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Contributors

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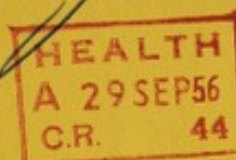
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AXERIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



A N N U A L R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1955

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

D. MCGOWAN.	M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health.
J. H. ELLIS.	Chief Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.
W. HIGHAM.	District Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.A.(Scotland) Certificate of R.S.A.(Scotland) for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.
D. GRANTLEY SMITH.	District Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.
T. M. WHITE.	District Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B. Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.
J. S. S. STRONG.	Recent Officer.

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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Public Health Department for 1955.

Again the health of the community was generally speaking good and the only outbreak of infectious disease was the usual biennial epidemic of measles in children.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population was 28,790, the corrected Birth Rate was 14.6 per 1000 of the total population and the corrected Death Rate was 10.0 per 1000 of total population. The Birth Rate showed a decrease from the rate for the previous year (16.0 in 1954) and the Death Rate showed an increase (8.8 in 1954). The Infant Mortality Rate was very satisfactory, being only 16.3 per 1000 live births compared with 27.1 in 1954, but the comparatively small numbers involved tend to produce large fluctuations from year to year. Nevertheless, the fact that only 6 infants under the age of 1 year died in 1955 reflects great credit on the medical and nursing service of the area, and also on the general standard of living in the district.

The building of new houses by the local authority and private enterprise showed steady progress, but it should be noted that the number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1955 was exactly the same as at the end of 1954.

I have again commented on the unsatisfactory position regarding water supplies and sewerage in certain parishes of the District and I feel that the Council should make every effort to produce a comprehensive plan to improve these services as soon as possible.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to Mr Ellis' report which shows the value of routine work done by the District Sanitary Inspectors from day to day.

Finally, I wish to thank the Chairmen and Members of the Committees with which the Health Department is associated, for their support, and the Officers and Staff of other Departments for their assistance and co-operation.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

D. McGOWAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1956.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area of District.	90,551 acres.
Population: 1931 Census.	22,076
" 1951 " (R.G.'s Estimate)	26,523
" Registrar General's Estimate for Mid. 1955.	28,790
Rateable Value.	£314,752
Number of Inhabited Houses.	8,158

Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1955.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	167	184	351
Illegitimate.	8	9	17
	<u>175</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>368</u>

BIRTH RATE: per 1,000 population = 12.78.

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.14) = 14.6

STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	4	1	5
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>

STILL BIRTH RATE:(per 1,000 total births) = 13.4

DEATHS:

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	173	174	347

CRUDE DEATH RATE: = 12.05 per 1,000 population.

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.83) = 10.0

MATERNAL DEATHS: 1.

INFANT MORTALITY: (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age)

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	5	-	5
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 16.3

VITAL STATISTICS.BIRTHS

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 368 (175 boys and 193 girls), this being 38 births less than 1954. Of these births 17 were illegitimate (8 boys and 9 girls).

The crude birth rate for 1955 was 12.78 and when the comparability factor (1.14) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 14.6 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 16.0 in 1954. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1955 was 15.0.

The following table shows the trend of the birth rate following the high peak at the end of the last war.

BIRTH RATES.

	<u>Year:</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
England & Wales.		19.1	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0
Axbridge Rural District.		17.9	18.1	17.5	16.9	14.0	13.7	12.7	12.6	14.1	12.8

STILL BIRTHS:

The registered number of stillbirths in 1955 was 5 (4 males and 1 female) of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 13.4 per 1,000 total births. The comparable still birth rate for England and Wales was 23.1 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS:

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Register General was 347 (173 males and 174 females). This is 39 more than in 1954 and gives a crude death rate of 12.05. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 10.0 per 1,000 of total population compared with 11.7 for England and Wales as a whole.

The number of deaths in the four quarters of the year were :-

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
First Quarter	97	72
Second Quarter	79	84
Third Quarter	83	65
Fourth Quarter	88	87

The following table shows the causes of death in 1955 :-

Causes of Death.1955

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	1	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other infective & Parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	8	-	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	6	6

Causes of Death.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>1955.</u> <u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	12	12	24
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	1	2
Diabetes.	1	4	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	25	38	63
Coronary disease, angina pectoris	24	20	44
Hypertension with heart disease.	6	1	7
Other heart disease.	31	41	72
Other circulatory diseases.	6	9	15
Influenza.	-	1	1
Pneumonia.	4	5	9
Bronchitis.	6	6	12
Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	1	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	5	-	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.	3	-	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	1	1
Congenital malformations.	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	15	16	31
Motor vehicle accidents.	9	1	10
All other accidents.	2	2	4
Suicide.	2	2	4
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
All Causes - Total	<u>173</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>347</u>

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1955.

(The figures in brackets are those of 1954).

Ages at Death in Years :-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 1	6 (8)	- (3)	6 (11)
1 to 9	1 (1)	1 (2)	2 (3)
10 to 24	6 (3)	2 (-)	8 (3)
25 to 44	6 (3)	4 (6)	10 (9)
45 to 64	51 (32)	29 (21)	80 (53)
65 to 69	21 (12)	11 (15)	32 (27)
<u>Total under 70 years</u>	<u>91 (59)</u>	<u>47 (47)</u>	<u>138 (106)</u>
70 to 74	22 (17)	29 (22)	51 (39)
75 to 79	26 (29)	26 (32)	52 (61)
80 to 84	15 (22)	32 (33)	47 (55)
85 to 89	16 (9)	19 (15)	35 (24)
90 to 94	1 (4)	13 (15)	14 (19)
95 to 99	2 (-)	7 (2)	9 (2)
100 & over	- (-)	1 (2)	1 (2)
<u>Total over 70 years</u>	<u>82 (81)</u>	<u>127 (121)</u>	<u>209 (202)</u>
	<u>173 (140)</u>	<u>174 (168)</u>	<u>347 (308)</u>
	=== 4 ===	=== ===	=== ===

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was 1 death during the year from maternal causes.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 day	1-7 days	1-4 wks	Total under 1 mnth.	1-3 mnths	3-6 mnths	6-9 mnths	9-12 mnths	Total under 1 Year.
Prematurity.	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Congenital heart disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumococcal meningitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pyelonephritis.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	1	2	-	3	1	-	1	1	6

After correction for transferable deaths, 6 children (all boys) under the age of 1 year died in 1955. This is 5 less than in 1954, and gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 16.3 per 1000 live births, as compared with 24.9 for the whole of England and Wales.

This low Mortality Rate in infants gives great satisfaction and reflects credit on all the services connected with the care of mothers and infants. Prematurity was again the main cause of deaths in infants, accounting for 3 of the 6 deaths, and only two deaths were due to infection.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Considerable difficulties were met during the very dry summer in maintaining adequate water supplies in some areas, especially in Brean and Berrow. Here the supply was augmented by means of a booster pump in the line of the main.

Every parish has a piped water supply and 7,911 houses, representing a population of 25,906 are supplied from the public mains. 15 houses representing 39 people obtain water from standpipes. 232 houses rely on wells for water supply and during the year a piped supply was given to 7 houses in place of a well supply.

The following extensions of the public water supply were carried out in 1955.

	<u>Cost.</u>
Lascotts Hill, Wedmore. 650 yards 3" main.	£1,400.
Summers Lane, Banwell (part extension) 700 yards 3" main.	£1,400.

Further proposals for extensions or improvement are:-

Completion of Summers Lane, Banwell - 700 yards.	£1,400.
Charterhouse Water Supply.	£27,000.
Cross Booster pump installation.	£1,000.
Trunk Main, Cross & Brent Knoll.	£35,000.
Replacement of defective mains.	£70,000.

Samples of water, treated and untreated, for bacteriological examination, are collected at regular intervals for submission to the Public Health Laboratory. The results of such sampling are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Dwelling-houses receiving a supply from Public Water Mains.</u>	<u>Population supplied from Public Water Mains.</u>	<u>Stand-pipe.</u>
			<u>Direct to Houses.</u>	
Axbridge	305	304	1,094	-
Badgworth	107	106	361	2
Banwell	655	643	2,265	-
Be'row	126	126	438	-
Blagdon	338	310	1,069	-
Bleadon	221	214	743	-
Brean	116	114	295	-
Brent Knoll	259	254	814	-
Burnham Without	100	100	329	-
Burrington	149	131	413	-
Butcombe	63	60	191	-
Chapel Allerton	82	82	282	-
Cheddar	994	980	2,633	12
Churchill	383	362	1,215	-
Compton Bishop	124	120	443	-
Congresbury	477	450	1,486	-
East Brent	233	233	759	-
Hutton	202	193	598	9
* Kewstoke	257	240	891	-
+ Locking	97	93	302	-
Loxton	55	50	181	-
Lympsham	169	169	561	-
Mark	266	265	873	5
Puxton	51	51	213	-
Shipham	213	208	617	2
Weare	133	131	448	-
Wedmore	709	667	2,294	6
Wick-st-Lawrence	50	50	202	-
Winscombe	740	734	2,312	3
Wrington	484	471	1,584	-

* Weston-s-Mare Borough Council Water Supply Area.

+ Excluding R.A.F. Station personnel.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following parishes in the District have main drainage and efficient sewage disposal systems - Axbridge (with Cross), Banwell, Blagdon, Butcombe, Cheddar and Winscombe.

The following extensions, new works or improvements were carried out during the year :-

	<u>Cost.</u>
Improvement to Wedmore Sewage Works.	£400
Improvement to Cheddar Sewage Works.	£900
Future proposals include :-	
	<u>Approx. Cost.</u>
Locking Sewerage Scheme.	£13,103.
Sandford Batch, Pumping Station & Delivery Main.	£ 2,745.
Wrington - Improvement and repairs to sewers	£ 500.
Congresbury Sewerage Scheme.	£53,000.
Kewstoke - Part Village Scheme.	£ 3,100.
Wrington - Reconstruction of Works.	£13,000.

In previous annual reports I have commented on the difficulties of providing adequate water supplies and effective sewage disposal systems in a Rural District, and the urgent need for improving these services in some of the parishes of the District. I cannot avoid repeating these remarks, as the problem is becoming more acute from year to year, especially in the Brean and Berrow area. A definite decision about future plans for improving the water supplies and providing adequate sewerage in these areas should be made as soon as possible.

HOUSING.

The number of new houses erected by the Local Authority during the year was 54, compared with 44 in 1954. 74 houses were completed by private enterprise compared with 75 in 1954. The number of families re-housed during the year was 86 and the number of houses still requisitioned fell from 22 to 11. The number of applicants for Council Houses was exactly the same at the end of 1955 as at the end of 1954, i.e. 423. There are still 11 hutments occupied by families and these should be emptied and pulled down as soon as possible.

Grants approved under the Housing Act, 1949 to improve sub-standard houses increased during the year and some good work is being done in preventing such houses from falling into a state of complete disrepair. Details of the scheme are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The following table summarises the progress of housing during the year :-

	<u>Houses erected in 1955</u>		<u>Houses in course of erection at end of year 1955</u>	<u>Conversion to flats and dwellings.</u>	
	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Temp.</u>	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Temp.</u>
Local Authority.	54	-	79	-	-
Private Enterprise.	74	-	62	9	-
	<u>128</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>
			<u>December 1955</u>	<u>December 1954</u>	
No. of houses owned by the Council.			1302	1257	
No. of houses requisitioned by the Council.			11	22	
No. of hutments administered by the Council.			11	11	
No. of applicants for Council Houses.			423	423	
No. of families rehoused during the year.			86	77	

The number of post-war houses erected by the Local Authority up to the end of 1955 is 784 and the programme for 1956 provides for the erection of 77 houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The only major outbreak of infectious disease during the year was the usual biennial epidemic of measles, and 413 cases were notified during the year. Notified cases of scarlet fever showed some increase, while notifications of whooping cough fell from 115 in 1954 to 76 in 1955. There were 3 cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year.

The following table shows the notifications of infectious diseases in the District during the year.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Measles.	413	-	-
Scarlatina.	49	3	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Membranous Group.	-	-	-
Enteric & Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	2	2	-
Dysentery.	1	1	-
Whooping Cough.	76	1	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia.)	12	2	-
Acute Influenza Pneumonia)			
Acute Poliomyelitis.	3	3	-
Acute Encephalitis.	-	-	-
Typhus.	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-
Small Pox.	-	-	-
Cholera.	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	4	1	-
Malaria.	-	-	-
Plague.	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	1	-	-
Other notifiable diseases.	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

28 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were only 2 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and none from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was :-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
58	55	8	8	66	63

DIPHTHERIA.

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1955, the last to occur in the District being in 1946. Immunisation against diphtheria by private doctors and in Infant Welfare Clinics continued throughout the year and 282 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 83 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 375 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

A total of 2,803 children under the age of 15 years have completed a full course of immunisation during the five years up to the end of 1955.

It cannot be emphasised too often that the low incidence of diphtheria in the country is due to the extensive campaign for immunisation which has been carried out since 1940. We cannot afford to be complacent and allow the level of immunisation in the child population to fall. The only way to ensure that diphtheria does not return as an epidemic disease is to have every child effectively immunised.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL POX.

The following table shows the number of people vaccinated or revaccinated by private general practitioners during the year.

<u>Under</u> <u>1 Year</u>		<u>1 Year</u>		<u>2 - 4 Yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14 Yrs.</u>		<u>15 Yrs or</u> <u>Over.</u>		<u>TOTAL.</u>	
P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
86	1	4	-	4	1	4	3	7	23	105	28

P. = Primary Vaccination.

R. = Revaccination.

HOSPITALS, CLINICS ETC.

Hospital facilities for general medical and surgical cases are adequate in that Hospitals in the Bristol Group, Weston-s-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea admit patients from the Rural District. Since 1949 all cases of infectious disease have been admitted to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol. Shute Shelf Hospital which was originally the Infectious Diseases Hospital was used for some time for tuberculosis but is now taking post-operative cases from the large hospitals in Bristol and Weston-s-Mare. St. Michael's Home, Axbridge also deals with tuberculous cases, and Compton Bishop Children's Hospital admits non-infectious pre-tubercular children and children with tuberculous glands. Ilex Lodge Hospital in Axbridge is meeting a great need in the District in providing for elderly and infirm patients. Maternity cases who require admission to hospital either on medical or social grounds are admitted to various maternity hospitals in Bristol, Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, Bridgwater and Wells.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at Axbridge, Cheddar, Winscombe, Banwell, Hutton, Kewstoke, Wrington and Congresbury.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AXERIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen.

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

HOUSING

The rate of reconditioning of sub-standard houses increased appreciably during the year. In the great majority of cases the improvement works were carried out with the aid of improvement grants. Although as yet only the fringe of the sub-standard housing problem has been touched, in the years ahead the grant aid scheme can, if continued in operation, make a valuable contribution towards raising the general standard of the older houses in the District, houses which, in many cases, would otherwise be allowed to deteriorate until they were ripe for demolition.

Improvement Grants.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st. Dec. 1954.	52 applications (60 premises)	47 applications (53 premises)	5 applications (7 premises)
Applications dealt with during 1955.	76 applications (87 premises)	75 application (86 premises)	1 application (1 premises)
Position at 31st. Dec. 1955.	128 applications. (147 premises)	122 applications. (139 premises)	6 applications. (8 premises)

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 29 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 17 in 1954. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1955, is as follows :-

Number of properties satisfactory in all respects.	(Category 1)	611
Number of properties with minor defects.	(Category 2)	543
Number of properties requiring repair or structural alteration.	(Category 3)	2,368
Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost.	(Category 5)	416

Statutory Action under the provisions of
the Housing Acts.

During the year, statutory action under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was instituted in respect of 51 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows :-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.54.	12
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During 1955.

Demolition Orders made.	...	3
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Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit.		32
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Undertakings accepted to make premises fit.	...	-
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Cases under consideration at 31.12.55.	28
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OVERCROWDING.

On the 31st. December, 1955 there were only 2 cases of statutory overcrowding on the register. Overcrowding has ceased to be a public health problem in this District.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The total number of moveable dwellings permitted on licensed sites is nearly 100 higher than last year. There has again been an increase in the numbers of moveable dwellings on further sites at Brean and Berrow where private wells have been constructed to replace main water supplies for flushing water closets. Although the District Council has accepted the need for an improved public water supply and a sewerage system at Brean and Berrow it will obviously be some time before the necessary schemes are carried out. In the meantime each summer brings increasing cause for anxiety at the lack of adequate provision in these essential services.

It was at one time envisaged that the numbers of residential caravans would decrease as the housing programme developed. This expected tendency has so far not been apparent in this District. The number of persons living in caravans in the area exceeds the populations of several of the smaller parishes in the District and shows no sign of diminishing. Although the advantages of the residential caravan in certain instances are appreciated, it is impossible not to feel a little uneasy at the prospect of substantial numbers of people being housed indefinitely in this form of accommodation which, judged in the light of housing standards which are now generally accepted, is of a makeshift nature.

The number of moveable dwellings used for living purposes recorded in 1955 was 113. The total number of persons occupying these caravans was 286. 51 residential caravans were occupied by families with children.

No. of camping sites licensed during the year.	57
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Total number of moveable dwellings permitted on these sites.	1,612
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Total number of individual moveable dwellings licensed.	58
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FOOD PREMISES

Particulars of the various types of food premises in the District are given below :-

Number of food premises in area
(excluding registered dairy premises)

A. Food Manufacturing Premises.

Edible Fat Refineries	2
Cheese Straw Factory	1
Cheese Factories	2
Bakers	15

B. Retail Shops

Grocers	109
Confectioners	36
Butchers	21
Fishmongers & Greengrocers (combined)	4
Greengrocers	8
Dairies	2

C. Catering Premises.

52

D. Premises registered under the provisions of
Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938
(excluding premises used for the manufacture
Storage, and sale of ice-cream)

Sausage making	13
Fish frying	3

Routine inspections were made during the year of all these premises. The work of the District Sanitary Inspectors in this field is unspectacular but extremely important, the whole emphasis being on the advisory rather than the enforcement aspect of the various enactments affecting food premises. Informal discussions with food traders are the basis of this type of work.

Particulars of the number of inspections made are given at the end of this report.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Number of registered dairies	12
Number of milk distributors registered (premises in this District)	48
Number of milk distributors registered (premises outside the District)	12

Milk Samples

Tuberculin Tested	83 Satisfactory	29 Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	7 Satisfactory	Nil Unsatisfactory

Tested for Tubercle Bacilli - 8 Negative, Nil Positive.

The trend in recent years towards a reduction in the number of milk distributors has been reversed this year. This is due to the increasing number of shop-keepers who sell bottled pasteurised milk and not to any increase in the number of dairymen or milk roundsmen.

ICE CREAM

All ice-cream manufactured in the District is manufactured in accordance with the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1952 in preparation rooms which have been specially constructed or adapted for the purpose.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream. (Complete cold mix) 4

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. 146

Summary of results of ice-cream samples taken.

	<u>Grades</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	
Ice-cream manufactured within the District.	15	4	-	-	19
Ice-cream manufactured outside the District.	18	9	6	3	36
	33	13	6	3	55

WATER SUPPLIES

The following is a summary of the results of the bacteriological examinations of the monthly water samples taken from the public supplies. All these supplies are chlorinated, with the exception of the Burrington supply.

		<u>Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37°C</u>					
		<u>0 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>1 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>2 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>3 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>5 per 100 ml.</u>	<u>25+ per 100 ml.</u>
Cheddar & Axbridge	12 samples						
South Mendip (Cross)	12 "				1 sample		
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	11 "						1 sample
Winscombe	11 "		1 sample				
North Mendip	12 "						
Burrington (Not chlorinated)	7 "		4 "		1 "	1 sample	
Twin Brook Adit.	11 "		1 "				
Blagdon	10 "		1 "		1 "		1 "
Kewstoke	12 "						
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 "						
		11.0	7	-	3	1	2

A sample of water from each of the above supplied was submitted for chemical analysis during the year. All these samples were reported upon by the analyst as being free from plumbo-solvency or other harmful contamination.

Samples were also taken of the untreated water from each of the sources of supply within the District.

Ten samples of well water were taken for bacteriological examination from seven private premises. The samples of water from three of these premises proved to be unsatisfactory, and measures were taken to replace the well supplies by a supply from the public main. The supplies to the other four premises were reported upon as satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

The three slaughterhouses licensed in the District following the decontrol of slaughtering continued in operation throughout the year.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year :-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed(if known)	399		82	939	2214	-
Number inspected	399		82	939	2214	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	4	5	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	252	-	-	273	181	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	63.2	-	-	29.6	8.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	42	-	-	-	56	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	10.5	-	-	-	2.5	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs. for :-</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	1062	-	-	-	775	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	2976	-	40	532 $\frac{1}{4}$	1496 $\frac{1}{2}$	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	4038	-	40	532 $\frac{1}{4}$	2271 $\frac{1}{2}$	-

DRAINAGE

Individual septic tank drainage is, at best, a poor substitute for drainage to a properly constructed sewerage system and can only be justified in the case of isolated or sporadic development. Modern planning, by concentrating development in existing centres of population, is creating building density of an urban nature in what were once comparatively well-spaced village communities. It is unfortunate that this development is in many instances in this District outstripping the provision of the essential service of adequate sewerage systems, a tendency which is bound to lead to increasing difficulties in the satisfactory disposal of foul water drainage by means of individual disposal systems.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

There has again been a heavier demand for cesspool cleansing during the year, resulting in some delay in carrying out this work. The answer to this problem lies in the proposed re-organisation of the refuse collection scheme, so avoiding the necessity for regular employment of the tanker crew on relief refuse vehicle driving.

Total number of cesspool and settlement tanks cleansed during the year	595
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REFUSE COLLECTION

There has been an increase of approximately 200 tons in the amount of refuse collected during the year. This amount is nearly 1/3rd more than it was when the last major alteration was made to the refuse collection in 1949 and it is obvious that the provision of an additional refuse vehicle cannot now be long delayed.

The District Council will be well aware of the shortcomings of the Shipham refuse tip but this tip is now nearing the end of its useful life. It is essential that future disposal arrangements should permit fully controlled tipping to be instituted.

The amount of waste paper and cardboard sold in 1955 exceeded the 1954 figure by approximately 26 tons, and income from the sale of salvaged materials was approximately £470 higher. At the end of the year demand for waste paper slackened and these figures are likely to be substantially reduced in 1956.

Estimated total amount of refuse collected during the year.	4,864 tons.
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Total amount of salvaged material collected and disposed of during the year.	
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	<u>T. Cwt. Gr.</u>	<u>£. s. d.</u>
(a) Paper and Cardboard	136 9 2	942. 2. 7.
(b) Rags	3 0 1	135. 11. 3.
(c) Scrap Non-Ferrous Metal	14 2	85. 7. 6.

Total amount realised by the sale of material salvaged	£1163. 1. 4.
	=====

RODENT CONTROL.

The following is a copy of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, which gives details of rodent control work carried out in the District during the 12 months ending 31st. March, 1956

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st. MARCH, 1956.

Name of Local Authority: AXBRIDGE R.D.C. County: SOMERSET

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	All other (inc. Business Premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural.
	1.	2.	3.		
I. No. of properties in Local Authority's District.	20	6901	538	7459	950
II. No. of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	-	101	16	117	10
(b) Survey under the Act.		812	94	906	309
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	1	302	201	504	-
III. Total inspections carried out- inc. re-inspections.	49	2501	356	2906	461
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sec II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats (Major)	2	10	5	17	18
(a) Rats (Minor)	8	480	16	504	60
(b) Mice (Major)	-	24	4	28	14
(b) Mice (Minor)	-	22	10	32	24
V. No. of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A.	10	489	22	521	12
VI. Total treatments carried out- inc. re-treatments.	14	510	26	550	16
VII. No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:					
(a) treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(b) structural work (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
VIII. No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4. of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
IX. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
X. No. of "Block" control schemes carried out.	10				

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following table gives the particulars of the work carried out during the year :-

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions of health :-

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	8	-
(ii) Factories not included in(i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	93	135	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	18	9	-
	119	152	1

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u>	
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1.)	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-
Other offences against the Act(Not including offences relating to Outwork).	-	-
	2	2

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS.

No. of premises where filling materials are used - Nil.

No. of premises where rag flock is manufactured - One.

The premises where rag flock is manufactured were duly licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Rag Flock & other Filling Material Act, 1951.

During the year ending 31st. December, 1955, the following samples were taken and submitted for analysis. All were found to comply with the statutory requirements of the Rag Flock & Other Filling Material Regulations 1951.

Coir Fibre	-	3
Rag Flock	-	3

PETROLEUM.

Number of premises licensed for the storage of petrol - 126.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY, OR UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	3,946
Total number of houses and premises inspected.	1,858
Number of inspections of:	
Food premises and catering establishments(Food & Drugs Act)	315
Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.	879
Factories.	152
Shops (Shops Act)	290
Ice-Cream Premises.	45
Dairies.	162
Drainage systems.	220
Petrol Installations.	174
Number of Samples taken:	
Milk	127
Ice-Cream.	63
Water.	160
Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials.	6
Complaints investigated.	134
Investigations into cases of infectious disease.	48
Written notices and letters sent.	1,544
Rooms, etc. disinfected.	28
Drain tests of drainage systems believed to be defective.	47

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their sympathetic support and the Medical Officer of Health and other Chief Officers for their co-operation and assistance during the year. I would also like to thank the members of the staff and the employees of the Public Health Department for their loyalty and for the excellent work which makes this report possible.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

J. H. ELLIS.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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In the first part of the paper, the author discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. He points out that the study of history is not only a means of understanding the past, but also a means of understanding the present and the future. He argues that the study of history is essential for the development of a nation and for the progress of the world.

The author then discusses the various methods of historical research. He points out that there are many different ways of studying history, and that each method has its own strengths and weaknesses. He argues that the most effective way of studying history is to use a combination of different methods.

Finally, the author discusses the importance of the study of history for the future. He argues that the study of history is essential for the development of a nation and for the progress of the world.

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