Annual Report

on the

Health

of the

County Borough of Wigan

by the

Medical Officer of Health

1950

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN

FOR THE YEAR 1950

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

CONTENTS

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1950.

(appointed 24th May, 1950).

Chairman	Councillor J. T. LYNCH.
Vice-Chairman	Alderman Mrs. E. ASHURST.
The Mayor	Councillor A. J. LOWE, J.P.
The Ex-Mayor	Alderman J. E. RILEY, J.P.
Alderman	F. W. ROBERTS.
Councillors	T. BRADSHAW, T. COBLEY, J. COLLINS, H. HOUGHTON, M. MCNICHOLAS, T. MONKS, P. NOLAN, Mrs. C. PRESTON, J. TABERNER, J. W. WHITEHEAD
Co-opted Members	Mr. F. W. BOGGIS, J.P., Mrs. B. G. HOUGHTON, Mrs. E. LEWIS, Mr. W. PARKINSON, Dr. J. P. JOHNSON.

WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE, 1950.

Chairman	Alderman F. W. ROBERTS, J.P.
Vice-Chairman	Councillor J. T. LYNCH.
The Mayor	Councillor A. J. LOWE, J.P.
The Ex-Mayor	Alderman J. E. RILEY, J.P.
Aldermen	(Mrs.) E. ASHURST.
Councillors	J. BOWDEN, E. DRONEY, T. HIGHAM, M. MCNICHOLAS, J. RANKIN, O. SOMERS, J. TABERNER, S. TOWNLEY, A. H. WALKER, J. W. WHITEHEAD.

STAFF, 1950.

Medical Officer of Health	J. HAWORTH HILDITCH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P H.
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.
Tuberculosis Physician	*H. RICHMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Clinical V.D. Officer	*A. ROBY JONES, M.D.
Orthopaedic Surgeon ...	*Miss M. F. JOHNSTONE, M.B., Ch.B.

Consultant Obstetric Surgeon	* R. L. Hartley, M.D., M.R.C.O.G. F.R.C.S. (E).
Public Analyst	S. Ernest Melling, F.I.C.
Chief Sanitary Inspector	J. Ashton (*a*) (*b*).
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector	V. Jones (*a*) (*b*)
Sanitary Inspectors	R. C. Woods (*a*) (*b*)
	P. Strafford (*a*) (*b*) (*f*)
	F. L. Thomas (*a*) (*b*)
	J. B. Marsh (*a*) (*b*) (*f*)
	E. S. J. Blackwood (*a*) (to 15th July)
	G. Dunn (*a*)
	C. Jackson (*a*) (*b*)
	E. Carson (*a*) (*b*) (from 13th September)
Health Visitors	M. E. Wheat (*c*) (*d*) (*e*)
	E. Hanson (*c*) (*d*) (*e*)
	E. M. Wright (*c*) (*d*) (*e*)
	C. Jackson (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (*g*)
	C. Lavin (*c*) (*d*) (*e*) (*h*)
	E. Farley (*c*) (*d*) (*e*)
Tuberculosis Nurse	E. Cody (*c*) (*d*)
Supervisor of Midwives	E. M. Reading (*c*) (*d*)

Midwives :

E. B. Brooks (*c*)
M. Quinn (*c*) (*d*)
E. Highton (*c*)
M. L. Lynch (*c*)
A. Magee (*c*) (*d*) (to 22nd May)
H. E. Maxwell (*c*)
C. Morris (*c*) (*d*)
C. Ryder (*c*) (*d*)
E. Williams (*c*) (*d*)
M. Woodward (*c*)
R. M. Haddock (*c*) (*d*)
E. S. Rogers (*c*)
M. V. Hughes (*c*) (*d*)
D. Carey (*c*) (*d*) (from 1st June)
K. A. Kermeen (*c*) (*d*) (from 1st September)

Ellesmere Road Nursery :
Matron .... M. F. Lavin (*d*) (*h*)

Home Nursing :
Superintendent .... L. Maher (*c*) (*d*) (*g*)

Occupation Centre :
Supervisor .... J. Hanson

Chief Clerk .... A. N. Byers.

Mental Health Service :
Authorised Officers and Mental Health Visitors { V. Crowley, J. A. Pietraszkiewicz

Authorised Officer & Clerk J. Ainscough

Welfare Services :
Senior Clerk.... .... J. C. Davenport

* Part-time Officers.

(*a*) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
(*b*) Meat Inspectors Certificate.
(*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 Office,
WIGAN.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Wigan.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health of the County Borough of Wigan for the year 1950.

One section of the report deals with the administration of the Council's functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, which is undertaken by the Health Department.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough calculated for mid-1950 was 84,950, which shows a slight increase on the figure 84,770 in 1949.

The statistical section of the report records the fact that the birth rate at 16.08 is still continuing on the downward trend which commenced in 1947, and the present rate is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough. Even so, it is closely following the national trend and is intermediate between the rates for England and Wales at 15.8 and the Great Towns at 17.6.

The crude death rate, 12.57 is slightly higher than the figure for 1949 (12.49) and is higher than the figure for the Great Towns, 12.3.

The maternal mortality rate at .71 is a reflection of the high standard of ante-natal and obstetrical care now available and in this connection I must record the inauguration of an emergency obstetric unit based on Billinge Hospital. This is an instance of what can be achieved by co-operation within the Health Services. The hospital authorities provide the personnel and equipment for the Unit and the County Borough Ambulance Service make available for its transportation an ambulance at accident priority. The service has been called upon twice since its inception in October, 1950, and has been of inestimable help to the domiciliary midwifery service on both occasions.

The infantile mortality rate, 43 per thousand live births, is the lowest rate recorded in the Borough, but the steady decline, although in itself a tribute to the vast amount of work which is done to help expectant and nursing mothers and their babies, must not engender complacency. Wigan, in common with certain neighbouring boroughs, has an infantile mortality rate far above the national average. There is no doubt that unsatisfactory housing conditions and the social pattern of the community play an important part in this problem. In addition, it is found to be almost impossible to help some mothers whose standard of home-craft is exceedingly low and who will not respond to the responsibilities of motherhood. The key to improvement in this respect is education and it is important that both parents should receive instruction in home-craft. Too often the mother is left shouldering the whole burden of rearing the children, whilst the father considers that it is beneath his dignity to do more than admire his offspring occasionally.

In recent years much has been done by social legislation to improve the lot of various classes of the community and far-reaching schemes are envisaged for the care and entertainment of the elderly and of various classes of handicapped persons. The individual who gets little direct help from the new legislation is the ordinary working housewife. She works long hours and unless she is well blessed with kindly relatives she gets little respite from the constant company of her pre-school children. Little is done to provide co-operative facilities for shopping, laundering or " baby watching " and in order to gain some relaxation the parents are often obliged to seek their pleasures separately. This has a disastrous effect on morale and is often the first step to a more serious break in family relationships. It should not be difficult for one or more of the many voluntary bodies which now exist to organise local " care clubs " to help with the problems outlined and to regenerate that atmosphere of neighbourliness which is fast disappearing from urban life.

As I mentioned in a previous report the two most important causes of infant deaths are prematurity and pneumonia. Preventive measures involving rebuilding programmes are necessarily a long-term project, but the care of the premature infant is a problem which should be tackled without delay. In this area institutional accommodation for the premature baby is almost non-existent and that which is available is antiquated and compares very unfavourably with modern units. There are cases in which the baby's only chance of survival is immediate admission to a unit, specially equipped to deal with its individual problem . It is not the duty of the local health authority to provide hospital accommodation, so steps have been taken to increase the likelihood of the child remaining alive when retained on the district. To this end the Medical Officer in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department has during the year taken special residential training at one of the most modern and efficient premature baby units in the country. A district midwife has been designated to tend the needs of premature babies on the district and special equipment is available on loan. With the full co-operation of the general practitioners in the town it should be possible in some degree to compensate for the lack of adequate institutional facilities.

It will be noted from the report that during the year an additional child welfare clinic was opened at Drummond Square to cater for the increasing needs of the mothers in that area. This can only be regarded as a temporary expedient as the building is not really suitable for the work. It may, however, suffice until more permanent accommodation in the shape of a health centre is erected to serve the Worsley and Norley communities.

One of the more difficult problems in the Maternity and Child Welfare Department is the shortage of nursery accommodation. The 24-hour nursery at Pemberton is working to capacity and there are over 200 children awaiting admission. The time has come for the Committee to consider this situation in the light of the renewed drive for women in industry. At present we give priority to those mothers, who, due to domestic problems, have become the family bread winners, and indeed almost all the cases at present accommodated are in this category.

We are still experiencing considerable difficulties in recruiting health visitors, and the department is much below strength. During the year, however, the Committee sponsored the training of one student health visitor, who has since joined the staff of the department and it is intended to attract additional students during 1951.

We have been more fortunate in obtaining trained staff for the Home Nursing Service and in consequence of the increase of work brought about by the earlier discharge of patients from hospital, it was decided to appoint two additional Queen's Nurses. The Committee employ one male nurse and to enable him to cover a larger area of the Borough, he has been provided with an autocycle. His work is greatly appreciated by the many aged male invalids who require daily attention and the provision of a second male nurse is contemplated.

During the year under review, there has been a further increase in the work done by the Ambulance Services and the personnel are to be congratulated on the way in which they have handled the unprecedented number of cases. The total number of cases transported during the year and the mileage are to be found in the body of the report. In my opinion there is very little flagrant abuse, but the numbers of persons using the service will not be materially reduced until there is a different interpretation as to who is to be carried. It must not, however, be forgotten that we are now meeting a need which has never before been met and are enabling persons to take advantage of medical and surgical treatment which in other circumstances might have been denied them.

The Mental Health Service is perhaps the most satisfactory of the new duties placed upon local authorities by the National Health Service Act, and the report sets out in detail the tremendous volume of work accomplished by the section in the course of the year. It is hoped that before my next report is made a psychiatric clinic will be functioning in the Borough. This will greatly facilitate the work, as at present persons requiring psychiatric investigation must travel to clinics in other towns, a journey which many of our cases are surprisingly unwilling to make. No start has yet been made on the building of the new Occupation Centre which is to replace the unsatisfactory accommodation in Hope Street. This delay is all the more regrettable as we are now unable to take all the cases who are seeking admission. I am able to report, however, that plans for the new centre have been approved and negotiations for the purchase of a suitable site are in progress. This is a most important service and only those persons who have to deal with educationally sub-normal children can realise what it means to parents to be able to place their unfortunate children where they will be adequately cared for and progressively trained to take their place in the social pattern of the community.

We have had no serious outbreaks of the more common infectious diseases and indeed it is pleasing to be able to report that no case of Diphtheria occurred during the year. This is a tribute to those who have laboured over the years to further the immunisation campaign and there must be no relaxation of our efforts to maintain a high percentage of immunes in the population.

In the report, I have included a paragraph on co-ordination and liaison with the other branches of the National Health Service. This has been acknowledged to be most important and it is pleasing to record that there is a considerable degree of liaison and goodwill between the Hospital Services, the General Practitioner Services and Executive Council, and the Staff of the Health Department with undoubted advantage to all concerned.

The section dealing with Welfare Services is an inadequate reflection of the work undertaken in the administration of the Council's functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948. Much time has been spent during the year in the perfection of plans and the location of sites for Aged Persons' Hostels, and early in 1951, there is no doubt that a start will have been made on the adaptation and extension of Douglas Bank House and later in the year the foundation stone of the new building on Norley Hall Estate will be laid. The greatest single problem in this department remains the accommodation of " homeless families " and, in my opinion, the only really satisfactory answer is the acquisition of " Half-way houses," sub-standard by comparison with modern local authority housing, with a rental in keeping with the ability to pay of this class of tenant.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has commented at length on the work of his department and from a perusal of his report it will be seen that the unceasing toil to improve the environmental hygiene of the Borough continues . I would specially comment upon our efforts to improve the methods of food handling. In this respect the model bye-laws adopted by the Borough will be of assistance but perhaps the greatest improvement will follow from the personal visits of sanitary inspectors to food premises, when information is imparted to the management and to the individual employees.

I am indebted to those officers of other Corporation departments who have supplied statistical material for inclusion in this report.

Finally, I wish to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Health and Welfare Services Committee for the courtesy and kindness with which they have considered the various suggestions and recommendations made to them, and the staff of the Department for their loyal assistance throughout the year in the common effort to maintain the Public Health.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. HAWORTH HILDITCH,
Medical Officer of Health

Section 1

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area

GENERAL.

Area in acres	5,082
Rateable value of the Borough	£463,581
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,860
Registrar General's estimated population on 1st July 1950 (on which figure statistics in this report are based)	84,950
Number of inhabited houses on the 31st December, 1950 (according to the rate books)....	23,117
Number of marriages solemnised within the Borough during 1950	744

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 16.6 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 84,950, especially when it is realised that the great majority of dwellinghouses are not and cannot in the forseeable 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 taken to provide more commodious and more modern bathing facilities.

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

Number of bathers during the past five years :—

Year ending 31st March :

1947	149,323
1948	142,543
1949	165,629
1950	202,283
1951	175,177

PARTICULARS OF THE BOROUGH BATHING ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1951.

Number of Plunge Baths	2
Number of Private Baths	16

Bathers.

Male Plunge Baths	78,146
Male Private Baths	17,157
Female Plunge Baths	31,420
Female Private Baths	5,987
Mixed Bathing : Adults and Juniors	10,046
Contracts, Free Passes, Season Tickets, etc.	32,421
Total	175,177

The above figures show a decrease as compared with the previous year due to the adverse weather conditions experienced during the year.

Tests are taken three times a day by the Baths Superintendent, to determine the residual Chlorine and Alkali content of the water. A new and up-to-date chlorine and chemical dosage plant is planned and it is hoped that with this installed a higher standard of purification of the water will be maintained.

It is true to say that owing to the limited accommodation and the vast area which this small establishment has to serve. it is impossible to maintain a standard comparable with other towns of a similar size who are fortunate enough to possess a number of bathing establishments.

Each year applications from organisations desiring to form swimming clubs have to be turned down and in the summer time it is necessary to stop booking, to relieve congestion

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

There are 16 parks and open spaces controlled by the local authority, covering an area of 344 acres, also 26 acres of playing fields and 31 allotments.

MESNES PARK, situated in the centre of the town, has been in the possession of the Corporation for over 60 years and is always a great attraction to local inhabitants and visitors. Over 200,000 bedding plants are raised annually in the park. Recreation in the form of tennis, bowls, putting and children's playpark is provided. Catering facilities are available throughout the year.

ALEXANDRA PARK, half the size of Mesnes Park, is situated on the south side of the borough ; here the bedding schemes consist mainly of roses. Tennis courts, bowling greens, putting green and children's playpark are also provided.

GREAT ACRE RECREATION GROUND, situated on one of the most elevated parts of the town, provides facitities for bowls and tennis, and ample space for unorganised games.

OPEN SPACES, in the form of small parks and rest gardens are situated in all parts of the town. Advantage has been taken in recent years of converting derelict areas, formerly occupied by condemned property, into rest gardens. This work is still proceeding in an endeavour to brighten the appearance of the town and improve the health and enjoyment of the inhabitants.

HAIGH HALL AND PLANTATIONS, of 244 acres, acquired by the Corporation in May, 1947, from the Earl of Crawford, contains many fine horticultural features and is famous for its many rhododendron species. The main drive from Wigan Lane to the Hall, a distance of two miles, wanders through a fine expanse of natural woodland. The public conservatory, which overlooks the lily pond and rest garden, is open daily throughout the year. A transport system operates during the greater part of the year, commencing near the Wigan Lane end and proceeding through the picturesque woodland areas, a distance of one and a half miles to the Hall. Haigh Hall, the former residence of the Earls of Crawford, is used for catering and exhibitions of various kinds throughout the summer season.

Section II

Statistics

VITAL STATISTICS, 1949-1950.

	1949.	1950.
Area (acres)	—	 5,082
Population (Estimated by Registrar General)	84,770	 84,950
Live Births: Males 737 / Females 629 } Total	1,443	 1,366
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.02	.... 16.08
Ditto, for England and Wales	16.7	.... 15.8
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns	18.7	.... 17.6
Illegitimate births number 35, or .40 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of	2.36	.... 2.56
Deaths : Males 585 / Females 483 } Total	1,059	 1,068
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.49	.... 12.57
Ditto, for England and Wales	11.7	.... 11.6
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns	12.5	.... 12.3
Excess of Registered births over deaths	384	 298
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	1.98	.... 0.71
Tuberculosis Death Rates :—		
Pulmonary .... 0.41 / Other than Pulmonary 0.08 } Total	0.57	.... 0.49
Total deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under two years	4	 6
Death rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhœa and Enteritis	2.77	.... 4.39
Infantile rate (deaths per 1,000 births)	47	 43
Ditto, for England and Wales	32	.... 29.8
Ditto, for 126 County Boroughs and great towns....	37	.... 33.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 day old ...	11	 9
Ditto 1 year (legitimate) ...	68	 57
Ditto 1 year (illegitimate)	nil	 2

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950.

Causes.	Sex.	All Ages.	0+	1+	5+	15+	25+	45+	65+	75-
All Causes	M.	585	36	4	3	11	38	194	171	128
	F.	483	23	7	4	10	35	100	129	175
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ..	M.	18	—	—	—	1	4	11	2	—
	F.	17	—	—	—	3	10	3	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, Other	M.	4	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
	F.	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease..	M.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
4. Diphtheria..	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ..	M.	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M.	16	—	—	—	—	1	11	4	—
	F.	11	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	16	—	—	—	—	3	7	6	—
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	F.	15	—	—	—	—	1	7	4	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	F.	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	44	—	—	1	—	—	18	13	12
	F.	31	—	—	—	—	1	13	10	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	M.	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
	F.	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	54	—	—	—	—	—	16	24	14
	F.	57	—	—	—	—	—	8	23	26
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ..	M.	78	—	—	—	—	2	31	34	11
	F.	32	—	—	—	—	1	4	18	9

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950.

—continued.

	Causes.	Sex.	All Ages.	0+	1+	5+	15+	25+	45+	65+	75+
	All Causes	M.	585	36	4	3	11	38	194	171	128
		F.	483	23	7	4	10	35	100	129	175
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	M.	12	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	1
		F.	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	M.	85	—	—	—	2	4	21	25	33
		F.	99	—	—	—	1	3	15	29	51
21.	Other Circulatory Disease ..	M.	12	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	7
		F.	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9
22.	Influenza	M.	17	—	—	—	—	—	9	7	1
		F.	16	—	—	—	2	—	4	5	5
23.	Pneumonia	M.	19	5	—	—	1	2	2	4	5
		F.	17	4	—	1	—	—	5	2	5
24.	Bronchitis	M.	71	1	—	—	—	2	27	25	16
		F.	28	—	—	—	—	1	5	9	13
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.	5	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
		F.	6	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M.	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
		F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M.	6	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
		F.	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	M.	6	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1
		F.	5	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	F.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations ..	M.	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F.	8	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
32.	Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	M.	69	19	—	—	4	7	8	10	21
		F.	82	9	1	2	3	6	18	14	29
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	M.	11	—	1	—	2	1	5	—	2
		F.	4	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
34.	All Other Accidents	M.	12	—	1	1	—	4	3	—	3
		F.	8	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	5
35.	Suicide	M.	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
		F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH WITH DEATH RATES, 1950.

	Disease.	No. of Deaths	Rate.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	35	.41
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	7	.08
3.	Syphilitic Disease	3	.03
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	2	.02
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	2	.02
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	.02
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	27	.32
11.	,, ,, Lung, Bronchus	20	.24
12.	,, ,, Breast	15	.18
13.	,, ,, Uterus	4	.05
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	75	.88
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	5	.06
16.	Diabetes	7	.08
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	111	1.31
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	110	1.30
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	20	.24
20.	Other Heart Disease	184	2.17
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	24	.28
22.	Influenza	33	.39
23.	Pneumonia	36	.42
24.	Bronchitis	99	1.16
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	11	.13
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	7	.08
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	9	.11
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	11	.13
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	.03
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	.01
31.	Congenital Malformations	14	.16
32.	Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	151	1.78
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	15	.18
34.	All Other Accidents	20	.24
35.	Suicide	5	.06
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
		1,068	12.57

POPULATION OF WARDS, WITH COMPARATIVE DEATHS AND DEATH RATES

Ward	*Ward No.*	*Estimated Population*	*Death Totals*	*Death Rate*
St. George	1	2676	37	13.83
Lindsay	2	4921	74	15.04
St. Catharine	3	5807	74	12.74
St. Patrick	4	6537	106	16.22
St. Thomas	5	2622	46	17.54
Poolstock	6	3870	47	12.14
Victoria	7	2999	35	11.67
St. Andrew	8	16800	205	12.20
Swinley	9	10457	128	12.24
All Saints	10	2297	26	11.31
West Pemberton	11	4527	37	8.17
North Pemberton	12	6719	71	10.57
Central Pemberton	13	9746	125	12.83
South Pemberton	14	4972	56	11.26
Totals	...	84950	1067	*12.57

*Death Rate is based on the Registrar General's estimated Population of 84,950.

DEATH-RATES FOR WIGAN DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
13.72	12.95	14.30	12.92	11.42	11.55	13.37	11.55	12.49	12.57

AVERAGE FOR TEN YEARS, 12.68.

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	1–4 years	5–14 years	15–24 years	25–44 years	45–64 years	65–74 years	75 years and over
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	35	—	—	—	4	14	14	3	—
Tuberculosis, Other	2	7	1	2	2	1	—	1	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	6	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	10	26	—	—	—	—	4	14	4	4
,, ,, Lung Bronchus	11	19	—	—	—	—	2	9	7	1
,, ,, Breast	12	15	—	—	—	—	1	7	4	3
,, ,, Uterus	13	5	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1
Other Malig. & Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	71	—	—	1	—	1	30	19	20
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	15	5	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Diabetes	16	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	17	81	1	—	—	—	—	18	34	28
Coronary Disease, Angina	18	79	—	—	—	—	3	26	33	17
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	19	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Other Heart Disease	20	176	—	—	2	4	6	32	56	76
Other Circulatory Disease	21	113	—	—	—	—	2	30	42	39
Influenza	22	34	—	—	—	2	—	15	11	6
Pneumonia	23	37	10	—	1	1	2	8	6	9
Bronchitis	24	100	1	—	—	—	2	32	36	29
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	25	13	—	—	—	—	3	6	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	26	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	27	10	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	28	11	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	29	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	30	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	31	14	11	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	32	154	26	1	—	6	16	24	29	52
Motor Vehicle Accidents	33	15	—	4	—	1	1	6	—	3
All Other Accidents	34	24	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	8
Suicide	35	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
Homicide and Operations of War ..	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		1067	58	11	7	21	73	292	302	303

52 WEEKS ENDED, 30th DECEMBER, 1950.

short list—grouped according to
ward residence)

Deaths at all Ages.

Class No.	St. George Ward. 1	Lindsay Ward. 2	St. Catharine Ward. 3	St. Patrick Ward. 4	St. Thomas Ward. 5	Poolstock Ward. 6	Victoria Ward. 7	St. Andrew Ward. 8	Swinley Ward. 9	All Saints Ward. 10	West Pemberton Ward. 11	North Pemberton Ward. 12	Central Pemberton Ward. 13	South Pemberton Ward. 14	Total Deaths.
1	5	1	1	3	1	1	4	8	2	—	1	2	5	1	35
2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	7
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	3	4	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	9	2	26
11	—	2	1	2	—	2	—	3	—	1	—	—	6	2	19
12	—	1	2	2	—	—	1	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	15
13	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	5
14	1	7	6	9	1	—	1	15	13	1	3	7	2	5	71
15	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	5
16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3
17	3	6	7	10	6	3	—	14	9	2	4	5	10	2	81
18	3	9	2	9	3	2	—	14	14	1	4	4	12	2	79
19	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3
20	4	13	16	15	7	13	5	45	17	5	1	13	15	7	176
21	5	10	9	7	5	6	7	20	15	1	6	5	10	7	113
22	1	—	5	3	2	3	2	5	6	—	—	—	4	3	34
23	—	2	4	5	2	1	1	8	2	2	—	6	2	2	37
24	5	9	7	10	6	3	3	18	9	3	2	10	11	4	100
25	1	2	1	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	13
26	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	7
27	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	1	2	10
28	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	1	11
29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
31	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	2	2	1	—	14
32	3	4	5	14	5	8	8	31	22	8	9	8	22	7	154
33	1	—	2	3	—	—	1	3	3	—	1	—	1	—	15
34	1	1	—	1	2	2	—	2	4	1	—	1	5	4	24
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	5
36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	37	74	74	106	46	47	35	205	128	26	37	71	125	56	1067

INFANT MORTALITY, 1950, NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS PERIODS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Class No.	Cause of Death	Under 1	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7–13 days	14–20 days	21–28 days	28 days to 2 mths.	2 mths.	3 mths.	4 mths.	5 mths.	6 mths.	7 mths.	8 mths.	9 mths.	10 mths.	11 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
2	Miliary Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
6	Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
7	Polio-encephalomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
23	Broncho-pneumonia ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	9
24	Bronchitis..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
27	Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
31	Congenital Malformation	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases:—																						
	Prematurity	7	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
	Atelectasis	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	Others	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	10
34	Accidents (overlying) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
		9	3	8	1	—	3	—	2	2	3	9	2	3	3	2	—	3	2	3	1	—	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year is 59, or 43 per 1,000 births, and of children over one year and under five years 11, or 0.13 per 1,000 of the population.

In 1949 there were 68 deaths under one year, a rate of 47 per 1,000.

9 of the 59 deaths were due to broncho-pneumonia ; 7 of these occurring in children aged 3 months or over. 6 deaths were due to gastro-enteritis and 15 to prematurity. 11 infants died as a result of congenital malformations.

The infant deaths occurred as follows :—

	16	Home.
	22	Billinge Hospital.
	16	R.A.E. Infirmary.
	4	Whelley Hospital.
	1	Hope Hospital, Salford
Total	59	

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The number of inquests held during 1950 was 58, and the following verdicts have been recorded :—

1.	Natural Causes	10
2.	Accidents—Burnt	1
	,, Scalded	—
	,, Drowned	2
	,, Poisoned	—
	,, Falls	7
	,, Railway	1
	,, Colliery	1
	,, Road	13
	,, Mills	1
	,, Open Cast Mining	3
	,, Coal Gas	1
	,, Shock following operation	2
	,, Asphyxia	3
3.	Suicides—Hanged	—
	,, Cut Throat	—
	,, Drowned	1
	,, Gas	3
	,, Railway	—
	,, Poison	—
	,, Falls	1
4.	Open—Railway	2
	,, Road	1
	,, Drowned	3
	,, Gas	1
	,, Others	1
5.	Murder	—
		58

There was one uncertified death in 1950, against none in 1949, and one in 1948.

Section III

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 : Wednesday afternoons, 2 to 4-30 p.m. Ante-natal Clinic : Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A Consultant attends on one Thursday of each month. Post-natal Clinic : Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m. Dental Clinic for expectant and nursing mothers and young children : Tuesday morning, 9-30. 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 on one Thursday of each month.
Scholes Clinic.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Monday afternoons from 2 to 4-30 p.m.
Methodist 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.
Worsley Hall Clinic, Drummond Square.	Infant and Young Children's Clinic : Thursday mornings at 9-30 a.m.
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.

ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

	Wigan Centre. Weekly Clinic.	Wigan Centre. Special Clinic.	Pemberton. Weekly Clinic.	Pemberton. Special Clinic.
Number of primary cases attending Clinic during the year	450	—	184	69
Total number of attendances	1,767	166	864	328

Classes for Expectant Mothers:

65 classes were held during the year 1950, and 463 attendances were made by mothers.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

Attendances were as follows :—

New Cases.	Return Cases.	Total.
103	31 ...	134

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS.

Attendances were as follows:—

Clinic	Children under 12 mths.	Children over 12 mths.	Total	Mothers	Primary cases	Cases examined by medical attendant
Central	1906	462	2368	2251	321	1263
Scholes	1453	352	1805	1721	199	1020
Pemberton ...	1926	495	2421	2265	294	1226
Worsley Mesnes...	568	278	846	768	108	526
Springfield ...	1580	405	1985	1912	175	1071
Drummond Sq. ... (Oct.—Dec. only)	189	138	327	260	56	202
Totals ...	7622	2130	9752	9177	1153	5308

Comparative attendances for the last 5 years :

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Babies	9144	10172	10077	 9743	 9752
Primary attendances of Babies	1207	 1305	 1181	 1118	 1153
Expectant Mothers :					
Central:					
Weekly Clinic ..	2661	 2725	 2464	 2167	 1767
Special Clinic	165	 211	 198	 181	 166
Pemberton:					
Weekly Clinic	855	 1045	 1098	 720	 864
Special Clinic	—	.... —	.... —	 386	 328

An additional clinic was opened in October, 1950, at Drummond Square on the Worsley Hall Estate, Pemberton, to provide for the increasing needs of the area.

It will be observed that the total number of children attending the clinics in 1950, was greater than in 1949.

DENTAL CLINICS.

I am indebted to the Senior Dental Officer for the following summary of the dental work carried out during the year for the Maternity and Child Welfare Department.

(a) Numbers provided with dental care :—

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	208	153	138
Children under five	69	69	65

(b) Forms of dental treatment provided :—

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling and gum treatment	Silver Nitrate treatment	Dressings	Radiographs	Dentures provided	
		Local	Ge ne						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	43	43	—	61	60	—	—	—	—	—
Children under five	31	31	—	9	22	16	—	—	—	—

In addition, 237 children under five years of age were examined in the routine school dental work and 38 received dental treatment.

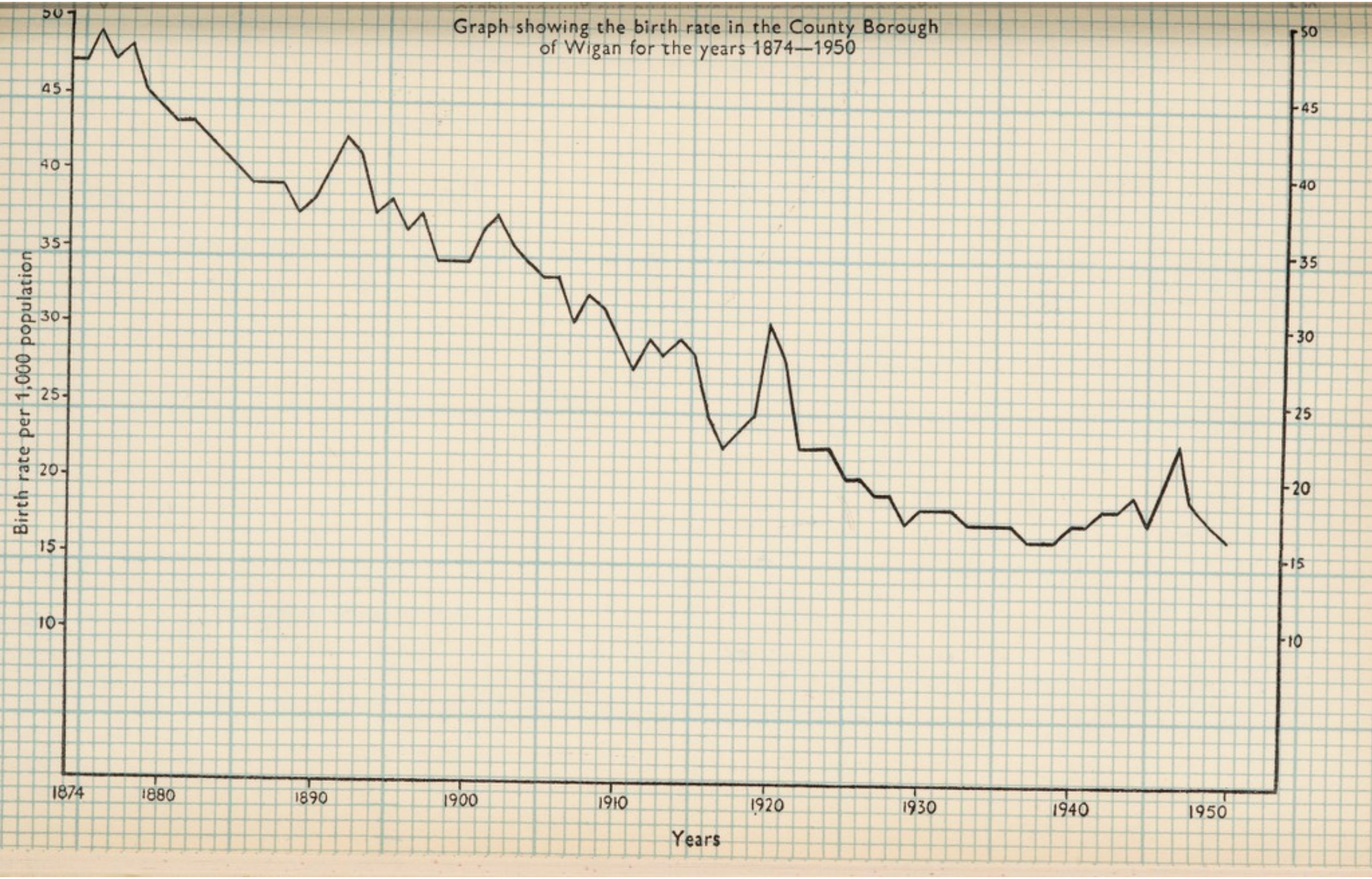
During the year 1950, an increased number of patients attending the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic received a dental inspection.

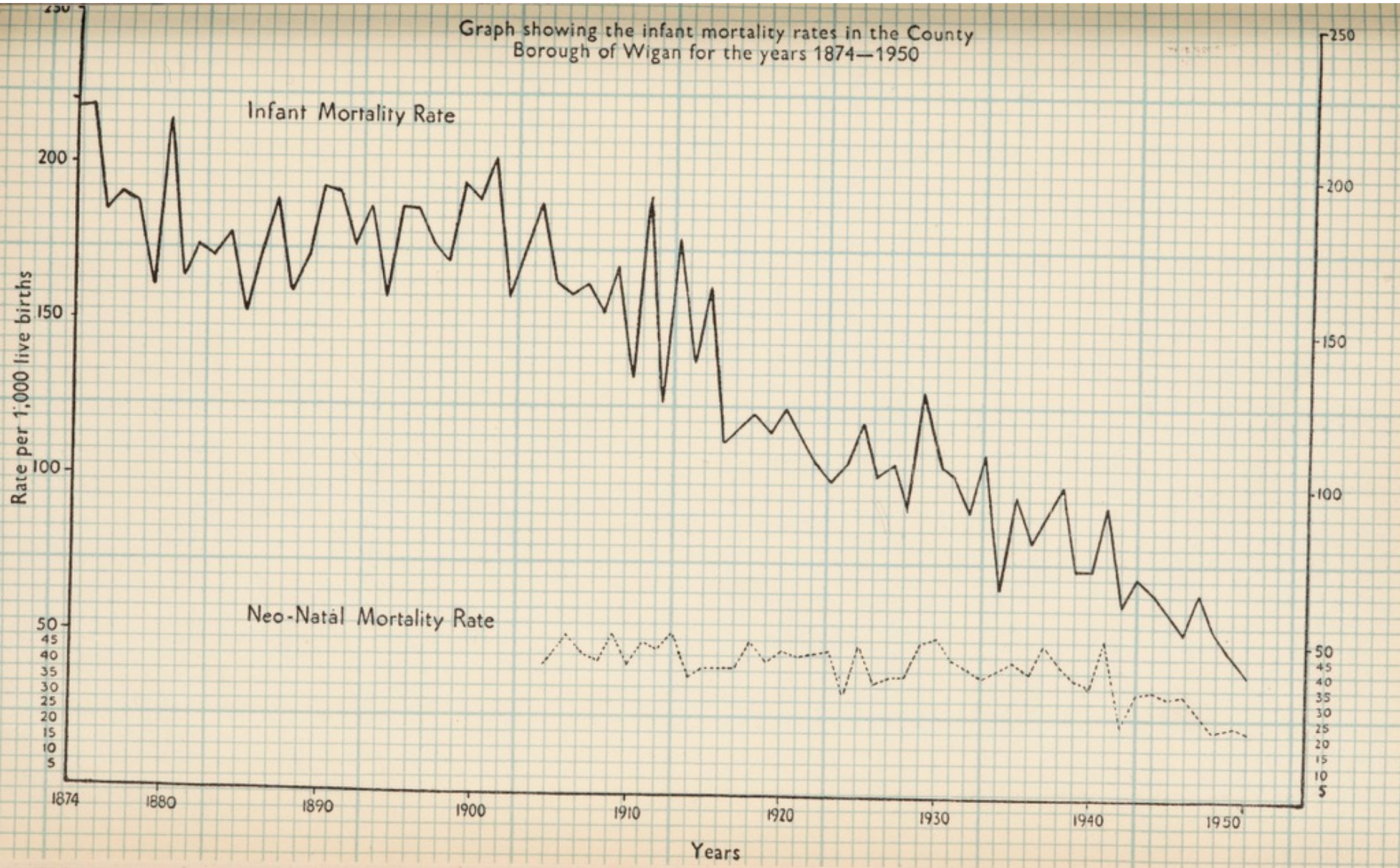
In addition to treatment, this provided a valuable opportunity for giving advice on Oral Hygiene.

It is interesting to note that there is a greater degree of dental fitness in this class of patient than in the past ; a fact which is, no doubt, attributable to the increased services available for treatment.

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

There was no patient under treatment on 1st January. One new patient, suffering from mild rickets, commenced to attend in December.


Graph showing the birth rate in the County Borough of Wigan for the years 1874—1950
Birth rate per 1,000 population
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
1874
1880
1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
Years


Graph showing the infant mortality rates in the County Borough of Wigan for the years 1874—1950
Infant Mortality Rate
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate
Rate per 1,000 live births
250
200
150
100
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
1874
1880
1890
1900
1910
1920
1930
1940
1950
Years

NURSERY.

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

The Nursery is recognised as a training nursery for the N.N.B. Examination for Nursery Nurses. During the year one student was presented for and passed the examination.

The demand for admission of children to the nursery continues and there are over 200 applicants on the waiting list. An extension of the existing Nursery or additional premises are clearly a necessity if the demand for accommodation is to be met.

The average attendances during the year were :—

	DAY (including those who remain at night)	NIGHT
Children under 2 years of age ...	16	7
Children between 2 and 5 years ...	32	7
Totals ...	48	14

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	715	616	1,331
Illegitimate	22	13	35
	737	629	1,366

Birth rate per 1,000 population, 16.08.

Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	19	18	37
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	21	19	40

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 28.45.

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of infants under the age of 1 year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	34	23	57
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	36	23	59

Infantile rate per 1,000 (live) births, 43.

Deaths of infants aged 28 days or less (neo-natal deaths).

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	18	12	30
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	19	12	31

Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 (live) births, 22.69.

Infantile Mortality.

The Infant Mortality Rate (i.e., the number of deaths occurring under one year of age per 1,000 births) was 43 : the rate for legitimate births was 43, and for illegitimate births, 57.

Maternal Deaths.

One death was recorded, as follows :—

Case No.	Cause.
1.	Acute peritonitis due to septic metritis following expulsion of the products of conception, there being insufficient evidence of the circumstances—Open. P.M.

Maternal Mortality.

The Maternal Mortality Rate (i.e., the number of deaths of women in, or associated with childbirth, per 1,000 births, live and still) was:—

Puerperal Sepsis	0.71
Other Puerperal causes	—
Total Puerperal mortality	0.71
Non Puerperal causes	—
Total Maternal Mortality Rate	**0.71**

Comparative figures for the last 5 years :—

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	6	7	1	3	1
Rate	3.44	3.59	0.61	1.98	0.71
Births	1,670	1,886	1,590	1,443	1,366

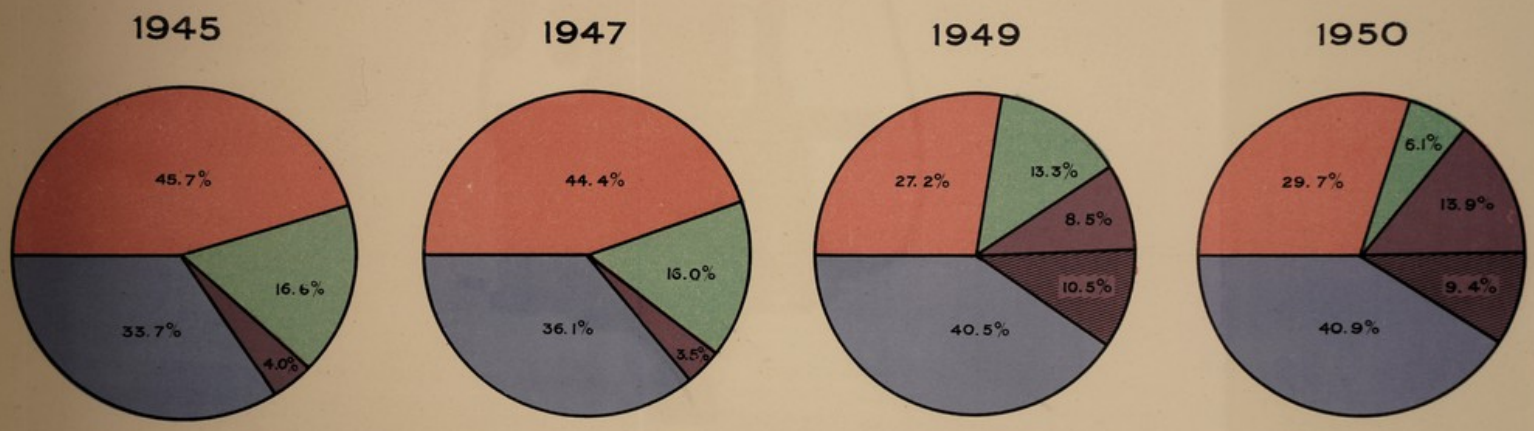
DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

There were 20 midwives practising in the district on 31st December, 1950, of whom 14 were Municipal Midwives, 1 independent and 5 employed in Hospital.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.

The Service consists of a Non-Medical Supervisor and 14 Midwives.

THE CHANGING PATTERN OF MIDWIFERY IN WIGAN.



Cases undertaken by midwife (No doctor engaged).

Cases undertaken by midwife with doctor called in (Medical aid).

Cases in which doctor was engaged but did not attend at birth.

Cases in which doctor was engaged and attended at birth (figures for 1949 and 1950 only).

Births in institutions.

Given below are details of cases attended by the Midwives during the year :—

As midwife—No doctor engaged	518		
—Doctor engaged but did not attend at birth	201		
		719	
As maternity nurse—Doctor engaged and did attend at birth		136	
			855

As will be seen above the total number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives was 855, which is 93 fewer than the figure given in my last report. The average number of cases attended per midwife was 61.

During the last two years much has been said and written concerning the changing character of the work of the domiciliary midwives. The early policy of the hospital services to admit as large a proportion as possible of the expectant mothers to hospital for their confinement, coupled with the obvious financial advantage, has led to a great increase in the number of institutional births in many areas. In this respect the hospital services in Wigan have been somewhat handicapped by the shortage of maternity accommodation and during the year 1950, only 40.9% of the births took place in hospital. This compares with a figure of 33.7% in 1945, and 36.1% in 1947.

Even this modest increase often necessitated discharging mothers and their babies as early as the fifth or sixth day of the puerperium, a practice which is most certainly detrimental to both mother and baby and which entailed a good deal of post natal visiting by the domiciliary midwives. The acquisition of the maternity wards at Ashton Hospital has largely overcome this difficulty during the latter part of the year.

Another feature of the service which has been much discussed is the growing practice of mothers to engage a doctor when they wish to be confined at home. It will be seen from the accompanying figures that the percentage of cases in which doctors have been engaged has increased from 3.5% in 1947, to 23.3% in 1950. Thus it would appear at first sight that the midwife is spending a considerable portion of her time acting as maternity nurse. On further investigation however it was ascertained that in 1950, in rather more than half the cases where the doctor had been engaged the actual delivery was carried out by the midwife in his absence.

Another interesting feature which is apparent from a comparison of the accompanying figures is the decrease in the number of cases in which medical aid is sought by the midwife. It will be seen that these cases have decreased from 16.6% in 1945 to 6.1% in 1950.

GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA.

A Gas and Air Analgesia Service is provided by the Department and all the municipal midwives are qualified to administer analgesia.

Five outfits are available 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 278 cases.

The popularity of this service continues to increase.

MATERNITY HOMES.

The Christopher Home is now the only Nursing or Maternity Home within the Borough. A number of beds are available for maternity cases and during the year there were 56 Wigan births in the home.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Year.		No. Notified.	Cases Treated : At Home.	In Hospital.	Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.
1950	....	1	1	—	1	—	—
1949	....	—	—	—	—	—	—
1948	....	4	2	2	4	—	—
1947	....	2	1	1	2	—	—
1946	....	2	2	—	2	—	—

EMERGENCY OBSTETRICAL UNIT.

By arrangement with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee an Emergency Obstetrical Unit based on Billinge Hospital is available for cases of obstetrical emergency occurring within the Borough. The unit is transported by the Borough Ambulance Service and calls are accorded accident priority. The service has been used twice during the year and has materially helped to prevent the loss of maternal life in both cases.

HEALTH VISITING.

SUMMARY OF VISITS DURING THE YEAR 1950.

No. of primary visits to births	1407
,, visits to infants under one year	6617
,, ,, infants over one year and under two years	3654
,, ,, infants over two and under three years	2993
,, ,, infants over three and under four years	2102
,, ,, infants over four and under five years	1595
,, ,, expectant mothers	178
,, ,, cases of abortion	1
,, ,, cases of infectious disease	317
,, ,, re deaths under one year	43
,, ,, Still Births	39
,, other visits	692

The number of Health Visitors was maintained at six during the year but four more are urgently required.

One trained nurse and one assistant nurse continue to give part-time help at the Infant Clinics, the object being to release the Health Visitors so that as far as possible the number of routine home visits may be maintained.

A Health Visitor continues to attend the Out-patient Paediatric Clinic held each week at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. By this means the Department is able to advise the Specialist on the social and environmental aspects of cases and to help the mothers to carry out the recommended treatment, especially where matters of diet are involved.

The Health Department has sponsored the training of one student health visitor at the Bolton Training School during the year and four students from the school have received practical training in our Department.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The continued shortage of hospital accommodation for premature babies has necessitated intensification of our domiciliary service. The senior M. & C. W. Medical Officer has during the year attended a residential post-graduate course of training at one of the most modern premature baby units in the country.

The early care of the premature infants born at home is now undertaken by one of two midwives who have shown special aptitude for this work.

The arrangement is that on receiving information of the birth the "premature baby" midwife takes over the case entirely and attends both mother and baby. Visits are paid daily or more often if necessary, special attention being given to the feeding and handling of the baby. Special equipment is available on loan.

Daily record charts are made out for each infant and these are made available to the doctor attending the cases.

The intensive visiting is continued during the first month or until such time as baby has attained normal standards. By these means the mother is given every opportunity of learning how to handle and tend the infant.

The results of these special care arrangements have been very encouraging.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

The closest liaison is maintained with the Children's Department and co-operation on the lines of the Home Office Circular 193/49 is well established.

The Medical Officer of Health has been appointed medical adviser to the Children's Committee and is responsible for certain aspects of the medical care of children who are the responsibility of the Committee. This includes medical advice on administrative matters and

in the planning and management of the nurseries, etc. Medical and dental examination of children who are to be boarded out is undertaken by the Department and periodic visits are paid by an assistant medical officer of health to the nursery at the Social Welfare Home, where a number of children are at present housed whilst awaiting completion of their new residential nursery at The Elms.

Health Visitors are available to visit the homes of foster mothers, adoptions and where it is intended to place boarded out children. Reports of the conditions found are furnished to the Children's Officer.

Children Neglected or Ill-treated in their own Homes.

In August a joint circular 78/50 was received from the Home Office and Ministries of Health and Education suggesting that some method of co-ordination should be devised in each area to deal with the problem of children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

The circular emphasised that such neglect and ill-treatment might be due to a wide variety of causes, ranging from the poor health of an affectionate mother to brutality and dislike of the child. As many contributory factors are also involved it was suggested that the best way to bring help to these cases was to co-ordinate the enormous potential assistance available from the local authority, the local offices of central government departments and the local representatives of voluntary bodies. The local authority agreed to implement the recommendations contained in circular 78/50 and designated the Medical Officer of Health as the officer responsible for liaison and co-ordination in matters affecting children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.

The Council also appointed the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Children's, Education, Estates, Health and Welfare Services Committees to determine questions of a special nature on the subject of the circular at elected representative level.

HOME NURSING.

Full administration control of the District Nursing service was undertaken by the Department on the 1st February, 1950, when the Wigan branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nurses wound up their affairs. The tenancy of the Nurses home was transfered to the Local Health Authority along with the contents thereof.

Due to the increase in the demand for the services of the district nurses the Committee considered it advisable to appoint two additional nurses who commenced duty on the 1st October, 1950, thereby increasing the staff to a Superintendent and 12 district nurses (including one male nurse).

The following figures are given for the year 1950 :—

No. of cases on the books on 1st January, 1950	157
No. of New cases during 1950	1,131
No. of visits paid by the nurses	36,203

No. of cases ceased to be visited :—

Now convalescent	358	
Removed to hospital	145	
Deaths	139	
Other reasons	470	
		1,112

No. of cases remaining on the books on the 31st December, 1950 176

The work of the home nurses is still increasing and this will continue whilst the shortage of hospital beds necessitates early discharge of patients who still require bed convalescence, daily dressings, etc.

The provision of a male nurse is greatly appreciated by the elderly male patients and this nurse, having been supplied with an auto-cycle, is able to attend a large number of special cases in the Borough.

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 following vaccinations were carried out by medical practitioners during 1950 :—

	0-4 yrs. inclusive	5-14 yrs. inclusive	over 15 yrs.	Total
Primary	 98	 22	 43	 163
Re-vaccination	.... —	 5	 52	 57
Totals	 98	 27	 95	 220

82 children under the age of one year were vaccinated during the year. Comparing this figure with the number of births during the same period, it will be seen that only 6.1 per cent. of the infants were vaccinated.

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 at the 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.

Table showing the number of primary 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	1949	1950
0 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	164	310	420	462
1 +	—	31	16	5	12	87	176	471	448	437	582	616	551	365	264
2 +	—	39	22	10	16	118	197	301	134	113	213	107	117	95	73
3 +	1	31	22	10	7	91	138	320	73	55	114	65	61	49	44
4 +	4	41	17	25	12	125	151	260	78	44	90	62	39	47	23
5 +	24	89	32	60	2	309	131	436	72	65	44	74	36	112	58
6 +	28	137	16	97	2	336	117	332	43	44	29	56	16	95	53
7 +	14	122	18	101	1	272	73	277	13	33	20	42	22	101	61
8 +	6	131	6	76	—	236	89	241	25	42	12	35	14	105	51
9 +	1	109	7	76	—	282	69	254	14	29	14	38	12	120	52
10 +	—	100	3	70	—	248	88	245	7	24	10	35	14	91	58
11 +	—	78	3	82	—	224	56	220	8	22	8	19	5	46	35
12 +	—	37	4	89	—	238	40	175	6	35	3	24	9	20	47
13 +	—	30	2	91	—	210	47	161	6	20	2	23	5	37	24
14 +	—	10	5	31	—	76	9	31	—	1	—	3	3	23	32
15 +	—	1	1	2	—	56	24	8	—	—	—	2	13	12	11
Total each year	78	986	174	825	52	2908	1405	3732	927	967	1148	1365	1227	1738	1348

Inoculations carried out during 1950 :—

	By M. & C.W. Clinic.	By School Clinic	By Private Doctors.	Total during 1950.
Primary	634	469	245	1,348
Re-inoculation	9	1,604	101	1,714
Totals	643	2,073	346	3,062

	0 - 4 yrs. inclusive.	5 - 14 yrs. inclusive.	Total 0 - 14 yrs. inclusive.
Estimated present child population immunised	49%	74%	65%

The total figure represents an increase on that for the previous twelve months which was 63%.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

All the ambulance services of the County Borough were co-ordinated and placed under the control of the Health Committee on the 5th July, 1948.

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

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

The 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. During the course of the year the older vehicle was replaced by a new Bedford Lomas ambulance fitted with a special compartment for infected bedding. The other vehicle underwent a major overhaul.

The staff of the infectious disease ambulance service comprises one driver full-time and two others part-time. The two other units of Health Department transport, a van and a car, are maintained and operated by these two part-time drivers. It is usual in this service to send out the ambulance manned only by a driver/attendant and to pick up en route a nurse from the infectious disease hospital, when a child is to be brought in.

The vehicles of the non-infectious service comprise six ambulances (one of which was replaced by a new Bedford Lomas

ambulance in August, 1950) and one sitting case car. (A further Bedford Lomas sitting case ambulance was delivered on the 1st February, 1951).

The personnel comprises: head driver—1; drivers—16; attendants—2; temporary drivers—6; female clerk—1. All drivers and attendants hold certificates of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade to render first aid to the injured and some are qualified in home nursing.

Statistical Report.

Work undertaken by the Ambulance Service during 1950:—

	Removals					Total
	Infectious Disease	Accidents	Mental Cases	Others	Midwifery Apparatus	
Wigan County Borough ...	822	525	64	13455	500	15366
Lancashire County Council	67	156	50	3348	—	3621
	889	681	114	16803	500	18987

The mileage covered during the period was:—

	Miles.
Wigan County Borough	69,880
Lancashire County Council	37,909
	107,789

In addition to the above, the conveyance of children to and from the Occupation Centre was commenced on the 16th October, 1950. During the period to the 31st December, a total of 1,420 miles was covered.

From a purely functional point of view the present organisation of the service is satisfactory and during the year all calls upon the service have been met. As I pointed out in my last report the provision of an ambulance depot would effect economies in manpower and lead to greater efficiency of the service. The present practice of housing the vehicles in four different garages renders almost impossible the close supervision of vehicles and personnel which is so necessary if the ambulance service is to be maintained at peak performance.

During the year we were asked to consider the problem of the ambulance service as an integral part of the Borough's Civil Defence Services. The present system of dual administration whereby in the non-infectious service, the senior personnel are Fire Officers will lead to an almost impossible situation should a state of emergency be declared, implying as it undoubtedly will, that the Fire Service should relinquish completely their interest in the Ambulance Service. This, coupled with the fact that no proper provision has been made for an ambulance depot, renders the task of organising the ambulance service on a war time footing exceedingly difficult, and in my opinion the problem should be looked upon with some urgency.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Each month 1,150 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.

HEALTH PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

A new service, provided by The Central Council for Health Education, was introduced on the 1st May, 1949. This service is in the form of an educational exhibition stand and a succession of interchangeable material was shown during the year, 1950.

Each of the following topics were on show for a period of six weeks:—

1. Head Lice.
2. Care of the Feet.
3. The Work of the Health Visitor.
4. Care of the Teeth.
5. Milk.
6. Cafe and Canteen Hygiene.

The exhibition stand has been on view periodically at the Central Clinic, Millgate, the North-Western Electricity Board's Showroom, Standishgate and the Ritz Cinema,, Station Road, Wigan.

CONVALESCENCE.

Although the Health Authority have made no comprehensive scheme for the provision of convalescence under this section of the Act, individual cases, where it is considered that there is exceptional need or hardship, are brought to the notice of the Health Committee.

During the year one mother and her two children were sent to a convalescent home for a period of two weeks. This achieved two

objects, the mother benefited by being relieved of household and family duties and the children thrived in the healthy environment which surrounded them. One other case was sent for a short recuperative holiday, but returned home after 5 days.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The Health Committee have continued their arrangements whereby the V.D. Orderly of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary undertakes the duties of Almoner.

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 report for the year 1950 :—

Total number of contacts persuaded to attend were:—

Males 14. Females 30.

Patients failing to attend for treatment, etc., are the biggest problem and the following action has been taken to try and persuade them to attend.

373 letters were sent to patients failing to attend.
211 reported for treatment, etc.
7 letters returned, address unknown.
4 left district, present address unknown.
2 transferred to H.M. Forces.
7 transferred to clinics near their present address.
7 letters received, patients too ill to attend.
6 patients admitted to other hospitals.
2 patients transferred to care of their own doctors.
7 patients transferred to other clinics as in need of treatment, but not suffering from V.D.
4 patients transferred from other clinics.
1 patient died.

Personal visits were made to the home addresses of 20 patients who failed to attend after several letters had been sent.

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 is most certainly detrimental to the preventive aspect of the Tuberculosis Service.

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.

During the year 1,347 home visits were paid by the tuberculosis health visitor.

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 is being discharged through a voluntary Care Committee. During the year the membership of the Committee was revised and by the inclusion of representatives of the Local Health Authority it is hoped to improve the liaison between the Voluntary Committee and the Health Authority. The aims of this Committee may be stated as follows :—

1. To provide extra nourishments, nursing utensils, wheel chairs, etc.
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.
5. To give assistance in providing tools in cases where tuberculous persons entering into employment are not so assisted by the Ministry of Labour.

The Chest Physician acts as an honorary Medical Officer to this Committee.

HOUSING OF TUBERCULOUS CASES.

During the year 34 cases of infectious tuberculosis were re-housed in accommodation which ensured adequate isolation.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY.

WIGAN SURVEY.

The Regional Hospital Board No. 4 Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was operating in the Borough during the period from January to June, 1950, and I am indebted to the Director of the Unit for the following statistics which indicate the scope of the work carried out.

An interesting feature was the inclusion of a group of scholars in their last year at school. This is a new venture which is of great value to school leavers. Not only does it sift out children who have become infected with tuberculosis through contact with the disease at an early age but it will prevent infectious cases passing into industry with detriment both to themselves and to their workmates. The X-ray examination of the chest does, however, bring to light many conditions other than tuberculosis and may enable treatment to be commenced at an early stage, ensuring the best chance of complete recovery.

Total number of persons examined by mass radiography :—

Males.	Females.	Total.
7,831	7,606	15,437

Included in the above figures were school children from the following Education Authorities :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Wigan Borough Education	517	469	986
Lancashire County Education, Division 19	444	422	866
Lancashire County Education, Division 20 (Hindley)	259	297	556
Grand Total			2,408

Number of persons recalled for large film	473
Number persons recalled for interview with Medical Director	230
Number of persons recalled for screening by Medical Director	2
Number of persons referred to Wigan C.B. Chest Clinic (Dr. Richmond)	118
Number of persons referred to Chest Clinics (other than Wigan C.B.)	65

This includes the following Chest Clinics :—

Wigan County Dispensary.
Leigh Dispensary.
Liverpool Dispensary.

N.B.—The above figures in every case include persons residing in or working in the following districts of Ashton-in-Makerfield, Upholland, Orrell, Standish, Wigan Rural, Aspull, Ince-in-Makerfield, Hindley and Abram.

MENTAL ILLNESS AND DEFECTIVENESS.

Details of work under this section are given under Mental Health Service, page 44.

OTHER ILLNESSES.

General practitioners are slow in taking advantage of the services available and few requests for after care have been made during the year.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Domestic help is provided where required for confinements and in any home where because of illness or incapacity help is needed.

Five helps are employed full-time and at the end of the year 14 part-time helps were on the register.

During 1950, Domestic Help was provided in 194 cases—116 confinements, 4 tuberculosis and 74 others—compared with a total of 179 in 1949.

The Service is operating satisfactorily and along with the Home Nursing Service can play an important part in relieving the shortage of hospital beds especially for chronic cases.

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.

) 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, and 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.

(e) Dr. E. R. M. Wilson attended a course at Calderstones Hospital on the Management, etc., of mental deficiency cases.

ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

Visits to Office by relatives and patients for advice	88

1. **Under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.**

Cases notified	102
Notified cases dealt with as follows :—	
Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890	20
Section 21 Lunacy Act, 1890	38
Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890	6
Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	28
Section 24 Criminal Justices Act	1
Escaped mental Patient returned to hospital	1
Admitted to hospital as ordinary sick cases	2
No action taken	6
	102

Cases admitted to hospital under Sec. 20 and 21 Lunacy Act, 1890, were dealt with as follows :—

Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890	22
Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	3
Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	1
Transferred to sick ward following discharge from order under Sec. 21(A) Lunacy Act, 1890	9
Discharged following expiration of order under Sec. 21(A) Lunacy Act, 1890	9
Discharged after expiration of order	3
Died	11
	58

Appointments made for patients to attend Psychiatric Clinics	22
No. of cases visited under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	76
No. of visits under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	312
Special reports made on behalf of Mental Hospitals	12
No. of cases in Mental Hospitals on 31/12/1950	267
Discharges from hospitals	71
Deaths	23

2. **Under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.**

Cases in M.D. Institutions at 31/12/1950	78
Cases in " place of safety " Sec. 15 M.D. Act, 1913	1
Cases under Guardianship Sec. 6 M.D. Act, 1913	1
Cases under Statutory Supervision	54
Cases under Voluntary Supervision	11
Cases under training (occupation centre) Sec. 30 M.D. Act, 1913	12
Petitions presented	4
Cases admitted to Institutions :—	
Sec. 5 M.D Act	4
Sec. 8 M.D. Act	1
Sec. 15 M.D. Act (Place of Safety)	1
Special reports made on behalf of M.D. Institutions	35
Home Visits	394
Visits to Occupation Centre	43

Particulars of cases reported during the year 1950.

Ascertainment.

(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities under Sec. 57 Education Act, 1944	
(i) Under Sec. 57(3) Education Act, 1944	9
(ii) Under Sec. 57(5) Education Act, 1944 :	
On leaving ordinary schools	2
On leaving special schools	3
(b) Other ascertained defectives	3
(c) Other reported cases not at present subject to be dealt with	5
	22

Disposal of cases reported during the year.

Admitted to Institutions	1
Taken to " place of safety "	1
Placed under Statutory Supervision	10
Action not yet taken at 31/12/1950	5
Voluntary Supervision	5
	22

Number of Mental Defectives in Institutions, under Community Care including Voluntary Supervision or in " Places of Safety " on 1st January, 1950, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1950

(a) Ceased to be under care	1
(b) Died	2
	3

Number who have given birth to children during 1950 :

(i) After marriage	1
(ii) While unmarried	Nil

Number who married during 1950 .... Nil

3. **Prevention, Care and After-Care.**

The Duly Authorised Officers also act as case workers, concerning themselves with the after-care of patients discharged from psychiatric clinics and mental hospitals. Attempts are made to tackle the tremendous problem of the prevention of mental illness. At present, shortage of staff confines us to domiciliary visiting in a friendly capacity and arranging social contacts for unstable patients.

The case workers also liaise with the psychiatric out-patient clinics in the area and usually accompany patients to these clinics. Thus they are able to help the psychiatrist in the matter of the patient's social background and environment.

There is a vacancy on the establishment of the Department for a psychiatric social worker, but so far our efforts to fill this appointment have been unrewarded. One female Duly Authorised Officer has for some time attended at local psychiatric clinics for the purpose of gaining some experience in psychiatric social work.

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 purposes. The Health Committee during the year have approved a plan for a new Occupation Centre and purchase of a site is being negotiated. It is hoped that permission to commence building the Centre will be obtained in the near future.

The following is an extract from the attendance register :—

	Borough	County	Total
No. of children on the register at 1st January, 1950	15	12	27
No. of admissions during the year	2	4	6
No. of children who ceased to attend	4	1	5
No. of children remaining on the register at 31st December, 1950	13	15	28
Average daily attendance during the year	10	11	21

During the year the work at the Centre was to some extent impeded by the prolonged illness of the Assistant Supervisor.

The limited accommodation has precluded admittance of all cases in the area and the names of several children have had to be placed on a waiting list.

CO-ORDINATION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

A reasonable degree of co-ordination has been established between the services of the local authority and the hospital and general practitioner services in the area. At elected representative level members of the Health Committee sit on the Hospital Management

Committee and on the Local Executive Council. At officer level the Medical Officer of Health, although not on the Hospital Management Committee, is a co-opted member of the Medical Advisory Committee. He is, however, not represented on the Local Executive Council.

A Liaison Committee has been established consisting of lay and medical representatives of the hospital services at both Wigan and Leigh, lay and medical representatives of the general practitioner service, and executive council and medical representatives from the health authorities served by the two hospitals. This is an extremely useful committee which meets monthly to discuss outstanding problems of administration which are brought forward by the various members. It is unusual after free discussion if some solution is not found for what has hitherto seemed a most difficult problem and the spirit of co-operation which is evident at these meetings, augurs well for the future of the services.

Section IV

Welfare Services

ADMINISTRATION.

The Wigan County Borough Council administer their functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, through the Welfare Services Committee, and the Medical Officer of Health is the Executive Officer for Welfare Services.

The services provided by the Council are as follows:—

1. The provision of :—

   (a) Residential accommodation for 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.

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.

The County Borough Council exercise their functions under Sections 21 and 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, in accordance with Schemes approved by the Minister of Health.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION (Section 21).

Residential accommodation for persons in need of care and attention is available at the Welfare Home, Frog Lane, Wigan, and in certain other local authorities' and voluntary bodies' establishments provided for this purpose.

The following table shows the numbers and classes of persons provided with residential 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	Others	Total
On 31/12/1949	53	9	6	—	5	9	2	84
Admitted during period 31/12/49 to 31/12/50 ...	33	7	2	—	1	—	3	46
Discharged during period 31/12/49 to 31/12/50	29	5	1	—	2	1	2	40
In on 31/12/50	57	11	7	—	4	8	3	90

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

During the year, 21 families, representing a total of 13 adult males, 19 adult females and 38 children were accommodated under Section 21 (1) (b) of the National Assistance Act, 1948. The majority of these persons had been rendered homeless as a result of eviction from their homes.

The problem of sheltering evicted families is one of the most difficult duties shouldered by a Welfare Authority, and one which is increasing. It is realised that the National Assistance Act, 1948, does not place this burden directly upon a Welfare Authority, but allows the Authority to use its discretionary powers. However, when a family which includes children is without shelter, it is rather futile to talk of discretionary powers, and on humanitarian grounds, shelter must be provided in a matter of hours.

It is to be hoped that, as a result of the discussions now taking place, both nationally and locally, the problem of evicted families will be resolved.

WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS (Section 29).

BLIND.

During the year 1950, 26 persons were examined and 2 persons re-examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon, 10 of these were certified as blind, 13 were placed on the observation register, and 3 certified not blind. 2 cases were transferred out of the area, and 1 case transferred into the area. There were 16 deaths (15 blind persons and 1 partially sighted person).

On the 31st December, 1950, there were 177 registered blind persons in the Borough, and 19 cases on the Observation Register.

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, 1950, there were 12 blind persons from the County Borough employed in the Workshops.

WELFARE OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The Council have not yet prepared a scheme for the provision of Welfare arrangements for the deaf and dumb under Section 29 of the Act, but have pursued their policy of encouraging the local voluntary agency to cover the needs of this class, contributing to the funds of this agency.

The Welfare Services Committee are represented on the Committee of the Wigan and District Deaf and Dumb Society in the persons of their Chairman (Alderman F. W. Roberts) and the Vice-Chairman (Councillor J. T. Lynch). Thus the local authority is kept in close contact with the work of the voluntary agency, and a maximum liaison between the two bodies is maintained.

WELFARE OF OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

In April, 1950, a second social and handicraft centre was opened to serve the needs of those handicapped persons residing in the Pemberton area.

This Centre, together with the one in the Town Centre, have proved to be most popular and are extremely well patronised.

The recommendations of the Advisory Council for the Welfare of handicapped persons are awaited with interest, and the Council will, no doubt, base much of that part of any future scheme for handicapped persons dealing with occupational therapy on these two centres.

CO-OPERATION WITH VOLUNTARY BODIES.

Co-operation is established with the Wigan, Leigh and District Society for the Blind and the committee of the local voluntary society for the deaf and dumb has been reconstituted in such a way as to provide much closer relationship with the Welfare Services Committee. The local authority gives financial aid to both these societies to assist in the maintenance of their work.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS NEEDING CARE AND ATTENTION (Section 47).

It was not found necessary to take action under this section during 1950.

PROTECTION OF MOVEABLE PROPERTY (Section 48).

2 applications were received during the year requesting the authority to provide protection of the moveable property of persons removed to hospital or Part III accommodation. In 1 case the property was stored in the Council's premises, and in 1 case the property remained in the applicant's house.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD (Section 50).

During the year there were 5 applications to the authority for action to be taken under Section 50 regarding persons dying in the Borough. The service was provided in 2 cases.

Section V

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough is supplied with water for domestic and trade purposes from the Arley, Worthington and Pemberton impounding reservoirs, which have a total capacity of 278,000,000 gallons, and from wells at Nicholson's Pit, Winstanley and Bispham Shaft, Billinge. In addition to these local sources, bulk supplies of water are obtained from Manchester Corporation by means of a pipeline connection to the Thirlmere Aqueduct.

The Corporation also own Reservoirs at Adlington and Pemberton, which are used for compensation purposes only, and a Reservoir at Whitley provides water for industrial use. A further source is being developed at Newfoundland Shaft, Adlington, to assist the Corporation in meeting their compensation water obligations.

The catchment areas feeding the impounding reservoirs are mainly devoted to agricultural use, and both areas contain farms and isolated dwellings. The Worthington catchment has suffered due to sporadic development along the main roads traversing the area. Constant supervision is necessary to minimise the danger of pollution, and local improvements are made from time to time at points of suspected pollution.

Slow sand filters are provided at Worthington, and slow sand and mechanical filters at Edgewood (for Pemberton water). Chlorination plants are installed at Boars Head Pumping Station, Boars Head Water Tower, Edgewood and Bispham. Thus, all water supplies are chlorinated before distribution, with the exception of the trade supply from Whitley Reservoir.

Tap samples are taken every month from four dwellings selected at random in the borough, and are dispatched for chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples of raw and filtered waters are also obtained and tested. A few adverse tap samples were reported during the year, but local mains flushing and chlorination resulted in satisfactory analyses in later samples.

Typical analyses of the Worthington and Thirlmere, and Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit mixed supplies are given on Page 58.

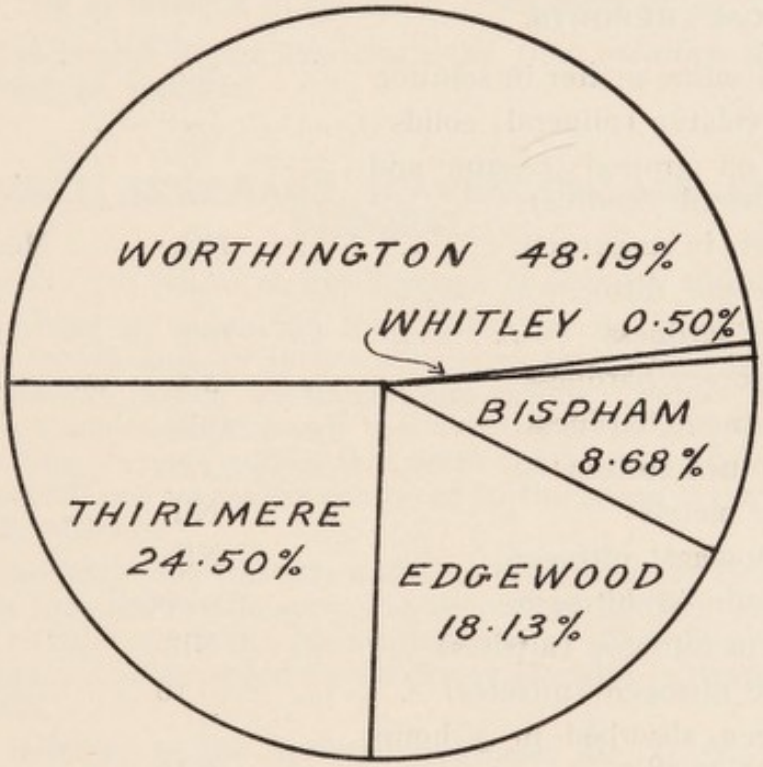
Advantage had to be taken in the summer months of the seasonal agreement with Manchester Corporation, whereby the normal supply of 500,000 gallons per day is supplemented by up to 400,000 gallons per day. The Corporation decided to meet the growing demand for water by reserving a further 500,000 gallons per day from the Manchester Corporation, but this further supply is not yet available to the Corporation.

The approximate average daily consumption for domestic purposes is 1,894,000 gallons, representing approximately 22.03 gallons per head per day for a population of 84,950.

Bulk supplies of water are made to the Orrell U.D.C., and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C., under agreements between the Corporation and the respective Councils. Several dwellings situated on the Borough boundaries are supplied with water by the Orrell U.D.C., and the Billinge and Winstanley U.D.C.

The following diagram, showing the percentages of water supplied from the various sources is extracted from the report on the Waterworks by the Borough and Water Engineer.

WATER SUPPLIED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, 1950-1951.



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

TYPICAL ANALYST'S REPORT OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN IN 1950.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS	WORTHINGTON—THIRLMERE	EDGEWOOD—NICHOLSON
Results expressed in parts per 100,000.)	A clear and Colourless water free from odour and deposit. p.H. 7.4	A clear and colourless water free from odour and containing a mere trace of white deposit. p.H. 7.3

ANALYTICAL REPORTS.

Total saline matter in solution	28.0	42.0
Non volatile (mineral) solids	—	—
Loss on ignition (organic and volatile matter)	—	—
Matters in suspension	Nil.	Mere trace.
Nature of ditto	—	—
Total hardness	16.0	17.5
Temporary hardness	5.2	13.3
Permanent hardness	10.8	4.2
Combined chlorine	1.9	2.8
Toxic metals	Nil.	Nil.
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.006	0.003
Nitrous nitrogen (nitrites)	Nil.	Nil.
Nitric nitrogen (nitrates)	0.16	0.13
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 26.7° c.	0.10	0.04

BACTERIOLOGICAL REPORT.

Probable number of coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37° C. (per 100 Ml)	Nil.	Nil.

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 Mill 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 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 1950, the following amounts of sewage have been treated at the Hoscar Moss and Pemberton Sewage Works :—

Pemberton Storm Water Works	446,760,000	gallons
Hoscar Bacteria Beds	1,187,987,000	,,
Hoscar Drainage Area	512,175,000	,,
Total sewage treated	2,146,922,000	,,
Total solids, detritus tanks and screen chambers, Pemberton	3,093	tons
Total dried sludge recovered	2,939	,,
Weight of dried sludge per million gallons of sewage	1.37	,,
Rainfall for year	33.78	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	19 per cent.
Pagefield container	30 ,,
Mechanical vehicles	51 ,,

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

Nightsoil and Pail Refuse.—The refuse (510 tons) is disposed of direct to farmers as manure. All pails are washed and disinfected after each collection.

Trade Refuse.—Fixed charges were introduced on November 1st for the removal of this refuse. The shops and business premises in the town centre have a daily collection.

Gully Cleansing.—During the year, 21,299 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 1950 was 5,965 tons, and the quantity tipped was 21,820 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, 25,566 ash bins have been provided.

123,835,000 square yards of street have been swept during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

On March 31st, 1951, the estimated number of water closets in the Borough was 28,291, waste water closets 90, 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, 931 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 :—

The sanitary inspection of the district has been carried out during the year with a full establishment of inspectors consisting of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector (who is also a district inspector) and seven other district Inspectors.

The inclement weather experienced during 1950, brought in its train, numerous complaints of defective roofs and eavesgutters, in addition to many other defects reported to the Department. Although many nuisances were abated after the service of Statutory Notices, it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings in 28 cases in view of the fact that no attempt had been made to comply with the requirements of the notices. In 8 cases the work was carried out by the Corporation as the owner had failed to obey an Order of the Court for the work to be carried out within a specified time.

It is necessary to emphasise that complaints received at the Health Department with reference to barking dogs, noise from machinery, defective and/or absence of yard gates, etc., are not Statutory nuisances and cannot be dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Many interviews have taken place with owners of property, tenants and contractors with reference to defects at various premises and by this means many misunderstandings and difficulties have been overcome. There is no doubt that these and other personal contacts with reference to many branches of our work are extremely useful and result in a better understanding and closer co-operation which is so necessary between the public and ourselves.

The overcrowding in the Borough is still acute and many applicants both on overcrowding and medical grounds still attend at the Health Department to interview the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

On the 21st August, 1950, the Food Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into force. They deal with the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and

practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption. Particular attention has been paid by inspectors to food premises with the object of enforcing these bye-laws. Advice has been given as to the best method of compliance with same, and many communications have been addressed to owners of premises calling their attention to the condition of their premises and requesting compliance with the bye-laws.

Quite apart from action being taken by the owners of premises to prevent contamination of food, it should be stressed that the employees also should observe cleanliness, both in regard to themselves and their clothing. It is of paramount importance that all persons handling food should wash their hands after using the sanitary convenience and notices should be affixed in a prominent position requesting this procedure.

The inspectors employed by the department are always available for tendering advice to any persons in doubt as to the requirements of the bye-laws.

The public can play a very important part in the clean food campaign by reporting to the Health Department any food premises which they believe to be in an unclean condition, or any employees wearing unclean clothing or overalls, and by themselves refraining from handling unwrapped foods in business premises.

It is necessary again to comment on the tipping of refuse on vacant land in the Borough, about which many complaints have been received during the year. It is difficult to convince the general public that the majority of this material is such as not to constitute a nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1936. In cases where a statutory nuisance has existed and it has been found impossible to discover the name and address of the person or persons by whose act or default the nuisance arises, we have had the full co-operation of the Director of Public Cleansing, who has removed the offensive matter from the land.

Many other duties carried out by the inspectors are set out in the body of the report.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR

Houses and premises inspected and visited *re* nuisances and complaints	2736
Re-visits to nuisances	10327
Other visits made	1485
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)	197
Nuisances discovered	6450
,, abated	5410
Notices issued (preliminary)	1321
,, (formal)	951
Letters issued *re* nuisances	1388

Visits *re* building licences	1051
Visits to premises *re* Housing Act	90
Re-visits to premises *re* Housing Act	70
Visits *re* infectious disease	223
Visits to slaughterhouses	1649
Visits *re* offensive trades	20
Visits to markets	88
,, butchers and other food shops	1659
,, cowsheds	9
,, dairies	178
,, milkshops	60
,, ice cream premises	197
,, limewashings	1
,, *re* Merchandise Marks Act	14
,, Young Persons	10
,, Conversions	4
,, to prefabricated bungalows	144
,, bakehouses	132
,, common lodging houses	44
,, houses let-in-lodgings	11
,, factories	319
,, workshops	1
,, offices	11
,, places of entertainment	19
,, caravans	23
,, caravans on fairground	56
,, canal boats	17
Visits *re* means of escape in case of fire	32
,, rats and mice—dwellings	15741
,, ,, ,, other premises	8233
,, smoke abatement	23
No. of shops observations (day)	346
No. of visits to shops under Shops Act	236
Visits *re* Poisons Acts	10
Visits to premises *re* applications for tenancy of Council houses	284

Samples Obtained :

Food and Drugs	244
Water, Milk and Ice-cream (for bacteriological examination)	328
Fertilisers and feeding stuffs	15
Rag flock	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Visits have been paid by the inspectors to industrial and other premises during the year and as a result of advice given and recommendations suggested it can be said that there is a general reduction in the amount of smoke emitted from several chimneys. Although the position is still far from satisfactory, it should be possible with

the co-operation of all concerned to achieve considerable improvement especially in the Wallgate area.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS

These premises are governed by bye-laws enforced in the Borough. Generally speaking the lodging houses have been maintained in a satisfactory condition, but it has been found necessary on occasions to draw the attention of the keepers to offences under the bye-laws.

Common Lodging Houses.

No. of common lodging houses in the Borough	5
,, lodgers allowed nightly	220
,, visits	44

Houses-let-in-Lodgings.

No. of houses on register	3
,, visits	11

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The offensive trade premises in the borough comprise : 1 fellmonger, 1 fat boiler, 1 gut scraper and fat boiler, 1 tripe boiler and 1 gut scraper.

Routine visits have been paid by the inspectors to these premises and although these trades are carried on in some cases in close proximity to dwellings, complaints are the exception rather than the rule.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911-1928.

No sample of Rag Flock was taken during the year.

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

No. of boats registered at Wigan and still in use or available	25
,, inspections	17
,, letters sent out *re* defects	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Many visits have been paid to factories, both routine inspections and on receipt of complaints from H.M. Inspector of Factories, who has always shown a willingness to co-operate with us when the occasion arises. Letters have been addressed to owners of premises

calling their attention to breaches of the Act, but in some cases in formal action only has been necessary.

It is again pleasing to record the assistance and co-operation received from the Fire Service when dealing with certificates of means of escape in case of fire in factories.

No. of factories on register	443
,, bakehouses on register	99
,, visits to factories	319
,, visits to bakehouses	132

The following defects were dealt with :—

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	3
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	20
Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes	1
Require limewashing or cleansing	10
Inadequate ventilation	2
Other offences	8
	44

No. of defects remedied	24
,, notices received from H.M. Inspector	18
,, underground bakehouses being used	3

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The larger shops in the Borough still continue to close earlier in the evenings than required by the Shops Act, but complaints are still being received of non-compliance with the Act in the case of hairdressers, particularly the ladies' section. These complaints have been investigated by the Inspectors and observations carried out in the evenings, but with very little result as far as being able to take formal action is concerned. It cannot be too often emphasised that it is very difficult to deal with persons in this type of business because any person entering the premises a few minutes before the time appointed for closing can receive attention and an Inspector may observe the shop lighted up two or three hours after closing time, but unless he can prove that the person or persons concerned entered the shop after the appointed hour no formal action can be taken.

Inspections have been carried out in the shops in the Borough with regard to sanitary and washing accommodation, lighting, temperature, etc., and the exhibiting of various notices required by the Act. Informal action only was necessary in some cases and in others communications were addressed to the owners of the premises to secure compliance with the requirements of the Acts and Regulations.

No. of shops on register	1608
,, visits and observations	582

REPORT OF OFFENCES.

Not exhibiting form "F"	1
,, form "G"	1
,, form "H"	1
,, form "K"	5
,, Sunday Trading form 5	5
,, assistants' half-holiday forms	17
Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes	3
Unclean condition of sanitary accommodation	7
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	6
Provision of suitable accommodation for meals	1
Provision of suitable washing facilities	15
Insufficient ventilation	2
Cleanliness of shop premises	12
Provision of seating accommodation for female staff	1
Defective structure of shop fabric	10
Letters sent out *re* contraventions	53

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

No. of "Listed Sellers" on register	121
,, visits to registered premises	10
,, letters sent out	1

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

The 24 places of entertainment have received periodical visits during the year. As is the usual practice a special visit is paid before the annual renewal of licences takes place and any defects and deficiencies are noted and if necessary appropriate action is taken.

RODENT CONTROL.

As in previous years, the routine search has been continued and in addition to this many complaints have been received at the Department, of the presence of rats and mice in dwellings, business premises, schools, etc.

Special inspections have been made and immediate steps taken to disinfestate the premises concerned. It has been found that the presence of rats in many cases has been attributed to defective drains, and in these cases, the rodent operators report and co-operate with the district Sanitary Inspectors who inspect and test the drains. Many notices have been served on owners of dwellings and other premises in this connection. Private dwellings receive a free treatment, except in the case of defective drains, but a charge is made for business and other premises.

During the year, 130 premises were reported to be infested with rats and 21 were still under observation from complaints received in

1949. 30 premises were still under observation and 121 premises were reported as cleared at 31st December, 1950. 123 complaints of mice infestation were received during the year and on the 31st December, 1950, 116 premises had been cleared and 35 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 945 (bodies found 101) rodents : this includes trapping.

A survey of the sewers was carried out and manholes were treated twice during the year :

(Total number of manholes in foul and connected systems, 1,185).

		Treatment No. 1	Treatment No. 2
1.	Bait base and poison used :	Sausage rusk & zinc phosphate.	Bread rusk and arsenic.
2.	Number of manholes baited	568	560
3.	Number of manholes showing prebait take	136	90
4.	Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (on one or both days)	88	53
5.	Number of manholes test-baited in conjunction with this treatment and not included in No. 2 above	191	—

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

Poison points laid	45
Poison points taken	18

The three Rodent Control Operators made a total of 23,833 visits throughout the year.

The Workable Area Committee representing Wigan and the surrounding districts has met on several occasions during the year. This Committee serves a very useful purpose and tends to greater co-operation between the various local authorities in the area.

Section VI

Housing

GENERAL.

Housing Accommodation, as at 31st December, 1950 :—

No. of dwelling houses	22,138
No. of business premises with living accommodation	979
	23,117

There is still a long list of applicants for the tenancy of council houses. Overcrowding in the Borough is still acute, in addition to the fact that many houses are in a state of dis-repair and many are unfit for human habitation and cannot be rendered fit at reasonable expense. In this respect it is only possible to deal with houses which have become dangerous and generally beyond repair.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2839
(*b*) Number of re-inspections made	10327
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	14
(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	2739

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	1776

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2662
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(*a*) By owners	679
(*b*) By local authority in default of owners	4

INSANITARY HOUSES.

Many houses in the Borough are unfit for human habitation, but it is wellnigh impossible with the large number of housing applications to take any action on a large scale. Consequently, only

houses considered structurally dangerous, in addition to having other serious defects, have been reported to the Health (Insanitary Houses) Sub-committee. In some cases, Demolition Orders have been made on the premises and in others an undertaking has been received from the owners not to re-let the houses for human habitation when they become vacant.

During the year, 14 houses have been condemned and in each case the tenants of the properties have been granted the tenancies of council houses.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING—DEFENCE REGULATION 56 A.

At the beginning of the year the Ministry of Health circularised local authorities informing them of a decision to secure a reduction of 20% in the total value of licences for all work to existing private dwellings (maintenance, repairs, etc.) as from 1st January, 1950, and stated that all licences issued in 1950 must not exceed four-fifths of the total value of all licences issued for such work during 1949. This caused some difficulty and delay in the issue of licences for essential work, such as defective roofs which required re-slating and for which in some cases statutory notices had been served by the Department.

The local authority is only concerned with private dwelling houses, the Ministry of Works being responsible for business premises.

No. of licences issued during the year	12
No. of certificates issued to obtain eavesgutter, floor boards, etc.	739

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN DURING THE YEAR :

In 27 cases it was necessary to issue summonses against persons for non-compliance with abatement notices :

4 of these summonses were withdrawn as the work was either completed or almost completed.

23 nuisance orders were made by the Court for the work to be carried out within periods varying from two to eight weeks.

In addition one case was brought before the Magistrates for failure to comply with a nuisance order made in October, 1949. A fine of £2 on each of 3 counts and a penalty of 10/- a day on each of 3 counts until the nuisances were abated, was imposed.

Section VII

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK SUPPLY.

MILK SUPPLY: FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, AND MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

The premises producing pasteurised milk in the Borough are regularly visited by the inspectors and frequent sampling of milk is carried out to ensure that the keeping qualities and bacteriological standard are maintained. It is pleasing to note that a very high standard was maintained during the year as regards keeping quality and efficient pasteurisation. Samples of raw milk, a small quantity of which is still retailed in the Borough, were taken for the T.B. (Inoc.) Test and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

Every effort is made to safeguard the milk supply of the Borough by regular visits to dairies and milk shops, but more especially by regular sampling of the milk from shops, carts on the streets and at the point of delivery to dairies. These are submitted to the Public Analyst and if an unsatisfactory report is received, further samples are taken and if necessary ' appeal to cow ' samples are obtained.

Although the local authority has no longer control over the farms, certain powers are still retained enabling us to take samples of milk at these premises.

No. of visits to cowsheds	9
,, dairies	178
,, milkshops	60
No. of dealers licensed for the sale of sterilised milk	373
,, licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk	119
,, licensed for the sale of tuberculin tested milk	17
,, as dealer (pasteuriser)	5
,, dealer (Steriliser)	1
No. of persons registered as distributors of milk	402
No. of premises registered as dairies	12

During the year 146 samples were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in milk intended for sale in the Borough.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

137 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. 121 samples were pasteurised milk and 16 sterilised.

One sample of pasteurised milk failed to pass the Phosphatase test. In 4 samples the Methylene Blue test was void because the maximum atmospheric shade temperature was over 65°F.

16 samples of sterilised milk were submitted to the Turbidity Test and were found to be satisfactory.

8 samples of raw milk were submitted for the T.B. Inoculation Test and tuberculous infection was present in two of these.

4 samples of washings from milk churns were also submitted for examination, 1 of which was reported to be unsatisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

MANUFACTURERS AND PREMISES.

Routine visits have been paid to the premises where ice cream is manufactured and during the year, 60 samples were obtained and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and graded as follows :—

Grade 1.	34	Grades 1 and 2, 46 samples, are recognised as satisfactory.
Grade 2.	12	
Grade 3.	8	Grades 3 and 4, 14 samples are considered unsatisfactory.
Grade 4.	6	

11 samples of ice cream were obtained and submitted to the Public Analyst to ascertain the fat content. These were reported on as follows :—

2.5% to 5.0%	1
5.0% to 7.5%	2
7.5% to 10.0%	5
10.0% to 12.5%	2
12.5% to 15.0%	1

When samples are adversely reported upon, a visit is immediately paid to the premises by an inspector and steps taken both by examination of the machinery and premises generally to locate the cause. Further samples are taken and, if considered necessary, sampling at various steps in the manufacture of the ice cream is carried out. It cannot be over-emphasised that in the manufacture of this commodity, as in other food manufacturing processes, personal cleanliness is vital, particularly the washing of the hands after the use of the sanitary convenience and the provision of clean overalls. The practice of selling loose ice cream by retail from barrows and carts in the streets still prevails despite the fact that every effort is made by the inspectors to advise retailers to sell this article of food prepacked.

RETAILERS.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream on 31st December, 1950, was 154.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

86 shops in the Borough carry on the trade of fish frying and routine visits are paid to these premises by the inspectors. Although this trade can give rise to serious nuisances unless a high standard of cleanliness, both of premises and persons employed in the business is maintained, it is pleasing to record once again that complaints of nuisances from these premises are practically unknown.

REGISTRATION OF PURVEYORS OF MEAT AND PREMISES.

The number of premises registered is 91.

Frequent visits have been paid by the Inspectors to these premises and the necessity for cleanliness both of premises and employees has been stressed on the persons concerned. In the majority of cases, informal action only has been necessary and advice and guidance from the Inspectors has had the desired effect. Although considerable improvement has been noticed with regard to the practice of carrying meat without head coverings and clean overalls, it has been found necessary in a small number of cases to draw the attention of persons engaged in the trade to this practice. It may in some cases be due to thoughtlessness or lack of appreciation of the fact that meat is liable to contamination by contact with the head or dirty clothing.

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 :—

Parts per 100,000

	Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	Thirlmere	Worthington and Thirlmere
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Temporary Hardness	14.38	14.80	1.94	4.63
Permanent Hardness	7.01	4.20	1.58	8.81
Total Hardness	21.39	19.00	3.52	13.44
Combined Chlorine	3.11	2.95	1.10	2.03
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—	0.0004	—	0.0003
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.0024	0.0038	0.0019	0.0087
Nitrogen as Nitrites	—	—	—	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.205	0.189	0.065	0.185
Oxygen absorbed (in 3 hrs. at 37°C.)	0.023	0.039	0.054	0.095
PH Value	7.09	7.22	7.18	7.22

2 other samples, taken from points of entry to reservoirs, were also submitted.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

During the year, 48 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination. The results

of 9 of these examinations were unsatisfactory, and, in consequence, 10 further samples were taken, only 2 of which failed to reach the usual standard.

54 other samples of water were taken at points of entry to the reservoirs.

There is no part of the Borough dependant upon standpipes for a supply.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Daily inspection has been carried out at the six slaughterhouses in the Borough. Three are situated in the Scholes area and these are used for the slaughter of cattle, sheep, pigs and calves, and the remaining three for the slaughter of pigs only.

Inspection at the three slaughterhouses in the Scholes area is carried out under very difficult conditions owing to lack of space and other facilities so necessary to efficient inspection.

Representations were made to the Ministry on this vital question and during the year a deputation representing the Corporation attended at the Ministry of Food in London and submitted the views of the Local Authority on the unsatisfactory condition of the slaughterhouses, together with a strong recommendation for the establishment of a public abattoir within the County Borough of Wigan.

A meeting was also arranged with representatives of the Wigan and District Butchers' Guardian Association, when they submitted their views on the slaughterhouses and the question of the provision of a public abattoir in the Borough.

Frequent inspections have been made at the butchers' shops and vans, and on the whole they comply with the requirements of the regulations and bye-laws. In addition to meat killed at the slaughterhouses, large quantities of frozen meat, already inspected is imported into the town. Condemned meat is sent to a local fat melter for manufacturing purposes only and lists of quantities received by this firm, are forwarded to the Department.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses	1649
,, ,, markets	88
,, ,, butchers' and other food shops	1659
,, certificates issued (condemned food)	1107

CARCASES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
Carcases examined	6505	4091	2664	10089	30426	53775
Carcases totally condemned ...	50	138	41	50	14	293
Percentage totally condemned ...	0.77	3.37	1.54	0.50	0.05	0.54

The following meat and offal from the Ministry of Food slaughter-houses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1950 :—

	Whole Carcase and all Offal Condemned	Part of Carcase Condemned	Offal Condemned.									
			Heads	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Skirts.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.
Affected with Tuberculosis :												
Cattle (exc. cows) ...	44	28	288	994	307	28	38	54	75	6	—	53
Cows	113	79	646	1914	709	61	170	212	330	36	44	184
Calves	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	36	13	417	278	250	113	48	7	1	2	—	73
Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with other Diseases, etc.:												
Cattle (exc. cows)...	6	1	39	908	2440	39	4	22	26	52	—	3
Cows	25	3	54	576	1730	30	15	62	26	155	717	4
Calves	37	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs	14	35	3	804	119	211	83	3	1	20	32	6
Sheep	14	8	13	102	1947	25	—	—	—	—	—	2
	293	167	1460	5577	7506	507	358	360	459	271	793	325

SUMMARY OF OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED, 1950.

Imported Meat	569	lbs.
Other Meat and Offal	4,423	lbs.
Sausages	180	lbs.
Bacon	92	lbs.
Canned Meat	782	
Fish	12,782	lbs.
Canned Fish	283	
Fruit	2,223	lbs.
Canned Fruit	621	
Vegetables	2,799	lbs.
Canned Vegetables	1,331	
Cheese	44	lbs.
Rabbits	1,274	
Margarine	100	lbs.
Canned Milk	3,913	
Canned Jam	192	
Canned Soup	128	
Packages of other food	1,115	
Other canned or bottled foods	140	
Fowl	14	
Cockles and Mussels	7	bags
Crabs	2	barrels
Sago	124	lbs.
Macaroni	28	lbs.
Rice	20	lbs.

Eggs (liquid)	40 lbs.
Ice Cream	128 bars

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

MARKETS.

The wholesale and retail fish markets are visited daily, and in addition to the routine examination of fish, there are occasions when the proprietors, if in doubt as to the fitness or otherwise of fish, poultry, etc., seek our advice before they are offered for sale.

Routine visits are also paid to the fruit stalls.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

During the year, 244 samples of milk and various other foods obtained under the above act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1950.

Articles	Total Number Analysed	Samples regarded as adulterated below standard or otherwise not complying with the prescribed requirements	
		Number	Percentage
Butter	7	—	—
Cake	4	—	—
Cheese	6	—	—
Coffee	7	—	—
Condensed Milk	3	—	—
Cooking Fat	4	—	—
Gin	1	—	—
Ice Cream	11	—	—
Jam	10	—	—
Margarine	7	—	—
Meat Paste	4	—	—
Meat Pies	4	—	—
Milk	146	* 6	4.1
Milk Lolly	2	—	—
Pepper	3	—	—
Rum	1	—	—
Salad Dressing	2	—	—
Sausage	8	—	—
Sweets	1	—	—
Tea	7	—	—
Vinegar	4	—	—
Whisky	2	—	—
TOTAL	244	6	2.5

*Action taken in regard to the six adulterated samples is given on page 80.

ACTION TAKEN IN REGARD TO ADULTERATED SAMPLES

Article	No. of Sample		Extent of adulteration	Action taken
	Informal	Formal		
Milk	17		Deficient in fat to the extent of 5%.	Further sample taken
Milk		32	Deficient in fat to the extent of 7.6%	Analyst advised no action.
Milk		76	Deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6%	Analyst advised no action.
Milk	126		Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3%	Analyst advised no action.
Milk	131		Deficient in fat to the extent of 21.6%	Further sample taken
Milk		148	Deficient in fat to the extent of 7.6%	Analyst advised no action.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

7 samples of fertilisers and 8 samples of feeding stuffs were submitted to the Agricultural Analyst and he reported that they complied with the statutory statement within the Limits of Variation, except in the case of 5 samples to which reference is made in the Analyst's Report on page 82.

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, 1950 :—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,
359, The Cliff,
Higher Broughton,
Manchester, 7.
9th May, 1951.

The Public Analyst has the honour briefly to summarize the work for which he is responsible to the Health and Water Departments of the Corporation during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1950.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Total number of foods and drugs analysed	244
Number adulterated, below standard, or otherwise not complying with prescribed requirements	6
Percentage so reported against	2.5

The only samples reported against were samples of milk, all of which were deficient in fat to the following extent, respectively : 21.6, 7.6 (2 cases), 6.6, 5, 3.3 per cent.

Analytical particulars of all the samples of milk were given on the various certificates issued during the year. The previous high level of quality has been maintained and freedom from preservatives and colouring matter continues.

Six samples of beef sausage were examined during the year. All the samples except one contained more than the required minimum meat content (50%), the one exception being so slightly deficient or border-line as scarcely to warrant condemnation. The meat content of the foregoing was 61.4, 59.4, 58.9, 58.3, 58.0, and 49.5 per cent, respectively. Two samples of pork sausage were examined. One, submitted when the required meat content was 50%, contained 55.8% of meat. The other contained 64.7% of meat, and as this was analysed after the standard had been raised to 65%, it was none the less genuine in that a tolerance of 2.5% was applied in accordance with the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Amendment) Order, 1950.

On March 1st, 1951, the Ministry of Food established a legal standard for ice cream, which must now contain no less than 5% of fat, 10% of sugar and 7.5% of milk solids other than fat. The eleven samples examined during 1950, showed fat contents varying between 3.5 and 13.6 per cent., and as there was then no statutory or other limit, they were reported as genuine.

A wide range of foodstuffs, including groceries such as the rationed fats, cheese and jams, were found to be in order, as were also samples of whisky, gin and rum.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

During the year seven samples of fertilisers and eight samples of feeding stuffs were submitted for examination to check the statutory statements attached to the conditions of sale.

The fertilisers were : No. 1, Complete Fertiliser, Superior Top Dressing Manure, Grass and Grain Manure, Potato Fertiliser, Summit Fertiliser, Excelnitre Fertiliser and Grass (Potassic) Fertiliser.

After applying the allowed tolerance, five of the samples showed a variation from the statutory statements. The Superior Top Dressing Manure and Grass and Grain Manure each contained a slight excess of insoluble phosphoric acid and the No. 1 Complete Fertiliser contained an excess of soluble phosphoric acid, in which constituent the Grass (Potassic) Fertiliser was deficient. Finally the Potato Fertiliser was slightly deficient in potash.

The eight feeding stuffs comprised : three Dairy Meals, Maize Germ Meal, Sweetened Palm Kernel Meal, Pig Meal, Laying Meal and Sterilised Feeding Bone Flour. After application of the tolerance, one Dairy Meal was found to be deficient in albuminoids, and the Maize Germ Meal contained an excess of oil and albuminoids, while the Sweetened Palm Kernel Meal was deficient in oil but contained an excess of sugar. The remaining five samples were in order.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1912.

No samples were submitted for examination under the provisions of the above Act during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The practice of checking the organic quality of the various supplies represented by four samples every month was contiued throughout the year. Without entering into details, available in the certificates which are presented to the Health and Water Committees, it can be said that nothing was disclosed in the analyses suggesting that the supplies were other than of potable fitness. Fluctuations due to prevailing climatic conditions have certainly been observed and attention directed to them, particularly in the case of the Worthington water, and with regard to Tunley Brook and other feeders a full survey was carried out during the month of September.

(Signed) S. Ernest Melling,
Public Analyst.

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

Section VIII

Prevalence of *and* Control over Infectious Disease

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified During the Year, 1950

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified																								
	Age Groups										Ward Residence														
	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	St. George 1	Lindsay 2	St. Cath 3	St. Patrick 4	St. Thomas 5	Poolstock 6	Victoria 7	St. Andrew 8	Swinley 9	All Saints 10	West Pem. 11	North Pem. 12	Central Pem. 13	South Pem. 14
Acute Polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	5	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentry	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	11	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	1	2	2
Influenzal Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	544	30	107	209	194	3	—	1	—	—	4	30	20	33	19	11	34	183	34	7	33	51	70	15
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	89	4	6	5	8	6	6	10	23	21	1	4	3	8	2	—	2	27	10	5	4	2	12	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Scarlet Fever	138	—	19	55	55	7	1	1	—	—	4	3	8	16	3	6	7	8	10	4	20	13	33	3
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary ..	73	—	1	—	—	1	21	31	17	2	5	—	4	10	—	4	3	10	9	4	2	9	9	4
Other Forms ..	14	—	—	1	3	4	4	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	1	1	1	3	1
Whooping Cough	106	8	30	40	27	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	20	3	1	1	5	15	2	2	13	13	22	6
Totals	991	43	165	311	287	24	37	53	45	26	16	40	56	73	26	23	53	253	71	23	73	91	151	42

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS, 1950.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct..	Nov	Dec.	Totals
Acute Polioencephalitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	2	–	5
Non-Paralytic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dysentry	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Enteric Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Erysipelas	2	–	–	1	–	2	–	3	2	1	–	–	11
Influenzal Pneumonia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Measles	3	1	–	5	9	10	10	13	10	38	89	356	544
Meningococcal Infection	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Paratyphoid Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pneumonia	3	12	22	9	8	4	2	1	7	6	5	10	89
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	4
Scarlet Fever	10	2	5	3	6	9	20	16	24	18	10	15	138
Smallpox	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	7	6	9	6	14	7	7	4	4	2	4	3	73
Other Forms	3	1	–	1	1	3	1	–	1	–	–	3	14
Whooping Cough	–	–	–	3	3	–	7	3	9	1	25	55	106
	29	25	36	29	42	36	48	41	58	70	135	442	991

COMPARATIVE NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Disease	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	1	1	5
Non-Paralytic										2
Chickenpox	380	135	80	109	48	96	25	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Memb Croup	193	150	113	61	70	59	27	8	1	—
Dysentry	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	60	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	27	19	30	15	20	8	11	18	14	11
Influenzal Pneumonia	5	8	10	5	5	2	2	—	—	—
Measles	1102	394	1061	130	963	167	510	1465	321	544
Meningococcal Infection	22	16	8	3	2	3	5	4	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	5	4	2	1	2	2	4	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	164	75	101	69	61	54	31	5	73	89
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	4	2	1	2	1	2	4	4	4
Scarlet Fever	109	106	175	310	171	93	532	839	146	138
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	61	89	95	81	106	101	86	79	72	73
Other Forms	46	45	56	32	36	22	27	24	12	14
Whooping Cough	197	60	58	76	21	111	31	104	157	106
	2318	1110	1793	896	1506	719	1317	2595	862	991

DIPHTHERIA.

For the first time in Wigan, no case was notified.

SCARLET FEVER.

138 cases were notified, 46 of which were removed to hospital. There was no death.

MEASLES.

544 cases were notified. No death was recorded.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.

One notified case after receiving treatment at Whelley Hospital was discharged, recovered.

In addition three deaths during the year were classified as due to meningococcal infections.

WHOOPING COUGH.

106 cases were notified, and there was no death.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

Paralytic :

5 cases were notified, one of which died.

Non-Paralytic :

2 cases were notified. There was no death.

The Registrar General after special investigation brought to our notice an infant death which was ascribed to Polio-encephalitis.

The death had previously been classified as :—

(*a*) Pulmonary oedema

(*b*) Convulsions.

ERYSIPELAS.

11 cases were notified, and there was no death.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

4 cases were notified, all of which were treated in hospital. All the cases recovered.

DYSENTERY.

3 cases of sonne dysentery were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NOTIFICATIONS 1950.

Formal Notifications.

Age Periods	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis.													
	0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total (all ages)
Respiratory Males ...	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	8	9	8	8	2	—	45
Respiratory Females ...	—	1	—	—	—	7	5	10	4	1	—	—	—	28
Non-respiratory Males ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Non-respiratory Females ...	—	—	—	2	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	10

Cases coming to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health Otherwise than by Formal Notification.

Source of Information			0—	1—	2—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—	Total	
Death Returns from Local Registrars	Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	A
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	B
	Non-Resp.	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	C
		F	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	D
Death Returns from Registrar-General–Transferable Deaths	Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	B
	Non-Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
		F	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	D
Posthumous Notifications	Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	B
	Non-Resp.	M	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	C
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D
Transfers from other areas, excluding Transfer D'ths	Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	A
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	5	B
	Non-Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	D
Other Sources	Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	B
	Non-Resp.	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	C
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	D

Notifications in Wards.

Wards	Estimated Population	Pulmonory Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
No. 1—St. George ...	2676	5	1	6
No. 2—Lindsay	4921	—	—	—
No. 3—St. Catharine ..	5807	4	—	4
No. 4—St. Patrick ..	6537	10	1	11
No. 5—St. Thomas ...	2622	—	—	—
No. 6—Poolstock ..	3870	4	—	4
No. 7—Victoria	2999	3	—	3
No. 8—St. Andrew ...	16800	10	4	14
No. 9—Swinley	10457	9	1	10
No, 10—All Saints ...	2297	4	1	5
No. 11—West Pemberton	4527	2	1	3
No. 12—North ,, ...	6719	9	1	10
No. 13—Central ,, ...	9746	9	3	12
No. 14—South ,, ...	4972	4	1	5
Totals	84950	73	14	87

Deaths in Wards.

Wards	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Total
No. 1—St. George	5	—	5
No. 2—Lindsay	1	1	2
No. 3—St. Catharine	1	—	1
No. 4—St. Patrick	3	1	4
No. 5—St. Thomas	1	—	1
No. 6—Poolstock	1	—	1
No. 7—Victoria	4	—	4
No. 8—St. Andrew	8	2	10
No. 9—Swinley	2	1	3
No. 10—All Saints	—	—	—
No. 11—West Pemberton	1	—	1
No. 12—North Pemberton	2	—	2
No. 13—Central Pemberton	5	1	6
No. 14—South Pemberton	1	1	2
Totals	35	7	42

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Respiratory		New Cases. Non-Respiratory		Deaths Respiratory		Deaths Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
5—	1	—	2	5	—	—	1	1
15—	9	12	—	3	1	3	—	1
25—	17	14	—	1	4	10	1	—
45—	16	1	1	—	11	3	—	—
65—	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
75—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	45	28	4	10	18	17	4	3

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 35, against 42 in 1949, and 35 in 1948. The number of deaths from other tubercular affections is 7, against 7 in 1949, and 5 in 1948.

The rates are as follows :—

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

Other Tuberculous Diseases 0.08 ,, ,,

If taken together as tuberculous affections, we have 42 deaths, or a rate of 0.49 per 1,000 of the population.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1946 TO 1950.

Cases Notified.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Pulmonary	101	86	79	72	73
Other forms of Tuberculosis	22	27	24	12	14
Total	123	113	103	84	87

Deaths.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Pulmonary	36	64	35	42	35
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	3	5	7	7
Total	39	67	40	49	42

Death Rates.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Pulmonary	0.43	0.76	0.41	0.49	0.41
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.08
Total	0.47	0.79	0.47	0.57	0.49

REVISED DIAGNOSIS.

Notified.			Revised diagnosis.
1 case of Pneumonia	....	....	Meningococcal Infection.

DISINFECTION.

Two disinfectors deal with the disinfection of dwelling-houses.

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

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.

No. of houses disinfected	....	213
,, rooms disinfected	....	472
,, beds disinfected	....	70
,, sheets and quilts disinfected	....	493
,, other articles disinfected	....	265
,, library books disinfected	....	73
,, schools disinfected	....	2

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.

Section IX

Other Diseases

BRONCHITIS.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	89	97	73	110	99
Rates	1.07	1.15	0.87	1.30	1.16

PNEUMONIA.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	48	70	49	50	36
Rates	0.59	0.83	0.58	0.59	0.42

OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	11	12	10	13	11
Rates	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.15	0.13

TOTAL OF THESE THREE RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	148	179	132	173	146
Rates	1.79	2.12	1.57	2.04	1.71

INFLUENZA.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	33	27	19	33	33
Rates	0.39	0.32	0.23	0.39	0.39

CANCER.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deaths	121	131	129	147	141
Rates	1.46	1.56	1.53	1.74	1.67

Figures for Last 20 Years.

Year.	No. of Deaths.		Year.	No. of Deaths.	
1931	105	538	1941	122	609
1932	107		1942	117	
1933	102		1943	124	
1934	110		1944	129	
1935	114		1945	117	
1936	125	586	1946	121	669
1937	127		1947	131	
1938	113		1948	129	
1939	108		1949	147	
1940	113		1950	141	

INDEX.

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