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Selkirk County Council

REPORT

OF THE

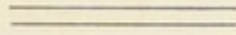
COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year 1955



Selkirk County Council



REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year 1955

STAFF

At 31st December, 1955

Jointly with Roxburgh County Council and Small Burgh Authorities

Medical Officer of Health—A. F. MCCOUBREY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers—L. F. HOWITT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

JOAN CAMPSIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Jointly with Roxburgh County Council

County Sanitary Inspector—A. I. FRASER.

District Sanitary Inspectors—A. MCKINNON.

J. G. WATSON.

Senior Dental Officer—Mrs C. E. GRIEVE, L.D.S.

Assistant Dental Officers—C. M. URQUHART, L.D.S.

Vacant.

County Nursing Superintendent—Miss D. G. DUNCAN.

Milk Officer—Miss D. ROBERTSON.

Small Burgh Authorities

Galashiels—R. G. BRUCE, Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Selkirk—T. BEATTIE, F.I.A.A., Burgh Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Clerical

Clerical Staff of Health Department of Roxburgh County Council.

Changes in Staff

Dr I. B. SUTHERLAND, Assistant Medical Officer—Resigned 16/7/55.

Dr D. M. M. FORTH, Assistant Medical Officer—Resigned 23/7/55.

Mr W. G. BURNSIDE, L.D.S., Assistant Dental Officer—Resigned 30/7/55.

To

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SCOTLAND AND THE
CONVENER AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS OF THE COUNTY
OF SELKIRK

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for 1955.

The total number of deaths in the County was 301 and of this number 40 per cent. were over the age of 75. Cancer accounted for 18 per cent. of all deaths, and of the total of 55 deaths from cancer, 45 per cent. were people less than 65 years of age. There was only one death from tuberculosis.

There was an increase in the number of cases of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year, but otherwise the notifications of cases of infectious disease showed a marked decrease. For the 9th year in succession no case of diphtheria has been notified. Only one case of anterior Poliomyelitis was notified.

The percentage of children vaccinated against smallpox improved. Of 304 children born during the year, 120 (39 per cent.) had been notified as vaccinated by the end of the year. The figure for 1954 was 30 per cent., but the increased percentage vaccinated this year is still disappointingly low.


I would again take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Health Committee and the other members of the County Council for their interest and support in the work of the Health Department. My thanks are also due to the General Practitioners in the County without whose co-operation a Health Department cannot function properly. I would also place on record my gratitude for the happy association between this Department and the Group Medical Superintendent and Staff of the Borders Hospitals Board of Management. To my fellow officials and the staff of my own Department, I am grateful for their continued support and ready help at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. McCOUBREY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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VITAL STATISTICS

Population (estimated to middle of 1955)

Landward	3,168
Burghs—								
Galashiels	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,251	
Selkirk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,837	18,088
							21,256	

Births.—The births corrected for transfers were:—

	Total	Male	Female	Illegitimate
Landward	36	19	17	3
Burghs—				
Galashiels	193	87	106	7
Selkirk	75	39	36	1
	304	145	159	11

The birth rate of 14.3 is 0.4 higher than the figure recorded in 1954. Illegitimate births amounted to 3.6 per cent. of the total.

The number of Still-Births was 5 giving a rate of 16 per 1,000 total births (including still-births).

Marriages.—One hundred and fifty-one marriages were registered during the year, giving a marriage rate of 7.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Deaths.—The number of deaths corrected for transfers, was 301, of which 134 were of men and 167 of women. The death rate adjusted for age and sex distribution, was 11.3. The rate for Scotland was 12.0.

The numbers, causes and age-groups of death are shown in the following tables on pages 6 and 7.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of deaths of children aged less than one year was 9 and of this number 5 were aged less than four weeks. The infant mortality rate was 30 per 1,000 live births.

1955—Causes of Death

	All Ages. Both Sexes	M.	F.	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 and over
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1		1													
Tuberculosis, other forms																
Syphilis and its sequelae	1	1													1	
Typhoid Fever																
Dysentery, all forms																
Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat																
Diphtheria																
Whooping Cough																
Meningococcal infections																
Acute Poliomyelitis																
Measles																
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	1	1						1								
Malignant neoplasms	55	22	33					1			2	10	12	16	13	1
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	2		2													
Diabetes mellitus	4	1	3												2	
Anaemias																
Other general diseases	2	1	1													
Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	47	20	27									1	4	25	16	1
Nonmeningococcal meningitis																
Other diseases of nervous system	7	4	3							1		1	2	1	1	1
Rheumatic fever																
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1		1											1		
Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	99	45	54								2	1	10	30	45	11
Other disease of heart	4	1	3									1		2		1
Hypertension with heart disease	1		1										1			
Hypertension without heart disease	5	4	1										1	1	1	2
Other circulatory disease	10	4	6											2	6	2
Influenza																
Pneumonia (except of new born)	9	3	6		2										3	
Carry forward	249	105	144		2			1		2	4	16	32	85	88	19

1955—Causes of Death		All Ages. Both Sexes.	M.	F.	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks	1- 5-	5- 10-	10- 15-	15- 25-	25- 35-	35- 45-	45- 55-	55- 65-	65- 75-	75- 85-	85 and over
Brought forward		249	105	144	—	2	—	1	—	2	4	16	32	85	88	19	
Bronchitis		7	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	1	
Other respiratory diseases		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	—	
Appendicitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Intestinal obstruction and hernia		4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	
Gastritis and duodenitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diarrhoea (except of newborn)		2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Cirrhosis of liver		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other diseases of liver		3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	
Other digestive diseases		1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Nephritis and nephrosis		2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Hyperplasia of prostate		2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other diseases of genito urinary system		6	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	1	
Puerperal sepsis including post abortive sepsis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other puerperal causes		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diseases of skin and organs of locomotion		2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Congenital malformations		1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Birth injuries, post natal asphyxia and atelectasis		2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia of newborn		—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diarrhoea of newborn		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other infections of the newborn		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy		3	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Senility		5	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	
Causes ill-defined and unknown		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Suicide		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Motor vehicle accidents		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other road transport accidents		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other violence		5	2	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
		301	134	167	5	4	2	1	—	2	5	21	40	91	103	26	

The numbers, causes and age-groups of infantile deaths are shown in the following table:—

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths	M.	F.	Death Rate per 1000 Births	Age Groups	
					under 4 weeks	4 weeks—1 year
Pneumonia (except of new-born)	2	—	2	6.58	—	2
Congenital malformations	1	1	—	3.29	—	1
Birth injuries, post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	2	1	1	6.58	2	—
Other diseases peculiar to early infancy	3	1	2	9.86	3	—
Other violence	1	1	—	3.29	—	1
Totals	9	4	5	—	5	4
Death Rate per 1,000 Births	—	—	—	30	16.44	13.15

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947

I. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(1) Ante-natal and post-natal service.

No ante-natal or post-natal clinics are provided by the Local Authority.

(2) Child Welfare Clinics.

Clinics are in operation at Sime Place, Galashiels (twice weekly), at Thornfield, Selkirk (weekly), and at Heatherlie Church Hall, Selkirk (fortnightly). Attendances during the year are shown in the following table:—

(1)	No. of clinics provided at end of year (2)	No. of children attending the clinics during year and who on the date of their first attendance were:		Total No. of attendances made during year by children who at the time of attendance were:	
		Under 1 year of age (3)	Over 1 year of age (4)	Under 1 year of age (5)	Over 1 year of age (6)
Local Health Authority Clinics	3	159	107	2910	605
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations	—	—	—	—	—

(3) Dental Care.

(1)	No. inspected by Dental Officers during the year (2)	No. found to require treatment during the year (3)	No. accepting treatment during the year (4)	No. actually treated by Dental Officers during the year (5)
Expectant Mothers	—	—	—	—
Nursing Mothers	—	—	—	—
Pre-school Children	9	9	9	9

(4) Mother and Baby Homes—Nil.

(5) Day Nurseries.

Nurseries provided by Firms of Manufacturers.

(See table on page 10).

(6) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes provided as part of Authority's arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947—Nil.

(7) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948.

Details of work done by the Authority during the year:—

(1)	No. of applications received. (2)	Issued. (3)	Refused. (4)	Cancelled. (5)	In force at end of year. (6)	No. of children being cared for at the end of year. (7)	No. of inspections made. (8)	No. of cases in which no inspection made. (9)
Nursery Premises	—	—	—	—	1	10	—	—
Child-minders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

2. Midwifery.

The following is a statistical record of the work carried out under Section 23 of the Act.

(i) Total No. of births occurring in the area during year—that is before correction for mother's residence:—

Live Births, 398 Still Births, 6 Total, 404

(ii) Total No. of births in (i) occurring in institutions (including private maternity homes), 393.

Nurseries Provided by Firms of Manufacturers

	State whether approved for training (2)	No. of approved places		No. of children on register at end of year	Average daily attendances during year		Waiting lists at end of year	
		0-2 (3)	2-5 (4)		0-2 (7)	2-5 (8)	0-2 (9)	2-5 (10)
(1)								
Nurseries provided by Firms of Manufacturers—								
Gibson & Lumgair, Ltd., St. Mary's Mill, Selkirk	No	2	10	1	9	2	7	—

(iii) No. of births in (i) occurring at home—Live, 11; Still, 0; Total, 11. It will be noted that fully 97 per cent. of all births in the area during the year took place in Institutions.

(iv) No. of births in (iii) classified to show nature of attendance at birth:—

(1)	Cases dealt with under Section 23(2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947			Other domiciliary cases			Total (8)
	Doctor engaged and present at confinement (2)	Doctor engaged and not present at confinement (3)	Midwife alone (no doctor engaged) (4)	Doctor and midwife engaged (5)	Midwife alone (no doctor engaged) (6)	Without doctor or midwife (7)	
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority (including those engaged on a fee-per-case basis)	5	6	—	—	—	—	11
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations under arrangements made by the Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Boards of Management under arrangements made by the Authority with the Regional Hospital Board	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Private practising midwives	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Totals	5	6	—	—	—	—	11

(v) Medical Aid.

(a) No. of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 14(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1951, by a Midwife:—

(i) for Domiciliary Cases	} Total Nil
(ii) for Institutional Cases	

(vi) Administration of Analgesics

(a) No. of domiciliary midwives in the area qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland (including superintendents, non-medical supervisors of midwives, midwife teachers, midwives employed by the local health authority and by voluntary organisations, private practising midwives, and hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases under arrangements made by the local health authority and the Regional Hospital Board but excluding pupil midwives undergoing training in the district).....	}	Total	
			6
(i) No. in (a) employed on local health authority work			6
(ii) No. in (a) not employed on local health authority work			—
(b) No. of domiciliary midwives who received their training during the year			—
(c) No. of sets of Apparatus for the administration of gas and air in use in the area at 31st December, 1955			2
(i) No. in (c) in use by domiciliary midwives employed on local health authority work (including those in use by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases)			2
(ii) No. in (c) in use by domiciliary midwives not employed on local health authority work			—
(d) No. of sets on order at 31st December, 1955			—
(e) No. of cases in which gas and air was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year (including cases attended by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases):—			
(i) When doctor was not present at delivery			3
(ii) When doctor was present at delivery			2
(f) No. of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice during the year (including cases attended by hospital midwives undertaking domiciliary cases):—			
(i) When doctor was not present at delivery			—
(ii) When doctor was present at delivery			—
(vii) No. of Cars in use by midwives at 31st December, 1955			4

3. Health Visiting

The Health Visiting is undertaken by the district nursing sisters who carry out combined duties in their respective areas. The following figures relate to health visiting during the year (see table on page 14).

4. Home Nursing

This service has been efficiently maintained during the year by the District Nursing Sisters.

Number of cases attended by the District Nursing Sisters	2396
Number of visits paid to these cases	16,484

5. Domestic Help

The Scheme functions satisfactorily under the jurisdiction of the Welfare Officer. The following figures relate to the working of the Scheme during the year:—

(i) No. of Domestic Helps employed at end of year	42
(a) whole-time	—
(b) part-time	42
(c) retaining fee basis	—
(ii) No. of cases for which Helps were provided during year	107
(iii) No. of cases in (ii) provided on account of confinement:—	
(a) at home	6
(b) in hospital	—
(iv) No. of cases in (ii) provided on account of chronic sick including aged and infirm (if available)	55

This service meets a real need in the community, and a great variety of cases have been dealt with during the year. The average period of attendance has again increased. This is caused by the number of aged persons who are in receipt of the services of a Home Help, many of whom are more or less permanent. In many cases such help avoids the removal of people to a local authority Home. The District Nurses visit and report periodically on the cases where Helps are in attendance. Helps are granted on the recommendation of local medical practitioners and thereafter approved by the Medical Officer of Health. There is a minimum charge of 2/6 per day for the Service.

6. Domiciliary Midwifery and Local Health Authority Nursing Services

Combined duties in Midwifery, Home Nursing and Health Visiting Services:—(see table on page 15).

Health Visiting

		Visits paid by Health Visitors (or by District Nurses in their capacity as Health Visitors) during the year to									
		Expectant Mothers*		Children under 1 year of age		Children between the ages of 1 and 5		Tuberculosis Cases		Other Cases		Total visits Paid
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Health Visitors employed by the Authority	—	—	350	1647	86	1595	43	331	—	—	3573
Health Visitors employed by Voluntary Organisations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Note:—*These visits exclude visits paid by a midwife-health visitor who attended the confinement as a midwife or maternity nurse.

	Directly employed by Local Health Authority		Employed by Voluntary Organisations including District Nursing Assocs.		No. holding Health Visitor Certificate
	Whole-time	Part-time	Whole-time	Part-time	
Nurses and Midwives on combined duties in the Midwifery, Home Nursing and Health Visiting Services employed in the following categories:					
Superintendent (or Chief) Nursing Officers.....	1	—	—	—	1
Nurses and Midwives employed on:					
Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing duties	8	—	—	—	2
Total	9	—	—	—	3

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

During 1955, 270 immunisations were notified as having been completed, and 550 booster doses were given.

The table on page 16 shows the number of vaccinations completed during the year.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE Tuberculosis

(a) Respiratory.

The number of cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis notified during the year was 18, of which 13 cases have been confirmed.

(b) Non-Respiratory.

Five cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year, in four of which the diagnosis has been confirmed.

Including patients receiving Sanatorium treatment, there were at the end of the year 164 persons resident in the County known to be suffering from Tuberculosis.

Co-operation with the Area Tuberculosis Physician during the year has been maintained with regard to the care and after-care of persons suffering from Tuberculosis and domiciliary nursing visits by the District Nursing Sisters have continued throughout the year.

A grant of 1 pint of milk daily was made to all patients residing at home who were certified by the Area Tuberculosis Physician as requiring it. At the end of the year 9 persons were receiving free milk.

Vaccination

Year of Birth of persons	Number of persons primarily vaccinated during period				Number of persons re-vaccinated during period				Complications at Vaccinations
	Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day	No local Reaction	Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th-10th day	Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction 5th-7th day	Reaction greatest at 2nd-3rd day	No local Reaction	
1955	120	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
1954	49	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1953	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1950	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1949	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1945	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1944	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1943	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1942	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1940 or earlier	—	—	—	—	5	2	10	—	—
Totals	171	—	—	5	5	3	2	10	—

The Housing Authorities in the area continue to give sympathetic consideration to applications made by, or on behalf of, those suffering from Tuberculosis.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Fifty notifications of Infectious Disease (excluding Tuberculosis) were received during the year, of which 47 cases were removed to hospital, as follows:—

	Notified	Removed
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1
Dysentery	9	8
Erysipelas	2	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3	2
Pneumonia, not otherwise notifiable	6	6
Poliomyelitis, Acute	1	1
Scarlet Fever	22	22
Para-Typhoid B	4	4
Whooping Cough	1	1
	—	—
	50	47

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT—PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Specialist Clinics

103 children were examined by the visiting Consultant Surgeon—

Thornfield Clinic, Selkirk	32
Sime Place Clinic, Galashiels	71

Hospital Treatment

(a) Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, Fairmilehead, Edinburgh:—

In hospital 1st January, 1955	1
Number of admissions	5
Number of discharges	5
In hospital 31st December, 1955	1

Classification of hospital cases:—

Cerebral palsy	1
Cerebral palsy with grossly everted feet and tight tendo achilles	1
Metatarsus adductus, both feet	1
Poliomyelitis	1

(b) Peel Hospital, near Galashiels:—

In hospital 1st January, 1955	Nil
Number of admissions	3
Number of discharges	3
In hospital 31st December, 1955	Nil

Classification of hospital cases:—

Left congenital dislocation of hip	2
Talipes calcaneo-valgus	1

MENTAL HEALTH

Increased efforts have been made to discover cases of mentally handicapped persons in the community, and more especially among pre-school and school children. So far as is known there are 68 mentally handicapped persons in the County of whom 24 are school and pre-school children. These are classified as follows:—

		Males	Females
Feeble-minded	10	6	4
Imbecile	10	5	5
Idiot	4	—	4
	24	11	13

There are 5 mongol children in the various categories.

Five Clinical Sessions were conducted by Dr Bailey, Consultant Psychiatrist, at which 37 children were examined.

Institutional accommodation for mentally handicapped persons is still very difficult to obtain and there is a very pressing need for more hospital beds of this type. At the moment there are at least three children in the County, living in their own homes, whose presence is bound to have an adverse effect on their mothers' health and that of their brothers and sisters, and for whom accommodation cannot be obtained.

The following patients were on the Council's Register as at 31st December, 1955:—

		Males	Females
Boarded-out defectives with private guardians		6	1
Boarded-out defectives in Local Authority Homes and other accommodation provided under Part III. of the Assistance Act, 1948		1	2
Defectives in Certified Institutions		9	13
Mental Defective children in Mental Hospitals pending vacancies in Certified Institutions		—	1
		*16	17
*Resident within County	11		
Resident outwith County	22		

Accommodation in Certified Institutions is practically unobtainable and there is at present a waiting list of cases resident in the County who should be receiving treatment in Institutions. All defectives under guardianship are well cared for and properly supervised. They are mostly boarded with relatives. They receive regular visitation by medical and authorised officers. Allowances to guardians average 32/6 per week, and, in addition, all necessary clothing and bedding is supplied. There are three authorised officers in the County who co-operate with the local medical practitioners in all matters relating to the Mental Health Service. Cases are dealt with individually. It is sometimes possible to obtain work for suitable cases in local industries. Numbers do not justify the setting-up of occupational centres at present but an experiment may be tried in the near future.

St. Mary's Certified Institution, Galashiels.

This Institution is now fully operative and provides accommodation for 30 high-grade female defectives over school age. This Home is privately owned and is under the control of the Roman Catholic Authorities. The patients are admitted from all parts of Scotland and receive the best attention and treatment from a qualified staff of Sisters of Mercy. One of the local medical practitioners acts as medical officer and visits regularly. Furnishings and fittings are modern and tasteful and there is no doubt that this Home is an asset to the work amongst the mentally deficient. Only one of the patients is normally resident in Selkirk County. The building of an extension has been in progress during the year.

CHILDREN ACTS

Children's Home

"The Priory," Selkirk, is a Home jointly owned by Berwickshire and Selkirk County Councils. At 31st December, 1955, there were 27 children being cared for in the Home—12 boys and 15 girls. Included in this total are 4 infants under 1 year of age. The health record of the children during the year has been very good. Dr E. H. Duff acts as medical officer and visits regularly.

This Home is now very well equipped and ample accommodation (bathroom and lavatory) is provided. The rooms are attractive, bright and airy, and the Home has a very happy atmosphere. The staff are kept very busy and deserve great credit for their work.

Woodlands Children's Home

This Children's Home is owned and managed by the Church of Scotland. There is accommodation for children of various ages. Twenty-four children were resident at the end of the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS—WELFARE SERVICES

Eildon View Home, Galashiels

This Home is jointly owned by Selkirk and Peebles Counties and has accommodation for 34 residents of both sexes. There has been a daily average of 30 residents during the year. At 31st December there were 19 males and 10 females, including 2 boarders (payable by outwith authorities), resident in the Home.

The Home is furnished and equipped in accordance with modern standards and the residents are very well cared for and very comfortable and happy. Dr Henderson acts as supervisory medical officer and visits the Home regularly.

Boleside House

This modern Old People's Home is very popular and is always fully occupied. At 31st December, 1955, there were resident in the Home 11 males and 10 females. There is at present a very lengthy waiting list. The Home is the property of Selkirk County Council and a trained

nurse is in charge as Matron. The residents are attended by their own medical practitioners. The Council has now appointed a local Minister as Chaplain.

Netherby Eventide Home

This Home is owned and managed by the Church of Scotland. It is very well furnished and the residents appear to be very happy indeed. Augmentation of board is paid in 5 cases—2 males and 3 females. Accommodation is at the moment provided for 30 residents. There is a sick-bay which, however, is occupied by ordinary residents.

St. Margaret's Home, Hawick

This is a Catholic Home but patients of other religious denominations are admitted when there is a vacancy. The Home is very well managed and is very comfortable. At 31st December there were 2 females chargeable to Selkirk County resident in the Home.

Quarrier's Epileptic Colony, Bridge-of-Weir

The Council has one male patient accommodated in this Home.

Queen's House, Kelso

Queen's House is owned and managed by the Red Cross Housing Association (Roxburghshire) Ltd. At 31st December there was one male resident where augmentation of board was paid by Selkirk County.

Christadelphian Rest Home, Southport

This is a very fine Home and exceedingly well run. One patient was chargeable to Selkirk County at 31st December last.

Weens House, Bonchester Bridge, Hawick

Roxburgh County Home. One patient was chargeable to Selkirk County at 31st December, 1955.

Temporary Accommodation

The Council has premises at 63 Back Row, Selkirk, which are used to provide accommodation for persons rendered homeless in a sudden emergency. One family is still being accommodated here. The premises are not first-class but are quite suitable for an emergency.

Blind

The Welfare of the Blind is delegated to the Society for Welfare and Teaching of the Blind (Edinburgh and South-East Scotland). The Society provides a Home Teacher for the Border Areas. There are 46 blind persons on the register, including 2 workers in the Royal Blind Asylum, one of whom has a dependant wife. Most of the cases are over 70 years of age. Those in the younger age groups have all been taught to read as have those in the older age groups who are able to benefit by teaching.

Deaf and Dumb

Arrangements have been made with Edinburgh Society for the Deaf and Dumb to provide certain Welfare services. There are 9 registered cases in the County for whom the County pays £3 per head yearly. Regular social meetings are held as are regular Church Services.

Selkirkshire Committee for the Welfare of the Aged and Handicapped

This Committee acts as a co-ordinating Committee for all voluntary organisations in the County interested in the welfare of the aged and others. In addition, it operates a scheme for the delivery of Hot Meals to aged and home-bound cases resident in the districts of Galashiels and Selkirk. Approximately 40 meals are delivered daily from Mondays to Fridays. The meals are cooked at the School Kitchen except during school holidays when alternative arrangements are made. The charge per meal is 1/-. The Retired Men's Club and Old Age Pensioners' Clubs are also proving a great benefit.

Chiropody

The Selkirkshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society operates a scheme which now covers the whole County. Weekly Clinics are held in Galashiels and Selkirk and old age pensioners receive treatment by a qualified chiropodist who also carries out domiciliary treatment in rural areas when this is necessary. Over 150 cases are receiving regular treatment. The County Council makes a donation towards the cost of operating this Scheme.

SCHOOL MEDICAL REPORT

Year ending 31st July, 1955

During the year another Speech Therapist was added to the staff. This will undoubtedly help greatly to tackle the considerable numbers of children who suffer from such a handicap. The addition may also enable us to undertake treatment of some of the pre-school children and particularly those who would shortly be proceeding to school.

Educational Psychologists on the staff of the Edinburgh Education Committee are now employed by Selkirk Education Committee and the reports submitted by them have been of great help in assessing the requirements of handicapped and maladjusted children.

The special Class has been enlarged and is now able to accommodate a number of occupational centre type cases. The excellent work done by the staff is reflected in the improved reports on the behaviour and educational capabilities of a number of the children.

During parts of April and May, 1955, the Mass Radiography Unit visited the County and 566 children aged 13 years and over were X-rayed. Eight were recalled for large films and of this number 2 were referred to their own doctor for attention.

List of Staff as at 31st July, 1955

Chief School Medical Officer—Dr A. F. McCoubrey, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Two Assistant School Medical Officers—Posts Vacant.

Senior Dental Officer—Mrs C. E. Grieve, L.D.S.

Area Dental Officer—Post Vacant.

Dental Nurse—Miss E. P. Henderson.

School Nurses

County Superintendent—Miss D. G. Duncan

Galashiels—Misses M. F. Bathgate, I. McQueen, J. B. Scott and
Mrs E. Beveridge.

Selkirk—Misses Cheyne and Morrice.

Landward Area—Misses M. B. Richardson and B. King.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population of the area (estimated to June, 1954)	21,379
Number of Schools:—	
(a) Primary (under Education Authority)	20
(b) Secondary (under Education Authority)	2
(c) (1) Special Schools	—
(2) Special Classes in ordinary schools	1
Number of children on the Registers, <i>i.e.</i> , for whole area	3,253
Number of children in average attendance.....	3,012 (92.6%)

Table I

Total number of children examined at schools:—

(A)	Systematic Examinations	Other Systematic Examinations
Entrants—No previous routine inspection	257	31
Second Age Group—Born 1945	237	13
Third Age Group—Born 1941	213	—
Fourth Age Group—Born 1938	32	—
Total	739	44
(B)		
Pupils born in 1947 (Vision and hearing only)		287
Special cases		9
Re-inspections		6
		302

Numer of individual children inspected at Systematic examinations who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding uncleanliness and dental caries):—

Entrants	98
Second Age Group	65
Third Age Group	63
Fourth Age Group	3
1947 Vision and Hearing	6
	235

Table II
STATISTICS OF CONDITIONS FOUND AT SYSTEMATIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Nature of Defect	Total examined at all ages	Entrants		Second Age Group		Third Age Group		Fourth Age Group		All ages	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	783	148	140	118	132	122	91	15	17	403	380
1. Clothing											
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Footgear											
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Uncleanliness											
(a) Head—Dirty	—	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5
Nits or Vermin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Body—Dirty	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Verminous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Skin											
(a) Head—Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Impetigo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Body—Ringworm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Impetigo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	2
5. Nutritional State											
Slightly defective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bad	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table II—Continued

Nature of Defect	Total examined at all ages	Entrants		Second Age Group		Third Age Group		Fourth Age Group		All ages	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
783	783	148	140	118	132	122	91	15	17	403	380
6. Mouth and Teeth	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	3
Unhealthy	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	3
7. Naso-Pharynx	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
(a) Nose—Req. Observ.	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2
Req. Operation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other conditions	—	6	2	—	3	—	1	—	—	6	6
(b) Throat—Tonsils Req. Obs.	—	4	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	8
Tonsils Req. Oper.	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	4
(c) Glands—Glands Req. Obser.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glands Req. Oper.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Eyes	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
(a) External Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blepharitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conjunctivitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strabismus	—	1	8	3	—	1	2	—	—	5	10
Other Diseases	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(b) Visual Acuity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Without Glasses—	—	—	—	111	123	111	80	13	17	235	220
Good working vision	—	—	—	6	7	5	3	1	—	12	10
Fair working vision	—	—	—	1	2	6	8	1	—	8	10
Bad working vision	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
With Glasses—	—	—	—	2	3	2	8	1	—	5	11
Good working vision	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	2
Fair working vision	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Bad working vision	—	1	1	4	4	6	3	1	—	12	8
For refraction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table II—Continued

Nature of Defect	Total examined at all ages	Entrants		Second Age Group		Third Age Group		Fourth Age Group		All ages	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
	783	148	140	118	132	122	91	15	17	403	380
9. Ears											
(a) Diseases—Otorrhoea	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Hearing—Grade I	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	1
Grade IIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grade IIB	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grade III	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Speech											
Defective Articulation	—	4	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	6	2
Stammering	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
11. Mental and Nervous Conditions											
Backward	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mentally Defective (Educable)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mentally Defective (Ineducable)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highly Nervous or Unstable	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Difficult in Behaviour	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
12. Circulatory System											
(a) Organic Heart Disease—											
Congenital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acquired	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(b) Functional Conditions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table II—Continued

Nature of Defect	Total Examined at all ages	Entrants		Second Age Group		Third Age Group		Fourth Age Group		All ages	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
783	148	140	118	132	122	91	15	17	403	380	
13. Lungs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chronic Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Suspected Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Diseases	—	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	6	1	
14. Deformities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Congenital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acquired (Infantile Paralysis)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acquired (Probable Rickets)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acquired (Other causes)	—	28	20	9	20	16	—	1	53	53	
15. Infectious Disease	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
16. Other Diseases or Defects	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	
Pupils Born in 1947											
(Vision and Hearing only)—											
Vision	144	143	144	143	143	9	10	9	10	10	
Hearing	144	143	144	143	143	—	3	—	3	3	

TABLE III
SYSTEMATIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Classification	Entrants		2nd Age Group		3rd Age Group		4th Age Group		Total	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
I. Children free from defects	192	66.66	178	71.20	148	69.48	29	90.62	547	69.86
II. Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from—										
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses	1	0.35	11	4.40	18	8.45	2	6.25	32	4.09
(b) Conditions of the mouth and teeth requiring treatment	—	—	2	0.80	1	0.47	—	—	3	0.38
(c) Both (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	0.35	13	5.20	19	8.92	2	6.25	35	4.47
III. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in II.) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks.....	18	6.25	15	6.00	7	3.29	—	—	40	5.11
IV. Children suffering from (or suspected to be suffering from) defect less remediable than defects specified in II. or III., distinguishing cases—										
(a) Where complete cure or restoration of function (in the case of eye defect, full correction) is considered possible	76	26.39	41	16.40	39	18.31	1	3.13	157	20.05
(b) Where improvement only is considered possible, e.g., without complete restoration of function	1	0.35	3	1.20	—	—	—	—	4	0.51
Total	77	26.74	44	17.60	39	18.31	1	3.13	161	20.56
Total Number of Children Examined	288	100.00	250	100.00	213	100.00	32	100.00	783	100.00

(a) Number of Children. (b) Percentage of children examined in this group.

Table IV

Return of all Exceptional Children of School Age in the Area

Disability	At ordinary schools	At special schools or classes	At no school or Institution	Total
1. Blind	—	—	—	—
2. Partially sighted:				
(a) Refractive errors in which the curriculum of an ordinary school would adversely affect the eye condition	—	—	—	—
(b) Other conditions of the eye, <i>e.g.</i> , cataract, ulceration, etc., which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in an ordinary school	—	—	—	—
3. Deaf:				
Grade I	3	1	—	4
Grade IIa	—	1	—	1
Grade IIb	—	—	—	—
Grade III	—	1	1	2
4. Defective Speech:				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures	10	—	—	10
(b) Stammering requiring special educational measures	2	—	—	2
5. Mentally defective: (Children between 5-16 years)				
(a) Educable (I.Q. approx. 50-70)	1	14	—	15
(b) Ineducable (I.Q. generally less than 50)	—	5	—	5
6. Epilepsy:				
(a) Mild and occasional	1	—	—	1
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	—	—	—	—
7. Physically defective: (Children between 5-16 years)				
(a) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis (excluding cervical glands)	—	—	—	—
(b) General Orthopaedic conditions	106	—	—	106
(c) Organic heart disease	1	—	—	1
(d) Other causes of ill-health	1	—	—	1

Table IV—Continued

Disability	At ordinary schools	At special schools or classes	At no school or Institution	Total
8. Multiple defects:				
(i) Mentally defective (in-educable and physically defective ("General orthopaedic conditions"))	—	—	—	—
(ii) Mentally defective (in-educable) and epilepsy (mild)	—	—	—	—
(iii) Mentally defective (in-educable) and epilepsy (severe)	—	—	—	—
(iv) Mentally defective (in-educable) and blind	—	—	—	—
(v) Mentally defective (educable) and physically defective ("General orthopaedic conditions")	—	—	—	—
(vi) Mentally defective (educable) and epilepsy (mild)	—	—	—	—
(vii) Mentally defective (educable) and epilepsy (severe)	—	—	—	—
(viii) Mentally defective (educable) and physically defective ("other causes of ill health")	—	—	—	—
(ix) Mentally defective (educable) and deaf	—	—	—	—
(x) Mentally defective (educable) and blind	—	—	—	—
(xi) Other multiple defects	24	—	—	24

AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS

Number Examined	Average			
	Age Yrs.	Age Mths.	Height (ins.)	Weight (lbs.)
Entrants				
Boys	5	7	43·79	43·87
Girls	5	6	43·39	43·15
Second Age-Group				
Boys	9	5	52·61	66·15
Girls	9	7	53·05	67·77
Third Age-Group				
Boys	13	9	60·92	95·81
Girls	13	10	61·94	105·30
Fourth Age-Group				
Boys	16	10	69·06	140·4
Girls	16	11	64·26	122·47

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT

The scheme provides for the treatment of school children suffering from orthopaedic defects who have been recommended for treatment by the school medical officers or general practitioners.

By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, Mr George Pollock, F.R.C.S., Edinburgh, acts as consultant and clinics are held fortnightly at either Thornfield, Selkirk, or Sime Place, Galashiels.

School children on active treatment register at 1st Aug., 1954	327
School children on active treatment register at 31st July, 1955	392

Distribution of Cases—

	Galashiels	Selkirk
At 1st Aug., 1954	191	136
At 31st July, 1955	220	172

Record of Consultant Clinics—

Centre	No. of Clinics held	No. of Children examined
Thornfield Clinic, Selkirk	9	216
Sime Place Clinic, Galashiels	8	212

(Note: These figures include a small proportion of pre-school children)

Record of Attendances at Treatment Clinics—

Month	Clinic	Home Visits
1954		
August	—	6
September	528	10
October	601	7
November	643	11
December	596	6
1955		
January	636	5
February	654	10
March	653	11
April	589	7
May	665	11
June	660	12
July	250	10

Institutional Treatment—

P.M.R. Hospital		Peel Hospital	
In residence 1st Aug., 1954	2	In residence 1st Aug. 1954	Nil
Admissions	5	Admissions	Nil
Discharges	7	Discharges	Nil
In residence 31st July 1955	Nil	In residence 31st July, 1955	Nil

Classification of Hospital Cases—

Cerebral Palsy: Tight T.A. and P.F.: Claw Toes L	I
Clawing of Great Toe	I
Eversion, Etc.: Hallux Valgus	I
Flat Feet	I
Hallux Valgus	I
Talipes Equino Varus	I
Tight Plantar Fascia	I

SPEECH DEFECTS

	Stammering	Other Defects
Total No. of Cases continued from 1954-55—		
School	30	115
Pre-school	—	—
Total	30	115
Cases referred—		
School	3	5
Pre-school	1	—
Total	4	5
Total cases treated—		
School	15	51
Pre-school	1	1
Total	16	52
Attendances—		
School	380	1634
Pre-school	24	—
Total	404	1634
Cases discharged—		
School	6	23
Pre-school	1	—
Total	7	23
Total cases to be continued to 1955-56—		
School	27	97
Pre-School	—	—
Total	27	97

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Inspected by Dental Officer:—

Age	(a) Systematic Examinations	(b) Special and Emergency Cases	Total
5	163	5	168
6	152	7	159
7	183	6	189
8	185	5	190
9	135	6	141
10	150	5	155
11	139	6	145
12	125	—	125
13	143	—	143
14	127	3	130
15	26	—	26
15 +	38	—	38
	1566	43	1609

	Systematic Examinations	Special and Emergency Cases
(2) (a) Found to require treatment	..... 856	43
(b) Accepting treatment	..... 396	43
(3) Actually treated by the School Dental Officer	..... 700	43
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	..... 1671	43
(5) Fillings—(a) Permanent teeth	..... 1012	4
.....(b) Temporary teeth	..... 296	5
(6) Extractions—(a) Permanent teeth	..... 161	9
.....(b) Temporary teeth	..... 751	44
(7) Administrations of a general anaesthetic	—	—
(8) Other operations—		
(a) Permanent teeth	..... 224	3
(b) Temporary teeth	..... 119	2
(9) Orthodontic treatment—		
Visits 30 —	—
(10) Half-days devoted to inspection	..... 18	—
Half-days devoted to treatment	..... 338	—
(11) Known to be treated privately	..... 444	—

Remarks

During the session September, 1954-July, 1955 treatment was carried out on the cases inspected during the previous session and the schools which had not been previously examined were visited for this purpose. A very good beginning has been made to the resumption of the dental service, and we are indebted to the staff in all the schools in the County for the excellent co-operation which they have extended to us.

A visit was paid to the County by one of the Department of Health Regional Dental Officers during a survey of the dental services in the Joint Counties and he expressed satisfaction with the progress which had been made. The percentage of children accepting dental treatment was 46.6 which was reasonably good, considering that some years had elapsed since there had been a School Dental Officer. I have no doubt that this percentage will increase as the service becomes established.

The South-Eastern Area Orthodontic Consultant visited Sime Place Clinic in June to make arrangements to extend the Orthodontic Consultant Clinics to Selkirkshire. This service is a very important part of the dental scheme. The effects both psychological and physical of gross deformity of a child's dentition can be very detrimental, and the results in the majority of cases where treatment has been undertaken are very gratifying. The services of a visiting Consultant obviate the necessity for children being obliged to attend Edinburgh Dental Hospital except the very rare cases when a surgical operation is required.

It is very unfortunate that our Dental Officer, Mr Burnside, resigned at the end of the session and it is to be hoped that the vacancy will be filled without much delay.

There is, at present some difficulty in obtaining suitable candidates for Local Authority work, and with a view to the future, I feel that it would be a great advantage if Local Authorities were to encourage secondary pupils in their schools to consider dentistry as a career.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

Twenty-nine girls and eighty boys were examined with a view to being passed as fit to undertake certain forms of part-time employment under the Council's Byelaws. Certificates were not granted in the case of two girls.

EYE CLINIC

The following figures relate to treatment carried out at the Eye Clinic from September, 1954, to July, 1955.

	Galashiels	Selkirk
Number of Clinics held	12	3
Number of cases examined.....	60	20
Number of cases for which glasses were prescribed	34	17

MEDICAL TREATMENT

(A) Minor Ailments treated at School Clinics

1. Cuts, bruises and other minor injuries	.....	150
2. Diseases of the ear	.....	12
3. Diseases of the eye	.....	10
4. Diseases of the skin—		
Ringworm (scalp)	.....	—
Ringworm (body)	.....	—
Scabies	.....	2
Impetigo	.....	21
5. Treatment for Verminous Infestation	.....	15
6. Burns and Scalds	.....	—
7. U.V.R. Treatments	.....	490
8. Others	.....	219
	Total	919

Number of school children visited during the year by school nurses		49
Total number of visits paid	.....	95

COUNTY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Statistics

Population—Landward (1951 Census)	3,375
Number of Houses—Landward	881
Area	171,209 acres
Valuation—Landward	
Gross	£63,326 16s. od.
Rateable	£22,757 10s. od.

With the failure of the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Bill to take its place on the Statute Book no legislative measures of major public health importance came into operation in 1955. My Department, nonetheless, was very fully engaged in the execution of the many and varied duties for which it is responsible, none of these, in my opinion, being more important than housing, in all its aspects. In this latter connection whilst, in my opinion, the failure of property owners in the area to claim rent increases indicates that, on this count at least, the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954 would appear to have failed, advantage continued to be taken of the County Council's Scheme of Assistance under Part VII of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 by way of grants towards the cost of modernising dwellings.

A change affecting the milk supply of the County and which I think is worthy of mention, took place in October when the County was declared an attested area under the Department of Agriculture's Area Eradication Plan for Tuberculosis. This measure ensures that all milk retailed in the County, whether from registered or exempted producers, comes from tuberculin tested cows.

General Sanitation—

Water Supplies, Drainage and Sewage Disposal—

The co-operation between the County Road Surveyor's Department and this Department in the taking of routine samples from public water undertakings in the County and in matters pertaining to house drainage systems continued and my thanks are due to the County Road Surveyor for his help and advice.

Of the 6 samples of water taken from public supplies and submitted for bacteriological examination 3 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory. It is hoped, in conjunction with the County Road Surveyor and the County Architect to take measures, including, in one instance, the provision of a slow sand filter, to improve the quality of these latter supplies.

33 samples, 3 chemical and 30 bacteriological, were obtained from private water supplies. All the former samples were satisfactory, as were 18 of the latter.

No complaints regarding any of the Council's sewerage schemes or sewage outfall works were received during the year.

Work on the new sewage disposal works to serve Peel Hospital has started and, if progress is made according to schedule, should be completed towards the end of next year or the beginning of 1957. As stated in my last report, the works will comprise detritus chambers, sedimentation tanks, automatic dosing chamber, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks and sludge beds and, in view of the cost of installation, it is to be hoped that early arrangements will be made by the authority concerned for their regular maintenance by a competent and intelligent attendant. Without this maintenance, no sewage works, however modern, will continue to operate at maximum efficiency.

Cleansing and Refuse Disposal

There was no change in the organised arrangements for the collection and removal of household refuse from subjects in the landward area of the County, and no complaints were received either from the contractors or the householders concerned.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the landward area of the County.

Factories and Workshops

The number of premises on the Register of Factories remains at 9, of which 8 are mechanical and 1 non-mechanical. Each factory was visited during the year on one or more occasions and the following defects noted:—

Nature of Business	Defect
Sawmilling	No outlet ventilation to W.C. compartment.
Joinery	No sanitary facilities.
Sawmilling	Sanitary convenience of poor design.

These defects have been or will be brought to the notice of the person or persons responsible for their improvement and I hope to be able to intimate in next year's report, that all have been remedied.

Schools

No reports have been received regarding the abuse of sanitary facilities where these are provided and, generally, the maintenance of such facilities has been satisfactory.

A survey of all schools in the landward area has been undertaken and it is hoped to include particulars in my next annual report.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Details of the activities under the above Act are appended hereunder:

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling Houses	Business or Industrial Premises	Agricultural Properties	
Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1955 as a result of notification or otherwise	—	1	—	—	1
Number of above properties found to be infested by rats or mice	—	1	—	—	1
Number of above infested properties cleared to the satisfaction of the L.A.:					
(1) as separate units	—	—	—	—	—
(2) in course of "block" operations carried out under Sect. 6(1) or under formal arrangements	—	1	—	—	1
Number of "block" operations carried out	—	1	—	—	1

Tents, Vans and Sheds

There are no official caravan sites in the landward area of the County but caravanners and campers continued to patronise sites made available to them, at varying charges, by individual proprietors. The great majority of caravans were noted to provide a high standard of temporary accommodation and the conduct of the occupants gave no cause for complaint.

The use of sites for permanent or semi-permanent occupation was not encouraged.

Burial Grounds

The various burial grounds in the landward area were not inspected as a rule. No complaints, however, regarding the way in which they were conducted reached this office.

Infectious Diseases

The incidence of reported infectious diseases remained remarkably low, only one case of Scarlet Fever being investigated.

Nuisances

Considerable time was spent, as always, in investigating various public health nuisances of which the undernoted are representative examples:—

1. Smell from mink farm.
2. Unsatisfactory point of discharge of sewage effluent.
3. Choked sewer.
4. Choked house drains.

In the case of (1) above, the appropriate Committee of the County Council, after due consideration, granted permission for the farm to operate for a limited period of one year subject to the owner being prepared to undertake a number of remedial measures suggested by this Department and on the understanding that permission could be withdrawn without notice in the event of any further nuisance arising.

The authors of all other nuisances were either visited or written to and, in every case, no further action was necessary to have the unsatisfactory conditions removed.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

The following samples, all of which conformed to the guarantees, were taken:—

Fertilisers	Feeding Stuffs
National Fertiliser	Battery Pellets
Liqui-mure	Layers Meal
Flower Fertiliser	Balancer Meal
Turf Dressing	

Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948

Registrations, 1955	Premises	Vehicles
Number granted during year	1	1
Number cancelled	—	—
Number discontinued for any other reason	—	—
Total number in force at 31st December, 1955	8 (a)	4

Note (a)—6 of these premises are registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream, and the remainder for storage and sale only.

39 inspections and visitations were made during the year, 31 to manufacturing premises and 8 to premises in which ice cream was stored and sold. It is apparent that the majority of ice cream manufacturers and retailers are fully aware of their great responsibility to the general public to produce an article of the highest quality and, with few exceptions, all are making every effort to ensure that their businesses are conducted on the best possible lines. Structurally, however, a number of the premises are not entirely satisfactory, mainly because of restricted floor space. Difficulty is also experienced in convincing some traders that sterilising facilities are absolutely necessary, one manufacturer, only, having undertaken so far, to instal a steam chest. The

same manufacturer, who is doing everything possible to meet the requirements of this Department and who is to be congratulated on so doing, provided cold storage facilities during the year, the equipment proving to be of inestimable benefit.

Of the 4 vehicles on the register, 3 were found, in the course of routine inspections, to be clean and in good order. The fourth vehicle, however, was not being maintained in a satisfactory and hygienic condition and a letter of warning was, accordingly, sent to the owner. This had the immediate effect of improving the standard of cleanliness but no washing unit had been installed at the end of the "ice cream" season and unless this omission is made good before the spring of 1956 consideration will have to be given to the withdrawal of the registration.

Sampling

The undernoted samples were taken:—

1. Chemical Analysis

Sample No.	Fat Content
1	2.8% (a)
2	5.26%
3	2.9% (b)
4	6.5%
5	5.1%

Notes—(a) Official "follow-up" sample taken. Result "Genuine" (Fat 6.2%).

(b) Official "follow-up" sample taken. Result "Non-Genuine" (Fat 4.6%). Warning letter sent to manufacturer by County Clerk. Subsequently, third sample taken. Result "Genuine" (Fat 5.7%).

2. Bacteriological Examinations

Sample No.	Plate Count per c.c.	B. coli
1	10,000	+++
2	24,000	+--
3	600	---
4	400	+--
(a) 5	Uncountable	+++
6	18,500	++-
7	Uncountable	+++
(a) 8	Uncountable	+++
9	15,000	+--
10	Uncountable	+++
11	40,000	+++
12	13,000	---
13	118,000	+++
14	1,000	++-
15	9,000	++-
16	1,600	---
17	500	+--

Note—(a) Following the second successive unsatisfactory result a thorough investigation of the plant was undertaken, particular attention being paid to the cleansing technique. As a result it was found that (i) the homogeniser oil sump had become partially filled with an admixture of ice cream and oil, and (ii) the temperature of the ice cream in the store room exceeded 45°F. A new homogeniser and cold storage facilities were immediately provided and samples taken subsequently at different stages of the manufacturing process gave the undernoted results:—

Sample No.	Point at which taken	Plate Count per c.c.	B. coli	Result
1	Pasteuriser outlet	100	— — —	Satisfactory
2	Cooler outlet minus homogeniser	100	— — —	Satisfactory
3	Cooler outlet with homogeniser connected	100	— — —	Satisfactory
4	Conservator No. 1	200	— — —	Satisfactory
5	Conservator No. 2	100	— — —	Satisfactory

Housing

Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954

The physical survey of all houses in the landward area of the County referred to in my last report was commenced early in the year and, after duly considering the information obtained as a result thereof, the County Council approved the submission, to the Secretary of State for Scotland, of the following statement outlining their proposals under Section 1 of the Act:—

Total number of permanent dwellings in the area of the local authority 881

Part I

The total problem in the area of the Local Authority.

I. The estimated number of unfit houses, excluding temporary houses (either individual unfit houses suitable for action under Part II of the 1950 Act or unfit houses which ought to be included in Clearance Areas and dealt with under Part III) classified as follows:—

- (a) Houses which should be demolished (houses which neither the owner nor the local authority can make fit at reasonable expense and which the local authority do not consider they should make more habitable under Part I of the 1954 Act) *30 (1)
- (b) Houses which the owners cannot be expected to make fit at an expense reasonable to themselves but which the Local Authority considers could be acquired and

made more habitable or fully fit under Part I of the 1954 Act; (if desirable they could be modernised under Part VII of the 1950 Act)	* Nil
(c) Houses in Clearance Areas already belonging to Local Authorities and retained under Section 2 of the Act, pending demolition	Nil
(d) Houses which owners might be expected to make fit at an expense reasonable to themselves, either because of a Notice served under Section 7 of the 1950 Act or because they might wish to qualify for a "repairs increase" under Part II of the 1954 Act	*346 (2)
2. The estimated number of new houses required in order to facilitate the re-housing of:—	
(a) Occupants of houses that are to be demolished or closed (as in 1(a) above); and	17 (3)
(b) Any persons whom the authority will remove because of serious overcrowding from other unfit houses to which works are carried out (houses in categories 1(b), (c) and (d) above)	10 (4)
3. The number of years which the Local Authority estimate will be necessary to deal with unfit houses under the procedure at 1(a), (b) and (c) above	15

*These figures are the result of a physical survey.

Part 2

Statement of Programme for the three years

4. Number of unfit houses in Clearance Areas already covered by operative Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders, or owned by the Local Authority, which are to be dealt with within the three years, either by demolition or by retention under Section 2 of the Act	Nil
5. Number of unfit houses to be included in Clearance Areas and (so far as not already belonging to the Local Authority) to be dealt with by agreement, within the three years sub-divided into:—	
(a) Houses already covered by resolution under Section 25(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 (including those for which Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders have been submitted to the Secretary of State but have not yet been confirmed	Nil
(b) Houses not yet so covered	Nil
6. Number of unfit houses in Clearance Areas (under 4 and 5) which are to be demolished in the three years	Nil

7. Number of individual unfit houses which are to be the subject of Demolition or Closing Order Procedure in the three years under Section 9 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 (including houses under existing Demolition or Closing Orders which have not been enforced)	13 (5)
8. Number of unfit houses under 4 and 5 to be dealt with in the three years under Section 2 of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954 (houses retained for temporary occupation in Clearance Areas)	Nil
9. Number of new houses required during the period in order to facilitate re-housing as a result of action under 6, 7 and 8 above (including houses required for abating serious overcrowding in unfit houses which are to have works carried out on them)	5 (6)

Explanatory Notes

- (1) In arriving at this figure, no account was taken of owner occupied houses placed in Category "B."
- (2) Before the owners of these properties are asked to carry out any improvements to them, it will be necessary to further survey the houses in detail and sub-divide them into Categories C1 and C2. This will be done as and when other duties permit.
- (3) This figure, which excludes 13 privately owned Category "B" houses which are empty or used as holiday accommodation only, may not be an accurate forecast in so far as it may be found that all the tenants in houses recommended for demolition or closing do not wish a County Council house or alternative accommodation.
- (4) It is unlikely, in view of the virtual absence of serious overcrowding noted as a result of the physical survey, that the County Council will, for this reason, have to re-house any persons from unfit houses. A figure of 10 houses was quoted, however, to allow for possible changes in domestic circumstances which may have an adverse effect on the present overcrowding position.
- (5) This figure represents the number of empty privately owned Category "B" houses, the County Council agreeing that they should concentrate on dealing with these houses during the next three years.
- (6) For the reasons given at 4 above, it is unlikely that the County Council will have to re-house any seriously overcrowded families during the next three years. A figure of 5 houses was quoted, however, to allow for possible changes in domestic circumstances. This figure need not be increased as no new houses will be required during the next three years to compensate for houses which will be the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders as all such houses are presently unoccupied.

Details of the Houses Surveyed, in Parishes, are appended

Parish	Type	Number and size of houses surveyed						Category				Number of houses overcrowded						
		Empty	Apartments					Total	A	B	C	D	Total	2	3	4	5	Total
			2	3	4	5	Total											
Ashkirk	O/O	—	1	2	2	14	19	16	—	3	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—
	P/O	14	4	10	24	12	64	25	2	37	—	64	—	—	—	—	—	—
	L/A	—	—	6	2	1	9	9	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Caddonfoot	O/O	—	—	2	2	21	25	25	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
	P/O	9	16	46	48	22	141	76	2	63	—	141	2	2	—	—	—	4
	L/A	—	—	3	2	1	6	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ettrick	O/O	—	—	—	—	13	13	11	—	2	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
	P/O	12	3	7	15	17	54	24	4	26	—	54	1	—	—	—	—	1
	L/A	1	—	2	4	1	8	7	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galashiels	O/O	—	—	2	3	20	25	17	—	8	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
	P/O	8	7	21	14	6	56	17	6	33	—	56	1	—	—	—	—	1
	L/A	—	—	2	4	1	7	6	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kirkhope	O/O	—	1	2	6	6	15	11	1	3	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
	P/O	11	1	17	30	21	80	39	6	35	—	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
	L/A	—	—	—	7	1	8	7	—	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—

Parish	Type	Number and size of houses surveyed					Category					Number of houses overcrowded						
		Empty	Apartments				Total	A	B	C	D	Total	Apartments				Total	
			2	3	4	5							2	3	4	5		
Selkirk	O/O	—	—	3	13	21	37	27	—	10	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—
	P/O	14	17	58	52	42	183	117	8	58	—	183	—	—	—	—	—	—
	L/A	—	6	—	2	—	8	2	—	6	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yarrow	O/O	1	5	2	8	9	25	11	2	12	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—
	P/O	10	2	23	28	18	81	33	2	46	—	81	—	—	—	—	—	—
	L/A	—	—	9	7	1	17	16	—	1	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		80	63	217	273	248	881	502	33	346	—	881	4	2	—	—	—	6

Abbreviations used:—O/O—Owner occupied. P/O—Privately owned. L/A—Local Authority. *Includes 3 owner/occupied houses. †Of these houses, 13 are without a piped water supply, 11 have no proper W.C. accommodation, 241 have no fixed bath and 14 are without any form of sanitary facility.

Definition of Categories—“A”—Fit in all respects for human habitation. “B”—Unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost. “C”—Capable of being rendered fit by owner at reasonable cost. “D”—Could be acquired by the Local Authority and either rendered fit, in all respects, or made habitable.

Note—A Category “C” house is structurally sound and provides a good standard of accommodation but has some obvious defect, (e.g., slight dampness, defective wood or plaster work, insufficient natural lighting and ventilation of habitable rooms, absence of some sanitary facilities, etc.).

It will be seen from the above table that of the 881 houses surveyed, 56.9% were tentatively placed in Category “A,” 3.7% in Category “B” and 39.4% in Category “C.”

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950—Part II

As has been stated in the explanatory notes to the statement submitted by the County Council in terms of Section 1 of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954 the Council agreed to concentrate, primarily, on dealing with unoccupied houses placed in Category "B" (*i.e.*) unfit for human habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost, during the next 3 years and, in this connection, the proprietors concerned were formally advised of the category into which their house or houses had been placed. At the same time, they were asked to state whether they had any objections to the houses being closed or demolished and, although no replies were received at the end of the year it is expected that a number of, if not all the proprietors, will submit their views early in the coming year.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950—Part VII

In contrast to their reticence to implement the terms of Part II of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954, property owners in the County continued to avail themselves of the grants given by the County Council in terms of their scheme of assistance towards the cost of improving dwelling-houses. In all, 7 applications involving the same number of houses were dealt with, the total approved cost of the schemes and the amount payable by way of grants being £5,162 19s 11d and £2,454 15s 3d respectively. By comparison the approved cost of all assisted schemes last year was £3,689 13s 6d on which grants amounting to £1,886 2s 10d were paid.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952—Section 3

Three applications for grants in terms of the County Council's Scheme of Assistance for the provision of houses for the agricultural population under the above Act were approved subject to the approval of the Secretary of State and H.M. Treasury under the Defence Regulations. These involved the erection of three 4-apartment houses, towards the cost of which £1,200 was paid by way of grants.

Building Byelaws

14 applications, one more than last year, for permission to carry out alterations to properties under the County Council's Building Byelaws Scheme were approved.

As stated in my last report, the County Council decided not to adopt the Department of Health's Model Building Byelaws, and, as the Byelaws applicable to the landward area of the County differ, in some respects from the former which, I may say, have been in force in the adjoining County of Roxburgh for some two years or so, it means that architects and building contractors tendering for work in both counties are in the anomalous position of having to apply different standards in the respective areas. It seems to me, in the circumstances, that it might be expedient for the County Council to reconsider the matter.

Private Enterprise Houses

The erection of the undernoted dwelling for private occupation was approved:—

One—8 apartments
One—7 apartments
Three—4 apartments

and, with one exception, constructional works had commenced and were progressing favourably by the end of the year.

Drain Tests

Although invariably, in order to avoid undue inconvenience to contractors who would otherwise require to keep drain tracks open and suitably protected until a member of this Department had other duties to perform in the particular area, separate visits had to be made to housing sites for the purpose of applying the recognised tests to lengths of drain, it is felt that this work is particularly important and worthwhile. During the year, therefore, every effort was made to ensure that all new house drainage systems, involving some 500 yards of piping, were tested.

Certificates of Fitness for Occupation

Following detailed surveys of 4 houses, certificates were issued to the effect that they had been built in accordance with approved plans and were fit, in all respects, for human habitation.

I should like, finally, to take this opportunity of thanking those architects and contractors with whom I came into contact during the year, not only for their co-operation but for their willingness to impart valuable information and advice whenever I had occasion to ask for the benefit of their technical experience.

Food Supply—Milk

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914

No new dairy premises were registered during the year in terms of Section 7(iii) of the above Act nor were any existing registrations cancelled or revoked.

Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1951

1. Producers' Licences

One producer was issued with a licence authorising him to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in respect of milk produced from the dairy herd at his farm and as no licences were suspended, revoked or otherwise discontinued, the position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Designation	No. in force at 31/12/55
Certified	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	18
Pasteurised	1

2. Dealers' Licences

The position at 31st December, 1955, with regard to Dealers' Licences is detailed hereunder:—

Designation	No. in force
Certified	1
Tuberculin Tested	2
Pasteurised	1

3. Dealers' Supplementary Licences

At the end of the year only 1 dealer held a supplementary licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in respect of milk sold in the County.

Percentage of Registered Producers holding Designated Licences

The percentage of registered producers holding designated licences is 85.7%. There are actually only 3 non-designated producers and, of these, one will probably be upgraded in 1956 and the other, whose premises, unfortunately, are not suitable for alteration in order to bring them up to the required standard will, it is presumed, be given a limited time to consider whether or not it will be expedient for him to continue as a dairyman. The remaining producer could, very readily, do what is required to bring his premises up to standard but, because of a number of other unknown factors, had not made up his mind to do so at the end of the year.

The premises of all designated producers were visited regularly during the year and, generally, arrangements for the production, handling and storage of milk were found to be satisfactory. Structural alterations have been or are in process of being carried out at a number of farms and when this reconstruction programme has been completed all premises should be up to modern standards. It is hoped to include further details in next year's report.

The single dairy in the County where milk is pasteurised was also the subject of regular visits of inspection, in course of which it was invariably evident that great attention was being paid to the cleanliness of the plant and equipment which was almost always in a satisfactory condition bearing in mind its age and the daily "through put" of milk which, during the flush period, is somewhere in the region of 4,500 gallons. Arrangements are being made, indeed, to instal a larger pasteurising unit and to increase the refrigerating plant and when this has been done the conditions under which milk is treated and stored should be highly satisfactory, especially, if, at the same time, provision is made for can washing and sterilising facilities.

"Milk-in-Schools" Scheme

The contract for supplying the schools in the County with milk under the above scheme has been awarded to a single contractor. Distributive arrangements, generally, have been satisfactory although, at one school, complaints were lodged regarding the "dirty" condition of a number of bottles. Immediate and, as it turned out, fairly prolonged investigations were made at the bottling premises without being able to pinpoint the reason for the complaints, which, after a time, were not repeated.

Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Order, 1934

Visits to the creamery in which milk is pasteurised elicited that a number of producers were not complying with the terms of the above Act in that their transport cans were arriving without being properly and effectively sealed. In most cases, however, a word with the producer concerned had the desired effect.

Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (Scotland) Order, 1955

The above Order came into operation on 1st May and had the effect of making the Burghs of Galashiels and Selkirk "specified areas" (*i.e.*) areas in which all sales of milk by retail for human consumption are confined to designated milks (*i.e.*) "Certified," "Tuberculin Tested," "Sterilised" or "Pasteurised." Only one producer retailer was affected by the Order and, despite the fact that he had been warned in writing about 12 months prior to the date on which the Order took effect and verbally, on several occasions, before 1st May of the implications of the Order so far as they were likely to affect his business, he saw fit to take no action to modify his distributive arrangements. As a result, I had no alternative but to report him to the County Council not only for selling non-designated milk in the Burgh after 1st May but also for retailing designated milk without being in possession of a licence authorising him to do so. Eventually, after the County Council had considered these offences they ceased when he was issued with a Dealer's "Pasteurised" licence on receipt of which he undertook to wholesale all ordinary milk produced by the herd for pasteurisation. Subsequently, however, it was found that he had contravened the conditions under which his licence had been issued and, at the end of the year, the County Council were considering the suspension or revocation thereof.

Milk Sampling

A.—Bacteriological Examination of Designated Milk from Producers' Premises

The undernoted table gives details of samples taken at producers' premises and submitted for bacteriological examination:—

Designation	No. of Samples		% Failing	Average No. taken per year
	Taken	Failing		
Tuberculin Tested	94(a)	22(b)	23·4	5·1(c)

Notes.—(a) In addition, 20 investigatory samples were taken.

(b) 9 producers had either one or two failures, 2 had 4 failures, whilst 8 producers had no failures at all.

(c) This does not reach the normal level of 6 and is due to the extremely bad weather experienced at the beginning of the year which made journeys by the Milk Officer to outlying farms either extremely hazardous or impossible.

B.—Pasteurised Milk

18 samples of Pasteurised milk were taken of which 4 or 22.2% failed to comply with the statutory requirements on one or both counts.

C.—Schools Milk

Of the 12 samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk taken from the supplies to schools under the "Milk-in-Schools" Scheme, 3 or 25% failed.

D.—Biological Testing for Tuberculosis

The undernoted table gives details of samples of designated milk which were submitted for guinea-pig inoculation:—

Type of Milk	No. of Samples Examined	No. of Positive Results
Tuberculin Tested	1	Nil
Non-designated	3	Nil

Retail Purveyors of Milk

The following information is included at the the request of the Department of Health:—

(i) The number of retail purveyors of milk	5
(ii) The number of producers and wholesale dealers who do not sell milk by retail	21
(iii) The approximate average number of cows in registered premises	28
(iv) The approximate number of dairies exempt from registration	22
(v) The approximate average number of cows in premises exempt from registration	2

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection of Premises

With few exceptions, all premises in the landward area in which food is sold, or offered, exposed, stored or prepared for sale for human consumption were visited during the year and it was evident, as a result of these visits, that whilst the majority of persons engaged in the food trade are fully alive to their responsibilities to the public their ranks still contain a number of "black sheep" and it is against these people, particularly, and their premises that immediate action will have to be taken when the long awaited Food Hygiene Regulations become operative.

Unsound Food

Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897—Section 43

No seizures were made in the landward area under the above legislation during the year.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928

The undernoted table gives details of all formal and informal samples taken in the course of the year:—

Articles Sampled	No. of Samples			No. of Non-Genuine Samples		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Sweet Milk	5	33	38	—	2	2
Sausages	6	3	9	—	—	—
Mince	8	1	9	3	—	3
Whisky	9	—	9	—	—	—
Margarine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cheese Spread	—	1	1	—	—	—
Meat Pie	—	1	1	—	—	—
Potato Crisps	—	1	1	—	—	—
Meat Cakes	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cake Mix	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Curd	—	1	1	—	—	—
Xmas Pudding	—	1	1	—	—	—
Oxtail Soup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Juice	—	1	1	—	—	—
White Pepper, Ground	—	1	1	—	—	—
Veal & Ham Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream	2	5	7	1	2	3
Sugar	—	1	1	—	—	—
Split Peas	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chicken Cutlets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	30	58	88	4	4	8

Action, as undernoted, was taken in respect of the 4 formal and 4 informal samples reported upon by the analyst as non-genuine:—

Official No.	Article	Formal or Informal	Action taken
35/55	Ice Cream	Informal	Formal sample taken. Result—genuine.
37/55	Ice Cream	Informal	Formal sample taken.
40/55	Ice Cream	Formal	Cautionary letter from County Clerk to vendor.
49/55	Sweet Milk	Informal	Formal sample taken. Result—genuine.
78/55	Mince	Formal	Cautionary letter from County Clerk to vendor.
79/55	Mince	Formal	Cautionary letter from County Clerk to vendor.
90/55	Mince	Formal	Cautionary letter from County Clerk to vendor.
104/55	Sweet Milk	Informal	Formal sample taken. Result—genuine.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations (Scotland) 1925-53

Of the 14 formal and 4 informal samples of mince and sausages taken during the year, 3 formal samples of mince were found to contain excessive amounts of preservative (SO₂). In each case vendors received a cautionary letter from the County Clerk.

The Defence (Sale of Food) Regulations, 1943

The Labelling of Food Orders

No contraventions of the above Orders were noted.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1954

There are no private slaughterhouses or public abattoirs in the landward area of the County. The duties of Detention Officer at the abattoir in Galashiels continued to be undertaken by the slaughterhouse superintendent who is a full-time employee of the Town Council.

Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) Act, 1928-54

No applications for slaughterers' licences were received during the year.

Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) (Scotland) Act, 1951

Close liaison was maintained between this Department and the Tweed River Purification Board Inspector, to whom I am indebted for the undernoted reports on samples of sewage effluents taken by him from the various outfall works in the landward area of the County:—

Locus	Date Sample taken	B.O.D. in 5 days at 20°C.	Oxygen absorbed from acid N/80 permanganate in 4 hrs. at 26.7°C.	Suspended Solids
1. Ettrickbridge End septic tank effluent.....	20/12/55	17.5	6.4	Trace
2. Yarrowford septic tank effluent	20/12/55	84.0	24.8	Trace
3. Clovenfords final effluent	20/12/55	73.0	19.2	Trace

Following a report by the inspector on the unsatisfactory condition of one of the tributaries of the River Tweed as a result of the discharge thereto of untreated sewage the County Council are considering alternative proposals for connecting the drains from a number of private residences and several of their own houses to the main sewerage system of one of the small burghs, and it is hoped that this work will be undertaken next year.

