

[Report 1951] / Medical Officer of Health, Wigan County Borough.

Contributors

Wigan (England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1951

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/fnjw8rnb>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

44862
DUPLICATE
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY



Annual Report
on the
Health
of the
County Borough of Wigan
by the
Medical Officer of Health
1951

52

ANNALS OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

FOR THE YEAR 1880

VOLUME 1

1881



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE


HEALTH

OF THE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN

FOR THE YEAR 1951

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



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMMITTEES	2
STAFF	2
LETTER	5
Section 1. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA	9
Section 2. STATISTICS	13
Section 3. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA	27
Care of Mothers and Young Children.	
Midwives.	
Health Visiting.	
Children Act, 1948.	
Home Nursing.	
Vaccination and Immunisation.	
Ambulance Service.	
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.	
Domestic Help Service.	
Mental Health Service.	
Co-ordination of Health Services.	
Section 4. WELFARE SERVICES	49
Section 5. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	55
Section 6. HOUSING	69
Section 7. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD....	73
Section 8. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE	85
Section 9. OTHER DISEASES	95
INDEX	97

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1951.

(appointed 24th May, 1951).

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

WELFARE SERVICES COMMITTEE, 1951.

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

STAFF, 1951.

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. (Died, 16th Dec.).
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 (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>).
Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector		V. JONES (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>)
Sanitary Inspectors	....	R. C. WOODS (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) P. STRAFFORD (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>f</i>) F. L. THOMAS (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (leave of absence from 1st Oct.). J. B. MARSH (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>f</i>) G. DUNN (<i>a</i>) C. JACKSON (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) E. CARSON (<i>a</i>) (<i>b</i>) (<i>f</i>)
Health Visitors	....	M. E. WHEAT (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) E. HANSON (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) E. M. WRIGHT (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) C. JACKSON (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) (<i>g</i>) C. LAVIN (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) (<i>h</i>) (to 31st March). E. FARLEY (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) C. V. KILCULLEN (<i>d</i>) (<i>e</i>) (from 1st June).
Tuberculosis Nurse	....	E. CODY (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>)
Supervisor of Midwives	....	E. M. READING (<i>c</i>) (<i>d</i>)

Midwives :

E. B. BROOKS (c)	E. WILLIAMS (c) (d)
M. QUINN (c) (d)	M. WOODWARD (c)
E. HIGHTON (c)	R. M. HADDOCK (c) (d)
M. L. LYNCH (c)	E. S. ROGERS (c)
H. E. MAXWELL (c)	M. V. HUGHES (c) (d)
C. MORRIS (c) (d)	D. CAREY (c) (d)
C. RYDER (c) (d)	K. A. KERMEEN (c) (d)

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. PIETRE, B.A.

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.
August, 1952.

*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 1951.

As in my two previous reports, one section deals with the administration of the Council's functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, which is undertaken by the Health Department.

It is with deep regret that I record the death on the 16th December of Dr. H. Richmond, sometime Deputy Medical Officer of Health of the Borough. Although since the "Appointed Day" he was called upon to serve two masters, he always realized the importance of the preventive aspect of his work and his efforts will long be remembered by the community which he so faithfully served.

The Registrar General's estimate of population for the Borough, calculated for mid-1951, was 84,170. The statistical section of the report is based upon this figure and records the fact that the birth rate at 15.79 is still continuing on the downward trend which commenced in 1948. In this respect it closely follows the trend for England and Wales as a whole. The crude death rate 14.54, is somewhat higher than in the previous year (12.57) and is higher than the figure (13.4) which is given for the principal cities and large towns. This is to some extent a reflexion of the influenza epidemic which affected the population in the first few weeks of the year and which appeared to spread from the Merseyside epidemic, which started in the last week of 1950. A short note concerning the epidemic will be found in the Section dealing with infectious diseases.

It is also probable that the epidemic is further reflected in the infantile mortality rate which is given as 43.6. For some years this rate has been following the national trend, although at a higher level. In 1951, however, the expected decrease did not take place, but a perusal of the infant deaths will reveal that three of them were ascribed

to influenza, which is a very unusual cause of death in this age group. Indeed our records show that only 7 such deaths occurred in the past 20 years.

Even so the infantile mortality rate in Wigan is higher than in most towns of comparable size and as I mentioned in a previous report, the key to the problem is education of the parents. Unfortunately we are seriously hampered in our work in this field by a continued shortage of health visitors.

The maternal mortality rate at 0.73 per thousand live and still births is extremely satisfactory and indicates the high standard of ante-natal care and midwifery practised in the town. I mentioned in my last report that a special service had been inaugurated to deal with premature infants on the districts and during the year no fewer than 40 cases received the attention of the specially trained personnel. The results are extremely gratifying and compare very favourably with the results obtained when premature babies are hospitalised.

During the year publicity has been given in the national press to the occurrence of cases of retrolental fibroplasia, causing blindness in premature babies, and in the Department special attention has been given to this problem. Our records, however, show that since 1949, there have been no cases of this distressing condition in the Borough, although in proportion to our population, we get rather more than our share of premature infants. On casting round for a possible explanation of our apparent good fortune, it has occurred to my staff that it has never been their practice to use high concentrations of oxygen in the resuscitation of premature infants, and I note that some authorities have recently considered this as a possible contributory cause.

I am again able to report that during the past twelve months, there has been no confirmed case of diphtheria. A relatively mild epidemic of measles, widespread but involving some 1,059 cases occurred mainly during the months of January and February. There were no deaths.

The local authority services under the National Health Service Acts are functioning smoothly and much progress has been made during the year to co-ordinate the various services providing

succour to the needy in their own homes. In order to facilitate the work of the home nursing and home help services in the care of invalids and others who are unable to prepare a hot meal or to have one prepared for them, the Health Committee decided to inaugurate a "Meals on Wheels" Service under their proposals for care and after care. The resulting service is extremely useful and after a recent review of the type of case receiving the daily meal, I am convinced that a long-felt need is being filled.

The Mental Health Service has continued to do much to protect the interests of both the patients and the community and a glance at the relevant section reveals the volume of work which is being performed. A new and welcome feature was the opening in March of the psychiatric clinic at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Our plans for a new Occupation Centre are complete and with the approval of the appropriate Ministry, building should commence in 1952.

In the Welfare Services Section there has been much activity preparing for the furnishing and opening of Douglas Bank Hostel, and in the acquisition of a holiday hostel on the North Wales coast. In addition the foundation stone of Norley Hostel was laid on the 7th November, and building is going rapidly ahead.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has commented at length on the work of his Department and a perusal of his report will reveal the enormous amount of painstaking work which is done by the inspectors to maintain and improve the environmental hygiene of the Borough. In particular I would draw your attention to the increasing number of individually unfit houses which it is found necessary to report to the Insanitary Houses sub-committee. The most serious aspect of this problem is that there is unavoidably considerable delay in re-housing the tenants of these houses, the majority of which are in a structurally dangerous condition. In the circumstances it behoves us to take measures to conserve such houses as remain fit for habitation, even though they may at times be adjacent to and contiguous with houses to be dealt with as dangerous and insanitary under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. To this end we must continue to make use of the Closing Order in respect of single houses of the terrace type.

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 I.

**Natural and
Social Conditions
of the Area**

GENERAL.

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,082
Rateable value of the Borough	....	....	....	....	....	....	£469,103
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	£1,880
Registrar General's estimated population on 1st July 1951 (on which figure statistics in this report are based)	....	....	....	....	....	....	84,170
Number of inhabited houses on the 31st December, 1951 (according to the rate books)....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23,303
Number of marriages solemnised within the Borough during 1951	....	....	....	....	....	....	726

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 this 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 84,170, especially when it is realised that the great majority of dwellinghouses are not and cannot in the foreseeable future be provided with a private bath. The recent accent on physical education in schools, demands that urgent steps should be taken to provide more commodious and more modern bathing facilities when the economic situation of the nation permits.

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 :

1948	....	....	....	....	142,543
1949	....	....	....	....	165,629
1950	....	....	....	....	202,283
1951	....	....	....	....	175,177
1952	....	....	....	....	161,951

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	....	....	....	....	74,514
Male Private Baths	....	....	....	....	18,013
Female Plunge Baths	....	....	....	....	26,373
Female Private Baths	....	....	....	....	6,303
Mixed Bathing : Adults and Juniors	....	....	....	....	8,799
Contracts, Free Passes, Season Tickets, etc.	....	....	....	....	27,949
Total	....	....	....	....	<u>161,951</u>

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

Since the publication of my last report a new Chlorine and Chemical Dosage plant has been installed and it is now possible to maintain accurate sterility and clarity of water without running the circulating pumps throughout the nights as hitherto. Tests are taken three times a day by the Baths Superintendent to determine the residual Chlorine and Alkali content of the water.

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 facilities 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, 1950-1951.

	1950.	1951.
Area (acres)	—	5,082
Population (Estimated by Registrar General)	84,950	84,170
Live Births: Males 704 } Females 625 } Total	1,366	1,329
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.08	15.79
Ditto, for England and Wales	15.8	15.5
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns	17.6	17.3
Illegitimate births number 34, or 40 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of	2.56	2.56
Deaths : Males 654 } Females 570 } Total	1,068	1,224
Death Rate per 1,000 population	12.57	14.54
Ditto, for England and Wales	11.6	12.5
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns	12.3	13.4
Excess of Registered births over deaths	298	105
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0.71	0.73
Tuberculosis Death Rates :—		
Pulmonary 0.42 } Other than Pulmonary 0.01 } Total	0.49	0.43
Total deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years	6	3
Death rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis	4.39	2.26
Infantile rate (deaths per 1,000 births)	43	43.6
Ditto, for England and Wales	29.8	29.6
Ditto, for 126 County Boroughs and great towns....	33.8	33.9
Deaths of Infants under 1 day old	9	6
Ditto 1 year (legitimate)	57	57
Ditto 1 year (illegitimate)	2	1

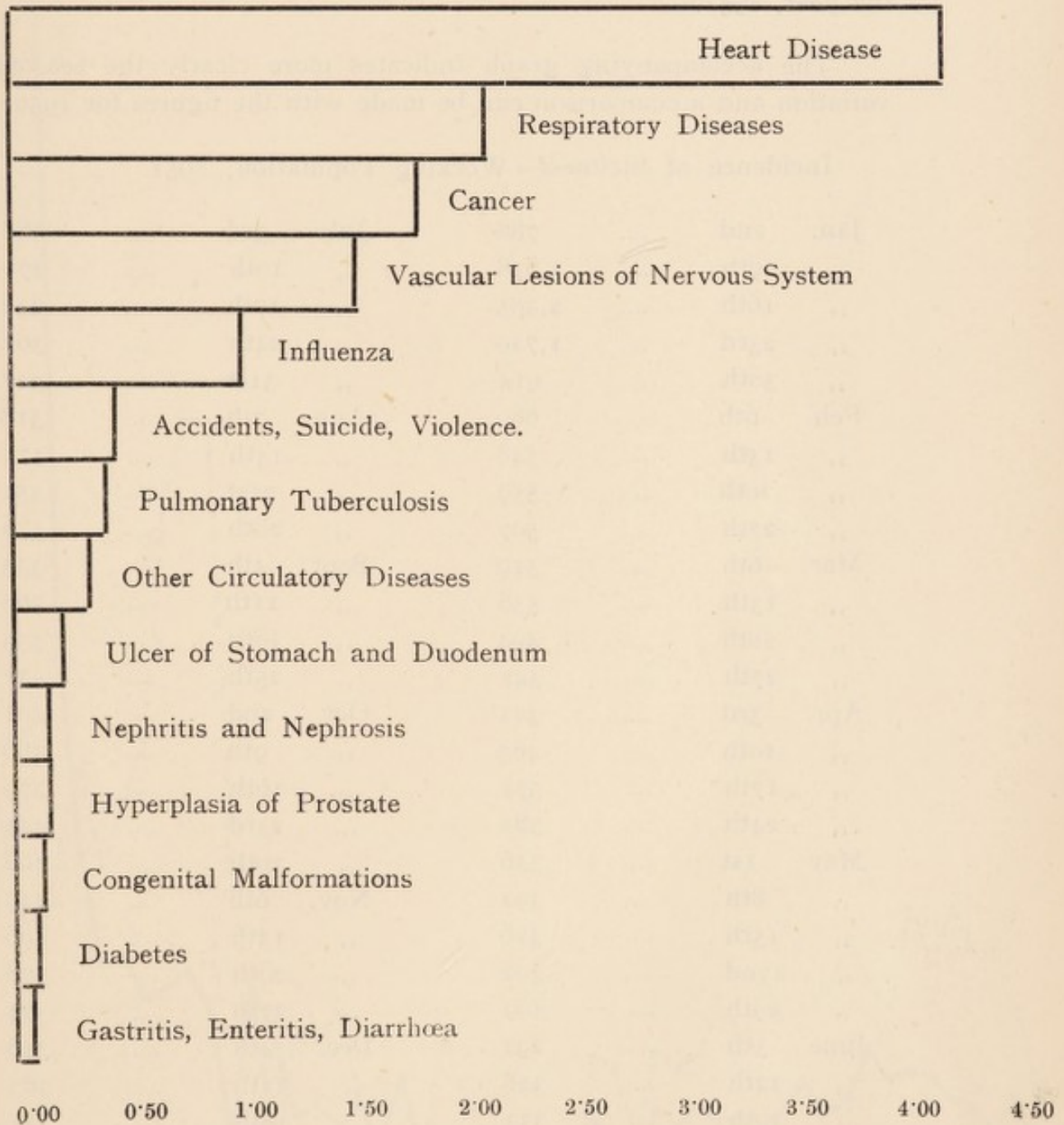
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1951.

CAUSES.	Sex.	All Ages.										
			0+	1+	5+	15+	25+	45+	65+	75+		
ALL CAUSES	M.	654	31	3	3	12	40	205	202	158		
	F.	570	27	8	1	14	35	130	153	202		
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ..	M.	23	—	—	—	2	6	12	2	1		
	F.	12	—	—	1	6	4	1	—	—		
2. Tuberculosis, Other	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—		
3. Syphilitic Disease.. .. .	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—		
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
4. Diphtheria.. .. .	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
5. Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
6. Meningococcal Infections ..	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
8. Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1		
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	M.	20	—	—	—	—	—	11	6	3		
	F.	9	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	1		
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M.	17	—	—	—	—	1	13	3	—		
	F.	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—		
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	F.	22	—	—	—	—	6	12	2	2		
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—		
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	28	—	—	—	1	1	13	9	4		
	F.	53	—	—	—	—	1	20	10	22		
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—		
16. Diabetes	M.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1		
	F.	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1		
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.	68	—	—	—	—	—	10	38	20		
	F.	63	—	—	—	1	1	13	23	25		
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ..	M.	92	—	—	—	—	8	37	32	15		
	F.	33	—	—	—	—	1	10	13	9		

CAUSES OF DEATH WITH DEATH RATES, 1951.

	Disease.	No. of Deaths	Rate.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	35	.42
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	1	.01
3.	Syphilitic Disease	2	.02
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	3	.03
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	3	.03
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	29	.34
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus	19	.23
12.	„ „ Breast.. .. .	22	.26
13.	„ „ Uterus	4	.05
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	81	.96
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	.01
16.	Diabetes	7	.08
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	131	1.56
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	125	1.49
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	19	.23
20.	Other Heart Disease	213	2.53
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	27	.32
22.	Influenza	87	1.03
23.	Pneumonia	46	.55
24.	Bronchitis	118	1.40
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	16	.19
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	17	.20
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	6	.07
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	11	.13
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	11	.13
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	.01
31.	Congenital Malformations	9	.11
32.	Other Defined and Ildefined Diseases	141	1.68
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	10	.12
34.	All Other Accidents	25	.30
35.	Suicide	4	.05
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
		<u>1,224</u>	<u>14.54</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES—1951.



RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

MORBIDITY.

WIGAN AREA.

The figures given below, compiled by the local office of the Ministry of National Insurance, indicate the number of persons applying for sickness benefit (first certificate only) week by week during the year, 1951.

The accompanying graph indicates more clearly the seasonal variation and a comparison can be made with the figures for 1950.

Incidence of Sickness—Working Population, 1951.

Jan.	2nd	....	788	July	3rd	....	288
„	9th	....	1,878	„	10th	....	270
„	16th	....	2,305	„	17th	....	232
„	23rd	....	1,720	„	24th	....	367
„	30th	....	914	„	31st	....	327
Feb.	6th	....	680	Aug.	7th	....	318
„	13th	....	548	„	14th	....	374
„	20th	....	559	„	21st	....	351
„	27th	....	507	„	28th	....	376
Mar.	6th	....	519	Sept.	4th	....	355
„	13th	....	538	„	11th	....	368
„	20th	....	494	„	18th	....	333
„	27th	....	341	„	25th	....	371
Apr.	3rd	....	511	Oct.	2nd	....	401
„	10th	....	463	„	9th	....	366
„	17th	....	371	„	16th	....	379
„	24th	....	382	„	23rd	....	444
May	1st	....	356	„	30th	....	402
„	8th	....	392	Nov.	6th	....	419
„	15th	....	326	„	13th	....	406
„	22nd	....	402	„	20th	....	378
„	29th	....	309	„	27th	....	374
June	5th	....	292	Dec.	4th	....	346
„	12th	....	328	„	11th	....	383
„	19th	....	323	„	18th	....	321
„	26th	....	299	„	25th	....	328

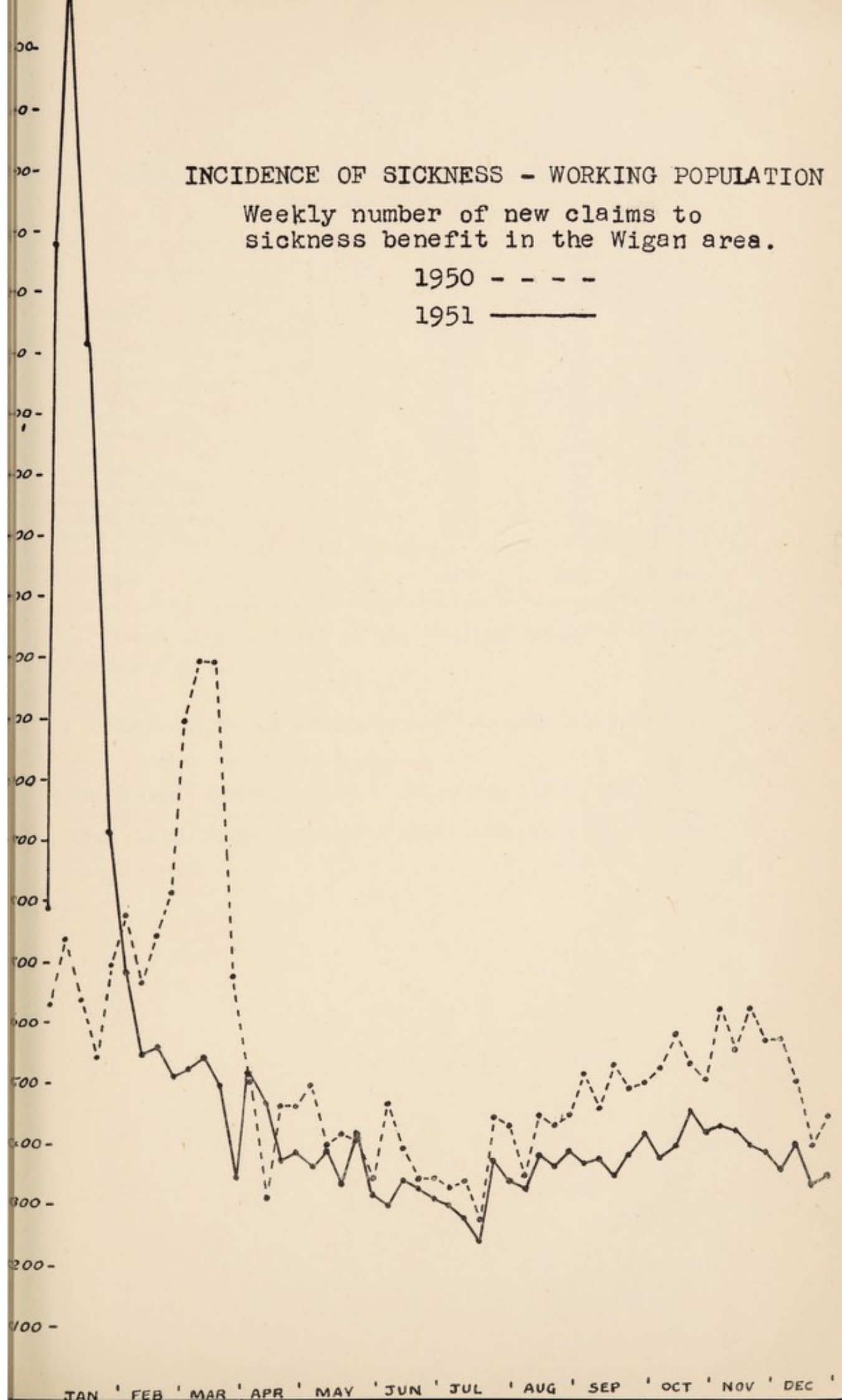
Average weekly—496.

INCIDENCE OF SICKNESS - WORKING POPULATION

Weekly number of new claims to sickness benefit in the Wigan area.

1950 - - - -

1951 ————



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY
540 EAST 57TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

**POPULATION OF WARDS, WITH COMPARATIVE DEATHS
AND DEATH RATES.**

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Ward No.</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Death Totals</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
St. George	1	2610	36	13.79
Lindsay	2	4831	74	15.32
St. Catharine	3	5666	78	13.77
St. Patrick	4	6423	99	15.41
St. Thomas	5	2554	63	24.67
Poolstock	6	3788	68	17.95
Victoria	7	2918	42	14.39
St. Andrew	8	16681	214	12.83
Swinley	9	10360	160	15.44
All Saints	10	2249	35	15.56
West Pemberton	11	5079	41	8.07
North Pemberton	12	6582	94	14.28
Central Pemberton	13	9546	135	14.14
South Pemberton	14	4883	70	14.34
Totals ... ..	...	84170	1209	*14.54

*Death Rate is based on the Registrar General's estimated Population of 84,170.

DEATH-RATES FOR WIGAN DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
12.95	14.30	12.92	11.42	11.55	13.37	11.55	12.49	12.57	14.54

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	—	—	1	8	10	13	2	1
Tuberculosis, Other	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Syphilitic Disease	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diphtheria	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	9	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	10	28	—	—	—	—	1	13	10	4
" " Lung Bronchus ..	11	20	—	—	—	1	1	13	5	—
" " Breast	12	23	—	—	—	—	6	13	2	2
" " Uterus	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Other Malig. & Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	70	—	—	—	1	2	33	18	16
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	15	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Diabetes	16	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	17	103	—	—	—	2	1	19	46	35
Coronary Disease, Angina	18	88	—	—	—	—	7	33	29	19
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	19	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other Heart Disease	20	215	—	—	—	3	14	40	71	87
Other Circulatory Disease	21	96	—	—	—	—	2	22	39	33
Influenza	22	83	3	1	—	1	2	25	25	26
Pneumonia	23	48	12	—	—	—	4	9	10	13
Bronchitis	24	115	5	2	—	—	3	36	41	28
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	25	16	1	—	—	2	1	5	4	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	26	15	—	—	—	—	2	8	2	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	27	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	28	9	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	29	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	30	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	31	8	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	32	159	22	1	—	4	10	34	30	58
Motor Vehicle Accidents	33	9	—	2	—	1	—	2	2	2
All Other Accidents	34	25	2	3	3	2	4	4	2	5
Suicide	35	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Homicide and Operations of War ..	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		1209	58	11	4	26	75	335	352	348

52 WEEKS ENDED, 30th DECEMBER, 1951.

short list—grouped according to
ward residence)

Deaths at all Ages.

Class No.	St. George Ward.	Lindsay Ward.	St. Catharine Ward.	St. Patrick Ward.	St. Thomas Ward.	Poolstock Ward.	Victoria Ward.	St. Andrew Ward.	Swinley Ward.	All Saints Ward.	West Pem- berton Ward.	North Pem- berton Ward.	Central Pem- berton Ward.	South Pem- berton Ward.	Total Deaths.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	1	—	2	5	2	1	—	6	2	—	5	6	4	1	35
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
10	—	—	5	4	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	3	4	4	28
11	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	6	2	3	1	—	—	2	20
12	1	1	1	3	—	3	—	2	4	3	3	—	1	1	23
13	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
14	2	4	4	6	2	4	3	13	14	1	2	5	6	4	70
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
16	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	8
17	4	8	6	11	5	6	5	17	11	4	3	6	12	5	103
18	2	6	6	9	1	8	1	19	12	1	—	9	13	1	88
19	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
20	7	12	20	22	13	9	4	40	31	4	7	14	22	10	215
21	1	7	3	5	7	4	10	21	15	—	—	6	9	8	96
22	4	2	5	5	6	4	3	16	14	4	2	8	4	6	83
23	1	1	5	5	1	6	4	8	7	—	4	3	3	—	48
24	5	7	6	8	10	6	5	18	10	5	2	11	16	6	115
25	—	1	3	1	—	2	1	1	2	1	—	—	1	3	16
26	1	2	—	2	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	1	15
27	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	5
28	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	9
29	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	2	1	—	—	10
30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
31	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	8
32	4	13	4	8	8	6	4	31	23	5	6	10	28	9	159
33	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	9
34	—	1	—	3	2	3	—	4	3	1	1	4	2	1	25
35	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4
36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	36	74	78	99	63	68	42	214	160	35	41	94	135	70	1209

INFANT MORTALITY, 1951, NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS PERIODS
UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Class No.	Cause of Death	Un-der 1 day	days							28 days to 2 mths.			mths.					Total Deaths under 1 yr.								
			1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7-13 days	14-20 days	21-28 days	2 mths.	3 mths.	4 mths.	5 mths.	6 mths.	7 mths.		8 mths.	9 mths.	10 mths.	11 mths.				
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
22	Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
23	Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	
24	Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
25	Pulmonary Congestion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
27	Gastritis, Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
31	Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	Prematurity	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
	" with Atelectasis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
	" " Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
	" " Birth Injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
	Others	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	
34	Asphyxia due to suffocation while asleep alone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
		6	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	8	7	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	58

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under one year is 58, or 43.6 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 1950, there were 59 deaths under one year, a rate of 43 per 1,000

12 of the 58 deaths were ascribed to broncho-pneumonia, and influenza was given as the cause of death in 3 cases. 5 deaths were due to bronchitis, 5 to gastro-enteritis, and 11 to prematurity. 7 infants died as a result of congenital malformations.

The infantile mortality rate in Wigan has followed closely the national trend for a number of years, although the actual rates have been higher. The departure from this, noted in the year under review, may, I think be accounted for by the 3 infant deaths from influenza which occurred during the epidemic in the first quarter of the year. Our records show that influenza is a fairly uncommon cause of infant deaths in this town, there having been only 7 deaths recorded in the past 20 years.

The infant deaths occurred as follows :—

Home.		Hospital.
21	....	16 Billinge.
—	....	1 Ashton.
—	....	15 R.A.E. Infirmary.
....	....	3 Whelley.
....	....	2 Royal Manchester Children's.
....	—
21	...	37
—	—	—

58 Total.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The number of inquests held during 1951 was 65, and the following verdicts have been recorded :—

1. Natural Causes	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
2. Accidents—Burnt	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Scalded	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Drowned	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
,, Poisoned	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Falls	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
,, Railway	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Colliery	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Road	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
,, Mills	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Falling machinery	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Shock following operation	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Asphyxia (suffocation)	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Whilst working on gas main	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
3. Suicides—Hanged	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
,, Cut Throat	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Drowned	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Coal gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Railway	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Poison	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
,, Falls	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
4. Open—Drowned	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
,, Coal gas	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Hanged	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
,, Poison	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
5. Murder	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
							—
							65
							—

There was one uncertified death in 1951.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The present report covers the period from the year 1910 to 1914 and is the result of a study made by the Bureau of Child Hygiene, State of New York.

These reports are published by the Bureau of Child Hygiene, State of New York, and are intended to give information to the public and to the medical profession regarding the care of mothers and young children.

For a complete list of the reports published by the Bureau of Child Hygiene, State of New York, see the list of publications at the end of this report.

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, Millgate.	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 Thurs- day of each month. Post-natal Clinic : Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m. Dental Clinic for expectant and nurs- ing 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.
Orthopaedic Clinic, Millgate.	Open each Monday morning. Surgeon attends twice monthly. Cases from Ince, Hindley, and Standish also attend.

ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

	Wigan Centre.		Pemberton.	
	Weekly Clinic.	Special Clinic.	Weekly Clinic.	Special Clinic.
Number of primary cases attending Clinic during the year	422	3	190	84
Total number of attendances	1,775	187	831	372

Classes for Expectant Mothers:

50 classes were held during the year 1951, and 480 attendances were made by mothers.

POST-NATAL CLINIC.

Attendances were as follows:—

New Cases.	Return Cases.	Total.
159	47	206

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS.

Attendances were as follows:—

Clinic	Children		Total	Mothers	Primary cases	Cases examined by medical attendant
	under 12 mths.	over 12 mths.				
Central	1789	593	2382	2179	347	1210
Scholes	1257	421	1678	1545	192	1041
Pemberton	1420	713	2133	1830	298	1156
Worsley Mesnes... ..	674	281	955	835	122	567
Springfield	1389	586	1975	1783	189	1021
Drammond Sq.	952	861	1813	1453	220	873
Totals	7481	3455	10936	9625	1368	5868

Comparative attendances for the last 5 years :

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Babies	10172	10077	9743	9752	10936
Primary attendances of Babies	1305	1181	1118	1153	1368

Expectant Mothers :

Central:

Weekly Clinic	2725	2464	2167	1767	1775
Special Clinic	211	198	181	166	187

Pemberton:

Weekly Clinic	1045	1098	720	864	831
Special Clinic	—	—	386	328	372

It will be observed that the total number of children attending the clinics is still increasing.

A Child Welfare Clinic at Goose Green would help the mothers of that area but until more Health Visitors are obtainable it is impracticable to try to open additional Centres. The Drummond Square Centre which was opened last year is well patronised and is flourishing.

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	219	130	102
Children under five	79	65	63

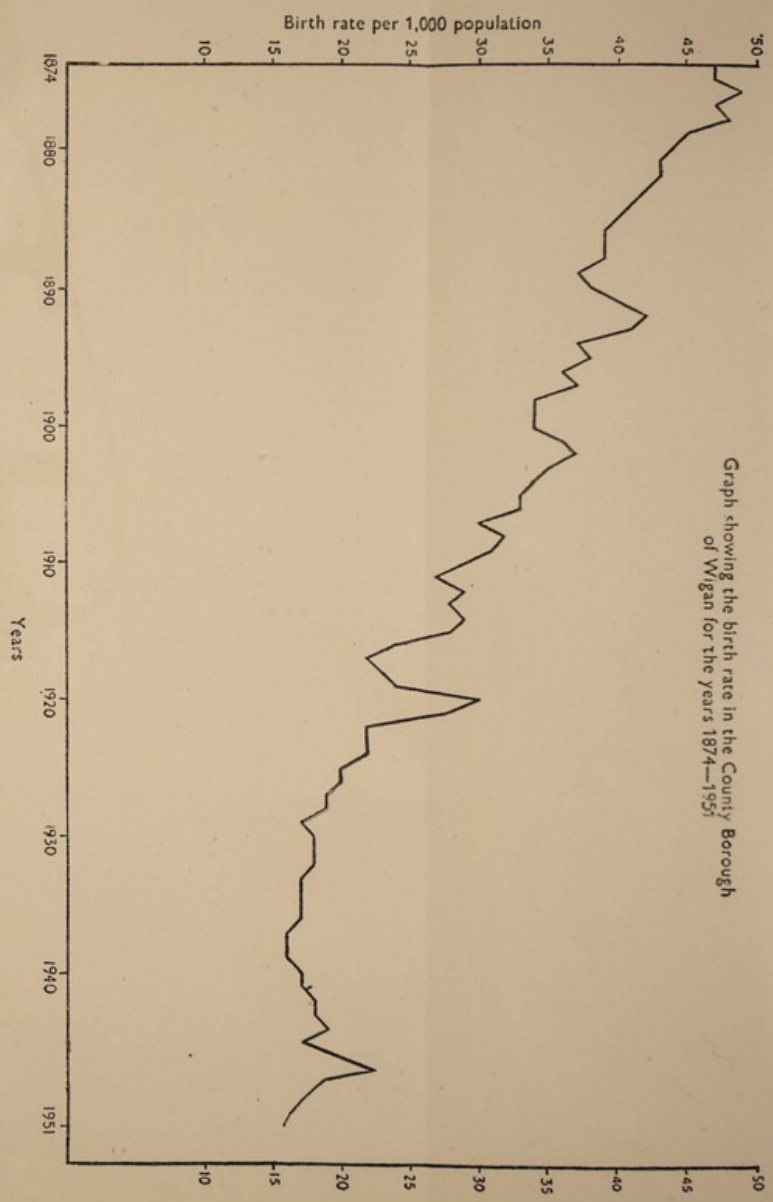
(b) Forms of dental treatment provided :—

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Fillings	Scalings or Scaling and gum treatment	Silver Nitrate treatment	Dressings	Radio-graphs	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	40	40	—	71	82	—	—	—	—	1
Children under five	39	39	—	10	19	10	—	—	—	—

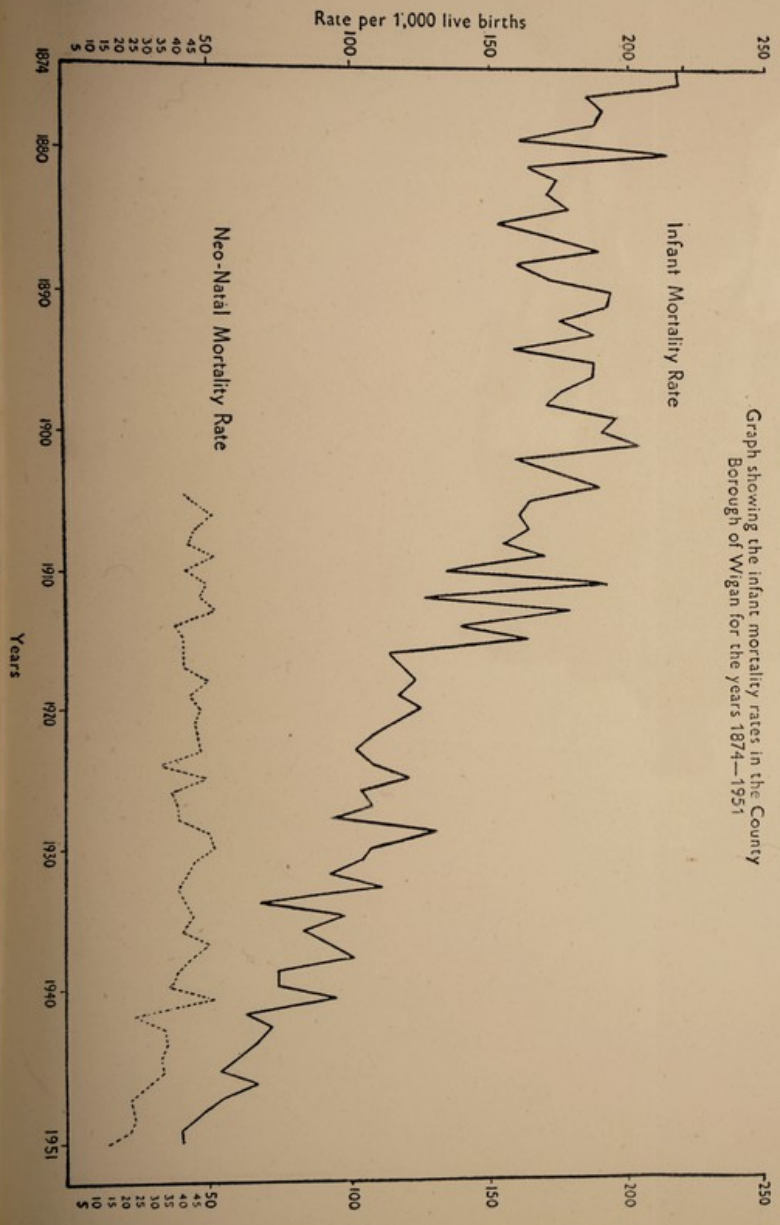
In addition, 236 children under five years of age were examined in the routine school dental inspection and 47 received dental treatment.

The numbers of patients attending for dental inspection and treatment from the Ante-Natal Clinic during the year 1951 have been maintained as in previous years.

It is gratifying to note that the standard of oral fitness in the majority of these patients shows a marked improvement.



Graph showing the infant mortality rates in the County Borough of Wigan for the years 1874-1951



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 National Nursery Examination Board Certificate for Nursery Nurses. During the year two students were presented 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 has been approved and it will be provided as soon as economic conditions permit.

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 ...	30	5
Totals ...	46	12

NURSERY AND CHILD MINDERS' REGULATION ACT, 1948.

There are no industrial nurseries in the area but one person is registered as a child minder. Regular visits have been paid by the department to ensure that the provisions of the Act are complied with.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	685	610	1,295
Illegitimate ...	19	15	34
	<u>704</u>	<u>625</u>	<u>1,329</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 population, 15.79.

Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	30	13	43
Illegitimate ...	2	—	2
	<u>32</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>45</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 32.75.

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of infants under the age of 1 year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	31	26	57
Illegitimate ...	—	1	1
	<u>31</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>58</u>

Infantile rate per 1,000 (live) births, 43.6.

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

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	11	11	22
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	11	11	22

Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 (live) births, 16.55.

Infantile Mortality.

The Infant Mortality Rate (i.e., the number of deaths occurring under one year of age per 1,000 births) was 43.6: the rate for legitimate births was 44, and for illegitimate births, 30.

Of the 58 deaths in infants under one year of age, 22 occurred within the first four weeks of life. Of these, 18 or 82% died in the first week and it is significant that in 9 of these, death was due to prematurity.

A further note on infantile mortality appears in the statistical section.

Maternal Deaths.

One death was recorded, as follows:—

Case No.	Cause.
1. I (a)	Pulmonary Embolism, (b) Venous thrombosis, (c) Childbirth.

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	....	....	—
Other Puerperal causes	....	0.73	
Total Puerperal mortality	....	0.73	
Non Puerperal causes	....	—
Total Maternal Mortality Rate	....	....	0.73

Comparative figures for the last 5 years:—

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Deaths	7	1	3	1	1
Rate	3.59	0.61	1.98	0.71	0.73
Births	1,886	1,590	1,443	1,366	1,329

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

There were 19 midwives practising in the district on 31st December, 1951, of whom 14 were Municipal Midwives, 1 independent and 4 employed in Hospital.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.

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

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

As midwife—No doctor engaged	....	300	
—Doctor engaged but did not attend at birth	....	316	
			← 616
As maternity—Doctor engaged and did nurse attend at birth	....	149	
			— 765

As will be seen above the total number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives was 765, which is 90 fewer than the figure given in my last report. The average number of cases attended per midwife was 54.

An increased number of patients engaged the doctor for confinement—60% (40% in 1950) but the doctors were present at the birth in only 32% of their booked cases as against 40% in 1950.

Booking for confinement in Hospital is still restricted to certain categories of patients, i.e., where there is some obstetrical abnormality; for primiparae who seek admission; for cases where there is some associated medical condition and for those whose home conditions are unsuitable.

The supervisor of midwives visits the homes of all who apply on social grounds and there is good co-operation in this direction between the hospital, the general practitioners and the clinics.

MEDICAL AID.

By the rules of the Central Midwives Board, midwives are required to send for medical aid under conditions and for reasons which are specified. Medical aid was summoned in 104 cases—in 84 cases for the mother alone and in 20 cases for the child alone.

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 317 cases. The popularity of this service continues to increase but the number of cases availing themselves of it is less than 50% of the home deliveries. Reasons for this are that certain doctors prefer to use a different anaesthetic. Also when the patient delays in sending for the midwife, there may be no time to administer the Gas and Air, and some patients, especially the older ones, do not favour any anaesthetic. The midwives are all instructed to advise their patients of its advantages unless it is contra-indicated on medical grounds.

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 34 Wigan births in the home.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Year.	No. Notified.	Cases Treated :		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.
		At Home.	In Hospital.			
1951 —	—	—	—	—	—
1950	.... 1	1	—	1	—	—
1949 —	—	—	—	—	—
1948	.... 4	2	2	4	—	—
1947	.... 2	1	1	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 was used twice during the year with successful results.

HEALTH VISITING.**SUMMARY OF VISITS DURING THE YEAR 1951.**

No. of primary visits to births	....	....	....	....	....	1402
„ visits to infants under one year	....	....	....	....	....	6902
„ „ infants over one year and under two years	....	....	....	....	....	4031
„ „ infants over two and under three years	....	....	....	....	....	3265
„ „ infants over three and under four years	....	....	....	....	....	2503
„ „ infants over four and under five years	....	....	....	....	....	2285
„ „ expectant mothers	....	....	....	....	....	67
„ „ cases of infectious disease	....	....	....	....	....	777
„ „ re deaths under one year	....	....	....	....	....	53
„ „ Still Births	....	....	....	....	....	44
„ other visits	....	....	....	....	....	623

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

Our first student Health Visitor passed the examination for the Health Visitor's Certificate and since July has been a member of the staff.

During the year, four student Health Visitors from the Bolton Training School have received practical training in our Department.

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.

While the shortage of Health Visitors continues the regular domiciliary visits to children are necessarily restricted.

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 freed from minor routine duties, their specialist knowledge can be used to best advantage.

The infant mortality rate in Wigan as compared with the general rate for the country is 43.6, against 29.6. Here is a clear indication of the urgent need to intensify the education of the mothers in the matter of child care which would be greatly assisted were it possible for more frequent visits to be made to the homes.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The number of premature infants (i.e., weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth) notified during the year was 107; of these 37 were born at home and 70 in hospital.

Included in the total of 107 were no less than 33 twin babies.

The early care of the premature infants born at home is undertaken by 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.

During the year, 40 premature babies received this concentrated attention. The results are very good and fully justify the time devoted to them.

It is interesting to record that although in Wigan there is a high incidence of premature births, those infants who survive the first week of life on the whole do well.

A check of all surviving premature babies born since January 1949, has failed to reveal the occurrence of any case of retrolental fibroplasia.

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 new residential nursery at The Elms.

Health Visitors undertake visits to 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.

The local authority have implemented 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.

The demand for the services of the Home Nurses has continued to increase and during the year over 4,000 more visits have been made than in the previous year.

A second male nurse commenced duty on the 1st January.

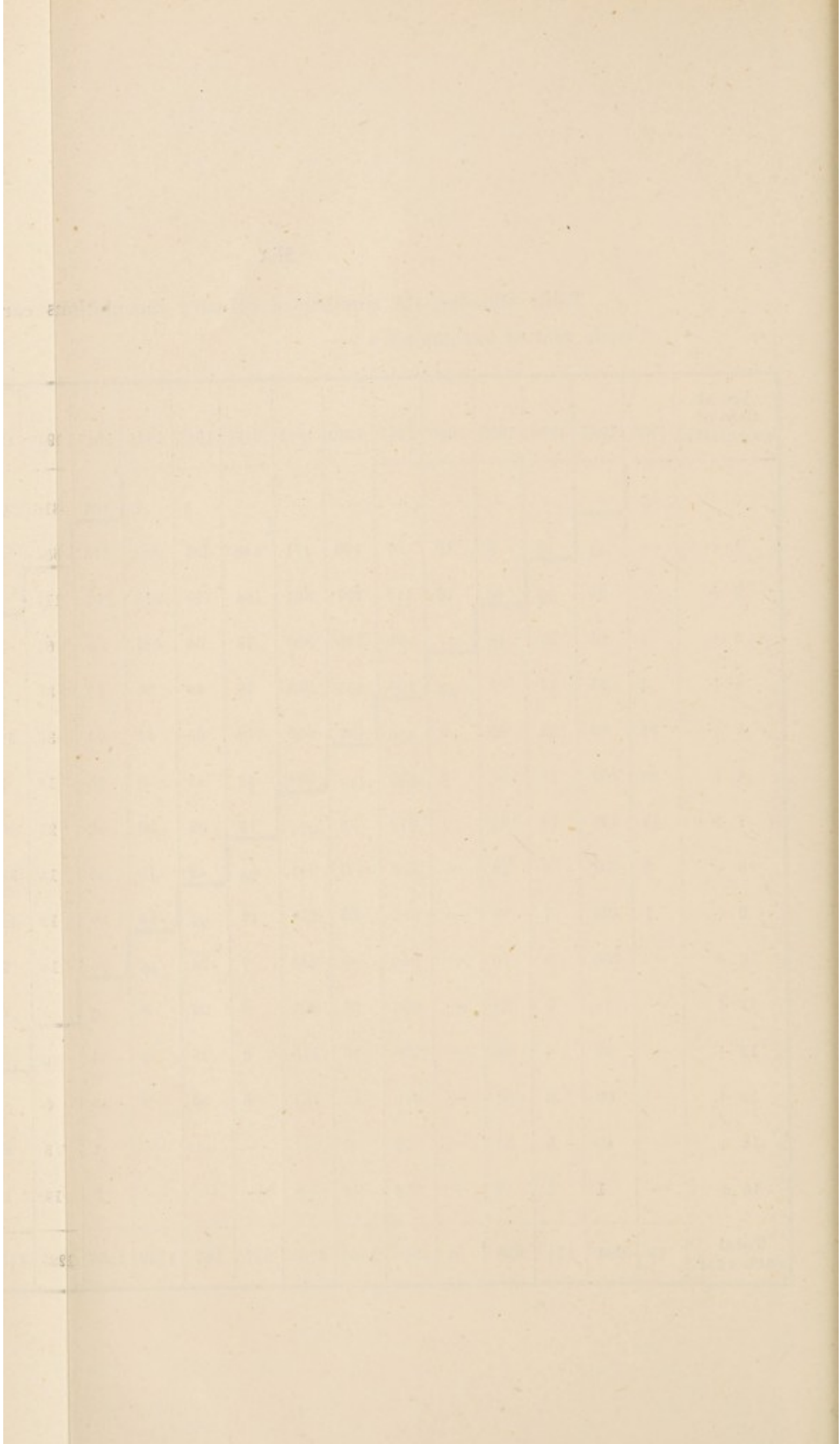
In order that the services of the male nurses might be available over a wider area they have been provided with auto-cycles.

The following figures are given for the year 1951 :—

No. of cases on the books on 1st January, 1951	....	....	....	....	176
No. of New cases during 1951	....	....	....	....	1,516
No. of visits paid by the nurses	....	....	....	....	40,369
No. of cases ceased to be visited :—					
Now convalescent	....	....	....	....	615
Removed to hospital	....	....	....	....	156
Deaths	....	....	....	....	188
Other reasons	....	....	....	....	547
				—	1,506
No. of cases remaining on the books on the 31st December, 1951					186

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	1951	Totals
0 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	164	310	420	462	471	Total aged under 5 on 31-12-51
1 +	—	31	16	5	12	87	176	471	448	437	582	616	551	365	264	205	
2 +	—	39	22	10	16	118	197	301	134	113	213	107	117	95	73	54	
3 +	1	31	22	10	7	91	138	320	73	55	114	65	61	49	44	37	
4 +	4	41	17	25	12	125	151	260	78	44	90	62	39	47	23	31	3,546
5 +	24	89	32	60	2	309	131	436	72	65	44	74	36	112	58	29	Total aged 5-15 years on 31-12-51
6 +	28	137	16	97	2	336	117	332	43	44	29	56	16	95	53	17	
7 +	14	122	18	101	1	272	73	277	13	33	20	42	22	101	61	9	
8 +	6	131	6	76	—	236	89	241	25	42	12	35	14	105	51	9	
9 +	1	109	7	76	—	282	69	254	14	29	14	38	12	120	52	11	9,035
10 +	—	100	3	70	—	248	88	245	7	24	10	35	14	91	58	10	
11 +	—	78	3	82	—	224	56	220	8	22	8	19	5	46	35	7	
12 +	—	37	4	89	—	238	40	175	6	35	3	24	9	20	47	6	
13 +	—	30	2	91	—	210	47	161	6	20	2	23	5	37	24	—	7,198
14 +	—	10	5	31	—	76	9	31	—	1	—	3	3	23	32	1	
15 +	—	1	1	2	—	56	24	8	—	—	—	2	13	12	11	2	
Total each year	78	986	174	825	52	2908	1405	3732	927	967	1148	1365	1227	1738	1348	899	19,779



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 1951 :—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 yrs. inclusive	5-14 yrs inclusive	over 15 yrs.	Total
Primary	60	12	8	15	64	159
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	5	118	123
Totals	60	12	8	20	182	282

60 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 4.5 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.

Inoculations carried out during 1951 :—

	By M. & C.W. Clinic.	By School Clinic	By Private Doctors.	Total during 1951.
Primary	616	72	211	899
Re-inoculation	6	537	42	585
Totals	622	609	253	1,484

	0 - 4 yrs. inclusive.	5 - 14 yrs. inclusive.	Total 0 - 14 yrs. inclusive.
Estimated present child population immunised	50%	74%	65%

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 stationed at Whelley Hospital are used for the removal of infectious cases.

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 and two sitting-case vehicles. One, a Bedford Lomas sitting-case ambulance, was delivered on the 1st February, 1951.

Since 1948, it has been the policy of the Health Committee to replace one vehicle each year and there now remain only three old vehicles in the fleet, viz., one sitting-case car and two ambulances, one of which is attached to the infectious disease service.

The personnel comprises: head driver—1; drivers—12 attendants—2; temporary drivers—12; 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 1951 :—
Removals.

	Infectious Disease	Non-Infectious Disease	Accidents	Mental Cases	Midwifery Apparatus	TOTAL
Wigan County Borough ...	1809	13793	602	44	686	16934
Lancashire County Council	137	5671	157	17	—	5982
Totals ...	1946	19464	759	61	686	22916

Mileage.

	Infectious Disease Service	Non- Infectious Disease Service	TOTAL
Wigan County Borough ...	6368	70489	76857
Lancashire County Council	5845	51917	57762
Totals ...	12213	122406	134619

In addition to the above, a total of 7,152 miles was covered on 196 days during the year, transporting children to and from the Occupation Centre.

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. I must again stress the fact that 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.

It is to be regretted that since my previous report, it has not been found possible to unify the administration of the service and the difficulties to be met in organising the present services on a war-time footing, which I mentioned last year are still present. A comparison of unit costs in towns operating under broadly similar conditions as regards population and area has indicated that financially there is little to be gained by retaining the present system in Wigan.

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 Central Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

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

Efforts are being maintained 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.

The educational exhibition stand provided by the Central Council for Health Education has been in use at the Central Clinic, Millgate, and a succession of interchangeable topics was on view during the year.

CONVALESCENCE.

During the year 1951, no case requiring convalescence was dealt with under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

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 1951 :—

Total number of contacts persuaded to attend were:—

Males 25. Females 21.

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.

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

Personal visits were made to the home addresses of 18 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.

It is with deep regret that I record the death on the 16th December, 1951, of Dr. H. Richmond, sometime Deputy Medical Officer of Health of the Borough, who had since the "appointed day," worked assiduously to satisfy two masters—the Regional Hospital Board, under whom he held the post of Chest Physician, and the Local Health Authority, who retained a portion of his services for preventive work.

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, 1,325 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. 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 21 cases of infectious tuberculosis were re-housed in accommodation which ensured adequate isolation.

B. C. G. VACCINATION.

In 1949, the Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, were amended to provide for B. C. G. vaccination.

At the present time vaccination is limited to hospital nurses and children of infected families.

During the year 1951, there were 344 tuberculin patch tests carried out and B. C. G. vaccination was undertaken in 80 cases.

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.

Five helps are employed full time and at the end of the year 13 part-time helps were on the register.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of families availing themselves of the Service. During 1951, domestic help was provided in 324 cases—118 confinements, 1 tuberculosis and 205 others—compared with a total of 194 in 1950.

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

MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE.

A scheme (within the Council's proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act 1946) for the delivery of a mid-day meal to individuals, unable, because of illness or physical disability, to provide their own was put into operation in May 1951.

At the commencement, meals were delivered in the Scholes area and later the service was extended to other parts of the Borough.

Members of the Women's Voluntary Service take part in the delivery of the meals and we are much indebted to them for the service they have given.

The food is prepared in the kitchen of the Civic Restaurant and served in individual covered containers. The charge per meal is 1s. 2d., but in necessitous cases it is reduced to 10d.

42 persons were provided with the meals during the year. Of these, 9 were suffering from some specific disability and 33 were old persons living alone.

Three meals per week are provided and the service is greatly appreciated.

MENTAL HEALTH.

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

The service includes :—

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

ADMINISTRATION.

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

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

The Medical Officer of Health, together with Dr. D. M. Mather, Dr. J. S. Mather and Dr. D. N. Mackinnon are appointed as approved medical practitioners for the purpose of giving certificates of mental defect under Section 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 supervisor who has obtained the Diploma of the National Association for Mental Health, one whole-time and one part-time 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.

A Consultant Psychiatric Clinic was inaugurated at Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary on the 20th March, 1951, the Consultant being Dr. H. Coates.

Arrangements have been made for liaison between the clinic and the local authority service. A duly authorised officer and mental health visitor who has some experience of psychiatric social work, obtains the social histories of all cases living within the borough. This officer also attends at the clinic and receives the Psychiatrist's instructions regarding after care. The opening of the clinic in Wigan has obviated the necessity for patients to travel long distances seeking attention and is indeed a great step forward in the Mental Health Service.

ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

Visits to Office by relatives and patients for advice	101
1. Under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.	
Cases notified	112
Notified cases dealt with as follows :—	
Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890	3
Section 20 Lunacy Act, 1890	15
Section 21 Lunacy Act, 1890	22
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	60
Temporary Patients, Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	1
Section 24 Criminal Justices Act, 1948	2
Admitted to hospital as ordinary sick cases	1
No action taken	8
	<hr/>
	112
	<hr/> <hr/>

Cases admitted to hospital under Sec. 16, 20 and 21 Lunacy Act, 1890 and Sec. 1 and 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930, were dealt with as follows :—

Section 16 Lunacy Act, 1890	11
Voluntary Patients, Section 1 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	7
Temporary Patients, Section 5 Mental Treatment Act, 1930	5
Transferred to sick ward following discharge from order under Sec. 21(A) Lunacy Act, 1890	4
Discharged following expiration of order under Sec. 21(A) Lunacy Act, 1890	5
Discharged following expiration of order	2
Died	3
	<hr/>
	37
	<hr/> <hr/>

Appointments made for patients to attend Psychiatric Clinics	6
No. of cases visited under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	74
No. of visits under Sec. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946	371
Special reports made on behalf of Mental Hospitals	17
Social Histories for Wigan Infirmary Psychiatric Clinic	32
No. of cases in Mental Hospitals on 31/12/51	270
Discharges from hospitals	82
Deaths	18

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

Cases in M.D. Institutions at 31/12/51	80
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	63
Cases under Voluntary Supervision	16
Cases under training (occupation centre) Sec. 30 M.D. Act, 1913	13
Petitions presented, Section 5, M.D. Act, 1913	4
Cases admitted to Institutions :—	
Sec. 6 M.D. Act, 1913	4
Sec. 15 M.D. Act, 1913 (Place of Safety)	2
Special reports made on behalf of M.D. Institutions	31
Home Visits	317
Visits to Occupation Centre	28

Particulars of cases reported during the year 1951.

Ascertainment.

(a) Cases reported by Local Education Authorities under Sec. 57 Education Act, 1944	
(i) Under Sec. 57(3) Education Act, 1944	4
(ii) Under Sec. 57(5) Education Act, 1944 :	
On leaving ordinary schools	6
On leaving special schools	1
(b) Other ascertained defectives	1
(c) Other reported cases not at present subject to be dealt with	1

13

Disposal of cases reported during the year.

Placed under Statutory Supervision	7
Placed under Voluntary Supervision	1
Action not taken at 31/12/51	5

13

Number of Mental Defectives in Institutions, under Community Care including Voluntary Supervision or in "Places of Safety" on 1st January, 1951, who have ceased to be under any of these forms of care during 1951.

(a) Ceased to be under care	....	....	....	Nil
(b) Died, removed or lost sight of ...	....	....	....	8
				<hr/>
				8
				<hr/> <hr/>

Number who have given birth to children during 1951 :—

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

Number who married during 1951 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.

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 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, 1951
	13	....	15	.... 28
No. of admissions during the year	3	.... — .... 3
No. of children who ceased to attend	3	.... 1 4
No. of children remaining on the register at 31st December, 1951 13 14 27
Average daily attendance during the year	10	....	13 23

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.

An excellent 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 may now be assumed that so far as the local health services are concerned, there exists adequate machinery for co-ordinating the various interests and the goodwill which is exhibited by the three major groups augurs well for the future.

On the other hand the facilities for co-ordination at Regional level are totally inadequate and without Ministerial direction there is every chance of their remaining so.



DOUGLAS BANK HOUSE

Photo by J. BLACKBURN

Section IV



Welfare Services

ADMINISTRATION.

The Local Authority's functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, are administered by the Welfare Services Committee, which is a standing committee of the Council. This Committee has set up three sub-committees, viz. :—

The Aged and Infirm Sub-Committee (which deals mainly with the provision of residential and temporary accommodation).

The Blind, Deaf and Dumb Sub-Committee (which deals with the provision of welfare services for the blind, deaf and dumb).

The Handicapped Persons Sub-Committee (which deals with the provision of welfare service for the general handicapped classes).

The general administrative duties are carried out by the staff of the Welfare Services Section of the Health Department, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, who is the Chief Executive Officer for Welfare Services.

(a) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION.

Accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948 is provided at the Welfare Home, Frog Lane, Wigan.

The committee have, during the past year, negotiated for the acquisition of three modern hostels, and the negotiations were carried to a successful conclusion, and work is actually in progress. Details of each hostel are as follows :—

Douglas Bank House—

An existing building, which has been adapted for use as a hostel by the alteration of existing amenities, and the addition of a new wing, to accommodate 31 aged and infirm persons, plus resident staff. The alterations are now almost complete, and it is expected to open the Home in the near future.

Norley Hall Hostel—

A completely new building sited on a housing estate in the Borough, to accommodate 38 aged and infirm persons, plus resident staff. Provision is made in this building for married couples. The hostel is expected to be completed in about one year's time.

Rockwood, Colwyn Bay.

A residential hostel to accommodate 17 aged and infirm persons, plus resident staff, situated on the North Wales coast. This is an existing building, requiring very little alteration, and it is expected to have this hostel open in the near future.

These three hostels will eventually provide accommodation for 86 persons of both sexes, and will go a long way towards realising the ambition of the Committee, which is to dispense with the out-of-date accommodation provided at the Welfare Home.

Residential accommodation is provided for those in need, irres-

pective of their means, and those persons accommodated are asked to contribute according to their income, as laid down by statute.

Those residents whose only income is derived from Retirement Pension or Assistance Grant, contribute a minimum of 21/- per week of this towards the cost of maintenance, which is at present fixed at £2 16s. od. per week. Each resident receives a minimum of 5/- per week pocket money. Very few of the residents are in a position to contribute more than the minimum charge from their pension or grant. The accommodation provided is primarily intended for those aged persons who by reason of their infirmity cannot adequately care for themselves, or have no relations or friends who can undertake this. There are, however, a number of residents who do not come within this category, and these are mainly the residue of former inmates of the Poor Law Institution who continued to stay when Poor Law ceased to exist.

Some of these residents prove themselves most useful by doing odd jobs in the Home, which they were accustomed to doing, and for which extra pocket money is now given. The number of residents who receive extra pocket money in this way is 11.

WELFARE HOME, FROG LANE.

The premises are divided into four main blocks, one of which is at present occupied by the Regional Hospital Board, the Council providing common services.

The remaining three blocks are intended to provide accommodation for 97 males and 35 females, and the allocation of accommodation is as follows :—

Administration Block—

Accommodation for males. 97 beds in 5 dormitories.

B. Block—

Accommodation for females. 17 beds in 3 dormitories.

C. Block—

Accommodation for females. 18 beds in 1 dormitory.

The numbers actually accommodated on the 31st December, 1951, were 94 males and 34 females.

During the year, 57 persons were admitted to residential accommodation and 43 were discharged.

Recreational facilities available to the residents in the Home, include adequate day room facilities, library, radio entertainment, a chapel and regular social functions organised by the staff and voluntary helpers. During the past summer, two coach trips were organised, one to Fleetwood and one to Southport. In the Autumn, a trip to the Blackpool Illuminations was held, and at the commencement of the year, a trip to a pantomime.

Cigarettes and tobacco for males, and sweets for females, are issued free of charge to each resident weekly in accordance with the scale laid down by the Committee.

Each resident has complete freedom in selecting his own medical attendant, and enjoys the facilities of the local authority's health service as though he were in his own home.

During the year, the programme of redecoration and refurnishing of the Home, inaugurated in 1950, was continued, and despite the age and unsatisfactory lay-out of the buildings, a great deal has been achieved in making the premises more of a home, and less of an institution.

VOLUNTARY HOMES.

There are no voluntary homes in the Borough providing accommodation for aged and infirm persons.

(b) TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION.

The Welfare Services Committee have accepted the responsibility of providing temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need thereof, and provision for homeless families is made at the Welfare Home, Frog Lane. The situation is most unsatisfactory, as it is found in practice that families admitted to temporary accommodation on account of eviction (who account for 95% of the cases admitted) make very little effort to find accommodation elsewhere, and the occupation of the premises made available assumes almost that of permanency.

During the year, 25 families, including 12 males, 25 females and 49 children, were admitted to temporary accommodation. On the 31st December, 1951, 10 families (4 males, 10 females and 15 children) were in residence. It is of interest to point out that in two cases only did families succeed in finding suitable alternative accommodation without the aid of either the staff of the Department, (who had to threaten eviction from the Home unless the alternative accommodation were taken) or as a result of the aid of the Housing Committee.

WELFARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

(a) Blind Welfare.

The local authority is responsible for the welfare of the blind, and administers its functions through the agency of the Wigan, Leigh and District Society for the Blind. The authority employ two Home Teachers who are seconded to the Society for duty.

Statistics.

The following table shows, in age groups, the number of registered blind persons resident in the County Borough on the 31st December, 1951.

0-1		2-4		5-15		16-20		21-39		40-49		50-64		65-69		70 & over		Total
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	9	5	2	17	11	10	17	35	53	166

74 males ; 92 females ; of whom 143 are over the age of 50 years.

During the year 1951, 36 persons were examined and 6 persons were re-examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon. 18 of these were certified as Blind, and 16 were placed upon the Observation Register. 2 cases were certified not blind. 5 cases were transferred out of the area and 2 cases transferred into the area. There were 26 deaths of registered blind persons.

Workshop Employment.

Workshops for the blind are provided in Darlington Street East, Wigan. The workshops are owned and maintained by the Wigan County Borough Council and the Lancashire County Council, and are administered 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 is as follows :—

Brush Making	....	....	....	....	4 males.
Basket Making	....	....	....	....	4 males.
Mat Making	....	....	....	....	2 males.
Machine Knitters and Chair Seating	....	....	....	....	4 females.
Others	....	....	....	....	1 male.

On the 31st December, 1951, there were 12 blind persons from the County Borough employed in the workshops.

(b) Partially Sighted Persons.

At the end of 1951, there were 31 persons registered in the Observation Register. All these people are substantially and permanently handicapped by defective vision.

The following table shows the age groups of persons on the register :—

O-1		2-4		5-15		16-20		21-39		40-49		50-64		65-69		70 & over		Total
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	5	4	1	1	10	4	31

(c) Children.

One blind, and two partially sighted children, who have been ascertained under the Education Act (Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service) Regulations 1945, as being in need of special educational treatment, are being maintained by the authority at St. Vincent's School for the Blind and Partially Sighted, Liverpool.

(d) Deaf and Dumb.

The welfare of the deaf and dumb has continued to be undertaken by the Wigan and District Deaf and Dumb Society, acting as agents for the Wigan County Borough Council. There are 78 persons registered as Deaf and Dumb in the area of the Council.

The local headquarters of the Society and club rooms are situated at 20 Swinley Road, Wigan.

During the year under review, the Ministry of Health issued their suggestions in the form of Circular 32/51, outlining a scheme for the provision of welfare services under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for persons who are deaf or dumb.

The County Borough Council, in December, 1951, submitted their scheme for such provision to the Minister of Health for his approval, and it is anticipated that the year 1952 will see the commencement of a service for the deaf and dumb as comprehensive as that at present in operation for the blind.

(e) General Handicapped Classes.

Circular 32/51 also contained suggestions for welfare arrangements for general handicapped classes, and the Council have prepared and submitted for the Minister's approval, a scheme to serve the needs of this group. Again it is anticipated that the year 1952 will see the commencement of a general welfare service for handicapped persons other than those who are blind, deaf or dumb.

The Council have to a great extent prepared the way for the success of this scheme by their foresight in providing two social and handicraft centres for handicapped persons. These two centres have been open for some time, and they are situated in the two main population centres of the town. The premises are open every week day, and are extremely well patronised. In addition to handicraft facilities, each place holds a catering licence, and light refreshments are served at cost price. The main success of these ventures will, I am sure, be shown in the future, in the operation of the scheme for the welfare of the general handicapped classes. In Wigan, by virtue of the opening of these centres, contact has already been established with those persons in need of a welfare service, and in consequence the administrative difficulty of registration and assessment of need is apparent.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION (Sec. 47).

It was not found necessary to take action under this section during 1951.

PROTECTION OF MOVEABLE PROPERTY (Section 48).

One application was received during the year, requesting the authority to provide protection of the moveable property of a person removed to hospital. In this case, the property remained in the applicant's home.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD (Section 50).

During the year there were 14 applications to the authority for action to be taken under Section 50, regarding the burial of persons dying in the area of the Council. The service was provided in 8 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.

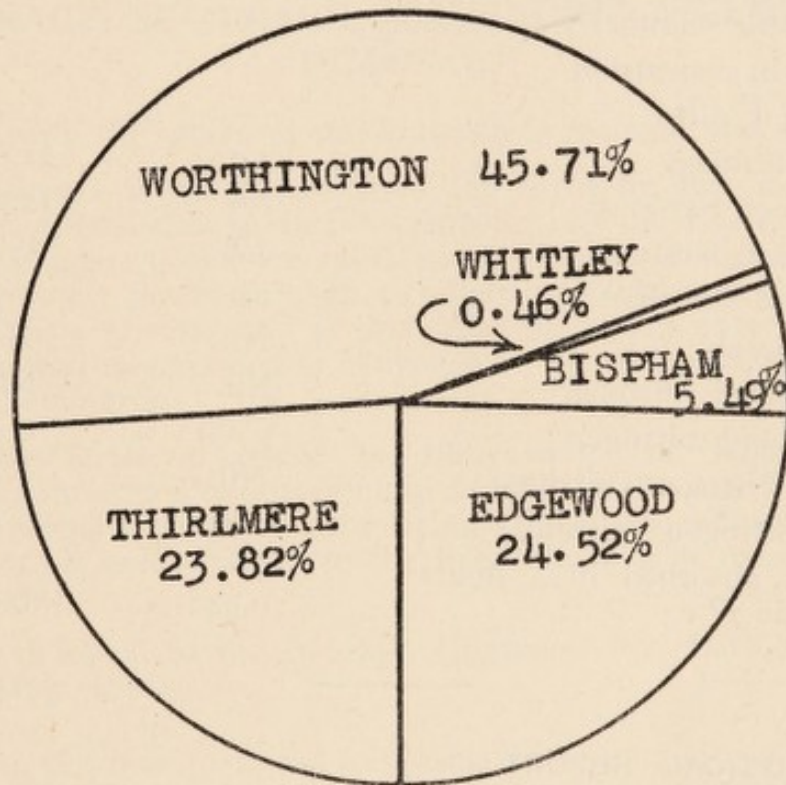
Advantage had to be taken in the summer months of the seasonal agreement with Manchester Corporation, whereby the normal supply of 500,000 gallons per day is supplemented by up to 400,000 gallons per day. The Corporation decided to meet the growing demand for water by reserving a further 500,000 gallons per day from the Manchester Corporation. On the 1st January, 1952, the Corporation began to take 200,000 gallons of water per day of this reserve. This increased the daily quantity to 700,000 gallons.

The approximate average daily consumption for domestic purposes is 1,908,000 gallons, representing approximately 22.46 gallons per head per day for a population of 84,170.

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, 1951-1952.



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

TYPICAL ANALYST'S REPORT OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN IN 1951.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS	THIRLMERE	BISPHAM— 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 deposit. p.H. 7.0

ANALYTICAL REPORTS.

Total saline matter in solution	....	4.4	....	37.6
Non volatile (mineral) solids	....	—	....	—
Loss on ignition (organic and volatile matter)	....	....	—	....
Matters in suspension	....	....	—	....
Nature of ditto	....	....	....	—
Total hardness	....	....	2.0	....
Temporary hardness	....	....	1.6	....
Permanent hardness	....	....	0.4	....
Combined chlorine	....	....	0.9	....
Toxic metals	....	....	Nil.	....
Ammoniacal nitrogen	....	....	Nil.	....
Albuminoid nitrogen	....	....	0.001	....
Nitrous nitrogen (nitrites)	....	....	Nil.	....
Nitric nitrogen (nitrates)	....	....	0.04	....
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 26.7° c.	....	....	0.042	....

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 Lancashire Rivers Board who are constantly engaged in work of dredging and straightening of the River. Improvements in the course of the River have recently been made, particularly in the region of Gillibrand Bridge.

The Lancashire Rivers 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 is 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. G. Keighley, for the following figures :—

During the year 1951, the following amounts of sewage have been treated at the Hoscar Moss and Pemberton Sewage Works :—

Pemberton Storm Water Works	....	....	543,555,000	gallons
Hoscar Bacteria Beds	....	....	1,141,052,000	„
Hoscar Drainage Area	....	....	295,463,000	„
			<hr/>	
Total sewage treated	....	....	1,980,070,000	„
			<hr/>	
Total solids, detritus tanks and screen chambers, Pemberton	....	....	3,344	tons
Total dried sludge recovered	....	....	2,308	„
Weight of dried sludge per million gallons of sewage	....	....	1.17	„
Rainfall for year	....	....	35.87	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	....	....	....	....	18 per cent.
Pagefield container	....	....	....	....	33 „
Mechanical vehicles	....	....	....	....	49 „

71 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, 1950, for the removal of this refuse. The shops and business premises in the town centre have a daily collection.

890 tons of trade refuse was delivered at the tipping site by private traders and contractors.

A scale of charges, in accordance with vehicle capacity, is operated.

Gully Cleansing.—During the year, 17,467 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 Refuse Disposal Plant during the year 1951 was 7,443 tons, and the quantity tipped was 18,653 tons. The Corporation have now introduced a Dust Bin Renewal Scheme, as a direct rate charge, equal to the product of 1d. rate—£1,860.

During the year, 1,048 bins were renewed, and 298 sold to properties not included in the scheme.

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

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The estimated number of water closets in the Borough was 28,294, waste water closets 87, 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, 934 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. During the year the Local Authority grant was increased to £10, and it is to be hoped that the effect of this incentive will be to speed conversion of waste water closets.

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.

During the months of October, November and December, the inspectorial staff were busy investigating complaints of defective roofs and other nuisances associated with the weather experienced at that time. Numerous notices were served on owners and agents of properties in respect of these defects, but the continued inclement weather prevented prompt action being taken to abate these nuisances.

It must be borne in mind that many complaints are received which on further investigation are found not to constitute statutory nuisances, and it is extremely difficult on occasions to convince the persons concerned of this fact.

Although many nuisances were abated after the service of Statutory Notices, it was necessary to institute legal proceedings in 17 cases for non-compliance with notices.

Owing to the continued housing shortage it is necessary to repair as many houses as possible, or at least take steps to make them weatherproof. Many of these dwellings are in such a condition that they are definitely sub-standard property and the repairs required to put them in a state, fit for human habitation are so costly that owners are very reluctant to undertake the work.

Many complaints have been received of dangerous houses and these have been referred to the Borough Engineer for action to be taken. In some cases the necessary work has been carried out, but in other instances the dwellings have become so dangerous and contained so many other sanitary defects that it was considered that they could not be put in a state fit for human habitation at reasonable

expense and were reported to the Health (Insanitary Houses) Subcommittee. Details of the work carried out during the year are outlined in the body of the report.

Visits were paid to the prefabricated bungalows on the Laithwaite Estate and comprehensive reports were submitted dealing with the complaints of condensation and dampness existing there.

On the 1st November, 1951, the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act came into operation. This requires the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured and stored, keeping of records of cleanliness, sampling, etc.

Close co-operation has been maintained between the Health Department and the Ministry of Food in connection with the issue by them of new catering licences. Most licences were concerned with the sale of snacks and beverages, whilst others were for full catering facilities. At the request of the Ministry, inspections have been made at premises, the owners of which have made applications for licences. In cases where the required standards were not observed, advice was given by the inspectors as to the improvements and alterations necessary before we could recommend the issue of a licence. In the majority of cases these requirements were carried out, but in others, the cost was not considered worth-while and the applications were cancelled.

We have also been consulted by the staff of the Borough Engineer's Department who have submitted to us plans relating to the construction or re-construction of kitchens at cafes and restaurants and other premises where food is prepared. This co-operation is very important and greatly appreciated as it tends to considerably improve the hygienic conditions so necessary in food preparing premises.

In the body of the report are set out the many and varied duties carried out by the inspectorial staff.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR

Houses and premises inspected and visited <i>re</i> nuisances and complaints	....	....	....	....	....	2625
Re-visits to nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	8758
Other visits made	....	....	....	....	....	1271
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)	....	....	....	....	....	328
Nuisances discovered	....	....	....	....	....	6599
" abated	....	....	....	....	....	5315
Notices issued (preliminary)	....	....	....	....	....	1145
" (formal)	....	....	....	....	....	790
Letters issued <i>re</i> nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	1080
Visits <i>re</i> building licences	....	....	....	....	....	781
Visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	183
Re-visits to premises <i>re</i> Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	144
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease	....	....	....	....	....	221
Visits to slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	....	1152
Visits <i>re</i> offensive trades	....	....	....	....	....	12

Visits to markets	....	....	....	....	....	100
„ butchers and other food shops	....	....	....	....	....	1772
„ cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	10
„ dairies	....	....	....	....	....	189
„ milkshops	....	....	....	....	....	30
„ ice cream premises	....	....	....	....	....	145
„ <i>re</i> Conversions	....	....	....	....	....	46
„ to prefabricated bungalows	....	....	....	....	....	117
„ bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	57
„ common lodging houses	....	....	....	....	....	43
„ houses let-in-lodgings	....	....	....	....	....	12
„ factories	....	....	....	....	....	148
„ workshops	....	....	....	....	....	1
„ offices	....	....	....	....	....	6
„ places of entertainment	....	....	....	....	....	19
„ caravans	....	....	....	....	....	31
„ caravans on fairground	....	....	....	....	....	56
„ canal boats	....	....	....	....	....	4
Visits <i>re</i> means of escape in case of fire	....	....	....	....	....	14
„ rats and mice—dwellings	....	....	....	....	....	6799
„ „ „ other premises	....	....	....	....	....	10765
„ smoke abatement	....	....	....	....	....	41
No. of shops observations (day)	....	....	....	....	....	68
No. of visits to shops under Shops Act	....	....	....	....	....	278
Visits <i>re</i> Poisons Acts	....	....	....	....	....	3
Visits to premises <i>re</i> applications for tenancy of Council houses	....	....	....	....	....	226

Samples Obtained :

Food and Drugs	....	....	....	....	....	247
Water, Milk and Ice-cream (for bacteriological examination)	....	....	....	....	....	284
Fertilisers and feeding stuffs	....	....	....	....	....	11
Rag flock	....	....	....	....	....	2

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Although some improvement has been effected by the visits of inspectors to factories and the assistance and co-operation of owners of these premises, the nuisance from smoke still continues to cause the department some concern. Visits have been paid by the inspectors with a view to impressing upon the owners of the premises and their staffs the need for constant vigilance in an endeavour to reduce the emission of black smoke from their chimneys.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET-IN-LODGINGS

These premises have been visited regularly by the inspectors and only informal action has been necessary in cases where contravention of the Bye-laws has been observed. One lodging house was condemned during the year owing to its dangerous condition.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

No. of common lodging houses in the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ lodgers allowed nightly	....	....	....	....	....	220
„ Visits	....	....	....	....	....	43

HOUSES-LET-IN-LODGINGS.

No. of houses on register	....	....	....	....	....	3
„ visits	....	....	....	....	....	12

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

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

Visits have been paid by the inspectors to these premises and it is interesting to note that no complaints were received during the year.

THE RAG FLOCK AND OTHER MATERIALS REGULATIONS, 1951.

No sample 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	....	....	....	....	....	19
„ inspections	....	....	....	....	....	4
„ letters sent out <i>re</i> defects	....	....	....	....	....	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Routine visits have been paid to factories and in cases where contraventions of the Act have been discovered, letters have been addressed to the owners of the premises and in the majority of cases no further action was necessary.

Complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, have also received attention and as in the past it is pleasing to record the close co-operation existing between the two departments.

Again we have had great assistance from the Fire Service in the decisions we have to make regarding means of escape in case of fire,

Certificates granted for adequate means of escape in case of fire	....	....	....	....	....	2
Revision of certificates for adequate means of escape in case of fire	....	....	....	....	....	2
Defective or unsatisfactory means of escape	....	....	....	....	....	3
Letters sent out	....	....	....	....	....	3
Work done	....	....	....	....	....	2
No. of factories on register	....	....	....	....	....	443
„ bakehouses on register	....	....	....	....	....	63
„ visits to factories	....	....	....	....	....	148
„ visits to bakehouses	....	....	.....	....	....	57
„ building sites and other works	....	....	....	....	....	13

The following defects were dealt with :—

Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	14
Require limewashing or cleansing	....	....	....	....	....	8
Inadequate ventilation	....	....	....	....	....	1
Other offences	....	....	....	....	....	2
						<hr/> 25 <hr/>
No. of defects remedied	....	....	....	....	....	23
„ notices received from H.M. Inspector	....	....	....	....	....	8
„ underground bakehouses being used	....	....	....	....	....	1

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Many visits have been paid to the shops in the Borough and close attention given to the sanitary conditions existing there. The general cleanliness of shops, particularly those where food is sold, is of vital importance and the inspectors have spared no effort in an endeavour to impress upon the owners of these premises the necessity for regular cleansing of utensils, counters, floors, etc., and the washing of hands, particularly after the use of the toilet.

The majority of shops in the Borough still close earlier than required by the shops Act. Few complaints have been received of contraventions of the Act during the year with regard to hairdressers, particularly the ladies section, and it has been stressed in previous reports of the difficulties experienced with regard to closing at these premises.

No. of shops on register	....	....	....	....	....	1849
„ visits and observations	....	....	....	....	....	346

REPORT OF OFFENCES.

Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes	....	1
Unclean condition of sanitary accommodation	....	1
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	....	—
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	....	1
Provision of suitable accommodation for meals	....	—
Provision of suitable washing facilities	....	6
Insufficient ventilation	....	1
Cleanliness of shop premises	....	5
Provision of seating accommodation for female staff	....	—
Defective structure of shop fabric	....	2
Letters sent out <i>re</i> contraventions	....	9

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

No. of " Listed Sellers " on register	....	104
„ visits to registered premises	....	3

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

In addition to the ordinary routine inspections of these premises, we have been requested to carry out a special inspection before the annual renewal of licences. It has been found that we have little cause for complaint and if any contravention has been observed, informal action only has been found necessary.

RODENT CONTROL.

In addition to the routine search, many requests have been received to carry out disinfestation at schools, canteens, dwelling houses, etc. Private dwellings still continue to receive free treatment, except where defective drains are at fault, but business and other premises are charged for the work executed.

Disinfestation has been carried out at tips and at the Sewage Works, Hoscar Moss. It should be emphasised that rats and mice can be a great danger, particularly in food premises and it is incumbent upon all owners or occupiers of premises and dwellings to report their presence to the Health Department so that the necessary measures may be taken to disinfest the premises concerned.

During the year, 89 premises were reported to be infested with rats and 21 were still under observation from complaints received in 1950. 42 premises were still under observation and 68 premises were reported as cleared at 31st December, 1951. 103 complaints of mice infestation were received during the year and on the 31st December, 1951, 77 premises had been cleared and 26 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 972 (bodies found 138) 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	
	Sausage rusk & zinc phosphate.		Bread rusk and arsenic.	
1. Bait base and poison used :				
2. Number of manholes baited	605	....	640
3. Number of manholes showing prebait take	109	....	120
4. Number of manholes showing complete prebait take (on one or both days)	100	....	89
5. Number of manholes test-baited in conjunction with this treatment and not included in No. 2 above	190	....	196

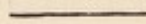
Two campaigns were carried out at the Hoscarr Sewage Works, with the following results :—

Poison points laid ....	....	....	....	....	....	98
Poison points taken ....	....	....	....	....	....	38

The Rodent Control Operators made a total of 17,446 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, 1951 :—

No. of dwelling houses	....	....	....	....	22,322
No. of business premises with living accommodation...					981
					23,303

No. of dwelling houses erected in 1951 :—

By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	202
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	19

The housing situation in the Borough is still acute and many would-be tenants call at the office to press their claim with the Chief Sanitary Inspector, both on overcrowding and medical grounds.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

- | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts) | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2606 |
| (b) Number of re-inspections made | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8641 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | .... | .... | .... | .... | 40 |
| (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 | | | | | 2484 |

INSANITARY HOUSES.

The dangerous and defective condition of many houses in the Borough is giving the department cause for concern. Many dwellings are in such a state that they are rapidly reaching the stage when they are beyond repair at reasonable expense. Notices are served under the Public Health Act, to repair roofs and spouts and generally keep the houses weatherproof but owing to the age of some of the property, constant attention to these defects is required in many cases. With the long list of applications for Council houses on overcrowding and medical grounds the time appears to be far distant when slum clearance on a large scale can be undertaken.

It has been found necessary to report to the Health (Insanitary Houses) Sub-committee on the insanitary condition of 35 houses. Demolition Orders were made on 31 houses and in one case the owner of a dwelling, submitted a specification which was approved by the committee to render the house fit for human habitation.

It is the practice to report only houses which are in a dangerous condition in addition to the existence of serious defects. In this connection it is pleasing to note the assistance extended to us by the Borough Engineer's Department in placing at our disposal reports on property where dangerous conditions are suspected by the District Sanitary Inspector.

Due to the increasing number of houses being reported to the Committee as insanitary dwellings, it has been found difficult to re-house the tenants within a reasonable time. In many of these dwellings dangerous conditions exist and it is vitally important that they should be demolished as soon as possible. As time goes on it will no doubt be necessary to report more dwellings for consideration by the committee and consequently the question of re-housing the tenants is one of urgency.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING—DEFENCE REGULATION 56 A.

During the year the free limit of £100 was still in operation. The local authority have remained responsible for the issue of licences to carry out work above the limit allowed at private dwellings, the Ministry of Works for business premises. The Department is responsible for the issue of certificates to obtain timber for eavesgutters, floorboards, etc.

No. of licences issued during the year	....	....	....	....	....	....	24
No. of certificates issued to obtain eavesgutter, floor boards, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	673

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN DURING THE YEAR :

In 17 cases it was necessary to issue summonses against persons for non-compliance with abatement notices :

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

12 nuisance orders were made by the Court for the work to be carried out within periods varying from 7 days to 1 month.

The first part of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year. It is divided into three main sections: the first deals with the general work of the office, the second with the work of the various departments, and the third with the work of the individual members of the staff.

The second part of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year. It is divided into three main sections: the first deals with the general work of the office, the second with the work of the various departments, and the third with the work of the individual members of the staff.

The third part of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year. It is divided into three main sections: the first deals with the general work of the office, the second with the work of the various departments, and the third with the work of the individual members of the staff.

The fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year. It is divided into three main sections: the first deals with the general work of the office, the second with the work of the various departments, and the third with the work of the individual members of the staff.

The fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year. It is divided into three main sections: the first deals with the general work of the office, the second with the work of the various departments, and the third with the work of the individual members of the staff.

The sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year. It is divided into three main sections: the first deals with the general work of the office, the second with the work of the various departments, and the third with the work of the individual members of the staff.

Section VII

**Inspection and
Supervision of Food**

MILK SUPPLY.

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

There are five premises in the Borough where milk is heat treated and routine visits were paid by the inspectors and samples obtained twice per month from each plant for bacteriological examination. Very few adverse reports have been received and generally speaking the keeping quality and efficient pasteurisation of the milk have been maintained at a good standard. Samples of milk from shops, carts on the street, and at point of delivery to dairies were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

No. of visits to cowsheds	....	....	....	10
,, dairies	....	....	....	189
,, milkshops	....	....	....	30
No. of dealers licensed for the sale of sterilised milk	....	....	....	370
,, licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk	....	....	....	119
,, licensed for the sale of tuberculin tested milk	....	....	....	27
,, as dealer (pasteuriser)	....	....	....	5
,, dealer (Steriliser)	....	....	....	1
No. of persons registered as distributors of milk				417
No. of premises registered as dairies	....	....	....	12

During the year, 156 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.

133 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. 115 samples were pasteurised milk, 6 tuberculin tested (pasteurised) and 12 sterilised.

In 4 samples the Methylene Blue test was void because the maximum atmospheric shade temperature was over 65°F.

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

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

ICE CREAM.

MANUFACTURERS AND PREMISES.

At the end of the year, 8 premises were registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

The control of ice cream premises has become an important branch of our work and visits were paid regularly to premises where ice cream is manufactured. Samples were obtained and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and graded as follows :—

Grade 1.	44	} Grades 1 and 2, 54 samples, are recognised as satisfactory.
Grade 2.	10	
Grade 3.	5	} Grades 3 and 4, 9 samples, are considered unsatisfactory.
Grade 4.	4	

Samples are obtained at fairly frequent intervals so as to ensure a high degree of bacterial purity of any manufactured product. As is the usual practice, further samples were taken on the receipt of adverse reports and it must be stressed that every assistance and co-operation was extended to us by the owners of premises when investigating and endeavouring to discover the reason for these adverse reports.

It should be emphasised again that personal cleanliness and washing of hands after the use of the sanitary conveniences is very important as also is the provision of clean overalls.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, came into force during the year. It prescribes the following :—Ice Cream to contain not less than 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat. An alternative standard for ice cream containing fruit pulp or fruit puree and a special standard for Parev (Kosher) ice sold under that description.

6 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst and these were found to be satisfactory.

RETAILERS.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream on 31st December, 1951, was 173.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

83 shops in the Borough carry on the trade of fish frying. Routine visits have been paid to the shops. Complaints are rare and generally speaking the businesses are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

REGISTRATION OF PURVEYORS OF MEAT AND PREMISES.

The number of premises registered is 77.

These premises have been visited by the Inspectors and in the main there has been little cause for complaint.

Vans conveying meat to the shops have been found to be kept reasonably clean, but there are occasions when the attention of the persons carrying the meat has had to be called to the fact that they had no head covering, or that their caps and overalls were in an unclean condition.

EXAMINATION OF WATER.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

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

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

	Bispham and Nicholson's Pit	Edgewood and Nicholson's Pit	Thirlmere	Worthington and Thirlmere
	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000	Parts per 100,000
Temporary Hardness	12.0	12.1	1.5	4.5
Permanent Hardness	9.5	9.2	1.1	7.7
Total Hardness	21.5	21.3	2.6	12.2
Combined Chlorine	2.9	2.9	0.9	1.5
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	—	—	—	—
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.003	0.004	0.002	0.005
Nitrogen as Nitrites	—	—	—	—
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.143	0.135	0.044	0.116
Oxygen absorbed (in 3 hrs. at 37°C.)	0.024	0.041	0.046	0.078
PH Value	7.1	7.0	7.3	7.3

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

During the year, 60 routine samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for examination. The results of 8 of these examinations were unsatisfactory, and, in consequence, 25 further samples were taken, 9 of which failed to reach the usual standard.

1 other sample of water was taken at point of entry to the Tower Field reservoir.

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

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are still 6 slaughterhouses in use in the Borough. 3 are used for the purpose of killing cattle, calves, sheep and pigs, and 3 for the slaughter of pigs only. These premises are visited daily for the purpose of examination of the meat killed therein.

There is no improvement in the conditions existing at the 3 slaughterhouses in the Scholes area and the question of the erection of a public abattoir to serve Wigan, Leigh and Bolton is still in obedience.

During the year a deputation representing the Wigan Corporation, attended at the Ministry of Food in Guildford and pressed strongly the claim that a public abattoir should be built within the County Borough of Wigan. Several sites have been suggested and forwarded to the Ministry, but they have all been rejected as unsuitable. Although it is felt that Wigan by virtue of its size and importance, and the fact that it supplies a large area with meat is entitled to have a public abattoir within the Borough, there appears to be little hope of this as the Ministry favour a country area situated in a position central to the 3 Boroughs concerned.

The butchers shops have been visited by the Inspectors as a routine duty and special visits have been paid at the request of the occupiers for the purpose of examining food and if necessary issuing a certificate of condemnation. Vans purveying meat through the streets for sale by retail have also been inspected and although kept clean this method of retailing meat is unhygienic as the food is open to contamination by dust, etc., and to handling by members of the public.

It has been the practice for some years to send condemned meat to a local fat-melter for manufacturing purposes only and this is still in operation.

No. of visits to slaughterhouses	....	...	....	1152
„ „ markets	....	....	....	100
„ „ butchers' and other food shops	....	....	....	1772
„ certificates issued (condemned food)	....	....	....	1147

CARCASES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR 1951.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
Carcases examined	6658	4284	2396	11243	23384	47965
Carcases totally condemned ...	16	155	32	106	6	315
Percentage totally condemned ...	0.24	3.62	1.34	0.94	0.03	0.66

The following meat and offal from the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1951 :—

	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) ...	14	9	232	723	155	12	27	59	112	6	—	41
Cows ...	148	77	708	1852	335	45	160	200	360	11	2	264
Calves ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ...	81	28	354	215	343	93	28	1	—	1	—	63
Sheep ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affected with other Diseases, etc.:												
Cattle (exc. cows)...	2	—	27	522	1723	30	8	11	11	33	—	2
Cows ...	7	1	24	250	2275	50	14	63	18	203	792	3
Calves ...	27	—	1	5	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs ...	25	2	—	1176	185	243	78	—	3	39	50	82
Sheep ...	6	1	3	92	1813	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
	315	118	1349	4835	6835	492	315	334	504	293	844	455

SUMMARY OF OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED, 1951.

Imported Meat	....	....	....	....	....	314 lbs.
Other Meat and Offal	....	....	....	....	....	2,441 lbs.
Sausages	....	....	....	....	....	5 lbs.
Bacon	....	....	....	....	....	12 lbs.
Canned Meat	....	....	....	....	....	1,327
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	5,110 lbs.
Canned Fish	....	....	....	....	....	266
Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	610 lbs.
Canned Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	2,283
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	907 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	1,326
Cheese	....	....	....	....	....	46 lbs.
Rabbits	....	....	....	....	....	381
Butter	....	....	....	....	....	112 lbs.
Canned Milk	....	....	....	....	....	1,533
Canned Jam	....	....	....	....	....	158
Canned Soup	....	....	....	....	....	280
Packages of other food	....	....	....	....	....	1,525
Other canned or bottled foods	....	....	....	....	....	243
Fowl	....	....	....	....	....	22
Cooking Fat	....	....	....	....	....	69 lbs.
Eggs	....	....	....	....	....	650
Cream	....	....	....	....	....	6 gallons

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

MARKETS.

Daily visits are paid to the markets where fish and fruit are sold by wholesale and retail.

As far as the fruit stalls are concerned it is not only necessary to ensure that fruit is sold to the customer in a fresh and wholesome condition, but attention has also to be paid to the proper marking with the country of origin, etc., in accordance with the Merchandise Marks Act.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

During the year, 247 samples of milk and various other foods obtained under the above act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1951.

Articles	Total Number Analysed	Samples regarded as adulterated below standard or otherwise not complying with the prescribed requirements	
		Number	Percentage
Butter	6	—	—
Cake	4	—	—
Canned Fruit	4	1	25
Cheese	4	—	—
Coffee	6	—	—
Cooking Fat	4	—	—
Custard Powder	2	—	—
Dried Peas	2	—	—
Fish Paste	2	—	—
Gin	2	—	—
Ice Cream	6	—	—
Jam	6	—	—
Lollipop.....	1	—	—
Margarine	6	—	—
Marmalade	4	—	—
Meat Pies	4	—	—
Milk	156	*20	12.8
Pepper	2	—	—
Rum	2	—	—
Salad Dressing.....	2	—	—
Sausage	6	—	—
Sardines	2	—	—
Syrup	2	—	—
Tea	6	—	—
Vinegar	4	—	—
Whisky.....	2	—	—
TOTAL	247	21	8.5

* Action taken in regard to 20 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	15		Deficient in non-fatty solids to extent of 3.5%.	Analyst advised no action.
Milk	18		Deficient in non-fatty solids to extent of 2.3%.	Analyst advised no action.
Milk	19		Deficient in non-fatty solids to extent of 3.5%.	Analyst advised no action.
Milk	26		Deficient in milk fat to extent of 10%.	Formal samples Nos. 31 and 32 taken.
Milk	27		Deficient in non-fatty solids to extent of 1.1%.	Analyst advised no action.
Milk	28		Deficient in milk fat to extent of 8.6%.	Formal samples taken. Found genuine.
Milk	30		Deficient in non-fatty solids to extent of 2.3%.	Analyst advised no action.
Milk		31	Deficient in non-fatty solid to extent of 2.3%.	Naturally deficient. Analyst advised no action.
Milk		32	Deficient in non-fatty solid to extent of 3.5%.	
Milk	65		Deficient in milk fat to extent of 6%.	Formal samples Nos. 69 and 70 taken.
Milk		69	Deficient in milk fat to extent of 10%.	Naturally deficient. Analyst advised no action.
Milk		70	Deficient in milk fat to extent of 25%.	
Milk		78	Deficient in milk fat to extent of 3.3%.	Naturally deficient. Analyst advised no action.
Milk		134	Adulterated with 8.0% extraneous water.	Formal samples Nos. 150 and 151 taken.
Milk		150.	Adulterated with 10.9% extraneous water.	Fined £10 in each case.
Milk		151	Adulterated with 7.1% extraneous water.	
Milk		182	Adulterated with 5.0% extraneous water	Fined £5.
Milk		198	Adulterated with 52.2% extraneous water.	Partners each fined £20 and £1 costs.
Milk		199	Deficient in non-fatty solids to extent of 2.2%.	Analyst advised no action.
Milk		200	Adulterated with 17% extraneous water.	Fined £5 and £1 costs.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

6 samples of fertiliser and 5 samples of feeding stuffs were obtained and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst. It will be seen from the Analyst's report that they complied with the statutory statement within the limits of variation except in the case of 2 samples to which the Analyst makes reference in his annual report on page 82.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST.

The Borough Analyst, Mr. S. E. Melling, M.Sc. (Hon.) F.R.I.C., submits the following report of the work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1951 :—

CHEMICAL LABORATORY,
359, The Cliff,
Higher Broughton,
Manchester, 7.
6th May, 1952.

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, 1951.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Total number of foods and drugs analysed ...	....	247
Number adulterated, below standard, or otherwise not complying with prescribed requirements ...	....	21
Percentage so reported against ...	....	8.5

The only samples reported against were 20 samples of milk and 1 of tinned red cherries.

The Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939, states that genuine milk (until the contrary is proved) contains 8.5% of non-fatty solids and 3.0% of fat. On this basis 8 samples were naturally deficient in non-fatty solids to the extent of 3.5% (4 cases), 2.3% (2 cases), 2.2% and 1.1%, and the result of the Freezing Point (Horvet) test showed that the deficiencies were not due to the presence of added water. 6 samples were deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3, 6.6, 10.0 (2 cases), 16.6 and 25% respectively.

6 milks were adulterated with extraneous water. After an informal sample had been found to contain 8% of water, 2 formal samples were taken from the same source, and they were adulterated to the extent of 10.9 and 7.1% respectively. Two appeal to cow samples were then taken which were, of course, genuine milk, although there was a very slight deficiency in non-fatty solids in one. The remaining 3 samples were adulterated to the extent of 5, 17 (No. 200)

and 52.2 (No. 198) per cent. respectively. 6 appeal to cow samples were taken in respect of the two latter milks, and were of good quality, particularly those from the source of No. 198, which corresponded with that yielded by a Channel Islands breed of cow. Adulteration to the extent of 52.2%, which means, of course, the presence of upwards of half a gallon of added water in a gallon of the milk vended, is the worst case recorded during your Analyst's period of office of forty-six years. Little wonder the sample was referred to in another place as one of water adulterated with milk rather than vice versa !

Of the remaining samples of milk all were of satisfactory quality and freedom from preservatives and artificial colouring matter was maintained throughout.

The sample of tinned cherries was submitted after complaints had been made that they were objectionable in odour and taste. The tin was sound and the contents appeared fresh. A bacteriological examination and examination for toxic metals, including tin, gave negative results, and nothing of a harmful nature was found. It was agreed, however, that the cherries had a slightly sour and metallic taste, and for this subjective reason an adverse report was issued.

6 samples of ice cream complied with the order which came into force on March 1st, 1951, and requires a content of no less than 5% of fat, 10% of sugar and 7.5% of milk solids other than fat. The proof spirit content of 2 samples each of whisky, gin and rum was in order, and all the remaining samples of food were of genuine commercial composition and of sound quality.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

During the year, 6 samples of fertilisers and 5 samples of feeding stuffs were submitted for examination to check the statutory statements attached to the conditions of sale.

The fertilisers were : Grass and Grain Manure, Superior Top Dressing Manure, Complete Fertilisers, Potato Fertiliser, Grass Fertiliser and Excelnitre Fertiliser.

The sample of Grass and Grain Manure contained 1.65% more insoluble phosphoric acid than was stated in the statutory statement, and this excess is greater than the tolerance allowed by the limits of variation.

The feeding stuffs comprised : Cattle Nuts No. 1, Milk Cake-lettes, National Pig Food No. 1, Dairy Meal and Battery Pellets No. 1A.

The sample of Cattle Nuts No. 1, contained an excess of oil, greater than that allowed by the limits of variation, of 0.84%. The remaining samples were in order.

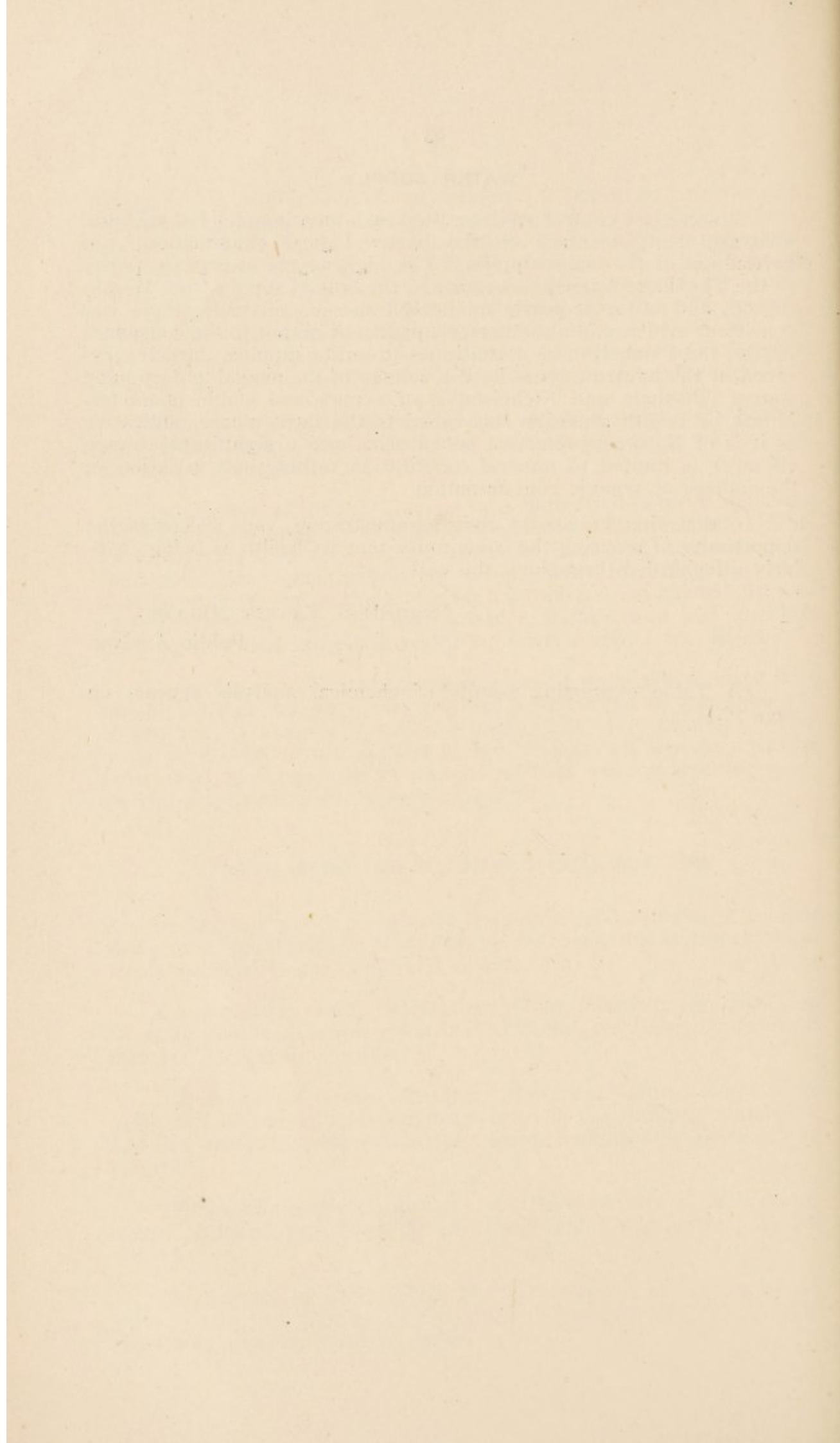
WATER SUPPLY.

A very close control was exercised each month and a full chemical analysis, complementary to the bacteriological examination, was carried out of the main supplies. The high degree of organic purity of the Thirlmere water is beneficial to the bulked supply from Worthington, and as far as **purity** for potable use is concerned, there was consistent evidence of a satisfactory quality of output to the consumer. Again, the Pemberton area continues to enjoy supplies, largely governed in the hygienic sense by the volume of the available deep-mine waters (Bispham and Nicholsons), of a pure and stable character. Month by month attention was called to the latter phase, indicative as it is of Nature's protective beneficence, and a significant change (if any) is limited to mineral constitution rather than variation in the indices of organic contamination.

In this vital branch of civic administration, one welcomes the opportunity of assuring the community that its health is being regularly safeguarded throughout the year.

(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

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS, 1951.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	3
Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	483	300	153	32	35	23	18	3	4	-	5	3	1059
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	32	22	8	5	7	3	2	3	3	2	4	6	97
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	4	9	6	4	6	8	10	6	7	9	12	4	85
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	5	10	5	7	5	3	14	2	4	11	2	5	73
Other Forms	1	3	2	3	3	-	1	3	-	1	2	2	21
Whooping Cough	54	57	39	16	18	8	4	4	1	-	-	1	202
	580	401	214	68	74	45	51	23	20	28	29	21	1554

COMPARATIVE NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Disease	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis : Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	24	1	1	5	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	150	113	61	70	59	27	8	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	60	3	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	19	30	15	20	8	11	18	14	11	3
Influenzal Pneumonia	8	10	5	5	2	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	394	1061	130	963	167	510	1465	321	544	1059
Meningococcal Infection	16	8	3	2	3	5	4	1	1	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	4	2	1	2	2	4	-	1	-
Paratyphoid Fever	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	75	101	69	61	54	31	45	73	89	97
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2	1	2	1	2	4	4	4	1
Scarlet Fever	106	175	310	171	93	532	839	146	138	85
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	89	95	81	106	101	86	79	72	73	73
Other Forms	45	56	32	36	22	27	24	12	14	21
Whooping Cough	60	58	76	21	111	31	104	157	106	202
	975	1713	787	1458	623	1292	2595	862	991	1554

DIPHTHERIA.

Only one case was notified, and this was later re-diagnosed as tonsillitis. There was no death.

SCARLET FEVER.

85 cases were notified, 26 of which were removed to hospital. No death was recorded.

MEASLES.

1,059 cases were notified. No death was recorded.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.

3 cases were notified, all of which were removed to Whelley Hospital. No death was recorded.

WHOOPING COUGH.

202 cases were notified, and there were 3 deaths.

It is perhaps significant that these 3 deaths occurred in the first quarter of the year when the influenza epidemic was at its height and many deaths were being ascribed to Bronchitis and Pneumonia associated with influenza.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.**Paralytic :**

No case was notified.

Non-Paralytic :

2 cases were notified, aged 33 and 35 respectively. Both cases received hospital treatment.

ERYSIPELAS.

3 cases were notified. No death was recorded.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

1 case was notified. The case was treated in hospital and recovered.

DYSENTERY.

7 cases of dysentery were notified.

INFLUENZA.

The epidemic of influenza which occurred in the first few weeks of the year was an extension of the Merseyside epidemic which had started in the last week of 1950.

As the disease is not notifiable, the first intimation that cases were reaching epidemic proportions came from the harrassed general practitioners working in and around the town. The Corporation Departments such as the Transport Department employing large numbers of workmen and women were early affected and the weekly morbidity figures supplied by the Ministry of National Insurance, left no doubt that the disease was extremely widespread amongst the population.

Set out in the table below are the numbers of deaths ascribed to influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis, and the total weekly deaths for the period, 6th January to 3rd February, and for purposes of comparison are given, the deaths in a similar period in 1948, and comparable figures for 1919, the year of the great pandemic.

	1919				1948					1951				
	Feb.		Mar.		January					Jan.		Feb.		
	8	15	22	1	3	10	17	24	31	6	13	20	27	3
Influenza	21	27	25	20	—	2	—	—	1	—	13	23	11	12
Pneumonia	19	12	14	5	1	4	2	1	3	5	2	4	3	4
Bronchitis	12	7	9	7	3	—	2	2	3	3	8	8	13	4
Total from these causes	52	46	48	32	4	6	4	3	7	8	23	35	27	20
Total weekly deaths	79	64	69	54	21	15	18	22	18	24	54	72	50	41

The epidemic appeared to burn itself out over a period of four to five weeks and the number of deaths in the Borough had returned to normal by the 10th February.

Clinically, in otherwise healthy persons the disease was relatively mild, but the onset was abrupt and seemed to strike a whole family at the same time and not as is usually the case, showing an interval of three to four days between the various members of the household. One practical result of this was that on several occasions no one in the house was available to call a doctor or to obtain help, and the good offices of neighbours or the postman were used to that end.

The disease resulted in rather severe complications where the patient had previously been troubled with chronic sinusitis or chronic bronchitis and a feature in the aged was the rapidity of the onset of broncho-pneumonia. The greater portion of deaths occurred in the older age groups, 65% being over 65 years of age, and aged females predominated, i.e., there were 30 male and 38 female deaths over 65 years of age.

Apart from the lack of accurate early information as to the proportions of the epidemic, perhaps the greatest difficulty was in gaining hospital admission for the cases complicated by pneumonia, etc., and for those who for social reasons could not be nursed at home. If lives are to be saved in future epidemics of this kind, a definite plan to evacuate hospital beds to make way for urgent cases will have to be drawn up and put into operation when the emergency arises. This would relieve the general practitioners and the personnel of the domiciliary services of the local health authority, much of whose time was spent in attending patients who were really in need of hospital care. However, in spite of all the difficulties, liaison with the hospital authorities, rarely failed to produce a bed for the patient "in extremis."

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN WARDS.

Wards	Estimated Population	Notifications			Deaths		
		Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Totals	Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	Other forms of Tuber- culosis	Totals
No. 1—St. George ...	2610	—	2	2	1	—	1
No. 2—Lindsay ...	4831	5	—	5	—	—	—
No. 3—St. Catharine ..	5666	5	3	8	2	—	2
No. 4—St. Patrick ...	6423	6	—	6	5	—	5
No. 5—St. Thomas ...	2554	7	1	8	2	—	2
No. 6—Poolstock ...	3788	3	1	4	1	—	1
No. 7—Victoria ...	2918	8	1	9	—	—	—
No. 8—St. Andrew ...	16681	17	3	20	6	—	6
No. 9—Swinley ...	10360	2	2	4	2	1	3
No. 10—All Saints ...	2249	1	—	1	—	—	—
No. 11—West Pemberton	5079	5	2	7	5	—	5
No. 12—North ..	6582	5	1	6	6	—	6
No. 13—Central ..	9546	4	3	7	4	—	4
No. 14—South ..	4883	5	2	7	1	—	1
Totals ...	84170	73	21	94	35	1	86

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	2	2	4	3	—	1	—	—
15—	9	13	3	5	2	6	—	—
25—	15	13	1	2	6	4	—	—
45—	10	5	1	—	12	1	—	—
65—	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	1
75—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	38	35	10	11	23	12	—	1

The number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 35, against 35 in 1950, and 42 in 1949. The number of deaths from other tubercular affections was 1, against 7 in 1950, and 7 in 1949.

The rates are as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0.42 per 1,000 of population.

Other Tuberculous Diseases 0.01 " "

If taken together as tuberculous affections, we have 36 deaths, or a rate of 0.43 per 1,000 of the population.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1947 TO 1951.

Cases Notified.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Pulmonary	86	79	72	73	73
Other forms of Tuberculosis	27	24	12	14	21
Total	113	103	84	87	94

Deaths.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Pulmonary	64	35	42	35	35
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	5	7	7	1
Total	67	40	49	42	36

Death Rates.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Pulmonary	0.76	0.41	0.49	0.41	0.42
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.01
Total	0.79	0.47	0.57	0.49	0.43

DISINFECTION.

Two disinfectors deal with the disinfection of dwelling-houses.

All infected bedding and clothing is treated in a high-pressure steam disinfectant on the Washington-Lyons principle. The steam disinfectant 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	....	....	....	....	147
„ rooms disinfected	....	....	....	....	323
„ beds disinfected	....	....	....	....	60
„ sheets and quilts disinfected	....	....	....	....	382
„ other articles disinfected	....	....	....	....	71
„ library books disinfected	....	....	....	....	67
„ schools disinfected	....	....	....	....	1

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.

		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951
Deaths	....	97	....	73	....	110	....	99	....	118
Rates	....	1.15	....	0.87	....	1.30	....	1.16	....	1.40

PNEUMONIA.

		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951
Deaths	....	70	....	49	....	50	....	36	....	46
Rates	....	0.83	....	0.58	....	0.59	....	0.42	....	0.55

OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951
Deaths	....	12	....	10	....	13	....	11	....	16
Rates	....	0.14	....	0.12	....	0.15	....	0.13	....	0.19

TOTAL FROM ALL RESPIRATORY CAUSES.

		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951
Deaths	....	179	....	132	....	173	....	146	....	180
Rates	....	2.12	....	1.57	....	2.04	....	1.71	....	2.14

CANCER.

		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951
Deaths	....	131	....	129	....	147	....	141	....	155
Rates	....	1.56	....	1.53	....	1.74	....	1.67	....	1.84

Cancer deaths during the past 20 years.

Year.	No. of Deaths.	Year.	No. of Deaths.
1932	107	1942	117
1933	102	1943	124
1934	110	1944	129
1935	114	1945	117
1936	125	1946	121
1937	127	1947	131
1938	113	1948	129
1939	108	1949	147
1940	113	1950	141
1941	122	1951	155

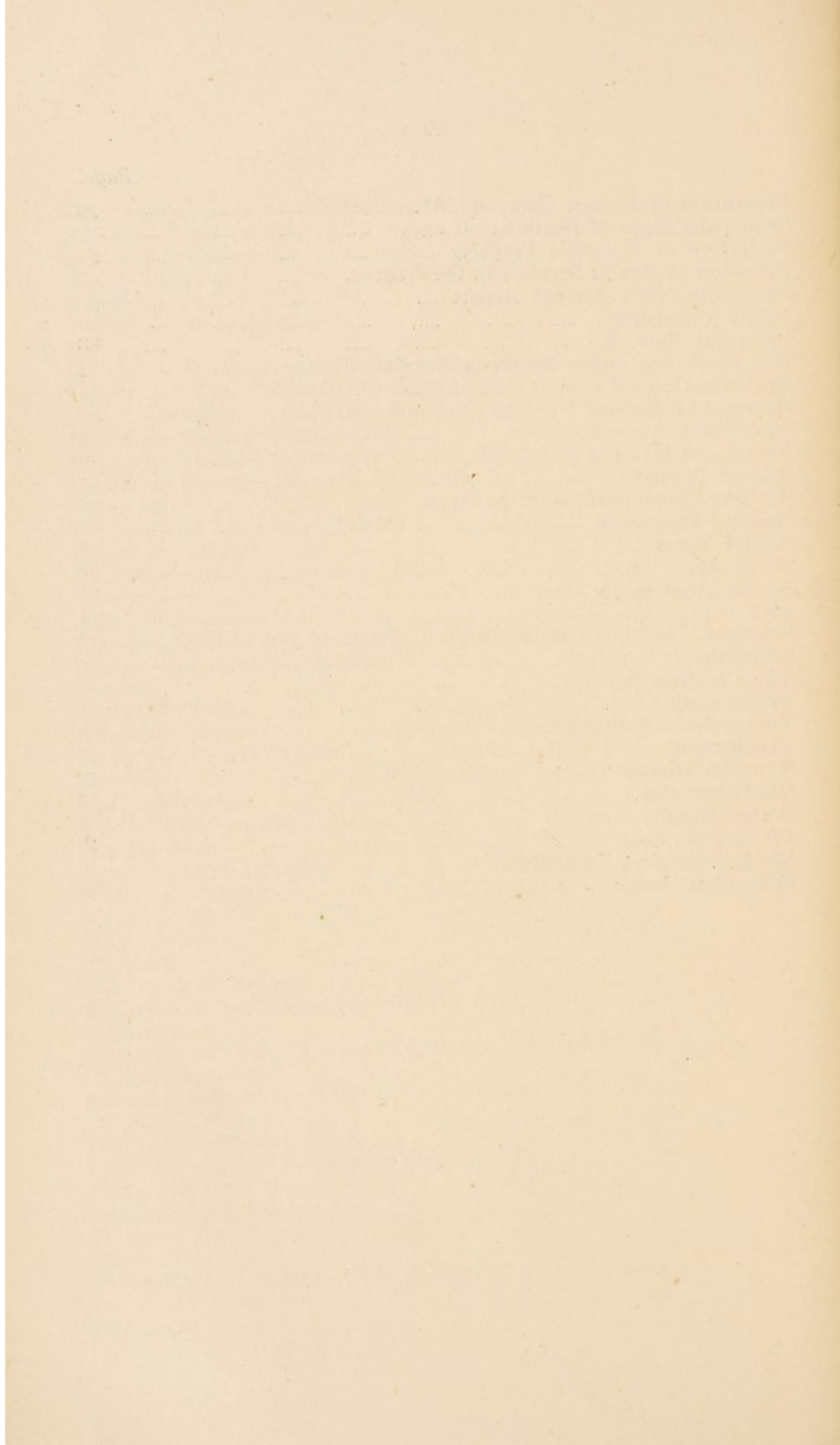
1932-1936: 558
 1937-1939: 583
 1942-1946: 608
 1947-1951: 703

INDEX.

	<i>Page.</i>
Acute Poliomyelitis	88
Adulteration of Food—Action taken	80
Ambulance Service	38, 39
Ante-natal Clinics	29
Bacteriological Examination of Ice Cream	75
Bacteriological Examination of Milk	74
Bacteriological Examination of Water	76
Baths	11
B.C.G. Vaccination	41, 42
Births	31
Blind Welfare	52, 53
Bronchitis	96
Burial of the Dead	54
Canal Boats Acts	64
Cancer	96
Care of Premature Infants	35
Care of Mothers and Young Children	28
Causes of Death with Death Rates....	18
Chemical Analysis of Water	58, 76
Classes for Expectant Mothers	29
Clinics	28
Closet Accommodation	60, 61
Common Lodging Houses	63, 64
Condemned Meat and Other Foods	77, 78
Control of Civil Building	71
Convalescence	40
Co-ordination of Health Services	47, 48
Deaf and Dumb Welfare	53, 54
Death Rates for the last ten years	21
Dental Officer's Report	30
Diphtheria	88
Diphtheria Immunisation	37
Disinfection	94
Distribution of Disinfectants	94
Domestic Help Service	42
Domiciliary Midwifery	32, 33
Drainage, Sewerage, Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	59
Dysentery	88
Emergency Obstetrical Unit	34
Erysipelas	88
Examination of Water	58, 76
Extracts from Vital Statistics	31, 32
Factories Act	64, 65
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act	81, 82
Food and Drugs Act	79, 80
Fried Fish Shops	75
Gas and Air Analgesia	33

	<i>Page.</i>
Handicapped Persons Welfare	54
Health Committee	2
Health Education	39
Health Visiting	34, 35
Home Nursing	36
Houses Let-in-Lodgings	64
Housing	69
Ice Cream Manufacturers, Retailers and Premises	75
Infant and Young Children's Clinics	29, 30
Infant Mortality	24, 25, 31, 32
Infectious Disease Notifications	86, 87
Infectious Disease, Prevalence of and Control over	85
Infectious Diseases, Revised Diagnosis	86
Influenza	89, 90
Inquests and Uncertified Deaths	26
Insanitary Houses	70, 71
Inspection and Supervision of Food	73
Introduction	5
Legal Proceedings	71
Locally Classified List of Deaths from Registrar's Returns	22, 23
Lunacy and Mental Treatment	44-46
Markets	79
Maternal Deaths	32
Maternity Homes	34
Meals on Wheels Service	42
Measles	88
Meat Inspection	77, 78
Meat Purveyors and Premises	76
Medical Aid	33
Meningococcal Infection	88
Mental Deficiency	45, 46
Mental Health	43-47
Milk Supply	74
Morbidity	20
Municipal Midwives	32, 33
Natural and Social Conditions of the Area	9
Nursery	31
Nursery and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948	31
Occupation Centre	46, 47
Offences under Shops Acts	66
Offensive Trades	64
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	34
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	96
Parks and Open Spaces	12
Pharmacy and Poisons Act	66
Places of Entertainment	66
Pneumonia	96
Populations of Wards, with Comparative Deaths and Death Rates	21
Post-Natal Clinic	29

	<i>Page.</i>
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	39
Principal Causes of Death at all ages	19
Protection of Moveable Property	54
Provision of Health Services in the Area	27
Public Analyst's Annual Report	81-83
Public Cleansing	60
Puerperal Pyrexia	88
Rag Flock and Other Materials Regulations, 1951	64
Registrar General's Short List of Causes of Deaths	16, 17
Removal of Persons Needing Care and Attention	54
Residential Accommodation	50-52
Rivers and Streams	59
Rodent Control	66, 67
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	55
Sanitary Inspection	61
Scarlet Fever	88
Shops Act	65, 66
Smoke Abatement	63
Staff	2-4
Statistics	13
Stillbirths	31
The Children Act	36
Tuberculosis	40-42, 91-93
Tuberculosis Notifications	91, 92
Vaccination	37
Venereal Disease	40
Vital Statistics	15
Water Supply	56-58, 83
Welfare Services	49
Welfare Services Committee	2
Whooping Cough	88





LIVERPOOL :
MEEK, THOMAS & CO. LTD.
9 TITHEBARN STREET.
