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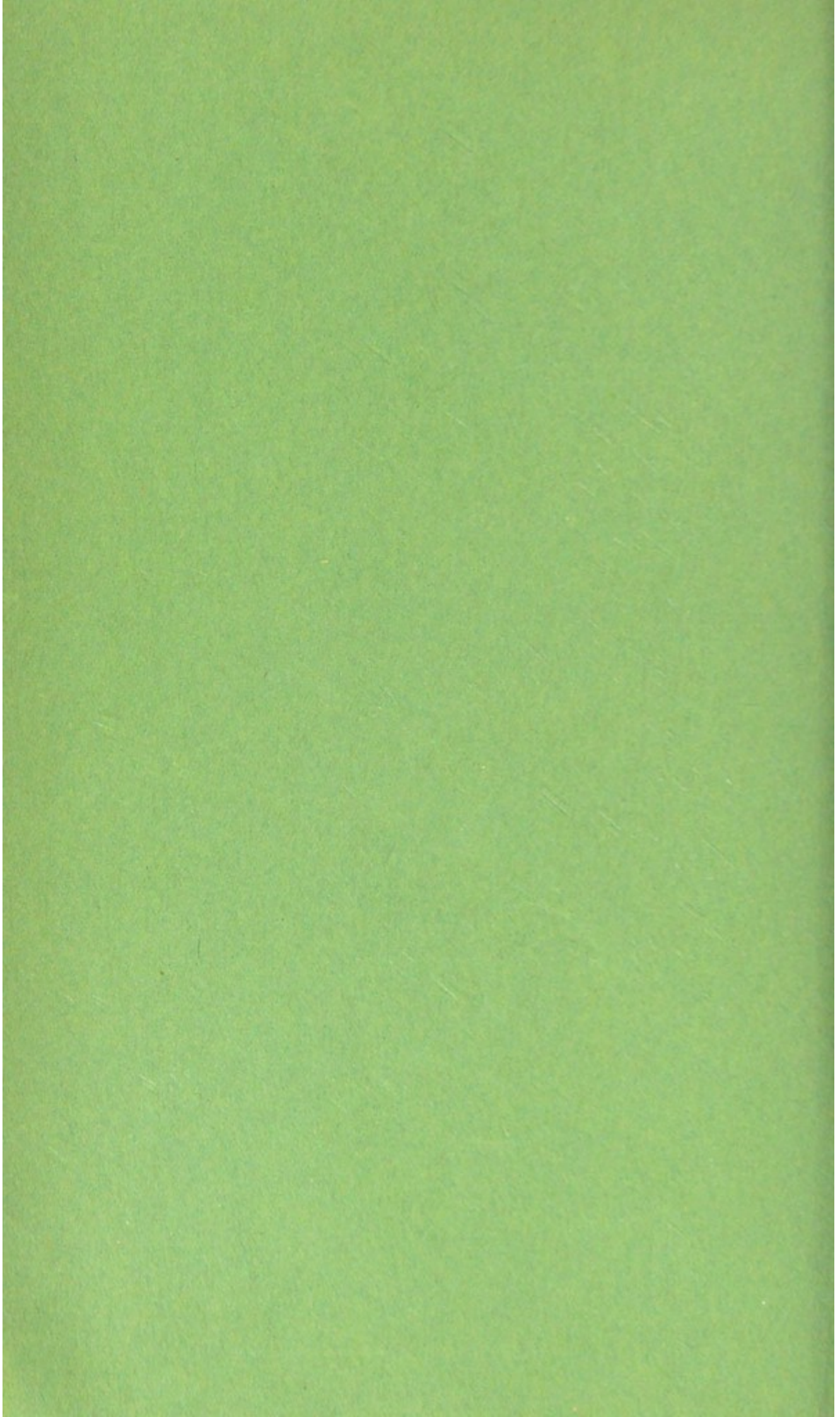
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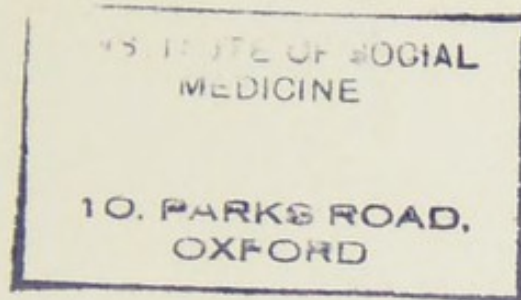
REPORT
OF THE HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

For the Year 1950

PERTH:
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1951



CITY OF PERTH



REPORT


UPON THE

HEALTH OF PERTH

FOR THE YEAR 1950

JOHN M. AITKEN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM McBRYDE, M.R.San.I.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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Health Department,
22 York Place,
Perth.

May, 1951.

To the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the City and Royal Burgh of Perth, and to the Department of Health for Scotland.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the City of Perth, for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The year has been notable for the achievement of some outstanding records. Firstly, the infant mortality rate is the lowest ever to have been recorded, being 24 per 1,000 live births; secondly, this is the third year in succession in which there have been no cases of diphtheria in the City; and thirdly, the tuberculosis death rate is the lowest on record, being .29 per 1,000 of the population. These statistics compare extremely favourably with other parts of Scotland, and are evidence of the fact that the health of the community continues at a very high level.

To the Lord Provost and members of the Council I should like to record my thanks for the confidence and support they have given to me during the past year.

To all members of the Health Department and to my fellow Officials I should like to convey my thanks for their co-operation and help in the provision of the Health Services of the City throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M. AITKEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the City of Perth for the Year 1950.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. At 30th June, 1950, the population as estimated by the Registrar General was 41,052, being an increase of 385 on the 1949 figure.

Birth Rate. During the year there was a decrease of 2 in the corrected number of births as compared with 1949. The actual birth rate was 17.6, and was slightly lower than the rate for Scotland, which was 17.9. This fall in the birth rate was general throughout the country.

Illegitimate Birth Rate. The illegitimate birth rate fell to 6.7, as compared with 7.5 for the previous year. Perth had the second highest rate for the large Burghs in Scotland, the rate for Scotland generally being 5.2.

Still Birth Rate. Compared with 1949, the Still Birth Rate showed a marked decrease, the figure being 20 per 1,000 births, as compared with 24 in the previous year. This was the second lowest figure for all the large burghs in Scotland, the lowest being 16.

Death Rate. The corrected death rate for 1950 was 12.0 per 1,000 of the population, which shows a slight decrease compared with the figure for 1949. The figure for Scotland was 12.4 and for large burghs 12.5.

Infant Mortality Rate. The infant mortality rate of 24 per 1,000 live births showed a decided decrease over the figure of 36 for the previous year. The rate for Scotland was 39 and for large burghs 40.

Maternal Mortality Rate. The maternal mortality rate of 1.36 per 1,000 births showed a decrease from the figure of 4.05 for the previous year, and compared with 1.1 for the whole of Scotland. There was one maternal death during the year.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis showed a considerable decrease from the previous year. There were 12 deaths from this disease, giving a death rate of .29 per 1,000 of the population compared with .44 for the previous year. The rate for the whole of Scotland was .47. There were no deaths during the year from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

Deaths from Infectious Diseases. There were four deaths during the year from the principal epidemic diseases, compared with two during the previous year. All four deaths were due to influenza.

Deaths from Cancer. Of the deaths registered, 80 were due to cancer, giving a death rate of 1.95 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1.86 for the previous year.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Ante-Natal Clinics. The arrangements outlined in my previous reports have continued. In addition to the names and addresses of women attending the ante-natal clinic being made available to the Health Visiting staff, the Ministry of Food have now made available the names and addresses of all women applying for the ration book for expectant mothers. By this means no expectant or nursing mother is overlooked for the purposes of visiting and consultation by the Health Visiting staff.

There were 4,288 attendances at the Ante-natal clinic during the year, being a decrease of 1,891 from the previous year.

Post-Natal Clinics. The arrangements outlined in my report for 1949 continue to function satisfactorily.

Child Welfare Clinics. Three doctor's consultation clinics continue to be held weekly at the Child Welfare Centres. Two are held at the South Street Clinic and one at Muirton. The clinics continue to be well attended. The number of attendances at these clinics during the year amounted to 13,624, being an increase of 2,476 compared with the number of attendances during 1949.

I should like to take this opportunity of recording with deep regret the death of Miss McNab, who was for some 28 years Secretary and Treasurer of the Ladies Committee. Miss McNab was held in the highest esteem by my predecessor, Dr. Main, and by myself. Her enthusiasm and good work were appreciated by all and her presence at the clinic will be missed. The post of Secretary and Treasurer has been taken over by Mrs. Childs, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Childs and the members of her Committee for their very excellent work in the past and to wish them every success for the future. Outside the clinics very little is ever heard of the voluntary workers who undertake to assist at the various clinic sessions. Throughout the year the following ladies have given their services to the clinics and to them I should like to convey my sincere thanks :—

- Miss Buchan, 14 Marshall Place.
- Mrs. Childs, 32 Abbot Street.
- Mrs. Douglas, Langley Road, Scone.
- Mrs. Muir, 32 Craigie Road.
- Miss Macdonald, 23 Oakbank Road.
- Miss Macfarlane, 2 Rose Crescent.
- Mrs. Panton, Muiredge, Burghmuir.
- Mrs. Stevenson, Bellwood, Perth.
- Mrs. Bennett, 66 Balvaird Place.
- Miss Charnley, Oakbank Road.
- Mrs. Stewart, Gannochy.
- Mrs. J. Stewart, Dunkeld Road.

Toddlers' Clinic. 357 children were examined during the year at the various sessions of this clinic. This is a slight reduction in the number who were examined during the previous year, but this was brought about by the necessity to curtail the activities of this clinic owing to the illness of members of the staff of the Department. Post-cards continue to be sent to mothers, giving them an appointment to bring their children for a complete routine examination. The response rate is very good, only some 10 per cent of the mothers failing to keep their appointment.

Premature Infants. During the year it was not necessary to make use of the special facilities available at Perth Royal Infirmary for premature infants born at home.

Unmarried Mothers and their Children. During the year the staff of Melville House, 129 Scott Street, provided care and attention to 17 unmarried mothers and their children belonging to the City. This organisation also dealt with the various aspects of 24 adoption cases connected with the City.

Supply of Welfare Foods. During the year the following welfare foods were issued from the Child Welfare Centres on behalf of the Ministry of Food :—

3486 tins of National Dried Milk ;
574 bottles of Cod Liver Oil ;
2211 bottles of Orange Juice ;
66 packets of Vitamin Tablets.

Day Nurseries. The total number of attendances at each day nursery was :—

Florence Place	10618
Melville Street	2800
Westbank	3902

The Nursery at Melville Street was closed in August, and as a result of the reduced day nursery accommodation in the City, only children of mothers who are obliged, for one reason or another, to be at work, are admitted to the nurseries. Exceptional cases are considered by the Children's Officer and the Children's Committee, and are referred for admission when necessary.

Residential Nursery. During the year 84 new cases were admitted to the residential nursery, and the average daily attendance was 15. At the end of the year there were 11 long-term and 3 short-term cases in the nursery.

Training of Nursery Nurses. The scheme for training nursery nurses has continued as formerly. During the year six students completed their first year of training, and two, having completed their second year of training, passed their examination and received the Nursery Nurses certificate.

Children's Home. In September of this year a new home for children was opened at Cleeve, and now caters for children between the ages of 2½ and 18 years. The long-term cases between 2½ and 5 years previously cared for in Westbank Residential Nursery on behalf of the Children's Committee are now admitted to Cleeve, leaving more accommodation for short-term cases in Westbank.

Dental Care. During the year 43 applications were received for priority treatment under the scheme outlined in previous reports. Fees paid to dentists in practice under the scheme amounted to £27 15s.

Birth Notifications. During the year 1224 births were notified as occurring within the City, being an increase of 36 from the previous year. In 721 cases the usual place of residence was within the City, and was an increase of 10 from the figure for 1949. 33 per cent of the City cases were confined at home. 81 per cent of all the births notified occurred in institutions.

Infant Mortality Rate. The rate of 24 per 1,000 live births is the lowest ever to have been recorded in the City, and is the second best for all the large towns in Scotland, the lowest being 23 and the highest 53. This record low figure is particularly gratifying when one considers that some 50 years ago the infant mortality rate was in the region of 130 per 1,000 live births. Credit for this marked reduction in the number of deaths of children under one year of age is most certainly due to the very efficient services provided for the care of mothers and young children, namely: the General Practitioner Service, Child Welfare Clinic Services, Health Visiting Service, and Midwifery Service.

59 per cent of the deaths of children under one year of age took place in the first month of life, and of those deaths in the first month 90 per cent took place in the first week of life. Of the total deaths of children under one year of age, 53 per cent took place in the first week of life.

Family Planning Clinic. During the year the total attendances at this clinic numbered 486. 170 new cases were seen during the year. 77 of these belonged to the City, the remainder coming from Perth County and Fife County.

MIDWIFERY.

In April of this year, Mrs. Dickson, one of the two part-time midwives, intimated her intention to discontinue practising as a midwife. She has given faithful service to the citizens of the City for the past 28 years, and I should like to record my sincere thanks for the good work that she has done, particularly during the years of World War II.

All three of the remaining domiciliary midwives have now been trained and passed their examination in the administration of gas and air analgesia.

In April of this year a car was made available for the use of the two full-time midwives, and has proved of great assistance to them in the carrying out of their duties.

Supervision of Midwives. The Assistant Medical Officer of Health continues to act as Supervisor of Midwives, and in this capacity has undertaken visits to the homes of the midwives to inspect their equipment and records.

Domiciliary Confinements. During the year 280 applications for maternity services were received. The number compares with 257 for the previous year.

During the year 228 confinements were conducted under the domiciliary midwifery scheme, compared with 210 for the previous year. In addition 7 confinements were conducted by midwives in private practice. This compares with 38 for the previous year.

HEALTH VISITING.

The present establishment of the Health Visiting Service is 8. Miss Crawford, who was employed in a temporary capacity, left the service at the end of the year to take up nursing duties in New Zealand, and so far she has not been replaced. One Health Visitor continues to be employed whole-time on tuberculosis work, and it is hoped that early this year, when agreement is reached between the County and Town Councils regarding the School Medical Service in the City, one other Health Visitor will be set aside for full-time duties in connection with school work.

HOME NURSING.

The Town Council's arrangements with the Perth District Nursing Society, as outlined in previous reports, continue to operate satisfactorily. Apart from a short time at the beginning of the year, the staffing position has improved from previous years. It was necessary for a short time to second one of the Health Visitors for duties in home nursing.

During the year the nurses attended 629 patients, carrying out a total of 14,023 visits. The greatest demand for the nurses was during the month of March.

MEDICAL LOAN DEPOT.

During the year the Depot was transferred to the Health Department at 22 York Place, and the previous arrangement with the British Red Cross Society and the Perth Sick Nursing Society terminated. New arrangements with the British Red Cross Society have been made whereby articles in infrequent demand are made available on request.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Five whole-time Helps continue to be employed, and at the time of writing an additional Help has been engaged in a temporary capacity. The demand for this service is increasing slowly, and glowing tributes continue to be received from the many households who have received help during the year. 74 households received help during the year, almost half of that number being for elderly persons, usually living alone.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination. In last year's report I mentioned the difficulty of assessing the vaccination state of the community, owing to many practitioners withholding the official forms until such times as the scale of remuneration for completed cards was announced. The fees have now been negotiated centrally and forms are now being expeditiously returned.

During the year 863 primary vaccinations were carried out as compared with 489 during the previous year. 402 of these were carried out at the Local Authority's clinics. In addition a total of 793 re-vaccinations were performed, of which 138 were carried out at the clinics. These re-vaccinations were carried out principally in April during the outbreak of smallpox in Glasgow, Hamilton and Edinburgh.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria. The state of immunity against this disease continues to remain at a very high level, as is evidenced by the fact that for the third year in succession there have been no cases of diphtheria in the City. The immunisation state, particularly in pre-school children, remains very high. During the year a total of 897 children were immunised for the first time compared with 909 for the previous year. 419 of the immunisations were carried out at the Child Welfare Centres, and 478 by general practitioners.

During the year 368 children received a re-inforcing inoculation on their entrance to school. This compares with 602 for 1949. Of the re-inforcing inoculations 124 were given at the Child Welfare Centres, 171 at the School Clinic, and 73 were done by general practitioners.

Immunisation Against Whooping Cough. 206 children were immunised against this disease during the year. The profession eagerly await the marketing of a vaccine which will prove as efficacious against this disease as the vaccine supplied for immunisation against diphtheria. When this product becomes available an intensive campaign against this disease will be much easier.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER-CARE— TUBERCULOSIS.

The previous arrangements for the care and after-care of cases of tuberculosis continue in force, and greater numbers of contacts are being examined each year. During the year 265 such contacts were examined.

Admissions to Hospital. Since July, 1948, the bed accommodation for cases of respiratory tuberculosis has increased from 330 to 465 for the Eastern Region, an increase of almost 35 per cent. This is indeed very satisfactory, as now the waiting list at the end of the year for admission to sanatoria was only three. During the year 109 cases of tuberculosis were admitted to hospital, compared with 75 during the previous year. Of these 97 were respiratory and 12 were non-respiratory cases of tuberculosis.

During the year 3 children were admitted to Westbank Residential Nursery, and 4 to the Day Nurseries to facilitate the admission of a mother to hospital for treatment.

Housing. During the year 11 families in which there was a case of tuberculosis were re-housed, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Convener and members of the House Management Committee for the continued sympathetic consideration they have given to the allocation of houses to overcrowded families in which a member has a case of tuberculosis.

Death Rate. The death rate from this disease for 1950 was at the record low level of .29 per 1,000 of the population. This compares extremely favourably with the figure for all the large Burghs in Scotland, which was .69, and .54 for the whole of Scotland.

Notifications. The number of new notifications of respiratory tuberculosis has again increased, there having been 75 new cases as compared with 67 in 1949. The incidence is still greatest between the ages of 15 and 25 years. The number of notifications of non-respiratory tuberculosis was the same as for the previous year, being 15.

Supply of Extra Nourishment, Nursing Requisites, etc. Cod liver oil and malt continue to be supplied free of charge to domiciliary cases of tuberculosis, and on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Physician, 53 persons were supplied during the year with one pint of T.T. pasteurised milk per day at a cost of £360 14s. 1d.

During the year bedding was supplied free of charge to 4 domiciliary cases. 10 nursing requisites were issued from the Medical Loan Depot and in addition 10 sputum flasks, 14 mugs, and 66 (8 oz.) tins of disinfectant were issued to domiciliary cases.

Co-operation with Ministry of Labour. In co-operation with the Ministry of Labour, 9 persons who suffered from tuberculosis were placed in suitable employment.

Mass Radiography. During April and May, the Mass Radiography Unit stationed at Dundee visited Perth and an opportunity was given to the staff of the following firms to have an x-ray photograph taken :—

- Messrs. John Dewar & Sons, Ltd.
- Messrs. J. Shields & Co., Ltd.
- Shields Motor Car Company, Ltd.
- Messrs. Coates & Co., Ltd.
- Messrs. J. Moncrieff, Ltd.
- General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Co., Ltd.
- Messrs. John Campbell & Co., Ltd.
- The S.M.T. Garage.
- Stanley Cotton Mills.
- Messrs. J. Scott & Co.
- Messrs. McEwan & Co., Ltd.
- The Munro Press, Ltd.
- The staff of the Corporation Departments.
- The staff of the Ministry of Food.
- The staff of the Inland Revenue Office.
- The staff of the County Offices.

In addition 324 contacts of known cases of tuberculosis were x-rayed. Of the 2699 persons examined, 451 were found to have abnormalities of one kind or another, and 15 of these were found to have active tuberculosis.

B.C.G. Vaccination. During the year 42 contacts and 109 members of the nursing staff were tuberculin tested under the B.C.G. vaccination scheme. Of these, 13 contacts and 17 nurses were found to be negative re-actors. The 13 contacts and 7 of the nurses were successfully vaccinated. 7 of the nurses left the hospital before final testing, and the remaining 3 of the nurses were still negative 6 weeks after vaccination.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifications. There were 352 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, being an increase of 222 cases from the previous year. This increase was principally due to an outbreak of dysentery during February, during which month 57 cases of dysentery were notified. The increase is also due in part to the fact that whooping cough is now a notifiable disease, and during the year 66 such cases were notified. 4 notifications of scarlet fever were received, being almost double the number for the previous year. It is, however, with considerable satisfaction that I am able to record that for the third year in succession there have been no cases of diphtheria in the City.

Dysentery. In the month of February there was an outbreak of dysentery in Florence Place Nursery, when 35 children contracted the disease. The outbreak coincided with an increase in the number of notification of this disease among the child population in the City. This increase in incidence in this disease has become noticeable throughout the country. The disease generally was of a very mild nature and acute symptoms in most cases only lasted 24 to 48 hours. Recovery was rapid and there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough. 66 notifications of whooping cough were received during the year, and of that number only two required admission to hospital. There were no serious complications, nor were there any deaths attributable to the disease.

Smallpox. During the Glasgow outbreak of this disease in April there was a considerable demand on the part of many members of the public to be vaccinated, and a total of 863 primary and 793 re-vaccinations were carried out. In addition, whilst it was not considered necessary to offer vaccination to the general public on a wholesale scale, vaccination as a precautionary measure, was offered to all members of the Local Authority Departments. A very good response resulted in some 80 per cent of all employees being vaccinated.

Again in December, during an outbreak of the disease in Brighton when it was found that one of the cases there had been resident at an aerodrome in Scotland, some 15 R.A.F. personnel on leave in the City from the R.A.F. station were vaccinated and kept under surveillance for the necessary period. I am happy to record that none of these contacts of the original Brighton case contracted the disease.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. In the summer of 1950 there occurred an outbreak of poliomyelitis, during which 15 cases were diagnosed within the City. The first case occurred in August and the last in November. 10 cases occurred in children under 5 years of age and 5 in school children. There were no cases in persons over school age. In 4 cases no paralysis occurred and in the remaining 11 cases paralysis of varying severity was found. In only one case did the cranial nerves alone show evidence of involvement. Fortunately it was found necessary in only one case to treat a patient in a mechanical respirator. In January of this year this patient died, the cause of death being attributed to the results of poliomyelitis. Each case history was gone into very thoroughly and in only one instance could it be found that a patient had actually been in contact with a known source of infection. The patients were normally admitted to King's Cross Hospital, Dundee, and thereafter transferred where necessary to Bridge of Earn Hospital for orthopaedic treatment.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases. In the month of July there was an increase in the number of cases of measles, during which month 86 cases were notified. Throughout the year a total of 159 cases was notified. During the year 26 cases of chickenpox, 4 cases of German measles, and 11 cases of mumps were notified. Only one case of scabies was notified during the year. This case required admission to hospital for treatment.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 220 cases of infectious disease were admitted to King's Cross Hospital, Dundee. Of that number, 83 were cases of dysentery, 43 scarlet fever, 51 measles, and 14 poliomyelitis.

FOOD POISONING.

In last year's report reference was made to a source of food poisoning which gave rise to a considerable number of cases. It is pleasing to record that no further cases have arisen from this source during the past year. Only one case of bacterial food poisoning was notified during the year and this occurred in a housewife. The organism isolated was *B. aertrycke*. The source of infection was not found, nor were any other cases discovered.

In connection with the outbreak of dysentery mentioned under the heading Control of Infectious Disease, quite a number of food handlers who were contacts of actual cases were put off work until such time as it was proved that they were not acting as carriers of the disease. In one case, a confectionery worker, who was a contact of a notified case, was found on examination to be acting as a carrier. She was put off work and compensation was required to be paid for loss of earnings.

WATER SUPPLY.

"Breakpoint" chlorination was resumed at the end of March and gave excellent results until towards the end of July, when a marked rise

in the breakpoint interfered with the treatment. Marginal chlorination was substituted in August, and chloramine treatment resumed on 7th September, seven weeks earlier than in 1949.

Algal developments gave some trouble during August, but disappeared at the beginning of September. While the control of algal growths was not as complete as during the summer of 1949, the results were greatly superior to those obtained in any year prior to the introduction of breakpoint chlorination.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

During the year consideration was given to the provision of an occupational centre in the area. Discussions took place with the County Council and representatives of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board, but it was decided that in view of the small numbers that would be able to make use of the Centre and the fact that plans for increased accommodation at Baldovan were being considered, the provision of such a Centre would not be justified.

During March, a monthly clinic for the diagnosis and after-care of mental defectives was established at the Health Department, York Place, and conducted by Dr. Gibson, Medical Superintendent of Baldovan Institution. Appointments are made for persons to attend this clinic for diagnosis and supervision, and it has already proved itself to be a very valuable adjunct to the mental health services of the City. During the period that the clinic has been in operation, 20 persons have attended, 15 from the City and 5 from the County. Two of the City cases were admitted to institutions and eight were kept under supervision.

Mental Illness. During the year 25 cases of mental illness were admitted to hospital, 13 of whom were certified.

At 31st December, 1950, 1 case of mental illness was being cared for at home, and 114 cases were being cared for in institutions.

Mental Deficiency. During the year, 3 new cases of mental deficiency were certified, all of whom were admitted to institutions. In addition 2 girls in institutions were re-certified on attaining the age of 16 years. No cases were placed under guardianship during the year.

At 31st December, 1950, 44 City cases of mental deficiency were under treatment in institutions, and 9 cases were being cared for at home.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS ACT, 1948.

No nursery premises are registered in the area, nor are there any persons registered as child minders.

NURSING HOMES (SCOTLAND) REGISTRATION ACT, 1938.

The two homes were visited at intervals throughout the year, and were found to be run along satisfactory lines. One of the Homes is now used solely for convalescent and elderly cases.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

No large-scale film show was held in any of the local cinemas during the year. Instead an effort was made to concentrate on small selected audiences, such as women's guilds, etc. During 1950, 17 lectures and film shows were arranged, but owing to the General Election, the Scottish Information Office withdrew their mobile cinema for a period of some six weeks prior to the election date, and as a result 5 film shows had to be cancelled. Nevertheless it was possible to hold 13 film shows and talks, and the following is a list of the organisations which received a talk and film show :—

20th February	Union of Catholic Mothers (talk only).
7th March	Soroptimist Club of Perth.
9th March	Business and Professional Women's Club.
14th March	Stormontfield S.W.R.I.
16th March	Royal College of Nursing.
20th March	Scottish Housewives Association (talk only).
5th April	Muirton Women's Club.
27th April	Friarton Nursery School Mothers' Club.
16th May	Railway Sports and Athletic Club.
26th October	Friarton Nursery School Mothers' Club.
19th November	Kinnoull Parish Church Youth Fellowship (talk only).
20th November	Tulloch Institute Women's Guild.
30th November	Co-operative Women's Guild.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There was again a considerable reduction in the number of new cases of persons belonging to the City attending for treatment for gonorrhoea, being 11 as compared with 20 for the previous year. There was also a considerable reduction in the number of new City cases of acquired syphilis, being 17 as compared with 27 for the previous year.

The number of persons failing to complete their treatment was again smaller than for the previous year.

ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICE.

During the year 181 new pre-school City cases attended the Orthopaedic Clinic. At the end of the year 159 pre-school children were attending for treatment and supervision. 8 cases were admitted to hospital during the year for treatment.

ACCIDENTS.

Vehicular. During the year there were 123 accidents caused by vehicular traffic reported to the Chief Constable, being an increase of 10 from the previous year. As a result of these accidents, 2 persons were killed and 27 injured—35 seriously and 92 slightly. 41 of the injured persons were under 15 years of age.

Non-Vehicular. A total of 143 such accidents, involving some 144 persons, were reported to the police during the year.

Since April of last year, through the co-operation of the Hospital authorities, returns are now made to this Department from Perth Royal Infirmary, giving particulars of all accident cases treated either as in-patients or out-patients at the hospital. It is intended to continue this investigation until April, 1951, when it is hoped to be able to include in the Report for 1951 a summary of the findings regarding accidents to persons in their own homes.

Throughout the year opportunity was again taken at the various lectures and film shows given to organisations in the City to deal with the prevention of accidents in the home.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Although every effort was made to carry out the provisions of this comprehensive Act, dealing with the welfare of aged, infirm and handicapped persons, it is regretted that, despite the Town Council's earnest desire for it, no new residential accommodation for aged persons was provided during the year by the Council. Building restrictions, of course, prohibited new buildings being erected for even such an essential purpose, and no suitable large houses were available for purchase and conversion. The matter of improved residential accommodation for those in need of care and attention will continue to receive constant consideration. It is most gratifying to record that Bowerswell Home, the City's War Memorial to the fallen of the 1939-1945 War, was officially opened by H.R.H. Princess Margaret on 19th September, 1950. Bowerswell provides very homely and comfortable residential accommodation for 22 aged persons and will be of inestimable value to the citizens of Perth. It is anticipated that the 20 houses (10 blocks of double cottage type) will be completed and occupied some time in the summer of 1951. It should, of course, be borne in mind that Bowerswell is not under Local Authority control, being managed by a Voluntary Committee.

Residential and temporary accommodation continued to be provided at Bertha Home, and the Sick Wards there were still used by the Eastern Regional Hospital Board for the care of chronic sick and mental patients. The medical supervision of residents and patients is under the Medical Officer of Health.

In the latest allocation of houses to be erected by the Town Council and completed by 1952, there is provision for approximately 24 2-apartment houses for aged persons in the Letham scheme. So that, although new residential accommodation for aged persons requiring care and attention has not been obtained, the Council are alive to the needs of aged persons who could manage independently in these smaller modern homes. 12 special houses to meet the needs of the aged have already been built and occupied in the Moncreiffe Housing Estate.

In regard to the provisions of the Act requiring registration with the Local Authority of homes for old or disabled persons, the only registration was in respect of Bowerswell.

The power to compulsorily remove to hospital or other premises any person coming within the terms of Section 47 was not put into force during the year, but consideration was given to the exercising of that power in four cases, but they eventually voluntarily entered hospital.

There were six patients whose movable property had to be taken charge of and stored.

In respect of deceased persons for whom no burial arrangements were being made by friends or relatives, five burials were carried out by the Welfare Department.

Voluntary bodies actively concerned with the welfare of handicapped persons in the area are as follows :—

The Society for Teaching the Blind to Read in the Counties of Perth and Kinross, and

The Perth Mission to the Deaf and Dumb.

Both Societies continued their valuable work and worked in close co-operation with the Local Authority.

The promotion of welfare activities for the aged was steadily advanced and again the Old People's Welfare Council, the Old Age Pensioners' Association, Indigent Old Men's Society, and Society for Relief of Indigent Old Women, continued their excellent work in this sphere. The visitation of lonely old people or housebound single persons is a most important task and those who undertake such visitation perform to these lonely persons something of greater value than the pleasure a material gift would bring.

TABLE No. 1.
VITAL STATISTICS.

Estimated Population, 41,052 (middle of 1950). Area of Burgh, 4,122 acres.
 Population, 1931 Census, 35,051. No. of inhabited Houses, 12,035
 Estimated Pre-School Population, 3,672. Gross Valuation, £450,994.
 Estimated School Population, 5,834. Rateable Value, £425,148.

	Cor- rected Number	Rate per 1,000 of estimated Popu- lation	Corres- ponding Rate for 1949	Rate for	
				Scot- land	Large Burghs
Births (total live births) .	721	17.6	17.8	17.9	17.8
Births—Illegitimate (per 100 live births)	48	6.7	7.5	5.2	5.2
Still births (per 1,000 births, including still births) .	15	20.0	24.0	27.0	28.0
Deaths	491	12.0	12.6	12.4	12.5
Tuberculosis (all forms) .	12	.29	.59	.54	.69
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	12	.29	.44	.47	.61
Epidemic Diseases	4	.10	.05	.10	.08
Children under 1 year (per 1,000 live births) .	17	24.0	36.0	39.0	40.0
Children under 1 month (per 1,000 live births) .	10	13.9	27.6	23.0	—
Women in childbirth (per 1,000 births, including still births	1	1.36	4.05	1.1	—

TABLE No. 2.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

	Number	Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Corresponding Rate for 1949
Deaths from Influenza	4	.10	.05
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	12	.29	.44
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	—	—	.15

TABLE No. 3.

DEATHS FROM SYSTEMIC DISEASES.

	Number	Rate per 1,000 of the Population	Corresponding Rate for 1949
Diseases of the Cardio- Vascular System	181	4.40	5.97
Cancer	80	1.95	1.86
Diseases of the Respiratory System (Non-Tuber- culous)	28	.68	.95
Diseases of the Digestive System.	15	.36	.83
Diseases of the Genito- Urinary System	11	.26	.5
Diseases of the Nervous System.	86	2.09	.17

TABLE No. 4.
INFANTILE DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week		1 and under 4 weeks		1 and under 3 months		3 and under 6 months		6 and under 12 months		Total		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Birth Injuries and Atelectasis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Congenital Malformation	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	1	
Pneumonia and Broncho-Pneumonia	2	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	1	-	5	2	
Prematurity	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
Suffocation	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Totals	8	1	-	1	3	1	1	-	1	1	13	4	
													17

TABLE No. 5.
MATERNAL DEATHS.

	1949	1950
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	3	1
Totals	3	1

TABLE No. 6.
MORTALITY AT THE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS.

	1949			1950		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Under 1 year	14	12	26	13	4	17
1 and under 5 years	5	2	7	—	4	4
5 and under 10 years	1	2	3	3	1	4
10 and under 15 years	1	—	1	—	—	—
15 and under 25 years	4	8	12	3	—	3
25 and under 35 years	6	5	11	8	12	20
35 and under 45 years	13	10	23	5	7	12
45 and under 55 years	23	14	37	24	24	48
55 and under 65 years	47	24	71	29	31	60
65 and under 75 years	62	75	137	52	68	120
75 and under 85 years	60	77	137	67	87	154
85 years and over	21	26	47	19	30	49
Totals	257	255	512	223	268	491

TABLE No. 7.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950.

	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Total	Cases re-moved to Hospital	Cases not removed to Hospital
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Dysentery . . .	9	61	16	3	1	1	—	—	97	83	14
Erysipelas . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	10	1	9
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis . . .	1	9	4	1	—	—	—	—	15	15	—
Pneumonia, Acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2
Influenzal . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Acute	1	—	2	2	1	1	4	1	13	7	6
Primary . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
Puerperal Fever . . .	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	10	10	—
Puerperal Pyrexia . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever . . .	—	12	28	3	1	1	—	—	44	43	1
Tuberculosis,	1	2	13	13	6	6	4	1	75	47	28
Respiratory . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis,	—	4	6	1	1	1	—	—	15	10	5
Non-Respiratory . . .	4	42	19	1	—	—	—	—	66	2	64
Whooping Cough . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals . . .	18	131	88	58	24	11	15	7	352	223	129

TABLE No. 8.
MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1950.

	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Poliomylitis	Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal	Pneumonia, Acute Primary	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Tuberculosis, Non- Respiratory	Whooping Cough—	Total
January	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	1	1	11
February	1	57	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	10	8	2	1	82
March	—	7	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	9	—	5	33
April	—	13	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	—	1	24
May	—	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	6	—	2	20
June	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	8	7	1	2	22
July	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	5	1	1	10
August	—	1	—	—	4	—	1	2	3	3	8	2	—	24
September	—	3	3	—	9	—	—	—	1	2	7	4	4	33
October	—	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	1	10	27
November	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	4	2	16	27
December	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	8	1	23	39
TOTALS	2	97	10	1	15	2	13	2	10	44	75	15	66	352

TABLE No. 9.
NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
 (Pre-School Children notified by Health Visitors.)

	Chickenpox	German Measles	Measles	Mumps	Scabies	Totals
January	5	—	—	—	—	5
February	5	—	—	—	1	6
March	6	—	—	—	—	6
April	5	—	—	—	—	5
May	1	—	1	—	—	2
June	1	2	34	—	—	37
July	—	2	86	—	—	88
August	—	—	18	—	—	18
September	3	—	13	1	—	17
October	—	—	4	—	—	4
November	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	3	—	—	3
Totals	26	4	159	1	1	191

TABLE No 10.
VACCINATIONS.

	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th Day	Accelerated (Vaccinoid) Re-action, 5th-7th Day	Re-action greatest at 2nd-3rd Day	No local Re-action	TOTAL
No. Vaccinated at Child Welfare Centres	359	13	3	27	402
No. Vaccinated by General Practitioners	395	28	5	33	461
	754	41	8	60	863

TABLE No 11.
RE-VACCINATIONS.

	Typical Vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th Day	Accelerated (Vaccinoid) Re-action, 5th-7th Day	Re-action greatest at 2nd-3rd Day	No local Re-action	TOTAL
No. Re-Vaccinated at Child Welfare Centres	102	26	6	4	138
No. Re-Vaccinated by General Practitioners	420	74	131	30	655
	522	100	137	34	793

TABLE No. 12.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Year of Birth	Immunised at Child Welfare Centres		Immunised by General Practitioners		Refused	Died	Removed to other Areas	TOTAL
	Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whoop. Cough	Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whoop. Cough				
1943 .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1944 .	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
1945 .	3	—	4	4	1	—	—	12
1946 .	6	—	1	—	—	2	—	9
1947 .	11	—	7	2	—	2	—	22
1948 .	25	—	80	5	—	4	—	116
1949 .	333	—	285	20	2	42	—	686
1950 .	40	—	63	5	1	23	—	146
Totals .	419	—	440	38	6	73	—	994

TABLE No 13
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS—MAINTENANCE INOCULATIONS.

	YEAR OF BIRTH										TOTAL
	1935	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	
No. Immunised at Child Welfare Centres .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	101	19	124
No. Immunised by General Practitioners .	1	—	1	—	1	3	2	13	48	4	73
No. Immunised by School Medical Officers	—	1	3	22	1	1	4	18	119	2	171
TOTALS	1	1	4	22	2	4	6	35	268	25	368

TABLE No. 14.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATIONS.

Year	Total No. Immunised.
1940	690
1941	1690
1942	488
1943	502
1944	600
1945	588
1946	478
1947	658
1948	857
1949	909
1950	897

TABLE No. 15.
WHOOPIING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

	YEAR OF BIRTH								Total
	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
No. of Children Immunised	1	1	9	8	25	27	109	26	206

TABLE No. 16.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR IN WHICH DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Total
RESPIRATORY										
Males	1	2	3	2	13	8	5	3	—	37
Females	—	—	2	6	22	5	1	1	1	38
Total	1	2	5	8	35	13	6	4	1	75
NON-RESPIRATORY										
Males	—	3	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	9
Females	—	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	6
Total	—	4	2	4	3	1	1	—	—	15
RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY										
Males	1	5	4	6	14	8	5	3	—	46
Females	—	1	3	6	24	6	2	1	1	44
Total	1	6	7	12	38	14	7	4	1	90

TABLE No. 17.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS RESIDENT IN THE AREA AT 31st DECEMBER, 1950, WHO WERE KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

A. RESPIRATORY.

		Number of Cases in Age Groups										Total
		Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
1. Sputum or other material examined and tubercle bacilli found.	Males	—	—	—	—	13	8	5	11	1	38	
	Females	—	—	—	—	8	9	4	2	—	23	
2. Sputum or other material examined and tubercle bacilli never found.	Males	—	5	4	6	30	29	19	16	3	112	
	Females	—	3	3	12	37	22	8	10	2	97	
3. Sputum or other material not examined.	Males	—	3	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	9	
	Females	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	1	6	
TOTALS . . .		—	11	8	22	93	68	37	39	7	285	

B. — NON-RESPIRATORY.

	Number of Cases in Age Groups										Total
	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
1. Abdominal.	Males	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
	Females	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	6
2. Spine.	Males	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
	Females	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	4
3. Bones and Joints (exclusive of Spine).	Males	—	2	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	8
	Females	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
4. Superficial Glands.	Males	—	1	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	9
	Females	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	1	—	9
5. Lupus.	Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
6. Other parts or Organs.	Males	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	5
	Females	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Total	—	6	10	7	11	10	4	7	2	57	
RESPIRATORY & NON-RESPIRATORY TOTALS	—	17	18	29	104	78	41	46	9	342	

TABLE No. 18.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN OF NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO DIED FROM TUBERCULOSIS IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR, WITH PARTICULARS AS TO PERIOD ELAPSING BETWEEN NOTIFICATION AND DEATH.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Not notified or notified only at or after death	—	—	—	—
Notified less than 1 month before death	1	—	—	—
Notified from 1 to 3 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 3 to 6 months before death	—	—	—	—
Notified from 6 to 12 months before death	1	1	—	—
Notified from 1 to 2 years before death	—	—	—	—
Notified over 2 years before death	3	6	—	—
Total	5	7	—	—
Number who died within 28 days after discharge from an institution	—	—	—	—
Number who died more than 28 days after discharge from an institution	3	2	—	—

TABLE No. 19.

TUBERCULOSIS.

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES WHICH RECEIVED TREATMENT UNDER THE TUBERCULOSIS SCHEME IN SANATORIA OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

		NUMBER OF PATIENTS.					
		In Institutions on January 1st	Admitted during year	Discharged during year	Died in the Institutions	In Institutions on December 31	
RESPIRATORY	ADULTS:	Males 18	42	31	1	28	
		Females 14	49	37	5	21	
	CHILDREN:	Males 2	2	3	—	1	
		Females 3	4	4	1	2	
NON-RESPIRATORY	ADULTS:	Males 3	4	6	—	1	
		Females 3	3	5	—	1	
	CHILDREN:	Males 3	3	4	—	2	
		Females 1	2	2	—	1	
Totals		47	109	92	7	57	

TABLE No. 20.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.**I. NUMBER OF CONTACTS TUBERCULIN TESTED UNDER B.C.G. VACCINATION SCHEME.**

Result	Age Groups												Total tests performed	
	under 1		1 and under 5		5 and under 10		10 and under 15		15 and under 20		20 and over			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Positive	—	—	7	4	10	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	19	10
Negative	1	—	3	3	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	5
Totals	1	—	10	7	14	5	2	2	—	1	—	—	27	15

II. B.C.G. VACCINATIONS PERFORMED.

Group	Tuberculin Tested		Negative Re-actors		Successfully Vaccinated	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Nurses	6	103	—	17	—	7
(b) Medical students	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Contacts	27	15	8	5	8	5
(d) Others	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE No. 21.
TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED DURING EACH MONTH OF 1950.

	Burgh Cases			Other Areas	Total	Still-born	Premature	Illegitimate
	Males	Females	Total					
January	38	29	67	43	110	2	6	—
February	25	29	54	36	90	2	8	5
March	24	38	62	39	101	4	8	2
April	26	30	56	44	100	2	3	4
May	38	35	73	49	122	5	11	2
June	33	29	62	46	108	—	3	4
July	27	20	47	45	92	5	7	4
August	43	30	73	32	105	2	4	3
September	33	26	59	47	106	6	4	1
October	29	35	64	41	105	2	5	1
November	27	19	46	40	86	3	7	4
December	23	35	58	41	99	1	2	4
Totals	366	355	721	503	1224	34	68	34

TABLE No. 22.

BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

	Attended by a Midwife alone	Attended by a Doctor alone	Attended by a Doctor and Midwife	Attended by neither a Doctor nor a Midwife	Total
January	60	—	50	—	110
February	50	—	40	—	90
March	54	1	45	1	101
April	46	3	49	2	100
May	60	1	60	1	122
June	53	—	53	2	108
July	55	2	35	—	92
August	54	1	49	1	105
September	52	—	53	1	106
October	51	—	54	—	105
November	46	—	40	—	86
December	53	—	46	—	99
Totals	634	8	574	8	1224

TABLE No. 23.
BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

	Domiciliary	No. of Births occurring in Perth Royal Infirmary	No. of Births in Private Nursing Homes	Total
January . . .	19	72	19	110
February . . .	13	59	18	90
March . . .	21	65	15	101
April . . .	20	68	12	100
May . . .	26	69	27	122
June . . .	19	59	30	108
July . . .	22	63	7	92
August . . .	21	56	28	105
September . . .	16	75	15	106
October . . .	18	59	28	105
November . . .	16	56	14	86
December . . .	24	66	9	99
Totals . . .	235	767	222	1224

TABLE No. 24.
BIRTH NOTIFICATIONS.

Total No. of Births, including still births, notified during the year	1224
(i) Cases dealt with under Section 23 (2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947	
(a) Doctor engaged and present at confinement	64
(b) Doctor engaged but not present at confinement	164
(c) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	—
(ii) Other domiciliary cases.	
(a) Doctor engaged	7
(b) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	—
(c) Conducted by outdoor staff of an institution	—
(d) Without doctor or midwife	—
(iii) Cases conducted at institutions (including private maternity and nursing homes) in the area of the Local Health Authority	989

TABLE No. 25.
DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

	Whole-time Midwives	Part-time Midwives	Total
No. of applications received during the year	225	55	280
No. of Births during the year.			
Attended by a midwife alone	131	26	157
Attended by a doctor alone	2	1	3
Attended by a doctor and midwife	38	23	61
Neither a doctor nor a midwife present at the confinement	4	3	7
TOTALS	175	53	228
No. sent to Hospital on account of abnormalities or unsuitable housing accommodation	18	3	21

TABLE No. 26.

**MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1915 AND 1927.
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947.**

	Total Births occurring in the area	Domiciliary cases under Section 23 of National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947			Other domiciliary cases attended by Midwives (i.e. cases in which no Doctor has been booked)	Cases attended by Midwives in Institutions	Cases not attended by Midwife or Doctor
		Doctor engaged and present at confinement	Doctor engaged but not present at confinement	Midwife alone (No Doctor engaged)			
Births	1224	64	164	—	—	—	—
Deaths of new-born children (within 14 days of birth)	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Still-births	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cases of Ophthalmia							
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Sepsis—							
Cases	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia—							
Cases	10	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MATERNITY DEPARTMENT—PERTH ROYAL INFIRMARY.

No. of Births occurring in the Maternity Department		No. of Attendances at Ante-natal Clinic		No. of Persons attending the Ante-natal Clinic	
Perth City	Perth & Fife Counties	Perth City	Perth & Fife Counties	Perth City	Perth & Fife Counties
350	417	2377	1911	627	687
Total		Total		Total	
767		4288		1314	

TABLE No. 28.
THE WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITORS.

	Initial Visits	Total No. of Visits	Total No. Visited
Children under 1 year	667	4997	693
Children 1 to 5 years	32	7168	2720
Expectant Mothers	365	466	365
Tuberculosis Cases	56	890	239
Hospital Cases	—	—	—
Cases for General Practitioners	1	1	1
Others	125	133	125
TOTALS	1246	13655	4143

TABLE No. 29.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE—VISITS BY HEALTH VISITORS.

	No. of Visits paid to the Schools.	No. of Children examined for the first time during the month.	No. of Children re-examined during the month.	No. of Children examined as infectious disease contacts.	No. of visits paid to children's homes during month.
January	30	1814	165	—	2
February	28	751	234	291	6
March	45	657	987	143	13
April	16	1116	30	—	5
May	39	2029	480	—	12
June	34	443	871	185	8
July	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—
September	47	2063	395	243	14
October	32	1100	291	—	8
November	35	348	875	119	17
December	20	194	412	87	6
TOTALS	326	10515	4740	1068	91

TABLE No. 30.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

	No. of Children attending for first time during the year			Total No. of Children attending during the year		
	Under 1	Over 1	Total	Under 1	Over 1	Total
South Street . . .	395	187	582	559	913	1472
Muirton . . .	142	50	192	114	295	409
Totals . . .	537	237	774	673	1208	1881
	Number of Attendances at Clinics					
	Consultation Clinic		Seen by Nurses	Total		Total
	Under 1	Over 1		Under 1	Over 1	
South Street . . .	2995	357	6328	5618	2071	9680
Muirton . . .	971	—	2973	2070	961	3944
Totals . . .	3966	357	9301	7688	3032	13624

TABLE No. 31.
ULTRA-VIOLET RAY CLINICS.

	First Attendances	Number Attending	Total Attendances
South Street Clinic . .	72	93	1043
Muirton Clinic . .	10	21	383
Totals . .	82	114	1426

TABLE No. 32.
DAY NURSERIES.

	No. of places provided at end of year		No. of places taken up at end of the year		Average daily attendance		Total attendances
	Under 2	Aged 2-5	Under 2	Aged 2-5	Under 2	Aged 2-5	
Florence Place	27	28	21	34	17	21.5	10,618
Westbank .	—	18	—	18	—	13.5	3,902
*Melville Street	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,800
TOTALS	27	46	21	52	17	35	17,320

*Melville Street Nursery was closed 12/8/1950.

No. on Waiting List at end of the year (for all the Nurseries)	Under 2	Aged 2-5	Total
	11	36	47

TABLE No. 33.
WESTBANK RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.

No. of Beds provided at the end of the year.			Children admitted during year	Children discharged during year	Average daily Attendances
Under 2	Aged 2-5	Others			
13	5	—	84	86	15

TABLE No. 34.
HOME HELP SCHEME.

	No. of Cases who received assistance	No. of hours of help given	Average period of assistance
Maternity Cases . . .	12	506	42 hours
Cases of Illness . . .	22	560½	25½ „
Aged persons . . .	32	5102	159½ „
Tuberculosis Cases . . .	7	784½	112 „
To improve Household . . .	1	88½	88½ „
	74	7041½	91 hours.

No. of Home Helps employed at end of year	Whole-time	Part-time	Retaining fee basis
	5	—	—

TABLE No. 35.
HOME NURSING SERVICE.

	Number of Cases.			No. of Visits.
	New Cases	Old Cases	Total	
January	59	77	136	1079
February	35	80	115	1037
March	56	75	131	1417
April	36	83	119	1068
May	36	77	113	1044
June	46	70	116	1191
July	45	83	128	1209
August	56	70	126	1309
September	51	66	117	1147
October	45	78	123	1184
November	50	74	124	1266
December	37	83	120	1072
TOTALS	552	916	1468	14023

TABLE No. 36.
BERTHA HOME.

RETURN OF PATIENTS IN SICK WARDS.

	In wards at end of last year	Admitted during year	Discharged	Died	Remaining in Wards at end of year
Males	23	76	52	25	22
Females	25	43	16	28	24
Totals	48	119	68	53	46
1949	56	131	87	52	48

	Acquired				Syphilis				Gonorrhoea				Venereal conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea				Total Venereal		Non-Venereal	
	M.		F.		Congenital		Total		M.		F.		M.		F.		M.		F.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. On Register at 1st Jan.	31	18	4	5	35	23	8	2	4	1	47	26	2	1	47	26	2	1		
2. Re-admitted to Regis. resumpt. of treatment of the same infection, i.e. Defaulters ret'ning	5	9	—	4	5	13	—	—	—	—	5	13	—	—	5	13	—	—		
3. Transfers-in from Approved Centres .	4	2	—	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	4	4	—	—		
4. New cases .	16	11	3	2	19	13	13	4	30	11	62	28	4	36	62	28	4	36		15
5. Totals (1, 2, 3 & 4) .	56	40	7	12	63	52	21	6	34	13	118	71	38	16	118	71	38	16		
6. Defaulted before completion of treatment .	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—		
7. Defaulted after completion of treatment, but before test of cure	1	3	—	1	1	4	1	1	—	—	1	5	—	—	2	5	—	—		
8. Transferred to other Centres .	20	4	—	3	20	7	3	—	1	1	24	8	—	—	24	8	—	—		
9. Discharged cured or as Non-Venereal .	9	10	3	—	12	10	16	5	26	11	54	26	37	16	54	26	37	16		
10. Died while on Register	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
11. On Register at 31st December .	25	21	4	8	29	29	1	—	7	1	37	30	1	—	37	30	1	—		
12. Totals (6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) .	56	40	7	12	63	52	21	6	34	13	118	71	38	16	118	71	38	16		
Attendances for Medical Consultation .	571	697	9	231	580	928	94	54	152	62	826	1044	85	35	826	1044	85	35		
Admitted for indoor Treatment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		

TABLE No. 38.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

NEW CASES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE.

	Acquired				Syphilis				Gonorrhoea		Venereal conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea		Total Venereal		Non-Venereal	
	M.		F.		Congenital		Total		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Under 1 year	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	7
2. 1 and under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
3. 5 and under 15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4. 15 and under 25 years	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	8	4	12	7	1	
5. 25 and under 35 years	4	2	—	—	—	—	4	2	6	2	11	5	21	14	3	
6. Over 35 years	10	7	—	2	—	9	10	9	5	—	11	2	26	9	2	
Totals	16	11	3	2	19	13	19	13	13	4	30	11	62	36	15	

TABLE No. 39.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

NEW CASES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE AREAS IN WHICH THE PATIENTS RESIDE.

	Syphilis			Gonorrhoea	Venereal conditions other than Syphilis and Gonorrhoea	Total Venereal	Non-Venereal
	Acquired	Congenital	Total				
PERTH CLINIC— Cases belonging to Perth City	15	5	20	8	19	47	33
Cases belonging to other areas in Scotland	12	—	12	9	22	43	18
Cases belonging to areas outside Scotland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	27	5	32	17	41	90	51
DUNDEE CLINIC— Cases belonging to Perth City	2	—	2	3	2	7	5
TOTALS	29	5	34	20	43	97	56

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Sanitary Department,
22 York Place,
Perth, May, 1951.

To the Department of Health for Scotland and the Lord Provost, Magistrate and Council of the City of Perth.

My Lord Provost, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report of the work of the Sanitary Department of the City of Perth for the year 1950.

PREFACE.

The past year has been one in which steady progress has been made in the various fields of activity in which the Department is concerned. Opportunity will be taken in the course of the report to give some comparative figures showing the trend of events during the five years from 1945 to 1950.

STAFF.

The Inspectors employed on the staff of the Sanitary Department are as follows:—

- 1 Depute Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Apprentice Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Lady Housing Inspector.

Mr. Alfred A. Warner, Depute Sanitary Inspector, retired on 8th September after 29 years loyal service in the Department. Mr. John F. Irvine, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Kirkcaldy, was appointed to the vacancy.

Miss Mary Anderson, Lady Housing Inspector, resigned on her marriage during the year.

HOUSING.

Unfit Houses.

It is pleasing to be able to report that it has been possible during the past year to deal with the largest number of unfit houses by closure in any year since the pre-war period.

The following houses were dealt with during the year:—

Property.	No. of Houses.	Order.
186 South Street.	2	Let to Town Council.
24 West Mill Street.	1	Town Council Property.
12 Canal Street.	12	Voluntary Undertakings.
34 Meal Vennel.	1	Town Council Property.
40 Meal Vennel.	4	„ „ „
50 Meal Vennel.	1	„ „ „
47 Meal Vennel.	3	„ „ „
53 Meal Vennel.	1	„ „ „

20 Union Lane.	2	Voluntary Undertakings.
22 Union Lane.	1	" "
13 Cutlog Vennel.	1	" "
12 Longcauseway.	1	Town Council Property.
14 Longcauseway.	2	" " "
16 Longcauseway.	1	" " "
18 Longcauseway.	1	" " "
20 Longcauseway.	1	" " "
30 Longcauseway.	2	" " "
13 Pomarium Street.	1	" " "
17 Pomarium Street.	1	" " "
33 Pomarium Street.	2	Voluntary Undertakings.
51 Pomarium Street.	1	" "
12 Clayholes.	1	Voluntary Undertaking.
27 Cross Street.	4	Town Council Property.
18 Watergate.	1	Voluntary Undertaking.
Total		48

Comparative figures for previous years are as follows :—

1939	...	...	...	31 houses.
1940	...	...	...	25 houses.
1945	...	...	...	2 houses.
1946	...	...	...	1 house.
1947	...	...	...	nil.
1948	...	...	...	22 houses.
1949	...	...	...	39 houses.
1950	...	...	...	48 houses.

The total number of houses closed between 1939 and 1950 is 168.

It has been considered to be only right that the Town Council should take all possible steps to close unfit houses under their own control before requesting owners to take similar action regarding private property.

In August, 1949, a survey was made of all old properties owned by the Town Council, and a list of 58 houses was submitted to the House Management Committee as being unfit for human habitation. Up to the end of 1950, 31 of these houses have been closed.

Considerable progress has also been made during the year in the demolition of properties consisting of closed unfit houses. The following properties were demolished :—

12-22 Longcauseway	10 houses.
45-49 Meal Vennel	5 houses.
13-19 Pomarium Street	9 houses.
186 High Street	9 houses.
————— 33 houses.	

MEAL VENNEL CLEARANCE AREA.

A survey of properties in the Meal Vennel Clearance Area, carried out in December, 1949, showed that there were 52 tenants still in occupation. During the past year 11 of these tenants have been re-housed and the houses closed, leaving only 41 occupied houses in the Area.

A Redevelopment Plan under the Town Planning Acts has been prepared and it is hoped that after final approval by the Town Council and Secretary of State it will be possible to have what is probably the

blackest spot on the face of the Fair City removed by a major operation, making good use of the demolition instruments of crowbar, pick and shovel.

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

During the past year new houses were provided as follows:—

Houses erected by Private Enterprise:—

4 apts. ...	10 houses	
5 apts. ...	2 houses	
		Total 12 houses.

Private Houses under construction during 1950:

3 apts. ...	1 house.	
4 apts. ...	6 houses.	
5 apts. ...	3 houses.	
		Total 10 houses.

There are also six houses, each of 6 apts., being erected by the Territorial Auxiliary Forces Association at Burghmuir Road.

Twenty 2-apt. houses are presently under construction at Bowerswell for ageing persons.

Corporation houses completed during 1950:

Moncreiffe:

Ageing Persons 2 apts. 12 houses. 12 houses.

Darnhall, 4th Dev.:

Traditional 4 apts. 36 houses.
 Traditional 5 apts. 2 houses.
 ————— 38 houses.

Letham, 1st Dev.:

Blackburn 4 apts. 26 houses.
 Atholl 4 apts. 62 houses.
 Atholl 3 apts. 20 houses.
 ————— 108 houses.

Total 158 houses.

Corporation houses under construction during 1950:

Letham, 1st Dev.:

Atholl 3 apts. 68 houses.
 Atholl 4 apts. 66 houses.
 Traditional 3 apts. 90 houses.
 Traditional 4 apts. 130 houses.

Total, 354 houses.

Reviewing the progress made during the past five years in the completion of Corporation houses in Perth in relation to the number under construction at the end of each year, we find the position was as follows:—

Year.	Houses completed during year.	Houses under construction at end of year.
1946	150	630
1947	402	646
1948	411	274
1949	278	148
1950	158	354

The number of houses completed during the year was 158, only 8 more than in 1946, the first post-war year. This low figure was due to

the meagre allocation permitted to the Local Authority. The figures over the past five years show that a much larger allocation would have been well within the scope of our efforts. It is therefore encouraging to note that as a result of increased allocation, the number of houses under construction at the end of the year was 354, nearly two and a half times the number under construction at the end of 1949. We can therefore look forward with confidence to having a correspondingly larger number of houses completed in the current year.

The total number of Corporation houses erected in Perth in the past five years was 1,399, or approximately 12 per cent of the total number of inhabited houses in the City.

The schemes at Moncreiffe and Darnhall were completed during the year and all the Corporation's efforts are now concentrated on the Letham Scheme which is already taking on the appearance of a small satellite town.

At this Scheme, at the end of the year, there were 322 houses completed and 354 under construction.

"POINTS" SYSTEM.

Up to the end of the year 6,235 applications had been pointed by this Department and 2,784 visits were made during the year to check changes in circumstances and make a final check on pointage and suitability of tenants prior to consideration of applications by the House Management Sub-Committee.

The Town Council have considered the revision of the "points" scheme, but have decided that in the meantime the only alteration should be that the "Forces" point be withdrawn from the existing scheme in respect of all applications numbered 6,000 and over.

DISINFESTATION OF BUG-INFESTED FURNITURE AND BEDDING.

During the year 773 houses were examined for the presence of bed bugs prior to removal of tenants to Corporation houses. In 21 cases evidence of bugs was found, and arrangements were made for the disinfection of the furniture by cyanide gas and the bedding by steam, before delivery of the furniture and bedding to the Corporation houses.

The continued co-operation of Mr. McIntosh, Governor of Bertha Home, in the carrying out of this work is much appreciated.

OVERCROWDING.

During the past five years steady progress has been made in the abatement of cases of overcrowding. Really serious cases are well covered by the "points" system and receive priority in the allocation of Corporation houses. The main difficulty is in providing suitable accommodation for the poorer types of families, which are often the most seriously overcrowded and not suitable for immediate transfer to the higher-tenanted new houses.

The chief cause of overcrowding at present is not so much the normal increase in family, but the sub-letting of part of the house to accommodate young married couples who are unable to obtain a house of their own.

Up to the end of the year 2,340 families had been accommodated in temporary, permanent, decanted and requisitioned houses during the post-war housing efforts.

GENERAL SANITATION.

During the year 383 nuisances were discovered or complained of, and 45 intimations under Section 19 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act 1897, were served.

Four notices under Section 20 of the Act were also served where no action had been taken to abate nuisances following the intimation.

One thousand and forty-nine visits of inspection and enquiry were made.

The following are the particulars of the nuisances dealt with :—

Defective external walls	2
Choked or defective drains	44
Choked or defective traps	6
Choked or defective gullies	12
Choked or defective rainwater conductors	6
Choked or defective waste-pipes	6
Choked or defective sinks	6
Choked or defective rhones	6
Defective water supply pipes	3
Choked or defective W.Cs.	15
Defective roofs	16
Dampness in houses	38
Defective ceilings	8
Defective wall plaster	9
Defective floors	13
Defective woodwork	7
Smoke nuisances	10
Offensive smells	26
Accumulations	28
Verminous houses	21
Dirty houses	4
Insect nuisances	43
Defective vents and firegrates	4
Flooding	7
Alleged contaminated water supplies	6
Pigeon and poultry nuisances	4
Dust nuisances	3
Failing to clean passages, stairs and W.C. apts.	6
Failing to clean courts	2
Miscellaneous	22

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Increasing difficulties are being encountered in dealing with nuisances arising from structural defects in properties. The stage has been reached in many of the older properties where the owners or factors when called upon to carry out even minor items of repair inform the Department that they do not have the money to have these works carried out, and in some cases offer to hand over the property to the Town Council, free of charge, if the Council will only meet the legal expenses involved. The ownership of such properties is no longer an asset, but is indeed an increasing liability. The Town Council, on the other hand, are lo

to take over such liabilities from private owners unless the properties are within the area of future re-development schemes. In the case of the worst properties, however, the solution of the problem so far as the tenants are concerned, is generally found by the owners agreeing to give a voluntary undertaking not to re-let the houses for human habitation if and when suitable alternative accommodation is provided for the tenants.

An increasing number of houses are being closed under these conditions. Force of circumstances is having a greater effect than statutory procedure. Owners no longer oppose the making of closing orders. They rather give undertakings with feelings of relief when the tenants are removed, the houses closed and application made to the Burgh Assessor for their property to be entered in the Valuation Roll as of no longer any rateable value.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

During the year two new convenience blocks were provided at McDonald, Fraser & Co.'s Mart, Caledonian Road, and the sanitary accommodation is now very satisfactory.

PAINTING OF COMMON STAIRS AND PASSAGES.

During the past year 110 notices were issued under the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, Section 117, in respect of 75 stairs and passages, and in 50 cases painting had been completed.

CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.

The refuse is collected three times a week from premises in the centre of the City, along with certain other populated areas, including Corporation Housing Schemes, and twice a week from those in the outlying districts.

The refuse is conveyed to the Separation and Destruction Plant at Friarton, where all salvage is removed from it. The remainder is burnt and the dust and clinker taken to old Newhouse Quarry.

As regards street sweeping, there are 25 beats in the City with a sweeper on each.

The "Karrier" Gully Emptier and the Lewin Road Sprinkler Sweeper Collector are in use and giving good service.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 4 Offensive Trades registered within the City :—

Slaughterhouse	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Tallow Melting Works	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Manure Manufacturers	.	.	.	.	.	.	2

These were all kept in a satisfactory condition and limewashing was carried out when necessary.

SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

During the year the flushing cistern for the boys' urinal at Perth Academy was put into working order. The boys' urinals at Northern District School were still in an unsatisfactory condition and the attention of the Education Authority has again been called to this matter.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the past year 295 visits of inspection were made under the Factories Act, 1937. The following acts or defaults were brought to the notice of the occupiers :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.					No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector		
Want of cleanliness	20	17	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—						
(a) Insufficient	4	3	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	5	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	32	25	—	—	—	—

At the end of the year there were 236 mechanical and 36 non-mechanical factories on the Register, as detailed in the following tables :—

FACTORIES.

Non-Mechanical.

Bakers	3	Picture Framers	1
Cycle Repairers	2	Plumbers	1
Dressmakers	6	Saddlers	3
Electricians	1	Stone Block Makers	1
Golf Club Repairers	1	Tailors	5
Ham Curers	1	Tinsmiths	2
Jewellery Repairers	2	Upholsterers	2
Joiners	3	Wireless Repairers	1
Paint Mixers	1		—
			36

FACTORIES.

Mechanical.

Aerated Water and Beer Bottlers	4	Laundries	12
Asphalt Makers	2	Linen Weavers	1
Bakers	21	Loco. & Wagon Repairers	1
Blacksmiths	2	Manure Manufacturers	2
Bookbinders	2	Meal Grinders	3
Boot Repairers	7	Milk Pasteurisers	3
Brass Finishers	1	Motor Vehicle Repairers	23
Brush Makers	1	Oilcake Crushers	1
Builders	1	Oat Clippers	1
Bee Appliance Makers	1	Opticians	1
Cabinet Makers	4	Provender Mills	1
Coach Builders	3	Plumbers	2
Coach Painters	1	Photographers	3
Cutlery Repairers	1	Printers	11
Cycle Repairers	3	Rag Sorters	1
Concrete Pole Makers	1	Rat Poison Makers	1
Cylinder Repairers	1	Sack Repairers	2
Dressmakers	4	Sand Screeners	2
Dyers	2	Sausage Manufacturers	18
Egg Grading	1	Sawmillers	4
Electrical Engineers	5	Sculptors	2
Electricity Generators	2	Stone Crushers	1
Engineers	6	Sweet Manufacturers	1
Firewood Cutters	1	Sheet Metal Workers	1
Fishing Tackle Makers	2	Saw Repairers	2
Flour Millers	1	Tailors	5
Gas Manufacturers	2	Tallow Makers	1
Glass Blowers	3	Tile Slabbers	1
Ham Curers	1	Tinsmiths	1
Ice Cream Merchants	1	Tractor Repairers	2
Ice Makers	1	Tripe Cleaners	1
Iron Founders	1	Typewriter Repairs	1
Ironmongery Repairers	1	Whisky Blenders	8
Joiners	17	Wire Workers	1
Jute Spinners	1	Wood Turners	1
Jewellers	7	Weighing Machine Repairs	1

COMMON LODGING-HOUSE.

The Model Lodging-House at 14-36 Skinnergate continues to be kept in a very satisfactory condition, and the accommodation of 89 beds is generally fully booked up each night.

HOUSE LET-IN-LODGINGS.

The rooms at the Hostel, Princes Street, are also fully occupied and the premises are kept in a very clean condition.

TENTS AND VANS.

The caravans at the Showground on the South Inch during the periods of the fairs were found to be kept in a very satisfactory condition.

Apart from the Showground there were no tents or vans kept on sites within the city for any length of time during the year.

ACCOMMODATION OF SEASONAL WORKERS.

A number of huts owned by the Town Council at the Shore were let to a firm of potato merchants for the accommodation of seasonal workers. The premises were inspected and additional sanitary accommodation was provided. The attention of the firm was called to the requirements of the By-laws.

BURIALS.

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the Department made arrangements for the burials of bodies of 1 Adult and 2 Children who had died, or been found dead in the city, and where no other suitable arrangements for the disposal of the bodies had been made.

CITY MORTUARY.

The City Mortuary, Speygate, continues to be kept in a satisfactory condition under the control of this Department.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The three burial grounds within the burgh are kept in a satisfactory condition under the supervision of the Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries.

PIGGERIES.

Inspection of all the piggeries within the burgh was made during the year.

17 piggeries were found to be in use. In 4 cases warnings were given regarding limewashing, etc., and in 2 cases the necessary action was taken for the destruction of rats on the premises.

RENT AND MORTGAGE (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS.

No applications for certificates in terms of the Rent and Mortgage (Restrictions) Acts were received during the year.

The view has often been expressed by property owners that there is a clamant need for the revision of these Acts in view of the increased costs of repairs.

There is also an increasing number of small houses being put up for sale when they become vacant. In several instances the tenants have been removed to Corporation houses and the vacated houses, on being put up for sale, are no longer available for letting.

It would appear that in many different aspects there is a case for revision and consolidation of the existing legislation.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, was repealed by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which came into force on 31st March, 1950.

The primary statutory responsibility for the prevention of damage by rats and mice was transferred by the new Act to the Local Authority from the occupier of land, who, under the Act of 1919, was required to take such steps as were necessary and reasonably practicable for the destruction of rats and mice on his land.

The new Act places more responsibility on the Local Authority to carry out inspections, actual destruction of rats and mice, and enforcement of duties of owners and occupiers under Part I of the Act.

The organisation of the Department of Agriculture which was available in this area for rat destruction operations has been discontinued, and all such work is now carried out under the direct control of the Sanitary Department.

A rodent destruction operator who was formerly employed by the Department of Agriculture has been appointed, and carries out all practical destruction work in the city where required.

During the year 148 complaints were received and 500 visits of inspection were carried out, when advice and assistance were given to occupiers of infested premises.

Five hundred and twenty-two rats and 787 mice were destroyed.

Special attention was given to institutions, marts, the refuse disposal works, where a trapper is employed by the Cleansing Department, and business premises throughout the City.

As a result of continued efforts the position in the City can be regarded as well under control, there being very few instances of infestations of a major nature.

All new complaints are investigated in the first instance by the District Sanitary Inspectors and the operator works under their supervision and also completes the necessary records of work carried out.

From June, when the operator was appointed, until the end of the year, the sum of £35 3s. 9d. was recovered as costs of treatment of business premises, etc.

WATER SUPPLY.

The following figures are given by the Water Engineer in connection with the water supply to the city :—

Total quantity of water distributed	1,063,669,000 gallons.
Quantity supplied by meter	339,348,000 gallons.
Domestic supply, gallons per head per day	45.09 gallons.

Samples of water continue to be taken at monthly intervals. The bacteriologist's reports on these samples were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE.

A defective section of the old 18in. diameter sewer in Dunkeld Road was renewed for a length of 400 lin. yards.

At Bowerswell, the following new sewers were laid for the cottages :—

- 9in. dia.—30 lin. yards.
- 6in. dia.—80 lin. yards.

The drains of all new houses and other premises were subjected to the smoke test by the Burgh Surveyor's Department.

SHIPS INSPECTION.

A ship with a cargo of Phosphates arrived at Perth Harbour from Antwerp. Inspection was made and conditions were found satisfactory.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk Supply. All byres, creameries and retail premises were inspected regularly and very little cause for complaint was found, the terms of the various Acts, Orders and Regulations being, on the whole, complied with as far as possible.

Dairy By-laws. No serious contraventions of the By-laws were found and the methods of milking and handling were quite satisfactory.

As requested by the Department of Health, the following particulars are given :—

(a) The number of retail purveyors of milk	42
(b) The number of producers and wholesale dealers who do not sell milk by retail (one of whom sells only a very small quantity by retail in the neighbourhood)	2
(c) The approximate average number of cows in registered premises	55
(d) The number of dairies exempted from registration	—
(e) The approximate number of cows in premises exempted from registration	—

There are now only two producers in the city, one of whom holds a licence for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

A recent census of the milk supplies in the city showed the quantities and percentages of graded and ordinary milk sold daily as :—

	Gallons.	%
Pasteurised	3,145	74.2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	585	13.8
Certified.	374	8.8
Tuberculin Tested	85	2.1
Ordinary	47	1.1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,236	100.0

The result is still awaited of the request made by the Town Council to the Minister of Food to exercise his powers under the Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949, to declare the city a specified area within which the sale to the public of non-designated milk will be prohibited.

Scottish Milk Testing Scheme. Testing was carried out during the year at the laboratory of the City of Perth Co-operative Society, Ltd., Creamery, Feus Road, but at the Perth Creamery Co., Ltd., Glenearn Road, testing was confined to the months of January, February, November and December, owing to staffing difficulties.

During the year 35 samples at these dairies failed to pass the first weekly Resazurin test and 3 failed to pass the second weekly test. Only 12 gallons of milk were rejected at the receiving platform.

These results are very satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The following table gives the results of the bacteriologist's reports on the examination of graded milk :—

EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

	Samples	Bacterial Count		Phosphatase		Methylene Blue		Coliform	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	49	49	—	48	1	49	—	48	1
T.T. (Pasteurised)	48	47	1	47	1	48	—	48	—
Certified (County)	17	17	—	—	—	16	1	17	—
Tuberculin-Tested : City Producer	3	3	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
County Producer	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
School Milk— Pasteurised	17	17	—	17	—	13	4	17	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	12	12	—	12	—	12	—	12	—
Total	147	146	1	124	2	142	5	146	1

School Milk. It is very pleasing to note that the bacteriological results of all samples of school milk taken during the year were satisfactory.

Testing of Non-Designated Milk. In accordance with the Department of Health Circular No. 17/1947, the following table shows the results of the testing of non-designated milk. All samples were submitted to the plate count and coliform tests in addition to the methylene blue (Hiscox) test :—

	Samples	Bacterial Count		Methylene Blue		Coliform	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw Milk. City Producers	8	8	—	7	1	8	—

ICE CREAM.

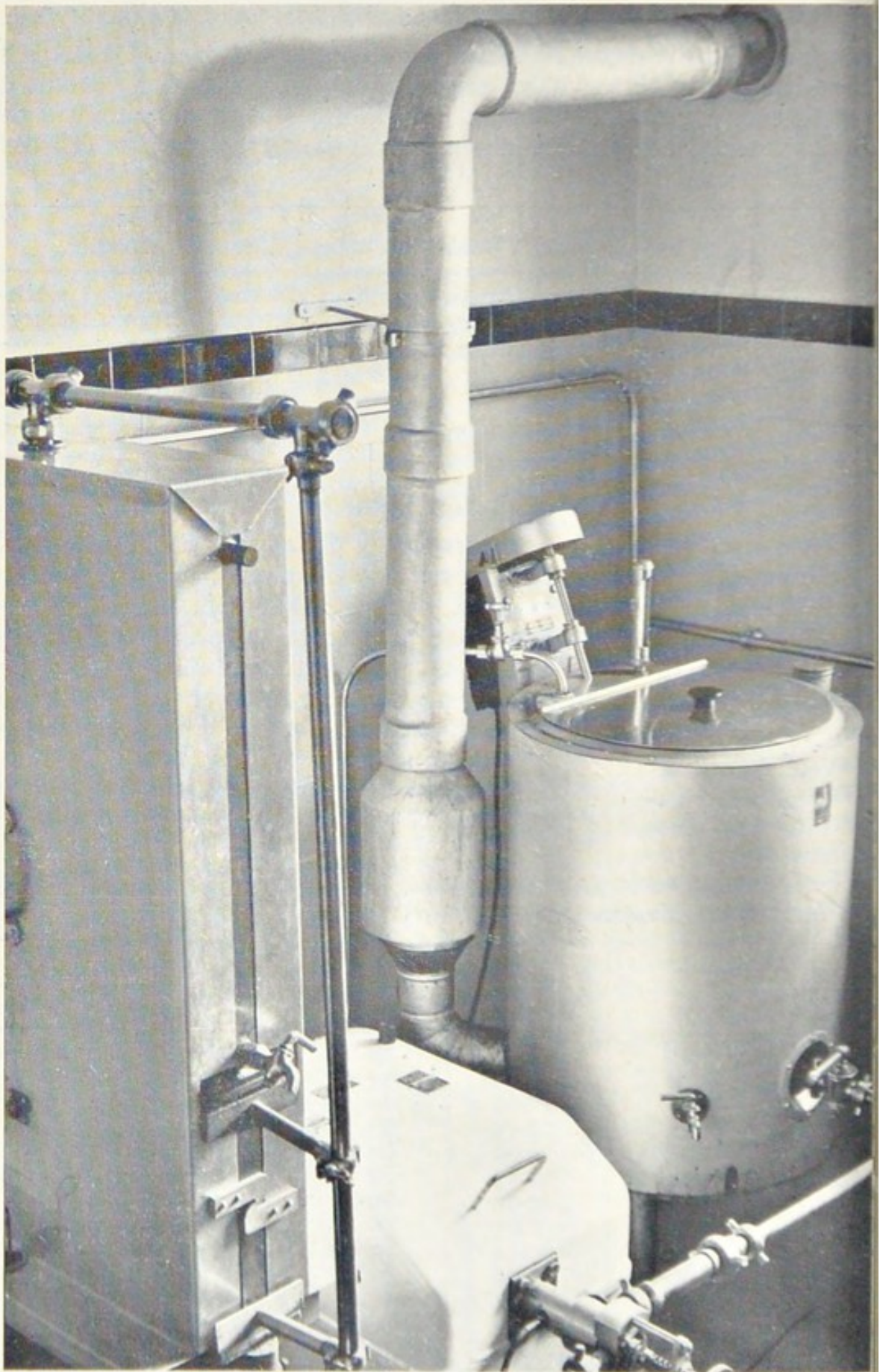
I am pleased to be able to report that as far as the city is concerned, all premises, plant and equipment are now in accordance with the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948, as required to date.

During the year registrations were granted in respect of 13 premises and 2 vehicles. Up to the end of the year the total number of premises which had been registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream was 13, and 33 premises and 3 vehicles for the storage and sale of ice cream.

All registered premises were inspected regularly, and where necessary, traders were advised regarding measures to be taken to comply with the regulations.

The following table gives the results of samples taken during the year for chemical examination :—

No. of Sample	Fat	Total Solids	No. of Sample	Fat	Total Solids
35	2.88	28.47	80	9.92	35.22
36	8.11	33.63	81	9.75	36.60
37	3.33	27.57	82	4.41	24.27
38	3.42	26.57	83	10.18	29.72
39	4.42	28.03	87	5.12	26.94
40	3.24	29.53	88	5.88	27.04
41	3.25	24.07	89	5.74	29.10
42	3.60	21.87	90	5.95	25.30
43	8.03	30.14	91	6.32	26.53
75	6.70	28.40	92	3.32	25.73
76	6.25	26.47	93	6.31	24.27
77	5.74	28.37	94	13.16	38.45
78	3.69	26.30	96	2.69	23.80
79	4.58	24.74	97	4.93	29.30
			98	10.50	36.13



Ice Cream Manufacturing Plant showing Heat-Treatment Vat, Homogeniser and Covered Cooler.

The average fat content was 5.92 per cent and the average total solids 36 per cent.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, which came into operation on 1st March, 1951, provides that ice cream must contain at least 5 per cent fat, 10 per cent sugar, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent milk solids other than fat.

The introduction of this statutory standard should ensure that ice cream of a higher food value than has been possible in recent years, will be manufactured and sold in future. The standard is regarded as an interim one and it is proposed progressively to improve the standard as supplies of ingredients become more plentiful.

The following table gives the results of samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination :—

No. of Sample	Plate Count	Coliform	No. of Sample	Plate Count	Coliform
1	5,000	Absent	16	5,800	Absent
2	3,800	„	17	1,000,000	„
3	1,400	„	18	3,000	„
4	1,200	„	19	13,000	„
5	152,000	Present	20	5,000	„
6	7,200	Absent	21	16,000	„
7	198,000	„	22	15,000	„
8	Plate over- grown	„	23	23,000	„
			24	728,000	Present
9	6,500	„	25	5,000	Absent
10	4,000	„	26	14,000	„
11	6,000	„	27	54,000	„
12	4,500	„	28	1,000,000	„
13	258,600	Present	29	1,400,000	„
14	64,000	Absent	30	2,000	„
15	20,000	„	31	5,000	„

In several instances where results were unsatisfactory, bulk ice cream had been delivered by the manufacturer to the seller a day or two previously and had not all been sold. There is no doubt that the longer ice cream is kept in a storage cabinet from which sales are made over a period, the bacteriological results are less satisfactory and the risks of contamination are greater.

Ice cream as it is manufactured to-day is in fact safer than many other foodstuffs. Any real dangers are scarcely ever in the ice cream itself, but in the exposure and introduction to the finished product of some human infection by human agency. All our efforts must be directed to reducing this risk to the lowest possible minimum.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat. The following table supplied by the Superintendent of the Abattoir gives particulars of animals slaughtered in the Public Abattoir and the quantity of meat condemned there during the year :—

Class of Animals	Number of Animals			Weight (in lbs. of Condemned Meat and Offal)	
	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	lbs.	lbs.
Cattle .	4,450	93	83	48,717	} 27,399
Sheep .	24,632	76	41	3,639	
Pigs .	1,106	8	35	2,085	
Calves .	1,205	18	1	937	

The Public Abattoir continues to be maintained in a satisfactory condition, and certain necessary repainting of the premises was carried out during the year.

The conditions under which unsound meat was being transported from the Abattoir were found to be unsatisfactory. An open six-ton lorry was well loaded up with condemned meat from other slaughterhouses before it arrived at Perth, and was so loaded when leaving that the meat was piled high on the lorry and in danger of falling off en route. The matter was taken up with the Area Meat and Livestock Forwarding Officer of the Ministry of Food.

It was pointed out that there was only a collection once per week from Perth Abattoir and that a twice weekly collection was required. It was also suggested that metal containers should be provided on the lorry for offal, as, under the existing method, waste liquid dripped from the lorry on to the roadway.

As a result of these representations arrangements were made for twice weekly collections of unsound meat, and the vehicle now in use has a steel lining on the floor to prevent drippage.

Other Foods. The following table gives details of unsound foodstuffs seized and condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

2,775 lbs. Beef	275 tins Jam	} Fire Dang ag
224 lbs. Cattle Gut	10 tins and 42 trays Jam	
2,821½ lbs. Ox Runners	21½ cwts. Sugar	
28¾ lbs. Ham	20 cwts. Glucose	
60 lbs. Sausages	43 trays Confectionery	
14¼ lbs. Bacon	5 tins Pudding	
1,136 tins Meat	8 tins Macaroni	
640 tins Evaporated Milk	22 tins Spaghetti	
82 tins Condensed Milk	2 cwts. 10 lbs. Butter	
458 tins Soup	4 tins Syrup	
414 tins Fish	216 cartons Chocolate Spread	}
2 Salmon	26¾ lbs. Chicken Meat	
3 lbs. Trout	4 Rabbits	
5½ cwt. Onions	2 doz. bottles Orange Crush	
48 lbs. Flour	(contaminated by Disinfectant)	
719 tins Vegetables	20 doz. Hen's Eggs	
188 cans Carrots	28 lbs. Marzipan	
144 jars Beetroot	(contaminated by Oil)	
160 lbs. Vegetables	3 lbs. Confectionery	
816 tins Fruit	64 bars Chocolate	

106 tins	Fruit Juice	25 pkts.	Cake & Pudding Mixt.
16 tins	Tomatoes	4 pkts.	Cream of Tartar
6 tins	Tomato Juice	7 pkts.	Sago
28 lbs.	Bananas	5 pkts.	Parsley
35 lbs.	Oranges	5 pkts.	Mint
24 lbs.	Cherries	1 pkt.	Salt
16 tins	Strained Foods	20 pkts.	Wheat Flakes
		2 pkts.	Pineapple Jelly

FOOD HYGIENE.

Premises where foodstuffs are manufactured, stored or sold, were inspected regarding their general sanitary condition. The chief defects found were in connection with unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences, accumulations of refuse, and dirty floors, walls and ceilings.

All possible steps were taken for the improvement of the sanitary accommodation, the removal of accumulations, the cleaning of floors and the re-painting of walls and ceilings.

Difficulty is experienced in dealing with some premises which are wholly inadequate for the business carried on therein, and where the improvement of sanitary accommodation is not practicable. Lack of adequate storage space also makes for difficulty in the keeping of premises clean and tidy. It is generally found, however, that a good manager has great influence on the general condition of the premises, even where accommodation is very cramped. The Department has had occasion to call the attention of the management to conditions which should never normally arise if measures were taken for the proper maintenance of the property and good shop-keeping.

Questions regarding the handling of meat delivered from the Abattoir to butchers' shops in the city were referred by the Food Executive Officer to this Department. The complaint appeared to relate to the method employed in the handling of meat on and off the vehicles.

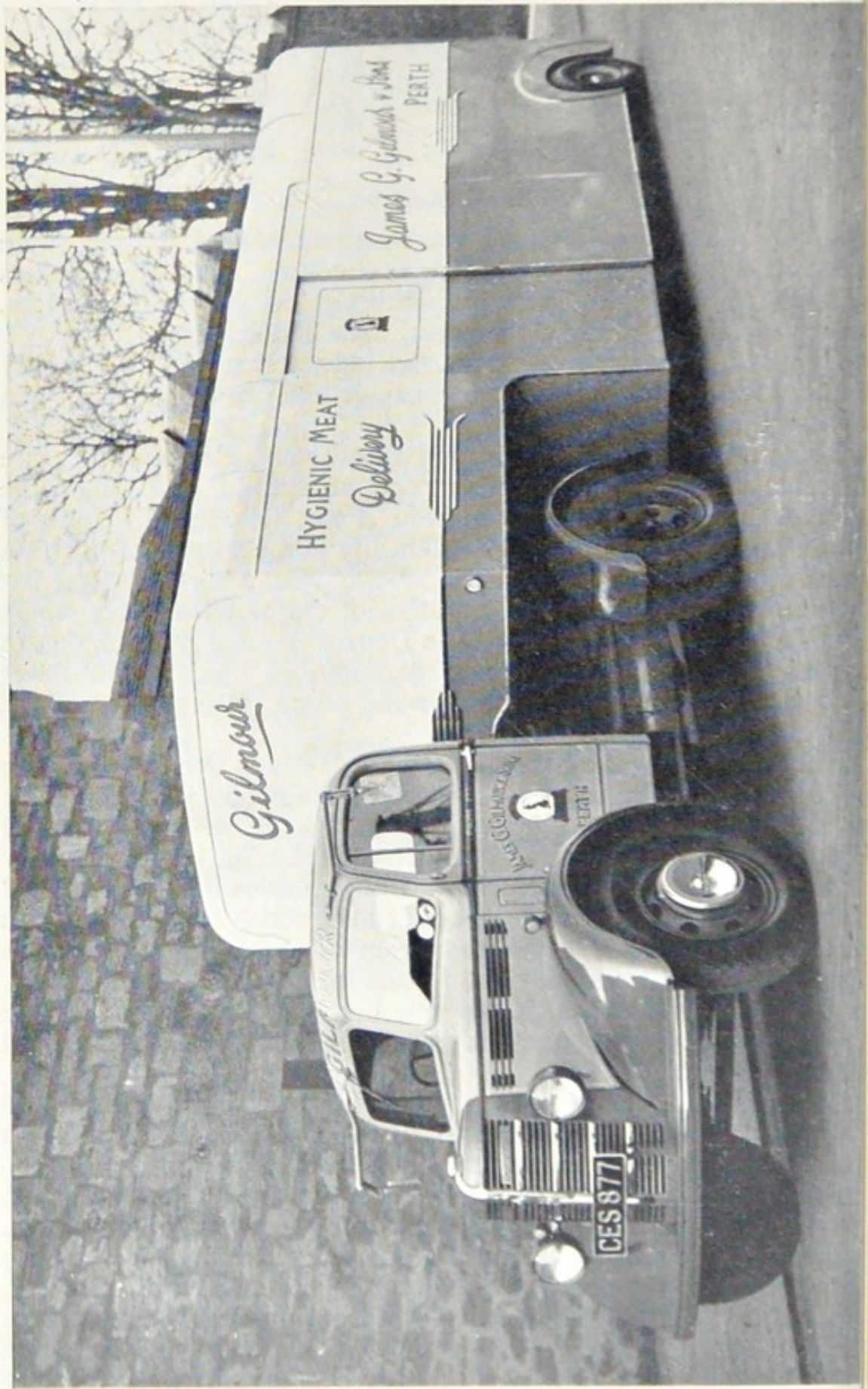
I interviewed the contractor, who was very anxious to co-operate and to take all possible steps to overcome difficulties which had arisen in this connection. Arrangements were made for an adequate supply of suitable overalls and headgear to be provided for the men employed in this work.

An improved type of vehicle has now been put on the road for the delivery of meat from the Abattoir to butchers' shops in the city and surrounding districts.

This van is totally enclosed, the floor being covered with zinc and the exterior walls and roof with birmabright light alloy sheets with stainless steel rails and runners on which quarters of beef are hung.

An important feature is that the van can be loaded and unloaded from both sides, the loading step being only 9in. from ground level. This ensures ease and safety in loading. The floor is drained for washing out, and the van is lit by electric bulk-head lights operated from a battery.

This vehicle was designed by Mr. Dickson Gilmour of Messrs. James Gilmour & Sons, the local firm responsible for meat transport, and can be claimed to be the very latest of its kind in the country. It is very aptly named "Hygienic Meat Delivery."



A survey of all catering establishments in the city has been commenced, and particulars noted of the general construction of the premises and conditions found.

There are some 90 catering establishments in the city, ranging from small cafes serving light refreshments, to full scale restaurants and hotels. Up to the end of the year 32 of these had been inspected during the survey. There are at present in Scotland no general statutory powers covering the hygienic condition of premises where food is prepared, stored and sold.

The report of the Catering Trade Working Party, which was issued recently, recommends that when consolidation of food laws in Scotland is undertaken, powers similar to those of certain sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which are at present only applicable to England and Wales, should be acquired in Scotland.

The main recommendations of the Working Party are that all catering establishments should be required to register with the appropriate local authority and that provision should be made to enforce a standard code of practice. If these recommendations are put into legislative effect, we shall be taking a great step forward in securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions in the catering trade.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The following table shows the number of samples taken under the above Acts :—

Article	Genuine	Not Genuine	Total
Pasteurised Milk	5	—	5
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	4	—	4
Certified Milk.	4	—	4
Tuberculin Tested Milk	11	—	11
Sweet Milk	5	—	5
Marsala and Egg	1	—	1
Flavouring Essence	1	—	1
Calves Foot Jelly	1	—	1
Table Jellies	2	—	2
Blancmange	1	—	1
Mustard	1	—	1
Curry Powder	1	—	1
Crystallised Ginger	1	—	1
Pepper	1	—	1
Pepper Substitute	1	—	1
Mixed Spices	1	—	1
Glace Cherries	1	—	1
Vinegar	1	—	1
Gelatine	1	—	1
Refined Deodorised Dripping	1	—	1
Condensed Milk	1	—	1
Salad Cream	1	—	1
Meat Pie	1	—	1
Pastries	5	—	5
Ground Coffee	2	—	2
Tea	1	—	1
Butter	3	—	3
Margarine	2	—	2
Sugar	1	—	1
Jam	3	—	3
Fish Paste	2	—	2
Meat Paste	2	—	2
Sausages	6	—	6
Mince	3	3	6
Corned Beef	1	—	1
Luncheon Meat	1	1	2
Luncheon Tongue	1	—	1
Potted Meat	1	—	1
Black Pudding	1	—	1
Cooking Fat	1	—	1
Rice	1	—	1
Sauce	2	—	2
Tomato Puree	1	—	1
Tomato Soup	1	—	1
Mixed Vegetables	1	—	1
Peas	1	—	1
Tapioca Dessert	1	—	1
Cornflour	1	—	1
Ice Cream	29	—	29
Ice Cream Mix	1	—	1
Gin	1	—	1
Whisky	4	—	4
Wine	2	—	2
Candied Popcorn	1	—	1
Seidlitz Powder	2	—	2
Castor Oil	1	—	1
Camphorated Oil	1	—	1
Potassium Carbonate	1	—	1
Epsom Salts	1	—	1
Tartaric Acid	1	—	1
Oil of Eucalyptus	1	—	1
Bicarbonate of Soda.	1	—	1
Gregory's Powder	1	—	1
Glycerine	1	—	1
Aspirin Tablets	1	—	1
Total	143	4	147

Of the three non-genuine samples of Mince, two were official samples and one was a test sample.

Following the official samples, in one case the analyst reported that the Mince contained 260 parts (estimated by weight) of sulphur dioxide per million, whereas Mince, during the month of March, should not contain any sulphur dioxide according to the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations (Scotland) 1925 to 1940.

The butcher concerned appeared in the Burgh Police Court, and, after trial, the charge under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, Section 2 (1) and (4), and the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations (Scotland), Section 4, was found "not proven." On a second charge under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, Section 24, of wilfully obstructing or impeding the Sampling Officer in the course of his duty, the accused was found guilty and fined £5.

In connection with the other official sample, the analyst reported that the Mince contained 650 parts (estimated by weight) of sulphur dioxide per million, whereas, Mince, during the month of March, should not contain any sulphur dioxide according to the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations (Scotland), 1925 to 1940. The butcher appeared in the Burgh Police Court and pleaded guilty. A fine of £2 was imposed.

Regarding the non-genuine sample of Luncheon Meat, the circumstances in this case were that a grocer received complaints from several of his customers that on opening the tins of meat, they were discoloured at both ends of the meat roll. The tins showed no signs of blowing or other external appearance to arouse suspicion.

A sample was sent to the analyst, who reported as follows:—

"The inside of each end of the can was considerably corroded, in some parts the iron underneath the tin plate being exposed. Metallic contamination was visible on both ends of the meat roll.

"A slice of about a quarter inch thick was cut from each end, mixed, and the tin content of this was found to be 886 parts per million, equal to 6.2 grains per pound. In the whole sample, however, the tin content was only 56 parts per million, equal to 0.39 grains per pound.

"If then, the entire roll had been mixed and consumed, the tin contamination would not be very great, but if an individual consumed a slice taken from either end, and this is a probable happening, an undesirable dose of tin would be ingested.

"A Local Government Report in 1908 stated 'that the presence in the contents of a sample can, of tin in quantities approaching 2 grains per pound may be taken to signify that the food has become potentially dangerous to health.'"

Immediate steps were taken to have the sale of the consignment stopped. It must be hoped that with the present shortage of tinfoil there will be no tendency to reduce the standard of tinning of food cans, as this might have very undesirable results in the contamination of canned foods.

It was found that the Regulations made under the Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943, including the Labelling of Food Order, 1950, were generally being observed, and there was no cause for action following sampling.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

Premises of listed sellers of poisons under Part II of the Poisons List were visited, and advice given as to the requirements of the Act and Rules.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1926.

Four samples of Feeding Stuffs and 2 of Fertilisers were procured and parts of same forwarded to the Public Analyst. In 4 samples there were excesses of ingredients and these were outwith the limits of variation as laid down in the Regulations, but were not to the prejudice of the purchaser.

A Governmental Committee has been appointed to enquire into the existing legislation regarding Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs.

There are many difficulties in the administration of the present Act and Regulations, and the Committee's findings will be awaited with interest.

There appears to have been an awakening of interest in this matter recently, and the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society has advised that in all cases where the composition of fertiliser or the percentage of calcium lime was suspected, the farmer should make use of the services which were available and of the provisions of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The new convenience at the junction of Dunkeld Road and Crief Road is nearing completion and the work of reconstructing the conveniences at Canal Street and Speygate is in progress.

Proposals have also been sent to the Department of Health for the erection of a new convenience at Strathmore Street, and this has now received the approval of the Department.

There have recently been many instances of malicious damage to coin-operated locks in the gent.'s conveniences which has entailed heavy repair bills, and, in some cases, complete replacement of locks was necessary.

The amount collected from the coin-operated locks during the year was £932 17s. 8d., compared with £930 9s. 11d. in 1949. £759 17s. 8d. was collected from the ladies' conveniences and £173 from the gent's.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

As mentioned at the beginning of this report, Mr. Alfred A. Warner Depute Sanitary Inspector, retired during the year and I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation of the loyal service which Mr. Warner has given to this Department and the personal help which he gave to me at all times.

I also wish to thank Dr. J. M. Aitken, Medical Officer of Health, for his close co-operation and encouragement.

To all other officials and members of the staff I extend thanks for their continued co-operation and assistance.

I am,
My Lord Provost, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

WM. McBRYDE, M.R.San.I.
Sanitary Inspector.