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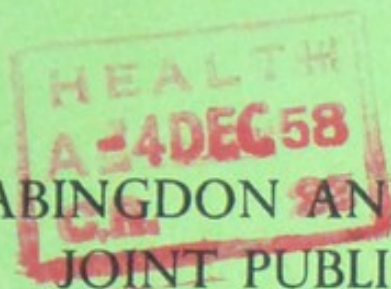
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ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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



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ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members 1957-58

ABINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mrs. E. B. Armitage, M.B.E., Walton House, Sutton Courtenay, Nr. Abingdon.

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Capt. R. A. Prioleau, M.C., The Grove, Kingston Lisle, Nr. Wantage.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1957.

The tables in the statistical section show little variation from those of recent years with one exception and that a good one.

There was an increase in population of almost exactly 4% in both Abingdon Borough and Abingdon Rural District, the decrease in Faringdon being due to closure of a U.S. Service Camp. The Birth rate was again higher than the national and the Death rate again lower.

The Infant Mortality rate of an area is always considered to be a very sensitive index of the quality of the medical services provided and of the many environmental conditions existing which include housing, sanitation, nutrition, control of infections, parental care, living standards, etc. It therefore reflects considerable credit on the various workers in the local authorities, both district and county, as well as on the general practitioners, nurses and other workers in the Health Services, to note that the Infant Mortality rate for the three districts, which is usually much better than the country as a whole, last year fell for the first time to less than half the national figure. The rate for the area was 9.3 (deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births), compared with the national figure of 23 deaths per 1,000.

Between 1st April and 7th May the area had visits from Mass X-Ray Units, which spent 2 weeks in the Market Square, Abingdon, one week on Industrial sites in Abingdon, $2\frac{1}{2}$ weeks visiting 11 suburban and village sites in Abingdon Rural District, one week in Faringdon town and 2 weeks at 7 village sites in the Faringdon Rural District.

The total numbers X-Rayed were, in Abingdon 4,973, in the Abingdon Rural District 4,660 and in Faringdon 2,115. These and other figures suggest that only about one quarter of those who should have attended actually did so.

The number of cases of T.B. on the clinic registers of the country at the end of 1957 was 351,768. Those on the registers of our three districts were 478.

The complete control and elimination of tuberculosis, which is still a more dangerous disease in this country than polio, smallpox, diphtheria, syphilis, typhoid, scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles and all the other infectious or communicable diseases added together, depends very largely on the public, on their demand for it and on their co-operation with the measures taken to that end.

To do this, they first need to understand more of the great changes that have taken place in the last ten years in the treatment and cure of this disease, so that an attitude of confidence, hopefulness and frankness replaces that of fear, despair and secrecy that surrounded the subject a short time ago. In the past, to change the national climate of opinion such as this could not be hoped for within a generation or two, but the popularity of radio, television, the press and the cinema has made all the difference. Ten years ago, diagnosis of T.B. of the lungs in 10 young men or women in the prime of life was an almost certain sentence of death within a few years for about half of them, so fear and furtiveness were natural. Nowadays the illness and recovery of, for example, Gilbert Harding, is known simultaneously in millions of homes.

In my report of 1954, I suggested that the time was overdue when a regular chest X-Ray should be a condition of employment of certain occupations where there is frequent and close contact with large numbers of the general public and especially with children. I gave as examples, 'school teachers, bus conductors, shop assistants, waiters, hairdressers, barmen, and yes, even dentists and doctors.'

At the recent joint annual conference of the British Tuberculosis Association with the Commonwealth Chest Conference, the Professor of Tuberculosis at Edinburgh University, Dr. John Crofton, improved this list as follows, and with the comments which I quote:

- "1. School teachers and all working with children such as in Nurseries. In Scotland, most local authorities grant extended periods on full pay if work has to stop.
- "2. Bus conductors and ticket collectors. Most are employed by local authorities or nationalised industries.
- "3. Hairdressers. Every shop should display a certificate to show that each employee has had an X-Ray.
- "4. Shop assistants. Bigger stores usually co-operate.
- "5. Food servers. In most states in the U.S. food handlers have to be X-Rayed every year.
- "6. Hospital employees including doctors and nurses. It is very difficult to get doctors, either in or out of hospital, regularly X-Rayed except in chest units. In consequence, my own clinical practice among doctors is flourishing! Other hospital employees are very much neglected at the present time. Although nurses are regularly X-Rayed, sisters are often omitted, even in Children's hospitals.
- "7. Dentists. Another elusive professional group which has hardly been touched.

"8. Cinema usherettes and other people coming directly into contact with the public.

"9. Lift operators work in an enclosed space admirably designed to convey disease.

"All such groups should have an X-Ray of the chest as a condition of employment and should at least be encouraged to be X-Rayed annually. My own feeling is that it is perfectly reasonable to make regular X-Rays a condition of employment in these jobs. It should be possible to make a legal case against a firm who endangered the public by neglecting to make arrangements for regular X-Rays."

I have quoted this at length because I believe it important that the public should think along these lines and press that this be done.

In my last report I wrote about Fluoridation, namely the addition to those waters which were deficient in it, of one part per million of fluoride. I showed that the prevention by this means of at least half of one of the most serious ills that affects almost everyone in this country, namely dental decay, was:

Extremely urgent;
Extremely simple and easy;
Extremely cheap;
Completely certain and safe;
Perfectly natural;
Many years overdue.

I expressed astonishment and implied disgust at the years of delay in applying what is far and away the most urgent measure of prevention in the whole field of health. I have frequently quoted the Irish would-be recruit rejected on account of bad teeth who complained that he wished to shoot, not bite, the Germans and added that this delay would not for a moment be tolerated if we were preparing to bite our "enemies" instead of incinerating them.

What progress has there been in the last year? Confirmatory evidence has piled up and up. But are any more children in this country benefitting from this knowledge? The awful truth is that not more but less are receiving it. Andover, one of the four districts set up to demonstrate the benefits of fluoridation has stopped doing so. What in Heaven's name is preventing millions of children in this country from being given what they desperately need to save half their teeth from rotting? Believe it or not, it seems to be a tiny minority of people almost all of whom know next to nothing about the subject and have totally unscientific minds.

A typical example of the result of this type of mind came to my desk a short time ago. The Secretary of a nation-wide Organisation, who is a leading "anti", wrote to me and said "Surely the proponents case for fluoridation has been brought to ridicule following the annual report of Dr. I. D. Leach, Principal School Medical Officer (of South Shields). I quote an extract from the *Newcastle Journal* 'the natural fluorine content in the drinking water at South Shields is not the asset it used to be in combating dental decay. It is fighting a losing battle against sweets'."

The point is not that this lady did not know nor trouble to find out that "the natural fluorine was not the asset it used to be" because it was now diluted to half its strength by water from elsewhere. The dreadful thing is that she could imagine for even a single moment that a solitary sentence by a local M.O.H., such as myself, could "bring to ridicule" the case for fluoridation.

I need not repeat the mass of expert opinion that I described last year on which the case for fluoridation rests. I would only refer to the three investigations concluded during 1957 and mentioned in the annual report for 1957, published this month by the Ministry of Health.

1. The American Medical Association in Nov. 1956 directed the Council on Drugs and the Council on Food and Nutrition to conduct a joint study of all the available information concerning the fluoridation of public water supplies. After a year of study, the joint Councils presented a 27 page report in Dec. 1957 which was considered for $4\frac{3}{4}$ hours by the House of Delegates. This resulted in a vote to take a policy stand that 'the fluoridation of public water supplies is a safe and practical method of reducing the incidence of caries during childhood.'

2. The Expert Committee on fluoridation set up by the World Health Organization based its study on controlled programmes of fluoridation in 13 countries, some of which had been in operation for more than 12 years, on literature comprising over 3,000 publications and so on. It concluded 'that the effectiveness, safety and practicability of fluoridation as a means of controlling dental caries is now established.'

3. A New Zealand Government Commission of enquiry into fluoridation set up in Nov. 1956, presented its 240-page report in July 1957. Its general conclusion was 'that widespread use should be made of the fluoridation process for the purpose of achieving an urgently needed improvement in the present serious state of dental health in New Zealand.' Among its conclusions was that 'a national body should be established charged with the duty of encouraging, advising and assisting local authorities in regard to the installation and maintenance of fluoridation plants.'

It need astonish no one that there exist people with the kind of minds that can balance a sentence in a local newspaper by a local M.O.H. against the examples I have quoted above and who can believe that the single sentence outweighs the others, nay, 'brings them to ridicule.' The astonishing thing is that a tiny minority consisting largely of such people should exert so unwarranted an influence, not only on the leaders of Andover, but on the makers of our national policy as to hold up a measure of such importance as the reduction of future caries by at least half.

Great and increasing efforts are being made to reduce the amount of caries by teaching people to eat better foods, to end their meals with fruit, to brush the teeth after every meal or at least to rinse their mouths after every meal and above all, to cut down on sugars and sweets, especially between meals. All this is splendid and should be encouraged but I doubt whether anyone who knows the factors involved can hope, by these means to do a fifth as much good as by fluoridation. As fluoridation would not take one tenth of the efforts required that makes, by my calculations, fluoridation to be about fifty times more worth while.

In conclusion, may I express my sincerest thanks to the Chairmen and Councillors who have been so friendly and helpful; to the General Practitioners and Nurses of the area for their willing support and co-operation, to my colleagues on the staff of the Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors, for their cheerful and efficient conduct of the great variety and volume of tasks referred to in this report.

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN PARFIT,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

In this first section are collected the various tables which summarise the vital statistics of the three Authorities grouped together. It is followed by sections which deal separately with matters affecting the health of each Authority.

AREA AND POPULATION

The following table shows the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1957. The table shows that the population density of Abingdon Borough and Faringdon Rural Districts are very close to the national averages for England and Wales. Abingdon Rural District, however, has a density three times that of the average Rural District (.20) only one-third of this excess being due to the parishes which are on the outskirts of Oxford, namely, Cumnor, North Hinksey and Kennington.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid-1957 Pop.	Inc./Dec. on 1956	Persons per acre
Abingdon Borough	1,754	13,110	† 540	7.47
Abingdon Rural District	41,185	28,060	†1110	.68
Faringdon Rural District	55,726	13,410	-300	.24
Totals	98,665	54,580	†1350	.55

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the 'corrected' rates per 1,000 of Population. 'Corrected' rates are those which take due account of the actual age and sex composition of each area by being multiplied by the 'Comparability factor' supplied by the Registrar General. They may then be fairly compared with those of the nation as a whole, or with the corrected rates of any other area. The factors for Births and Deaths are as follows: Abingdon Borough .91 : 1.25 : Abingdon Rural District 1.01 : 1.28 : and Faringdon Rural District 1.03 : 1.15. (Figures for 1956 are in brackets).

District	Births	Birth rate per 1000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	287 (284)	19.6	92 (111)	8.7
Abingdon Rural District	556 (554)	19.2	212 (216)	9.6
Faringdon Rural District	260 (259)	19.8	121 (110)	10.3
Totals	1103 (1097)	19.4	425 (437)	9.3
England and Wales		16.1 (15.7)		11.5 (11.7)

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births
Abingdon Borough	2	283	7.4
Abingdon Rural District	6	543	11.0
Faringdon Rural District	4	256	15.6
Totals	12 (16)	1082 (1075)	11.1 (14.9)
England and Wales			23.0 (23.8)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The 425 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows :—

Cause	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total 1957	Total 1956
Heart Disease	24	65	54	143	134
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System (Stroke)	14	25	16	55	68
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	4	6	12	24
Cancer	14	37	7	58	69
Pneumonia	4	10	7	21	19
Bronchitis	6	10	4	20	21
Influenza	7	5	1	13	4
Other Diseases of the Respiratory system	—	1	4	5	8
Road Accidents	1	3	3	7	9
All Other Accidents	5	18	1	24	8
Suicide	—	—	—	—	5
Congenital Malformations	1	2	3	6	6
Ulcer of Stomach	2	—	3	5	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	2	3	5	3
Nephritis	1	3	—	4	3
Gastritis, Enteritis, etc.	—	2	—	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	1	2	2
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1	2	2
Diabetes	—	1	—	1	3
Syphilitic Disease	—	1	—	1	—
Other Infective & Para- sitic Diseases	—	1	—	1	—
All other Causes	10	21	7	38	42
Total all Causes	92	212	121	425	437

STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1000 total births
Abingdon Borough	3	1	4	13.9
Abingdon Rural District	12	1	13	23.4
Faringdon Rural District	4	—	4	15.3
Totals	19	2	21	19.0
England and Wales				22.4

MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the fifth successive year there were no deaths attributed to accidents of childbirth.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1957, with the 1956 figures in brackets.

Disease	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total all Districts
Measles	56 (140)	513 (146)	123 (5)	692 (291)
Whooping Cough	27 (27)	39 (31)	13 (1)	79 (59)
Pneumonia	14 (14)	21 (28)	3 (2)	38 (44)
Scarlet Fever	7 (14)	14 (34)	3 (5)	24 (53)
Food Poisoning	— (—)	11 (1)	— (—)	11 (1)
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	6 (1)	3 (—)	1 (—)	10 (1)
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	3 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	3 (—)
Dysentery	3 (20)	3 (57)	— (—)	6 (77)
Erysipelas	3 (4)	1 (6)	1 (—)	5 (10)
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (—)	3 (—)	1 (—)	4 (—)
Meningococcal Infection	1 (2)	1 (1)	1 (—)	3 (3)
Encephalitis	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
Malaria	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)
Total	121 (223)	610 (304)	147 (13)	878 (540)

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. The total of Pulmonary cases, 41, is the same as the average for the past nine years.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Total (All Districts)	
	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15—20	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	—
20—25	2	—	5	—	—	—	7	—
25—35	3	1	6	1	1	—	10	2
35—45	1	—	5	1	—	1	6	2
45—55	2	—	1	—	1	—	4	—
55—65	1	—	2	—	2	—	5	—
Over 65	1	—	2	1	—	—	3	1
Total	11	1	26	3	4	1	41	5
1956 Figures	8	1	24	—	7	2	39	3

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 112. These consisted of 101 Council Houses and 11 built by private persons. A further 5 private houses were under construction on 31st December 1957.

The above brought the number of Council Houses to a total of 1,696, of which 570 were built before the war and 1,126 completed since the war.

The rents of pre-war houses ranged from 15/- to 29/5d. including Rates, with an average of £1 per week. Rents for post-war houses ranged from 16/4d. to £3 : 11 : 4d. including Rates, the average being approximately 38/- per week. The number of applications for new Council Houses on 31st December 1957 was 455.

CARAVANS

There were a total of 57 Caravans licensed in the Borough of which 20 were on the Council's own Site, 9 on a licensed private site and the remaining 25 on individual private sites.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Following the delivery of a new Refuse Vehicle all domestic and trade refuse is now collected by modern rear loading methods with a minimum of nuisance. Disposal continued to be by tipping at the Wick Hall Site.

SALVAGE

The market for waste paper was poor and the income fell to almost half that of the previous year.

Receipts were :—

Waste Paper	.....	.....	.....	£175	4s.	4d.
Rags	.....	.....	.....	£ 56	0s.	6d.
Scrap Metal	.....	.....	.....	£ 9	16s.	3d.
Total :	.....	.....	.....	£241	1s.	1d.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary was used on 95 occasions including 61 post-mortem examinations.

SWIMMING POOL

The pool is emptied, cleaned and refilled with water from the adjacent Thames each week. The water is treated with chlorine daily, or more frequently if required, the amount added being decided by twice daily checks of the amount of residual chlorine present in the water. Periodic bacteriological examinations continued to show the value of these measures.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year the degree of surcharging of the Sewers of the town due to the steady increase in new building, made it imperative that the full sewage disposal treatment recommended at the Public Inquiry in October 1953 be introduced as a matter of urgency. Strong pressure in support of this procedure was constantly available from the Thames Conservancy officials. Recently the Council has been empowered to appoint the necessary staff to prepare the detailed drawings required to this end.

A very minor degree of relief was obtained by the area available for open irrigation being increased by a further three acres to make a total of 76 acres.

WATER

During the year there was increasing difficulty in maintaining an adequate pressure of water in the northern and higher section of the Borough, owing to considerably increased demands, especially at week-ends. This made all the more urgent the scheme, already approved in principle by the Ministry, for the building by the Oxford Water Undertaking of a reservoir on Boars Hill holding 750,000 gallons to meet this need.

MEAT AND FOOD

The following tables set out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses and offal found to be affected with tuberculosis and other conditions.

Complete post-mortem examination is carried out on all carcasses and offal, and as far as possible this is preceded by ante-mortem inspection.

Caldecott Abattoir

	No. Slaughtered	No. found to be affected T.B.	% of total	Other Conditions	% of total	Whole carcasses T.B.	Other Conditions
Steers & Heifers	1511	55	3.3	459	30.37	3	10
Cows	313	38	12.14	107	34.18	3	10
Calves	392	3	.76	22	5.61	3	15
Sheep	8688	—	—	116	1.33	—	27
Pigs	15465	228	1.47	2081	13.4	—	88
Goats	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	26372	324		2785		9	150

Bacon Factory

Pigs	2630	60	2.28	124	4.7	—	3
Grand Total	29002	384		2909		9	153

Analysis of Causes of Condemnation of Carcasses

Disease	Steers & Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number Inspected	1511	313	392	8688	18095	29002
Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	26	26
Oedema & Emaciation	2	2	1	10	4	19
Pleurisy & Peritonitis						
Septic	1	—	4	1	11	17
Oedema General	1	1	1	1	12	16
Septicaemia	1	—	1	1	12	15
Moribund	—	—	1	8	4	13
T.B. Generalised	3	3	3	—	—	9
Pneumonia Septic	2	2	—	—	3	7
Injuries Multiple/						
Septic	1	1	1	—	4	7
All other Causes	2	4	6	6	15	33
Totals	13	13	18	27	91	162

Weight of diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned :

Meat	28,128 lbs.
Offal	19,963 lbs.
Total	48,091 lbs.

Meat Condemned at Butchers' Shops :

Meat	203 lbs.
Offal	51 lbs.
Total	254 lbs.

(a) Routine examination of all cattle for *Cysticercus Bovis* was carried out and in 11 cases (0.55%) cysts were found and the affected carcasses and offal dispatched to cold storage accommodation at East Hagbourne or Reading.

Liaison with local authorities concerned ensured that the carcasses and offal were refrigerated at a temperature below 20° F. for 21 days before release.

(b) The bulk of condemned meat and offal at the Caldecott Abattoir is disposed of in a digester and processing plant adjoining the premises. A certain amount of condemned meat was sent to other areas for processing into pet animal food. This meat is stained green before dispatch. In the case of Messrs. Cottrell's Bacon Factory all condemned meat and offal is disposed of by burial on the Corporation tip.

Food other than Fresh Meat

The following tinned foodstuffs were condemned :—

9½ lbs. Cheese	306 lbs. Meat
139 lbs. Fats	13 lbs. Milk
11 lbs. Fish	13½ lbs. Soup
111 lbs. Fruit	51 lbs. Tomatoes
3 lbs. Fruit Juices	45 lbs. Vegetables
10 lbs. Jam/Syrup	2 lbs. Miscellaneous

FOOD PREMISES

The number of various types of premises in the Borough and the number of visits paid to them during the year was as follows :—

Type	No.	Visits	Type	No.	Visits
Bacon Factory	1	147	Cafes & Restaurants	17	19
Abattoir	1	593	Bakeries	4	5
Sale & Manufacture of Preserved Food	6	94	Licensed Premises	43	4
Grocers & General Stores	40	49	Fried & Fresh Fish Merchants	6	2
Sale of Ice Cream	35	13	Greengrocers	12	18
Butchers	10	61	Milk Distributors	3	7

MILK

During the year 26 samples of Milk were taken in the course of delivery or at Schools in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination, with completely satisfactory results.

Class of Milk	Test	No. of Samples	No. of Samples Passed	No. of Samples Failed
Pasteurised	Phosphatase	12	12	—
	Methylene Blue	12	12	—
Tuberculin Tested	Phosphatase	14	14	—
	Methylene Blue	14	14	—
Sterilised	Turbidity	1	1	—

ICE CREAM

24 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, and all were provisionally graded as Grade 1. Comparison with previous years shows a constant improvement to reach this high standard and reflects considerable credit on the Ice Cream industry, especially when it is remembered that the standard suggested by the Ministry of Health is "... that over a six-monthly period 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3, and none in Grade 4."

HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(1) The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	23
(2) The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by local authority or their officers	22
(3) The number of notices served requiring the execution of works	22
(4) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	2
(5) The number of demolition or closing orders made	7

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Through the Grants seven dwellings were enabled to obtain a wide variety of increased amenities before the need for national economy brought the Grants to a temporary end in September 1957.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Part I of the Act

	No.	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power	8	8	Nil
Factories with mechanical power	54	38	4
Other premises	6	2	Nil
Total	68	48	4

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)			
(a) Insufficient	1	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	1	—
Total	1	3	1

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 7 all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF P. H. INSPECTORS' VISITS ETC. DURING 1957

General Sanitation Visits :

Water Supply	21
Drainage	137
Stables & Piggeries	9
Offensive Trades	22
Tents, Vans and Sheds	170
Factories	48
Bakehouses	5
Licensed Premises	4
Refuse Collection	52
Refuse Disposal	132
Atmospheric Pollution	10
Shops	34
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	193

Under Public Health Acts :

Number of Houses Inspected	118
Visits paid to above Houses	127

Under Housing Acts :

Number of Houses Inspected	300
Visits paid to above Houses	310

Filthy or Verminous Premises :

Number of Houses Inspected	12
Visits paid to above Houses	13
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	12

Meat and Food Inspection :

Visits to—

Slaughterhouses	740
Other Premises	2
Butchers	61
Dairies and Milk Distributors	7
Fishmongers and Poulterers	8
Food Preparing Premises	94
Grocers	49
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	18
Ice Cream Premises	13
Market Stalls	205
Restaurants	19
Street Vendors or Hawkers' Carts	3

Visits in Connection with Sampling :

Milk—Bacteriological	24
Ice Cream	3
Food and Drug Samples	12
Miscellaneous Food Visits	7

Total Number of Visits during Year	2,564
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Defects and Nuisances :

Number of Complaints received	117
" " Defects or nuisances discovered	85
" " Notices served (Informal)	61
" " Notices served (Statutory)	8
" " Prosecutions	Nil
" " Water samples taken for analysis	21

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid 1957	Area in Acres	Total Houses	Council Houses	Rateable Value £	Product of 1d. Rate	
						£	s.
Appleford	312	862	83	13	1355	5	11
Appleton-with-Eaton	860	2077	229	32	4673	19	5
Besselsleigh	82	906	21	2	552	2	5
Cumnor	4028	5672	1073	297	43987	183	14
Draycott Moor	418	1054	111†	58†	2567	10	11
Drayton	1820	2604	485	92	10363	42	3
Frilford	234	1147	62	—	3172	12	18
Fyfield & Tubney	636	2746	169	39	4393	17	18
Garford	151	1068	40	4	522	2	2
Kennington	3387	1369	902	168	31796	128	9
Kingston Bagpuize	280	1109	74	—	1350	5	9
Lyford	163	774	43	—	220	0	18
Marcham	921	2514	245	40	8433	33	13
Milton	846	1466	225	31	30055	125	6
North Hinksey	5018	1087	1337	48	55080	230	1
Radley	1135	2863	302	71	14633	59	18
St. Helen Without	958	2047	255	8	41330	172	16
South Hinksey	340	509	90	8	4667	18	19
Steventon	1362	2401	362*	76*	14451	59	9
Sunningwell	920	1332	245	37	11641	47	17
Sutton Courtenay	1675	2103	446	34	43343	177	18
Wootton	2305	1523	614	132	24074	99	2
Wytham	209	1992	55	—	2992	11	19
Southern Gas Board					1001	3	4
Totals	28060	41225	7468	1190	£356650	£1471	5
Totals for 1956	26950	41225	7335	1140	£369513	£1510	2

† Includes 20 Camp Hutments

*Includes 11 Camp Hutments

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 155. These consisted of 50 new Council Houses and 105 built by Private Enterprise. A further 336 were under construction on 31st December 1957, of which 266 were Council Houses and 70 were private.

The distribution of these 491 houses is shown in the following table :—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.57	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.57
Appleford	—	—	—	1
Appleton-with-Eaton	—	—	5	—
Besselsleigh	—	—	—	—
Cumnor	—	—	35	21
Draycott Moor	—	—	4	3
Drayton	—	—	3	4
Frilford	—	—	4	1
Fyfield & Tubney	—	—	3	1
Garford	—	—	2	—
Kennington	50	12	11	14
Kingston Bagpuize	—	10	—	—
Lyford	—	—	—	—
Marcham	—	—	1	—
Milton	—	—	4	2
North Hinksey	—	—	13	10
Radley	—	—	1	1
St. Helen Without	—	—	3	—
South Hinksey	—	—	—	1
Steventon	—	—	5	3
Sunningwell	—	—	2	1
Sutton Courtenay	—	228	5	4
Wootton	—	16	4	3
Wytham	—	—	—	—
Totals	50	266	105	70
Totals for 1956	80	56	355	94

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

As in previous years, 40 prefabricated bungalows at Wootton, built in 1945, continue in use and as a result of being extensively overhauled during 1956 it seems likely they will continue to provide housing accommodation for some time to come.

Steventon. The task of re-housing families from the camp and dismantling the huts has progressed slowly, and the number of families living there has been reduced from 13 to 11.

Kingston Bagpuize. The re-housing of families and dismantling of huts has continued as at Steventon and the number of families living there has been reduced from 36 to 20.

It will be remembered that the Council has the responsibility of clearing both hutted camps before the end of 1958.

In last year's report reference was made to the task of housing unsatisfactory tenants and the problems which would inevitably follow. In this connection the Council, at the end of the year, appointed a new Housing Officer, whose duties will consist of advising and helping these families to become more satisfactory householders.

Tubney Woods. This small temporary estate of 16 bungalows was taken over by the Council from the Ministry of Supply on December 25th. On the whole,

the Council seemed justified in accepting them as a nice Xmas gift. The bungalows, which consist of 3 bedrooms, livingroom, kitchen and bathroom, are built either in 4 in. concrete with flat concrete roofs, or 9 in. brickwork with asbestos tile pitched roofs. They are provided with modern services and their maintenance, and tenancies, are now the direct responsibility of this Authority.

RENTS

Pre-war Council Houses were let at the standard rent of 15/- or 17/6 per week, which could be reduced to a minimum of 5/- by various rebates. The standard rents for post-war houses and flats were—One bedroom £1 : 1 : 0d. ; 2-bedroom £1 : 6 : 0d. ; 3-bedroom £1 : 13 : 0d. and 4-bedroom £1 : 16 : 0d. Rebates to these maximum rents operate if the rent exceeds one seventh of the tenant's weekly earnings. Such rebates are reduced by 1/6 in the presence of sons or daughters over 16 years of age who are earning, or by 3/- over 18, or in the presence of other lodgers.

'Prefabs' were let at 14/- and camp huts at 7/6 per week. This last figure is inclusive while all the others are exclusive of rates.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Repair and improvement to all classes of property has continued throughout the year and the following table shows the distribution of the work :—

Parish	Housing Conversions	Additional Bedrooms	New Bathrooms	New W.C's.
Appleford	—	—	—	—
Appleton	—	—	1	1
Besselsleigh	—	—	—	—
Cumnor	—	5	6	6
Draycott Moor	—	—	—	—
Drayton	—	2	—	—
Frilford	—	—	—	—
Fyfield & Tubney	—	—	—	—
Garford	—	—	3	3
Kennington	—	2	1	1
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	—	—
Lyford	—	—	—	—
Marcham	—	1	1	1
Milton	—	—	1	1
North Hinksey	—	—	2	2
Radley	—	—	—	—
St. Helen Without	—	—	—	2
South Hinksey	—	—	—	—
Steventon	—	—	3	3
Sunningwell	—	—	—	—
Sutton Courtenay	—	—	2	2
Wootton	—	—	2	2
Wytham	—	—	2	2
Totals	—	10	24	26
Figures for 1956	5	16	51	54

The above figures include 32 houses which have been modernised with the aid of Improvement Grants made by the Council under the authority of the Housing Acts, 1949-54. It will be noted that there is a reduction on last year, but this was largely due to the fact that virtually all Grants were stopped by the Council in September, as a result of the national financial emergency.

Since 1952, Grants to a total of £41,436, involving 146 properties, have been approved by the Council.

HOUSING

A total number of 4 properties were demolished during the year as a result of formal and/or informal action. It is expected that the Council's Slum Clearance programme will be speeded up during 1958, as the large housing programme at Sutton Courtenay nears completion.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

During the year a comprehensive and detailed survey of all caravans in the District was undertaken. A Questionnaire was prepared covering almost every type of information which the Council might consider necessary to assess the present and future requirements of caravans and the Council's responsibilities for housing purposes. The information obtained was comprehensive and is available in summarised form.

383 Questionnaires were completed and tabulated, and this figure has been used as the actual number of caravans in the District, although it is known that there are others who either refused all information or are in the District for only a very temporary period, or are used only at certain times of the year, i.e. holiday and fishing caravans. The figures, therefore, do fluctuate a good deal.

The disposition of caravans on 31st October 1957 (when the Survey was completed) is shown below :—

2 Appleford	1 Kingston Bagpuize	17 South Hinksey
2 Appleton	6 Marcham	7 Steventon
47 Cumnor	6 Milton	14 Sunningwell
71 Drayton	16 North Hinksey	5 Sutton Courtenay
1 Fyfield & Tubney	158 Radley	5 Wootton
16 Kennington	9 St. Helen Without	

SALVAGE

A total of 6 tons of waste paper and rags was sold during the year, a net sum of £57 being received for relief of the rates.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly kerbside collection of household refuse has continued as in previous years. The population density of the District continues to increase, but it has been possible to collect the additional refuse involved by replacing the 12 cu. yds. side loader vehicle by a new vehicle of 20 cu. yds. capacity.

The Council during the year considered the possibility of installing litter bins throughout the District and had the choice of deciding between bins provided free by an outside commercial firm in return for advertising facilities, or purchasing and erecting bins out of Rate funds. It was eventually decided by the Council to purchase their own bins and sites for 50 receptacles have been agreed with respective Parish Councils. It is intended that these shall be emptied weekly by the normal refuse collecting staff.

WATER

The northern and central areas of the district, comprising 17 parishes, continue to be served by a piped supply from Oxford City Water Undertaking, who carry out regular sampling for bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses.

The Southern parishes of Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Milton and Steventon, continue to be supplied by water obtained in bulk from Wantage R.D.C. The average daily rate of 100,000 gallons previously agreed was stepped up during the year to 150,000, with a ceiling imposed of 250,000 gallons per day. Appleford and Lyford are still the only parishes not provided with a main supply, but progress is being made with proposals to obtain a supply and in the case of Appleford it is thought that a supply from Wallingford R.D.C. will be installed during 1958.

The number of families in the Southern parishes, formerly dependent on standpipes, that were supplied with main water during the year was 133.

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 standpipes.
Oxford City Water Undertaking			
Appleton	229	156	—
Besselsleigh	21	15	—
Cumnor	1073	1026	—
Draycott Moor	111	104	—
Frilford	62	49	—
Fyfield & Tubney	169	120	—
Garford	40	34	—
Kennington	902	872	—
Kingston Bagpuize	74	52	—
Marcham	245	168	—
North Hinksey	1337	1283	—
Radley	302	270	—
St. Helen Without	255	242	—
South Hinksey	90	90	—
Sunningwell	245	237	—
Wootton	614	603	—
Wytham	55	25	—
Total	5824	5346	—
Abingdon R.D.C. Undertaking			
Drayton	485	428	52
Milton	225	184	33
Steventon	362	276	74
Sutton Courtenay	446	393	42
Total	1518	1281	201
Not Supplied with Main Water			
Appleford	83	—	—
Lyford	43	—	—
Total	126	—	—
Grand Total	7468	6627	201

Bacteriological examination of 4 samples of water taken from the supply to the Southern parishes were all rated "highly satisfactory".

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main Botley-Kennington scheme has continued to function throughout the year, but it has been clear for some time that the pumping facilities have been inadequate. Because of the new sewer to Harcourt Hill, which is intended to take sewage from the new Methodist Training College, and the new Cumnor East scheme which has been provided, the old pumping plant has been replaced by three larger capacity pumps, but an extension of the Disposal Works cannot be indefinitely delayed.

The small temporary disposal works serving the Council's housing estates at Radley, Drayton, Appleton, Fyfield and Milton have continued to function reasonably satisfactorily.

(1) Whitecross, Sunningwell, Wootton and parts of St. Helen Without.

The Disposal Works at Gozzards Ford which serves the above area, as previously reported, is severely overloaded. Application was made to the Minister of Housing & Local Government for approval to carry out an extension of the

works, and an Enquiry was held. The same Enquiry considered the Council's application for approval to sewer the parish of Marcham which, if granted, would add a further burden to the above-mentioned Disposal Works.

A further 633 houses were connected to the sewer during the year, bringing the percentage up to 88%.

(2) Appleton and part of Cumnor

There have been no further developments on the Council's proposal to sewer the above area owing to the National financial restrictions.

(3) Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay

The first phase of this comprehensive Sewage Scheme comprising roughly half of the total, was completed during the year and Tenders were accepted for the remainder.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The total number of "Distributors" who have been registered under the above Regulations and who retail milk in this district is 4. One dairy (not being a Dairy Farm) has been registered. Seven firms retail in the area under cover of Supplementary Licences.

The collection of samples of milk from Schools supplied by five Dealers retailing in the area continued throughout the year. Of the 10 samples examined one failed to satisfy the test and the appropriate authorities were notified of the adverse result.

FOOD PREMISES

The total number of food premises in the area is 129, comprising the following types of businesses :—

Grocery & General Stores	51	Butchers	6
Confectionery	10	Fishmongers	2
Greengrocery	2	Bakehouses	4
Cafes	5	Public Houses	49

Of these 129 premises, 45 are registered for the sale of pre-packed Ice-Cream and two for the manufacture of Sausages.

Inspection of most of the premises, including Bakehouses, has been carried out and it is most noticeable that each year the standard of hygiene is being raised by the majority of shop-keepers. The "Converted Sittingroom" type of shop in small cottage property frequently occupied by people with outdated ideas on food hygiene is disappearing. A few remain, usually controlled by ageing people who depend on the shop for their livelihood, but their number becomes less year by year. With the entry of new people the village shop is being completely changed. The installation of refrigeration equipment (which because of the amount of room required to accommodate plant of this nature) has resulted in an increase in the superficial area of many shops, which is being obtained either by extensions or conversion of two or more properties into one. There is also a marked tendency to display food in a more attractive way by employing refrigerated counters and windows, etc., which in addition to increasing trade has meant that open food is being kept under more hygienic conditions.

During the year three shops have been extensively modernised and one Bakehouse has been brought up to a required standard. One large Bakehouse has been closed.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

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

Corned Beef (tinned)	84 lbs.
Luncheon Meat (tinned)	74 lbs.
English Pork	14 lbs.
Tinned Milk	132 lbs.
Tinned Grapefruit	18 lbs.
Tomatoes	193½ lbs.

All condemned food was disposed of by burial in the Council's Refuse Tip.

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Rodent Officer carried out control work under the above Act by means of poison.

The total number of visits to premises during the year was 5017 (Local Authority property 51, Dwelling Houses 4763, Business Premises 187 and Agricultural Property 16). Infestation work was carried out at 762 premises.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	5	7	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	37	27	—	—
Total	42	34	—	—

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 13, 12 engaged in the making of Wearing apparel and 1 in the making of Curtains and furniture hangings.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 19 57

No. of different premises visited	1734
„ Visits made	2294
„ Complaints received	100
„ Defects or nuisances discovered	85
„ Notices served (Informal)	62
„ Notices served (Statutory)	Nil
„ Prosecutions	Nil

Matters in relation to which visits were made :

Nuisances	86
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	9
Drainage	150
Keeping of Animals	15
Water supplies	130
Pollution (Streams or ditches)	38
Refuse Collection	74
Refuse Disposal	240
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	885
Unclean Houses	3
Butchers' Shops	18
Bakehouses	8
Food Premises	45
Public Houses	15
Dairy Inspections	6
Milk Supplies	23
Shops (other than food shops)	8
Petroleum storage	25
Factories and Workplaces	34
Outworkers	26
Miscellaneous	454

No. of Defects or Nuisances abated :

As to Privies, W.C's., Sink wastes	5
„ Drains or cesspools	38
„ Pigs or other animals	4
„ Deficient or impure water	1
„ Unclean Houses	1
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	14
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	5
„ Other defects or nuisances	12
No. of Water samples for analysis	19
„ Wells closed	1
„ Wells cleansed, repaired etc.	1
„ New wells sunk	2
„ Houses connected to water main	426
„ Seizures of unsound food	19
„ Closets replaced by W.C's.	26
„ Inspections to Piggeries	7
„ Milk samples taken	20

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid 1957	Area in Acres	Total Houses	Council Houses	Rateable Value £	Product of 1d. Rate £ s.
Ashbury	540	5609	170	36	3697	14 14
Baulking	120	1580	38	—	494	1 19
Bourton	354	1260	74	—	1796	7 4
Buckland	645	4505	177	—	4266	17 8
Buscot	225	2887	71	—	2242	9 3
Charney Bassett	184	1209	58	—	734	2 17
Coleshill	231	2014	73	—	733	2 18
Compton Beauchamp	101	1812	32	—	569	2 6
Eaton Hastings	111	1570	35	—	448	1 14
Faringdon	3164	3547	1012	268	36588	148 9
Fernham	207	1016	56	8	1254	5 3
Great Coxwell	251	1435	79	12	1124	4 12
Hatford	86	993	27	—	488	2 0
Hinton Waldrist	254	2016	80	14	1122	4 11
Kingston Lisle	231	2040	73	12	1657	6 15
Little Coxwell	231	887	73	—	1389	5 10
Littleworth	241	2350	76	—	1242	5 1
Longcot	289	1894	91	12	1320	5 5
Longworth	764	2291	203	40	4550	18 7
Pusey	101	1040	32	—	656	2 13
Shellingford	174	1761	55	2	964	3 18
Shrivenham	1941	2695	423*	83	32762	135 18
Stanford	905	2927	285	70	5646	22 19
Uffington	578	2929	182	54	2966	11 18
Watchfield	1362	1517	420†	42	22255	91 10
Woolstone	120	1942	38	—	509	2 1
South Western Gas Board					830	3 8
Totals	13410	55726	3933	653	£132301	£540 2
Totals for 1956	13710	55726	3871	645	£77204	£319 1

* Includes 82 Military Married Quarters.

† Includes 289 Military Married Quarters.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 62. These consisted of 8 Council Houses and 54 built by Private Enterprise. A further 28 were under construction on the 31st December 1957, of which 8 were Council Houses and 20 were Private.

The distribution of these 90 houses is shown by the following table :—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Construction 31.12.57.	Completed	Under Construction 31.12.57.
Ashbury	—	—	—	1
Bourton	—	—	2	—
Buckland	—	—	3	1
Charney Bassett	—	—	3	1
Faringdon	—	—	16	1
Kingston Lisle	—	—	2	1
Longworth	—	—	9	1
Shrivenham	—	—	13	3
Stanford	—	—	1	7
Uffington	—	—	1	2
Watchfield	8	8	4	2
Totals	8	8	54	20
Totals for 1956	40	8	32	20

RENTS

Rents for all Council properties were reviewed during the year and the maximum rents are based on the Gross Value for rating purposes. These maximum rents range in the case of pre-war houses from 15/- to 22/- and for post-war houses from 24/- to 38/-. Tenants, however, receive rebates which may amount to 14/- for pre-war houses or 25/6 for post-war houses. These rebates may reduce the rents to minimum figures of between 8/- and 11/7 for pre-war houses and between 12/6d. and 15/3 for post-war houses.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The following is a list of the 27 Caravans licensed in individual parishes on the 31st December 1957 :—

Parish	Caravans	Parish	Caravans
Bourton	1	Little Coxwell	1
Buckland	2	Littleworth	1
Eaton Hastings	9	Longworth	2
Faringdon	3	Shrivenham	4
Great Coxwell	1	Uffington	2
Hinton Waldrist	1		

WATER

Quality :

Following the installation of a heavy duty chlorinator and ammonium injection plant it became possible to maintain a reasonable chloramine residual throughout the whole system.

Quantity :

In 1939 the daily consumption of piped water was 100,000 gallons. In 1957 it had increased over six times to 671,000 gallons per day. 76 new connections were made during the year.

There was no shortage of water at any time of the year as the summer was an exceptionally wet season. Kingston Lisle, however, continued to suffer from frequent and severe shortage in its supply, which is the only one in the district to receive water from the Wantage R.D.C.

New Construction :

An additional 76 new connections were made during the year.

Piped Water Supplies :

Woolstone remains the only village with a private supply as its sole source. With the closing during the year of the private supplies to Buckland and the Shellingford R.A.F. Station, Shellingford remained the only village with both private and public supplies.

All public supplies are chlorinated and as they are hard no plumbo-solvent action is experienced.

Examinations :

Routine sampling of all piped supplies was carried out during the year and the results of the bacteriological examinations are shown in the following table. Where supplies are chlorinated all samples were taken after such treatment.

Supply	No. of Samples	Ministry of Health's Grading.			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Ashdown Park	43	31	9	—	3
Folly Hill	20	20	—	—	—
Kingston Lisle	5	3	1	—	1
Shellingford R.A.F. Station	6	3	—	—	3
Woolstone	10	7	—	—	3
Totals	84	64	10	—	10

Details of Dwellings Receiving Water from Piped Supplies.

Parish	No.	Houses		No.	Approx. Population	
		Direct Supply	Stand-pipe		Direct Supply	Stand-pipe
Ashbury	170	146	22	540	464	69
Baulking	38	18	17	120	57	54
Bourton	74	54	20	354	172	63
Buckland	177	152	4	645	483	13
Buscot	71	31	32	225	99	102
Charney Bassett	58	29	24	184	92	76
Coleshill	73	21	38	231	66	121
Compton Beauchamp	32	28	4	101	89	13
Eaton Hastings	35	20	15	111	63	48
Faringdon	1012	945	32	3164	3007	102
Fernham	56	47	8	207	150	25
Great Coxwell	79	66	6	251	210	19
Hatford	27	14	8	86	44	25
Hinton Waldrist	80	53	18	254	169	57
Kingston Lisle	73	67	5	231	213	16
Little Coxwell	73	56	14	231	179	44
Littleworth	76	41	4	241	131	13
Longcot	91	73	7	289	232	22
Longworth	203	147	12	764	467	38
Pusey	32	21	5	101	67	16
Shellingford	55	21	20	174	67	63
Shrivenham	423	378	32	1941	1209	102
Stanford	285	174	33	905	553	106
Uffington	182	147	35	578	467	112
Watchfield	420	362	22	1362	1158	69
Woolstone	38	17	16	120	54	51
Totals	3933	3128	453	13410	9962	1439

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year the Ministry approved the outline scheme for sewage disposal at Kingston Lisle and authorised the Council to seek Tenders. The necessary work was completed during the year and the Plans for the Hinton Waldrist Sewage Disposal Scheme were also completed and submitted to the Ministry for approval.

In these and several other parishes the greatly increased use of water, following the provision of a piped supply from the comprehensive water scheme, has aggravated sewerage problems.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

A new refuse vehicle was ordered during the year to replace the existing 10 cu. yd. side loader which has been in service since January 1949. After due consideration it was decided to replace the old machine with one of a larger capacity (18 cu. yds.) with rear loading, a fore and aft tipping body and powered with a diesel engine.

It was anticipated that with this type of machine it would be possible to carry out the whole of the collection by direct labour and thus dispense with the part time services of a Contractor.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping at Buckland and Faringdon. Both pits are filling rapidly and it became apparent that early consideration would have to be given to the question of finding an alternative site.

Salvage of mixed waste paper was continued during the year and total receipts from this source amounted to £156, compared with £145 during 1956. Total receipts from the sale of tins amounted to £43, compared with £41 received in 1956.

MILK

Two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations and 3 Distributors. 5 Firms are licensed to retail milk in the district and one to sell milk wholesale.

Three samples of milk as delivered to the Schools in the district were taken during the year and submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

MEAT

There are three licensed Slaughterhouses in the district and the following is a list of carcasses inspected and meat found to be unfit for human consumption :

	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. Inspected	884	959	43	388	2744	649
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcasses Condemned	90	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	90	58	3	—	2	6
Percentage of the No. inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	10.2%	6%	7%	—	.07%	.9%
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	12	11	2	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected with tuberculosis	1.3%	1.1%	4.6%	—	—	—

OTHER FOODS

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

9 lbs. Tinned Fruit	2 Tins Fish
3 lbs. Tinned Vegetables	33 lbs. Danish Green Bacon
1 lb. Tinned Stewed Steak	137 lbs. Chilled Beef
36 lbs. Tinned Corned Beef	

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

41 Premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955, no premises being registered for the manufacture of this product.

In addition 2 Butcher's shops and 2 Grocers are registered for the sale and manufacture of preserved foods.

57 Inspections of registered premises were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

The following list shows the number of food premises in the district, set out in accordance with the type of business carried on. The majority of the shops are of the small village general stores type, staffed by the proprietor and members of his family.

Number in district :—

Grocers	42	Fish Frying	
Butchers	12	Establishments	2
Confectioners	16	Cafes	8
Greengrocers	5	Fishmongers	1
Number of Inspections carried out on food shops			79
Number of Inspections carried out on stalls and vehicles			6
Number of Inspections carried out on cafes and inns			42

BAKEHOUSES

Number in district	8
Number of Inspections	15

HOUSING

Houses Inspected under the Housing Act	74
No. of Closing Orders made	2
Houses demolished	2

4 premises included in the Council's Slum Clearance proposals were rendered fit for habitation during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

36 Applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 were considered by the Council and 35 of these were approved. Altogether work under the scheme was completed to 43 properties during the year (including improvements previously approved).

In view of the increase in the Bank Rate and the general financial situation the operation of the Improvement Grant provision of the Act was temporarily suspended in October. In general the Improvements carried out were to old property.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written Notices	Pros-ecutions
Factories without mechanical power	8	4	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	39	36	2	—
Total	47	40	2	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1
Total	2	2	—	2

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 2, both engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1957.

No. of Visits made	1493
„ Complaints received	20
„ Defects or nuisances discovered	26
„ Notices served (Informal)	6
„ Notices served (Statutory)	Nil
„ Prosecutions	Nil
Miscellaneous matters in relation to which visits were made :—	
Nuisances	6
Drainage	114
Water supplies	94
Infectious Diseases	4
Refuse Collection	57
Refuse Disposals	123
Tents, Vans & Sheds or similar structures	30
Knackers' Yards	2
Unclean Houses	9
Council House applications	62
Butchers' Shops	12
Bakehouses	15
Food Premises	79
Milk Supplies	5
Petroleum Storage	47
Shops (Other than food shops)	10
Factories and Workplaces	40
Schools	25
Miscellaneous Visits	58
No. of Defects or Nuisances abated	45
„ Premises disinfected	4
„ Water samples taken for examination	84
„ Houses connected with water mains	44
„ Inspections of Dairies	5
„ Visits to Slaughterhouses	410





