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COUNTIES of PERTH and KINROSS

REPORTS

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY

CONDITIONS of the COUNTIES

and

THE BURGHS OF

ABERNETHY, ABERFELDY, ALYTH, AUCHTERARDER, BLAIRGOWRIE-

RATTRAY, CALLANDER, COUPAR ANGUS, CRIEFF, DOUNE,

DUNBLANE, KINROSS and PITLOCHRY

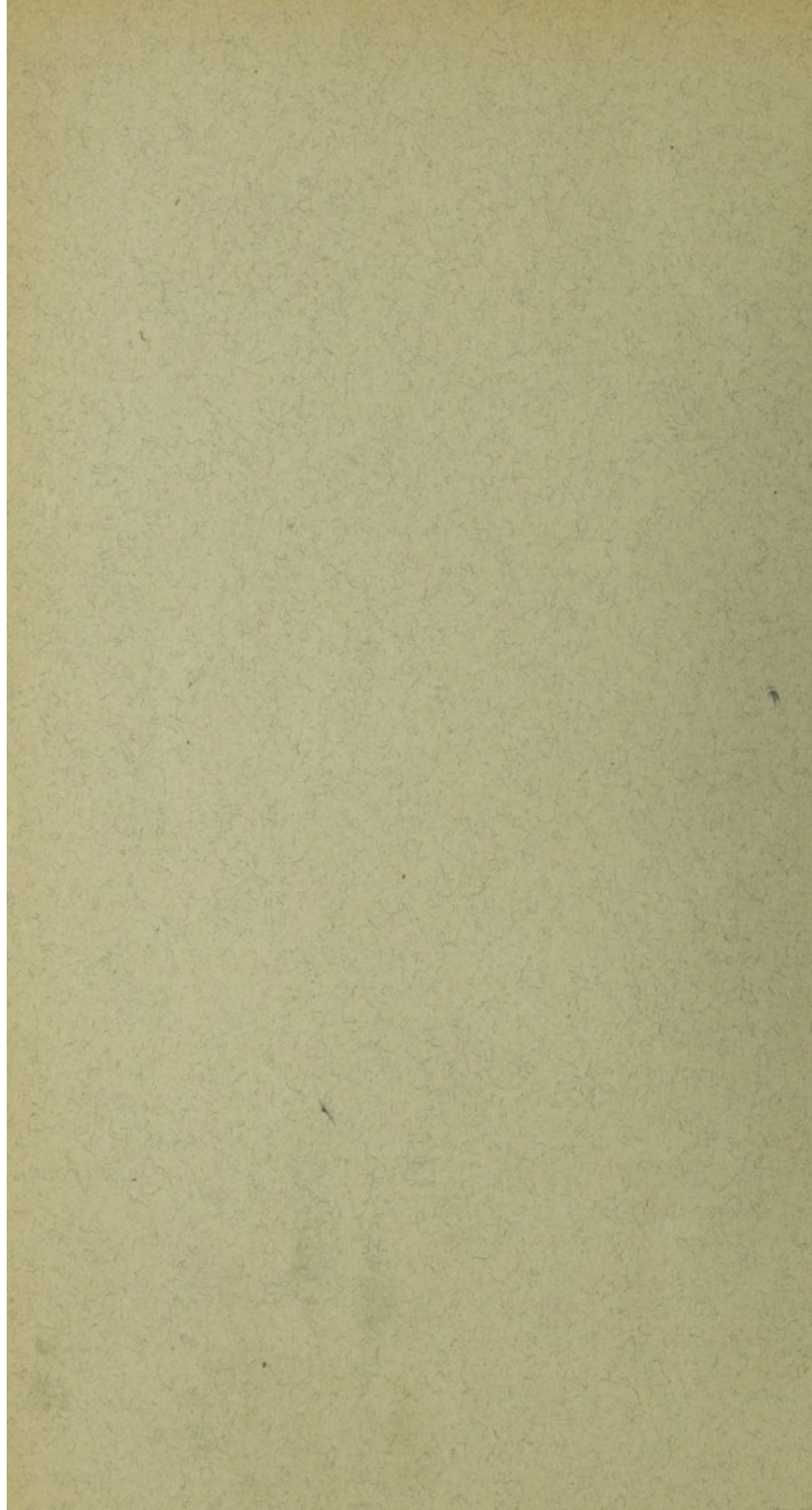
for the year

1952

by

JAMES KELMAN, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH



INTRODUCTION

1952 was a good year. The birth rate, which had been falling steadily since the peak year 1946, this year showed a slight improvement, and the infantile mortality rate was only slightly above the record year 1948. The death rate too was only slightly above the record year which was also 1948.

Infectious disease was at a low level, and although scarlet fever showed a slight increase similar to that of last year, this was still less than a fifth of the peak year 1933. For the fifth year in succession no case of diphtheria occurred in the County. For the first time since the epidemic in 1947, no case of poliomyelitis occurred. The number of new confirmed cases of pulmonary tuberculosis however shows no sign of falling, the figure remaining at the post war level of a 50% increase over pre-war averages; but there was a further marked drop in the number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, the number being half that of last year and a quarter of prewar experience.

The special review of the services provided by the County Council under Part III of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947, called for this year by the Secretary of State, is included in this Report. It covers the first five years' experience, and sets out the position in detail. With the introduction this year of the new Domestic Help Scheme, all the basic requirements of the Act are now implemented. The Schemes are working well, and it can be said that the County Council is interpreting its responsibilities as Local Health Authority in the spirit as well as the letter of the Act.

Co-operation with other branches of the National Health Service is on an informal friendly basis which has proved very satisfactory in practice. There is still, however, an unduly long waiting period for the admission of tonsil cases, and in spite of the provision of some additional beds for chronic sick cases, the increasing demand for these still leaves the position one of acute shortage.

The scheme of modernisation of Quil-an-Daraich was completed during the year, and the new small Eventide Home at St. John's Mount, Dunblane, was opened towards the end of the year. One further voluntary home was added to the list of those at which assistance towards the cost of maintenance of residents may be paid by the County Council. This is a very valuable arrangement, which it is hoped will encourage the provision of further voluntary homes for old people in the County. Hospital accommodation for chronic sick continued to be provided on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board at the two larger County Council Homes, an arrangement which is eminently satisfactory to all concerned.

Two new developments which took place during the year, however, should help very considerably to further the welfare of old people in the area. Early in the year, the Regional Hospital Board initiated a Regional Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Aged. Its purpose is to secure a fully co-ordinated and comprehensive service for old people throughout the Region, and its first task has been to prepare a full survey of the present resources with a detailed statement of the further developments necessary. Towards the end of the year, the County Council sponsored a meeting of all organisations interested in the welfare of old people, at which a County Old People's Welfare Committee was set up. The main purpose of this Committee is to stimulate the formation of voluntary local Old People's Welfare Committees throughout the County, and already, considerable success has been achieved.

The work of the Children's Department is steadily increasing. The administrative arrangement whereby the Children's Department is an integral part of the County Health Department, has been a very satisfactory one, with advantages all round. Increasing attention is being paid to the preventive side of child care, work in which the close association of the Children's Officer with the District Nurse and the School Medical Staff is proving invaluable. The figures given in the Report show only the bare bones of the work being done, and there is no doubt that five years' experience has amply justified the provisions contained in the Children's Act, 1948.

All the routine work of the general Public Health Service has been maintained. Although no progress was made on the proposed Turret Regional Water Scheme, further extensions of the regional reticulations were made. Satisfactory progress was made with new sewage schemes and with improvement of existing schemes. Considerable progress was made with housing, and altogether 552 new houses were completed during 1952 by the various housing authorities in the County.

There are a few things that I want to say about this book. First, it is a book about the history of the United States. It is a book that tells us about the people who have lived in this country and about the things that they have done. It is a book that is written for people who are interested in the history of the United States.

The book is written in a simple and straightforward way. It is not a book that is full of complicated words and phrases. It is a book that is easy to read and understand. It is a book that is written for people who are interested in the history of the United States.

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VITAL STATISTICS

1. General. The principal vital statistics for the year 1952 are shown below. The rates are after correction for transfer, and in the case of deaths, the rates after correction for age and sex are shown in brackets.

	Perth County	Kinross County	Combined County
(a) Population	87,240	7,513	94,753
(b) Total Births	1,288	128	1,416
Birth Rates	14.8	17.0	14.9
(c) Total Deaths	1,116	103	1,219
Death Rates	12.8 (10.3)	13.7 (11.2)	12.9 (10.3)
(d) Infantile Mortality Rate	26	31	26

2. Births. The birth rate per thousand of the population for the Combined County is 14.9, a slight increase on last year's figure. The figures for previous years were 1947 - 18.8; 1948 - 17.1; 1949 - 16.0; 1950 - 15.6 and 1951 - 14.4. The figure for Scotland was 17.7, the same figure as last year and the figures for previous years were 18.5 for 1949; 19.4 for 1948 and 22.0 for 1947, the latter being the highest rate recorded since 1923.

The birth rate for the Burghs is slightly lower than that for the Landward area, the Burgh rate being 14.1 as against 15.2 for Landward.

The figures for illegitimate births during the year were:- Perth County, 5.9% Kinross County, 4.7%; Combined County, 5.8%. The figures for Perth County and the Combined County show a slight fall from previous years. The figure for Scotland was 4.8%.

The still birth rate (per thousand births including still births) was 21, compared to 31 for last year. The corresponding figure for Scotland was 26, as against 27 for each of the previous three years.

3. Deaths. The death rate for the Combined County was 10.3 per thousand of the population, compared to 11.8 for 1951 and 10.5 for 1950. The figure for Scotland was 12.0.

Of the 1219 deaths during 1952, 887 had attained the age of 65 and upwards, giving a senile death rate of 72.8% of the deaths compared to 74.4% and 71.1% in 1951 and 1950 respectively. 568 persons had attained the age of 75 years and upwards (46.6% of the total deaths) and 172 persons had attained the age of 85 years and upwards (14.1% of the total deaths).

Of the 887 persons who attained the age of 65 years and upwards, 388 (44%) were males and 499 (56%) were females. The corresponding figures for later ages were 75 years and upwards, males 232 (41%), females 336 (59%); 85 years and upwards, males 47 (27%), females 125 (73%).

Heart Disease. Heart disease caused 434 deaths, giving a rate of 4.58 per thousand of the population. This compares with 5.39 for 1951 and 4.31 for 1950. 359 (83%) of the deaths occurred at age 65 years and upwards.

Cancer. Cancer and other malignant conditions caused 200 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.11 per thousand compared to 2.29 for 1951. 130 (65%) occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, almost the same as last year.

Cerebral Haemorrhage accounted for 174 deaths, giving a death rate of 1.84 per thousand, compared to 2.13 for last year. 148 (85%) of the deaths occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, almost the same as last year.

Tuberculosis caused 11 deaths, giving a rate of .12 per thousand of the population (Scotland .32). The rate has been steadily falling, previous years being .34 for 1948, .25 for 1949, .20 for 1950 and .18 for 1951, the corresponding figures for Scotland being .76, .67, .54 and .43 for the years 1948-51 respectively.

Of the 11 deaths, 7 were due to respiratory tuberculosis, giving a rate of .07 per thousand, a new low record, compared to .16 per thousand for last year. The 1952 figure for Scotland was .27.

There were 4 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (.04 per thousand, Scotland .05 per thousand, compared to .01 and .06 respectively for 1951).

Respiratory Disease (excluding pulmonary tuberculosis) accounted for 59 deaths, giving a death rate of .62 per thousand compared to .79 for 1951. Bronchitis caused 19 deaths, of which 15 occurred at the age of 65 years and upwards, pneumonia caused 27 deaths, of which 5 occurred at ages of less than 1 year and the other respiratory diseases caused 13 deaths.

Violent Deaths numbered 56, of which 6 were due to suicide, 13 to road accidents and 37 to other forms of violence.

Maternal Mortality. There were two deaths from puerperal causes, giving a rate of 1.4 per thousand births, compared to an average for the years 1948-50 of 1.6.

Infantile Mortality. There were 37 deaths at ages less than one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 26 per thousand births, almost equal to the lowest record of 25.7 for 1948. The 1952 figure for Scotland was 35.

Of the 37 deaths during the year, only 8 fell into the theoretically preventable group (pneumonia 6, diarrhoea 1, meningitis 1). The other 29 deaths were due to the group of causes which includes congenital debility, prematurity and malformations, compared to 33 deaths from these causes in 1951.

There were 29 still births, giving a still birth rate of 20.4 per thousand total births including still births, compared to an average of 22.2 for the years 1948-52.

**SPECIAL REVIEW OF SERVICES UNDER PART III OF THE
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947**

The Secretary of State has called for a special report this year on the implementation of the County Council's duties under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947, and this is set out below in the form prescribed by D.H.S. Circular 98/52.

1. Administration. The responsibilities of the County Health Department have been considerably widened to cope with the legislative changes which took effect on 5/7/48. As a result, the County Health and Welfare Department now includes General Public Health, School Health, Welfare, Children and Sanitary Departments, under the general administrative control of the County Medical Officer of Health. This arrangement has run very smoothly and having been characterised by good team work throughout, liaison between the different sections has presented no difficulty whatever. Experience of the last four and a half years has shown that the combined Department is a very satisfactory arrangement for this area. Staff details are shown in the appendix.

2. Co-ordination and co-operation with other parts of the National Health Service. Since the Act chose to split the National Health Service into three administratively watertight compartments, some means of co-ordinating effort towards the common goal is obviously essential, but no formal co-ordinating machinery has so far been set up in the area. This perhaps has been a merciful dispensation, since good relationships cannot be imposed from above. No doubt co-ordinating machinery will be required in order to deal with large matters of policy in which more than one section of the service is involved, but in the early stages individual problems are best dealt with by the establishment of good personal relationships, in which this area has been exceedingly fortunate.

(a) **The Executive Council.** There is a direct relationship between the County Council and the Executive Council which includes six members appointed by the County Council from the members of the Health and Welfare Committee. The first Chairman of the Executive Council was the late County Clerk. His successor is a general medical practitioner who is also a member of the County Council's Health and Welfare Committee. The Clerk to the Executive Council is a former member of the County Council staff. The County Health Department has a long tradition of good relationship with general medical practitioners, and the County Medical Officer is an elected member of the Local Medical Committee, of which he acts as Honorary Secretary. With this background it will be appreciated that it has been easy to secure the fullest co-operation between the County Council and the Executive Council.

(b) **The Regional Hospital Board and Boards of Management.** There is no direct relationship between the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board, and at present no member of the County Health and Welfare Committee is also a member of the Board itself. There are, however, members of the Committee who are also members of the various Boards of Management. The County Medical Officer was a member of the original Board of Management of the Perthshire General Hospitals. This Board has now been reorganised to include Bridge of Earn Hospital. The Vice Chairman of the new Board is a former County Medical Officer. It will be seen, therefore, that at Board of Management level, the interest of the County Council as local health authority is indirectly represented.

Regional Boards, by the nature of the task entrusted to them, are naturally absorbed in the maintenance and development of the hospital and specialist services, both of which are primarily concerned with treatment. For this they have a wealth of specialist advice available to them, mainly from full members of the Hospital Board or Boards of Management. Advice on social conditions which directly affect the work of the Boards, and on the prevention of illness which ought to be the keystone of the whole Service, is not so readily available, however, and because of the wide variations even within the Region, it is suggested that Boards might well find of some value the advice of the local Medical Officer of Health, preferably secured by his attendance in an advisory capacity at meetings of the Board and its appropriate committees.

Relationships with the Senior Administrative Medical Officer of the Regional Board, a former Medical Officer of Health of Perth City, and with the other members of the administrative staff both of the Hospital Board and the Boards of Management have been very cordial and very full co-operation exists.

The County Council continued to administer the transferred hospitals for a short period on an agency basis, but the Council continues to provide a number of services on behalf of the Board. The Orthopaedic Scheme, which had gradually been built up over a period of years to high efficiency continues to be administered within the framework of the County Health Department, as are the specialist Eye and E.N.T. clinics for children, all of which are based on the School Clinic at County Offices. The County Council continues to provide on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board chronic sick beds at their two institutions, Strathearn Home, Auchterarder, and Cull-an-Daraich, Ballinluig, both of which have been extensively modernised since 1948. It will readily be appreciated that this arrangement is of mutual advantage in dealing with some of the problems which are associated with the care of old people. An ante-natal clinic is conducted in Perth on a joint basis between the County and City and the Regional Board. On the other hand, the Board's Area Tuberculosis Physician carries out on behalf of the County Council all the tuberculosis preventive work. These arrangements are discussed later in this Report.

(c) **Hospitals.** The loss of the hospitals, and particularly the County Fever Hospital, is regretted. Although it is appreciated that the concentration of all fever cases in the Region into one hospital at Dundee has definite advantages, particularly in freeing hospital accommodation for other desirable purposes, this policy also has its disadvantages. Patients from this area have to be transported over very long distances, which relatives find very inconvenient when visiting. The Medical Officer of Health, responsible for all the epidemiological field work and acting as Consultant in Infectious Disease in his area, has no longer any beds under his control. He is therefore no longer in daily touch with the clinical aspects of infectious disease, and has lost the base from which much of the epidemiological work was formerly done.

The two principal hospitals in the area provide the Medical Officer of Health with weekly discharge lists of patients aged 0-15 years and 65 years and over. These lists show the provisional diagnosis and where it appears appropriate on the information available, cases are referred to the District Nurses for follow up. It is suggested that more precise information, in the shape of copies of discharge reports, would provide a more satisfactory basis for selection. Direct reference by the hospitals to the District Nurses for followup or for social information is used only to a very limited extent.

At present the Local Authority medical staff take no part in hospital treatment. It has been suggested to the Regional Hospital Board that it would be of mutual advantage if the Medical Officers could undertake work in the children's wards on an exchange basis.

As already noted, the County Council provides on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board, beds for chronic sick cases at its two main Residential Homes. Both groups of cases, chronic sick and residential, consist mainly of elderly people who do not take kindly to changes. It is an advantage, therefore, to be able to transfer cases in both directions within the same Institution. It is unfortunate, however, that a financial distinction must be drawn between the two groups, and it must be very bewildering to an old person to find that when in a sick bed no charge is made but when he becomes a little better and is transferred to residential accommodation next door, he has to pay.

(d) General Practitioners. Although the relationship between General Medical Practitioners and the County Health Department is an excellent one, points of contact between the individual practitioner and the Medical Officer of Health have been considerably reduced. The frequent contacts over the diagnosis and disposal of cases of infectious disease and the old Parish Medical Officer system gave an intimacy which is now absent. Practitioners continue to provide certificates in mental cases at the instance of the Authorised Officers and also carry out statutory medical visits. The local practitioners who provide medical care for the chronic sick cases in the two County Council Homes at the instance of the Regional Hospital Board also act for the Medical Officer of Health in the day to day administration of the Homes.

There is, however, a very close association between the General Practitioners and the District Nurses, since for home nursing and midwifery the nurses work directly under the instruction of the family doctor. Apart from one or two instances where it is felt that the practitioners might make more use of the services of the District Nurse, Nurses and Doctors work very harmoniously.

(e) District Nursing Service. This area was fortunate in that prior to the appointed day, the whole County was covered by a well organised and efficient District Nursing Service, already accustomed to undertaking Public Health duties. By agreements with the individual Nursing Associations and the Federation, the general arrangements have continued, but the Nurses come directly under the control of the County Medical Officer and the County Superintendent Nursing Officer. Since 1948, a number of agreements have lapsed and less than half of the Associations now take part in the service.

The District Nurses carry out all nursing duties in their area - home nursing, midwifery, health visiting, school nursing etc. Two nurses are stationed at Alyth, Blairgowrie, Crieff and Kinross. All the other nurses are in single-nurse districts. Of the 47 nurses in Districts, all but two are Queen's Nurses, but only a fifth have the Health Visitor Certificate. It is hoped that before long a combined training will become available as it is essential in an area such as this that the District Nurse should have both the Queen's and the Health Visitor's training.

Twice a year, local one day refresher courses are provided for the District Nurses, and specialist staff in the area have been very generous in giving their services as lecturers. These courses have been found most valuable, not only as a means of keeping the nurses up to date, but as a means of welding the service together as a smooth working unit.

From the Nurses' monthly returns, it is apparent that the case load is very uneven. Boundary adjustments between Districts should even out the work without an increase in staff except in the case of Crieff and probably Blairgowrie where additional nurses will be required. Already, however, arrangements are in force whereby a nurse from a lighter district gives assistance to a heavier one, and Districts are paired for off duty, and in the majority of cases for holidays as well.

(f) Publicity. No guide to the Local Health Authority services has been issued. Full information about all these services has been provided to District Nurses, who each have a permanent file for this purpose, and the information is kept up to date. Copies of all information circulars issued to District Nurses are also supplied to the general medical practitioners in the area. The Hospital Almoners and the Assistance Board frequently refer cases to the Health Department, but in practice it has been found that if the doctors and the district nurses are kept well informed, full publicity is assured.

3. Joint use of Staff. This has already been referred to in earlier paragraphs, but a special arrangement is in force in the School Health Service. The medical staff of Perth City now undertake the routine medical inspections etc. in City schools, and for this purpose the medical officer of health of the City acts as Deputy Medical Officer for City Schools. The City Nursing staff undertake nursing duties in the City Schools, one Health Visitor being seconded to carry out this work along with the County Council's full-time School Nurse.

4. Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and of Children under School Age.

(a) Expectant and Nursing Mothers. The main responsibility for the care of this group is in the hands of the District Nurses, acting either as midwives or as Health Visitors, depending on whether the case has been booked for domiciliary or hospital confinement. Standard maternity outfits are issued through the District Nurses. No specialist clinics are provided in the County but are available either at Perth or Stirling. In a few cases, under local arrangement, the District Nurse assists the doctor at ante-natal sessions in the doctor's surgery.

In Perth City a long standing arrangement still exists whereby under a joint arrangement between the County and Town Councils and now the Regional Hospital Board, ante-natal and post-natal clinics are conducted by the specialist obstetricians at one of the City Child Welfare Clinics. This clinic, however, now functions almost wholly as a Hospital Out-patient Department. Very few cases other than cases booked for hospital confinement attend. These clinics are sorely overcrowded. Some two years ago, an arrangement was made whereby suitable cases residing beyond a radius of approximately twenty miles would be referred to the general practitioners for interval ante-natal care. This scheme has operated successfully, but it is considered that the radius could quite well be reduced. No formal training in mothercraft is available, but all cases booked for hospital confinement are notified to the Medical Officer of Health and visited by the District Nurses.

Routine blood testing of patients booked for hospital confinement is carried out at the ante-natal clinics, but very few cases booked for domiciliary confinement are blood tested.

Unmarried mothers are usually referred to one or other of the Salvation Army Homes. They are admitted in the later stage of pregnancy and usually remain there for some months after delivery.

(b) Child Welfare. In the County, this also is a primary responsibility of the District Nurses acting as Health Visitors. No medical clinics are held. Most nurses conduct a weekly child welfare clinic at the dispensary attached to their houses, or, in a few cases, at outside premises. Where necessary, cases are referred to their own doctors, or in a few special cases to the County Medical Staff.

Orthopaedic care for pre-school children is available under the Regional Board's Orthopaedic Scheme, conducted within the framework of the School Health Service. Similarly, eye cases are dealt with under the School Eye Service. A special effort is made to secure early attendance of cases of squint. Both orthopaedic and eye clinics are conducted regularly at selected centres in the County as well as in Perth City. Cases are referred to the clinics either directly or through the general practitioner depending on local arrangements, but in all cases the general practitioner is kept informed.

(c) Care of premature infants. Cases can usually be admitted to hospital, but if necessary special equipment can be provided.

(d) Supply of Welfare Foods. All the District Nurses issue National Dried Milk, orange juice, cod liver oil etc. from stock held by them. In a number of cases, special arrangements have been made to supply other dried milks when required for medical reasons.

(e) Dental Care. A priority scheme was arranged for the dental care of expectant and nursing mothers and for pre-school children. This scheme is still in operation but cases are now usually dealt with under the General Dental Service, the County Council meeting the patients' portion of the cost of any necessary dentures.

(f) Other Provision. Home helps are provided for domiciliary confinements where necessary, and through the Children's Officer, arrangements are made when necessary for the care of other children in the family during the period of the confinement. Everything possible is done by the District Nurses to encourage breast feeding, but leaflets of recommended feeding schedules are issued by District Nurses where breast feeding is not being carried out.

5. Domiciliary Midwifery. This is undertaken by the District Nurses, all of whom are trained in gas and air analgesia and have apparatus available, and in the use of pethidine. District Nurses are instructed to see that all cases booked for domiciliary confinement also receive maternity medical services from the general practitioner, and very few cases occur in which the Doctor has not been booked. Where the District Nurse considers the home facilities are unsuitable for a confinement, the general practitioner is asked to arrange for hospital confinement. Routine ante-natal care is given by the District Nurse in addition to that provided by the Doctor.

Supervision of all midwives in the County is carried out by the Superintendent Nursing Officer, who reports to the County Medical Officer.

A midwifery subject is invariably included in the refresher courses for District Nurses held twice yearly in Perth.

6. Health Visiting. This again is carried out by the District Nurses acting as Health Visitors. Cases are referred by general practitioners, but as already explained above, weekly discharge lists are obtained from the hospitals and where on the information available visits appear to be indicated, the District Nurse is informed. Very few cases are directly referred by hospitals, and it is considered that much more use could be made of the District Nurses by Hospital Almoners. The arrangements for refresher courses have already been mentioned. District Nurses are encouraged to take the Health Visitor Certificate, and arrangements for this have been made through the Queen's Institute. One nurse completed the course in 1952-53 and two nurses are taking courses during 1953-54. The financial inducement to the nurse who takes the Health Visitor Certificate, however, is very meagre considering the time and effort involved. The salary scale of a nurse with triple qualification of R.G.N., S.C.M. and H.V. compares unfavourably with that of a ward sister with R.G.N. only.

7. Home Nursing. This has always been a main duty of the District Nurse. Normally cases are referred by the general practitioners. Cases are also accepted on direct application, but nurses are instructed that they must seek the directions of the family doctor in these cases also. All types of cases are dealt with, dressings, injections (particularly penicillin and streptomycin) and general nursing care of patients ill in their own homes. An increasing proportion of the last type of case consists of old people, where general nursing care is not only heavy work, but is required regularly for a prolonged period. Service is available at any hour of the day or night, but full time nursing care is not provided.

In the towns and villages many of the injections and dressings are done at the small dispensary which is available at most nurses' houses.

Only two of the forty-seven nurses in Districts have not had the Queen's training, and only Queen's Nurses are appointed for all vacancies. The County Council makes per capita payments to the Queen's Institute in respect of District training.

8. Domestic Help. For the first few years, the County Council contributed to the cost of providing a domestic help in suitable cases, but the County Council has now adopted the standard scheme for providing domestic help. No full time Helps are employed, and it has not been possible to compile a register of part-time helps. Helps are recruited locally as required, mainly through the District Nurses. So far the needs of all approved cases have been met, and gradually a list is being compiled of women who though not willing to register as a part-time Help, are willing to act when requested. The Helps are employed and paid by the County Council, subject to recovery of such portion of the cost in accordance with an agreed scale. The majority of cases are elderly persons, a fair proportion being chronic sick cases awaiting admission to hospital. The other main types of cases are tuberculosis cases and confinement cases.

9. Vaccination and Immunisation. All our publicity for vaccination and immunisation is carried out through the District Nurses. Every six months figures are obtained from each nurse, the results tabulated for all districts, expressed as percentages of pre-school children vaccinated and immunised. These lists are then issued to all District Nurses, and it has been found that the competitive element thus introduced has rendered all other forms of publicity unnecessary. The lists are issued to all general practitioners at the same time. This system was started in 1947, when only approximately 50% of pre-school children were being immunised against diphtheria. Within a year the figure had gone up to 75% and has now reached 87%. No cases of diphtheria at all have occurred in the County for over five years. At first the nurses' efforts were concentrated on immunisation. Last year over 80% of school entrants had been vaccinated, but recent figures show a falling off in the percentage of children being immunised one year who have been vaccinated, and the nurses' efforts have now been extended to include vaccination.

A boosting dose of diphtheria prophylactic is given to school entrants, and nurses are instructed to explain during the pre-school period that this extra dose will be necessary and to remind the parents about it at the last visit made before the child goes to school.

10. Prevention, Care and Aftercare.

(a) **Tuberculosis.** It will be recalled that in the discussions on the National Health Service Bill, professional opinion was solid in its advice that the prevention of tuberculosis could not be separated from its treatment. This advice was disregarded, with the result that the Medical Officer of Health was left responsible for prevention and aftercare, whilst at the same time his clinical tuberculosis staff and his own clinical opportunities were taken away.

In this area the logical solution was to maintain the status quo as far as possible by arranging for the Area Tuberculosis Physician who had formerly been the Deputy County Medical Officer, to undertake the preventive and aftercare work on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health along with the rest of his tuberculosis work, and this arrangement was approved by the County Council and the Regional Hospital Board. The arrangement has worked very well and no doubt as long as the Area Tuberculosis Physician has had training and experience in Public Health it will continue to work well. What will happen should the Area Tuberculosis Physician have only a hospital training and experience of the curative side is another matter, and one which will have to be closely watched should it arise.

In an area such as this it is not possible to second nurses for full time tuberculosis work. Each District Nurse undertakes the tuberculosis work in her own District, reporting directly to the Area Tuberculosis Physician, and Nurses are kept informed of the progress of their patients as ascertained at the periodical examinations by the Physician. The Notification Register is maintained by the Medical Officer of Health but all other records are maintained by the Area Physician. Extra nourishment, chiefly milk, is supplied at the discretion of the Area Physician, in accordance with a policy agreed with the Medical Officer of Health. Contacts are listed by the District Nurse at her first visit, and she is directly concerned in persuading contacts to attend for examination, including tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination where appropriate. Over the last few years contact work has been intensified and now an average of over three contacts per notified pulmonary case are being investigated.

(b) **Illness Generally.** The District Nurses provide for the care and aftercare of persons ill in their own homes. Nursing equipment is provided on loan from the stock held by each nurse, supplemented from a central stock of special items. Cases selected from the hospital discharge lists are reported to the District Nurses for aftercare and it has already been suggested that this aspect of the service could be improved.

11. Control of Infectious Diseases. There is now no Fever Hospital within the area. Most of the County cases go to Dundee, but the Kinross cases go to Dunfermline and the Western District cases go to Stirling. The incidence of infectious disease has been low during the period and no epidemics have occurred so that the new hospital arrangements still have to be tested. All requests for admission have so far been met.

Notification of infectious disease is well carried out in this area except that the whooping cough figures are likely to be an underestimate. Information of hospital admissions is received daily. Most of the laboratory examinations are carried out at Dundee, but specimens from the district around Perth are mainly dealt with at the laboratory at Perth Infirmary.

12. Mental Health

(1) Administration

(a) The Health and Welfare Committee is responsible to the County Council for the Mental Health Service.

(b) No separate staff is employed. All the Medical Officers take part in the service. The two School Medical Officers do much of the ascertainment of mental handicap in school children, but the County Medical Officer usually deals with pre-school cases, and formal certifications, the second certificate being obtained from the family doctor. There are nine daily Authorised Officers, stationed conveniently throughout the County. All except one have had considerable experience of the work, and the one recently appointed has had a legal training. There are no Psychiatric Social Workers, Mental Health Workers, and there are no Occupation Centres.

(c) The advice of the Regional Hospital Board Specialists in mental illness and mental deficiency is freely available at their Clinics. The new Clinic conducted by the specialist in Mental Deficiency has proved a most valuable adjunct to the service. Patients on trial from Mental Hospitals, or on licence from Institutions for Mental Defectives are normally supervised by the County Medical Officer and Welfare Staff, and on occasion by District Nurses.

So far it has not proved possible to provide a Child Guidance Clinic which is badly needed in this area. A small number of cases have been provided for at Clinics outwith the County.

(d) So far no duties have been delegated to Voluntary Associations, and (e) no arrangements have been made for the training of staff.

(ii) Account of work undertaken in the community.

(a) The preventive aspect of mental health, for reasons already mentioned, is little developed. The general advice of the District Nurse, who is nowadays in contact at some time or other with most of the families in her district, and the timely provision of domestic help may be playing a part. Known cases of mental ill health or deficiency are however kept under review by the medical staff, the District Nurses or the Authorised Officers acting as Welfare Officers. In particular elderly senile cases are regularly visited by the District Nurses.

(b) Under the Lunacy Act all the statutory duties are carried out. The Authorised Officers arrange for certification and removal to hospital. They report on the home circumstances of patients being considered for liberation on trial or for boarding-out and they carry out subsequent supervision. Since the Authorised Officers also act as Welfare Officers, they are able to make arrangements for the care of property belonging to patients admitted to hospital, and to give advice regarding services available to patients residing at home or under care outwith hospitals. The Welfare Department undertakes the payment of maintenance allowances and the provision of clothing on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board in respect of patients for whom the Board is responsible.

(c) Under the Mental Deficiency Acts all the staff of the Department co-operate in ascertaining defectives requiring attention. The District Nurses are instructed to report to the County Medical Officer all pre-school children on their Child Welfare lists who are not making normal progress, and these cases are followed up by the medical staff. School children, reported by doctors, teachers, or found at routine inspection to be backward are also dealt with by the medical staff and advice is given on their educational needs. If reported as ineducable, subsequent follow up is carried out by the District Nurses, Welfare Officers and Medical Staff as may be appropriate. Boarded-out certified cases are visited quarterly, usually by the local medical practitioners, and at least half yearly by the Authorised Officers. A number of these cases are visited regularly by the District Nurses.

Where a patient's own home circumstances are regarded as unsuitable, guardians are found. These are usually chosen from persons who have previously successfully acted as guardians, or who, after investigation by the Authorised Officers, are considered to be suitable. Wherever possible, defectives are placed in rural communities, often on small farms or smallholdings, where they can be usefully employed within their capabilities on outside or domestic work. The amount of the maintenance allowance varies according to the circumstances, and pocket money is given in the majority of cases. Clothing is provided as required, and if necessary bedding is also supplied.

In a scattered area such as this, it is not considered practicable to provide occupation centres, and no home teaching is available. The County Council is however, willing to consider cases suitable for training, and has agreed to provide training for one case.

(iii) General

No part of the Act has proved so difficult to implement as the sections dealing with Mental Health. The immediate and urgent problems, such as certification and removal to hospital, have presented no great difficulty, but in a sense these represent the failures of the Mental Health Programme, where prevention especially is hedged round with difficulties. This service has to be carried out in close collaboration with the School Health and Welfare Services and is therefore obviously a field for Local Health Authorities. Staff, trained particularly in prevention, is virtually non-existent, and it is apparent that the whole question of the Mental Health Service will have to be reviewed and additional authoritative guidance given to Local Health Authorities.

MEDICAL AND NURSING SERVICES

The general arrangements have remained unchanged.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the following gifts made by Nursing Associations to the County Council during the year: Almondbank - car; Dunblane - car and furnishings.

During the year houses for District Nurses were in course of erection at Kinloch Rannoch, Kinross, Kirkmichael, Muthill and Thornhill. It is proposed to build at Aberfoyle,

Dunblane and Strathgryre, but work on these has not yet commenced. At Auchtermarder, the Town Council has allocated a house for a Nurse, but the possibility of providing a flat over the Clinic is being examined. At Dunblane, the Town Council has allocated a house for the Nurse pending the erection of a new house.

The information given below is in the form called for by the Department of Health for Scotland. All the Nursing Services are carried out by the District Nurses, and the District figures are tabulated at the end of this Report.

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(a) Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics. No clinics are held in the County, but County patients attend at the clinics run by Perth Infirmary and Stirling Infirmary in these cities in conjunction with the local health authorities. During 1952, 433 cases from the Joint County received ante-natal and/or post-natal care at the Perth Clinic, making 1981 attendances. Figures for Stirling Infirmary are not available.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics. All the child welfare work in the County is carried out by the District Nurses as Health Visitors, but during 1952, 25 children from the surrounding area made 119 attendances at Perth City Clinics.

(c) Dental Care. Under the priority dental scheme, 26 expectant mothers, 19 nursing mothers and 4 pre-school children received treatment during the year.

(d) Mother and Baby Homes. None are provided.

(e) Day Nurseries. None are provided.

(f) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes. No progress was made during the year towards providing homes for this group. During the year 18 children were accommodated in Westbank Nursery belonging to Perth City and a further 17 were accommodated in a private nursery.

(g) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. No applications have been received under this Act.

(h) Family Planning. Advice is available to County cases at the Mothers' Welfare Clinic, Perth, and the Stirling Family Planning Clinic, both run by voluntary agencies, with small grants from the County Council.

During the year 1952, 85 cases made 320 attendances at the Perth Clinic. The corresponding figures for Stirling were 29 cases making 71 visits.

(i) Melville House, Perth. This organisation is now largely supported by local authorities and during the year 60 cases (12 maternity, 10 family and 38 adoption) were dealt with.

2. Midwifery Service.

714 births occurred in the area during the year, of which 706 were live births and 8 were still births. Of the 714 births, 284 took place in institutions and 430 at home. 427 of the home confinements were attended by the District Nurses and 3 by private practising midwives. In 210 of these cases a doctor had been engaged and was present at the confinement; in 216 cases a doctor had been engaged, but was not present at the confinement; and in 4 cases the confinement was conducted by the District Nurse alone, no doctor having been engaged.

All the district nurses are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and sets of apparatus are available in every district. During the year gas and air analgesia was administered in 221 cases and pethidine was administered in 197 cases.

3. Health Visiting.

A total of 33,950 visits were paid by the District Nurses as Health Visitors. Of these, 2707 visits were paid to expectant mothers, including 801 first visits; 13,848 visits were paid to children under the age of one year, including 1468 first visits; 15,480 visits were paid to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years, including 970 first visits; and 1915 visits were paid for advisory purposes to persons suffering from tuberculosis.

4. Home Nursing.

A total of 85,942 home nursing visits were made by the District Nurses during the year to a total of 6,109 cases.

5. Domestic Help.

The Domestic Help Scheme provided under Section 28 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 came into operation early in the year and 35 part-time domestic helps were employed. 65 cases were dealt with during the year, made up as follows:- home confinements, 6; help while patient had hospital confinement, 1; cases of tuberculosis, 6 and 52 miscellaneous cases, mainly old people no longer able to manage alone.

In addition, monetary assistance was given in 3 cases before the scheme was properly established. In 2 of the cases the need for financial assistance disappeared, and the third case was transferred to the official scheme during the year.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination. The number of vaccinations notified during the year was 1093. The percentage of pre-school children vaccinated is not known, but information from routine school medical inspection shows that the position in this area is still relatively satisfactory. Of 4234 school children examined during the year ended 31/7/52, 82.75% were found to have been vaccinated. The percentages varied slightly between the groups; entrants 84.99% 1942 group 85.38% 1938 group 76.85% 1935 group 87.5%.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year 1952, 967 children were notified as having received two injections and 1078 received a reinforcing dose.

As explained in previous reports, the level of immunisation in the community is regarded as the important factor, the aim being to secure a minimum of 75% immunisation amongst pre-school children, with "boosting" doses on entry to school. As a result of continual pressure by the District Nurses, at the end of the year the overall percentage of immunised children aged 1 - 5 remained at the very satisfactory figure of 86%.

It is again gratifying to record that no confirmed cases of diphtheria occurred in this area during the year, the last cases having occurred in October, 1947 and the last deaths in 1944.

Other Diseases. In the absence of a reliable vaccine against whooping cough, immunisation against this disease is not included in the Council's scheme, although a number of general practitioners employ a combined diphtheria/whooping cough prophylactic with fair success.

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

Tuberculosis. The preventive work in connection with tuberculosis is carried out on behalf of the County Council by the Area Tuberculosis Physician of the Regional Hospital Board, who is thus in a position to correlate prevention with treatment. The table below gives comparative figures dating back to pre-war years.

	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	Average 1946-50	1951	1952
New confirmed cases:-						
Respiratory	53	54	58	75	75	75
Non-respiratory	54	57	53	27	23	21
Cases on list at 31st Dec:						
Respiratory	145	164	166	255	342	370
Non-respiratory	163	222	203	161	120	116
Number of cases receiving Institutional treatment	115	119	139	123	170	172
Deaths:-						
Respiratory	32	26	29	26	15	7
Non-respiratory	14	11	15	5	3	4

New respiratory cases confirmed during the year were 75, the same as last year and the average for the years 1946-50. There were 370 cases remaining on the list at 31/12/52, this high figure being a carry over of the higher incidence of the last few years. The deaths, however, still show the downward trend, being 7 for 1952, about half of last year's figure of 15.

Non-respiratory figures continue to show a fall and there were 4 deaths during the year. 172 patients received hospital care throughout the year as against an average of 123 for the previous five years. Of the 172, 128 were respiratory cases.

Further progress was made in the examination of contacts, 300 contacts of pulmonary cases being examined, an average of 4.0 contacts per confirmed case, as against 205 contacts (3.1) last year. In addition 38 contacts of non-pulmonary cases were examined during the year as against 15 last year.

Under the scheme providing for B.C.G. vaccination, 445 persons were tuberculin tested. Of these 171 were found to be tuberculin negative and were successfully vaccinated with B.C.G. In addition 7 babies were vaccinated, but not tuberculin tested. These figures show a very considerable increase from the previous year.

During the year extra nourishment grants were given in 23 cases and as usual sputum containers and disinfectants were supplied where required.

During the year, the number of tuberculous families on the priority housing lists (Counties and Burghs) was 19. 11 of these were actually rehoused during the year, leaving 8 families on the lists at 31/12/52.

General. There was no change during the year in the general arrangements for tuberculosis prevention work in the area.

8. Infectious Disease.

During the year 1952, the death rate per thousand of the population from the principal infectious diseases was 0.04 for the combined County, compared to an average of 0.10 for the previous five years.

The number of confirmed cases of infectious disease coming to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health, whether by notification or otherwise, is shown below:-

Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5	Pneumonia, not otherwise notifiable	10
Diphtheria	-	Polio-myelitis	-
Dysentery	5	Puerperal Fever	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	7	Scarlet Fever	97
Jaundice, acute infective	2	Tuberculosis, pulmonary	75
Malaria	-	Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	21
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	Typhoid	-
Pneumonia, acute influenzal	2	Paratyphoid	1
Pneumonia, acute primary	29	Whooping Cough	160

Apart from Scarlet Fever, the incidence of infectious disease remained at a low level. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was 97, approximately the same as last year, but these figures are higher than average for previous years. The cases were scattered throughout the County. The figures for pneumonia are very similar to those of previous years. There were no cases of poliomyelitis, compared to an average of 4.4 for the years 1948-52 and the peak of 30 for 1947. For the first time in this area two cases of Acute Infective Jaundice were reported, one in the Western District of the County and the other in Coupar Angus. Investigations were made regarding the living and working conditions in both of these cases with inconclusive results.

9. Venereal Diseases.

The figures for new cases from this area in attendance at the clinics at Perth, Dundee and Stirling are shown below:-

	Perth	Dundee	Stirling	Totals
(a) Syphilis	13	1	2	16
(b) Gonorrhoea	12	1	4	17
(c) Other venereal conditions	16	3	-	19
Total	41	5	6	52
(d) Non-venereal conditions	14	6	3	23
	55	11	9	75

These figures are approximately the same as those for last year.

10. Mental Health Services.

During the year 27 persons were admitted to hospital at the instance of Authorised Officers. Of this number 22 were admitted to the Hospital, Muthilly, 1 to Murray Royal, Perth, and 4 to Stratheden Hospital, Fife. 4 certified mental defectives were admitted to Baldovan Certified Institution, Dundee and 1 to Waverley Park Certified Institution, Falkirk.

The acute shortage of accommodation for low grade mental defectives continues to give grave concern and representations regarding this were made to the Eastern Regional Hospital Board. Proposals for increasing the accommodation at Baldovan Institution will, it is hoped, ease the position in the coming year.

On behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board statutory supervision and after-care were given to 7 persons suffering from mental illness and who had been placed under guardianship, boarded-out or discharged from hospital on probation.

The number of certified mental defectives boarded-out under guardianship by the Council who were under statutory supervision was 6, no new cases being placed under guardianship.

Extensive use continued to be made throughout the year of the Perth Clinic at which the services of a Specialist in Mental Deficiency are available for consultation.

11. Orthopaedic Scheme.

During the year the Orthopaedic Scheme was carried out as formerly on an agency basis, on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board. The undernoted figures show the work done during the year:-

	Pre-School		School Children		Adults		TOTAL
	City	County	City	County	City	County	
Attendances at Surgeon's Clinics	401	591	470	944	21	45	2472
Cases under treatment	91	127	149	163	-	6	536
Cases under observation	74	103	101	81	-	5	364
Number of treatments	924	1373	2681	2369	78	203	7628
New cases during year	128	175	92	205	-	16	616
Discharges during year	33	30	191	112	12	15	393
Admissions to Bridge of Earn	2	12	9	35	-	-	58
Admissions to Fairmilehead	-	-	-	2	-	-	2

12. Health Education.

The usual short talks and demonstrations on Health Topics were given during the year by the District Nurses to women's organisations, mostly W.R.I. meetings, the total number being 47 lectures and 28 demonstrations.

In previous years extensive use was made of the Film Unit of the Scottish Office of information, but unfortunately this was withdrawn as an economy measure in February, 1952. Twelve meetings were held for various adult organisations, mainly W.R.I. meetings, at which a talk was given by a member of the staff of the County Health Department.

During the week commencing 28th January, the unit of the Scottish Council for Health Education visited the County and adult meetings were held at Glencarse, Doune, Methven, Abernethy and Milnathort.

13. Registration of Nursing Homes.

There are three private Nursing Homes registered in the area:-

- 1 at Crieff (Medical only)
- 1 at Aberfoyle (Medical only)
- 1 at Callander (Medical only)

SCHOOL HEALTH

A separate report has been issued for the year ended 31st July, 1952.

The routine work of medical inspection and follow-up of the School Nursing Service was carried out as in previous years. In 1951 and 1952 Mass Radiography Surveys were carried out in City and County schools in which 18 cases were found to have abnormalities. It has now been decided to embark on a scheme of B.C.G. vaccination of all school leavers and it is hoped that this scheme will commence in the Autumn of 1953.

WELFARE SERVICE

Residential Accommodation. Admissions and discharges during the year to the County Council's Residential Homes were as follows:-

	Strathearn Home	Cuil-an- Daraich	Cottage Home	St. John's Mount
In residence at 31/12/51	23	14	7	-
Admissions during year	11	8	3	2
Discharges during year	8	5	2	-
In residence at 31/12/52	26	17	8	2

The small Eventide Home, St. John's Mount, Dunblane, was opened on 29/11/52. This Home, providing accommodation for five female and two male residents, is intended for elderly people able to attend to their own personal needs, but who are no longer able to lead independent lives. Situated within its own grounds, it is comfortably furnished, and in charge of a resident house-keeper.

The scheme of modernisation of Cuil-an-Daraich was completed during the year. Similar improvements at the Cottage Home, Blairgowrie, are to be carried out during the coming year.

Assistance towards the cost of maintenance of old people residing in voluntary homes continues, and every opportunity is taken of entering into agreements with such homes for the payment of supplementation. By so doing the ever increasing demands on the Council's own Homes is relieved. During the year such an agreement was entered into with the Trustees of the Graeme A. Whitelaw House of Rest, Auchterarder. Agreements have now been made with seven Voluntary Homes.

The Homes and the number of residents for whom payment was made during the year are as follows:-

Belmont Castle Eventide Home, Meigle	6
David Watson Home, Gargunnoch	3
Hope Park Home, Blairgowrie	13
Mailler Home of Rest, Auchterarder	3
Whitelaw House of Rest, Auchterarder	5
Orphan Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, (Epileptic Colony)	2
Oswald House Eventide Home for Blind Women, Edinburgh	1

Temporary accommodation was provided during the year for four persons.

Hospital Care. Hospital accommodation for chronic sick cases continues to be provided on behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board in Strathearn Home and Cuil-an-Daraich, an arrangement which is found to be eminently satisfactory to all concerned, particularly the patients, the majority of whom are elderly chronic sick, who appreciate the homely atmosphere which prevails.

Admissions and discharges during the year were as follows:-

	Strathearn Home	Quil-an-Daraich
In sick beds on 31/12/51	32	15
Admissions during the year	34	8
Discharges and deaths during the year	32	7
In sick beds on 31/12/52	34	16

Welfare of the Aged. Early in the year, the Eastern Regional Hospital Board initiated a Regional Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Aged, composed of members of the Board, Local Authorities, Executive Councils and Local Medical Committees in the Region, in order to secure a comprehensive service for the aged throughout the Region. The Committee is at present preparing a report showing the present resources and indicating the developments which will be necessary.

Appreciating the invaluable assistance voluntary organisations could give the Council in their efforts to provide a comprehensive welfare service, a meeting of all organisations interested in old people was convened towards the end of the year, when it was resolved to form a County Old People's Welfare Committee. The purpose of this Committee will be to co-ordinate the work of existing organisations engaged in the promotion of the welfare of old people and to stimulate the formation of new organisations throughout the area.

Welfare Services for Handicapped Persons.

(a) **Blind.** The Society for Teaching the Blind to Read in the County and City of Perth continues to carry out on behalf of the Council their duties in relation to blind and partially sighted persons. During the year ended 31/3/52, 20 persons were certified blind and registered for the first time, bringing the total of blind persons on the Register up to 124. Details of these cases are as follows:-

Age Groups	5-15	16-17	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-69	70+	Total
	7	-	7	4	6	43	57	124
Children (5-15)	At School							2
	Not at School - additionally handicapped							5
Adults	In sheltered employment - Workshops for the Blind							5
	In other employment							7
	Undergoing industrial training							1
	Trained but unemployed							1
	Not available for employment - housewives, retired persons, etc.							83
	Not capable of work							20

(b) **Other Cases.** The County Council were responsible for the maintenance of one case in Anton House, Broughty Ferry, a Home for Crippled Girls, and one case in Derwen Cripples College, Oswestry.

In September the Eastern Regional Orthopaedic Council started a Scheme for the training of homebound handicapped persons in their own homes, based on Anton House. The County Council decided to participate in the Scheme and at the end of the year there were 8 cases from this area either being trained or supervised.

Removal of Persons in urgent need of Care. There were no cases during the year in which it was necessary to use compulsory powers of removal.

Care of Property of Persons admitted to Hospital, etc. No arrangements required to be made for the protection of movable property during the year. Protection continued to be afforded to property taken into care in previous years in nine cases.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead. During the year burial was carried out in twelve cases.

Registration of Old People's Homes. No new Homes were registered during the year, the number on the register at the end of the year being eight.

CHILDREN

Mr. F.J. Barnshaw, Children's Officer

The work in the Children's Department is steadily increasing. In particular, the field of preventive work is being more widely explored, a field which in the past was mainly the province of the voluntary agencies.

Children in Care. The number of children in care during the year was as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in care as at 1/1/52	61	45	106
Children admitted to care during year,	64	43	107
	125	88	213
Children discharged from care during year	52	42	94
Children in care as at 31/12/52	73	46	119

Details of the children in care on 31/12/52 are shown below:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Boarded-out with relatives	13	12	25
Boarded-out with foster-parents	19	7	26
Kippen House, Dunning	21	9	30
Westbank Nursery, Perth	3	2	5
Pitersie Nursery, Abernethy	3	2	5
Sauchie Nursery, Stirling	1	-	1
Edinburgh Home for Babies	-	1	1
Dr. Barnardo's Homes	4	4	8
Balnacraig School, Perth	-	1	1
Levenhall Home for Boys, Musselburgh	1	1	2
The Orphanage, Aberlour	3	3	6
Children over school-leaving age under supervision	5	5	10
	73	46	119

Nine children were committed to care under Court Orders, and the parents of one family were convicted in respect of child neglect.

Kippen House.

(a) Improvements. Various improvements to the Children's Home have been completed during the year, including a mains supply of electricity and a central heating system, both of which have been a great boon. The new laundry is in operation. It is well equipped but there is still a lack of drying facilities. The remaining improvements are in progress and should be completed during 1953.

(b) Staff. During the year the children were placed in groups, each group being the responsibility of a member of staff. This innovation has proved very successful and has created an incentive to the staff to take a personal interest in the children in their particular group. It has also attracted staff who are interested in the care of children, as distinct from purely domestic duties.

(c) General. The Home continues to serve its useful purpose, as can be appreciated from the figures detailed below. A few of the children admitted during the year were difficult and some required building up as a result of undernourishment. By living in a happy environment with plenty of good food and a healthy atmosphere, a good measure of success is obtained. For this and for the smooth running of the Home, all credit is due to the Matron, Mrs. Aitken, and her staff, who spare themselves no effort in the execution of their duties.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in Home as at 1/1/52	20	11	31
Children admitted during year	29	14	43
	49	25	74
Children discharged during year,	28	18	44
Children in Home at 31/12/52	21	9	30

(d) Social Activities. The social activities during the year were varied. The annual trip to Leven was enjoyed by all, as was the outing to St. Andrews as guests of the Perth Ladies' Circle. Four members of the local Scout Troop spent a week under canvas at Crieff, and on visiting day it was obvious that the camp was a great success. All the children eligible for joining Youth Movements are given every encouragement to do so. It is interesting to note that one boy, who is classed as a dullard and who is still under the supervision of the Probation Officer, won the Cub Plaque for the best Wolf Cub for a month. The local Scoutmaster, Guide Captain, Cubmaster and Brown Owl give a very warm welcome to their members from Kippen House and take a very keen interest in them.

Football is the main form of sport taken up by the boys and the provision of a few pairs of football boots from the Sports Fund has added to their keenness.

Fireworks and a bonfire on Guy Fawkes Night was somewhat marred by rain, but, despite this, the enthusiasm was in no way dampened.

The Christmas Party was again a great success, and, despite an epidemic of Measles which kept a few of our guests away, a good time was had by all. One new feature of the Party was a few acts performed by some of the children, who gained popularity from an appreciative audience.

Again the Perth Ladies' Circle provided a visit to the Pantomime at Perth Theatre, an outing which is eagerly looked forward to and thoroughly enjoyed.

During the summer, members of Inchtute W.R.I. entertained the children to a picnic in the grounds at Kippen. This is likely to be an annual event, and it is understood that other branches of the W.R.I. in Perthshire are considering doing likewise. Visits of this nature by the general public either as individuals or in groups are welcomed, for in this way it can be shown that the children's Home is not an institution, and that the days of "David Copperfield" are indeed behind us.

3. After-care. Children who have been brought up in the happy environment of a good foster-home, present very little difficulty when the time comes for them to start work. Normally it is found that the foster-parents take a natural responsibility and consequently the link between such children and their home environment is not broken. The same cannot be said of the boy or girl who for some reason has had to remain in a Home until school leaving age. The majority of such are below average intelligence with the result that they are only suitable for unskilled employment. They are usually difficult in adolescence, and much time and patience is required to be spent on their behalf.

Twelve children in employment were supervised during the year:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Nursery Nurse	-	1	1
Cook	-	1	1
Domestic	-	3	3
Sea Cadet	1	-	1
Clerk/Clerkess	1	1	2
Sawmill Labourer	1	-	1
Farm Servant	1	-	1
Shop Assistant	-	1	1
Message Boy	1	-	1
	5	7	12

4. Nursery Accommodation. The lack of a Nursery is proving to be a big handicap in the administration of the Children Act. Many applications are received from mothers of illegitimate children who, for various reasons, are unable to provide a proper upbringing for their children and who, in the interests of the child's future wellbeing, are prepared to have them adopted. In these cases it is best for all concerned to have the child admitted to a Nursery at the earliest possible date for a period of at least six weeks. This period in a Nursery affords an opportunity to the visiting doctor and also the Matron to assess the suitability of the child for adoption, which is a great advantage to the Children's Officer when consulted by prospective adopters.

Westbank Nursery, Perth, and Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy, are both being used to full advantage, but the number of vacancies is limited, and there is not, in the circumstances, the same personal contact with the children which would prevail with a Nursery of our own.

In order to try to overcome the difficulty of providing nursery accommodation an effort has been made to set up a temporary foster-home system. In this connection District Nurses in the County were asked to enlist the co-operation of likely persons in their districts who might consider undertaking such duties. Unfortunately, no success has yet been obtained; nevertheless, the project is one well worth pursuing, not only in the interests of the children's service, but also in the interests of economy.

Details of nursery children dealt with during the year are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Westbank Residential Nursery, Perth.			
Children in Nursery as at 1/1/52	4	2	6
Children admitted during the year	7	5	12
	11	7	18
Children discharged during the year	8	5	13
Children in Nursery as at 31/12/52	3	2	5
Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy.			
Children in Nursery as at 1/1/52	-	-	-
Children admitted during the year	8	9	17
Children discharged during the year	5	7	12
Children in Nursery as at 31/12/52	3	2	5

5. Adoption. During the year, one child in the Council's care was placed for adoption. Many enquiries are received from the general public and where any child, particularly an infant, is considered suitable mentally, physically and socially there is no difficulty in placing for adoption.

The Adoption Act, 1950 requires all adoptions taking place within the County to be notified and thereafter supervised until an Adoption Order is granted. During the year, 32 intimations were received and throughout the year 51 were supervised.

6. Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1937. Under Part I of this Act certain persons who undertake for reward the nursing and maintenance of a child of compulsory school age require to notify the Local Authority; thereafter such children are supervised and the homes visited in order to ascertain that the children are being well looked after and the homes are satisfactory. At 31/12/52 eight children were on the register and all reports were satisfactory.

7. Children neglected or ill-treated in their own Homes In accordance with a recommendation from the Scottish Home Department a meeting was convened for the co-ordination of services concerned with children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes. Representatives from various services, statutory and voluntary, attended, and it was generally agreed that a Co-ordination Committee would prove very useful. It was agreed to set up a central index system with a record of individual cases which would be available for reference by any organisation concerned. It was also agreed to circularise all Ministers, Doctors, District Nurses, Headmasters and Police throughout the County inviting co-operation in this field of child care.

FOOD SUPPLY.

1. Food and Drugs.

Sampling. During the year ended 31/12/52, 611 samples were taken and submitted for analysis, compared to 544 samples during the previous year.

Of this total, 570 were informal samples comprising 406 milk (10 non-genuine); 23 cereals; 14 tinned foods; 13 sauces and pickles; 11 jams and jellies; 10 ice cream (1 non-genuine); 8 aerated waters and lemon curd; 7 oils; 6 each of sausages (1 non-genuine), luncheon meats and cocoa and coffee; 5 each of meat pastes and cream of tartar; 4 each of vinegar, baking soda, baking powder and spices; 3 dried vegetables; 2 syrup; 1 mince, 1 honey, 1 bovril, 18 various drugs (1 non-genuine); and 10 of miscellaneous foodstuffs.

Of the non-genuine informal samples, 10 were of milk. 7 of these were taken from one farm where the quality of the milk supply had been in doubt and it was suspected that the dairyman had added water in order to increase his daily gallonage. This was strenuously denied by the dairyman when tackled by his employer, but subsequent samples were satisfactory. It is interesting to note that the farmer subsequently discovered some months after the dairyman had left his employment, that the dairyman had indeed been in the habit of adding water to the milk, not obtaining any financial benefit for himself thereby, but in order to impress the farmer with the output obtained, as the dairyman had advised the purchase of certain cows and wished to justify his selection of animals.

The remaining three test samples of milk returned as non-genuine were taken as a routine, but in each case subsequent official samples were reported as genuine and later test samples were also satisfactory.

In the case of the non-genuine ice cream sample, subsequent samples from the same source were reported to be genuine. The non-genuine sample of sausage showed an excess of 990 parts per million of Sulphur Dioxide over the permitted limit of 450 parts per million. A subsequent official sample from the same source showed an excess of 446 parts per million, the seller was prosecuted and fined £5. The non-genuine sample of a drug was sweet spirits of nitre, which deteriorates rapidly on storage. A warning was given and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

41 official samples were taken during the year, compared to 37 in 1951. These comprised 16 milk; 8 ice cream (3 non-genuine); 7 sausages (1 non-genuine); 8 whisky (1 non-genuine); 1 rum and 1 mince.

Of the 3 non-genuine samples of ice cream, one was 1.10% below the prescribed standard of 5% fat, the seller being prosecuted and fined £4; one was 1.75% below standard, the seller being prosecuted and also fined £4; and one was 0.55% below standard. In the last case, no legal action was taken against the seller because within three days of the sample being taken the legal standard was reduced to 4% fat, and a warning was given.

1 sample of whisky was found to have been reduced to 41.6° under proof, being 6.6° below the prescribed limit of 35° under proof. Proceedings were instituted against the seller who was fined £6.

The average quality of the milk supply, based on the samples submitted during the year, remained satisfactory, showing the following results:-

Butter fat	8.94%	(standard 3%)
Solids not fat	8.73%	(standard 8.5%)
Total solids	12.67%	(standard 11.5%)
Water	87.33%	(standard 88.5%)

Unsound Food. 1 ton 7 cwt. 2 qrs. of assorted foodstuffs were seized during the year.

Meat Inspection. Details of the animals slaughtered, and the condemnations made are shown in the Table for the individual slaughterhouses in the County.

Year 1952	Class of Animals	Slaughtered	Wholly condemned	Partially condemned	Weight (in lbs.) of condemned meat and offals
Aberfeldy	Cattle	347	5	7	4,414
	Sheep	2,251	4	-	174
	Pigs	45	1	30 lbs.	114
	Calves	76	1	115 lbs.	145
Blairgowrie	Cattle	1,218	61	83	55,264
	Sheep	8,074	118	122	8,138
	Pigs	1,253	15	88	4,149
	Calves	309	8	2	698
Crieff	Cattle	883	17	10	12,992
	Sheep	5,539	40	2	1,410
	Pigs	144	11	4	1,502
	Calves	276	4	-	262
Dunblane	Cattle	480	7	6	5,776
	Sheep	2,479	13	5	570
	Pigs	80	4	4	366
	Calves	118	2	-	59
Millnathort	Pigs	6,468	3	428	4,432

One case was brought to Court during the year. The Meat Inspector at Blairgowrie refused to pass a ram carcase as fit for human food on account of generalised dropsy. The owner of the carcase objected and called his own Veterinary Surgeon in support. Having heard evidence from several witnesses on both sides, the Sheriff gave a verdict in favour of the County Council.

2. **Milk and Dairies.** 34 new applications were registered during the year, and 36 registrations lapsed for various reasons. The total number of dairy registrations in the Combined County at 31/12/52 was 348 (a decrease of 2) comprising 261 in Perth County, 58 in Kinross County and 27 in the various burghs. Of these 218 were registered as producers only, 81 as producer/retailers, and 47 as retailers only. There were no wholesale dealers only.

The average number of cows per dairy herd was 31.9 at 31/12/52 compared to 29.6, 29.3, 30.3 and 29 at the end of the years 1951 to 1948 respectively.

Of the 299 producers at 31/12/52, 222 held designated licences, an increase of 12 over the previous year: certified 23; tuberculin tested 196 (an increase of 12); and standard 3. There was only 1 pasteurising plant in comparison with 2 for the previous year.

The results of milk sampling are shown in the following tables:-

Bacteriological examination of samples of producers' milk.

Designation	Routine samples *		Repeat samples †		No. of producers with 3 or more consecutive failures (routine or repeat).
	Number taken	Number failing	Number taken	Number failing	
Certified	122	22	31	8	2
Tuberculin Tested	946	74	89	17	2
Standard	16	-	-	-	-

* - excluding samples taken before licence is granted.

† - i.e. samples taken to test whether improvement has been effected after failure of a routine sample.

Ordinary Producers.

Number of Farms	Number of samples examined	Number of Farms consistently up to standard	Number of farms where sample failed	
			On one occasion	On two or more occasions
34	47	30	4	-

Biological Testing for Tuberculosis

Type of Milk	Number of samples examined	Number of positive results	Number of producers involved in positive results
Non-designated	10	-	-
Standard	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested	15	-	-
Certified	-	-	-

In general dairymen have been found to comply with the prescribed conditions and no licences were refused, suspended or revoked during the year.

3. Ice Cream. During the year 2 additional registrations were approved under the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948. Of these, 1 was for sale and storage and 1 was a vehicle for sale only.

There were no removals from the Register during 1952 and at 31/12/52 the total number of registrations in force was 130 comprising 38 for manufacture, storage and sale, 73 for storage and sale, 11 for sale only and 8 were in respect of vehicles (4 for storage and sale and 4 for sale only).

During the year 10 test samples were taken for chemical analysis. Of these 1 was found to be below the prescribed fat standard. 8 official samples were taken, of which 3 were found to be deficient in fat, Court action being taken in two cases.

2 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and both of these complied with the suggested standard.

4. Clean Food. No new measures were taken during the year to ensure the hygienic handling of foodstuffs by food traders etc., but attention was directed to this matter at routine inspections under the Factories Acts, and routine visits in connection with sampling and additions or alterations to premises.

Some progress was made during the year with the structural alterations called for at the premises of a manufacturer of meat products, but it now appears that production may be discontinued in the near future.

5. Nutrition. No change was apparent during the year under review.

PERTH COUNTY

REPORT TO PERTH COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE NON-TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS.

Mr. A.L. Riddell, County Sanitary Inspector.

1. Housing.

General. The total number of houses erected by Perth County Council up to the end of 1951 was 1505. During the year 1952 a further 549 houses were completed and occupied. At the close of the year 283 houses were under construction.

Building Byelaws. 292 applications were dealt with under the byelaws. Of these 206 were in respect of additions, alterations etc. to individual existing houses and erection of garages, halls etc. and 86 applications were in respect of 315 new houses. Of the 315 new houses, 219 were to be built by the County Council (12 of 2 apartments, 142 of 3 apartments and 65 of 4 apartments); 89 were houses to be built by private enterprise (1 of 2 apartments, 18 of 3 apartments, 40 of 4 apartments, 26 of 5 apartments and 4 of 6 apartments) and 7 were houses to be built under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Section 100 (1 of 3 apartments and 6 of 4 apartments).

Housing (Rural Workers) (Scotland) Acts. No Certificates "B" were issued. There are remaining 3 houses where work under schemes under the above Acts has still to be completed.

Housing (Agricultural Population) (Scotland) Acts. 6 Certificates "B" were issued in respect of 6 houses.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Section 100. 2 Certificates "A" were issued in respect of 2 houses.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950. There were 206 applications for alterations, improvements, etc., of which 38 were applications for grant and of these 16 were approved.

Control of Civil Building. The total number of applications dealt with during the year was 329.

Housing of Seasonal Workers. The inspection of seasonal workers' accommodation is mainly concentrated in the Eastern District, and an annual visit is paid by a small sub-committee to the berryfields during the picking season. In general the Byelaws are fairly well observed, and there is a slow but steady improvement in the standard of the premises provided.

Tents, Vans and Sheds. During the year 168 inspections were made under the above heading, 106 to tinkers' encampments and 62 to workers' camps, holiday camps and caravan camping sites.

Generally speaking the tinker population of the County is not large, and apart from the period April to September when the tinkers move from their winter quarters, little trouble is experienced with them. This yearly movement of the tinkers is, of course, connected with the potato planting season, the berry picking period and lastly the potato harvest, during which times there is always a demand for casual labour. Between such periods of employment the tinkers usually frequent tourist resorts and their picturesque appearance and an occasional spring on the pipes no doubt brings them financial compensation. The true tinker is as a rule quite amenable to reason, but some difficulty is at times experienced with the "dealer" or hawker class who live in much the same style as the tinker, but who are much more difficult to deal with. The County Police Authorities are very helpful in such cases and their assistance is much appreciated. A factor which is tending to reduce the number of encampments, close to public roads at least, is the fact that estate owners continue to fence in many plots of ground which were formerly favourite camping sites.

The problem of the holiday camper or caravanner continues to increase every year. The isolated tent or caravan does not much concern us, as after two or three weeks at most, the holiday makers have gone and individual camps do not raise the same problems of water supply, sanitation etc. as do the larger sites. Again, most of these lone campers or caravanners are found to be members of the Camping or Caravan Clubs, and take great care not to create nuisance of any kind on their sites.

The problem does arise however, when a tenant or farmer lets a field to an unlimited number of holiday-makers without thought of water supply, sanitation or refuse disposal problems. In some cases the number of campers on particular sites has had to be limited, or the tenant warned that camping will have to be forbidden until the Byelaw requirements are met.

There are several camps in the County set up by Public Works Contractors, carrying out contracts, mainly for the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board. These camps are regularly inspected, and any suggestions for improvements or remedying of minor faults are always carried out without delay by the Manager of the camp concerned.

There are quite a few camps organised by Girl Guides, Scouts and Boys' Brigade detachments during the holiday period and as might be expected, such camps are invariably very well conducted.

2. Water Supplies.

Sampling. 246 samples were taken during the year, during routine investigations or following complaints or in connection with applications for grant under the Agricultural Water Supplies Scheme. 21 samples were taken of public water supplies.

General. Once again there is little progress to report on the Regional Supply Schemes. The Turret Scheme has been held up pending agreement between the constituent authorities on a number of outstanding points, and because of lack of alternative sources of supply, comparatively little progress has been made with general distribution in the Turret supply area. Although nothing further has been done regarding the Benachally Regional Supply, much more progress has been made with the distribution network which will eventually be fed from this supply.

During 1952, distribution main laying schemes were carried out at a total cost of about £20,000. The Dunkeld Regional Mains were extended to Drummondhall and Garthcroft. The Thornhill supply was extended to Morrieston Farm. A 6" main was laid from Dunning as far as Dunning Station, with a branch to Easter Balgour. This main may in future carry Turret water to Dunning. A start was made into the Balbeggie/Scone area by a short branch to Knowehead Farm. A new mains supply for Balquhiddie village was begun.

Housing scheme mains were laid at Stanley, Scone, Gairdoun, Bankfoot, Comrie, Luncarty and Balbeggie. The mains in Stanley village were scraped.

Schemes were being prepared for a new supply to Fearnan, and for the area between Caputh and Meikleour to be fed from a pumped supply at Kirkton of Lethendy.

During the year, 405 houses were supplied from the mains for the first time, and the following additional fittings were connected: 734 new sinks, 384 washhand basins, 450 water closets, 352 baths, 68 cisterns, 96 miscellaneous taps, 71 field troughs and 255 drinking bowls, a total of 2410 connections, an average of 9 new appliances connected to the public water supplies every working day.

No serious shortage was reported during the year on any of the County supplies, which were adequately maintained.

On 26th May, 1952, Byelaws for preventing waste, contamination etc. of water were approved under Section 60 of the Water (Scotland) Act, 1946, and were confirmed by the Department of Health for Scotland on 22nd August. With these Byelaws now in force, a high standard of plumbing will now be possible on the County Water supplies, which will not only eliminate waste, but also prevent possible contamination. One of the principal features of these Byelaws is the adoption of the fully-siphonic W.C. cistern as standard practice and the elimination of the valved cisterns which had proved to be responsible for very considerable waste of water. All water fittings must now be tested and stamped before use, and provision is made for all pipes being laid in a manner to eliminate damage by frost.

3. Drainage.

Sampling. 2 sewage effluent samples were taken during the year.

General. The construction of new sewage systems and the improvement of the existing systems is progressing satisfactorily. During the year new systems and sewage treatment works were brought into operation at Ardler, Kinloch Rannoch (Bunrannoch side), Longforgan, Meigle and Muthill. Part of sewage schemes for Aberuthven, Carsie and New Alyth were constructed with temporary septic tanks to serve housing schemes in these areas. Improvements were carried out to the settlement tanks at the existing sewage treatment works at Burrelton, Dunning and Stanley which have resulted in obtaining a better precipitation with a consequent improvement in the quality of the effluent.

The Vacuum Tank Waggon has overcome the problem of sewage disposal at all sewage treatment works with the exception of Blackford where access is proving difficult. There is an ever increasing demand for the services of the Vacuum Tank Waggon in cleaning out private septic tanks.

Composting of sludge is being carried out at Methven and Burrelton and there is no difficulty in disposing of this product which is bought and carted by commercial fruit growers. The difficulty in composting lies in obtaining an adequate quantity of straw with which to compost as the Vacuum Tank Waggon has very little time available for hauling this material. Whenever possible sludge is now sprayed over grass lands to cut down haulage as much as practicable.

All sewage systems and treatment works throughout the County have been maintained in fair condition throughout the year.

Ardler. A sewage system has been provided for the village of Ardler which affords drainage to all existing property and for any reasonable development in the future. Treatment is by means of sedimentation tank and one circular filter. The effluent discharges into the Meigle Burn and a high standard of purification will have to be maintained.

Kinloch Rannoch. The sewage system which has been constructed serves the Bunrannoch side of the village only and provides drainage for all existing property. Treatment is provided by septic tank with the effluent discharging into the River Rannoch which provides very adequate dilution.

Longforgan. The drainage system for this village has now been completed and affords drainage for all existing property and is capable of extension to take in a very large area if required. The sewage treatment works consist of sedimentation tanks only and the effluent is discharged into the Huntly Burn at a point only 1/2 mile from the River Tay where the burn is tidal. The treatment works are so constructed that filters may be installed at a later date if required.

Meigle. This village has now been provided with a drainage system which affords drainage to all existing properties with allowance for any reasonable future development. Owing to the levels, it has been necessary to install a pump chamber on this scheme which elevates the sewage to sedimentation tanks. Full treatment is given to the sewage which also passes through two circular filters before discharging to the Meigle Burn at a point approximately a mile above the River Isla.

Muthill. The new sewage system and sewage treatment works for this village are now in operation. All existing properties are drained with allowance for a reasonable future development. Full sewage treatment is supplied with sedimentation tanks and two circular filters. The effluent discharges into the Strageath Burn near its junction with the Drummond Burn.

In all the new Sewage Treatment Works provision has been made for desludging by means of the Vacuum Tank Waggon.

4. Scavenging. The uplifting of household refuse continued satisfactorily during the year. The re-arrangement of the Carse district worked well for the greater part of the year but a further readjustment was found necessary owing to an increase in the number of Council houses in the area. This was effected by changing the day of collection in Glencarse, St. Madoes, Glendoick, Leetown and Cottown, this giving longer time to uplift the more populous villages. No increase in staff was found necessary. It is estimated that some 20 tons of refuse are lifted weekly in this area. In the remainder of Perth district the weekly uplift is estimated at 70 tons. Considering the fairly large number of Council owned houses and private houses which have been built within the Perth district within the last few years it is likely that some increase in the number of men and vehicles employed in the work will be necessary.

Of the remaining 21 special scavenging districts, the work is done by contract, the contractors being local farmers or tradesmen, although in some few cases the work is done by contract with the Town Council of an adjacent Burgh.

524 inspections in connection with scavenging districts were made during the year.

During the year the amount of waste paper collected was 25 tons 3 cwt. valued at £199:19/-. A small quantity of scrap iron was also collected.

5. Burial Grounds. The burial grounds throughout the County have been adequately maintained.

6. Factories Act, 1937. At 31st December, 1952 there were in the County 206 mechanical and 37 non-mechanical factories. In addition 18 building sites and 18 engineering sites were dealt with under Section 7 of the Act. During the year 301 inspections were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. Intimation concerning minor defects were received on one occasion from H.M. Inspector of Factories. These were satisfactorily cleared up without recourse to written intimation. On 19 other occasions minor defects were found which were also remedied without recourse to written intimations.

7. Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades operating in the Landward part of the County.

8. Rats and Mice Destruction. Five ratcatchers are employed working in two squads. All are former employees of the Department of Agriculture and trained for the work, particularly in safe methods of bait laying which is essential where farm or domestic animals are concerned.

The staff have been kept fully employed on destruction work and only a limited amount of survey work was possible. Altogether 556 visits of inspection were made. Of these 157 were for survey purposes (141 premises free of rats, 12 light infestations, 4 medium infestations). The remaining 399 visits concerned Local Authority properties, 80; dwelling houses, 73; business or industrial premises, 57; agricultural properties, 189. In addition 3 hospitals were treated for mice infestation at the request of the Regional Hospital Board. Approximately 29,000 rats and 400 mice were destroyed. Mole catching was carried out on 6 occasions - 4 at farms and 2 at cemeteries.

In addition to the above, 81 inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Staff during the year in connection with complaints regarding rat and mice infestations.

Some use of "Warfarin" was made during the year. This substance appears to be painless and has the advantage that rodents do not become "bait shy". This poison is much used by farmers, but the only poison officially recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture is Red Squill, and although the County Staff have used Warfarin experimentally and found it satisfactory there appears to be some doubt as to whether or not it has an effect on other animals.

9. Disinfestations (apart from Rats and Mice). This heading covers the treatment of premises for insect infestations which are often troublesome to the occupiers concerned. Such infestations are nowadays fairly easily dealt with due to the general use of D.D.T. or similar substances which remain effective for long periods after application. This in effect, means that two or three applications at most suffice for a badly bug-infested house, whereas formerly such a house might require regular treatment for months on end. Two cases of lice infestation arose in two separate hostels where potato workers from Ireland were temporarily housed, and were satisfactorily dealt with. A case of ant infestation arose in an institution where black ants made their way from beneath the ground floor of the building to several of the dormitories and caused some little trouble to the inmates before they were eradicated. The only case of bug infestation was in a perfectly clean house, and it was suspected that this was brought into the house in several second-hand articles of furniture purchased by the tenant.

It is satisfactory to note that no case involving premises where food preparation was carried out occurred during the year.

A summary of the work carried out is given below:-

Premises Treated	Infestation caused by							Total	Visits
	Fleas	Lice	Beetles	Ants	Wood Worm	Bed Bugs	Wasps		
Dwelling Houses	4	-	2	-	2	1	4	13	20
Shops	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
Hostels	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Institutions	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	6
Total	4	2	3	1	2	1	4	17	34

10. Nuisances. Inspections were made in connection with 916 alleged nuisances. These included 426 drainage, 200 water supplies, 12 stables and byres, 32 deposits of refuse, 4 overcrowding, 27 dirty houses, 2 smoke, 14 burial grounds and 199 miscellaneous. All nuisances found were remedied without recourse to official notices.

Drainage complaints mostly concerned sewer chokages, but in a number of cases concerned field drainage, due to chokage of field tiles which have not, as is commonly supposed, an indefinite life. A number of the complaints concerning water supplies were due to mains scraping operations, from rust depositing in household systems. Only 3 houses were concerned in the 27 visits to dirty houses, but each case took a number of visits before conditions were remedied and the premises will require to be kept under regular observation. One of the smoke nuisances concerned a central heating system in a workshop where sawdust and oily waste was being burned. The burial ground complaints concerned the activities of moles and rabbits.

11. Lighting. There are now 34 special lighting districts within the landward County area. New districts which came into operation during the year were Kinloch Rannoch, Muckhart and Spittalfield.

The total number of lighting points involved is 1045, of which 975 are gas-filled tungsten lamps, the remaining 70 being mercury vapour lamps.

All systems are controlled by time clocks of the Solar Dial type which automatically change the time of lighting according to the season of the year, and require little attention from the responsible Lighting Officer whose main duties are the replacement of broken or burnt out bulbs, and generally overseeing the running of the installation, and checking upon the times of lighting and extinguishing of the lamps.

The lighting schemes generally, although probably short of the standard expected in large towns or cities, are considered adequate for their purpose and are appreciated by the local inhabitants.

12. Complaints. 218 complaints were received during the year as compared with 183 in 1951, and were dealt with satisfactorily by the District Inspectors without recourse to formal intimations.

13. **General.** During the year 5814 specific inspections were made by the Sanitary Staff as compared with 5816 during 1951. These included all branches of the work, but as in past years, many minor matters were satisfactorily dealt with on the spot by the District Inspectors and are not included in the above total.

KINROSS COUNTY

REPORT TO THE KINROSS COUNTY COUNCIL ON NON-TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS IN THE COUNTY OF KINROSS

Mr. C.M. Stevenson, Sanitary Inspector

1. **Housing.** The number of dwelling houses erected by the County Council from 1919 to the end of 1951 was 100. During 1952 a further eight 3-apartment houses were erected at Milnathort and at the end of 1952 a further 18 comprising 14 4 apartment and four 3 apartment houses were under course of construction at various sites within the County.

During the year two applications from private persons for grant to improve existing properties in terms of Section 111 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 were received by the County Council and approved.

One application for grant in terms of Section 3 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 to provide an agricultural worker's house was received by the County Council and approved.

Twenty-eight applications under the County Council's Building Byelaws were granted during the year, covering the erection of new dwelling houses, garages, byres and pig-styes, the conversion, renovation, alteration and extension of premises, the provision of bathrooms, kitchenettes, etc.

2. **Water Supply.** The supervision of the various waterworks throughout the County continues to be a responsibility of the Sanitary Inspector. The Milnathort supply, obtained from a spring area in the hills to the north of the town, is filtered in a series of three Bell Mechanical Filters, prior to storage in a service reservoir of 78,000 gallons capacity. Although during a period of drought there was for some days acute danger of the supply failing, a rainstorm fortunately intervened and ensured adequacy. The question of augmentation of the supply in such times is under review by the County Council. The Kinnesswood supply proved to be adequate during the year and the storage position has been vastly improved by the construction of a new service tank which holds 8,000 gallons or approximately 1 day's supply for the village. Supplies to other communities in the County are either from private sources or by arrangement with other Local Authorities whose mains pass through the County. All proved satisfactory during the year.

3. **Drainage.** There are two Special Drainage Districts constituted within the County - Milnathort and Kinnesswood. The former is served by a disposal plant operated on the septic tank principle, the latter by a modern sedimentation tank process. The sludge residue from both plants is disposed of locally for agricultural purposes. Effluents from both plants are of a good standard and discharge finally into Loch Leven.

4. **Cleansing.** The County Scavenging District includes all populous areas within the County with the exception of Blairadam, and the County Council has agreed that this too will receive the service from 16th May, 1953. Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Arlary, Milnathort, where waste ground is being reclaimed. The tip is very well maintained.

5. **Offensive Trades.** No statutory offensive trades are conducted within the County. There is one slaughterhouse at Milnathort for pigs only. This is maintained in a good state of repair and is excellently managed. Offal is stored in closed bins and disposed of regularly to a dealer, while manure is removed for local agricultural purposes.

6. **Burial Grounds.** These are maintained in a satisfactory manner by Local Authority labour.

7. **Factories.** There are twenty-five mechanical and nineteen non-mechanical factories in the area, also five building sites which come within the scope of the Acts. These were visited and where necessary the attention of the managements was drawn to minor defects found.

8. **General.** A considerable number of minor complaints reached the Sanitary Department during the year. These largely concerned defective plumbing and drainage fittings and other structural defects in dwelling houses, and were generally remedied by the responsible parties on intimation by the Department. Old properties gave rise to most of the complaints and it is obvious that owners with the best will in the world are finding it financially impossible to maintain these properties in a sound state of repair.

REPORTS TO TOWN COUNCILS ON NON-TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1952

ABERFELDY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. **Water Supply.** This is satisfactory in quality and adequate in quantity apart from minor difficulties which scraping of certain lengths of main should improve. This work is expected to be completed by March, 1953.

2. Drainage. The sewage works continued to operate satisfactorily.
3. Scavenging. The direct labour scavenging service continues to work satisfactorily, and the coups are efficiently managed.
4. Housing. 6 houses were completed during the year and at 31/12/52 the total number of houses erected by the Town Council was 119.
5. Factories. There are 22 factories in the Burgh, 18 mechanical and 4 non-mechanical. 19 inspections were made during the year and several minor defects were brought to the notice of the proprietors concerned.
6. Offensive Trades. There are none. It has now been agreed to proceed with the improvements and alterations to the slaughterhouse.
7. Burial Ground. The burial ground is well kept. Extension of the ground is at present under consideration.
8. General. During the year the Sanitary Inspector investigated 24 complaints of nuisance and took action where necessary.

ABERNETHY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.L. Riddell

1. Water Supply. The water supply was of sufficient quantity during the year and the filtration plant continued to function satisfactorily.
2. Drainage. The drainage arrangements continue satisfactorily.
3. Scavenging. Scavenging facilities for the Burgh have proved adequate during the year.
4. Housing. 4 - 2 apartment and 6 - 4 apartment houses were completed and occupied during the year. This brings the total number of houses completed within the Burgh to 66. This completes the houses at present under construction, and no further building is contemplated meantime.
5. Factories. No change in the number of factories has taken place since last year, the number remaining at 5. These were each inspected twice during the year.
6. Burial Ground. This has been maintained in a satisfactory state. It has not yet been possible to secure a suitable site for a new burial ground.
7. General. During the year 58 inspections were carried out. No serious complaints or nuisances were encountered.

ALYTH

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. J. Chalmers

1. Water Supply. The two supplies are ample for the needs of the Burgh and are satisfactory in quality. The larger of the two supplies continues to be chlorinated.
2. Drainage. The sewage system remains as previously reported.
3. Cleansing. This has been satisfactorily carried out by the Burgh staff.
4. Housing. 13 houses were completed during the year. The total number of houses provided by the Town Council at 31/12/52 was 181 (including 3 provided by reconstruction of previously existing houses). No houses were under construction at the end of the year.
5. General. Regular visits were paid to the 26 factories in the Burgh, when conditions were found to be satisfactory. The school is kept in satisfactory condition. The burial ground, which is situated outside the Burgh, was well kept.

AUCHTERADER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.L.D. Bowick

1. Water Supply. The supply is satisfactory in quality but some difficulty has been experienced in providing a sufficient supply, and other possible sources are being investigated.
2. Drainage. The drainage system and sewage works continue to function satisfactorily.
3. Cleansing. The cleansing and scavenging arrangements are satisfactory.
4. Housing. During the year 26 houses were completed, making a total of 206 erected by the Town Council. 37 houses were under construction at 31/12/52.

5. Factories. Conditions at the various factories were found to be satisfactory.
6. Miscellaneous. The school is well kept. The two burial grounds are kept in good condition and work of improvement at the old churchyard continues.

BLAIRGOWRIE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W.A. Coutts

1. Water Supply. The water supply continues to be satisfactory.
2. Drainage. During the year a scheme of modernisation was started at the Rattray works. This will provide some improvement, but will eventually form part of a new system, which will involve major works on the Blairgowrie side of the river.
3. Cleansing. This is efficiently carried out and the coup is well managed.
4. Housing. 24 houses were completed during the year, the total number of houses provided by the Council at 31/12/52 being 96, with a further 30 under construction at that date.
5. Slaughterhouse. This is fairly well looked after. During the year consideration was given to erecting new premises on the outskirts of the town, but it was not possible to proceed with this scheme. Instead a plan of improvements to the existing premises which are in the centre of the town was drawn up; but again owing to high costs and uncertainty as to future policy no progress has been made.
6. Miscellaneous. The three schools in the burgh are kept in a satisfactory condition. The lodging house is an old building and is in poor condition, but is kept reasonably clean. 112 visits were paid to the 56 factories in the Burgh.

CALLANDER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.M. Thomson

1. Water Supply. The water supply is excellent in quality and ample in quantity.
2. Drainage. The sewage disposal system continues to function as satisfactorily as possible and minor improvements were carried out during the year.
3. Cleansing. Scavenging and collection of refuse was efficiently carried out.
4. Housing. 10 houses were completed during the year and at 31/12/52 the total number of houses completed by the Council was 151.
5. Factories. 44 inspections were made at factories and workshops within the Burgh when conditions were found to be satisfactory.
6. Miscellaneous. The schools have been well kept. The two burial grounds are well cared for.

COUPAR ANGUS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.D. Oliphant

1. Water Supply. The need for a new water supply is accepted and during the year negotiations to this end were in progress. Shortage was experienced during the summer and major consumers had to be asked to keep their demands to a minimum.
2. Drainage. The sewage system has worked efficiently.
3. Cleansing and Scavenging. The arrangements were satisfactory and the coup while not in itself ideal, was satisfactorily maintained. The service to Kettins Village was discontinued, being taken over by the Eastern District Council.
4. Housing. No houses were completed during the year, but at 31/12/52 162 houses had been completed by the Town Council and 22 were under construction.
5. Factories. There are 19 factories in the burgh, 14 mechanical and 5 non-mechanical, and 23 visits were made during the year.
6. Miscellaneous. One house which is let in lodgings is well kept. The burial grounds are kept in good order. The school is in good condition. Nine visits of inspection were made in connection with complaints, none of which were of a serious nature.

CRIEFF

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. C. Rankin

1. Water Supply. Some difficulty was experienced with the water level in the tank and improvements which should correct this trouble were started in the Autumn and will be continued during the coming year. The supply to the consumers was adequate in quantity and of excellent quality.
2. Drainage. The sewage works have functioned satisfactorily.
3. Cleansing. There are no alterations in the arrangements which are very satisfactory.
4. Housing. 70 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 403 houses completed by the Town Council at 31/12/52. At the end of the year there were 28 houses under construction.
5. Offensive Trades. There are none. The slaughterhouse was well kept.
6. Schools. The four schools in the burgh are well kept. The new conveniences at St. Dominic's R.C. School were completed during the year.
7. Burial Grounds. The three burial grounds are well kept. Only one is in use now and an extension was commenced there during the year.
8. Factories. There are 47 factories within the burgh, 40 mechanical and 7 non-mechanical, and regular visits were paid to these.

DOUNE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.J. Low

1. Water Supply. There was no change in the water supply arrangements, but during the year repairs had to be carried out at the distribution tank.
2. Drainage. A new sludge bed was provided at the sewage works, which continue to function satisfactorily.
3. Cleansing. This continues to be satisfactory.
4. Housing. At 31/12/51 the Town Council had completed 72 houses. None were completed during the year, but at 31/12/52 10 were under construction.
5. Factories. Routine visits were made to the 15 factories, which were all well kept.
6. General. A small number of trivial complaints were received and dealt with. The school is kept in good condition. The burial grounds are well kept.

DUNBLANE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. B.J. McKay

1. Water Supply. This is ample in quantity and satisfactory in quality. The consumption figure of 93 gallons per day was much the same as last year.
2. Drainage. The sewage disposal works are satisfactory.
3. Cleansing. This continues to be satisfactory and the coup is well maintained. The provision of a larger collection vehicle has greatly improved the facilities.
4. Housing. No houses were erected by the Council during the year, the total number built by the Council remaining at 195.
5. Offensive Trades. There are none. Several improvements have been made at the slaughterhouse, which is well maintained.
6. Factories. Periodical inspections were made at the 17 factories in the Burgh and no major faults were discovered.
7. General. The two schools are well kept, and the two burial grounds are in good condition. The majority of the complaints received were in connection with repairs to old tenement property, in which it is difficult to secure remedy.

KINROSS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. C.M. Stevenson

1. Housing. The total number of dwelling houses erected by the Town Council of Kinross up to 31st December, 1951 was 142. During the year 1952, a further 18 dwelling houses were completed including four 2-apartment houses for old people. A further 16 dwelling houses were in course of construction at the end of 1952.

2. Water Supply. The Sanitary Inspector was appointed Water Superintendent for the Burgh from 16th May of this year. The Burgh continues to be served from two sources, the main one being a series of springs in the Cleish Hills to the south of the Burgh which are led into storage tanks having a combined capacity of approximately 200,000 gallons or 1½ days' supply. From the storage tanks the water is screened and led to the town under gravity. The secondary source is a large well at Turfhill, west of the Burgh, from which water is electrically pumped into the Burgh Main to increase pressure and to augment the supply to the higher portion of the Burgh during drought. The supply is satisfactory.

3. Drainage. Two sewage disposal plants comprising detritus chambers, septic tanks, aerating filters and sludge lagoons serve the Burgh. Effluents discharge finally into Loch Leven, and although both plants are taxed to capacity no nuisance was created.

4. Cleansing. The Burgh Cleansing Department operates an Austin 8 cub. yd. motor refuse collector, collections being made three times weekly, and the refuse disposed of by controlled tipping methods on waste land, which is being reclaimed near Blairadam. In addition waste paper salvage from trade and domestic sources is uplifted once weekly.

5. Burial Grounds. The three burial grounds within the Burgh are well maintained by Council labour.

6. General. There are twentytwo factories in the Burgh. These were visited and found in general to be maintained in a satisfactory manner. One notice requiring the improvement of existing sanitary accommodation was served.

Kinross Primary and Junior Secondary Schools are being well maintained.

PITLOCHRY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. Water Supply. This is adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. The Town Council has now agreed to make a supply of water available to the County Council for the village of Killiecrankie.

2. Drainage. The sewage works have functioned satisfactorily.

3. Cleansing. The arrangements for collecting refuse are satisfactory. A new coup was opened towards the end of the year.

4. Housing. 18 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 120 erected by the Council. In addition 18 were under construction by the Council and 3 by private owners at 31/12/52.

5. General. During the year considerable improvements such as new street lighting, etc. were carried out and these have added considerably to the amenities of the Burgh. Regular visits were made to the 32 factories. The school was well kept. The two burial grounds are well looked after and consideration is being given to the provision of a new cemetery or extension of the existing one. The usual number of complaints were investigated and dealt with.

APPENDIX I

VITAL STATISTICS 1952

Details according to local areas

	Population Census 1951	Population 30/6/52	Births*	Birth Rate	Deaths*	Death Rate
Perth County	87,606	87,240	1,288	14.8	1,116	12.8
Landward	59,941	59,707	910	15.3	692	11.6
Aberfeldy	1,523	1,500	23	15.3	20	13.3
Abernethy	675	691	9	13.0	7	10.1
Alyth	2,072	2,070	24	11.6	31	15.0
Auchterarder	2,434	2,430	31	12.8	37	15.2
Blairgowrie	5,383	5,444	89	12.7	93	17.0
Callander	1,727	1,654	22	13.6	35	21.6
Coupar Angus	2,175	2,222	31	13.9	28	12.6
Crieff	5,473	5,521	54	9.8	80	14.5
Doune	834	852	17	20.0	14	16.4
Dunblane	2,985	2,875	33	11.5	48	16.7
Pitlochry	2,394	2,274	46	15.8	31	13.6
Kinross County	7,418	7,513	128	17.0	103	13.7
Landward	4,923	4,987	81	16.3	67	13.4
Kinross Burgh	2,495	2,526	47	18.6	36	14.2
Joint County	95,024	94,753	1,416	14.9	1,219	12.9

* - Corrected for residence.

APPENDIX II

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICESummary of work done by District Nurses during the year 1952

District	Cases nursed		Nursing visits	Ante-natal visits	Child Welfare visits	Tuberculosis visits	School Inspections and visits
	General	Maternity					
Aberfeldy	87	5	1,928	-	796	63	55
Aberfoyle	107	2	1,627	82	371	26	98
Abernethy	90	4	2,140	39	410	19	17
Almondbank	136	8	2,226	70	528	17	52
Alyth	116	5	3,913	138	1,276	72	400
Auchterarder	87	8	2,387	74	857	60	142
Auchtergaven	340	17	2,938	50	497	29	54
Balquhiddie	198	1	2,124	40	230	33	30
Birnam/Dunkeld	106	10	1,286	23	639	92	100
Blairgowrie	289	26	4,963	13	2,187	85	375
Braco	156	9	2,529	61	542	6	63
Callander	151	7	2,014	126	616	111	50
Comrie	229	11	3,334	49	377	26	114
Coupar Angus	84	16	1,267	104	1,278	108	102
Crieff	538	20	4,890	203	1,478	84	131
Dunbarney	25	11	1,038	88	759	49	120
Dunblane	178	11	2,594	63	782	44	72
Dunning	53	6	1,620	71	607	40	49
East Carse	149	14	2,974	51	1,225	68	285
Errol	66	12	1,530	13	699	126	63
Fortingall	141	1	2,730	16	150	12	21
Fowlis Wester	94	6	1,148	40	328	-	64
Glenfarg	79	4	1,281	57	416	-	104
Glenlyon	134	-	1,961	-	202	48	21
Kenmore	130	2	1,407	30	212	39	35
Killin	64	6	710	53	394	-	60
Logierait	94	6	1,619	14	332	1	42
Methven	160	11	1,837	63	719	25	136
Muthill	215	5	2,508	52	409	-	56
Pitlochry	139	6	2,132	21	655	60	156
Rannoch & Foss	178	-	1,774	80	297	-	115
Scone	120	13	2,065	159	1,242	77	157
Stanley	252	24	2,350	115	995	109	132
St. Martins	91	10	1,418	54	997	58	55
Strathallan	158	6	1,135	35	485	8	40
Strathardle	110	7	1,161	2	561	5	77
Thornhill	98	9	1,637	49	424	33	121
Vale of Teith	186	7	3,137	119	1,476	63	125
West Carse	109	5	1,597	63	446	9	29
West Atholl	139	18	1,644	40	430	56	83
Fossoway	43	13	2,279	53	322	11	72
Kinross	99	29	2,655	168	1,147	78	243
Milnathort	90	22	2,814	66	547	65	143
	6,109	413	92,319	2,707	29,328	1,915	4,459

APPENDIX III

LIST OF STAFF

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER	-	JAMES KELMAN, M.D., D.P.H.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS	-	James A. Sellar, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H. Elizabeth T. MacDougall, M.B. Ch.B.
SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER	-	William C. Arkle, L.D.S.
ASSISTANT DENTAL OFFICERS	-	Mrs. M.S. Black, L.D.S., Christian J. Brunton, L.D.S. Elizabeth J. Mann, L.D.S.
SUPERINTENDENT NURSING OFFICER	-	Elizabeth W. Himsworth, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (Resigned 30/6/52) Elspeth L. Brown, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (Appointed 1/12/52)
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT NURSING OFFICER	-	Vacant
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	-	William Brannan
CHILDREN'S OFFICER	-	Frederick J. Earnshaw
SENIOR PHYSIOTHERAPIST	-	Agnes C. Hampton
COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR	-	Alexander L. Riddell
DISTRICT SANITARY INSPECTOR:		
Eastern:	-	George D. Oliphant
Highland:	-	George A. Sangster
Perth/Central:	-	George V. Hadden (Senior)
Western:	-	Alexander J. Low
Kinross:	-	C.M. Stevenson

