

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Wilmslow U.D.C.

Contributors

Wilmslow (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

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Wilmslow Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1944.



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WILMSLOW.

31st August, 1945.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. EVANS AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present herewith my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1944, together with that of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The report gives in the statistics the figures which were withheld last year for the years 1939-43 and also the figures for 1944. The birth rate has risen but is still below that for England and Wales ; the death rate, infantile mortality and maternal mortality rates are all below that for England and Wales. There have been no maternal deaths for five years, but the figures are not large enough for them to be significant. None of these statistics, or those of the incidence of infectious disease, suggest any deterioration of the health of the population.

During the year there was the reception of the London evacuees, and a medical inspection was carried out before they were billeted, and the results were in striking contrast to the first evacuation in 1939, and the people themselves and the authorities from whose areas they came are to be congratulated, especially when one considers the very great strain that they had been under. There were also many " private " evacuees. The welfare centre facilities were utilised to a much greater extent than they were in 1939.

The question of water supply is dealt with in more detail this year, and it is to be hoped that the scheme submitted to the Ministry of Health may be approved and completed.

The milk supply is also dealt with at greater length, and it is to be hoped that with the cessation of hostilities and the easing of the labour position, quality, as affected by hygienic handling at all stages, may be improved, and also that the quantity produced will continue to increase, and that the two combined may bring us to a much higher position among the nations as to milk consumed per head of population. Without clean and safe milk, this goal cannot be achieved.

As in all the years since my appointment, I have to acknowledge the assistance given me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff, the help and co-operation of the Clerk to the Council, and the encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

DAVID G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

D. G. ANDERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

G. H. LANCASTER, CERT.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

L. N. BRUNSKILL, CERT.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

(Resigned February, 1945)

Both Sanitary Inspectors hold the special diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the inspection of meat and other foods.

Clerical :

Medical Officer's Office : Miss E. M. Wood (a)

Sanitary Inspector's Office : Mrs. E. Palmer (b)

(a) Temporary for Miss N. King, serving in
H.M. Forces.

(b) Temporary for Miss M. Fletcher, serving
in H.M. Forces.

Medical Officer's Office :

Bruntwood Hall, Cheadle, Cheshire.

(Tel. : GATley 3241)

Sanitary Inspector's Office :

Green Hall, Wilmslow.

(Tel. : Wilmslow 2275)

Duties of Public Health Staff :—

The Medical Officer of Health is restricted from private practice and the appointment is a joint one for this district and the Urban Districts of Cheadle and Gatley, and Alderley Edge. He is clinical medical officer to the child welfare centres by arrangement with the Cheshire County Council.

Both Sanitary Inspectors are full-time officials.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is responsible for House Refuse Removal and Disposal, including salvage, and is appointed Inspector under the Petroleum Acts. During 1944 he was appointed Rodent Officer.

SECTION A : STATISTICS OF THE AREA

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Area (in acres)	7,705	7,705	7,705	7,705	7,705	7,705
Registrar General's Estimate of mid-year population ..	14,920	16,380	16,130	15,680	15,160	15,080

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births —Total	186	188	203	219	219	239
Legitimate	181	180	191	211	208	231
Illegitimate	5	8	12	8	11	8

Birth rate per 1,000 population :						
Wilmslow	12.5	11.5	12.6	14.0	14.5	15.8
England and Wales ..	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6

Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births :						
Wilmslow	26.9	42.6	59.1	36.6	50.2	33.3

Still Births —Total	13	11	6	4	5	9
Legitimate	13	11	6	4	5	8
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0	1

Rate per 1,000 population :						
Wilmslow	0.87	0.67	0.37	0.26	0.33	0.60
England and Wales ..	0.59	0.55	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.50

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :						
Wilmslow	65.5	55.3	28.7	18.0	22.3	37.7

Deaths —All Causes	174	176	175	195	152	164
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Death rate per 1,000 population :						
Wilmslow	11.3 ^c	10.1 ^c	10.85	12.4	10.0	10.9
England and Wales ..	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6

(c) Corrected by comparability factor.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Other Puerperal Causes ..	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :						
Wilmslow	10	0	0	0	0	0
England and Wales ..	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	1.84	1.53

Death of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate	4	2	7	14	4	8
Illegitimate	0	1	0	4	0	1
Total	4	3	7	18	4	9

Rate per 1,000 corresponding live births :						
Wilmslow	22	16	34	82	18	38
England and Wales ..	50	55	59	49	49	46
Legitimate—Wilmslow ..	22	11	36	66	19	35
Illegitimate—Wilmslow ..	0	125	0	500	0	125

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	27	30	26	26	16	29
„ Measles (all ages) ..	0	0	0	0	1	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	0	1	1	2	0	1
„ Influenza (all ages)	2	4	6	1	2	0
„ Pneumonia (all ages)	4	2	3	6	6	6
„ Tuberculosis, Pul- monary (all ages)	3	6	4	4	3	4

SECTION B : GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Staff. See beginning of report. (b) Laboratory facilities. (c) Ambulance facilities. (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. (e) Nursing in the Home. (f) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary. | } | <p>No changes from arrangements in Report for 1944.</p> |
|--|---|---|

SECTION C :

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply :—

The water is supplied by the Stockport Corporation Water Department. The water supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

No bacteriological examinations of the piped water supply have been made by this authority during the year. Weekly samples are taken by the Water Department of the filtered and treated water for bacteriological examination and of the raw water monthly for chemical and bacteriological.

There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action.

Where well water has been found to be unfit, and other sources are at present not available, the occupants have been warned to boil all water before it is consumed.

Seventy-three houses are not supplied from the public mains and there are 4,798 houses on the rate books. Three houses are supplied from main standpipes. If the scheme submitted under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, is implemented every house within reasonable distance of a public road could be connected to the mains at reasonable cost.

(b) Refuse Collection and Disposal :—

No change.

(c) Sanitary Inspection of the Area :—

The Senior Sanitary Inspector's report is given separately at the end of this report, and is a good record. This year a very considerable amount of time was devoted to evacuation work and this does not show in the figures.

(d) Disinfestation :—

Twelve premises privately owned were treated on account of infestation by cockroaches ; none were bug infested. Infestation of Council houses by cockroaches is dealt with by contract.

The amount of scabies has been small, only four households coming under notice during the year. Benzyl-benzoate emulsion has been supplied and instruction given. Evacuees were dealt with in a sick bay.

No persons were treated for pediculosis.

SECTION D : HOUSING

Work has again been in abeyance, but with the appointment of the additional sanitary inspector, whose post is at present vacant, work should be commenced on houses capable of improvement to a standard.

SECTION E :

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply :—

Attention is drawn to the remarks in the Sanitary Inspector's report under this heading. The Government are to take over the supervision of milk production with considerably more powers than have been granted Local Authorities, the date, however, for the transfer has not yet been fixed. The control of the conditions of distribution is to remain under the local authority. Until the transfer takes place it is important that supervision be continued.

Owing to special conditions the number of inspections was considerably less than last year and during 1945, owing to the difficulty in replacing the additional Sanitary Inspector, they will be even less.

Pasteurised Milk :—

One plant was licensed in the district during the year and, since licensing, has given satisfactory samples consistently.

One firm having a licence to sell pasteurised milk, but whose processing plant is in another district, gave several unsatisfactory samples. This was probably due to overloading of the plant, and additions have now been installed.

General Remarks :—

The rationalisation scheme of deliveries has increased the number of complaints and, if only for psychological reasons, the sooner it can be discontinued the better. In my experience it has led a minority of the retailers to feel that there is a guaranteed market and that good or bad milk will neither increase nor diminish their trade. The majority try to rectify faults when they are pointed out.

It is not my province to argue the necessity or otherwise for this rationalisation to be continued on the grounds of economy in labour and petrol, but I am concerned with the fact that unsatisfactory milk discredits milk drinking in the eyes of many—and more especially where it has been pasteurised. Sour milk is as safe to drink as sweet milk, but in this country the taste for sour milk has not been developed and it is not consumed but wasted. Further, early souring indicates unhygienic conditions of production or bottling, or both.

(b) Meat and Other Foods :—

No change in conditions.

(c) Adulteration, etc. :—

This work is undertaken by the County Council and I am indebted to the District Inspector for the following information :—

Year ended 31st December, 1944

	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Samples Reported against</i>
Milks	29	—
Other than milk ..	17	1
	—	—
	46	1

The one sample reported against was strong Tincture of Iodine, reported to be Double Strength Strong Tincture of Iodine. Manufacturer cautioned, stocks withdrawn.

SECTION F : PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(a) General :—

The following table gives the number of cases of each disease notified during each of the six years :—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	15	12	10	44	56	39
Diphtheria	41	6	2	2	1	6
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	1	4	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	0	0	0	1	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	8	2	5	2	9	6
Epidemic Meningitis ..	0	2	2	3	1	2
Dysentery	1	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	2	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	2	0	0	0	0
Measles	1*	53	270	95	124	162
Whooping Cough ..	1*	6	132	5	31	69
Total	74	84	428	152	224	287

* Not notifiable till October, 1939.

The figures for 1944 are those after correction of the diagnosis in view of subsequent history, either in hospital or by the attendant medical practitioner. Those for previous years are as notified in the first place.

Diphtheria :—

Of the six cases finally diagnosed as diphtheria, four were in an institution, one was an evacuee and one a normal resident. Only one had been immunised.

None of the other diseases calls for special comment.

(b) Tuberculosis :—

The following table gives the incidence of and mortality from this disease :—

Pulmonary :—	1939			1940			1941			1942			1943			1944		
New Cases (<i>i.e.</i> , Primary notifications, including armed forces discharges) ..	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Deaths	3	4	7	4	2	6	4	2	6	5	1	6	2	4	6	4	2	6
	1	2	3	5	1	6	3	1	4	2	1	3	2	1	3	1	3	4
Non-Pulmonary :—																		
New Cases (as above)	3	0	3	3	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	2
Deaths	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1

(c) Laboratory Examinations :—

Diphtheria :	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Positive	2	0	0	0	1	2
Negative	60	31	47	13	29	21
Virulence Tests :						
Positive	1	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haemolytic Streptococci :						
Positive	0	0	2	1	2	3
Negative	0	1	0	3	4	1
Blood Cultures :						
Positive	0	0	1	0	0	0
Negative	0	0	0	1	0	0
Agglutination :						
Positive	0	1	2	0	0	0
Negative	0	0	4	0	1	1
Faeces :						
Positive	0	0	1	0	0	0
Negative	0	0	3	0	0	7
Urine :						
Positive	0	0	0	0	0	0
Negative	0	0	3	0	0	0
Other examinations :						
Positive	0	0	0	0	0	1
Negative	1	0	0	0	1	0
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli :						
Positive	5	1	5	2	6	7
Negative	16	10	18	15	30	38

(d) Diphtheria Immunisation :—

The following table shows the progress of diphtheria immunisation in this district from 1939, when the scheme was commenced, to the end of this year. It is known that there is a very considerable number of children who have been immunised privately.

Age in years on
31st December
of the
corresponding
year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.
WILMSLOW U.D.
Persons inoculated each year
from 1939 - 1944.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	
0	1	—	2	12	1	1	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st December, 1944. 426
1	12	24	64	90	74	109	
2	13	39	46	40	22	21	
3	11	39	20	30	8	1	
4	2	37	10	14	8	1	
5	11	45	26	21	3	3	Total inoculated aged 5—14 years on 31st December, 1944 894
6	3	47	18	11	4	3	
7	8	60	9	16	9	3	
8	5	84	3	7	2	3	
9	2	67	5	4	1	1	
10	4	75	4	5	2	1	
11	3	59	1	2	1	3	
12	1	68	5	6	1	2	
13	—	40	3	2	1	—	
14	—	7	1	—	3	—	
15 and over	—	—	—	1	1	4	Total inoculated aged 15 years and over on 31st Dec. 1944 198
Total each year	76	704	217	261	141	152	Grand Total 1939 - 44 1538

(In calculating the totals at the end of 1944 no account is taken of deaths which may have occurred since immunisation).

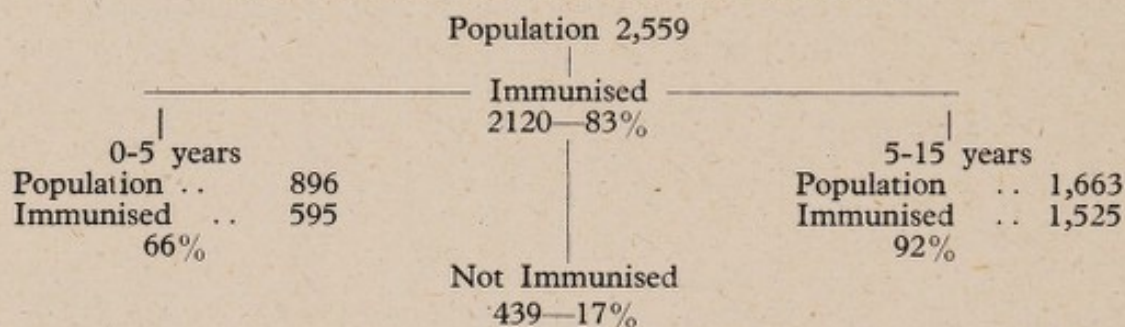
The immunisation survey was concluded in 1944 and the following is the report made to the Public Health Committee in March, 1945 :—

IMMUNISATION STATE OF CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE ON 31st DECEMBER, 1944

The present scheme was commenced in June, 1939, prophylactic material was supplied free of charge to all practitioners and immunisation commenced at the Welfare Centre.

All the Elementary Schools were circularised and sessions (staffed by General Practitioners) arranged. The response at the Schools gave over 90% as either having been immunised or desiring immunisation. The Private Schools were also circularised in 1940 and results were even better. In 1942 a survey of all food cards was made, but owing to staffing difficulties this was not completed and in 1943 a revised survey was commenced, but again owing to illness of staff the survey was not completed till 1944, the results of which are here given in diagrammatic form.

ALL CHILDREN TO 15 YEARS OF AGE



Refusals	Under 1 yr.	Con- sidering	Medically Unfit	Promises	Not Con- tacted	Undergoing Immunisation
33 1.2%	219	8	1	68	69	41

0-5 — 5-15 (The figures include evacuees before 1944 but not the London evacuees. The children in the Manchester Cottage Homes and Residential Open Air Schools are not included.)
11 22
1.2% 1.3%

In considering the figures for children under five and those not immunised, it is to be remembered that 219 children under one year of age are included, and these children were not of age for immunisation. If this is taken into consideration the percentage of immunisation in the whole child population under 15 years of age is 91% and among the "under fives" 88%. It is also to be noted that those children "not contacted" are included as not immunised, the percentages are therefore a minimum.

Re-immunisations and Schick Tests have been carried out on request, but no systematic approach to the parents has been made.

Among the immunised are those of whom we have records and also stated to be immunised as follows :—

		<i>Records</i>	<i>Stated</i>	<i>Had Diphtheria</i>	<i>Total</i>
0-5 years	.. ..	417	178	0	595
5-15 „	.. ..	878	631	16	1,525
0-15 „	.. ..	1,295	801	16	2,120

The results are, I consider, very satisfactory, and my thanks are due to the practitioners in the district for their share, to the County Medical Officer, for giving access to the schools and welfare centres. The British Red Cross Society have given great help at the special sessions, and the Women's Voluntary Service gave most valuable assistance in the rather uninteresting extraction of the names from the food cards and in distributing the circular letters and obtaining the replies. Thanks are also due to the Food Executive Officer for his permission to make the necessary survey of the food cards.

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

Green Hall,

Wilmslow.

August, 1945.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Evans and Gentlemen,

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1944

I have the honour to present my report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1944.

The following table shows that 1,506 visits were made to houses and other premises in connection with a variety of matters relating to Public Health.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Housing :—	
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	570
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	409
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	94
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	41
General :—	
Rats and Mice	147
Refuse Collection and Disposal	254
Infectious Disease	41
Water Supply	19
Smoke Observations	10
Petroleum Acts	30
Special Visits	294
Communal Billets	68
Meat and Food Inspection :—	
Slaughterhouses	30
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	76
Wet Fish Shops	17
Fried Fish Shops	11
Other Food Shops	53
Bakehouses	50
Restaurant Kitchens	11
Dairies and Milk Shops	88
Cowsheds	93
	<hr/>
	1,506

COMPLAINTS

Two hundred and ninety-one complaints were received with reference to the following matters, viz. :—

Defective Conditions	63
Choked Drains	13
Overflowing Cesspools	4
Accumulations of Refuse	6
Defective Dustbins	79
Sanitary Accommodation	9
Overcrowded Conditions	1
Smoke Nuisances	5
Rat Infestations	38
Verminous Premises	8
Dirty Condition of Food Bins	4
Unsound Food	49
Water Supply	2
Sour Milk	9
Dirty Milk Bottles	1
	291

NOTICES SERVED

Arising out of the above inspections, the following notices were served :—

<i>Statute</i>	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Act, 1936	180	1
Housing Act, 1936	15	3
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	35	Nil
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	57	Nil
	287	4

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

All the Statutory Notices served during the year were complied with within the permitted time, making it unnecessary to take any legal proceedings.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection after Infectious Disease :—

The usual enquiries were made and records kept in connection with the outbreak of infectious disease. On the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health the disinfection of rooms following

the occurrence of certain infectious diseases by fumigation or spraying has been discontinued and instead householders are advised how to make the room or house free from infection by ordinary domestic methods.

Disinfection, however, is still considered necessary following certain infectious diseases, and the number of rooms disinfected was 23.

Disinfestation :—

Twelve premises, including 40 rooms, were treated on account of cockroaches or bugs. This work was done on private property and does not include the treatment of Council houses by the Contractor employed by the Council.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Last year's report included a summary of the Sanitary Conveniences (other than water closets) in use in the district, and as it has not been possible to carry out any conversions the list remains practically the same, and it is therefore not reproduced this year. There are 246 earth closets and 89 privies still in use, mainly in parts of the area which are unsewered.

HOUSING

The periodical inspection of houses under the Housing Act and Regulations made thereunder has now been suspended almost six years, and only essential repairs have been done with the result that there are many houses occupied by members of the working classes where numerous repairs are required in order to make the houses in all respects fit for human habitation. As soon as the position becomes easier for owners to carry out repairs it is proposed to commence the inspection of a certain number of houses each year so that each house is visited at least once in every five years. The houses will be classified into various groups, and those premises which are in the greatest need of attention will be dealt with first.

In the meantime a preliminary inspection is being made and a list prepared of those houses which are considered to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at a reasonable expense. A full report on this class of property will be presented to the Council as soon as it is possible to take any action in the matter.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meats. There has been no change during the year in the source of this district's meat supplies, which, owing to Government control, continue to come from the Manchester abattoirs. On the whole the supplies have been satisfactory, and very few complaints have been received from either the butchers or the public. The only animals to be slaughtered in the districts on permits issued by the Local Food Office were pigs, as will be seen from the following table. All the carcasses were examined before being passed for human consumption.

	No. <i>examined</i>	No. found to <i>be Tubercular</i>
Pigs	90	3

Arising out of the above inspections and as the result of all regular routine visits to butchers' shops the following diseased or unsound conditions in meat were detected and subsequently destroyed :—

	No.	Weight <i>lbs.</i>
<i>Home Killed</i>		
Whole Carcasses (Calf)	1	83
Fore quarter of Beef	1	118
Leg of Beef	1	28½
Beef Trimmings	—	68
Beast Livers	8	81¾
Sheep Livers	2	2½
Pig's Heads	3	42
Pig's Heart	1	1
Pig's Kidneys	2	1
<i>Imported</i>		
Mutton (Hinds)	2	28
Pork Shoulders	2 Cases	184
		637½ lbs.

Other Foods. During the year ninety Certificates were issued to butchers, grocers and other food retailers in respect of 2,362 lbs. of foodstuffs, which were condemned on their premises as being unfit for human consumption. The practice of making periodical inspections of all food shops and food preparing premises was continued throughout the year.

Other Foods Condemned :—

	<i>lbs.</i>
Rabbit	1
Bacon	24
Fish	867
Flour	168
Oats	40
Fruit (Oranges and Lemons)	362
Biscuits	20
Lard	28
Butter	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Onions	70
Boiled Ham	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sauerkraut (1 barrel)	260
	<hr/>
	1,862 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Tinned Goods Condemned :—

	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	127 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	39
Fruit	222
Vegetables	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Soups	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Milk	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jam	13
Mustard	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<hr/>
	499 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

MILK SUPPLY

There was no change from the previous year in the number of Cow-keepers on the register at the end of 1944, although there were a few changes of occupation at dairy farms. The number of dairymen retailing milk in the area was reduced because of several retailers giving up business. At the end of the year the following registrations were recorded, namely :—

Cow-keepers	67
Dairymen	6
Retailers from outside districts	5

All farms were visited at least twice during the year, but the number of visits was considerably below that of last year. Although there are many farmers who are very clean in their methods of producing and handling milk, and who take every care to produce a clean milk with or without supervision from an official source, there is still a necessity for more frequent visits to be made in many cases to ensure that the various requirements contained in the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders are being complied with. It is to be hoped

that before long it will be possible to devote more time to the supervision of dairy farms, particularly when milking is in progress, and that many improvements in buildings and equipment which have been long delayed because of the shortage of labour and lack of materials will be carried out.

The samples of milk which are taken at the farms, and at dairies where milk is received from outside sources, are examined to ascertain the bacteriological condition and the presence of *B. Coli*, with a view to obtaining the standard of cleanliness being achieved by the farmer in his efforts to produce a clean milk. The result of this examination is a definite indication whether or not the farmer is producing his milk by clean methods and where an unsatisfactory result is obtained the information is most useful when it is necessary to convince the farmer that there is need for improvement. The samples are not taken with a view to taking legal proceedings, as there is no standard of cleanliness for non-designated grades of milk. At least one sample was taken from each farm and dairy and submitted to the above-mentioned test, and the results are given in the following table :—

Examination of Milk for Bacterial Count and *B. Coli*.

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>			<i>Classification</i>		
	<i>From Farms</i>	<i>From Dairies</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested ..	1	16	17	11	1	5
Accredited	30	4	34	16	4	14
Ungraded	36	5	41	25	5	11
Total ..	67	25	92	52	10	30

These results are not as good as the previous year, when your Inspectors were able to pay more visits to the farms. There is no doubt that some producers require to be frequently visited so that they can be constantly reminded of their duties. From the results obtained this year it appears that when the amount of the supervision falls so does the standard of the milk.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS

1936-1938

Pasteurised Milk.

The installation of plant for the pasteurisation of milk by means of the high-temperature short-time process capable of dealing with 100 gallons of milk per hour was completed in a local dairy in the early part of the year, and after successful tests a licence was issued in April to the dairyman to use the designation Pasteurised in relation to milk treated at his premises. Since the licence was granted samples have been taken each month and submitted for examination for bacterial count and to the Phosphatase Test. Up to the

end of 1944 all the samples taken since the licence became operative satisfied both these tests, the only unsatisfactory results coming from this plant were obtained prior to the issue of the licence, whilst the operator was being trained in the working of the plant. In addition to the above establishment there are two firms retailing milk of this designation in the area, but the process of pasteurisation is carried out in adjoining districts. Samples were also taken from these firms during the course of delivery, and the following table summarises the whole of the results of these examinations.

	<i>No. Taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Bacterial Count (not to exceed 100,000 bacteria per c.c.)	42	34	8
Phosphatase Test	44	41	3

Licences. The number of licences issued by this Council in 1944 under the above Orders is as follows :—

Dealer's Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
Dealer's Licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Licence to Pasterurise Milk	1
Dealer's Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	1
Supplementary Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk	1

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCULOSIS

A total of seventy-nine samples of various grades of milk produced locally and from outside sources was submitted for examination for tuberculosis. In four cases tubercle bacilli were found in the milk, one of the milks coming from an accredited herd. The facts were immediately reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, whose duty it is to arrange for the animals to be individually examined and tested until the cow responsible for the infection has been isolated. Subsequent reports received showed that as the result of these tests two tubercular cows were discovered and slaughtered, whilst others had been sold for slaughter before the tests could be made.

Summary of Samples examined for Tuberculosis

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Tuberculin Tested	1	—	1
Accredited	34	1	33
Ungraded	41	3	38
Pasteurised	3	—	3
Totals	79	4	75

WATER SUPPLIES

In the 1943 Annual Report information was given as to the number of premises in the district still without a main water supply, together with particulars of the source and quality of the water used for drinking purposes at these premises. The position to-day is very much the same, as it has not been possible to reduce these numbers to any great extent. In order to bring a main supply of water within the reach of practically every house a scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Cheshire County Council under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, for a contribution towards the cost of laying the additional lengths of main required to cover the outlying parts of the district.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

In order to meet the wartime need for greatly increased action to counter devastation by rats and mice, the Cheshire County Council submitted a scheme as the responsible Authority under the above Act, to which the Ministry of Food expressed approval, and in which the various county district Councils were appointed as Agents of the County Council for the purpose of operating the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, and the Infestation Order, 1943, in respect of non-agricultural land, i.e., dwelling-houses, shops, business premises, etc. Agricultural land, including farm buildings, remain the responsibility of the County Council. Under this scheme the Chief Sanitary Inspector was appointed Rats Officer, and a Rat Catcher was appointed to make a survey of the district, and to deal with any infestations which were discovered. The onus of ridding premises of rats and mice rests upon the occupier of the premises, and therefore the cost of any treatment carried out by the Rat Catcher may be recovered. In most cases a contract is entered into between the Local Authority and the occupier where the Council undertake to rid the premises of rats or mice as far as it is reasonably practicable to do so for a period of twelve months for a fixed sum, and this method has been found to be most satisfactory, because, if after the first treatment a total "kill" is not obtained or re-infestation takes place, the occupier is entitled to have his premises re-treated without incurring additional expense. The Rat Catcher, who was appointed in May, 1944, and trained by the Ministry of Food in the various methods of destruction, paid 2,293 visits to premises up to the end of 1944 and carried out the following works :—

Number of Premises treated	.. .. .	30
Methods employed—Poisoning	No. of pre-baits laid	.. 1447
	No. of poison baits laid	.. 276
Gassing	No. of points gassed	.. 19
Trapping	No. of cases where traps used	2

Results obtained. It is very difficult to estimate how many rats have been killed after a poisoning campaign, as many bodies are never found. The Ministry of Food as the result of experience and trials estimate that 10 per cent. of the bodies only are seen. In Wilmslow the actual number of bodies seen as the result of the above poisoning efforts was 67, which, if the estimate of the Ministry of Food can be relied on indicates that over 600 rats have been killed.

Income for Treatment. The amount recovered from occupiers for the above-mentioned treatments to the end of the year is £108 10s. 0d.

Sewer Treatment. The Council was directed during the year to carry out the destruction of rats in their sewers. A test was made of 10 per cent. of the manholes all over the district to ascertain to what extent the sewers were infested with rats. Fifty-six manholes were tested and evidence of rats was found in two only. The full treatment of the sewers for the destruction of any rats in the vicinity of these manholes was then carried out and a second treatment given a few weeks later.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection

This service continues to operate as it has done during the past few years with a fortnightly collection of house refuse and salvage taking place at the same time.

Disposal

There has been no change during the year in the method of disposal of house refuse, which is carried out by tipping on land owned by the Council in Newgate. Approximately 2½ acres of this land which had already been tipped upon was requisitioned by the Air Ministry for use as a scrap dump.

Provision of Dustbins

Under the Council's scheme 207 dustbins were supplied to dwelling-houses or other premises during the year.

Salvage

The weight of materials separated and sold was 220 tons, which included the following items :—

Paper	..	..	..	..	157 tons
Metals	..	..	..	..	9 „
Rags	..	..	..	..	12 „
Bones	..	..	..	..	6 „
Kitchen Waste	..	..	..	..	17 „
Glassware	..	..	..	..	14 „

The amount obtained from the sale of these materials was £1,470, and it is estimated that the additional expenditure incurred in operating the scheme amounted to £926.

STAFF

Again there were no changes in the Sanitary Staff during the year, but before this report was compiled Mr. L. N. Brunskill resigned (February, 1945) in order to take up an appointment with the Burnley Corporation.

My thanks are due to Mr. Brunskill and Mrs. Palmer for their help during the year, as well as to Dr. Anderson and the other officers for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

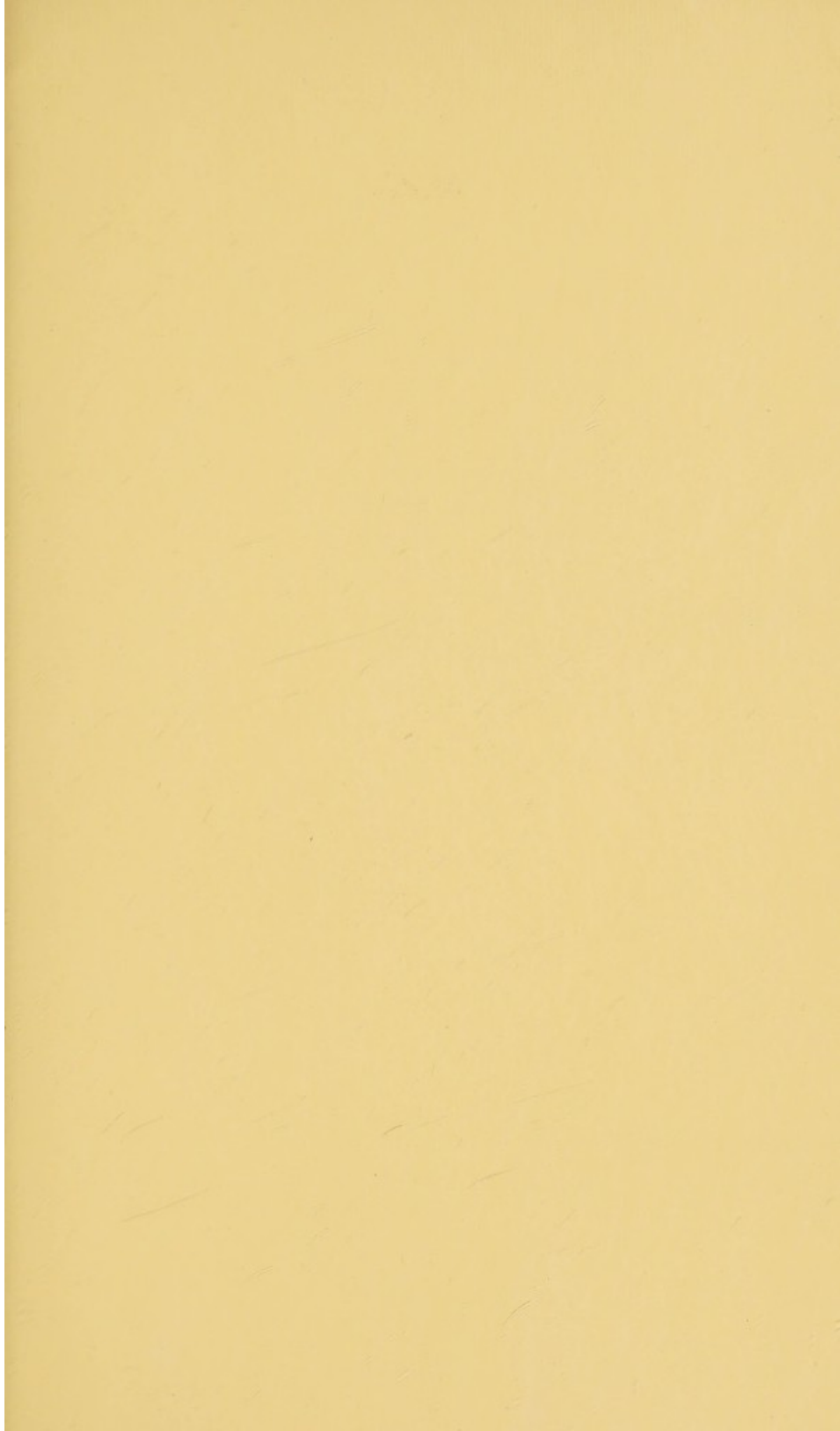
G. H. LANCASTER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector

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Printed by
The Bollin Press
Lacey Green
Wilmslow
Tel. 3039