

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Sutherland County Council.

Contributors

Sutherland (Scotland). County Council.

Publication/Creation

1953.

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COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS, AND SANITARY

CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTY

(Including the Burgh of Dornoch)

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1953


AND ON

SCHOOL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

For the Year Ended 31st July, 1953

By K. A. MACRAE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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Public Health Office,

Bonar-Bridge, 2nd August, 1954.

To

The Department of Health for Scotland

and

The Local Authority, County of Sutherland.

ANNUAL REPORT BY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health Services and Vital Statistics of the County of Sutherland for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

K. A. MACRAE,

Medical Officer of Health.

LIST OF STAFF

Medical Officer of Health—

K. A. MACRAE, J.P., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

County Dental Officer—

C. C. FORSYTH, L.R.C.S., L.D.S.

Superintending Nursing Officer—

Miss D. G. MILLER.

District Nursing Sisters—

Name—	District—
Mrs KENNEDY	LOCHINVER
Mrs MACLEOD	STOER
Miss CAMPBELL	KINLOCHBERVIE
Mrs CAMPBELL	DURNESS
Miss MACKAY	TONGUE
Mrs BUDGE	BETTYHILL
Miss ROSS	MELVICH
Miss MACLEOD	HELMSDALE
Miss GILCHRIST	BRORA
Miss MUNRO	GOLSPIE
Miss REID	ROGART
Miss RANKIN	LAIRG
Miss MACDONALD	DORNOCH
Miss FRASER	BONAR-BRIDGE
Miss MACLEAN	Relief Duty

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

County Sanitary Inspector—

E. W. BRANNEN, L.R.I.B.A., M.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—

H. STEELE, M.R.S.A.S.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Chief Officer—

D. J. MACKAY, Bonar-Bridge

District Officers—

H. W. MACKAY, Lochinver	A. C. MACKAY, Strathy
G. B. MACKAY, Scourie	A. MACLEOD, Rogart
O. ARMSTRONG, Helmsdale	

Children's Officer—

ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND, Brora

VITAL STATISTICS
COUNTY DISTRICT
(Including Burgh of Dornoch)

TABLE I.
POPULATION

As estimated by General Registrar

1944	..	..	..	..	..	13,350
1945	..	..	..	..	..	13,352
1946	..	..	..	..	..	14,035
1947	..	..	..	..	..	14,443
1948	..	..	..	..	..	14,393
1949	..	..	..	..	..	14,420
1950	..	..	..	..	..	13,951
1951	..	..	..	..	..	13,686
1952	..	..	..	..	..	13,519
1953	..	..	..	..	..	13,890

BIRTHS

During the year the births of 235 children were credited to the County (159 being registered in the district, 3 transferred out, and 79 transferred in).

TABLE II.

The following table shows the Birth Rates for the past 10 years:--

	BIRTH RATES					Rate per 1000.
1944	16.2
1945	12.5
1946	17.8
1947	17.7
1948	14.9
1949	15.8
1950	16.8
1951	17.0
1952	16.6
1953	16.9

Scotland 1953 17.8
Of the 235 Births, 17 were illegitimate—7.2 per cent. of total.

TABLE III.
MARRIAGES

	Number.	Rate per 1000.
County	58	4.2
Scotland	—	8.0

DEATHS

During 1953, 172 persons died in the County. Nine deaths were transferred to other districts, and 35 deaths which occurred outside the County were transferred in, making a total of 198. The resulting Death Rate was 14.3 per 1000 of the estimated population.

TABLE IV.
DEATH RATES

	DEATH RATES					Rate per 1000.
1944	16.9
1945	17.5
1946	15.4
1947	17.0
1948	14.3
1949	16.9
1950	14.4
1951	16.7
1952	15.8
1953	14.3

Scotland 1953 11.5

Owing to the small population of the County the Death Rate as calculated fluctuates greatly from year to year, as is evident from the preceding table.

The Death Rate for the County is considerably greater than that for Scotland, but when adjusted for age and sex distribution it falls to 9.3 per 1000 of population, which is less than that for Scotland as a whole.

TABLE V.
DEATHS IN EACH AGE GROUP

Age	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 & over
Number ...	8	1	1	—	2	1	6	8	12	48	74	37
Per Cent. ..	4.0	0.5	0.5	—	1.0	0.5	3.0	4.0	6.1	24.2	37.4	18.7

TABLE VI.
CAUSES OF DEATH

Typhoid Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	—
Measles	..	..	..	—
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	—
Influenza	..	..	..	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	—
Other Epidemic Diseases	..	..	..	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	..	..	..	—
Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	..	..	..	25
Diabetes Mellitis	..	..	..	2
Other General Diseases	..	..	..	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	16
Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	..	..	..	6
Heart Disease	..	..	..	80
Other Circulatory Disease	..	..	..	18
Bronchitis	..	..	..	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	1
Gastric and Duodenal Ulcer	..	..	..	—
Diarrhoea, etc., all ages	..	..	..	1
Appendicitis	..	..	..	—
Cirrhosis of Liver, etc.	..	..	..	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	..	..	..	—
Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	3
Other Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	—
Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	—
Diseases of Skin and Locomotor System	..	..	..	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	..	..	..	7
Old Age	..	..	..	13
Suicide	..	..	..	—
Other Violence	..	..	..	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	6

INFANTILE MORTALITY

During 1953 eight children under one year of age died in the County—an Infantile Mortality Rate of 34 per 1000 births. Of these five were deaths of Children under four weeks old.

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the past ten years are shown in the following table;—

TABLE VII.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

						Rate per 1000.
1944	..	..	..	..	..	51.0
1945	..	..	..	..	..	11.0
1946	..	..	..	..	..	20.0
1947	..	..	..	..	..	43.0
1948	..	..	..	..	..	51.0
1949	..	..	..	..	..	4.0
1950	..	..	..	..	..	55.0
1951	..	..	..	..	..	39.0
1952	..	..	..	..	..	40.0
1953	..	..	..	..	..	34.0
<hr/>						
Scotland 1953	..	..	..	..	..	31.0

The average Infantile Mortality Rate in Sutherland over the past 10 years has been 34.8 per 1000 births, and this year it stands at 34.0. The rate, however, has fluctuated considerably, and in 1949 it was the lowest ever recorded for the County.

Infantile deaths were due to the following causes:—

Congenital Deformity	..	..	..	..	4
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	1
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	..	..	..	..	2
Cause Unknown	..	..	..	..	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Three males died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, giving a Phthisis Death Rate of 0.22 per 1000.

The Death Rate for this Disease for the last ten years is shown in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII.
PHTHISIS DEATH RATE

						Rate per 1000.
1944	..	..	..	..	..	0.22
1945	..	..	..	..	..	0.30
1946	..	..	..	..	..	0.70
1947	..	..	..	..	..	0.55
1948	..	..	..	..	..	0.14
1949	..	..	..	..	..	0.49
1950	..	..	..	..	..	0.14
1951	..	..	..	..	..	0.44
1952	..	..	..	..	..	0.15
1953	..	..	..	..	..	0.22
<hr/>						
Scotland 1953	..	..	..	..	..	0.23

The Phthisis Death Rate for 1953 is fortunately low, but again there is some fluctuation in this death rate on account of the small population from which the calculation is made. However, as will be seen in the section of the report dealing with tuberculosis, the average for the decade at 0.33 is less than one-third of what the average was in the decade ended 1933.

TABLE IX.
NON-PULMONARY T.B. DEATH RATE

						Rate per 1000.
1944	..	..	..	..	..	0.08
1945	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
1946	..	..	..	..	..	0.29
1947	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
1948	..	..	..	..	..	0.07
1949	..	..	..	..	..	0.06
1950	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
1951	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
1952	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
1953	..	..	..	..	..	0.00
<hr/>						
Scotland 1953	..	..	..	..	..	0.03

DEATHS FROM EPIDEMIC DISEASES

One death from Epidemic Disease occurred in the County during the year, giving a rate per thousand of population of 0.07, compared with that for Scotland of 0.08.

The only death in this group was due to influenza in a person over the age of 85.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1947

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNCTIONS

1 — CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The routine work in connection with this section has continued to be mainly carried out by the Superintending Nursing Officer and District Nursing Sisters, and the Table below shows in detail the visits paid.

Home Visitation of Mothers and Young Children

	Number of Infants under 1 year visited	Number of visits paid to Infants under 1 year	Number of Children 1 to 5 years visited	Number of visits paid to Children 1 to 5 years	Number of Expectant Mothers visited	Number of visits to Expec- tant Mothers
Lochinver ..	13	92	38	154	13	43
Stoer ..	7	32	11	82	2	24
Eddrachilles ..	14	199	84	313	19	75
Lairg ..	31	139	48	116	18	157
Melvich ..	19	101	42	125	16	71
Golspie ..	18	211	112	212	32	168
Bettyhill ..	14	105	41	143	9	55
Kildonan & Loth	32	293	81	183	38	132
Brora ..	45	288	102	262	38	182
Rogart ..	26	105	32	168	10	79
Tongue ..	21	133	60	257	15	130
Dornoch & Embo	41	201	115	259	43	340
Creich ..	39	230	98	331	18	184
Durness ..	10	58	39	121	7	49
Total ..	330	2187	903	2726	278	1689

Additional welfare foods for expectant and nursing mothers and children in needful circumstances, along with clothing in some cases, has been provided through the British Red Cross Society.

The priority dental service for mothers and young children, provided in association with the School Dental Service, continues to be offered, and every encouragement is given to these persons, particularly by District Nursing Sisters, to take advantage of the facilities offered.

The Mobile Dental Unit visits all districts of the County twice a year but the response from mothers has been small. There has been close co-operation between the Council's Dental Officer and visiting dentists undertaking services under the National Health Service Act.

2 — MIDWIFERY

The staffing of the various districts of the County has been well maintained during the year due mainly to the efforts of the Superintending Nursing Officer, who has kept in close touch with the Queen's Institute in Edinburgh, through which most of our Nursing Sisters are obtained.

The training of midwives in gas and air analgesia has received attention. One additional midwife received her training during the year, again bringing the total number now qualified in this procedure up to 14.

The working of the Midwifery Acts has continued to be carried out in a satisfactory manner and I have received no complaints regarding any midwife carrying out duties under the service.

Maternity outfits are issued through the Public Health Department by the Superintending Nursing Officer to all confinement cases booked by the District Nursing Sisters or otherwise on application.

3 — HEALTH VISITING

Health Visiting by the Superintending Nursing Officer and District Nursing Sisters has continued as described in my report of last year. Details of the work done are shown under individual sections of this report.

4 — HOME NURSING

The work under this service has continued as previously, being closely co-ordinated with the other health service arrangements of the Local Health Authority.

Home Nursing from 1/1/53 to 31/12/53

District.						General Cases.	General Nursing Visits.
Bettyhill	..	..	..	..	..	138	849
Clyne	..	..	..	..	..	182	2098
Creich	..	..	..	..	..	84	919
Dornoch and Embo	..	..	..	..	..	125	2385
Durness	..	..	..	..	..	46	372
Eddrachilles	..	..	..	..	..	108	2882
Golspie	..	..	..	..	..	188	3191
Kildonan and Loth	..	..	..	..	..	241	2172
Lairg	..	..	..	..	..	127	1727
Lochinver	..	..	..	..	..	127	2105
Melvich	..	..	..	..	..	116	1815
Rogart	..	..	..	..	..	173	1190
Tongue	..	..	..	..	..	133	1356
Stoer	..	..	..	..	..	119	3200
Total	..	..	..	..	..	1908	26261

5 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The facilities for vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria have continued to be provided by General Practitioners throughout the County. Parents, on the recommendation of their Doctor, have the opportunity of receiving whooping-cough immunisation combined with that for diphtheria.

Diphtheria Immunisation—1/1/53 to 31/12/53

						New Cases.	Maintenance Innoculations.
Pre-School Children	..	..	..	..	..	194	3
School Children	..	..	..	..	..	27	102
Total	..	..	..	..	..	221	105

VACCINATION, 1953

Year of birth of persons.	Number of persons primarily vaccinated during period				Number of persons re-vaccinated during period				Number of persons specially reported during period because of actual or alleged complication of vaccination.
	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.	
1953	56	2	—	6					
1952	65			8					
1951	9			2					
1950	—								
1949	2						2	2	
1948	—				1				
1947	—				1				
1946	—				1				
1945	—								
1944	—								
1943	—								
1942	—								
1941	—								
1940	—								
1939	—								
1938	—				7	—	6	—	
or earlier	—								
TOTALS	152	2	—	16	10	—	8	2	

6 — PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTERCARE

Tuberculosis

The Council's arrangements continue as described in my Report of last year.

Medical supervision is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, who is also District Tuberculosis Officer of the Regional Hospital Board, by patients' Family Doctors, and by District Nursing Sisters.

The following table shows the work done by District Nursing Sisters acting as Health Visitors.

Tuberculosis Visiting and Nursing for Year 1953

District.	No. of Cases.	Advisory Visits.	Nursing Visits.	Total.
Lochinver	5	60	—	60
Eddrachilles	10	120	—	120
Stoer	3	27	—	27
Lairg	6	71	3	74
Melvich	6	81	18	99
Golspie	7	81	—	81
Bettyhill	6	61	—	61
Kildonan and Loth ..	10	108	—	108
Brora	10	110	37	147
Rogart	3	33	—	33
Tongue	12	140	—	140
Dornoch and Embo ..	10	117	—	117
Creich	6	10	—	10
Durness	3	24	—	24
Total	97	1043	58	1101

No applications were received during the year for the provision of beds and bedding, but articles of clothing for needy patients were supplied through the British Red Cross Medical Loan Depot, as were also certain Nursing Requisites. Extra nourishment in the form of milk and malt preparations have been issued as considered necessary by the Medical Officer of Health to patients on home treatment.

Housing and proper isolation of open cases of Tuberculosis under treatment at home often presents great difficulties. Special consideration however is given by local housing sub-committees of the Council to applications for tenancy of County Council houses by tuberculosis patients.

The Medical Officer of Health and County Sanitary Inspector are members of these sub-committees and this enables the cases of tuberculosis families to be specially emphasised. In certain cases it has been arranged for children who are living in a home where there has been a case of tuberculosis to be boarded out, and during 1953 two such children were accommodated at the Seaforth Home, Conon Bridge.

7 — DOMESTIC HELP

See Table V. of General Statistics relating to Local Health Authority Services.

8 — MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The following is a list of the Authorised Officers appointed under the Local Authority's arrangements for the care of mental defectives and persons of unsound mind.

District—	Authorised Officer—
Assynt	H. W. Mackay, Lochinver.
Eddrachilles and Durness ..	G. B. Mackay, Scourie.
Tongue and Farr	A. C. Mackay, Strathy.
Kildonan, Loth, and Clyne ..	Ormston Armstrong, Helmsdale.
Golspie, Rogart, and Lairg ..	A. Macleod, Rogart.
Dornoch and Creich	D. J. Mackay, Bonar-Bridge.

There is no change in the arrangements since my Report of 1948, and lunacy cases requiring hospital care have ready access to Craig Dunain Mental Hospital, Inverness.

The need for Institutional accommodation for mental defectives in the northern region has been having the attention of the Local Authorities concerned. And it is hoped that before long a suitable place will be provided to serve the region as a whole and in which Sutherland will participate.

GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

I. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)

(1) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Service

	No. of clinics provided at end of year whether held at Child Welfare Clinics or other premises.
Local Health Authority Clinics :	
Ante-natal Clinics	NIL
Post-natal Clinics	NIL
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations :	
Ante-natal Clinics	NIL
Post-natal Clinics	NIL

(2) Child Welfare Clinics

	No. of clinics provided at end of year.
Local Health Authority Clinics	NIL
Clinics provided by Voluntary Organisations ...	NIL

(3) Dental Care

	No. Inspected by Dental Officers during the year.	No. found to require treatment during the year.	No. accepting treatment during the year.	No. actually treated by Dental Officers during the year.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Expectant Mothers	....	....	....	....
Nursing Mothers	3	3	3	3
Pre-School Children	12	12	12	12

(4) Mother and Baby Homes—None provided

(5) Day Nurseries (including 24-hour Nurseries) as at end of year—None provided

(6) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes provided as part of the Authority's arrangements under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947—None provided

II. MIDWIFERY (Section 23)

- (1) Total number of Births occurring in the area during year—that is before correction for mother's residence :
Live Births, 163; Still Births, 0; Total .. 163
- (2) Total number of births in (1) occurring in institutions (including private maternity homes) .. 66
- (3) Total number of births in (1) occurring at home .. 97
- (4) Number of births in (3) 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.
	Doctor engaged and present at confinement.	Doctor engaged and not present at confinement.	Midwife alone—no doctor engaged.	Doctor engaged	Midwife alone—no doctor engaged.	Without doctor or midwife.	
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
(a) Midwives employed by the Authority (including those engaged on a fee-per-case basis)	60	35	1	1	....	....	97
(b) Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(c) Midwives employed by Hospital Boards of Management ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(d) Private practising midwives ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(e) Totals	60	35	1	1	....	....	97

(5) Medical Aid under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915

Number of cases in which medical aid was summoned during the year under Section 22(1) of the Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915, by a Midwife:—

(a) For Domiciliary Cases:—

- (1) Where the medical practitioner had arranged to provide maternity medical services under the National Health Service
- (2) Others

NIL
NIL
NIL

(b) For Cases in Institutions**(6) Administration of Analgesics**

(a) Number of midwives in practice in the area qualified to administer Analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland:—

- (1) Domiciliary
- (2) In Institutions

14
NIL

IV. HOME NURSING (Section 25)

(1)	No of Cases attended by Home Nurses under arrangements made under this Section. (2)	No. of Visits paid by Nurses to these Cases. (3)
Home Nurses employed directly by the Authority	1,908	26,261
Home Nurses employed by Voluntary Organisations	NIL	NIL

V. DOMESTIC HELP (Section 28)

(1) Number of Domestic Helps employed during the year :

(a) Whole-time	—
(b) Part-time (have enrolled for service and are employed when required)	25
(c) Retaining fee basis	—

(2) Number of cases for which Helps were provided during year 55

(3) Number of cases in (2) provided on account of confinement:—

(a) At home	9
(b) In hospital	1

(4) Number of cases in (2) provided on account of chronic sick, including aged and infirm (if available) .. 39

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1953:—

Chicken Pox	..	..	..	..	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	—	—
Continued Fever	..	..	..	—	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	—	—
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	—
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	—
Infective Jaundice	..	..	..	..	—
Malaria	..	..	..	..	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	—	—
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	..	..	..	2	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	..	..	..	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	28
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	37
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	16
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	9
					—
					97

Of the total number of cases notified 34 were treated in hospital, arrangements being made for the isolation and treatment of the other 63 cases at home.

Apart from whooping cough cases, which numbered 37, the only outbreaks of note were some scattered cases of scarlet fever which occurred in several districts in the County.

Diphtheria

I am pleased to be able to report that no case of Diphtheria was notified in the County during 1953. Immunisation against this disease has continued to be carried out as in previous years, and the work done is described in an earlier section of this report.

Scarlet Fever

Twenty-eight cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, one from Brora, one from Lochinver, and one from Dornoch in January, a further four cases from Brora and one from Lochinver in March, and three cases from Bonar-Bridge in the same month. In April there were a further two cases from Bonar-Bridge, another case from Lochinver, and one in Dornoch. Bonar-Bridge had another single case in May, two in June, and one in August. Dornoch had two further cases in September and one in December. Between June and November four cases were notified from Golspie, one from Helmsdale and a further case from Brora. All cases were of a mild type, and mainly because of home circumstances twelve were removed to hospital for isolation.

Poliomyelitis

I am glad to be able to report that no case of Poliomyelitis was notified in the County during 1953, but as this is an illness that quite often makes its appearance without any warning, suspected cases always require close observation.

Acute Influenzal Pneumonia and Acute Primary Pneumonia

Two cases of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia were notified during the year, and both were removed to hospital for treatment. No cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia were notified.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia

No case of the former but one of the latter was notified. The case was one that developed an intercurrent illness a few days after discharge from hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

No cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

Thirty-seven cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year, most of which occurred in the Parish of Clyne. Six cases were reported from the Stoer district.

Malaria

A case of Malaria was notified on two occasions from Brora, the first attack being recorded in April and the subsequent attack in September.

Chickenpox

Two cases of Chickenpox were notified from the Tongue district in January.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease

Cases of Measles continued to occur in the Rogart and Blarich districts during January and February, and the outbreak spread to Golspie during the latter month. Cases of Measles were reported from Lairg in August. Cases of Mumps were prevalent in the Badcall-Inchard district in February. An outbreak of German Measles occurred in Durness in June. No schools were required to be closed on account of Infectious Disease during 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS

Sixteen notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and nine of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received during the year and the following table shows the distribution of the cases in the different districts of the County:—

Parish.					Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Assynt	..	..	..	..	—	—
Clyne	..	..	..	..	6	1
Creich	..	..	..	..	—	—
Dornoch	..	..	..	..	6	1
Durness	..	..	..	..	—	3
Eddrachilles	..	..	..	..	—	—
Farr	..	..	..	..	—	—
Golspie	..	..	..	..	2	2
Kildonan	..	..	..	..	—	—
Lairg	..	..	..	..	—	1
Loth ..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Rogart	..	..	..	..	—	—
Tongue	..	..	..	..	2	1
Total	..	..	..	..	16	9

Of the cases notified the following received Institutional treatment:—

Pulmonary	..	..	..	..	..	12
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	..	..	..	7

Three deaths occurred during the year from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

In the County at 31st December, 1953, there were known to the Public Health Authority 120 cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) and the following table shows the type, age, and sex distribution of the cases:—

Pulmonary—									
Age in Years.	-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65	Total.
Males	..	—	—	6	13	8	9	2	38
Females	..	1	1	10	6	12	7	1	38
Total	..	1	1	16	19	20	16	3	76
Non-Pulmonary—									
Males	..	—	6	4	1	4	1	—	16
Females	..	1	5	5	4	2	6	—	28
Total	..	1	5	11	5	6	7	—	44
Combined Total	..	1	6	12	25	26	23	3	120

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR YEARS 1933-1953

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATH RATES

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	21	18	15	13	14	13	11	14	22	25	27
Death Rate ..	0.57	0.56	1.14	0.63	0.58	0.33	0.46	0.77	0.78	0.65	0.74
Non-Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	17	22	8	8	24	18	12	12	15	16	22
Death Rate ..	0.32	0.25	0.13	0.38	0.19	0.14	0.00	0.07	0.41	0.07	0.08
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	
Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	21	12	15	13	17	10	8	8	9	16	
Death Rate ..	0.22	0.30	0.70	0.55	0.14	0.49	0.14	0.44	0.15	0.22	
Non-Pulmonary											
Notifications ..	9	5	9	10	12	10	8	5	2	9	
Death Rate ..	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.29	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Treatment

The following table shows the number of cases who received treatment in Sanatoria and Hospitals during the year:—

	In Hospital 1-1-53	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital 31-12-53
Pulmonary:—					
Males ..	8	18	12	3	11
Females ..	8	6	8	—	6
Non-Pulmonary:—					
Males ..	—	6	6	—	—
Females ..	—	6	6	—	—
Total ..	16	36	32	3	17

Surgical Treatment—

During the year, Tuberculosis patients continued to benefit by the facilities provided by the Surgical Consultant Service.

Death Rate from Phthisis over three Decades

The number of deaths registered as due to Phthisis during the year 1952 was three, a death rate of 0.22 per 1000. The death rate from this disease over the past three decades is shown in the following table:—

1924	1.4	1934	0.56	1944	0.22
1925	1.52	1935	1.14	1945	0.30
1926	0.64	1936	0.63	1946	0.70
1927	1.39	1937	0.58	1947	0.55
1928	0.74	1938	0.33	1948	0.14
1929	0.81	1939	0.46	1949	0.49
1930	1.39	1940	0.77	1950	0.14
1931	0.88	1941	0.78	1951	0.44
1932	1.01	1942	0.65	1952	0.15
1933	0.57	1943	0.74	1953	0.22

Average for
Decade .. 1.03

Average for
Decade .. 0.66

Average for
Decade .. 0.33

The Phthisis death rate for 1953 is approximately the same as the death rate from Phthisis in Scotland as a whole. The average for the decade ended 1953 is just one half of the average for the decade ended 1943, and less than one-third of the average death rate in the decade ended 1933.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population of the area 13,519

Number of Schools:—

(a) Primary (under Education Authority)	24
(b) Secondary (under Education Authority)	2 (Sen.)
	10 (Jun.)
(c) (1) Special Schools	1
(2) Special Classes in ordinary Schools	—
(d) In receipt of grant from Education Authority and under medical inspection	—

Number of children on the Registers (i.e. for whole
area—not individual schools) 2,174

Number of children in average attendance (i.e. for
whole area—not individual schools) 2,050

TABLE I.

Total number of children examined at—

Ordinary Schools.				(a) Systematic Examinations (Age Groups)	(b) Other Systematic Examinations at Schools with roll under 30 where all children are fully examined.
Entrants	..	..	..	290	
Second Age Group	..			185	
Third Age Group	..			169	
Fourth Age Group	..			23	
Total	..	..	..	667	206

(c) Other Examinations—

Special Cases	..	..		25	
Vision & Hearing (Born 1945)	..	..	..	105	
Re-inspection by Medical Officer	..	..	..	160	
Total	..	..	..	290	

Number of individual children inspected at Systematic Examinations, who were notified to parents as requiring treatment, including eye defects, but excluding uncleanness and dental caries:—

Entrants	..	..	..	..	..	40
Second Age Group	..	..	..	..	..	38
Third Age Group	..	..	..	..	..	26
Fourth Age Group	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other Systematic Examinations	..	..	..	..	..	55
Total	..	..	..	..	..	162
Notices to Special Cases	..	..	..	..	..	15

Average Heights and Weights of Children in Systematic Age Groups

Weighed and Measured during Year 1952-53

Boys.				Girls.			
No. Exd.	Average Age	Height in Ins.	Weight in Lbs.	No. Exd.	Average Age	Height in Ins.	Weight in Lbs.
105	5 ¹ / ₂	43.98	44.64	84	5 ¹ / ₃	43.94	43.28
78	9 ¹ / ₂	51.52	67.34	65	9 ¹ / ₄	51.50	63.16
69	13 ⁵ / ₁₂	59.05	90.50	48	13 ¹ / ₃	59.52	92.90

NOTE.—The "numbers examined" in above table do not correspond with the figures given in the main statistical tables of the Annual Report on School Medical Inspection as it was not feasible to have all children in the age groups weighed and measured.

TABLE II.

	Systematic Examination of Age Groups, Number Examined—667.												Other Systematic Examinations.	
	Number Examined—667.												No. Examined, 206.	
	Number Found with Defects.												Number found with Defects.	
	Entrants.		2nd Age Group.		3rd Age Group.		4th Age Group.		Total in Age Group.		All Other Ages.			
151	139	103	82	105	64	13	10	372	295	117	89			
Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			
No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %			
1. Clothing Unsatisfactory														
2. Footgear Unsatisfactory														
3. Uncleanliness— (a) Head														
(b) Body														
4. Skin— (a) Head— Ringworm														
Impetigo														
Other Diseases														
(b) Body— Ringworm														
Impetigo														
Scabies														
Other Diseases														
5. Nutritional State— Slightly Defective														
Bad														
6. Mouth and Teeth Un- healthy														
7. Naso-Pharynx— (a) Nose— Obstruction requir- ing Observation														
Obstruction requir- ing Operative Treat- ment														
Other conditions														

TABLE II. (Cont.)

[illegible]

TABLE II. (Cont.)

	Systematic Examination of Age Groups.												Other Systematic Examinations.	
	Number Examined—667.													
	Number Found with Defects.													
	Entrants.		2nd Age Group.		3rd Age Group.		4th Age Group.		Total in Age Groups.					
	151	139	103	82	105	64	13	10	372	245	89			
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.		
	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	No. %	
12. Circulation System— (a) Organic Heart Disease —Congenital .. —Acquired .. (b) Functional Conditions ..	1 .66	1 .71							1 .27	1 .34				
13. Lungs— Chronic Bronchitis .. Suspected Tuberculosis .. Other Diseases ..	1 .66				1 .95				1 .27		1 .85	1 1.12		
14. Deformities— (a) Congenital .. (b) Acquired, Infantile .. Paralysis .. (c) Acquired, Probably .. Rickets .. (d) Acquired other causes ..	1 .66	1 .71							1 .27	1 .34				
15. Infectious Disease ..				1 1.2	1 .95				1 .27	1 .34				
16. Other Diseases or Defects ..				1 1.2	1 .95		1 7.6		2 .53	1 .34	2 1.7	1 1.12		

TABLE II. (a)

CONDITION	Examination—Vision and Hearing (Children Born 1945)		Examination of Special Cases		
	Number Examined—105		Number Examined—25		
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
No Defect Found	55	49	12	13	25
Uncleanliness	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Mouth and Teeth Unhealthy	49	40	6	4	10
Impetigo	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	—	—	—	—	—
Slightly Defective Nutrition	—	—	—	—	—
Adenoids	—	—	—	—	—
Enlarged Tonsils (Observation)	—	—	3	3	3
Enlarged Tonsils (Operation)	—	—	1	1	4
Glands (requiring observation)	—	—	1	—	2
Glands (requiring treatment)	—	—	—	1	1
Eyes—Corneal Opacities	—	—	—	—	—
Strabismus	—	—	—	—	—
Blepharitis	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Vision—Fair	5	5	1	2	3
Defective Vision—Bad	2	4	—	2	2
Recommended for Refraction	7	9	1	4	5
Defective Hearing	—	—	—	—	—
Otorrhoea	—	—	—	—	—
Defective Speech	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiac Defect	—	—	—	—	—
Mentally Defective	—	—	—	—	—
Lungs (other diseases)	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Deformities	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases or Defects	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE III.

Group Classification	Systematic Examination of Age Groups										Other Systematic Exams. at schools where all children are examined	
	Entrants		2nd Age Group		3rd Age Group		4th Age Group		Total in Age Groups			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
I. No Defect	249	85.9	145	78.4	138	81.6	18	78.3	550	82.5	147	71.4
II. (a) 6/12+ (Better Eye) with or without glasses	—	—	20	10.8	14	8.3	2	8.7	36	5.4	13	6.3
(b) Mouth or teeth likely to cause ill-health....	2	0.7	—	—	1	0.6	—	—	3	0.4	1	0.5
(c) Both (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	0.7	20	10.8	15	8.9	2	8.7	39	5.8	14	6.8
III. Temporary Illness only	8	2.7	6	3.2	6	3.5	2	8.7	22	3.3	15	7.3
IV. (a) Cure expected by treatment	28	9.7	10	5.4	5	3.0	—	—	43	6.45	20	9.7
(b) Improvement only by treatment ...	3	1.0	4	2.2	5	3.0	1	4.3	13	1.95	10	4.8
Total	31	10.7	14	7.6	10	6.0	1	4.3	55	8.4	30	14.5
Total number of children examined	290	100	185	100	169	100	23	100	667	100	206	100

TABLE IV.

Return of Exceptional Children of School Age in the Area

	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, e.g., cataract, ulceration, etc., which render the child unable to read ordinary school books or to see well enough to be taught in ordinary school	—	—	—	—
3. Deaf—				
Grade I.	3	—	—	3
Grade IIa.	1	—	—	1
Grade IIb.	1	—	—	1
Grade III.	—	2	1	3
4. Defective Speech—				
(a) Defects of articulation requiring special educational measures	7	6	1	14
(b) Stammering, requiring special educational measures	4	—	—	4
5. Mentally Defective—				
(Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Educable (I.Q. approx. 50-70)	7	12	1	20
(b) Ineducable (I.Q. generally less than 50)	2	4	2	8
6. Epilepsy—				
(a) Mild and occasional	1	—	—	1
(b) Severe (suitable for care in a residential school)	—	—	—	—
7. Physically Defective—				
(Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis (excluding cervical glands)	3	—	—	3
(b) General Orthopaedic condition	10	3	—	13
(c) Organic Heart Disease	4	1	—	5
(d) Other causes of ill-health	4	—	—	4
8. Multiple Defects—				
(a) 3 and 7(c)	—	1	—	1
(b) 3 and 4(a)	1	—	1	2
(c) 4(a) and 5(a)	1	3	1	5
(d) 4(a) and 5(b)	—	3	1	4
(e) 5(a) and 7(b)	—	2	—	2

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

a. Minor Ailments

The following table shows the work done by the District Nurses in the various districts during the year. Columns 1 and 2 show routine visits paid by Nurses to the schools for the purpose of School Medical Inspection. Column 3 shows visits paid to the homes of children for purpose of follow-up and treatment.

	Number of visits paid to Schools with S.M.O. or Dentist	Number of visits paid to Schools by Nurses themselves	Number of visits paid to homes of School Children
Bettyhill	9	40	12
Clyne	18	27	47
Creich	22	38	28
Dornoch and Embo ..	18	22	18
Durness	5	16	43
Eddrachilles	14	14	23
Golspie	72	14	29
Kildonan and Loth ..	32	34	18
Lairg	15	8	8
Lochinver	9	19	21
Melvich	5	38	16
Stoer	3	34	39
Tongue	9	27	11
Rogart	6	14	17
Total	237	345	330

b. Nose and Throat (Operative Treatment)

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
(a) Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids—			
Treated under the Education Committee's Scheme at the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie	9	17	26
Treated otherwise (so far as known)	1	4	5
(b) Complicated Cases for whom consultation or in-patient treatment was arranged with the E.N.T. Surgeon, Inverness—			
Consultations	2	1	3
Admissions to Hospital	—	1	1
Re-admissions to Hospital	—	—	—

c. Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

Cases are seen by the Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie, during routine visits, or as required at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, or, in special circumstances, at their homes.

The following school children received consultation or treatment during the year:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Treated Lawson Memorial Hospital, Golspie	27	15	42
Treated Raigmore Hospital, Inverness ..	1	3	4
Treated Other Orthopaedic Hospitals ..	2	1	3

d. Defective Vision and Squint

Cases in this connection are notified to parents to consult their Doctors who refer the children to the Eye Clinics at Golspie or to the Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners.

A scheme for the setting up of Eye Clinics to be visited by the Consultant Ophthalmologists twice annually at certain school centres on the North and West Coasts is being prepared, and it is hoped to have the first tour by the Ophthalmologist arranged for September, the school centres to be visited being Lochinver, Badcall Inchard and Bettyhill. Children from outlying schools in these areas requiring special eye examination will be brought to these centres.

e. Ultra Violet Light Clinic

By agreement between the Northern Regional Hospital Board and the Education Committee the services of the Board's Physiotherapist have continued to be made available for the conduct of U.V.R. School Clinics. The Clinics were continued at the larger schools on the East Coast, and the following children, mainly between the ages of 5 and 12 years of age, received courses of U.V.R. during the year 1952-53 as follows:—Bonar-Bridge 30, Dornoch 101, Golspie 89, Brora 72, Helmsdale 67. Total—359.

In addition remedial exercises were given by the Physiotherapist for certain children suffering from orthopaedic and chest conditions.

f. Special Schools and Classes

The small Special School for mentally handicapped children at Tordale, Brora, has continued to give extremely valuable service under the direction of Miss Kerr. In addition to the mentally handicapped, children with speech defects have received remedial education at Tordale, and also at a Saturday morning clinic at Helmsdale.

At Tordale seven mentally handicapped children received special education, and one child with speech defect attended for instruction. At Helmsdale seven children with speech defects attended the speech clinic with much benefit. Three mentally handicapped children have continued to receive instruction at the Rudolf Steiner School, Aberdeen.

g. Feeding of School Children

The arrangements for the provision of a mid-day meal for school children have continued to be conducted at a high standard. Great credit for this is due to the untiring efforts of Miss Morrison, School Canteen Organiser, who in spite of many difficulties, particularly with regard to the maintenance of staff at so many different points, has been able to arrange for this important job to be carried out hygienically and well.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE — 1952-53

(a) Total number of whole-time School Dental Officers employed under the Authority's School Health Service, showing separately unfilled vacancies at 31/7/53	1
(b) Total number of part-time Dentists employed on School Dental Work at 31/7/53	—
(c) Approximate equivalent as whole-time Dental Officers of the part-time appointments referred to in (b) above, if any ..	—
(d) Total number as at 31/7/53:—	
1. Whole-time Dental Officers	1
2. Part-time Dental Officers	—
3. Unfilled Vacancies	—

Annual Report by School Dental Surgeon for 1952-53.

The same scheme has been continued, and the results continue to be very satisfactory.

The details can be reviewed from the attached tables.

The new "Notices to Parents," begun in 1950, have been continued, where the parents sign that they wish any necessary treatment to be carried out during the child's school career, then a fresh notice is not required when treatment is necessary. The child is informed of the treatment during inspection.

Again the General Practitioners and the Nursing Sisters have been very helpful and co-operative.

The success of the treatment depends to a great extent on the aid given by the teaching staff.

(Sgd.) C. C. FORSYTH,
School Dental Surgeon.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT, 1952-53

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total
Inspected....	246	203	165	174	204	200	191	195	164	169	79	32	18	7	2	2049
With Decayed Teeth ...	129	101	78	86	99	84	90	87	83	86	34	14	11	....	2	984
Requiring Treatment ...	121	92	77	79	98	84	91	87	83	84	38	14	11	....	2	961
Accepting Treatment ...	77	71	51	56	66	51	62	40	46	45	38	12	9	....	....	624
Treated	73	70	50	53	60	48	62	38	44	41	27	12	8	....	....	586
Fillings, Permanent ...	....	15	43	48	72	45	78	64	59	75	38	40	18	....	....	595
Fillings, Temporary ...	15	37	20	9	3	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	92
Extractions, Permanent	....	2	1	10	15	19	33	20	19	8	4	2	1	....	....	134
Extractions, Temporary	181	115	45	35	37	25	20	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	466
General Anæsthetics ...	57	30	11	9	10	14	10	4	8	3	1	....	....	....	....	157
Sundries	1	3	2	3	3	13	3	13	18	17	30	2	13	....	....	121
Attendances	72	73	53	55	76	55	75	57	63	58	31	23	16	....	....	707
Extractions, Gen. Anæs.	156	104	38	28	39	35	45	25	17	8	1	1	1	....	....	498
Extractions, Local Anæsthetics....	8	7	7	16	7	8	4	2	....	1	2	....	....	....	....	62

DENTAL RE-INSPECTION AND TREATMENT, 1952-53

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total
Inspected	167	212	161	149	186	180	202	182	198	136	68	36	33	10	5	1925
With Decayed Teeth	74	104	78	88	107	82	106	85	100	78	26	13	15	7	2	965
Requiring Treatment	74	102	77	85	106	79	104	83	100	77	26	13	15	7	2	950
Accepting Treatment	49	98	55	59	70	52	73	45	48	36	13	9	6	4	1	618
Treated	48	75	52	55	65	51	63	45	48	30	8	9	6	4	1	560
Fillings, Permanent	2	30	34	57	77	59	87	73	78	55	14	8	20	7	2	603
Fillings, Temporary	27	27	20	8	7	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Extractions, Permanent	...	6	2	18	13	19	33	22	10	21	1	1	1	1	...	148
Extractions, Temporary	91	88	29	38	24	28	2	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	310
General Anaesthetics	32	28	12	14	6	12	14	6	6	3	...	1	...	1	...	135
Sundries	2	3	1	...	7	13	5	15	17	22	3	3	4	4	...	99
Attendances	48	78	55	61	73	55	70	61	70	43	11	12	14	6	2	664
Extractions—Gen. Anæs.	88	78	22	47	27	29	40	23	12	21	...	1	...	...	...	388
Extractions—Local Anæsthetics	3	16	9	8	6	9	3	4	5	2	...	2	1	1	...	69

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY SERVICES

Annual Report by E. W. BRANNEN, L.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.S., and
M.R.San.I., County Architect and Sanitary Inspector.

GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour of submitting my Twenty-fourth Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1933.

GENERAL SANITATION

WATER SUPPLIES.—On 16th November, 1931, I assumed responsibility for maintenance of water supplies throughout the County.

These duties were not contained in the Condition of my Appointment in letter dated 4th October, 1930, from the late County Clerk.

The only reference to Water Supplies is given in Paragraph 10, which reads as follows:—

Tenth — That you prepare Reports, Plans, Specifications, and Estimates of Water, Drainage, Lighting, and Scavenging Schemes as required by the County Council, and also on existing Water, Drainage, Lighting, and Scavenging Works.

A record of all engineering works for which surveying, plans, specifications, schedules of quantities, and supervision were carried out by me may be of interest.

- 1 Embo, 1932—New main supply pipe and reservoir.
Accepted offer £1545 14 0
Actual cost 1546 0 3
- 2 Golspie, 1932—New main supply pipe to terminus at Lawson Memorial Hospital forming ring main.
Accepted offer £300 0 0
Actual cost 300 0 0
- 3 Bonar-Bridge, 1933—New main supply pipes throughout village.
Accepted offer £1080 0 0
Actual cost 1024 3 6
- 4 Lochinver, 1933—Extension to Baddidaroach Road.
Accepted offer £106 8 9
Actual cost 106 8 9
- 5 Lairg, 1935—Renewal of spring water supply pipes to reservoir.
Accepted offer £219 0 0
Actual cost 206 8 9
- 6 Bettyhill, 1935—New water supply.
Accepted offer £794 13 6
Actual cost 795 14 6
- 7 Cambusavie Hospital & Balvraid School—Supply from Clashnagrave.
Accepted offer £724 3 3
Actual cost 731 1 10
- 8 Helmsdale, 1936—Extension to Golf Road.
Accepted offer £96 10 10
Actual cost 104 3 6
- 9 Melvich, 1935—Portskerra, Baligill, Strathy East and West — New supply from Loch Baligill.
- 10 Lairg, 1937—New supply from Loch Beannach.
Accepted offer £2379 8 9
Actual cost 2263 6 9
- 11 Bonar-Bridge, 1937—Pumping plant.
Accepted offer £151 1 3
Actual cost 151 1 3

12	Scourie, 1937—New water supply from Loch Brishimi.			
	Accepted offer	£1549	2	9
	Actual cost	1549	16	11
13	The Doll, 1937—New water supply from Brora.			
	Accepted offer	£482	6	5
	Actual cost	482	6	5
14	Melvich, 1938 — Portskerra, Baligill, Strathy East and West— Extension to Strathy Point.			
	Accepted offer	£489	11	7
	Actual cost	436	18	4
15	The Doll, 1938—Extension to Fannich.			
	Accepted offer	£520	18	2
	Balance in Hand (not completed)	520	18	2
16	Brora, 1938—Extension to Links Road.			
	Accepted offer	£277	0	0
	Actual cost	302	0	0
17	Golspie, 1938—Renewal of water main, etc.			
	Accepted offer	£2271	0	0
	Balance in Hand (not completed)			
	Actual Balance	£2268	1	9

You will appreciate that the total expenditure involved during this period—£16,576 15/- for approximately 23 miles of water mains and other works—is costing about 10 times more to-day.

Simultaneously, other capital works were being carried out—224 houses, the new Golspie H.G. School, Cambusavie Hospital (extended more than double its original size), Swordale Institution (modernised), and a score of other smaller works.

In 1936 I was allowed the services of an unqualified civil engineer for four months (£68) and in 1937-1939 an assistant architect at £300 per annum. The only other member of my staff was Mr Neish, who, with many other duties, had to do typing of all correspondence. He certainly worked hard, and I think this training has been to his advantage. After the Second World War began I obtained the services of one typist.

From 1939-1945 the water supplies had to be maintained, and in villages such as Lairg, where troops, horses, and the Army Laundry for the North of Scotland were situated, all were supplied from the Lairg water supply.

At Golspie, Brora, and Helmsdale the consumption of water increased according to the number of troops in these areas. On innumerable occasions I was out all night detecting leaks.

The intake dam at Migdale for the Bonar-Bridge water supply was swept away by flood, and a similar disaster occurred at Brora. Reconstruction was carried out immediately and the supplies restored in record time.

Since 1945 to 4th January, 1954, the work of maintenance was carried on. During that period a water survey of the County was carried out by Messrs Baptie, Shaw, and Morton, Consulting Engineers, Glasgow. In their original report they paid tribute to my department for the help given. The fact that I had acquired considerable knowledge of existing water supplies throughout the years and that I was conversant with areas in the County in need of water supplies proved of immense value.

The only capital works on water supplies carried out by my department since Messrs Baptie, Shaw, and Morton took over consisted of

extensions at Dalchalm, Halladale, and Loch Clash. Temporary supplies were provided at the village of Tongue by means of a 1in. diameter syphon of alkathene piping and air pipes introduced on the Durness water main increased the flow from 10,000 gallons per day to 28,000 gallons.

This is a brief resume of the work on water supplies which, as you will realise, constituted a small part of the multifarious duties of my department. I enjoyed this work, however, and carried it out conscientiously with the limited time at my disposal.

The cost to the county would not have exceeded £100 per annum for maintenance of supplies from 1930 to 1953. You will undoubtedly get a more efficient service now that a new department has been created. I handed over all the plans, etc., and in my covering letter wished this department every success.

In conclusion, I feel that the facts as stated clearly indicate the effort sustained throughout a long period with many difficulties, which were usually overcome without any reference to the Council. If errors or omissions occurred these were infinitesimal compared to the contribution to the public well-being in providing and maintaining water supplies throughout the County at the lowest possible cost.

SCAVENGING. — Collection of household refuse throughout the various special scavenging districts is carried out twice weekly by private contractors. There is a refuse dump to serve each of the special districts, with the exception of Camore, where the refuse is taken to the dump belonging to Dornoch Town Council.

The responsibility for maintaining these dumps rests with each scavenging contractor, and while some make a very good attempt to carry out their conditions of contract, others do not. The whole system of refuse collection and disposal leaves much to be desired, and I feel that much better results would be obtained generally and at much the same cost if the Council were to provide a scavenging service with their own employees.

At the beginning of the year, special scavenging districts existed at Golspie, Brora, Helmsdale, Bonar-Bridge, Lairg, Embo, and Camore, and by the end of the year new districts had been formed at Tongue, Bettvhill, Melvich, Scourie, and Lochinver. None of these new districts was, however, in operation by 31st December as the work of obtaining sites for refuse dumps, fencing, etc., had not been completed by then.

At present no scavenging service exists for the Council's housing schemes at Durness and Kinlochbervie, although in the latter case the houses are not yet ready for occupation.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There are no offensive trades carried on in the County.

SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICTS. — The existing schemes at Golspie, Brora, Helmsdale, and Embo continue to work satisfactorily—that at Golspie was cleaned out in the early part of the year.

Still another year has gone past without much headway having been made in providing proper drainage systems for Lairg, Bonar-Bridge, Portgower, and Pittentrail. These new schemes are long overdue, and it is rather galling to find that the people in Portgower and Pittentrail have been provided with a new public water supply and yet they are unable to take full advantage, simply because they have no way of disposing of waste water and sewage.

At the beginning of 1954 the work of providing and maintaining drainage schemes was in the charge of a new Department.

SCHOOLS.—These buildings are all being well maintained, and the sanitary accommodation is in good order. All schools are now provided with flush water closets.

A new sewer has been constructed to serve the Technical School and this is now working satisfactorily. A new outfall drain has also been constructed from Earl's Cross Boys' Hostel. This has removed the nuisance which was caused by the effluent from the old septic tank.

FACTORIES.—The number of registered factories still remains the same—58 in the County and 10 within the Burgh of Dornoch. The number of visits paid during the year was 39, and in all cases the sanitary accommodation was found to be in good order. Three contraventions of Section 1 of the Factories Act, 1937, were found and after notification to the occupier the necessary remedial measures were carried out. No cases of contraventions were notified to me by H.M. Factories Inspector.

BURIAL GROUNDS.— These continue to be administered by the District Councils. The proposed extensions at Loth and Melness had not been carried out by the end of the year.

FOOD SUPPLY

MILK. — There are 24 registered producers, with, in addition, four retailers. One of the retailers is registered in respect of a vehicle only, his premises being within the County of Caithness. Sixteen producers hold Tuberculin-Tested licences, and all the remainder have now either attested or supervised herds. This means, in effect, that all the milk being produced in the County and sold for liquid consumption comes from tubercle-free herds. This is indeed a very gratifying fact, and the Sutherland dairy farmers are to be congratulated on such an achievement.

Milk sampling continues to occupy the major portion of the time which can be spent on this side of the work. The following table gives the number of samples taken throughout the year:—

	Bacteriological		Chemical		Biological		Totals
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	
Tuberculin Tested	163	17	87	5	4	—	276
Non-designated	74	6	37	3	6	—	126
School Milks	107	25	44	1	—	—	177
Pasteurised	16	—	7	—	—	—	23
Totals	360	48	175	9	10	—	602

Compared with previous years there is still a slight downward trend in the percentage of sample failures. This year's figure is 9.5 per cent. against 10.3 per cent. for 1952. A large measure of co-operation is being obtained from the producers generally, but there are still quite a few who do not seem to realise that clean milk can be produced only by clean methods. They fail to understand that no extra work is involved in doing the job the right way and seem quite surprised when their haphazard methods produce bad samples.

All schools receiving liquid milk continue to be supplied with Tuberculin-Tested Milk. Delivery arrangements to some of the more remote schools is not very satisfactory, but it is difficult to see just how this could be improved without involving any further expense.

As already pointed out all registered producers have either attested or supervised herds, and for this reason the number of biological samples taken has been kept low. All samples proved negative.

Chemical analysis of milk samples continues to be carried out in the office, and while this involves a considerable amount of extra work, it also means quite a cash saving to the Council. The number of samples analysed during the year was 184.

The following table gives an overall picture of the percentage of attested cattle in this and the two adjoining counties:—

	Total Cattle at 4-6-53.	No. of Cattle in Attested Herds.	Percentage of Attested to Total Cattle.	Percentage at 31-12-52.
Sutherland	8,766	7,240	82.6	65.4
Caithness	26,393	11,310	42.9	25.5
Ross-shire	38,061	21,800	57.3	36.7

As will be seen from the above figures, rapid progress is being made toward the elimination of bovine tuberculosis in this County, and if this rate of progress is maintained there is every likelihood that all cattle in the County will become attested within the next year or two.

ICE CREAM.—There are now only seven vendors who require to be licensed to manufacture and/or sell ice cream and of these only five actually make their own product. Whilst the construction of some of the premises is not all that could be desired, nevertheless a fairly high standard of cleanliness is maintained. Nine samples were taken throughout the year and all were satisfactory.

The number of shopkeepers who sell prepacked ice cream is increasing rapidly, and, as I stated in my last annual report, these people are unfortunately exempt from the provisions of the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948. It does not seem to be generally realised that by breaking the wrappers on containers in which the ice cream is supplied by the manufacturers, these shopkeepers are contravening the Regulations and are thereby liable to prosecution. To those who do read this report, I would ask that this point be given as wide publicity as possible.

MEAT.—The one Slaughterhouse which is run by the Ministry of Food and is situated within the Royal Burgh of Dornoch continues to be kept in a very clean condition.

TRANSPORT.—As mentioned in last year's report a new vehicle had been provided to transport the meat from the slaughterhouse to the retailers' shops. This vehicle continued to give satisfaction throughout the current year, and it was always kept very clean.

All carcasses and offals are inspected for evidence of disease or other abnormality before leaving the slaughterhouse.

The following table gives the number of animals slaughtered and carcasses, etc., condemned at Dornoch Slaughterhouse for the year under review:—

Class.	Slaughtered	No. of Animals		Weight (in lbs.) of Condemned	
		Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	Meat	Offals
Cattle ..	581	12	4	5663	3703
Sheep ..	3260	11	3	473	1257
Calves ..	273	2	0	57	16
Pigs ..	286	3	2	235	31

As a point of interest in view of the impending derationing of meat, the following table gives the number of animals slaughtered at Dornoch Slaughterhouse over the past five years:—

Year	Cattle	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
1949	608	3109	142	6
1950	651	3402	145	9
1951	550	2506	200	48
1952	490	3042	203	104
1953	581	3260	273	286
Total ..	2880	15,319	963	453

FOOD HYGIENE

Time unfortunately does not permit routine inspection of all food premises, and, in view of the importance of this branch of the work, it is to be regretted. In my view, the public are becoming more and more hygienically minded and are now demanding a standard of cleanliness in food premises to which they are justly entitled. Opportunity is taken of examining shop premises and food stores when making inspections under Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. In some of these premises there is much room for improvement, but at present only advisory work can be done as there are not sufficient legal powers to enforce improvements. However, the Government seem to be alive to the situation, and new Food Hygiene Regulations are at present in the making.

After examination, certificates were issued in connection with food stuffs found to be unfit for human consumption. All were voluntarily surrendered and condemned with the owners' consent. The undernoted summary shows the type and amounts of foodstuffs thus dealt with:—

Tins	lb.	oz.	Tins	lb.	oz.
19 Peas	19	4	1 Spaghetti	1	0
18 Luncheon Meat ..	17	0	2 Veal	1	12
5 Beans	5	0	9 Cherries	11	4
7 Stewed Steak ..	7	0	1 Steak and Vegetables	1	0
39 Victoria Plums ..	53	6	2 Scotch Herring ..	1	12
39 Soups	27	5	1 Strawberries	—	15
65 Prunes	38	1	1 Salmon Grade III. ..	—	15
12 Grapefruit	9	13	32 Chopped Pork	128	0
1 Mince and Peas ..	—	10	Smoked Bacon	171	0
1 Apricot Halves ..	1	14	Danish Bacon	54	8
9 Peaches	12	4	Shoulder Pork	9	8
5 Pears	6	10	Cooked Ham	26	0
12 Pair Rabbits	54	0	Granulated Sugar	188	0
26 Pkts. Corn Flakes ..	19	8	Seven Fowls	35	12
4 Mixed Vegetables ..	4	7	33 Evaporated Milk ..	68	pints
9 Minced Meat Loaf ..	6	12	2 Condensed Milk ..	13½	pints
Venison	1583	0	8 Esko Whipping	4	pints
23 Red Plums	28	12	3 Apricot Pulp	30	kilos
1 Blackcurrants	1	4			

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928

The work of administration under above Act continues to receive a fair amount of attention. Most of the articles carried by the above Act can now be classed as proprietary brands, and as they are manufactured in large quantities and tinned or bottled at the factory they are not so liable to adulteration thereafter. In addition, they are to be found all over the country and duplication of samples by Local Authority Inspectors must needs follow.

During the year, 38 informal samples of the undernoted foodstuffs were submitted to the Public Analyst and all proved genuine:—

	No. of Samples.		No. of Samples.
Coffee Essence	3	Luncheon Pork	1
Ricory	1	Quorn Trifle	1
M.P. Striped Ball Sweets	1	Blancmange Powder ..	1
Castor Oil	1	Beef and Ham Paste ..	1
Vi-Ro-No Flavour	1	Welsh Rarebit	1
White Pepper	1	Mixed Spice	1
Aspirins	1	Cherrytip Sweets	1
Pepper Condiment	2	Sausages	4
Honey	1	Cherries	1
Table Jelly Crystals ..	1	Mince Meat	1
Soft Herring Roe	1	Sugared Almonds	1
Sausage Beef	1	Fish Spread	1
Ground Ginger	1	Orangeade Powder	1
Cream of Tartar	2	Tomato Soup	1
Bicarbonate of Soda ..	3		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Every assistance is given to the Medical Officer of Health in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease and, acting on his instructions, disinfection of 25 houses was carried out.

VERMINOUS HOUSES

During the year only two houses were found to be infested with fleas. Complete disinfestation was carried out, and in one case a large quantity of old clothing and bedding was destroyed by burning.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACTS, 1926/1932

In terms of Section 3 of the 1926 Act, four samples of Fertilisers were taken at the request of the purchasers. The results of the analysis are set out in the table on the opposite page:—

Description of Sample	Percentage Analysis as Guaranteed							Percentage Analysis as Found						
	Nitrogen	Soluble Phosphoric Acid	Insoluble Phosphoric Acid	Potash	Calcium Oxide	Fineness	Phosphate of Lime	Nitrogen	Soluble Phosphoric Acid	Insoluble Phosphoric Acid	Potash	Calcium Oxide	Fineness	Phosphate of Lime
Kibbled Burnt Lime	90							67.26		
Dried Grass														
Silage Fertiliser	8.0	7.5	2.0	8.5			7.86	7.59	2.11	8.0			
Kibbled Burnt Lime				80							57.26		
Albion " Basic Slag		9.0	Tot. 11.0		80	24		9.15	Tot. 10.84			86.1	23.67

It will be observed that both samples of Kibbled Burnt Lime show deficiencies in the guaranteed Calcium Oxide content. Being request samples, a copy of the analysis was sent to the purchaser who took the matter up direct with the seller.

HOUSING

The scheme for improvement of houses by grant and under Part VII. of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, and the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952, continues to be made use of to a limited degree. During the current year, the number of applications received was 20. Of these 18 were approved by the County Council, one was refused on the grounds that there was less than 30 years of the lease to run, and another one was refused by the Department of Health on the grounds of excessive cost.

In 10 instances the work of improvement was completed by the end of the year, and in seven cases the work was proceeding satisfactorily. In the remaining instance, the work has been approved by the County Council, but the certificate of approval has not yet been issued, because the applicant has so far not been able to produce title deeds of the property. The amount payable by way of grant in the 10 instances where the work has been completed is £3039.

The number of agricultural workers' houses improved with grant aid and included in the above figures is five.

UNFIT HOUSES.—During the year, one Demolition Order and one Closing Order were served, involving two houses.

The method of dealing with unfit houses is, in my opinion, very haphazard, and altogether unsatisfactory. It all too often happens that, before the necessary statutory proceedings can be carried through, unfit houses become reoccupied.

This means more families for the Council to rehouse, and in many cases it also means that because they are living under bad housing conditions these families are housed "out of turn."

NEW HOUSES.—The number of houses completed during the year under review was:—Lochiaver—6, Lairg—20, Tongue—4, Bonar-Bridge—2, Golspie—8, Loth—4, Bettyhill—6, Dornoch—4, Helmsdale—6, Camore—8, Melvich—4, Brora—4. Making a total of 76 traditional houses.

NUISANCES.—Inspection work required under Section 17 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, received the necessary attention. It was found necessary to serve only one Intimation, which had the desired effect without further action being necessary.

(Sgd.) E. W. BRANNEN,
County Sanitary Inspector.

