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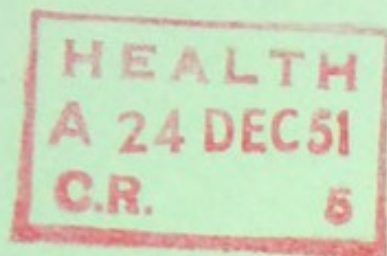
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ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS  
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH



FOR  
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY



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# ABINGDON & FARINGDON DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

## List of Members for 1950

### ABINGDON BOROUGH

Mrs. A. L. Challenor, Waysmeet, Faringdon Road, Abingdon.  
Dr. G. F. O'Connor, Helenstowe, Ock Street, Abingdon.

### ABINGDON RURAL

Lt.-Col. S. T. Austin, O.B.E., The White House, Shippon, nr. Abingdon.  
Sir Reader Bullard, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., Honeybottom, Dry  
Sandford, nr. Abingdon.  
Dr. H. A. Dempsey, 78 Southern By Pass, Botley, Oxford.  
Mr. W. Evans, 1 High Street, Drayton, nr. Abingdon.  
Mrs. M. I. Rich, The Old Farmhouse, Fyfield, nr. Abingdon.

### FARINGDON RURAL

Mrs. E. M. Burgess, Aldbourne House, Market Place, Faringdon.  
Mr. F. Carter, Coxwell Street, Faringdon.  
Capt. R. A. Prioleau, Park Home Farm, Kingston Lisle, nr. Wantage.

### COUNTY COUNCIL

Mrs. A. T. Beavis, The Walnuts, Ashbury, nr. Swindon.  
Mr. D. W. Lansdown, Hatford House, Faringdon.

Clerk: Mr. G. V. Spooner, Council Offices, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

### **Medical Officer of Health**

Norman Parfit, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.(Oxon), D.P.H.(Lond.),  
The Abbey House, Abingdon (Telephone 851).

### **Sanitary Inspectors:**

#### *Abingdon Borough*

Gifford Saffin, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.  
The Abbey House, Abingdon (Telephone 851).

#### *Abingdon Rural*

Chief Sanitary Inspector T. E. Upton, M.S.I.A.,  
60 Bath Street, Abingdon (Telephone 361).

Deputy Chief S.I., T. G. Evans, M.S.I.A.

Additional S.I., J. C. Pickup, M.S.I.A.

#### *Faringdon Rural*

Capt. H. O'Connor, M.S.I.A.,  
Council Offices, London Street, Faringdon (Telephone 2296).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE ABINGDON & FARINGDON DISTRICTS  
JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

Once again the general state of the Public Health of this area can be said to have continued good. The birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate continued to be considerably better than those for the country as a whole. There was no maternal death from child birth, no outbreak of food poisoning, no case of diphtheria and only six cases of "Polio"—all of them mild.

There was steady progress in housing and an improvement of rural water supplies and sewage disposal.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Most gratifying of all was a marked improvement in the figures of new cases of T.B. of the lung during the year, namely 39—compared with 65 and 64 in 1948 and 1949—but that is 39 too many.

We have to remember that this means a death sentence to some and long periods of invalidism for others and that most of those affected are in the age groups that contribute most to the productivity of the nation (20—45).

In April, 1950, an important conference on Tuberculosis was held in London. The report which followed took as its text the following extract from the speech of the Medical Director of a large London Hospital:

"During the past month six people have died from Smallpox in Glasgow. The whole country knows this. During the same month one hundred people have died from Tuberculosis in the same city and one thousand have contracted the disease and no word appeared in the press down here."

Half a century ago King Edward VII on hearing the facts about Tuberculosis exclaimed "If preventable—why not prevented?"

Tuberculosis—and most of our other ills—could be solved with a fraction of the effort put into re-armament.



## PUBLIC HEALTH

Health, unlike disease, is very difficult, or even impossible to assess. Similarly preventive work, unlike curative, is by its very nature intangible, for, the better it is the less can it be noticed. For example, the fact that there has been no case of diphtheria should not lead mothers to think their baby need not be immunised for it is only because most babies have been immunised that there is no case. The history of Public Health is really very short, mostly since the Act of 1875, but most of us in England today have no conception of what conditions were like 75 years ago.

We tend to take for granted pure water supplies, proper disposal of refuse and treatment of sewage, the provision of safe milk, fresh meat, wholesome unadulterated foods, preserved foods of all varieties, refrigeration of perishables, insect control and many other results of preventive medicine which have permeated our culture and so greatly lowered our disease and death rates. Yet most people on this earth are living without any of these things and 80—90 per cent. of their illness is due to their absence.

## PREVENTION

The fact that the success of prevention results in evils *not* being seen is a real danger to its cause. The annual report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health presented in August 1951, has this to say on the subject:—

“The nation, in its recent pre-occupation with the curative and specialist services, seems rather to have lost sight of what it owes to the preventive health services, which, for many decades, have been responsible for the saving of an infinity of human life and suffering.

These preventive health services work unobtrusively and smoothly. Because their greatest victories are marked only by the absence of cases and deaths of disease, these victories have no news value or popular appeal, nor are their efforts noticed save when, on occasion, something goes wrong. Thus, because their silent effectiveness is so unpublicised and because of the apparent neglect of these services, the more able of the younger practitioners tend to seek other branches of medicine, and recruits to the wide harvest field of public health are few.

Yet, if one of the criteria of civilisation in a community lies in its efforts to promote and preserve the health (and consequently the happiness) of its citizens, preventive medicine must be given its place in the front rank.



For much as preventative medicine has already given to the welfare of mankind, much more remains for it to do in those fresh fields of prevention which lie before it, still shrouded in the mists of imperfect aetiology (causation). If most of the infective fevers now claim but a minute fraction of the number of victims they slew a few decades ago, others—cancer, tuberculosis, heart disease, still slay their thousands each year. Prevention is better than cure, and nothing and no one but the best are good enough to ensure it.”

## CANCER

Cancer is an important cause of death which might often be prevented if the true facts were more widely known. There is a great deal of unnecessary fear of cancer of which we can relieve people. For instance:—

- 1 Cancer is not hereditary. Even if parents, brother or sister had it, that is no reason for expecting it.
- 2 Cancer is not infectious. It is quite impossible to “catch” it. No doctor, nurse, husband, wife, brother or sister has ever “caught” it. Thousands of laboratory experiments including even swallowing or grafting cancerous growths have proved this.
- 3 Most important in reducing the fear of cancer is to know that it is often curable. In fact it is true to say that most cancers which can be detected in their early months are curable either by radiation or removal. This early treatment is easy in growths such as in the breast, mouth or skin because these are evident very early.
- 4 Contrary to popular belief Cancer is essentially painless. It is only in the later stages that it causes pain by pressure.

To spread the above and other facts will not only prevent needless fear but may save lives. For it is often fear and ignorance that prevent people from getting early treatment.

## FEAR

The curing of fear, so important in Cancer, is one of the greatest contributions any Doctor can constantly give to so many of those he meets. This is true whether he be in Consultant, Hospital or General Practice or in Public Health.

That eminent medical man, Lord Boyd-Orr, speaking of the Doctor's responsibility to help in the prevention of further war,



said that it "might be regarded as the most important part of re-ventive medicine."

Is there anything more likely to avoid war than the prevention of fear? Our answer depends on whether we believe that Russia's armaments cause us so much fear that we feel compelled to increase our arms programme in order to make Russia too afraid to attack—and so on in the vicious circle.

Psychologists of every school of thought agree in teaching that the roots of fear which influence us all our lives are usually laid in early childhood. Every parent, teacher, aunt or uncle could help to build up a generation who cannot be terrorised into resorting to war if they would constantly surround their children with a sense of deep security founded on encouragement and love.

The child's body must have food, water and air for physical life and health. Just as surely for mental health his mind needs the certainty that he is needed and loved and can rely absolutely on his parents until he stands in his own strength. If he has this certainty he will not grow up fearful, rebellious or aggressive. This is the basic way to secure happy relationships between individuals and between nations.

## HOUSING

Each of the three Authorities have, during the year under review, carried through housing programmes of which they may well be proud.

Abingdon Borough in particular succeeded in greatly speeding up their rate of construction. The number completed and under construction during the year (122) far exceeded the total built during the previous  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years.

The Faringdon Rural District provides an illustration not only of achievement but of the problem that remains due to increasing population. During the year 58 new Council houses were completed which, with requisitioned properties, rehoused a total of 82 families (57 ex-service men) consisting of 315 persons. Yet at the end of the year the number of applications had increased by 26, to 332. Analysis of this number showed that those inadequately housed had increased by 5, to 150.

Further analysis showed the satisfactory feature that of these about two thirds (over 100) had been on the waiting list less than 18 months and that most of the others were couples with not more than one child.

In conclusion I would like to express my real appreciation to the many members of the Councils for their kind consideration, my sincere gratitude to the Sanitary Inspectors and to all my other colleagues for their constant help and support and to the General Practitioners for their ready co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN PARFIT,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## AREA AND POPULATION

The following table shows the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1950.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid-1950 Pop.	Persons per Acre
Abingdon Borough	1,713	10,360	6.05
Abingdon Rural District	41,225	23,320	.56
Faringdon Rural District	59,596	12,170	.20
Totals	102,534	45,850	.45

## BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the rates per 1,000 of Population. Rates for 1949 are in brackets.

District	Births	Birth rate per 1000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death rate per 100 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	201	19.4 (18.0)	95	9.2 (10.9)
Abingdon Rural	402	17.2 (19.3)	190	8.1 (7.3)
Faringdon Rural	257	21.1 (21.4)	144	11.8 (8.6)
Totals	860	18.7 (19.6)	429	9.4 (8.5)
England and Wales		15.8 (16.7)		11.6 (11.7)

## CAUSES OF DEATH

The 429 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows:—

Causes	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total
Heart Disease	22	73	50	145
Cancer	18	30	24	72
Vascular lesions of the Nervous system (stroke)	15	26	13	54
Other diseases of the circulatory system	4	4	6	14
Pneumonia	6	4	6	16
Bronchitis	2	2	6	10
Influenza	1	2	1	4
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	1	3
Violent causes other than road accidents	3	7	3	13
Road Accidents	3	2	2	7
Nephritis	—	5	5	10
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2	2	6
Congenital Malformations	1	1	4	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	2	1	3
Infective and parasitic diseases	2	1	—	3
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1	2
Leukaemia	1	1	—	2
Diabetes	—	—	2	2
Ulcer of the stomach	1	—	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
All other causes	13	26	16	55
Totals all causes	95	190	144	429

## INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births
Abingdon Borough	5	201	25
Abingdon Rural District	6	402	15
Faringdon Rural District	9	257	35
Totals	20 (21)	860 (893)	23.3 (23.5)
England and Wales			29.8 (32.0)

(Figures in brackets are those for 1949).

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the third successive year there were no deaths from Puerperal Pyrexia or from accidents of childbirth.



## STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1000 total births
Abingdon Borough	3	—	3	15.0
Abingdon Rural District	3	—	3	7.4
Faringdon Rural District	2	—	2	7.8
Totals	8	—	8	9.3
England and Wales, 1949				22.7

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Following Table shows the number of cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1950, with the 1949 figures in parenthesis.

Disease	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total All Districts
Whooping Cough	30 (39)	78 (99)	12 (21)	120 (159)
Measles	17 (311)	89 (481)	5 (190)	111 (982)
Scarlet Fever	35 (10)	56 (19)	14 (26)	105 (55)
Erysipelas	3 (2)	5 (8)	— (—)	8 (10)
Acute Poliomyelitis	1 (1)	3 (4)	2 (1)	6 (6)
Dysentery	3 (—)	1 (2)	— (—)	4 (2)
Meningococcal Infection	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	2 (—)
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	1 (—)	— (1)	— (—)	1 (1)
Acute Polioencephalitis	1 (—)	— (1)	— (—)	1 (1)
Malignant Malaria	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 (1)	— (1)	— (—)	1 (2)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (—)	1 (1)	— (—)	1 (1)

## TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases)

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, distinguishing between the more serious cases affecting the lungs (Pulmonary) and those affecting other parts of the body.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Totals (all districts)	
	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.
0—1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
1—5	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	3
5—10	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	2
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
15—20	—	—	3	1	1	—	4	1
20—25	2	—	5	—	1	—	8	—
25—35	5	—	7	—	3	—	15	—
35—45	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
55—65	1	—	1	—	1	—	3	—
65 and upwards	1	—	1	1	1	—	3	1
Totals	9	2	22	5	8	2	39	9
1949 Figures	(21)	(3)	(31)	(8)	(12)	(2)	(64)	(13)

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following are the figures of injections given during 1950.

District	Primary Injections	'Booster' Doses
Abingdon Borough	113	4
Abingdon Rural District	293	13
Faringdon Rural District	144	6

Every baby should be immunised between the age of 6 months and 1 year and, to be on the safe side, should also receive a booster dose 4 years later, before he begins school life.

## VENEREAL DISEASES

The number of new cases of Venereal Diseases treated at the "Special clinics" continues to decline.

Clinics are held as follows:—

### Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading:

**Males:** Wednesday 2 p.m. and Saturday 4 p.m.

**Females:** Wednesday 4 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m.

### Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford:

**Males:** Wednesday 6 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m.

**Females:** Monday 6 p.m. and Wednesday 2 p.m.

### Swindon Isolation Hospital:

**Males:** Tuesday and Thursday 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.

**Females:** Tuesday and Thursday 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Facts that need emphasis are:

While modern drugs have greatly speeded the necessary treatment it is still essential to have expert treatment from a qualified Doctor.

More than half those attending special clinics throughout the country are found to have no infection. Many of the others who are infected have acquired it innocently within marriage.



# ABINGDON BOROUGH

## HOUSING

### Private Enterprise

During the year 17 houses were completed and a further 9 licences were issued.

### Council Houses

During the year 53 new houses were completed and the number under construction on 31st December, 1950, was 69. Lay out plans for a further 147 units had also been approved by the end of the year.

The above brought the number of Council Houses to a total of 708 of which 506 were built before the war and 142 completed since the war.

The rents of the pre-war houses ranged from 8s. 11d. to 15s. per week including rates, while those for post-war houses ranged from 16s. 0d. to 31s. 3d.

The number of applicants on the waiting list for new Council Houses was nominally 1,020 on 31st December, 1950, but it was predicted that a thorough revision of this list would show that the actual number of applicants still wanting houses would be between six and seven hundred. This has since proved to be the case.

### Caravans

Early in the year a site was prepared at Northcourt for 10 caravans, proper sanitary accommodation was provided together with drainage and a piped supply of water. Later in the year the maximum number of caravans permitted on the site was increased to 20. In addition to this site 5 caravans were licensed to occupy various small sites in the Borough.

Caravans coming into the Borough for the few Annual fairs are visited. In all a total of 75 inspections were made in this connection.

## REFUSE

Domestic refuse was collected once weekly and trade refuse two or three times weekly, according to the requirements of the different trades at a nominal charge depending on quantity collected. The above mentioned collections were from the kerbside only, but it is hoped in 1951 to return to the pre-war practice, as regards domestic refuse, of collecting bins from and returning them to their usual resting place. Domestic refuse was collected by means of a properly covered vehicle, but the trade collections were made with an open lorry.

During the year however, an order was placed for a new covered vehicle so as to terminate the use of an open lorry.

## SALVAGE

Salvage collections are made together with domestic refuse by means of a trailer drawn behind the refuse freighter. Trades' refuse is collected separately, and as required, by means of an open lorry.

The sum of £304 was received during the year by the sale of salvage (paper, iron and zinc).



## **WATER**

The water supply is obtained from two sources:

- (1) Adits and wells at Wootton and Lashford Lane which supply approximately one third of the town.
- (2) Bulk supply from the Oxford City Council's Water Undertaking serving the remainder of the town.

Both supplies of water are hard, the total hardness varying from 30-32 parts per 100,000.

Actual consumption during the year averaged 6,778 gallons per head or 18.3 gallons per head per day.

## **SEWAGE**

During the year ministerial consent was obtained for a relief pumping station to be installed at the corner of St. Edmund's and Winsmoor lanes. This is to relieve the overloading of the lower sewer in the Ock Street, Thames Street and St. Helen's area during times of heavy rain and flooding. This it will do by withdrawing sewage from these sewers and pumping it direct to the sewerage farm through a new rising main. In addition, preliminary investigations have been carried out with regard to the construction of a proper sewerage treatment works and discussions were held between the Council and the ministerial department concerned.

## **MILK AND DAIRIES**

The control of milk production has now been transferred from local authorities to a special section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Visits are made to dairies and following a complaint 1 sample of T.T. milk was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford when examination proved it to be satisfactory.

## **MEAT**

No. of pigs killed .....	4094
No. of pigs inspected .....	4094

### **All diseases except tuberculosis**

Whole carcasses condemned .....	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	49
Percentage of the number inspected with diseases other than tuberculosis .....	1.29%

### **Tuberculosis only**

Whole carcasses condemned .....	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .....	65
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	1.73%



## OTHER FOODS

Some progress was made in the improvement of premises used for the preparation of food. The following foodstuffs were condemned:

200 lbs minced beef	23 lbs. biscuits
540 lbs. beef	112 lbs. prunes
18 lbs. meat pie	93½ lbs. cheese
88 lbs. jellied veal	36 lbs. Christmas pudding
24 lbs. corned beef	352 lbs. lard
24 lbs. bacon	11½ lbs. tea
55½ lbs. cooked ham	4 lbs. toffee
3 lbs. sausages	5 stone fish
1451 tins or packages of various foodstuffs	

Special efforts were made to improve the standard of ice cream. Samples were taken and provisionally graded by the Public Health Laboratory as follows:

	1950	1949
Grade 1	16	8
Grade 2	6	4
Grade 3	4	5
Grade 4	4	3
Totals	30	20

11 visits were paid to bakehouses.

## HOUSING TABLE

No. of new Dwelling Houses built:—

(1) by Local Authorities .....	53
(2) by Private Persons .....	17

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects .....	23
(1) (b) Number of inspections made .....	92
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	0
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	23

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year:—

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action .....	19
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year ..... Nil

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

### 1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
1. Factories (including laudries)	41	41	2	—
2. Workshops (including laundries)	25	16	—	—
3. Workplaces	—	—	—	—
Totals	66	57	2	—

The number of defects found and remedied during the year was 2. They were in respect of want of cleanliness (1) and defective sanitary conveniences (1).

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 5, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

### SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1950

No. of Different Premises visited .....	315
„ Inspections made .....	989
„ Complaints received .....	81
„ Defects or Nuisances discovered .....	72
„ Notices served (Informal) .....	46
„ Notices served (Statutory) .....	6
„ Prosecutions .....	Nil

#### No. of Defects or Nuisances Abated

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, etc. ....	10
„ Drains or Cesspools .....	9
„ Deficient or impure water .....	1
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc. ....	2
„ Other defects or nuisances .....	52
No. of Premises disinfected .....	13
„ Water samples taken for analysis .....	10
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened .....	1
„ Houses connected with water mains .....	72
Milkshops, No. on register .....	4
Milkshops, No. of Inspections .....	10
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms on register .....	5
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms, No. of Inspections .....	2
Slaughterhouses on register .....	2
Slaughterhouses, No. of Inspections .....	277
Piggeries, No. of Inspections .....	5



# ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HOUSING

The amount of repair work, alterations, extensions and improvements which is done to domestic property is essentially governed by the total annual sum for which the Council is allowed to issue licences. This sum, namely £30,488, which was the same as that for 1949, was of course of lower actual value than before because of the rise in the cost of materials and labour. Hence there was a reduction in the number of licences which the Council was able to grant although applications totalled several times the quota figure mentioned above.

(a) **Conversions.** Permanent accommodation for 9 families was provided by converting individual houses into two or more units. A further two families were housed in temporary bungalows constructed of "short lived" materials.

(b) **Temporary Dwellings.** In the district there are 5 sites containing huts converted into living units for which the Council at one time or other have accepted responsibility as regards maintenance, etc. They are Kingston Bagpuize (2 sites), Besselsleigh, Tubney Woods and Steventon.

Continued conversion at Kingston Bagpuize has resulted in accommodation for a further 18 families being provided, making a total of 78 families on these sites.

During the year the remaining 18 families at Besselsleigh camp have been absorbed into other accommodation, and the site completely cleared.

The site in Tubney Woods consists of 8 temporary brick and concrete double bungalows of a type superior to those found on any other site. Towards the end of the year the Council took over, from the Ministry of Works, responsibility for the administration of this site. It gives accommodation to 16 families allocated by the Ministry of Supply.

The Steventon camp is the least satisfactory. The huts, built in 1943 mainly for use as storage, were empty and left to deteriorate from early 1944 till the autumn of 1946 when some were occupied by "squatters". As a result the Council agreed to take over the camp on a temporary basis for eighteen months to 2 years. During 1950 it was still serving as "home" for 105 different families. But the increasing difficulty and cost of weather proofing and providing essential amenities emphasised that the time was overdue for steady but continued evacuation of the whole camp. It was hoped that 1951 would see this process started.

(c) **New Houses (Private Enterprise).** A further 12 permanent houses and 2 temporary bungalows have been completed during the year by, or on behalf of, private individuals.

(d) **Council Houses.** A total of 61 Council houses were completed during the year and a further 60 houses were under construction on 31st December, 1950.



These 121 houses were distributed among the following parishes:—

Parish	Completed	Under Construction 31/12/50
Appleton	1	4
Cumnor	23	10
Drayton	4	17
Fyfield	6	2
Kennington	8	—
Kingston Bagpuize	6	—
Marcham	—	10
North Hinksey	9	17
Radley	4	—
Total	61	60

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

The amount of improvement work to house property which it has been possible for this Council to licence, has shown a sharp decline. The practice of previous years in encouraging the installation of baths, W.C's. and water borne sewerage systems has again been followed and a summary of the more important work in the various parishes is as follows:—

	Housing Conversions	Additional Bedrooms	New W.C.	Bathrooms
Appleford	—	1	1	—
Appleton	—	1	—	2
Besselsleigh	—	2	—	—
Cumnor	—	1	1	3
Drayton	—	1	1	3
Kennington	—	2	4	3
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	—	1
Marcham	2	—	2	2
Milton	—	—	1	1
North Hinksey	1	2	—	1
Radley	1	1	—	—
St. Helen Without	2	2	1	1
South Hinksey	—	—	1	1
Sunningwell	—	1	1	2
Sutton Courtenay	3	2	—	1
Tubney	1	1	2	3
Wootton	1	2	1	3
Wytham	—	—	—	1
Totals	11	19	16	28



## Movable Dwellings

Three licensed caravan sites, open for permanent occupation continue to provide a little over one-third of the total caravan accommodation.

These are:—

Sugworth Lane, Radley, licensed for 25 caravans.

Lodge Hill, Radley, licensed for 20 caravans.

Bayworth, Sunningwell, licensed for 15 caravans.

A further site, at Newbridge, catering for holiday caravaners also continues to function from May—September.

As in previous years, the number of caravans in the area was known to be steadily increasing, and in December a Survey of every caravan was taken. This showed that in addition to the 60 caravans sited on the 3 licensed sites, an additional 112 were placed either in groups or individually, on sites licensed on an annual basis. A further 19 were stationed at the R.A.F. Station, Abingdon.

The following is a summary of the 172 caravans sited in individual parishes as on 31st December, 1950:—

3	Appleford	7	Kennington	15	Wootton
2	Appleton	1	Milton	2	Sutton Courtenay
30	Cumnor	16	North Hinksey	16	Sunningwell
12	Drayton	59	Radley	1	Steventon
1	Frilford	1	St. Helen Without	6	South Hinksey

It is of some interest to note that approximately 60 per cent. of caravan occupiers were shown to be employed in Oxford and 15 per cent. in Abingdon Borough, while 50 per cent. of all caravans in the area were sited within a radius of 5 miles of Oxford.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly kerbside collection was maintained by means of the two refuse lorries, with a third being kept in reserve for emergency use.

Controlled tipping on the Council's tips has progressed throughout the year and briefly the position on the tips was as follows:—

(1) **Kennington Tip.** The task of isolating the tip from the Thames borne stream referred to in my previous report, was virtually completed, and only in circumstances of high flood could pollution of the river occur, and even this possibility should disappear in 1951.

(2) **Milton Tip.** Extensive fires, maliciously instigated, caused considerable difficulty and expense during the early Autumn. As a result many parts of the tip had to be heavily sealed and work has proceeded on an alternative and restricted face.

(3) **Radley Road—Disused Gravel Pit.** Private tipping, or more adequately described as dumping, done mostly by the R.A.F. Station, Abingdon, continued at the above site, with extremely unsatisfactory results.

It has been proposed that this authority arrange for the disposal of all Station (R.A.F) refuse, but so far the financial arrangements with the Air Ministry are holding up the commencement of such a scheme. If this proposal is finally accepted, it will remove from this site the principal cause of dissatisfaction, as the remaining refuse dumped there, is mainly of an inorganic nature.



## WATER

The 18 parishes comprising the north and central areas of the district continue to be served by a piped supply from the Oxford City Water Undertaking. Regular sampling for bacteriological and chemical analysis has continued and results obtained show the supply to be satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

The following Table gives details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies.

Parish	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Houses supplied with main water	No. of Houses supplied by stand pipes
Appleton	201	108	—
Besselsleigh	19	12	—
Cumnor	708	580	—
Draycott Moor	156	125	—
Frilford	46	42	—
Fyfield	84	62	—
Garford	37	19	—
Kennington	494	450	—
Kingston Bagpuize	56	42	—
Marcham	206	89	—
North Hinksey	963	887	—
Radley	262	189	—
St. Helen Without	290	245	—
South Hinksey	75	74	—
Sunningwell	239	223	—
Tubney	62	19	—
Wootton	531	465	—
Wytham	49	10	—
Totals	4478	3641	—

The above are all served by the Oxford City Water Undertaking.

Drayton	400	260	136
Milton	209	141	56
Steventon	420	152	157
Sutton Courtenay	435	293	120
Total	1464	864	469

The above are supplied by the Council's bore at Sutton Courtenay.

Appleford	81	—	—
Lyford	43	—	—
Total	124	—	—
Grand Total	6066	4487	469

As in previous years the parishes of Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Milton and Steventon continue to be supplied by water obtained from a bore-hole situated in Sutton Courtenay. The quality of the water is indifferent, in that it is saline, and the Chlorine and total solids figures



continue their upward trend year by year. In addition to the unsatisfactory chemical composition, the results of bacteriological examinations were not uniformly good during the year. The seat of contamination is believed to have been in the two reservoirs, situated at Milton Hill and Steventon Hill, which are of concrete construction and below ground level. The greatest pollution was found in the Milton Hill reservoir. Examination of the walls showed minor fractures through which surface and sub-soil water was percolating, and these defects were remedied.

However, the system generally is not good, water being pumped direct into the service main, the reservoirs being situated at the far end of the mains.

Service pipes do not exceed 4 ins. in any case, and at points in the circular system are intermixed with 3 ins. mains which originally served purely parochial schemes.

The reservoirs and mains at Steventon and Milton Village are some 50—70 years old, while the original scheme supplying Sutton Courtenay was provided in 1922. Continuous pumping is necessary to maintain a supply, although the pressure is quite inadequate at the higher points of the system.

It is for the above reasons that it has been decided to replace the present source of supply by a bulk supply from Wantage R.D.C. The scheme, it is hoped, will be commenced in 1951, and will be taken from Rowstock Corner to the present system, which at a later date will require a complete overhaul. A possible extension to Appleford will then require consideration.

The only other parish (in addition to Appleford) where a piped supply is not available, is Lyford, where the water is obtained from shallow wells. Very few complaints have been received either as to quality, or to failure of the supply. No definite proposals are yet in mind for Lyford, but it may be possible to make arrangements with Faringdon R.D.C. when that Authority's comprehensive scheme is in operation.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

The Botley-Kennington Scheme serving the parishes of North Hinksey, Kennington and part of Cumnor continues to function satisfactorily.

A small pumping plant and disposal works to serve the Council Housing Estate at Drayton was constructed during the year.

Comprehensive schemes to serve the following areas are still under consideration:—

- (1) **Whitecross, Sunningwell, Wootton and part of St. Helen Without.**
- (2) **Appleton and part of Cumnor.** The technical details, together with sites for the proposed outfall works have been decided on, and approval is awaited from the Ministry of Local Government & Planning.
- (3) **Part of Cumnor and Radley.** It is proposed that this scheme shall form an extension to the existing comprehensive scheme now serving the Botley-Kennington area. The approval of the Ministry is awaited.
- (4) **Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay.** The consulting engineers are preparing details of this scheme for submission to the Ministry.



(5) **Kingston Bagpuize and Draycott Moor.** The Ministry of Works disposal plant at Kingston Bagpuize is now under the control of this authority. Owing to the extensive nature of the plant and the small demand of the area the works are running at only a fraction of their capacity, but it is intended to modify the lay-out in the near future.

## **MILK AND DAIRIES**

The total number of retailers retailing milk in the Abingdon Rural District is 19. Of this total 11 are producer-retailers and for production purposes come within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Six firms retail in the area under cover of Supplementary Licences, and two come within the jurisdiction of this authority.

## **FOOD PREMISES**

Considerable attention has been paid to the inspection of food premises of all types during the year. There are 121 premises of varying types handling food in the area which are detailed as follows:—

Shops 67; Public Houses 47; Bakehouses 7.

This figure includes 8 additional premises newly registered under Section 14—Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice-cream, and 1 additional business for the manufacture of sausages.

Bakehouses in the area number 7, all of which have been inspected. The largest bakery (Oxonia Limited, Radley) has been extensively reconditioned, making the third in the past four years to be brought up to a high structural standard.

Preliminary notices have been served on two occasions to effect repairs to sanitary accommodation.

## **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS**

During the course of the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption:—

78½ lbs. Home Killed Beef	160 lbs. Frozen Liquid Egg
91½ lbs. Imported beef	(Australian)
5½ lbs. Corned beef (canned)	18 galls. Piccalilli Pickle
15½ lbs. Ham (canned, France)	30 lbs. Dried Prunes

## **SMOKE ABATEMENT**

In the early summer urgent complaints were received from residents of Kennington about the deposition of soot from the Sandford Paper Mills situated in Oxfordshire.

After consultation with the Bullington Rural District Council, the Regional Fuel Engineer of the Ministry of Fuel and Power was called in to advise on plant modification, since when no further nuisance has been reported.

## **DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

The Rodent Officer carries out control work under the above Act by means of poison and traps.



The total number of visits to premises during the year was 6619 and the number of dead rats and mice actually recovered 1315. By the application of the Ministry of Food formula, the estimated kill for the year was 7623 destroyed. Infestation was work carried out at 909 premises.

The block control method has been in operation throughout the year and in addition 10 per cent. of sewers have been test baited and the results proved negative.

## HOUSING TABLE

No. of new Dwelling Houses built:—

(1) By Local Authorities .....	61
(2) By private Persons (permanent) .....	12
(temporary) .....	2

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects .....	69
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	90
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	21
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	10

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year:—

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action .....	46
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of statutory notices .....	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	21
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	2

### 4. Overcrowding:—

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	60
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## SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1950

No. of Different Premises visited .....	852
„ Inspections made .....	524
„ Complaints received .....	95
„ Defects or nuisances discovered .....	49
„ Notices served (Informal) .....	37
„ Notices served (Statutory) .....	2
„ Prosecutions .....	Nil
<b>No. of Defects or Nuisances Abated ...</b>	
As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink Wastes .....	5
„ Drains or Cesspools .....	9
„ Pigs or Other Animals .....	1
„ Deficient or Impure Water .....	13
„ Unclean Houses .....	1
„ Polluted Ditches, etc. ....	6
„ Other Defects or Nuisances .....	14
No. of Premises Disinfested .....	17
„ Water samples taken for analysis .....	56
„ Wells closed .....	10
„ Wells cleansed, repaired, etc. ....	3
„ New Wells Sunk .....	1
„ Houses connected to Water Mains .....	145
„ Seizures or Surrenders of Unsound Food .....	12
„ Closets replaced by W.C.'s .....	16
„ Inspections of Piggeries .....	4

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

### I. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prose- cutions
1. Factories (including laundries)	9	8	—	—
2. Workshops (including laundries)	32	27	5	—
3. Workplaces	—	—	—	—
Totals	41	35	5	—



## II. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	No. of Defects Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding temperature	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	1
(b) defective	3	3	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	3	3	1	—
Total	10	10	1	1

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 8, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

# FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## HOUSING

### Temporary Dwellings

During the year two camps at Shellingford R.A.F. Station and Shrivenham Railway Station continued to be occupied. The number of huts at Shellingford has been reduced to one brick-built ablution block with two families and one Nissen Hut. The camp at Shrivenham continues to house 2 families. There have been no further projects contemplated for this type of accommodation.

During the year the number of Council Houses completed was 55 and those under construction on 31st December, 1950, numbered 46.

The number built by Private Enterprise was 14 while 8 more were in course of erection at the end of the year.

These 123 houses were distributed among the following parishes:—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Construc- tion 31.12.50	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.50
Ashbury	—	—	—	1
Compton Beauchamp	—	—	1	—
Faringdon	39	14	1	3
Hatford	—	—	2	—
Hinton Waldrist	—	—	3	—
Kingston Lisle	8	—	—	—
Shellingford	2	—	—	—
Shrivenham	—	8	7	2
Stanford	—	20	—	—
Uffington	6	4	—	2
Total	55	46	14	8

### Caravans

12 sites were used for camping purposes during the year. There are now no licensed sites in use as one previously occupied was closed voluntarily during the year.

The estimated maximum number of campers at any one time during the season was thirty-seven persons.

The following is a summary of the nineteen caravans licensed in individual parishes as on the 31st December, 1950:—

Parish	Caravans	Parish	Caravans
Eaton Hastings	6	Longworth	2
Faringdon	2	Shrivenham	6
Great Coxwell	1	Uffington	1
Little Coxwell	1		



## WATER

### Quality

The piped water supplies within the area have maintained a reasonable quality throughout the year, while water from private wells has been generally unsatisfactory.

### Quantity.

During 1950 the water supply from all sources, both piped and wells, has been adequate in quantity, mainly owing to the more than average amount of rainfall.

### Examinations

The following piped supplies exist in the district:—

- \* Ashdown Park Borehole—supplies Shrivenham, Bourton, Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, Longcot and Watchfield.
- \* Wicklesham Borehole—supplies Faringdon, Fernham, Little Coxwell and Great Coxwell.
- \* Kingston Lisle (ex Wantage R.D.C. Mains).  
Uffington and Baulking.  
Shellingford (private supply).
- \* Buscot and Eaton Hastings (private supply).
- \* Buckland (private supply).

The supplies marked \* are chlorinated, the remainder not being treated.

Routine bacteriological examinations are made and chemical samples have been taken from the two main sources at Wicklesham and Ashdown Park, and also from two private sources at Stanford-in-the-Vale and Hinton Waldrist. The results are given below. Of those supplies which are chlorinated, no samples of raw water have been taken prior to chlorination.

### Bacteriological Examination

Supply	No. of Samples	Ministry of Health's Grading:		
		Grade I	Grade II	Grade III
Ashdown Park	4	4	—	—
Wicklesham	4	3	1	—
Kingston Lisle	4	3	1	—
Uffington and Baulking	4	—	3	1
Woolstone	4	3	1	—
Shellingford	4	2	1	1
Buscot and E. Hastings	7	2	2	3
Buckland	4	2	2	—
Totals	35	19	11	5

The main water supplies in the district are 'hard' and no plumbo-solvent action is experienced.

### **Action in respect of contamination**

Reference to the foregoing table indicates that the worst contamination occurred at Uffington and Baulking, Buscot and Eaton Hastings, and Shellingford. Minor contamination occurred at Buckland, Woolstone, Wicklesham and Kingston Lisle.

At Uffington and Baulking boiling notices remained in force. But most of the work on the laying of new mains from Fernham was completed, and it is hoped that this supply will be brought into operation early in 1951.

At Shellingford, Buscot and Eaton Hastings boiling notices still remain in force and no improvement can be expected until an alternative supply is obtained.

During the year work commenced on the new comprehensive scheme for a supply of water from the River Thames. Under this scheme the Council propose to extract up to a million gallons a day from the Thames at Buscot and so be in a position to supply the thirteen parishes, namely, Coleshill, Buscot, Eaton Hastings, Great Coxwell, Buckland, Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Pusey, Charney Bassett, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Hatford, Shellingford and Woolstone, which are without an adequate and wholesome supply. It could also provide water for the parish of Kingston Lisle, which at present obtains its supply from the Wantage Rural District Council.

The parishes concerned have a total population of 3,834 and contain 1,067 dwelling houses and 129 farms, and are entirely agricultural.

The building of the pumping-house at Buscot and the reservoir at Folly Hill, Faringdon were making good progress at the end of the year. During 1951 it is hoped to lay the supply main from the pumphouse to the reservoir and to commence laying some of the distribution mains.



### Details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies

Parish	No.	Houses	Standpipe	Approx. Population		
		Direct Supply		No.	Direct Supply	Stand-pipe
Ashbury	168	133	32	596	509	80
Baulking	38	10	27	127	35	85
Bourton	72	34	38	400	186	214
Buckland	176	11	4	553	31	11
Buscot	84	10	50	271	30	150
Charney Bassett	50	—	—	165	—	—
Coleshill	73	4	—	241	16	—
Compton Beau	32	26	5	88	73	13
Coxwell, Great	77	34	—	226	195	—
Coxwell, Little	68	11	24	248	39	94
Eaton Hastings	34	19	14	139	35	55
Faringdon	905	834	59	3518	3281	204
Fernham	55	38	6	155	106	15
Hatford	25	—	—	80	—	—
Hinton Waldrist	77	4	—	275	11	—
Kingston Lisle	73	45	15	245	166	42
Longcot	87	62	14	312	236	47
Longworth	157	—	—	564	—	—
Pusey	31	—	—	115	—	—
Shellingford	54	12	28	151	45	80
Shrivenham	293	198	51	953	527	178
Stanford	267	40	—	919	133	—
Uffington	159	89	66	514	282	200
Watchfield	368	324	30	987	870	84
Woolstone	39	20	19	98	53	45
Totals	3464	1958	482	11930	6846	1597

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

The sewerage scheme for Fernham was completed and brought into operation during 1950. Good progress has been made on the Uffington scheme and it is hoped to bring it into use early in 1951.

### **SCAVENGING**

There was no extension or improvement to the system of collection and disposal of refuse during the year. The salvage of waste paper made a commendable increase towards the end of the year. The total sum obtained through the sale of salvage in 1950 was £165 7s. 11d. In 1949 the sum was £172 15s. 3d.

### **MILK**

Nineteen samples of milk were taken and examined for tubercle bacilli, all of which proved negative. These samples were taken from producers of raw non-designated milk only.

## MEAT

The following meat was condemned:—

82 lbs. English Beef	88 lbs. Tinned Meat
55 lbs. Imported Beef	19 lbs. Bacon

No legal action has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

All condemned meat, other than tinned meat, is returned to the Ministry of Food for disposal.

## OTHER FOODS

The following other foods were condemned:—

3 lbs. Tinned Fish	131 Polish Eggs
24 lbs. Other tinned food	50 sacks Cabbages (appx. 1 ton)
97 lbs. Margarine	

Number of Inspections carried out on food shops .....	45
Number of Inspections carried out on stalls and vehicles .....	11
Number of Inspections carried out on cafes and inns .....	53
Number of Notices served .....	17
Number of notices complied with .....	11

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

There are no slaughterhouses at present in this district.

Number of Inspections of Butchers' Shops .....	39
Number of Informal Notices served .....	6
Number of Informal Notices complied with .....	6

## BAKEHOUSES

Number in district .....	10
Number of Inspections .....	18
Defects found and remedied .....	7

## SCHOOLS

Improvements were carried out to the sanitary accommodation at one school, as a result of informal action.



## HOUSING TABLE

No. of new Dwelling Houses built:—

(1) By Local Authorities .....	55
(2) By Private Persons .....	14

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects .....	7
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose .....	11
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	7
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	Nil

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year:—

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses in which defects were remedied in consequence of informal action .....	51
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	4

### 4. Overcrowding:—

(1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	11
(2) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	19

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

### I. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including laundries)	36	21	1	—
Workshops (including laundries)	33	28	—	—
Workplaces	4	9	—	—
Total	73	58	1	—

The number of defects found and remedied during the year was 13. They were in respect of want of cleanliness (4) and defective sanitary conveniences (9).

There were no outworkers in the district.

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK

## DURING THE YEAR 1950

No. of Different Premises visited .....	1152
„ Inspections made .....	672
„ Complaints received .....	130
„ Defects or nuisances discovered .....	146
„ Notices served (Informal) .....	93
„ Notices served (Statutory) .....	6
„ Prosecutions .....	Nil

### No. of Defects or Nuisances Abated

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink Wastes, etc. ....	19
„ Drains or Cesspools .....	33
„ Pigs or other animals .....	2
„ Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards .....	6
„ Deficient or impure water .....	76
„ Unclean houses .....	7
„ Overcrowded houses .....	19
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc. ....	2
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits .....	1
„ Other defects or nuisances .....	39
No. of Premises Disinfected .....	2
„ Water samples taken for analysis .....	64
„ Wells closed .....	7
„ Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened .....	1
„ New Wells sunk .....	1
„ Houses connected to water mains .....	75
„ Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food .....	38
„ Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s .....	7
„ Milkshops on Register .....	2
„ Inspection of Milkshops .....	7
„ Inspection of Knackers' Yards .....	17
„ Inspection of Piggeries .....	9









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