

**[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, Ashby-de-la-Zouch Local Board
U.D.C.**

Contributors

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Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR
1954





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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1954

Medical Officer of Health (part time):

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (full time):

THOMAS H. FARRELL, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,
D.P.H.H. (Hons).

Additional Sanitary Inspector (full time):

R. E. MOORE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
H. H. FORD, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I. (appointed Oct., 1954)

Clerk to the Council:

S. E. WILKINSON

Chairman of Council:

G. E. A. RIDGWAY, J.P.

Highways Committee Chairman:

J. J. STALEY

Housing Committee Chairman:

W. J. C. BOWKER

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1954.

According to the Registrar General's estimate the population has increased from 6,515 in 1953 to 6,550 in 1954.

The birth rate (15.0) is less than last year (16.7) and slightly lower than that for England and Wales (15.2).

The death rate (11.9) is higher than last year (11.4) and higher than for England and Wales (11.3).

The chief causes of death are from diseases associated with elderly people.

The scheme for the sewerage of New Packington has received the consent of the Ministry, and it is hoped that work will be shortly commenced.

40 houses were completed during the year making a total of 309 houses completed during the post-war period.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 318 and the number of applications received during the year, 62.

With respect to general housing conditions the position is rapidly deteriorating, due to the large proportion of old property in the area.

Only 15 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, 6 Whooping Cough, 3 Scarlet Fever, 3 Measles, 1 Pneumonia, 1 Puerperal Pyrexia and 1 Encephalitis.

An outbreak of the Winter Vomiting Disease occurred at the Girl's Grammar School. This was at first thought to be food poisoning.

I am pleased to report a welcome increase in the number of children being immunised against diphtheria, but it is still not enough, and there must be a dangerously high percentage of the school population susceptible to diphtheria.

11 cases of Tuberculosis were added to the Register during the year, 9 by notification for the first time, and 2 transferred from other areas.

I should like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department of the County and to Dr. Mair and his staff in the Public Health Laboratory at Groby Road, Leicester for their help and co-operation.

Finally I must thank Mr. T. H. Farrell, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector; Mr. R. E. Moore and Mr. H. H. Ford, Additional Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, for their invaluable help during the year and to you Ladies and Gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	6,190 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate) ..	6,550
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,061
Rateable Value (at 31/12/54)	£40,912
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£161
Comparability factor—Births	0.99
Deaths	0.99

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are:—Agriculture, Biscuit making, Dairies, Soap Manufacturing and Glove Manufacturing. A number of workers engaged in Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking are residents in the town. There are also two Public Parks and an Open-air Swimming Bath in the Town. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS:		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate		53	44	97
Illegitimate		2	1	3
		—	—	—
Total		55	45	100
		=	=	=

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 15.2

Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 15.0

England and Wales Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 15.2

STILL BIRTHS:		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate		0	0	0
Illegitimate		0	0	0
		—	—	—
Total		0	0	0
		=	=	=

Total Live and Stillbirths: 100

Crude Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 0

Adjusted Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 0

England and Wales Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 23.4

DEATHS:		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
		44	35	79

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population: 12.0

Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 population: 11.9

England and Wales Death Rate per 1,000 population: 11.3

Causes of Death in 1954

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	2	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	4	10	14
Coronary disease, angina	2	3	5
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	5	8	13
Other circulatory disease	3	0	3
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	0	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2
Congenital malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	5	1	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	3	2	5
Total	— 44	— 35	— 79

Death Rate from Total Maternal Causes per 1,000 Live and Still Births—0. (England and Wales 0.69).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	0	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	— 3	— 0	— 3

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—30.0 per 1,000 Live Births. (England and Wales)—25.5 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	0	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	— 3	— 0	— 3

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age: 30.0 (England and Wales)—17.7.

Chief Causes of Death in 1954:—

Diseases of Heart and Circulation ..	38
Malignant Neoplasm (all forms) ..	13

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

HOSPITALS

All hospitals are under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board with the exception of a few private Maternity and Nursing Homes. The County Homes for aged and infirm people are under the County Council. When they become ill they are the responsibility of the Hospital Board.

The only hospital in the area is the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and District Hospital under the control of the Leicester No. 2 Hospital Management Committee through a "House Committee."

The hospital has accommodation for 23 patients including 8 in the Maternity Unit.

During 1954, 767 patients were admitted, and in the out-patient department there were over 4,500 attendances. In the Maternity section there were 203 births.

The operating theatre and surgery are adequately equipped with modern appliances, and over 400 general surgical and gynaecological operations were performed annually.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Thursday afternoon at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby. An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, and the Tuberculosis Clinic at Markfield Sanatorium. The Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The County Council is responsible for all ambulance facilities in the County. Colliery accidents are removed by Ambulance provided by the National Coal Board stationed at Nailstone Colliery and Moirè Colliery.

NURSING IN THE HOME

All District Nursing and Midwifery in the home is under the County Council. A Diabetic Health Visitor attends the Clinic at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, and visits the patients in their homes.

HEALTH VISITING

This work is provided as before, by the County Council, and is ably carried out in the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester

The examinations performed on behalf of the District in the County Laboratory are as follows:—

Throat and Nose Swabs	..	..	4
Faeces and Urine	..	..	20
Sputa	..	..	22
Water	..	..	13
Ice-cream	..	..	5
Miscellaneous	..	..	27
			—
Total	..	..	91
			—

Generally there is co-operation between the local authority and the services provided by the Executive Council and the Hospital Board and the tendency is towards closer integration.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply.

The water is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Board and is satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Particulars of Water Supply to Dwelling Houses in the District:—

Internal Mains Water Supply:—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 1,978. Estimated Population, 6,392.
Mains Water from External Standpipes:—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 55. Estimated Population, 220.
Well Water Supply:—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 12. Estimated Population, 48.

Apart from a few isolated dwellings, the whole of the urban area is supplied with water from the public mains.

Number of cases in which Pipe supply was substituted for Well Water—Nil.

No wells were closed or cleansed, and no samples of well water taken for analysis.

Sewage Disposal.

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—None.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st December, 1954—
48 (estimated).

No extension of sewers, new works or improvements during the year. Apart from New Packington, the whole district is well sewered.

The scheme for the sewerage of New Packington 28 houses has received the consent of the Ministry and it is hoped work will be commenced shortly.

Closet Accommodation.

Total number in District on 31st December, 1954 (estimated)—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	33
(b)	Pail closets	..	..	..	..	27
(c)	Water closets	..	..	..	..	1,990

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year:—

(a)	Privies	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b)	Pail closets	..	..	..	..	Nil

No grant is made towards the cost of conversion.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year: Nil.

Earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools are cleansed by Council workmen, and disposed of on arable land and ploughed in.

Pail closets are emptied weekly, and contents disposed of in the same way.

Public Cleansing.

Domestic refuse is removed weekly by direct labour over the whole area by two lorries, and the contents disposed of to two controlled tips.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a)	Total number of complaints received	..	..	512
(b)	Total number of premises at which defects or nuisances were dealt with	..	..	392 611
(c)	Total number of defects or nuisances dealt with			

Particulars of Inspections Made

	<i>Number of Inspections</i>
Animal Keeping	12
Bakehouses	17
Dairies	30
Drainage Works	74
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	398
Food Premises	69
Offensive Trades	4
Refuse Collection and Disposal	274
Rodent Control	243
Schools	6
Shops	40
Slaughter-houses	312
Smoke Observations	19
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	8
Verminous and Dirty Premises	3
Water Supplies	31
Workshops, outworkers, etc.	106
Other inspections	40
Total	1686

Notices

Preliminary Notices.

	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1954	26	16
Issued during year	41	172
Complied with during year	39	153
Statutory action necessary	0	0
Outstanding, 31st December, 1954	28	35

Statutory Notices.

Statutory Notices, Nil.

Summary action, Nil.

Shops.

Particulars of action taken during the year under the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950.

	<i>Outstanding 1st Jan., 1954</i>	<i>Defects found</i>	<i>Defects remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding 31st Dec., 1954</i>
Sanitary				
Conveniences	0	2	1	1
Temperature	0	2	2	0
Ventilation	0	1	1	0
Washing Facilities	0	8	8	0
Lighting	0	1	0	0
Facilities for taking Meals	0	0	1	0

Regulated Buildings.

<i>Class of Building</i>	<i>No. in District</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>General Conditions</i>
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	4	8	0	satisfactory
Offensive Trades	1	4	0	satisfactory

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Two Council houses were found infested, and disinfected with D.D.T. by means of zaldezide spray and fumigator, carried out by local authority.

To ensure that tenants' belongings are vermin free before removal to a Council house, pre-removal inspection is carried out by the Housing Manager.

Periodic inspection undertaken for the supervision of education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation.

The Pet Animal Act, 1951.

No premises in the area.

Rag Flock and other Filling Material Act, 1951.

No premises in the area.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949,

Inspection of district, including baiting of public sewers. Treatment of infested premises. One part-time Rodent Operator.

Schools.

No action taken.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

No. in Area:—

(a) Publicly owned	..	..	..	..	1
(b) Privately owned	..	..	..	..	0
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	..	24

SECTION D

Housing

Houses completed during the year.

	<i>Prefab. Per-manent Type</i>	<i>Per-manent Type</i>	<i>Aver. Cost per House</i>	<i>Aver. Rent inclusive or exclusive of Rates</i>
Local Authority	Nil	28	£1,600	27/6 inclusive
By Private Enterprise	Nil	12	£2,000	All Owner occupiers

Houses in course of erection at end of year:

By Local Authority	Nil	6
By Private Enterprise	Nil	19

Total number of Post-War Houses completed.

By Local Authority	254
By Private Enterprise	55

Applications for Council Houses

Total number at end of year	318
Applications received during the year	62

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	94
Number of inspections made for the purpose	154
Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	75

Repairs—Informal Action.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	75
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.**Demolition and Closing Orders.****Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding:**

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	18
Number of families dwelling therein	36
Number of persons dwelling therein	98
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	2
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	2
Number of persons concerned in such cases	10
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

The position with respect to general house conditions is rapidly deteriorating due to large proportion of old property in the district.

Housing Summary.

Total number of houses occupied in District	2,061
Total number of Council Houses occupied in District ..	428

Housing Act, 1949.

Number of Applications for reconditioning grants ..	5
Number of applications approved	3
Number of applications refused	2

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Ice Cream.

Number of Premises registered:—

(a) Manufacture and retail	0
(b) Manufacture only	0
(c) Retail only	21
Number of Samples taken	5

Results of Samples:—

Grade 1—5	Grade 2—0
Grade 3—0	Grade 4—0

Number of Samples of "Lollies" taken	3
Results satisfactory	3

Milk Supply.

Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) and Distributors (Section 8 Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949):—

Number on Register—Dairies	4
Distributors	11
Number of Inspections made	18
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	0
Number of contraventions found during year	0
Number of contraventions remedied during year	0
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1954	0

Bacteriological Milk Samples:

None taken by Urban District Council.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued:—

Dealers Licences—Pasteurised	3
Sterilised	0
Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised	1
Sterilised	0

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Particulars of Licences issued:—

Dealers' Licences	3
Supplementary Licences	2

Meat and Other Foods

No. of Slaughter Houses in Area	2
No. of Animals slaughtered elsewhere	0
No. of Animals examined elsewhere	Not known
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	2,444
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	0
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	0

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

Number inspected	2,444
Number condemned	4

Meat Stalls.

Number of Inspections	Nil
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Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.

Number of Inspections	5
Number of Inspections	60

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale

Number of Inspections	78
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SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1954.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Final numbers after correction</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	3	0	0
Measles	3	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	6	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0
Acute Infective Encephalitis	1	1	0
	—	—	—
	15	1	0
	—	—	—

Analysis Under Age Groups according to Registrar General's Return 118d

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Acute Infective Encephalitis</i>
Under 1 year	0	1	0	1
1—2	0	1	1	0
3—4	0	2	0	0
5—9	3	2	1	0
10—14	0	0	1	0
15—24	0	0	0	0
25 and over	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—
Total	3	6	3	1

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>
Under 5 years	0	0
5—14	0	0
15—44	1	1
45—64	0	0
65 and over	0	0
Age unknown	0	0
	—	—
Total	1	1

An Outbreak of Winter Vomiting

On the afternoon of 18th February, 1954, I was called to the Girls' Grammar School and informed there was an outbreak of Food Poisoning.

Investigation revealed that cases had been occurring since February 14th, 1954, and that none of the girls were severely ill.

A thorough investigation of kitchen and canteen was undertaken and bacteriological examinations of some 14 food samples proved negative.

A fairly typical story was of nausea occurring in the afternoon but it was often difficult to pin this down as commencing at any particular time. Sometimes the patient could definitely state the exact time, sometimes nausea with stomach ache when going to bed, got up feeling better, and set off for school. Late in the day either in the bus or train or in school felt the nausea coming on again, and it was so bad, had to lie down. Lying down quietly was obviously the only way to be comfortable. The next day feeling sick, did not come to school and rested at home. The subsequent day still feeling slightly sick, but this gradually passed off and was usually quite well the following day.

In those cases that vomited, a period of nausea preceded the vomiting 2 to 4 hours, or on the next day when the nausea returned.

In only two cases did they state that they went to bed quite well, and woke up suddenly at night and vomited.

The total number of cases in this series was 41, commencing on the following days:—

February 15th, 1954	2 cases
16th, 1954	2 cases
17th, 1954	18 cases
18th, 1954	10 cases
19th, 1954	9 cases

In 18 cases the onset was sudden, in 23 cases not so sudden.

Frequency of symptoms:—

Nausea	41
Headache	16
Abdominal Pain	16
Vomiting	13
Dizziness	12
Diarrhoea	3
Felt Shivery	3

Nausea was the only symptom common to all, and in some cases evidently extremely uncomfortable.

Abdominal pain and headache did not appear severe.

Recovery was described as gradual in 39 cases and sudden in 2 cases.

The approximate duration of incapacity was assessed at the following:

1 day	..	..	..	..	..	6 cases
2 days	..	..	..	..	..	32 cases
3 days	..	..	..	..	..	3 cases

Excluded from the above series was 1 case diarrhoea occurring two days before outbreak, 1 case probably appendicitis, 1 case headache and feverish.

Practically all the patients gave history of previous good health.

A pretty close enquiry among those affected revealed a similar case in one household 6 days before the outbreak and a similar case in another household a month previous.

There was practically no history of colds in either the patients or their families at the time.

After the 19th February some cases occurred with similar symptoms but were not included in the series, 1 case Tonsilitis, 4 days later; 1 case food allergy, 16 days later; 1 case undoubtedly winter vomiting 19 days later, and 1 Tonsilitis 21 days later.

The examination of all samples of faeces including those affected and others was negative.

Of the total number of about 420 at the school, including staff and canteen about 360 took meals at the school, and only those who took meals at the school were affected.

An outbreak of Winter Vomiting disease is described, in so mild a form that a doctor was rarely called in, yet the routine of a school was upset for some three days, and considerable apprehension created.

I am pleased to record the prompt assistance I received from the County Medical Officer and his staff and the value of advice received from Dr. Mair and the staff of the Public Health Department for the work done by them, the assistance given by Mr. Farrell and Mr. Moore particularly in getting all the various samples promptly to the Public Health Laboratory 18 miles away and finally to the headmistress of the school and the staff for their kindly co-operation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of Children who were immunised during the period
1st January—31st December, 1954

Age at 31/12/54 i.e. born in year	Under										Total
	1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 1949	6 1948	7 1947	8 1946	9 1945	
Primary Immunisation	9	37	13	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	65
Booster Dose	-	-	-	-	1	29	8	1	-	-	39

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Tuberculosis Register for the year 1954

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
No. of cases on the Register at the commencement of year	9	4	4	3	20
No. of cases notified during the year	5	4	0	0	9
No. of cases added other than by formal notification ..	0	2	0	0	2
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ..	2	0	0	2	4
No. of cases remaining on the Register at end of year ..	12	10	4	1	27

Causes of Removal

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Diagnosis Not Confirmed ..	1	0	0	0	1
Left District	0	0	0	1	1
Cured	1	0	0	1	2
Total.. .. .	2	0	0	2	4

There is free co-operation between the Local Authority and the Chest Physician, and every assistance is given in the ascertainment of contacts, rehousing and employment. A special clinic for contacts has been working very satisfactorily, and general practitioners have availed themselves fully of X-ray facilities.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Resume of Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1954, previously sent to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	8	0
Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	48	3
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	10	0
Total	40	66	3

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more Cases).

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Unsuitable or defective	3	3
(b) Not separate for sexes	2	1
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2
Total	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

PART VIII of the Act **Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)**

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110</i>
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets	2

