—	—	1	9	21
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	M.	23	14	2	—	—	1	6
				F.	26	15	2	—	2	—	7
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	M.	7	—	—	—	—	5	2
				F.	3	—	—	—	1	—	2
24.	Ulceration of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	M.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
				F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
25.	Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	M.	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
				F.	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	M.	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
				F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	M.	11	1	—	1	1	4	4
				F.	12	—	1	—	3	5	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	M.	13	—	—	—	4	4	5
				F.	10	—	—	1	1	5	3
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis			F.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	M.	8	8	—	—	—	—	—
				F.	8	8	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury and Infantile Diseases	...	...	M.	14	14	—	—	—	—	—
				F.	7	6	—	—	1	—	—
33.	Suicide	...	...	M.	5	—	—	—	—	3	2
				F.	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	M.	3	—	—	1	—	2	—
				F.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	M.	10	—	—	1	2	5	2
				F.	7	1	—	—	—	2	4
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	M.	44	3	—	1	4	4	32
				F.	62	3	—	1	3	4	48



## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Mortality from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, namely: Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, and Diarrhœa, gives us a rate of 0.13 per 1,000 of the population, against 0.27 in 1947.

The deaths numbered 11 as against 23 in 1947.

The Zymotic-rate, 0.13, is made up as follows:—

	Death-rates per 1,000.	
	1947.	1948.
Small-pox	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	0.01	Nil.
Measles	0.06	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.02	Nil.
Diarrhœa	0.17	0.12
Enteric Fever	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria	0.01	Nil.

The comparative death-rate for each quarter is as follows:—

1948.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.
All Causes	12.99	11.61	9.95	11.66
Zymotics	0.05	0.14	0.19	0.14

The Zymotic-rate, 0.13 is 0.14 lower than in 1947.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES  
FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

	Deaths.	Death-rate.
1944	15	0.19
1945	8	0.10
1946	10	0.12
1947	23	0.27
1948	11	0.13

## COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS SINCE YEAR 1876.

Year.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Infant Mortality.
1876	48.9	28.5	4.92	186
1886	38.7	24.1	3.1	174
1896	35.9	23.09	4.09	186
1906	32.6	17.61	2.61	160
1916	23.28	15.42	1.04	113
1926	20.03	13.13	0.30	103
1936	17.23	12.78	0.42	82
1946	20.16	11.55	0.12	52
1948	18.84	11.55	0.13	54

INFANT MORTALITY, 1948. NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS PERIODS  
UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 months & under 9 months	9 months & under 12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 year
	All Causes : Certified ...	26	6	1	2	35	12	22	12	5
Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup... Tubercular Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ( <i>all forms</i> )	1	—	—	—	1	8	13	6	1	29
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	3	10
Gastritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations	5	3	1	1	10	—	1	—	—	11
Premature Birth	13	2	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	16
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Other Causes	3	—	—	—	3	1	4	1	1	10
Total ...	26	6	1	2	35	12	22	12	5	86



### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year is 86, or 54 per 1,000 births, and of children over one year and under five years 10, or 0.12 per 1,000 of the population.

In 1947 there were 127 deaths under one year, a rate of 67 per 1,000.

An analysis of these 86 deaths show that they may be grouped under the following headings :—

Premature Birth	....	....	....	....	16
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	....	....	....	....	10
Congenital Malformations	....	....	....	....	11
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	29
Other causes	....	....	....	....	20

35 of the total 86 occurred in the first four weeks of life, of which 26 were under one week old. Of the 35 deaths under one month old 16 were due to premature birth.

The infant deaths occurred as follows :—

42	Home.
18	Billinge Hospital.
14	R.A.E. Infirmary.
4	Whelley Hospital.
2	Park Vale Nursing Home.
2	Sandbrook Nursing Home.
1	Spring Bank Nursing Home.
1	Social Welfare Home.
1	Liverpool Maternity Hospital.
1	St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.
<hr/>	
Total	86
	<hr/>

## INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The number of inquests held during 1948 was 43, and the following verdicts have been recorded :—

1. Natural Causes	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
2. Accidents—Burnt	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Scalded	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Drowned	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Poisoning	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Falls	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
,, Railway	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Colliery	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
,, Road	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
,, Others	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
3. Suicides—Hanging	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
,, Cut Throat	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
,, Railway	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Poison	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
4. Open—Railway	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Drowning	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Falling	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
5. Murder	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
							—
							43
							—

There was one uncertified death in 1948, against none in 1947, and two in 1946.



THEORY OF THE ...

The first part of the ...

The second part of the ...

The third part of the ...

The fourth part of the ...

The fifth part of the ...

The sixth part of the ...

The seventh part of the ...

The eighth part of the ...

The ninth part of the ...

The tenth part of the ...

The eleventh part of the ...

The twelfth part of the ...

The thirteenth part of the ...

The fourteenth part of the ...

The fifteenth part of the ...

The sixteenth part of the ...

The seventeenth part of the ...

The eighteenth part of the ...

The nineteenth part of the ...

*Section III*

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Provision of  
Health Services  
in the Area



## CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The undermentioned Centres were open on the days and at the times stated :—

Centre.	Days Open.
Wigan Central Clinic, Municipal Buildings, Library Street.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday afternoons, 2 to 4-30 p.m. Ante-natal Clinic : Tuesdays, 10 a.m. Wednesdays, 2 p.m. Consultants' Ante-natal Clinic : Third Friday each month, 2 p.m. Post-natal Clinic : First and third Tuesdays in each month, at 2 p.m. Dental Clinic for expectant and nursing mothers and young children : Tuesday afternoon, 2 p.m. Class for expectant mothers : Friday afternoon, 2 p.m.
Pemberton Clinic, 15 Billinge Road, Pemberton.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Friday afternoons, 2 to 4-30 p.m. Ante-natal Clinic : Thursday afternoon, 2 p.m. A Consultant attends each alternate Thursday.
Jackson's Square, Scholes.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Monday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m.
Wesleyan Chapel, Worsley Mesnes.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.
Springfield Boys' Club, Springfield Road.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m.
Speech Clinic, The Elms, Wigan Lane, Wigan.	For treatment of speech defects. Open all day on Monday and Friday and on alternate Thursdays.
Orthopædic Clinic, Municipal Buildings, Library Street, Wigan.	For treatment of crippling defects. Open each Monday morning. Surgeon attends twice monthly. Cases from Ince, Hindley, and Standish also attend.

### ANTE-NATAL WORK.

	Wigan Centre.		Pemberton Clinic.
	Weekly Clinic.	Special Clinic.	
Number of primary cases attending Clinic during the year	598	2	262
Total number of attendances	2464	198	1098
Cases referred to St. Mary's Hospital	--	5	--
Cases admitted to St. Mary's Hospital	--	5	--

### CLASSES FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

50 classes were held during the year 1948, and 445 attendances were made by mothers.

### POST-NATAL CLINIC.

A Post-Natal Clinic was established in July, 1948. This Clinic was held on the first and third Tuesdays in the month and Dr. Hart, Consultant Obstetric Surgeon, was in attendance on the first Tuesday of each month.

Attendances were as follows :—

New Cases.	Return Cases.	Total.
48	9	57

Attendances at the Infant and Young Children's Clinics, 1948 :

Clinic	Children		Total	Mothers	Primary cases	Cases examined by medical attendant
	under 12 mths.	over 12 mths.				
Central	2237	480	2717	2608	304	1343
Scholes	1786	390	2176	2090	275	1222
Pemberton	1467	265	1732	1670	266	867
Worsley Mesnes	726	323	1049	967	125	631
Woodhouse Lane	1874	529	2403	2304	211	1101
Totals	8090	1987	10077	7939	1181	5164

Comparative attendances for the last 5 years :

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Babies	9773	8424	9144	10172	10077
Primary attendances of Babies	1210	961	1207	1305	1181

Expectant Mothers :

	1977	1955	2661	2725	2464
Weekly Clinic	139	152	165	211	198
Special Clinic (Central)	806	723	855	1045	1098
Pemberton Clinic					



## RESULTS OF SUNLIGHT TREATMENT, 1948.

Disease.	Under treatment. 1st Jan., 1948.	New Cases.	Cured.	Discharged: Treatment Unsatisfactory.	Ceased to Attend.	Under treatment 31st Dec., 1948.
Malnutrition	....	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	....	—	—	—	—	—
Debility	....	1	—	1	—	—
Others	....	5	2	—	1	2
	—	6	2	1	1	2

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
<b>Births</b> —(Legitimate) ....	1,534	808	726	} Birth rate per 1,000 population, 18.84.
(Illegitimate) ....	56	27	29	
	<u>1,590</u>	<u>835</u>	<u>755</u>	

**Stillbirths.**—The following shows the number of stillbirths registered during the year 1948 :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	29	19	48
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<u>30</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>50</u>

Infant-Mortality rate under one year of age per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate 53      Illegitimate 71      Total 54.

**Maternal Deaths.**—During 1948, one woman died in consequence of childbirth :

Case No.	Cause.
1.	Thrombosis of inferior vena cava and pyemia due to septic abortion.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth

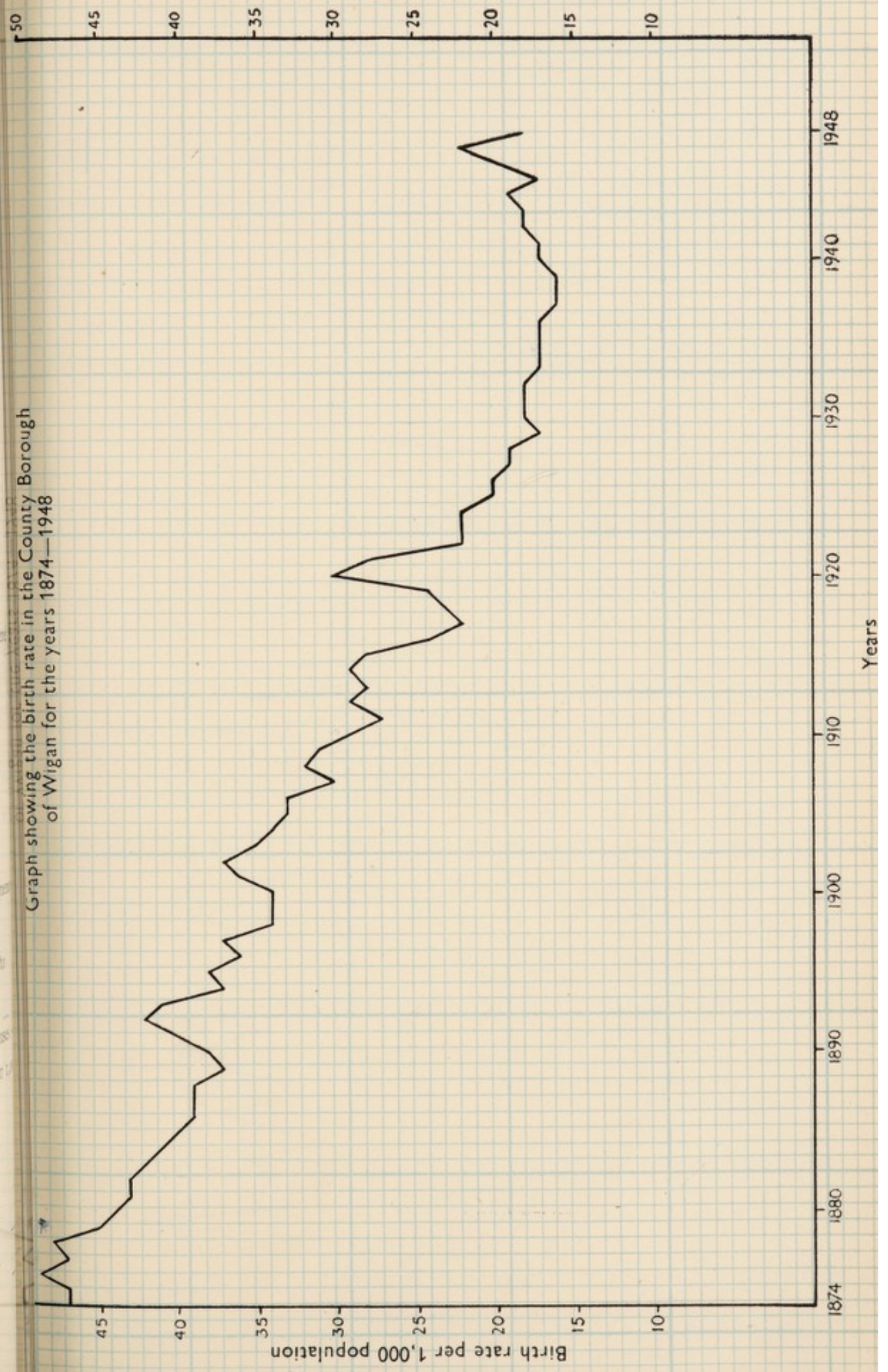
from sepsis	....	1
from other causes	....	—

Mortality of women in, or associated with child-birth, per 1,000 births (live and still) :—

Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	....	.61
Other Puerperal causes	....	....	....	—
Total Puerperal mortality	....	....	....	.61
Non Puerperal causes	....	....	....	—
Total Maternal mortality	....	....	....	.61



Graph showing the birth rate in the County Borough of Wigan for the years 1874—1948





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## Maternal Mortality for last 5 years :—

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Deaths	3	2	6	7	1
Rate	2.04	1.40	3.44	3.59	.61
Births	1471	1375	1670	1886	1590

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER.

A summary of the work carried out for the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is given in two tables : January to June and from the commencement of the National Health Service Act in July to December.

A slight decline in adult attendances was noted in the latter half of the year. No doubt when the facilities for dental treatment become wider known greater advantage of this service will be taken and the numbers will increase.

Due to the shortage of dental staff and the ever increasing demands on their time by the School Dental Service it has only been possible to devote the services of one dentist for one half-day session per week for the treatment of patients. A dental inspection of all patients attending the M. and C. W. clinic could not be carried out in the time available and cases were referred by the M. and C. W. Medical Officer.

	Patients Treated	Dressings	Extractions	Fillings	Scalings
(a) JANUARY TO JUNE					
Expectant Mothers ...	45	—	30	21	18
Nursing Mothers ...	10	—	2	11	2
Children under 5 years	10	5	4	1	—
(b) JULY TO DECEMBER					
Expectant Mothers ...	31	—	20	5	14
Nursing Mothers ...	18	—	10	2	4
Children under 5 years	21	6	17	11	—

In addition, 558 children under five years of age were examined in the routine school dental work and 75 received dental treatment.

## NURSERY.

There is no industrial nursery in the Borough.

The 24-hour Nursery provided by the Local Authority, situated at Ellesmere Road, Pemberton, has accommodataion for 52 children during the day and 17 at night.

The average attendances during the year were :—

	DAY.	NIGHT.
	(Including those who remain at night)	
Children under 2 years of age	15	9
Children between 2 and 5 years	28	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>17</b>



### DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

There were 24 midwives practising in the district on 1st January, 1948, of whom 13 were Municipal Midwives, 3 independent and 8 employed in Maternity Homes.

#### MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives during the year 1948 was 959.

The Service, which consisted of a Supervisor and 13 Midwives, was increased during the month of November by the appointment of 2 additional midwives.

#### GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA.

A Gas and Air Analgesia Service is provided by the Department.

With the exception of one of the midwives appointed in November 1948, the municipal midwives are qualified to administer analgesia.

Arrangements are being made for the midwife who is not yet trained to attend a course of instruction.

Five outfits are provided and when required they are transported to and from the homes of the patients by the Ambulance Service.

During the year Gas and Air Analgesia was administered in 99 cases.

Efforts are being made to increase the popularity of this service.

#### MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

There were three Maternity and Nursing Homes within the Borough. The number of beds available was 13, and the number of births at these Homes in 1948 was 194.

#### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Year.	No. Notified.	Cases Treated :		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.
		At Home.	In Hospital.			
1948	4	2	2	4	—	—
1947	2	1	1	2	—	—
1946	2	2	—	2	—	—
1945	1	—	1	1	—	—
1944	2	1	1	2	—	—

The following instructions are being carried out by Midwives :—

(1) As soon as the head is born, thoroughly cleanse the eyelids and eyelashes with clean swabs, and warm boracic lotion, using separate swabs for each eye.

(2) When the baby is born, put one drop of a 10 per cent. solution of Argylol in the hollow between the nose and the eye, open the lids, and tilt the head and see that the fluid runs on to the surface of the eyeball. Repeat the same process with the other eye.

(3) Allow a few minutes to elapse and then swab with warm boracic lotion, using separate swabs as before.

Every case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum is visited at once by a Health Visitor, a smear taken of discharge, if any, to be examined for gonococci or other organisms, and a report made to the Medical Officer of Health.

Cases are visited until cured.



## HEALTH VISITING.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS DURING THE YEAR 1948.

No. of primary visits to births	....	....	....	....	....	1601
„ visits to infants under one year	....	....	....	....	....	6266
„ „ infants over one year and under two years	....	....	....	....	....	4115
„ „ infants over two and under three years	....	....	....	....	....	2612
„ „ infants over three and under four years	....	....	....	....	....	1713
„ „ infants over four and under five years	....	....	....	....	....	1364
„ „ expectant mothers	....	....	....	....	....	186
„ „ cases of abortion	....	....	....	....	....	12
„ „ cases of infectious disease	....	....	....	....	....	891
„ „ re deaths under one year	....	....	....	....	....	60
„ „ still births	....	....	....	....	....	42
„ other visits	....	....	....	....	....	2303

## CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AND PREMATURE INFANTS.

Increased attention is being paid to the care of illegitimate children and premature infants. The arrangements made for the former are that a Health Visitor, who has completed a short course of instruction in social service, has taken over the visiting of all the illegitimate children in the town, during their first year and longer if necessary. She is able to help the mother to settle down with the child, or if she must go out to work the Health Visitor ensures that suitable provision is made for the infant. She is also able to assist the mother to obtain an affiliation order, and where necessary, give advice about legal adoption.

The Council authorize a yearly payment to St. Margaret's Home for unmarried mothers and their children.

With regard to premature infants, a Health Visitor, upon receiving notification of the births, visits each one daily, showing the mother how to handle and tend the baby, and noting and reporting progress or otherwise. A special draught-proof cot complete with bedding has been provided for use in the homes where existing provision is inadequate. The experienced advice which the Health Visitor is able to give, and also the interest and care which she shows in the children's progress is much appreciated by the mothers.

By these measures it is hoped to ensure that the children in these two categories will receive adequate care and attention.

## HEAD LICE.

When visiting homes and also at the clinics, Health Visitors have kept a keen look-out for verminous heads, and have given suitable advice where necessary. The main difficulty met with is that not only the child but often the whole family are infested and great tact is required to encourage mothers and elder daughters to clean themselves.

The recent increase in use of female labour has led to neglect of personal cleanliness in many families, the working mother having little time to spend with her children.



### HOME NURSING.

Home Nursing is carried out by the Wigan Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

On the Appointed Day the service came under the control of the Local Authority.

The nursing staff is comprised of a non-medical superintendent who is employed directly by the Local Authority and 10 district nurses (Queen's Nurses).

The following figures are given for the period 5th July to the 31st December, 1948 :—

No. of cases on the books on 5th July, 1948	....	....	....	114
No. of new cases during the period	....	....	....	432
No. of visits paid by the nurses	....	....	....	12,732
No. of cases ceased to be visited :—				
Now convalescent	....	....	....	153
Removed to hospital	....	....	....	40
Deaths	....	....	....	46
Other reasons	....	....	....	171
			—	410
No. of cases remaining on the books on the 31st December, 1948				136

### VACCINATION.

The Vaccination Acts 1867-1907, which made vaccination against smallpox compulsory, were rescinded when the National Health Service Act 1946 came into operation on the 5th July, 1948.

The work of the two public vaccinators under contract to this Authority was then taken over by the medical practitioners in the Borough, all of whom agreed to participate in the service under the Council's arrangements.

#### Vaccinations carried out during 1948.

##### PRIMARY.

	Infants.	Adults.	Total.
From 1st January to 4th July, 1948—			
by Public Vaccinators	15	7	22
From 5th July to 31st December, 1948	37	26	63
	—	—	—
Totals	52	33	85

##### RE-VACCINATION.

From 5th July to 31st December, 1948	—	17	17
--------------------------------------	---	----	----

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Free preventive inoculation has been offered since December, 1936, for children of pre-school and school age.

Health Visitors bring to the notice of mothers the importance of immunisation on every possible occasion and especially when holding infant welfare clinics and when visiting in the homes. If a child has not previously been protected a birthday greeting card is sent on its first birthday advising immunisation. These cases are assiduously followed up.

At school medical inspection and also when school nurses are visiting in the homes, efforts are made to obtain the consent of parents to have their children immunised if this has not already been done, and advice is given regarding re-inforcing doses of the prophylactic.

The Council's proposals under Section 26 of the National Health Service Act came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, and all the medical practitioners in the Borough agreed to co-operate under the Local Authority's scheme.

Inoculations carried out during 1948 :—

	By M. & C.W. Clinic.	By School Clinic.	By Private Doctors.	Total during 1948.
<b>PRIMARY :</b>				
From 1st Jan. to 4th July, 1948 ....	539	63	10	612
From 5th July to 31st Dec. 1948 ....	478	54	83	615
Totals	1017	117	93	1227
<b>RE-INOCULATION :</b>				
From 1st Jan. to 4th July, 1948 ....	2	39	—	41
From 5th July to 31st Dec. 1948 ....	10	15	12	37
Totals	12	54	12	78
	0 - 4 yrs. inclusive.	5 - 14 yrs. inclusive.	Total 0 - 14 yrs. inclusive.	
Estimated present child popula- tion immunised ....	46%	66%	59%	



Table showing the number of inoculations carried out each year at various ages :—

Age at date of inoculation	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
0 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	164	310	Total age under 31-12
1 +	—	31	16	5	12	87	176	471	448	437	582	616	551	
2 +	—	39	22	10	16	118	197	301	134	113	213	107	117	
3 +	1	31	22	10	7	91	138	320	73	55	114	65	61	Total age 5-31 years
4 +	4	41	17	25	12	125	151	260	78	44	90	62	39	
5 +	24	89	32	60	2	309	131	436	72	65	44	74	36	
6 +	28	137	16	97	2	336	117	332	43	44	29	56	16	Total age 31-12
7 +	14	122	18	101	1	272	73	277	13	33	20	42	22	
8 +	6	131	6	76	—	236	89	241	25	42	12	35	14	
9 +	1	109	7	76	—	282	69	254	14	29	14	38	12	Total age 15-31 years
10 +	—	100	3	70	—	248	88	245	7	24	10	35	14	
11 +	—	78	3	82	—	224	56	220	8	22	8	19	5	
12 +	—	37	4	89	—	238	40	175	6	35	3	24	9	Total age 31-12
13 +	—	30	2	91	—	210	47	161	6	20	2	23	5	
14 +	—	10	5	31	—	76	9	31	—	1	—	3	3	
15 +	—	1	1	2	—	56	24	8	—	—	—	2	13	7.9
Total each year	78	986	174	825	52	2908	1405	3732	927	967	1148	1365	1227	15.7

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

All the ambulance services of the County Borough were co-ordinated and placed under the control of the Health Committee on the Appointed Day.

The Health Department is directly responsible for the removal of infectious disease cases.

The day-to-day management of the ambulance service for non-infectious cases is under the control of the Chief Fire Officer.

The new ambulance service deals with all calls arising within the area of the County Borough and, by arrangement with the Lancashire County Council, serves also the following areas of the administrative County—Orrell, Aspull, Standish-with-Langtree, Upholland, Billinge and Wigan Rural District.

Two ambulances are used for the removal of infectious cases. One sitting-case car and 6 ambulances are used for the removal of non-infectious cases.

### Statistical Report.

The Ambulance Service attended 3,091 calls during the period 5th July to 31st December, 1948 :—

	Infectious Disease	Accidents	Removals	Mental Cases	Midwifery Apparatus	TOTAL
Wigan County Borough ...	236	186	1879	43	118	2462
Lancashire County Council	66	72	443	48	—	629
	302	258	2322	91	118	3091

The mileage covered during the period was :—

	Miles.
Wigan County Borough ....	18,870
Lancashire County Council ...	9,222
	28,092

The work of the non-infectious service is increasing and this has accentuated the problem of maintaining the aged vehicles in running order. A new ambulance has been ordered and delivery is promised early in 1949.

By the acquisition of one new vehicle each year it should be possible to maintain a reliable fleet.

Consideration must be given to the purchase of an additional sitting-case car. The increased use of this type of vehicle helps to free the ambulances for stretcher cases and is invaluable especially at periods of peak load.

The present organisation and administration of the service is satisfactory and during the period under review all calls have been met and no special administrative difficulties have been encountered.



## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

### HEALTH EDUCATION.

Each month 2,000 copies of the journal "Better Health" are distributed in the district.

Classes for mothers are held each week at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Propaganda regarding Diphtheria immunisation has been carried out in conjunction with the National Campaign.

Efforts are being renewed to bring to the notice of the public, and especially to food handlers, the need for cleanliness and care in the preparation of food.

Measures for the dissemination of information to the public are being developed. They include publication of literature, display of posters, etc., and opportunities are taken to give lectures on various health subjects from time to time.

A subscription is paid each year by the Borough Council to the Central Council for Health Education. This enables us to receive from the Central Council much valuable help and information as to the best methods of approaching the public.

### VENEREAL DISEASE.

On the expiration of Defence Regulation 33B in December, 1947 the Health Committee continued their arrangements whereby the V.D. Orderly of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary undertakes the duties of Almoner. Agreement has been reached with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee for this service to continue.

Efforts are made to persuade persons who are a source of infection to attend for treatment at the centre. Contact is made with patients who fail to attend for treatment with a view to stressing the importance of continued attendance at the clinic. The work done by the Almoner has been found to produce satisfactory results.

The following is an extract from the Almoner's reports for the year 1948 :—

No. of contacts who attended Clinic after interview with case :							
Males	....	....	....	....	....	....	33
Females	....	....	....	....	....	....	30
No. of letters sent to patients failing to attend							333
Result : 165 returned for treatment.							
28 ill.							
26 transferred to other Authority.							



### TUBERCULOSIS.

The transfer of responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis from the Local Authority to the Regional Hospital Board has left with the Health Authority the duty of providing the means of prevention and the "care and after care" of persons suffering from the disease. This divided responsibility may lead to neglect of the preventive aspect of Tuberculosis unless definite steps are taken to bridge the gap between the preventive and curative services.

Arrangements have been made in Wigan whereby the post of Chest Physician is a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board, and as the present holder of the post was previously the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, satisfactory liaison is established.

The Tuberculosis Visitor is a full-time member of the Local Authority Health Visiting Staff, the work of this health visitor being divided between attendance with the Chest Physician at the Dispensary and visiting patients in their homes.

The National Insurance Act of 1946 has necessitated the transfer of work in connection with assessment and allocation of allowances under Memorandum 266T from this Department to the National Assistance Board. Close liaison has been established and extra help is forthcoming where required through the good offices of the After-Care Committee.

The responsibility of the Council for providing care and after-care services at present are being discharged through a voluntary Care Committee. The aims of this Committee may be stated as follows:—

1. To provide extra nourishments.
2. To help in providing extra clothing needed by the patients, especially when they go into sanatorium and on their return home.
3. To visit and give friendly advice.
4. To assist in educating public opinion in matters of health in regard to Tuberculosis.

The Chest Physician acts as an honorary Medical Officer to this Committee, which provides extra nourishment, etc., on his recommendation.

### PEMBERTON HOSPITAL.

Pemberton Hospital, which is used for the treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis, was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948. The Health Department continued to administer the hospital under agency arrangements until 31st March, 1949.





## Notifications in Wards.

Wards	Estimated Population	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
No. 1—St. George ...	2743	1	—	1
No. 2—Lindsay ...	5106	4	2	6
No. 3—St. Catharine ..	5860	5	3	8
No. 4—St. Patrick ...	6784	6	2	8
No. 5—St. Thomas ...	2713	6	3	9
No. 6—Poolstock ..	3925	5	—	5
No. 7—Victoria ...	3040	4	3	7
No. 8—St. Andrew ...	16869	12	5	17
No. 9—Swinley ...	10728	8	—	8
No. 10—All Saints ...	2213	2	1	3
No. 11—West Pemberton	2962	1	—	1
No. 12—North ,, ...	6617	5	2	7
No. 13—Central ,, ...	9813	18	1	19
No. 14—South ,, ...	5017	2	2	4
Totals ...	84390	79	24	103

## Deaths in Wards.

Wards	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Total
No. 1—St. George ...	1	—	1
No. 2—Lindsay ...	2	—	2
No. 3—St. Catharine ...	1	—	1
No. 4—St. Patrick ...	3	—	3
No. 5—St. Thomas ...	3	—	3
No. 6—Poolstock ...	1	1	2
No. 7—Victoria ...	1	1	2
No. 8—St. Andrew ...	8	1	9
No. 9—Swinley ...	2	1	3
No. 10—All Saints ...	1	1	2
No. 11—West Pemberton ...	—	—	—
No. 12—North Pemberton ...	2	—	2
No. 13—Central Pemberton ...	7	—	7
No. 14—South Pemberton ...	3	—	3
Totals ...	35	5	40



## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1—	1	—	2	3	—	1	—	1
5—	3	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
15—	25	27	3	7	9	14	1	—
45—	14	5	1	2	8	1	2	—
65 and upwards ..	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
Total ...	45	34	9	15	19	16	3	2

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 35, against 64 in 1947, and 36 in 1946. The number of deaths from other tubercular affections is 5, against 3 in 1947 and 3 in 1946.

The rates are as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis .... 0.41 per 1,000 of population.

Other Tuberculous Diseases 0.06                   "                   "

If taken together as tuberculous affections, we have 40 deaths, or a rate of 0.47 per 1,000 of the population.

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1944 TO 1948 :

	Cases Notified.				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Pulmonary .....	81	106	101	86	79
Other forms of Tuberculosis	32	36	22	27	24
Total .....	113	142	123	113	103

	Deaths.				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Pulmonary .....	41	37	36	64	35
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	9	3	3	5
Total .....	51	46	39	67	40

	Death Rates.				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Pulmonary .....	0.52	0.47	0.43	0.76	0.41
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.13	0.11	0.04	0.03	0.06
Total .....	0.65	0.58	0.47	0.79	0.47

## WORK OF THE DISPENSARY DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Diagnosis	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary				Total		Grand Total				
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children							
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.							
A.—New Cases examined during the year (excluding contacts) :													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	38	33	2	—	3	5	3	3	41	38	5	3	87
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	3	2	14
(c) Non-tubercul.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	254	144	29	24	451
B.—Contacts examined during the year :—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	1	—	5
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
(c) Non-tubercul.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	63	47	58	206
C.—Cases written off the Dispensary Register as													
(a) Recovered	3	3	—	1	20	23	24	19	23	26	24	20	93
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	304	221	80	85	690
D.—No. of Persons on Dispensary Register on Dec. 31st :—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	210	244	5	3	58	78	22	31	268	292	27	34	621
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6	3	2	16



1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st ....	719
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge in previous years ....	7
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases "lost sight of" ....	36
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes) ....	35
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts) ....	5,866
6. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December ....	146
7. Number of consultations with medical practitioners :	
(a) Personal ....	101
(b) By letter ....	430
8. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officers to homes (including personal consultations) ....	175
9. Number of visits by Nurse to homes for Dispensary purposes ....	1,373
10. Number of	
(a) Specimens of sputum, etc., examined ....	808
(b) X-ray Examinations made in connection with Dispensary work ....	3,501
11. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register, and included in A (a) and A (b) above ....	Nil.
12. Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st ....	199

#### ARTIFICIAL PNEUMOTHORAX

During 1948 Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was performed in 17 new cases. 1,961 refills were carried out in these and other cases. 40 pneumoperitoneum refills were carried out.

#### Results of Sunlight Treatment, 1948.

Disease	Under Treatment 1st. Jan. 1948.	New Cases	Discharged			Ceased to Attend	Under Treatment 31st. Dec., 1948
			Much Improved	Im-proved	Station-ary		
T.B. Glands ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lupus ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

### DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Prior to the introduction of the National Health Service Act Home Helps were available in connection with confinements only. Later this service was extended to provide domestic help in households where need arises due to illness, to provide for the care of aged persons, young children, or mentally defective persons.

Four Helps are employed full time, and the part-time services of several Helps are available.

During 1948 the services of the Helps were provided in 157 cases as against 119 cases in 1947.

This, which is a growing service, is operating satisfactorily but the mounting office work and house visiting involved may shortly necessitate the establishment of a full-time organiser.

### MENTAL HEALTH.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority is responsible for the domiciliary Mental Health services.

The service includes :—

- (i) The ascertainment of cases of mental ill-health and mental deficiency in the community.
- (ii) The initial proceedings for obtaining detention and reception orders and transferring persons of unsound mind to establishments administered by the Regional Hospital Board.
- (iii) The statutory supervision, guardianship, provision of after-care, etc., of mental defectives living in the community.
- (iv) The provision of occupational treatment for mental illness.
- (v) Preventive measures in connection with Mental Health.

### ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) The Health Committee is responsible for the control of this service and deals with all matters appertaining thereto. A special sub-committee has not been established.
- (b) The Medical Officer of Health is the Executive Officer.

The Medical Officer of Health, together with Dr. E. R. M. Wilson, Assistant Medical Officer, and Dr. D. Mather, are appointed as approved medical practitioners for the purpose of giving certificates of mental defect under Sections 3 and 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The Medical Officer of Health is also approved for the purpose of making recommendations under Sections 1 (3) and 5 (3) of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.



Two full-time authorised officers and mental health visitors (one male and one female) and also one full-time male authorised officer and clerk are employed.

The staff of the Occupation Centre consists of one supervisor (who holds a certificate of recognition as an experienced worker), an assistant, and one guide-help.

- (c) Co-ordination is maintained with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees, the local authority providing all appropriate reports.
- (d) The Local Health Authority undertake all duties, none being delegated to Voluntary Organisations.

#### ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

##### MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

	5/7/48.	31/12/48.
No. of cases in M.D. institutions ....	65	67
No. of cases under Statutory Supervision (M.D. Acts 1913-1927) Sec. 30 (55 visits) ....	37	44
No. of cases under Voluntary Supervision ....	7	7
No. of cases under Guardianship (Sec. 6 M.D. Act 1913) ....	1	1
No. of cases notified by local Education Authority (Sec. 57 (3) Education Act 1944) ....		9
Petitions presented (Sec. 5 M.D. Act 1913) ....		1
Special reports on behalf of M.D. institutions ....		19
No. of cases admitted to M.D. institutions (Sec. 6 M.D. Act 1913) ....		1
No. of cases admitted to M.D. institutions (Sec. 8 M.D. Act, 1913) ....		1
Total home visits ....		108
Visits to Occupation Centre ....		20
Cases under training (Occupation Centre) :—		
5/7/48 ....	23	} Sec. 30 M.D. Acts 1913-27
31/12/48 ....	17	
Cases awaiting vacancies on the 31/12/48 ....		3

##### LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT.

	5/7/48.	31/12/48.
No. of cases in Mental Hospitals ....	267	271
Cases dealt with under Sec. 20 Lunacy Act, 1890 ....		23
Cases dealt with under Sec. 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 ....		18
Voluntary patients (Sec. 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930) ....		5
Care and After Care (Sec. 28 National Health Service Act, 1946) ....		18 Visits 11 Cases
Special reports on behalf of Mental Hospitals ....		4
Reception Orders (Sec. 16 Lunacy Act, 1890) ....		20
Discharges from Hospitals ....		34
Deaths ....		8

## OCCUPATION CENTRE.

On the 5th July, 1948, the Health Committee took over the administration of the Occupation Centre, which is housed in Hope Street school.

The Centre is open Monday to Friday each week, except during normal school holidays.

The children have been supplied with hot mid-day meals by arrangement with the school meals service.

An Industrial class for older boys and girls is required but the present accommodation precludes this as a certain amount of fixed apparatus would be required, and the rooms at present in use in the Sunday School are used in the evenings and at week--ends for their original purpose.

The children in the two classes are graded according to physical characteristics, mental age and ability. Handwork, simple sewing, leathercraft, dancing, speech training, singing and percussion band are amongst the varied subjects attempted.

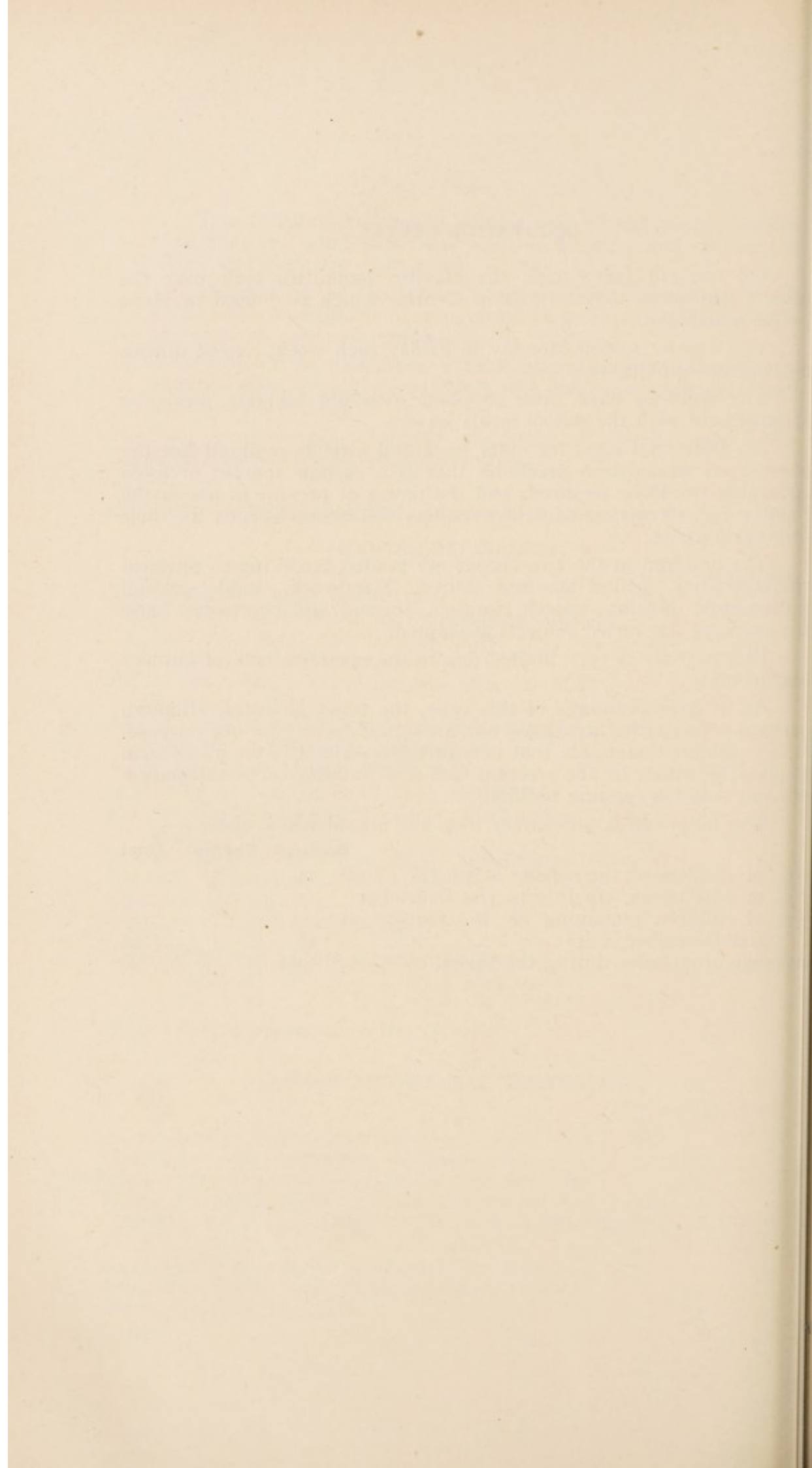
Free activity is very limited due to the complete lack of outdoor playground.

As in most buildings of this type, the toilet facilities, although perhaps adequate for occasional use, are unsatisfactory for our purpose. It is considered advisable that new premises should be found as soon as possible, either by the erection of a new building or by adaptation of some suitable existing building.

The following is an extract from the attendance register :—

	Borough	County	Total
No. of children on the register at 5th July, 1948	23	8	31
No. of admissions, 5th July to 31st December	3	1	4
No. of children remaining on the register at 31st December, 1948	26	9	35
Average attendance during the period	20.4	7.6	28





*Section IV*



**Welfare Services**



### ADMINISTRATION.

The National Assistance Act, 1948, came into operation on the 5th July, 1948, and the Wigan County Borough Council appointed a Welfare Services Committee, consisting of 15 members, to administer their functions under this Act.

Three Sub-Committees of seven members each were appointed by the Welfare Services Committee :—

- (1) The Welfare Services (Blind, Deaf and Dumb) Sub-Committee.
- (2) The Welfare Services (Aged and Infirm) Sub-Committee.
- (3) The Welfare Services (Handicapped Persons) Sub-Committee.

The duties of each sub-committee are self-explanatory.

The Medical Officer of Health was appointed Executive Officer for Welfare Services, and a separate section of the Health Department was established to organise and administer the Services provided by the Council under the Act, viz.:—

1. The provision of residential accommodation for—
  - (a) Persons who by reason of age, infirmity or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them.
  - (b) Temporary accommodation for persons who are in urgent need thereof owing to circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, such as eviction, flooding, etc.
2. The organisation of welfare arrangements for the Blind, Deaf, Dumb and other handicapped persons, either directly or by giving assistance to voluntary organisations who provide such facilities.
3. The registration of charities for disabled persons.
4. The registration and inspection of Homes for aged and disabled persons.
5. The provision either directly or through voluntary organisations of recreation and meals for old people.
6. The removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.
7. The burial or cremation of the dead where no other suitable arrangements have been made.
8. Protection of moveable property of persons admitted to hospital or to accommodation provided specifically under the Act.

In the period of the year reported on, i.e. 5th July, 1948 to the 31st December, 1948, although very little was done in a practical way which differed from the work previously carried out by the Social

Welfare Department, staff were drawn together and plans were made for the establishment of a service based on modern standards.

Residential accommodation on the 5th July, 1948, was provided at the Welfare Home, Frog Lane.

The Department also accepted responsibility for the maintenance of persons in establishments provided by voluntary organisations.

The following table shows the numbers and classes of persons provided with accommodation under Part III of the Act :—

Provided with accommodation under Part III of the Act :—	Aged	Physically or mentally infirm	Blind or Partially sighted	Deaf or Dumb	Epileptics	Crippled	Total
On 5th July, 1948 ...	42	23	3	—	4	4	76
Admitted during period 5/7/48 to 31/12/48 ...	34	1	1	1	1	1	39
Discharged during period 5/7/48 to 31/12/48 ...	35	2	—	1	—	4	42
In on 31/12/48 ...	41	22	4	—	5	1	73

#### WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

The Blind Persons Acts having previously placed a duty on Local Authorities to make arrangements for promoting the welfare of the Blind, little alteration was needed to bring the arrangements in existence on the appointed day into line with the new legislation.

During the period 5th July, 1948 to 31st December, 1948, 23 persons were examined by an Ophthalmic Surgeon ; 14 of these were certified as blind and 9 not blind. One case was transferred out of the area and one case transferred into the area. There were 7 deaths.

On the 5th July, 1948, there were 181 persons in the Borough registered as blind persons.

Facilities for the employment of blind persons are provided at the Workshops for the Blind, Darlington Street East, Wigan.

These Workshops are maintained by the County Borough Council and the Lancashire County Council on a joint user basis, and are managed by a voluntary committee, which has adequate representation of members of the two authorities.



The types of employment and extent of provision available for Borough cases are as follows :—

Brush Making	....	....	....	Males	4
Basket Making	....	....	....	Males	4
Mat Making	....	....	....	Males	2
Machine Knitting and Chair Seating				Females	4
Piano Tuning	....	....	....	Males	1

On the 31st December, 1948, there were 14 blind persons from the County Borough employed in the Workshops.

#### **WELFARE OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.**

Prior to the 5th July, 1948, the Local Authority was not empowered to provide for the welfare of the Deaf and Dumb, and for many years this work was in the hands of a local voluntary committee.

Steps were taken to liaise with the voluntary agency, and in view of the fact that the Chairman of the Welfare Services Committee (Alderman F. W. Roberts, J.P.) and the Vice-Chairman (Councillor J. T. Lynch) have been actively concerned with the work of the voluntary committee for the Deaf and Dumb, first hand information was available to assist in providing the Local Authority with a true perspective of the needs of this class of handicapped persons, and although no practical achievements can be recorded in the period under review, much valuable groundwork was covered in the forming of an efficient scheme to provide for their welfare.

#### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.**

##### **(Removal of Persons Needing Care and Attention).**

It was not found necessary to take action under this section during 1948.

*Section V*

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Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Area



## WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough is supplied with water for domestic and trade purposes from the Arley, Worthington and Pemberton Reservoirs, which have a total capacity of 278,000,000 gallons. Approximately 154,000,000 gallons of water is pumped each year from Nicholson's Pit, Winstanley, and a further supply is obtained from the Bispham Shaft, Billinge. The Corporation also own reservoirs at Adlington, Pemberton and Whitley, which are used only for compensation and trade purposes.

The Catchment Area, from which the greater part of the water is obtained, is agricultural land. Constant supervision is therefore undertaken to ensure the prevention of pollution and energetic steps are taken when any danger of pollution arises. Local improvements are made from time to time at points of suspected pollution and especial reference may be made to the improvements to the closet arrangements at Baldwin's Farm.

Although the storage of the raw water combined with slow sand filtration produces a water free from contamination and suitable for domestic purposes, chlorination plants are installed at Boars Head Pumping Station, Boars Head Water Tower (to deal with Thirlmere water), Edgewood (to deal with Pemberton Reservoirs) and at Bispham. This is a further safeguard of the purity of the water supply and ensures that all water supplied to consumers, with the exception of unfiltered water for trade purposes, is first chlorinated.

Enough chlorine is added to give a residual of 0.15 to 0.4 parts per 1,000,000 and constant tests are made to ensure this.

In certain cases an automatic and continuous record of the amount of chlorine added is charted mechanically.

In addition, samples of the various supplies are taken each month and sent away for chemical and bacteriological examination and a constant check on the purity of the water, both before and after treatment, is kept.

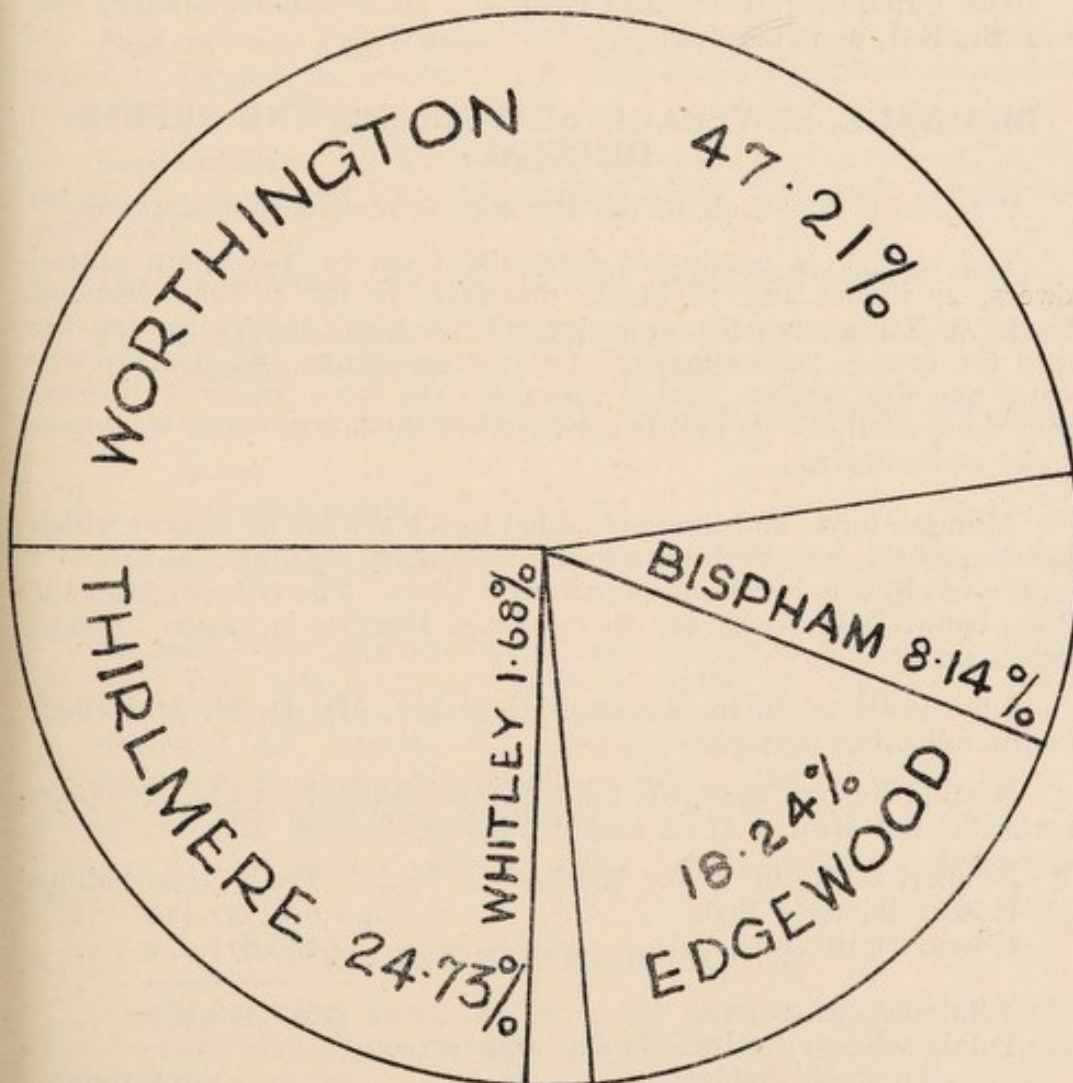
Apart from the local water supplies outlined above the Corporation obtain daily a further supply of 500,000 gallons per day from the Thirlmere Aqueduct of the Manchester Corporation, which quantity can be increased under agreement with the Manchester Corporation by a temporary supply of 400,000 gallons per day, if required.

There are approximately 22,000 dwellings within the Borough and with one or two exceptions each one has its supply of town's water. The approximate average daily consumption for domestic purposes is 1,663,000 gallons, representing approximately 19.56 gallons per head per day.

A few dwellings situate near the boundary of the Borough on the south side are supplied with water obtained from Billinge U.D.C.

The following diagram showing the water supplied from various sources, is extracted from the report on Waterworks by Mr. D. M. McKellen, Borough and Water Engineer :

**WATER SUPPLIED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, 1948-1949.**



(Edgewood and Bispham quantities include water pumped from Nicholsons Pit)



## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Douglas and the streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The River is badly polluted before entering the Borough and a certain amount of pollution occurs within.

The River Douglas is under the control of the River Douglas Catchment Board who are constantly engaged in work of dredging and straightening of the River. Considerable improvements in the course of the River have recently been made, particularly in the region between Adam Bridge and Martland Hill Bridge, which will reduce the risk of flooding in the lower lying parts of the Town.

The Catchment Board also clean the river, remove sludge, etc. from the bed, as is required.

## DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained.

The sewage is conducted from the town by two main outfall sewers, 27 inches and 36 inches diameter, to the Sewage Disposal Works at Hoscar, which are seven miles distant. Before leaving the town the sewage passes through two detritus tanks and also through coarse and fine screens, and at this point the storm water is diverted from the outfall sewers and is conveyed to the storm water treatment works at Pemberton.

Alumino ferric and lime are added to the sewage at Hoscar which then passes through Preliminary and Secondary Settling Tanks and a battery of circular revolving percolating filters. The effluent from the filters before it is discharged to the River Douglas is passed through humus tanks.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer, Mr. D. M. McKellen, for the following figures :—

During the year 1948, the following amounts of sewage have been treated at the Hoscar Moss and Pemberton Sewage Works :—

Pemberton Storm Water Works	....	....	312,750,000	gallons
Hoscar Bacteria Beds	....	....	1,050,757,426	„
Hoscar Drainage Area	....	....	286,871,071	„
Total sewage treated	....	....	1,650,378,497	„
Total solids, detritus tanks and screen chambers, Pemberton	....	....	3,198	tons
Total dried sludge recovered	....	....	2,838	„
Weight of dried sludge per million gallons of sewage	....	....	1.7	„
Rainfall for year	....	....	31.04	inches



## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Mr. W. Smith, the Director of Public Cleansing, has supplied the following particulars :--

**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—The collection of dry house refuse and trade refuse is carried out by both horse and mechanical transport, working as separate units, and by the Pagefield container system, and the percentage of refuse collected by each system is as follows :--

Horse	....	....	....	....	20 per cent.
Pagefield container	....	....	....	58	„
Mechanical vehicles	....	....	....	22	„

74 per cent. of the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping.

**Nightsoil and Pail Refuse.**—The refuse (460 tons) is disposed of direct to farmers as manure. All pails are washed and disinfected after each collection.

**Trade Refuse.**—No fixed charges are made for the removal of this refuse, the shops and business premises in the town have a collection every day.

**Gully Cleansing.**—During the year 19,491 gullies were emptied.

**Public Conveniences.**—The following conveniences and urinals are maintained and cleansed by the department :—

2	public conveniences for ladies and gents, with attendants.
4	„ „ „ „ without „
26	public urinals.

All urinals are cleansed and inspected twice per day, including Sundays.

**General.**—The quantity of refuse dealt with by destructors during the year 1948 was 6,423 tons, and the quantity tipped was 19,044 tons. The Corporation have certain powers which require the owners or occupiers of property to provide, under certain conditions, receptacles of an approved pattern for refuse, and up to the present, 23,250 ash bins have been provided.

123,532,000 square yards of street have been swept during the year.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

On March 31st, 1948, the estimated number of water closets in the Borough was 27,110, waste water closets 92, pail closets 51, and privy middens 39.

The majority of pail closets and privy middens are attached to houses unfit for human habitation or premises where the drainage cannot be connected to the sewer.



On April 1st, 1926 the Local Authority inaugurated a scheme for the conversion of waste water closets to closets on the water carriage system with proper flushing apparatus and if this work was carried out to the satisfaction of the Local Authority a grant of £5 was made towards the cost of each conversion. Since that date, 929 closets have been converted.

This scheme is still in operation and in all cases where notices have been served for foul or defective waste water closets the owner or agent has been advised to convert them to closets on the water carriage system. - Advantage has not been taken of this scheme for some considerable time due no doubt to the rising cost of converting these closets and the fact that the grant of £5 is now inadequate.

### SANITARY INSPECTION.

Mr. John Ashton, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks with a summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors :—

During the major portion of the year, work in this section of the Department was carried on with a depleted staff of six inspectors but towards the end of the year two additional inspectors were appointed, bringing the inspectorate establishment to full strength, viz., eight inspectors exclusive of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The town is divided into eight districts. The District Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the constant supervision of each district. Numerous complaints have been received of defects in houses and of other nuisances, some of which were not statutory nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1936. Although a considerable length of time elapses before some of these defects are remedied after service of Statutory Notices, it should be pointed out that there is a noticeable improvement in compliance with notices served. Legal proceedings have been instituted in several cases for non-compliance with Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936. It was found that some owners or agents of property had carried out or commenced the work before the hearing of the summons.

Particular attention has been paid to premises where food is manufactured, prepared or sold and advice given as to the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. There is still room for improvement and efforts are being made to bring premises up to the required standard.

Overcrowding in the Borough is still acute, and appointments with tenants complaining of their unsatisfactory accommodation has taken up much of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's time. The inspectors have visited dwellings for the purpose of making investigations into many cases of overcrowding in addition to applications on medical grounds.

Other duties carried out by the inspectors under other acts and regulations are set out in the body of the report.



## SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR

Houses and premises inspected and visited <i>re</i> nuisances	
and complaints	2856
Re-visits to nuisances	7587
Other visits made	625
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)	59
Nuisances discovered	6113
"    abated	7699
Notices issued (preliminary)	1486
"    (formal)	1271
Letters issued <i>re</i> nuisances	1215
Visits <i>re</i> building licences	860
Visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	178
Re-visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	52
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease	858
Visits to slaughterhouses	1314
Visits <i>re</i> offensive trades	8
Visits to markets	163
"    butchers and other food shops	1611
"    cowsheds	32
"    dairies	138
"    milkshops	28
"    ice cream premises	20
"    bakehouses	62
"    common lodging houses	360
"    houses let-in-lodgings	49
"    factories	166
"    workshops	12
"    offices	3
"    farms	13
"    places of entertainment	24
"    caravans	8
"    caravans on fairground	56
"    canal boats	1
Visits <i>re</i> means of escape in case of fire	5
"    rats and mice—dwellings	11437
"    "    "    other premises	7154
No. of smoke observations	20
Visits <i>re</i> smoke abatement	49
No. of shops observations (day)	80
No. of visits to shops under Shops Acts	1247
Other visits to shops	252
Visits <i>re</i> Poisons Acts	132
"    Merchandise Marks Act	5
Visits to premises <i>re</i> applications for tenancy of	
Council houses	178
<b>Samples Obtained :</b>	
Food and Drugs	240
Water, Milk and Ice-cream (for bacteriological examination)	244
Fertilisers and feeding stuffs....	15
Rag flock	1



**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**

In December, 1948 an Inspector possessing the Smoke Inspector's Certificate was appointed. He paid many visits to factories and other premises and advised the persons concerned, chiefly stokers, as to the best methods of minimising the amount of smoke coming from their chimneys. Although many of the owners of these premises were co-operative there is still a large amount of smoke emitted from chimneys in the town particularly in the Wallgate area. The amount of dense smoke permitted in the Borough is eight minutes in the hour, which is considerably higher than that of many towns. Twenty smoke observations were taken during the year.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS**

The common lodging houses and houses let-in-lodgings have been regularly visited and generally found to be in a clean condition. In cases where complaints have had to be made, informal action only has been necessary.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

No. of common lodging houses in the Borough	....	6
„ lodgers allowed nightly	....	268
„ visits	....	360

**HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.**

No. of houses on register	....	3
„ visits	....	49

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The premises where offensive trades are carried on have been visited by the inspectors but shortage of staff prevented any large scale inspection. We have received very few complaints of nuisances from these premises, although some are sub-standard and it will be necessary to approach the occupiers with a view to attaining a better standard in order to obviate nuisances arising from this type of business.

There are five offensive trade premises in the Borough. They consist of : 1 fellmonger, 1 fat boiler, 1 gut scraper, 1 gut scraper and fat boiler and 1 tripe boiler. Eight visits were paid to these premises.

**RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911-1928.**

There is only one manufacturer of rag flock in the Borough, from whom one sample was obtained during the year. This sample was submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that it complied with the above Act. It is very necessary from the public health standpoint that the cleanliness of flock used in the manufacture of bedding, etc., should be of a high standard.

## CANAL BOATS ACT, 1877 AND 1884, AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No. of boats registered at Wigan and still in use or available	....	....	....	....	....	24
„ inspections	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ notices issued	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ notices complied with	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ contraventions of regulations	....	....	....	....	....	1

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

166 visits were paid to factories to ensure that the sanitary conditions prevailing there did not endanger the health and comfort of the workers. Particular attention has been paid to the means of escape in case of fire. Visits have also been paid on complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories and notices served on the owners to remedy the conditions existing.

No. of factories on register	....	....	....	....	....	451
„ bakehouses on register	....	....	....	....	....	86
„ visits to factories	....	....	....	....	....	166
„ visits to bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	62

The following defects were dealt with :—

Unsuitable exits or escapes in case of fire	....	....	....	....	....	5
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	13
Require limewashing or cleansing	....	....	....	....	....	6
Want of ventilation	....	....	....	....	....	1
						<hr/>
						25
						<hr/>

No. of defects remedied	....	....	....	....	....	15
„ notices received from H.M. Inspector	....	....	....	....	....	10
„ underground bakehouses being used	....	....	....	....	....	3

## SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1926.

The shops in the Borough have been visited as regularly as possible and in many cases notices were served on the owners or occupiers for offences under the Acts. In some cases it was only found necessary to adopt informal action. Due to the very early closing of shops in the evenings it has not been found necessary to pay particular attention to this side of the work, especially in the case of the large traders. It has been found difficult to deal with shops carrying on the business of hairdressers, particularly as regards their closing times, as any person entering a shop before the appointed hour for closing can receive attention. Upon receipt of many complaints of persons entering these shops after closing times, inspectors visit the shops, warn the persons concerned and later an observation is made of the premises but with little success.

No. of shops on register	....	....	....	....	....	1,841
„ visits and observations	....	....	....	....	....	1,579



## REPORT OF OFFENCES.

Not exhibiting closing notices	....	....	....	....	73
„ forms <i>re</i> employment of young persons					56
„ form " K "	....	....	....	....	32
„ assistants' half-holiday forms	....	....	....	....	48
„ notice <i>re</i> exempted articles	....	....	....	....	53
Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes	....	....	....	....	2
Unclean condition of sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	....	12
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	....	6
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	....	29
Provision of suitable accommodation for meals	....	....	....	....	1
Provision of suitable washing facilities	....	....	....	....	2
Insufficient lighting	....	....	....	....	2
Cleanliness of shop premises	....	....	....	....	30
Letters sent out <i>re</i> contraventions	....	....	....	....	64
Provision of seating accommodation for female staff	....	....	....	....	8
Defective structure of shop fabric	....	....	....	....	15
Non-compliance of closing hours (ladies hairdressers)	....	....	....	....	4

## PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

No. of " Listed Sellers " on register	....	....	....	....	151
„ visits to registered premises	....	....	....	....	132
„ contraventions discovered	....	....	....	....	81
„ letters sent out	....	....	....	....	70

## PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

Routine visits have been paid to the 24 places of entertainment in the Borough and in addition special visits are paid before the renewal of licences takes place.

## RODENT CONTROL.

There are three Rodent Control Operators employed in the Department, one acting as Supervisor under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. A Workable Area Committee representing Wigan and the surrounding districts holds meetings at various times of the year to hear reports on the work carried out in their districts from the Local Authority Representatives concerned. Advice is given as to the best methods of pre-baiting, poisoning, etc., by an Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

During the year, 129 premises were reported to be infested with rats and 22 were still under observation from complaints received in 1947. 23 premises were still under observation and 106 premises were

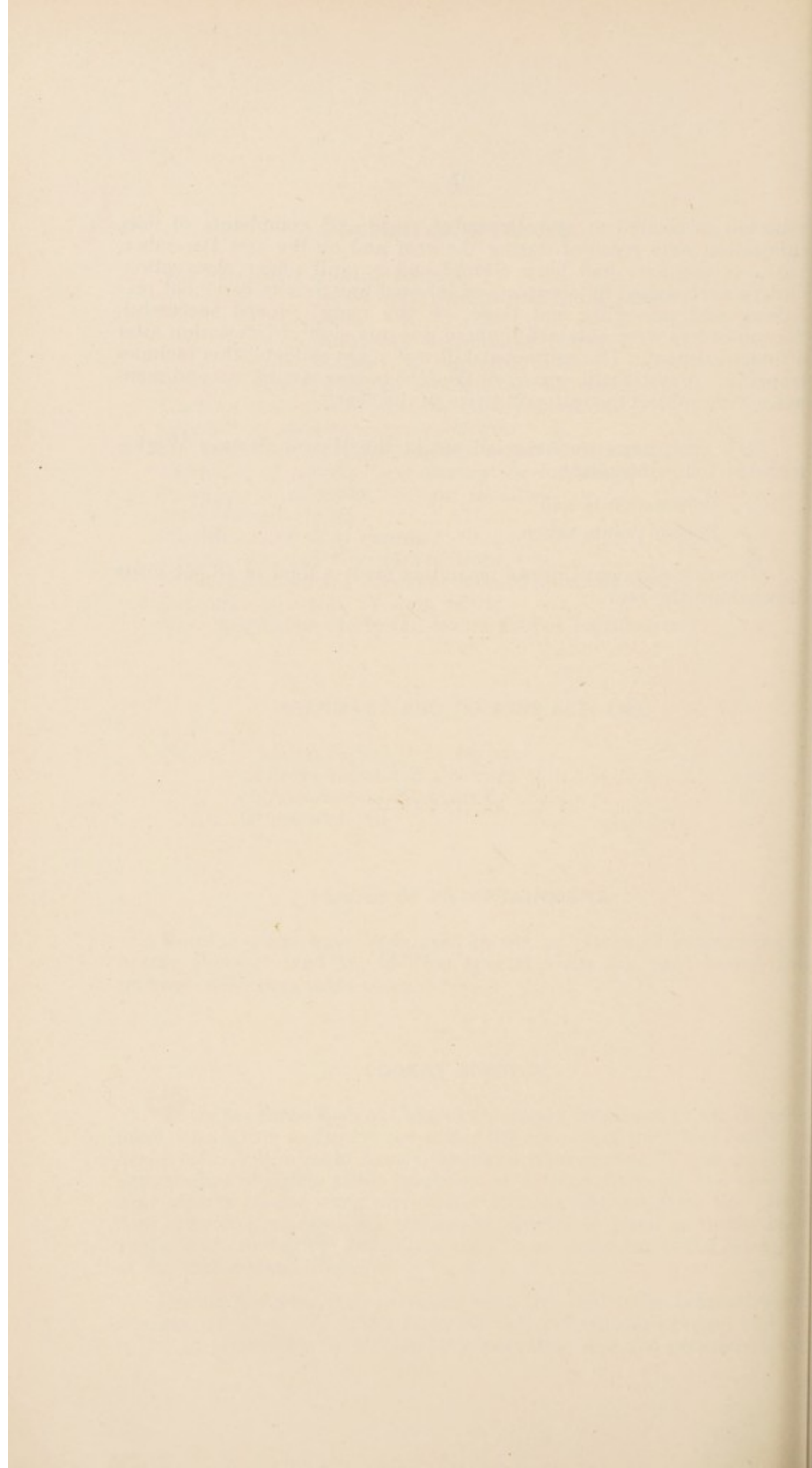
reported as cleared at 31st December, 1948. 68 complaints of mice infestation were received during the year and on the 31st December, 1948, 41 premises had been cleared and 27 still under observation. Orders were signed by occupiers of infested premises to carry out pre-baiting and poisoning and these, in the main, proved successful. Second orders were obtained if there was any sign of infestation after a first treatment. The estimated kill was 1,320 rodents, this includes trapping. A systematic survey of the sewers was carried out and man-holes were subject to treatment twice in the year.

Two campaigns were carried out at the Hoscar Sewage Works, with the following results :—

Poison points laid	....	....	....	....	116
Poison points taken	....	....	....	....	74

The three Rodent Control Operators made a total of 18,591 visits throughout the year.





*Section VI*



**Housing**



**GENERAL.**

The number of dwelling houses in the Borough at 31st December, 1948, was 22,735.

There is still a large amount of overcrowding in the Borough and an enumerator is employed by the Department to visit houses under £14 rateable value to ascertain the number of occupants in each house. Each ward in the town is completed in turn and at the end of the year the survey was nearing completion.

In addition to houses which were visited on complaint of defects, 11 houses were reported to the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee as unfit for human habitation and unable to be rendered fit at reasonable expense.

**INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	2084
(b) Number of re-inspections made ....	7587
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ....	11
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1910

**REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE :**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ....	993
--	-----

**PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1378
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ....	1110
(b) By local authority in default of owners ....	Nil

**CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING—DEFENCE REGULATION 56 A.**

On August 1st, 1945, the above Regulations came into force. To comply with these Regulations any person carrying out work at a cost of over £10 and under £100 to any premises required a licence issued by the Local Authority. The Chief Sanitary Inspector was authorised

to sign these licences. Applications for repairs or maintenance to premises costing over £100 were dealt with by the Regional Licensing Officer.

As from the 1st July, 1948, the amount of work which may be carried out without licence on any property was raised to £100, and as a result of the change to the £100 limit, the local authority was no longer concerned with applications for licences for work other than housing, and all such applications were referred to the appropriate licensing officer of the Ministry of Works.

From the 1st January, 1948 until 30th June, 596 licences were issued and from 1st July, when the "free limit" was raised, until 31st December, 11 licences were issued.

491 certificates to obtain eavesgutter, floor boards, etc. have been issued by the Department.

#### LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN DURING THE YEAR :

On 14 occasions during the year, property owners have been summoned to appear before the magistrates for the non-compliance with notices to abate nuisances :

In 7 of the above cases, as work was either completed or almost completed, the summonses were withdrawn.

In 5 cases an order was made for the work to be completed within six weeks.

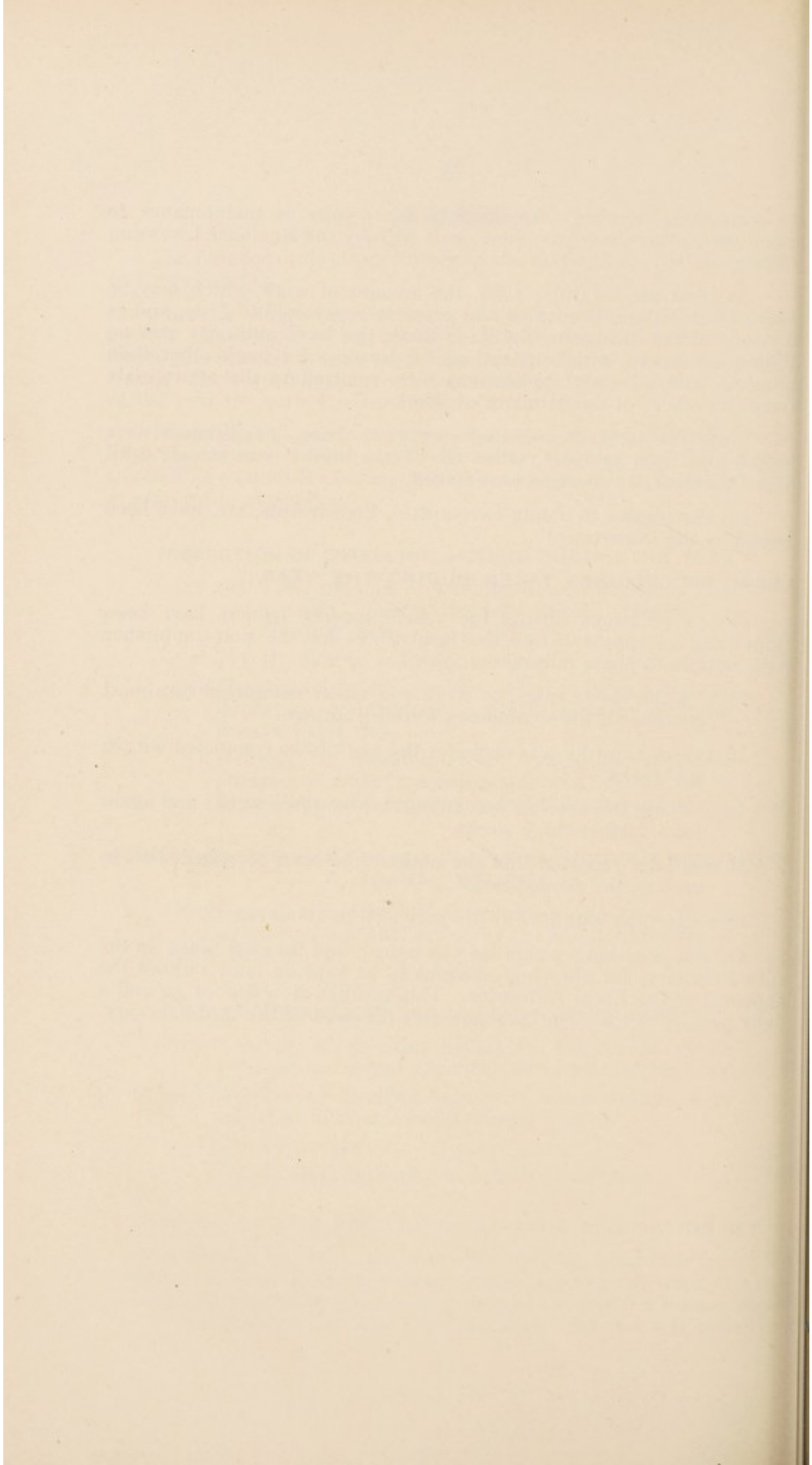
In one case the hearing was adjourned for three weeks and again for a further three weeks.

It was later reported that the notices had been complied with in each of the above cases.

One case was withdrawn, the notice to be re-served.

On one occasion a summons was issued, and the case heard on the 19th February, for allowing caravans to be kept on land without the approval of the Local Authority. This resulted in a fine of £2 and a daily penalty of 10s. The caravans were removed on the 23rd February.





*Section VII*

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Inspection and  
Supervision of Food



**MILK SUPPLY.****MILK SUPPLY (FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938)**

As far as can be ascertained practically the whole of the milk sold in the Borough is contained in sealed bottles. The premises where milk is sold have been regularly visited and samples taken for analysis by the Public Analyst from shops, carts on the streets and at the point of delivery from farms to dairies. One sample of milk was taken from a retailer to ascertain the presence or otherwise of tuberculous bacilli.

The number of persons registered under the above enactments are as follows :

Dairymen	....	....	....	....	....	141
Premises within Borough	....	....	....	....	....	138
Premises outside Borough	....	....	....	....	....	3
Wholesale Dealers	....	....	....	....	....	5
Producers	....	....	....	....	....	3

Approximately 292 milch cows are kept at the 23 farms in the Borough and the cowsheds generally are kept in a clean condition.

No. of visits to cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	32
„ dairies	....	....	....	....	....	138
„ milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	28

**MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 :**

The premises where milk is pasteurised have been visited by the Inspectors and samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination from each of the 5 producers monthly. In cases where adverse reports were received from the Public Health Laboratory the plants were inspected and checked and the closest co-operation was maintained between the Department and the parties concerned.

No. of persons licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk	....	....	....	....	....	131
„ licensed for the sale and production of pasteurised milk	....	....	....	....	....	5
„ licensed for the sale of accredited milk	....	....	....	....	....	6
„ licensed for the sale and production of accredited milk	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ licensed for the sale of tuberculin tested milk	....	....	....	....	....	1

During the year 180 samples were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in milk intended for sale in the Borough. These samples were obtained at dairies.



## **BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.**

180 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and/or Methylene Blue Reduction Test and Phosphatase Test. 38 samples were bulked raw milk, 119 pasteurised milk, 4 accredited milk, 19 sterilised milk and one tuberculin tested milk. Six samples of pasteurised milk failed to pass the Phosphatase Test and one failed to pass the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. One sample of bulked raw milk failed to pass the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. One sample of raw milk was submitted for the T.B. inoculation Test and the report stated that T.B. bacilli were not found.

## **ICE CREAM.**

### **MANUFACTURERS AND PREMISES.**

There are 7 Ice Cream manufacturers in the Borough. Heat treatment plants and sterilising units are installed in 6 of these premises. One manufacturer is producing Ice Cream by the use of the cold mix preparation. The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 require ice cream to be heat treated after mixing and to be cooled until freezing has begun. That part of the Regulations relating to cooling apparatus has been postponed until May, 1949, owing to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary equipment. These premises have received special attention, frequent inspections have been made and 14 samples taken for bacteriological examination. Certain of these premises are sub-standard and do not comply with Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 in all respects. A large proportion of ice cream is sold by retail from shops and carts on the street. In many cases it is sold loose in the form of cornets and wafers and in this form is subject to the risk of contamination. Pre-wrapped ice cream is the ideal and hygienic way of distributing this commodity and it is hoped that in the near future this method will be more widely adopted. The wrapping process should however be done by machine and not by hand.

### **BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.**

14 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination during the year. The majority of samples were reported upon as satisfactory and in cases where adverse reports were received visits were paid by Inspectors, investigations made and advice given as to the best method of improving the conditions likely to cause any contamination.

## **FRIED FISH SHOPS.**

95 premises in the Borough carry on the business of fish frying. Routine visits are paid to these shops by the Inspectors. They are generally kept in a clean and hygienic condition and very few complaints have been received of nuisances arising therefrom.



## REGISTRATION OF PURVEYORS OF MEAT AND PREMISES.

The number of premises registered is 98. Frequent visits are paid by the Inspectors and advice given where necessary. At many of these premises sausages, pressed beef, etc., are prepared for human consumption and it has been found necessary to pay particular attention to the cleanliness of walls, ceilings, floors, tables, etc. In some cases attention has had to be called to the unclean clothing worn by persons preparing food but usually informal action only has been necessary.

It has been particularly noticeable that many persons still carry meat from vans to shops without the use of head coverings and in cases where this has been observed informal action has been taken.

## EXAMINATION OF WATER.

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

During the year 48 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Analyst for examination.

The results of these examinations, expressed in averages, are given below :—

	Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	Thirlmere	Worthington and Thirlmere
Temporary Hardness	15.37	15.39	1.40	4.20
Permanent Hardness	5.26	2.90	0.64	7.97
Total Hardness	20.63	18.29	2.04	12.17
Combined Chlorine	2.81	2.71	0.80	1.59
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—	—	.0001	.0002
Albuminoid Nitrogen	.0029	.0047	.0019	.0054
Nitrogen as Nitrites	—	—	—	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates	.116	.128	.036	.091
Oxygen absorbed (in 3 hrs. at 37°C.)	.029	.037	.043	.049
PH Value	7.19	7.51	7.69	7.32

A further 4 samples were taken when exploring the possibilities of new supplies, and the results proved unsatisfactory.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

During the year 48 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, University of Manchester, for examination. The results of these investigations are set out below :—

Source of Supply	Aerobic Organisms										Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.		B. Coli. Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli	
	In 3 days at 22°C.					In 2 days at 37°C.					1	5		13
	Under 10	10-20	20-40	40-100	Over 100	Under 10	10-20	20-40	40-100	Over 100			(a) Faecal	
Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	4	3	2	3	—	8	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	In one sample the proportions were 50% and 50%
Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	3	2	4	1	2	11	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	In one sample some of the organisms were of faecal origin
Thirlmere Worthington and Thirlmere	8	—	1	—	3	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	4	2	3	—	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

In consequence of unsatisfactory reports and in exploring the possibilities of new supplies a further 35 samples were taken during the year.



### MEAT INSPECTION.

Of the 12 licenced slaughterhouses in the Borough only 6 are now in use. With the advent of food control, the remainder were closed. Three slaughterhouses in the Scholes area are used for the slaughter of cattle, sheep, calves and pigs and the remaining 3 for the slaughter of pigs only. The slaughterhouses in the Scholes area are totally inadequate for the number of beasts, etc., slaughtered on the premises. The inspection of the carcasses is difficult due to the fact that they are hung very close together and there is insufficient room for the hanging of offal. When several animals are being killed at one time it is difficult to cleanse the floors as often as is necessary. The attention of Ministry of Food officials has already been called to these conditions. Daily inspections are made at the slaughterhouses.

As far as possible meat slaughtered in other districts is examined on its arrival into the Town if there is reason to believe that it has not been inspected previously. Meat condemned is sent to a fat melter to be used only for manufacturing purposes and schedules of quantities received are forwarded to this Department. Routine inspections are made of the butchers' shops and vans from which meat is sold. The sale of meat from vans, which are more often open than closed, should be discouraged as there is grave risk of contamination from dust and dirt and furthermore it encourages the unnecessary handling of meat by prospective customers.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses	....	....	....	1314
„ „ markets	....	....	....	163
„ „ butchers' and other food shops	....	....	....	1611
„ certificates issued (condemned food)	....	....	....	702

### CARCASSES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR 1948.

	Beasts.	Calves.	Pigs.	Sheep.	Total.
Carcasses examined	7139	2469	4653	26209	40470
Carcasses totally condemned	151	54	16	20	241
Percentage totally condemned	2.11	2.19	0.34	0.08	0.59

The following meat and offal from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1948 :—

	Whole Carcase and all Offal Condemned	Part of Carcase Condemned	OFFAL CONDEMNED.										
			Heads	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.	Skirts.	
Affected with Tuberculosis :													
Beasts... ..	128	170	756	2758	559	65	208	247	99	5	103	273	
Calves... ..	11	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	6	12	152	111	155	35	18	9	3	—	9	—	—
Sheep ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with other Diseases, etc.:													
Beasts... ..	23	4	12	667	3692	21	12	20	302	434	—	3	—
Calves... ..	43	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ... ..	10	4	2	542	99	74	3	3	13	3	1	1	—
Sheep ... ..	20	6	3	189	2309	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	241	196	926	4269	6821	214	241	279	417	442	113	277	

#### SUMMARY OF OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED, 1948.

Imported Meat	....	....	....	....	....	3,231 lbs.
Other Meat and Offal	....	....	....	....	....	2,323 lbs.
Canned Meat	....	....	....	....	....	752
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	13,146 lbs.
Canned Fish	....	....	....	....	....	569
Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	2,480 lbs.
Packages of Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	26
Canned Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	389
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	688 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	884
Rabbits	....	....	....	....	....	907
Canned Milk	....	....	....	....	....	2,101
Packages of other food	....	....	....	....	....	2,103
Other canned or bottled foods	....	....	....	....	....	829
Fowl	....	....	....	....	....	5

There is a large wholesale business in fish and other foodstuffs carried on in and around the markets and the premises concerned are visited daily.

All food condemned, other than meat, is destroyed at the Frog Lane Dépôt.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

240 samples obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination,



**SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1948.**

Samples regarded as adulterated,  
below standard or otherwise not com-  
plying with the prescribed require-  
ments.

Articles.	Total number		Percentage.
	Analysed.	Number.	
Milk ....	157	4	2.5%
Butter .....	8	—	—
Pate de Foie....	1	—	—
Margarine ....	4	—	—
Jam .....	13	—	—
Tea .....	4	—	—
Condensed Milk	3	—	—
Cheese....	8	—	—
Coffee ....	6	—	—
Pepper....	4	—	—
Vinegar .....	4	—	—
Meat and fish paste....	5	—	—
Sausage .....	5	—	—
Cooking Fat ....	4	—	—
Baking Powder	4	—	—
Custard Powder	2	—	—
Skimmed milk	1	—	—
Meat pies .....	3	—	—
Whisky .....	4	—	—
<b>Total ....</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1.66%</b>

**FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.**

Six samples of feeding stuffs and 9 samples of fertilisers were obtained and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst who reported that 2 samples of fertilisers were slightly deficient in potash. The remaining samples complied with the Statutory Statement within the Limits of Variation.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST.

The Borough Analyst, Mr. S. E. Melling, F.I.C., submits the following report of the work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1948 :—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,  
The Cliff,  
Higher Broughton,  
Manchester.

2nd August, 1949.

The Public Analyst has the honour to submit a brief résumé of work carried out in accordance with his official responsibilities during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1948.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Total number of samples of food and drugs submitted, 240 ; number certified as adulterated or of non-standard quality, 4 ; percentage certified against, 1.66.

The above-mentioned 4 samples were milks and the results of analysis and opinions expressed are given in the following summary. In respect of No. 51 it will be seen that the interpretation of the findings was justified when set alongside those of a ' follow-up ' sample (No. 64) subsequently taken in course of delivery.

Official number	18	51	64	77	Sale of Milk Regulations require genuine milk to contain minima of :
Milk-fat (%)	3.2	3.71	4.05	2.85	3.0
Non-fatty solids (%)	8.3	7.90	8.02	8.50	8.5
Freezing Point (Hortvet)	-548°C	-526°C	-544°C	—	—

#### OPINION :

- No. 18.—A legally genuine milk, naturally deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 2.3 per cent.
- No. 51.—Deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 5.6 per cent., and if No. 64 be accepted as " standard " (in the absence of an " appeal to the cows "), the presence of 3 per cent. of extraneous water was indicated. Since, however, No. 64 was itself of sub-normal quality as regards non-fatty solids, it was not considered expedient to certify No. 51 as adulterated, i.e. definitely watered. (See later).
- No. 64.—A legally genuine milk, naturally deficient in non-fatty solids, to the extent of 5.6 per cent.
- No. 77.—Deficient in fat to the extent of 5 per cent.



Arising out of the analyses of Nos. 51 and 64, it is necessary to point out that the opinion expressed was on the basis of the respective Freezing Point determinations and not on the variation in non-fatty solids. Of all methods of assessment of quality the freezing point is the least variable factor and, indeed, is the more scientific approach to the problem of sophistication, since it depends upon a physiological function of the animal. Experience during the last twenty years and upwards has shown that the mixed milk of a herd of cows, represented by many thousands of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act throughout the country, gives an average freezing point of something in the order of  $-0.545^{\circ}\text{C}.$ , and very rarely indeed does it rise above (i.e. nearer to zero than)  $-0.535^{\circ}\text{C}.$  An individual cow may, exceptionally, secrete milk with a freezing point as high as  $-0.530^{\circ}\text{C}.$ : the writer can only record one such specimen, in his long experience, of this order—actually  $-0.527^{\circ}\text{C}.$ —when it was believed that the milk was as given by the cow. Moreover, it is stressed that, as not infrequently happens, when the content of non-fatty solids of milk is low (owing to sub-acute mastitis or other untoward condition, perhaps not necessarily pathological) the depression of the freezing point recedes farther from zero and in consequence the Analyst is at once aware that he is dealing with milk of legally genuine quality however abnormal and impoverished in lactose, etc. it may be, and, therefore, the vendor cannot be charged with the offence of watering. This explains, incidentally, why the classical Appeal case, "Hunt v. Richardson" is little heard of nowadays in proceedings where the presence of added water is alleged. It will be conceded, therefore, that the freezing point determination has a dual value—it protects the innocent vendor just as surely as it detects adulteration and it is in the interests of the public that this fact should be known.

Apart from the foregoing samples, the general quality of the milk supply maintained a highly satisfactory level and there was complete freedom from preservatives and artificial colouring matter throughout.

Representative varieties of dry food-stuffs were examined, amongst which were some 30 miscellaneous groceries, 16 edible fats (butter, margarine, etc.), 14 meat and/or fish preparations (including beef sausages), 13 jams and 4 whiskies. Detailed records were given in the Quarterly reports issued and nothing further need be added here except to confirm that various Ministry of Food Orders regarding composition (where they applied) were strictly observed.

The conclusion one is entitled to draw is that the quality of food in Wigan as regards freedom from adulteration is very praiseworthy and will stand comparison with similar boroughs throughout the country.

#### FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

Number of feeding stuffs examined	....	....	6
Number of fertilisers examined	....	....	9

The former consisted of Poultry Food No. 1, Pure White Fish Meal, Poultry Food No. 2, Ground Nut Meal, Bone Flour and Palm Kernel Meal. Each sample complied with the Statutory Statement within the Limits of Variation.



The fertilisers comprised Superior Top Dressing Manure, No. 1 Complete Fertiliser, No. 4 National Compound, Special Mangold, Potassic Fertiliser, Potato No. 1, Potato No. 2, Patent X.L. and "Summit." The Statutory Statements were conformed with except in the cases of the Potato Fertilisers Nos. 1 and 2 which were respectively deficient in potash to the extent of 18.9 and 34 per cent.

#### RAG FLOCK ACT, 1912.

Only one sample was submitted and this fully complied with the official requirement, the combined chlorine content being 9 p.p. 100,000 as against the permissible maximum of 30 p.p. 100,000.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

To maintain confidence in the stable **chemical** quality of the various supplies, systematic examination of 4 samples is carried out and the results are available each month for consideration by the Health and Water Committees. On the basis of chemical analysis alone, one cannot pronounce upon the wholesomeness (or in the alternative, potential unwholesomeness) of a potable water without a bacteriological examination, which, in the case of Wigan, is not your Analyst's responsibility. What one does, however, is to call attention, when necessary, to any significant increase in the norm, particularly in the organic indices of contamination, and to trace the variation, if any, in the saline constituents of the two Pemberton supplies which are governed largely by changes in, and the respective proportions of, Pit Water. One speaks of the purity (as distinct from the "wholesomeness") of water which is itself a relative term, applicable in both the organic and inorganic sense. Thus a supply may be completely devoid of fermentable organic matter, as measured by the conventional indices, and yet be unacceptable by reason of the presence of inorganic contaminants, e.g., lead.

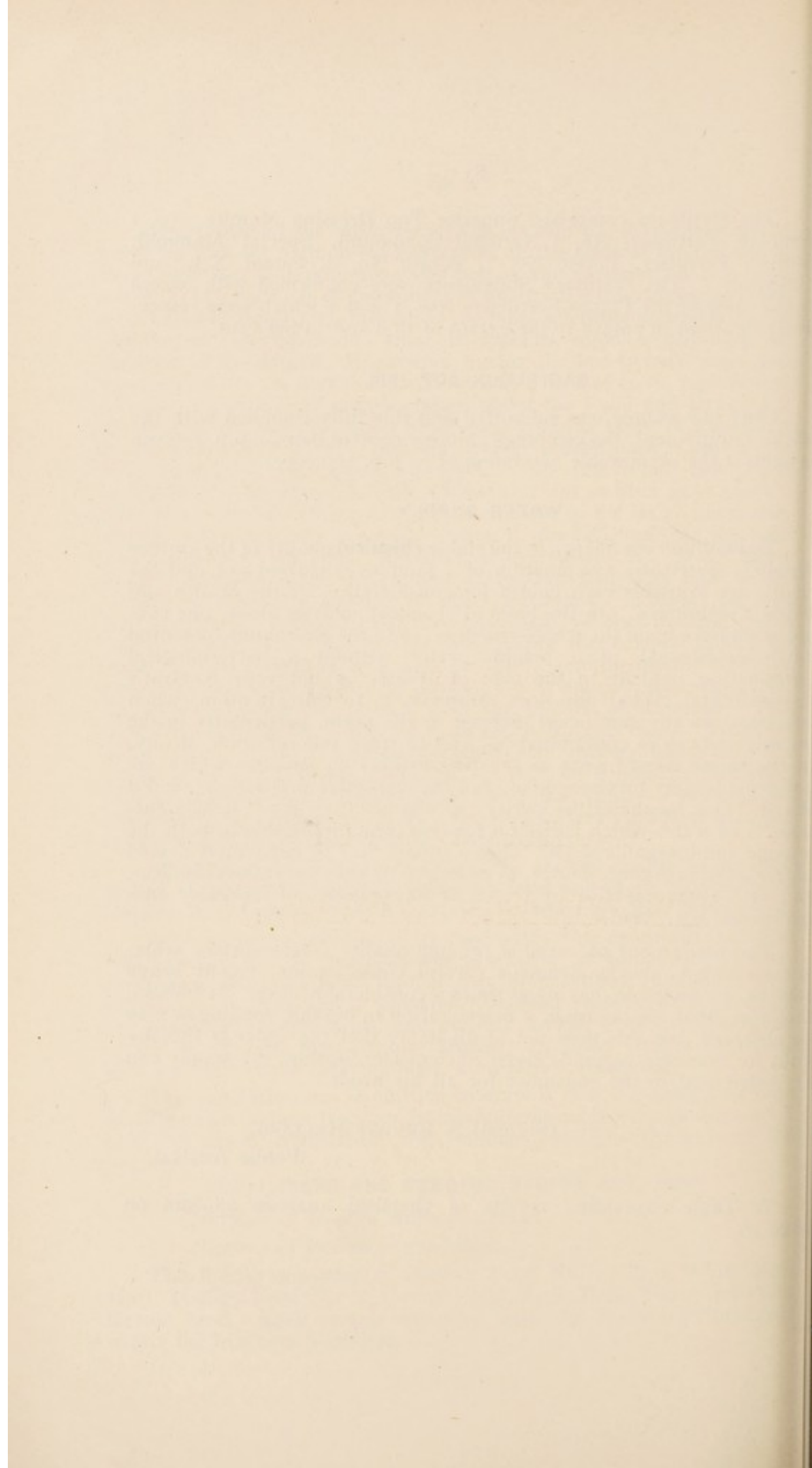
The assessment of variable organic quality where surface water is impounded, always demands careful consideration, recent heavy rainfall, for example, having at times a considerable effect. It follows, therefore, that, on occasion, a deterioration in organic conditions may be observed, but this does not at all imply that the water is thereby unfit for domestic use and, given efficient sterilisation, the supply can be distributed to the consumer for all his needs.

(Signed) S. ERNEST MELLING,

Public Analyst.

A Table expressing results of chemical analysis appears on page 76.





*Section VIII*

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Prevalence of  
*and*  
Control over  
Infectious Disease



## NOTIFICATIONS.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1948.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.											Total Cases notified in each Ward														
	At Ages—Years.											St. George	Lindsay	St. Cath	St. Patrick	St. Thomas	Poolstock	Victoria	St. Andrew	Swinley	All Saints	West Pem.	North Pem.	Central Pem.	South Pem.	
	At all ages	under 1	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	1															2
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	839	5	79	145	404	153	38	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Group)	8	7	7	7	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neon.	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	79	1	—	1	1	2	22	30	19	3	3	6	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis	24	3	2	2	3	3	6	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1465	75	471	502	397	18	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	104	14	43	27	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2595	107	603	687	831	180	77	64	39	7	86	128	247	207	104	95	106	397	254	44	121	222	391	193	...	

## ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS, 1948.

Disease.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	80	97	81	77	72	96	35	34	57	93	73	44	839
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	8
Pneumonia ...	4	5	2	1	4	5	3	6	3	2	1	9	45
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	1	2	3	1	—	3	1	1	3	—	18
Ophthalmia Neon.	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Encephalitis Leth.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuber.	4	8	2	5	6	18	1	5	11	3	8	8	79
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	1	1	—	5	3	3	1	2	2	—	4	24
Measles ...	—	1	7	17	18	14	12	25	126	290	416	539	1465
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4
Whooping Cough	—	4	1	3	8	3	—	12	15	20	19	19	104
Totals ...	97	119	97	106	117	141	54	89	217	413	521	624	2595

## COMPARATIVE NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Disease.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	147	232	109	106	175	310	171	93	532	839
Enteric Fever ...	2	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup ...	302	235	193	150	113	61	70	59	27	8
Pneumonia ...	116	108	164	75	101	69	61	54	31	45
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	12	16	5	8	10	5	5	2	2	—
Erysipelas ...	27	31	27	19	30	15	20	8	11	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	5	4	2	1	2	2	4
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	74	67	61	89	95	81	106	101	86	79
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	32	35	46	45	56	32	36	22	27	24
Measles ...	194	1224	1102	394	1061	130	963	167	510	1465
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	11	6	5	4	2	1	2	1	2	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	5	14	22	16	8	3	2	3	5	4
Whooping Cough ...	5	70	197	60	58	76	21	111	31	104
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	1024	2122	2318	1110	1793	896	1506	719	1292	2595

## DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases notified has gradually declined over the past 10 years, 8 cases being notified during 1948. There was no death.



**SCARLET FEVER.**

The epidemic of scarlet fever which commenced in 1947 has continued during the past year. 839 cases were notified, 465 of which were removed to hospital. There was no death.

**MEASLES.**

During the latter part of the year an epidemic occurred and the greater portion of the 1,465 cases were notified in that period. Only one death was recorded.

**CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.**

Four cases were notified. All the cases were treated at Whelley Hospital and were discharged recovered.

**WHOOPIING COUGH.**

104 cases were notified, and there was no death.

**ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.**

One case was notified from the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, a school child aged 8 years. He was transferred for treatment to the Royal Infirmary, Manchester.

**ERYSIPELAS.**

18 cases were notified, and there was no death.

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**

No. of cases notified	Treated at				Result
	Home	Wigan Infirmary	Billinge Hospital	Private Nursing Home	
4	3	—	1	—	All recovered

**HOSPITAL FOR ACUTE INFECTIOUS CASES, WHELLEY.**

The Whelley Hospital, provided by the Corporation, which admits cases from the County Borough and the surrounding districts, was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board on the 5th July, 1948. During the period from the 5th July, 1948 to 31st March, 1949 the Corporation were asked to administer the hospital on an agency basis.

The following table shows the total cases admitted to Whelley Hospital during 1948, together with notifications received in the Borough during that period :—

	Notifica- tions	Removed to Whelley Hospital		Died in Whelley Hospital	
		Wigan patients	Out-dist. patients	Wigan patients	Out-dist patients
Scarlet Fever ... ..	839	465	174	—	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup.	8	8	7	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	45	7	2	2	—
Erysipelas ... ..	18	4	3	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis ... ..	—	12	8	2	2
Measles ... ..	1465	46	9	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	4	4	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	104	3	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—
Others ... ..	—	23	3	—	1
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>2484</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

#### REVISED DIAGNOSIS.

Notified.	Revised diagnosis.
2 cases of Diphtheria ....	Pneumonia.
2 cases of Scarlet Fever....	Measles.
1 case of Scarlet Fever ....	Rubella.
1 case of Gastro-Enteritis ....	Broncho-Pneumonia.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES PREVENTION.

A high-pressure disinfectant is used for the purpose of the disinfection and disinfestation of clothing, bedding, and other articles.

No. of houses disinfected	632
„ rooms disinfected	1061
„ beds disinfected	470
„ sheets and quilts disinfected	1934
„ other articles disinfected	1096
„ library books disinfected	393
„ schools disinfected	3

#### DISINFECTION.

All infected bedding and clothing is treated in a high-pressure steam disinfectant on the Washington-Lyons principle, which is situated within the grounds of the Whelley Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Two disinfectants deal with the disinfection of dwelling-houses. Rooms are disinfected as a routine after cases of all infectious diseases including tuberculosis, with the exception of measles and whooping cough.



Disinfection of rooms has been criticised, and in fact described as a useless procedure. Assuming that disinfection does not totally destroy the infecting organisms, it does impress the persons concerned of the necessity for cleanliness and care, and ensures a thorough scrubbing and cleansing of the rooms, which is doubtless of great hygienic value, especially in dirty houses.

There is no doubt that steam disinfection of bedding is a valuable preventive measure.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF DISINFECTANTS.

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious disease has occurred, and in cases where there are exceptional circumstances. Other persons who desire supplies are charged a small amount to meet the cost of the disinfectant.

Information on the correct use of these agents is given by the sanitary inspectors.

#### LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were submitted for examination during 1948.—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for diphtheria	9	337	346
Widal tests for enteric	—	2	2
Fæces and urine for enteric	—	2	2
Cerebro-spinal-fluid	1	72	73
Wassermann tests for V.D. (V.D. Clinic)	264	1646	1910
Wassermann tests for V.D. (M. and C. W. Clinic)	2	441	443
Kahn tests	9	25	34
Tests for gonococci	7	43	50
Milk (for B Coli)			180
Milk (phosphatase test)			136
Milk (methylene blue test)			145
Milk (T.B. inoc. test)			1
Water (bacteriological)			83
Water (chemical)			52
Food and drug samples			240
Ice cream			14
Total examinations			3711

*Section IX*

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**Other Diseases**



**BRONCHITIS.**

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948
Deaths	97	....	79	....	89	....	97	....	73
Rates	1.23	....	0.99	....	1.07	....	1.15	....	0.87

**PNEUMONIA.**

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948
Deaths	49	....	44	....	48	....	70	....	49
Rates	0.62	....	0.55	....	0.59	....	0.83	....	0.58

**OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS.**

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948
Deaths	14	....	8	....	11	....	12	....	10
Rates	0.17	....	0.10	....	0.13	....	0.14	....	0.12

**TOTAL OF THESE THREE RESPIRATORY DISEASES.**

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948
Deaths	160	....	131	....	148	....	179	....	132
Rates	2.04	....	1.65	....	1.79	....	2.12	....	1.57

**INFLUENZA.**

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948
Deaths	19	....	23	....	33	....	27	....	19
Rates	0.34	....	0.29	....	0.39	....	0.32	....	0.23

**CANCER.**

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948
Deaths	129	....	117	....	121	....	131	....	129
Rates	1.50	....	1.48	....	1.46	....	1.56	....	1.53

**Figures for Last 20 Years.**

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Year.	No. of Deaths.
1929	77	} 486	1939	108
1930	95		1940	113
1931	105		1941	122
1932	107		1942	117
1933	102		1943	124
1934	110	} 589	1944	129
1935	114		1945	117
1936	125		1946	121
1937	127		1947	131
1938	113		1948	129
				} 584
				} 627

**Radium Treatment.**

The responsibility for treatment of cancer was transferred from the Corporation to the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee on the 5th July, 1948.

A clinic is held twice each month at the Wigan Infirmary.

The Hospital Management Committee continues to send reports on the patients attending the clinic to the Medical Officer of Health.

51 new patients were seen at the clinics during the year, and these together with the old cases made 554 attendances.



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