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Winsford Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1950

Chairman of the Council and Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR T. BRATT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR J. JACKSON

Members of Health Committee :

Councillor R. G. Barton, J.P.

„ Mrs. O. O. Bellamy

„ A. Breeze

„ J. H. Booth

„ W. E. Dickinson

„ J. A. Fitton

„ L. Jackson

„ S. Kennerley

„ H. Lunt

„ F. Mellor, M.M., J.P.

„ W. F. Newall

„ S. Sergeant

„ W. Stubbs

WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Report for 1950

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Winsford Urban District Council.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1950.

SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	7,094 acres
Population—Registrar-General's latest estimate of population (mid-1950)	12,490
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950)	3,712
Rateable value	£54,608
Sum represented by a penny rate	£210

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General :

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	207	101	106	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.22.
Illegitimate	8	4	4	
Still Births—Legitimate	11	6	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 48.67.
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
Deaths	157	86	71	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.58. After adjustment by the Comparability Factor, 12.83.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	27.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	24.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	125

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1950 with the years 1939–1949 :

Year	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1939 ...	11,170	16.47	14.06	65.21	12	7
1940 ...	11,340	16.04	15.60	60.43	25	4
1941 ...	11,580	15.37	11.39	48.38	17	5
1942 ...	11,230	18.78	13.53	37.91	17	5
1943 ...	10,850	16.95	13.82	21.73	20	5
1944 ...	10,760	17.47	14.21	79.78	16	9
1945 ...	10,720	16.13	14.64	17.34	16	6
1946 ...	11,300	20.00	11.50	22.12	10	6
1947 ...	11,640	22.85	14.26	33.83	22	6
1948 ...	12,050	19.33	13.19	21.45	23	5
1949 ...	12,100	18.92	12.81	34.93	19	3
1950 ...	12,490	17.22	12.58	27.90	19	3

Causes of Death—1950

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

	M.	F.	Total
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	—	3
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	5	2	7
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung	3	—	3
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	3
14. Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	2	5
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	4	4
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	11	23
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	19	7	26
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	—
20. Other Heart Disease	8	21	29
21. Other Circulatory Disease	6	1	7
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	2	1	3
24. Bronchitis	3	5	8
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	—	6

26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	1	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	4	5
29. Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	8	13
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3
34. All other accidents	1	—	1
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
TOTALS	86	71	157

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(A) Provided by the District Council

(1) Staff

<p>W. S. SLATER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.</p>	<p>(Services shared by the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board.)</p>
<p>Sister I. D. Rogerson. Trained Nurse (part-time), Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation. (Retired July, 1950.)</p>	<p>(Services shared with the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts and the County Council.)</p>
<p>Clerical Staff. One person (whole-time).</p>	<p>(Services shared with the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts.)</p>
<p>W. W. White, C.R.S.I., C.M.I., M.S.I.A. Whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector.</p>	<p>(Winsford Urban District Council only.)</p>
<p>T. H. Rogerson, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Additional Sanitary Inspector.</p>	<p>—ditto—</p>

(2) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Winsford Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year.

(3) Environmental Services

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc. etc., provided by the Winsford Urban District Council, are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services

Davenham Isolation Hospital, under the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, provided hospital treatment for the area's infectious cases and during the year admitted 25 patients from the Winsford Urban District.

(C) Provided by the County Council

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services: School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopædic, Ophthalmic, Venereal Diseases, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, etc. etc.

(D) Provided by the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council)

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee provided the following Services:

(a) *Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes*

The work done during the year 1950 in Winsford Urban District is detailed as follows:

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

No. of children who have completed treatment during 1950	92
---	----

VACCINATIONS

No. of children who have been vaccinated during 1950	25
---	----

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

No. of children who have been treated during 1950	9
---	---

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme was curtailed during the year owing to the prevalence of Infantile Paralysis in the country. It was thought advisable to discontinue mass immunisation from July until the end of October.

A certain number of children received the protective treatment at their own doctors' surgeries and at home. The protective treatments against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Smallpox remain a free Service under the National Health Service Act.

(b) *Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service*

1950 has seen a further increase in calls on the Service, without any corresponding increase in staff. A simple example of this increased demand can be cited as follows:

1036 patients were removed in nine weeks during November/December, 1949.

1078 patients were removed in six weeks during November/December, 1950.

At the close of 1950 some 19 private taxi firms were employed regularly in carrying patients on behalf of the Service.

Two new ambulances were put into service in the area during the year, one Humber Pullman and one Morris. Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining replacements for parts in the old vehicles and at the end of the year two vehicles, both 14 years old, had to be taken off the road.

The Ambulance Staff at the close of the year was :

- 1—Supervisor.
- 1—Senior Driver.
- 6—Drivers.
- 2—Attendants.

The above team travelled 152,674 miles during the year under all kinds of road conditions and I think should be congratulated on covering such a high mileage without serious mishap or breakdown.

Several long-distance journeys have been undertaken in the year and in two cases, one to London and one to Durham, the services of the British Railways were used. I would like to state how co-operative the staff of British Railways were on both occasions.

(c) Prevention of Illness—Care and After-Care

The work of the Committee under this Section has dealt mainly with Tuberculosis After-Care, in addition to the Care of the Sick and Aged and to a lesser degree with the After-Care of Mental Cases. A variety of medical equipment and comforts were provided for the use of the sick in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service

The Domestic Help Service in the area has expanded considerably during 1950 and Helps have been provided as follows :

March Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	32
June Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	34
September Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	38
December Quarter	...	...	...	...	...	55

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply is furnished in bulk and detail by the Mid-and South-East Cheshire Water Board. The supply during the

past year has been satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity. The softer water originally obtained from Oakmere is, however, missed by the local consumers. At times the water appears to carry a high residual chlorine, but it is assumed that this is done in the interests of safety.

34 samples of drinking water were submitted to the laboratories for bacteriological examinations. All of them were reported upon satisfactorily.

All but four of the 3,712 houses in the Urban District are supplied from public mains and there are no stand pipes in the area.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposals

Very full consideration has been given by the Council to the difficult problem of sewage disposal in the area and I am indebted to Mr. P. Heaton, the Surveyor and Engineer of the Council, for the following statement :—

“During the year it was hoped that the four Mid-Cheshire authorities, namely, the three urban districts of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford and the rural district of Northwich, might jointly examine the possibility of a main drainage scheme or schemes for the Weaver and Dane valleys.

This review is particularly opportune at the moment, having in mind the rapid development taking place in the area of the four districts, particularly housing estates providing for a large increase in the population.

There are at the moment, serving the area, approximately 20 separate sewage disposal works. These, for the new developments, will be not only inadequate in number but also in capacity.

There would, therefore, appear to be a very strong case for examining the position with a view to a scheme or schemes of main drainage being formulated to ensure that new capital expenditure will be incurred to the best advantage for the district as a whole. It is regretted, however, that the consulting engineer to the County Council (Major A. H. S. Waters) has reported adversely on the suggestion which presumably will now go no further.

Consequently the Winsford Council is now proceeding to reconstruct their sewage works in order to fit them for the increased capacity required, following extensive development in the area. The expenditure over a number of years will be large and the Council feel that such expenditure would have been much better incurred in a joint scheme with other authorities.

Further sewerage extensions under construction are :—

- (a) Ledward Street, to provide for the new Greville Housing Estate and also to remove the trouble occasioned in Ledward Street through a section of the sewer being inadequate in capacity for its existing duty.
- (b) Extension of the sewer in Hill Street to intercept the flow of sewage from Winsford Hill now flowing direct into the river and also to permit of the conversion to W.C.s of 26 properties in that area."

Swanlow South—Sewerage Scheme

In December last the Sanitary Inspector, at the request of the Council, prepared a report on Swanlow South Sewerage with a view to a scheme being drawn up by the Surveyor to deal adequately with the area.

The report gives the situation of the premises, the occupiers and owners of same, numbers of occupants, category of fitness, type of closet accommodation, system of drainage and sewage disposal, approximate DWF., and outfall of effluent. If and when an inquiry is held this detailed information will be invaluable.

The lack of sewage facilities in this area has been the cause of much complaint for many years, as may be gathered from the following extracts taken from annual and monthly reports made to the Council by its officials.

In 1930 the Medical Officer of Health stated : "A scheme has been formulated for dealing with the whole area by the provision of a new sewerage system and sewage disposal works, but the scheme has not been proceeded with until the County Council's proposals are known under the Local Government Act, Section 46."

In 1930 the Surveyor of the Council made a report to the Public Health Committee on a proposed sewerage and sewage disposal works at Firs Wood for the South-West portion of the Urban District. The following are some extracts from his report :—

"For many years the lack of sewage facilities in this area has had a detrimental effect on development. The present system of sewage disposal is by septic tanks, cesspools and similar expedients. There is, however, already in existence a small sewage scheme consisting of a nine-inch sewer about 400 yards in length, leading to a very defective and insufficient sewage disposal tank which it is proposed to abolish under the new scheme."

In 1938 the Council discussed the possibility of a joint sewage scheme to be forwarded by the Surveyor for Swanlow South, with sewage disposal works in the neighbourhood of Ashbrook and outfall to the brook which is situated in the Northwich Rural area.

A report was prepared in 1943 by the Surveyor which dealt with sewerage the whole of the Urban district; this envisaged the abolition of the existing sewerage disposal works on the Flashes and the construction of main outfalls at New Bridge and Ashbrook and a central pumping area for the low level part of the district.

In 1945 the Surveyor reported to the Council on the possibilities of bringing Swanlow South drainage into the main intercepting sewer passing through Dene Site, which has its outfall to the Over sewerage works. In support of this proposal the Surveyor reported to the Public Health Committee in July, 1947, as follows:—

“The necessity of the proposed scheme might be recapitulated with advantage. A series of nuisances exist and serious complaints have recently arisen throughout the area proposed to be serviced by the scheme. The southerly part of the district at present is sewered by a nine-inch sewer draining to a tank behind Bank House Farm and continuous complaints of pollution to ditches have arisen from occupiers and owners of land through which the effluent from the tank passes on its way to the Weaver. These complaints have, from time to time, been dealt with by promising immediate action as soon as the war finishes, and temporary expedients have been resorted to such as fencing in polluted streams, by-passing polluted ponds, and re-laying land drains, etc. There are existing defective drainage systems throughout the area, privately owned, draining the isolated septic tanks, cesspools, and in some cases draining to open ditches. The large sandhole behind the schools has at least three separate drainage systems discharging into it, and a fourth is proposed as a temporary measure for the schools drainages.

Complaints of polluted ditches are common in the area behind the schools and the overflow from the septic tank from the Old Star Inn has given rise to a nuisance down the Church drive on several occasions. The scheme proposed has the advantage of not involving construction of a new sewage works but does incur a rather deep cutting near the Vicarage, where a maximum depth of 19 feet is necessary.”

In conclusion, I have included the above passages from various reports made to the Council so as to clarify the position and put forward with fairness some of the efforts that have been chronicled to try and improve matters for the Swanlow South area and sewage disposal generally.

The following summarises the general nature of the properties and their sewage disposal in the Swanlow South area (Appendix I); a Category of Fitness of the properties (Appendix II); and a general summary (Appendix III).

APPENDIX I

- Section "A"*—33 properties where house drainage is connected to Council's nine-inch sewer in Swanlow Lane which discharges into brick tank in field with tank effluent piped to pit and ditch behind Bank Farm, Swanlow Lane.
- Section "B"*—19 properties where the method of sewage disposal is of a miscellaneous character.
- Section "C"*—6 properties where the house drainage discharges into cesspool at rear between Nos. 355 and 357, Swanlow Lane, with the effluent piped into ditch down Welsh Lane.
- Section "D"*—6 properties where the effluent from individual cesspools and septic tanks is piped to drain along St. Chad's Church drive.
- Section "E"*—11 properties where the effluent from individual septic tanks is piped to soakaways in the sandhole off School Lane, Darnhall.
- Section "F"*—6 properties where the effluent from individual cesspools and septic tanks is piped to ditch and pit in field at rear of Darnhall Schools.
- Section "G"*—4 properties where the house drainage discharges into cesspool at No. 7, Moors Lane, with effluent piped to ditch at lower end of lane in the Northwich Rural area.

APPENDIX II

Group numbers used to illustrate Category of Fitness of properties under provisions of Housing Act, 1936, with number of properties in each group.

- Group No. 1*—Houses which are in a good state of repair and are fit or reasonably fit for human habitation.
- Group No. 2*—Houses which are in a fair state of repair and can be brought up to a pre-war standard of fitness at a reasonable cost.
- Group No. 3*—Houses which in ordinary times might have been worth repairing, but at to-day's prices do not merit (in the Officer's views) the cost of repairs and improvements.
- Group No. 4*—Houses which are of a low standard of fitness for human habitation.

<i>Group No. 1</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34 premises
<i>Group No. 2</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25 premises
<i>Group No. 3</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23 premises
<i>Group No. 4</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(Church, chapel and school not included)

APPENDIX III

Summary, including estimated DWF and type of premises and existing closet accommodation.

Description of Premises	No. of Premises	Estimated DWF when on WC system
Farms and Small Holdings	10	2300 galls. per day
Inns	1	200 galls. per day
Schools	1	500 galls. per day
Chapels and Churches ...	2	5 galls. per day
Dwelling Houses—large (5 rooms and over)	33	2880 galls. per day
Dwelling Houses — small (under 5 rooms)	38	3510 galls. per day
Total	85	9395 galls. per day

Closet Accommodation

Number of Premises with Water Closets	48
Number of Premises with Pail Closets	19
Number of Premises with Privy Closets	17

Closet Conversion

The progress of the work of converting pail and privy closets during the year can be summarised as follows:—

- I. Total number of pails and privies requiring conversion at the commencement of the year 292
- II. Total number of Statutory Notices served during the year 15
- III. Total number of conversions completed during the year 18
- IV. Total number of conversions for which Statutory Notices have been served during the year, and upon which work was commenced, or is expected to commence shortly 10
- V. Total number of pails and privies requiring conversion at the close of the year 277

The total of 277 pails and privies requiring conversion relates chiefly to premises which are in the rural or semi-rural parts of the district not provided with adequate sewage facilities, yet are supplied with a sufficient water supply. It is hoped to reduce these conservancy closets considerably when the Swanlow South and Whitegate sewage schemes are provided.

Recreational Fields and Open Spaces

The Council have now acquired $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land to the south of Wharton recreation ground for further extensions to the playing fields in that area.

Arrangements have also been made with the Winsford Cricket Club under which the Council are building a new cricket pavilion to improve amenities in the Dene Estate area.

New shelters and pavilions have also been constructed on the Over and Wharton recreation grounds and a scheme for increasing the tennis courts at Wharton is being considered.

Canal Boats

No canal boats are now registered with the Council.

Three inspections have been made in regard to minor repairs which were remedied forthwith.

Destruction of Rats and Mice

This service is administered through the Council Surveyor's Department, who employ one man full time on this work.

Common Lodging Houses

There is none in the District.

Licensed Camping Sites

There are three licensed camping sites within the District. Only one dwelling is accommodated on each of these two sites, whilst the third is considerably larger in area and is controlled by a siting plan approved by the Council. This last mentioned site is approximately $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres but only half of this area is at present developed; it is situated off William Street near the River Weaver.

Swimming Baths

The Council's open air swimming baths have been maintained in a good condition. The filter plant has been completely overhauled including provision of new sand in the pressure filter. New boilers have been installed and further improvements carried out. Analyses of the bath water whenever taken have been satisfactory.

Schools in the Area

There are nine schools, including the Verdin Grammar School. Seven of these have satisfactory closet accommodation, whilst the remaining two (Darnhall and Whitegate) have pails, as no adequate sewerage facilities are available. Proposed housing development in Whitegate should provide proper sewerage for the school in that

Factories Inspection.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power	12	13	2	—
Factories with Mechanical Power	50	54	2	—
Other Premises	5	12	1	—
Totals ...	67	79	5	—

Defects found in Factories.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Ineffective ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	2	2	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	2	2	—	—
Totals ...	5	5	—	—

SECTION D—HOUSING

During the year some 84 permanent houses were erected. This brings the total of post-war dwellings erected to 388 permanent and 50 temporary houses. These are sited as follows:—

Site	Houses constructed	
	Pre-war	Post-war
Grange Lane and Meadow Bank	56	—
Park Avenue	40	—
Gladstone Street, Woodford Lane and Moss Bank ...	50	—
Crook Lane	12	—
Seaton Street, Hewitt Drive and Beckett Avenue ...	36	—
Siddorn Street, Overway, Coronation Avenue, etc. ...	50	—
Kingsway, Hill Street, Massey Avenue and prefabricated bungalows	42	52
Dene Site	—	365
Greville Drive and Lodge Drive	—	20
Special Bungalow for Paraplegic Ex-service man ...	—	1

New Housing Sites Selected

The Greville Estate is an area of about 27 acres, between Wharton Parish Church and Station Road. The layout has been completed and approved for 166 houses, 18 bungalows, 8 maisonettes and shops and 20 garages. In addition there is a large area left available for private building which will accommodate probably a further 20 houses.

Plans and details for roads and sewers are well in hand. Construction work is expected to be commenced by the end of 1951. All the housing plans are prepared and negotiations with the builders are proceeding.

The Whitegate area has now been completely planned and the land divided into plots, and negotiations are in hand with the various proposed building owners.

The table below outlines the main housing activities of the Council in administering the Housing and Public Health Acts :—

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	214
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	410
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	129
II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	101
III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 12 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	3
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	19

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices	5
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	3

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

There are six distributors in the town who are licensed annually by the Council. Four of these distributors carry on the retail trade from local dairies and another supplier receives bottled milk direct from a pasteurisation plant outside the district. Supplementary licences are also held by a trader whose distribution is mainly outside the district. The licences held by these distributors under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949, are as follows :—

Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	1
Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised)	2
Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	1
Licence to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	3
Supplementary Licence to use the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	1

The introduction of the recent milk and dairies legislation restricted the Council's activities in this field, but has nevertheless given more time for supervision and advisory work in the distributive side of the trade. Those dairies within the jurisdiction of the Council are regularly inspected and advice is given on methods of cleansing and sterilization of utensils and equipment and on other general matters under the provisions of the regulations.

During the year 20 samples of milk retailed in the area were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for cleanliness tests, and also in the case of pasteurised milk for tests on the efficiency of the heat treatment.

The results of these samples are as follows :—

Grade	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Ungraded raw milk	10	1
Tuberculin Tested raw milk	3	—
T.T. Pasteurised milk	1	—
Pasteurised milk	5	—

Comparisons with the previous three years show that a general improvement has been achieved which can be attributed to continual supervision, etc.

(b) Ice-Cream

The year saw a considerable increase in the number of applications for the sale of ice cream.

Twenty-eight new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, and in all cases a wrapped product is being retailed from these premises. There are now 40 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream. Manufacture is carried out at 3 premises only; at one by the heat treatment process, and at two by the "cold-mix" method.

The production and sale was kept under strict observation; premises were inspected as often as time permitted, printed propaganda was distributed, and vendors were advised on the methods of cleansing and sterilization of equipment and utensils. It is to be regretted that there is no legal requirement to make sterilization a compulsory practice in both the production and retail spheres of the trade.

Regular samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue test, and the results of these tests are tabulated below. Comparisons with the previous three years show that a general improvement has been achieved which can be attributed to the continual supervision exercised over production and sale, and to the co-operation and realization by the traders of the need for a clean and wholesome commodity.

The results of the samples are as follows :—

Provisional Grading.	No. of Samples.
1	16
2	3
3	1
4	2

(c) Food Premises

The routine inspection of food preparing premises was continued throughout the year. Advice and instruction was given by

the inspectors on methods of handling and of safeguarding food from contamination and infection. General improvements were achieved by these methods and any contraventions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were remedied without further legal action.

A complete survey of all food premises holding catering licences was commenced at the close of the year, and this survey will embrace all industrial and school canteens, licensed premises, cafes and clubs.

The Council adopted the Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air, and these Bye-laws came into operation on 16th October, 1950. We have not yet had sufficient time to witness the beneficial effects of this new legislation upon the various food industries, but a general all round improvement should eventually be achieved.

87 food premises in the town are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation, manufacture or sale of food and these premises are classified as follows :—

Registered premises for the sale of prepared meals, etc. ...	32
Registered premises for the sale of fried fish	14
Registered premises for the process of tripe dressing (offensive trade)	1
Registered premises for the manufacture or sale of ice cream	40

(d) Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year. This occurred in a male, aged 61 years, and was attributed to an infection by the organism *salmonella typhi murium (aertryke)*. Investigations were made into the cause of the outbreak and a sample of suspected beef dripping which had been consumed by the patient was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The causative organism could not be isolated from this foodstuff and further enquiries failed to reveal the origin of the infection. The man recovered after five weeks of treatment in hospital.

(e) Meat

The inspection of meat forms a considerable part of the Sanitary Inspector's duties, there being a central Ministry of Food abattoir and a C.W.S. Bacon Factory within the Urban area. The abattoir caters for a population of approximately 60,000, embracing Winsford and both the Northwich Urban and Rural districts.

The Bacon Factory

The C.W.S. Bacon Factory first began operations in September, 1937, and continued until August, 1942, during which period a total of a quarter of a million pigs were killed and inspected. I am indebted to the Manager of the C.W.S. Bacon Factory for the following information on his factory's activities during 1950 :—

“The year under review represents the first complete year of bacon curing activities since the factory was ‘deconcentrated’ in October, 1949, and the kill of 85,166 is the highest yet recorded for this factory. The weekly average of pigs killed was 1,638, but killings during August and September were slightly above normal due to a widespread outbreak of swine fever. The Ministry of Food have in many respects been most progressive in their efforts to encourage pig producers, and notable amongst their efforts has been the introduction of additional bonus payments for pigs of suitable weights, and consequently English bacon is gradually measuring up to the quality and standard of Danish and Canadian supplies. Edible and inedible offals are all dealt with by the factory's own by-product plants which produced during the year 2,587 cwts. meat and bone meal feeding and fertilizer, 1,006 cwts. blood meal feeding and fertilizer, 2,928 cwts. greases and 2,320 cwts. lard. Meat, bones, offals and blood are fully sterilized into these meals and fertilizers, and the products are disposed of through agricultural distributive channels. Inedible hog greases secured from these products are used in the main for technical purposes. The production of pies, sausage, cooked meats, etc., has been increased, but is necessarily restricted to the availability of raw materials. New separate departments for the manufacture of meat pies and sausage were introduced during the year, and efforts are continually maintained to secure a good hygienic standard of production in these premises. The hatchery, which is attached to the factory, is equipped with all-electric incubators capable of holding from 2,000 to 10,000 eggs each; 45,353 birds, including chicks, ducks, turkeys and geese were hatched during the year. The killing and dressing of table birds is another of the minor activities; associated with this factory, 16,502 birds were prepared for sale during the year. Inspection is exercised over this part of food production, as required.”

A consignment of 7lb. tins of Australian Corned Beef affected with the parasitic disease *Onchocerciasis* was delivered to the factory for inspection and processing. As this parasite is not transmissible to man the worm nests were enucleated and the meat subjected to cooking prior to being manufactured into small goods. In addition to this, approximately 100 tons of Argentinean frozen mutton trimmings affected with caseous lymphadenitis have been sent by the Ministry of Food for sorting and inspection prior to being used in the manufacture of cooked meats. 120lb. of this

mutton showing lesions of the disease were condemned as unfit for food. This disease is also not transmissible to man.

The Abattoir

The abattoir, which was originally built to serve five butchery branches of the Winsford Industrial Co-operative Society, now caters for 60 butchers' shops in the three areas previously mentioned. It is difficult to adhere to a planned programme of slaughtering as stock frequently arrives late leaving no time for the very necessary pre-slaughter period of resting and fasting, and consequently the resultant quality of meat is below the desired standard. Various alterations to the abattoir are essential if the existing system of centralized slaughtering and meat allocation is to remain a permanent feature, and foremost amongst these improvements is a general enlargement of the present building with more space and facilities for slaughtering and hanging, and a separate room for the detention and inspection of diseased carcasses and organs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The provisions of this Act were observed and there were no contraventions thereof. All animals at both the Abattoir and the Bacon Factory are stunned by the captive bolt pistol or by the electrolether before slaughter.

Meat Regulations, 1924

The transport of meat from the abattoir to retail butchers' shops has been somewhat improved by the provision of galvanised offal bins and metal box bodies to the meat-carrying vehicles, but unfortunately facilities for the hanging of meat have not been included in the design of these bodies. It is considered that the introduction of meat-hanging vehicles is a necessity for the hygienic handling of meat, and it is understood that vehicles of this type are now being used in some areas. It is realised, of course, that with the present restrictions on steel and other materials, progress in the building of sufficient and suitable metal bodies must necessarily be slow.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

The following, based upon a statement by the Meat Inspector, Mr. White, is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned during the year :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1940	1272	985	9609	85562
Number inspected	1940	1272	985	9609	85562
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :-</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	33	30	10	53
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	520	377	4	570	1862
Percentage of the number in- spected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	27.01%	32.23%	3.43%	6.04%	2.24%
<i>Tuberculosis Only :-</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	37	1	—	49
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	290	560	—	—	4175
Percentage of the number in- spected, affected with Tuber- culosis	15.36%	46.93%	0.10%	—	4.91%

29 carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. The entire carcasses and organs of 13 were condemned, the remaining 16 were passed less any part carcase and offal which was surrendered.

35 pigs, 1 sheep and 1 bull were notified as suspected cases of anthrax under the provisions of the Anthrax Order, 1938. Two cases occurring in pigs at the C.W.S. Bacon Factory were confirmed as positive by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The affected carcasses were burned and the styes and surrounding areas were disinfected.

750 swine fever contacts were received for slaughter under the provisions of the Swine Fever Order, 1938.

34 cases of *Cysticercus bovis* infection were discovered during routine meat inspection at the local Ministry of Food abattoir. The cysts in varying stages of viability and degeneration were confined to the head, heart and forequarter regions. Affected carcasses were consigned to Crewe for cold storage at 18° F. for 21 days after which they were allocated to meat manufacturers for high pressure cooking.

The dressed carcasses of 390 cattle, 26 calves, 7 pigs and 1 sheep were received at the abattoir for inspection and allocation, and a considerable quantity of tinned meat, frozen beef, mutton, lamb, pork, lamb livers and hearts also passed through the depot and was of necessity subjected to a superficial examination. The supply of frozen meat fluctuated during the year, and ceased completely during the months of the peak period of slaughtering when the ration was composed of English meat only.

(f) Other Foods

Under the "Unsound Food Provisions," the undermentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption and condemned:—

- 95 lbs. 14½ ozs. Tinned Milk.
- 2 lbs. Tinned Stewed Steak.
- 11 lbs. 5 ozs. Tinned Pears.
- 37 lbs. 11 ozs. Tinned Peas.
- 28 lbs. 10 ozs. Boneless Boiled Ham.
- 120 lbs. Frozen Mutton.
- 8 ozs. Tinned Crawfish.
- 6 lbs. Ox Tongues.
- 15 lbs. 9 ozs. Tinned Carrots.
- 10 lbs. Hake.
- 34 lbs. Bacon.
- 105 lbs. Cured Haddock.
- 1 lb. 8 ozs. Tinned Minced Beef
- 2 lbs. Tinned Australian Rabbit.
- 10 lbs. 3½ ozs. Tinned Fruit and Grapefruit Juice.
- 3 lbs. 12 ozs. Tinned Sausage.
- 5 lbs. Jam.
- 6 lbs. 4 ozs. Tinned Soup.
- 1 lb. Spaghetti.
- 1 lb. Tinned Rabbit.
- 1 lb. Tinned Mixed Vegetables.
- 10 ozs. Beetroot.
- 14 ozs. Herrings.
- 6 ozs. Mussels.
- 265 lbs. 15 ozs. Plums.
- 3 lbs. Tinned Snoek.
- 14 lbs. 6½ ozs. Tinned Luncheon Meat.
- 9 lbs. 6 ozs. Grapes.
- 248 lbs. 4 ozs. Corned Beef.
- 7 lbs. 2¾ ozs. Salmon.
- 8 ozs. Brislings.
- 33 lbs. 8 ozs. Tinned Tomatoes.
- 1 lb. Tinned Tomato Juice.
- 5 lbs. 6½ ozs. Sliced Apples.
- 10 lbs. 8 ozs. Halibut.
- 10 lbs. 10 ozs. Pickles.
- 4 ozs. Meat Paste.
- 4 lbs. 6 ozs. Bottled Sauce.
- 8 lbs. Pudding Mixtures.
- 3 lbs. Figs.
- 4 lbs. 14 ozs. Peaches.
- 15 lbs. Irish Bacon.
- 9 ozs. Tinned Sardines.
- 8 lbs. Brawn.

26 lbs. Tinned Beans.
 21 lbs. Plaice.
 1 lb. Herrings.
 70 lbs. Headless Cod.
 3 lbs. 2 ozs. Tinned Meat and Gravy.
 Total weight—11 *cwts.* 1 *qr.* 15 *lbs.* 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *ozs.*

The amount of meat, offals, and other foods condemned was :—

103,635 lbs. Beef.
 67,091 lbs. Pork.
 2,047 lbs. Veal.
 1,306 lbs. Mutton.
 1,275 lbs. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *ozs.* Other Foods.

A total of 78 *tons* 5 *cwts.* 2 *qrs.* 18 *lbs.* 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ *ozs.*

(f) *Other Foods*

In addition the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Winsford Urban District during the year 1950 :—

Name of Sample	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Apricot Jam	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Ice Cream	3	—
Jam—Raspberry	1	—
Malt Vinegar	1	—
Meat Paste... ..	1	—
Mint Sauce	1	—
Milk	20	2
Parrish's Syrup Chem. Food ...	1	—
Sauce	1	—
Vegetable Soup with Tomato ...	1	—
Whiskey	2	—
TOTAL	34	2

Particulars of samples not up to standard :—

No.	Article	Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk	3.3% deficient in fat	Small deficiency. No action
2	Milk	13.6% deficient in fat	Retail sale. Seller cautioned

**SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of Measles and Scarlet Fever, was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

**Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the Year 1950.**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	18	18	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	5	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—
Measles	145	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—

**Cases occurring in age groups 5 years and under and
over 5 years**

Diseases	5 years and under	Over 5 years
Scarlet Fever	14	4
Erysipelas	—	1
Whooping Cough	5	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1
Measles	127	18
Food Poisoning... ..	—	1

(2) **Tuberculosis**

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis:—

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 - 5 years ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 - 15 „ ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
15 - 25 „ ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
25 - 35 „	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
35 - 45 „	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
45 - 55 „	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55 - 65 „	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	6	3	1	2	3	...	...	...

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years :—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
64	72	73	83	97	103	93	96	90	92	93	92

Mass Radiography

Late in the year the town was visited by one of the Regional Hospital Board's mass radiography units. The local response was good, some 3,000 residents were x-rayed. More detailed information has been promised, along with information on the ultimate diagnosis and disposal of abnormal cases brought to light in the survey.

(3) Scabies and Verminous Infestation

As there appeared to be a complete disappearance of Scabies infestation in the area, the Joint Cleansing Centre which had been operating since 1942 was closed down. The premises and major items of equipment have, however, been retained should their use again ever become necessary.

(4) Disinfection and Disinfestation

The disinfection of 26 premises following cases of infectious disease was carried out as a normal precautionary measure. In all instance a 5 per cent. solution formaldehyde was used as the disinfecting agent. Where cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have occurred additional precautionary measures were advocated. These entailed a thorough "spring cleaning" of the patients' rooms, using plenty of soap and water, damp-dusting of furniture and walls with a suitable disinfectant (1/80 carbolic acid), followed by a good airing for at least four days, washing of clothing, and steam disinfection of bedding.

Eight premises were disinfested following complaints of infestations with bed-bugs. Liquid insecticide containing 5 per cent. DDT was extensively applied, and in some cases DDT smoke generators were used with success.

Visits were made to nine premises infested with cockroaches and ants. Advisory leaflets were distributed and instructions given on methods of eradication. Preparations of 5 per cent DDT or 5 per cent. gammexane, plus pyrethrum powder were used for the destruction of these pests. Now that the insecticide DDT can be purchased universally, householders themselves are carrying out disinfestations against cockroaches and similar pests.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the members of the Council and officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1951.



