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Contributors

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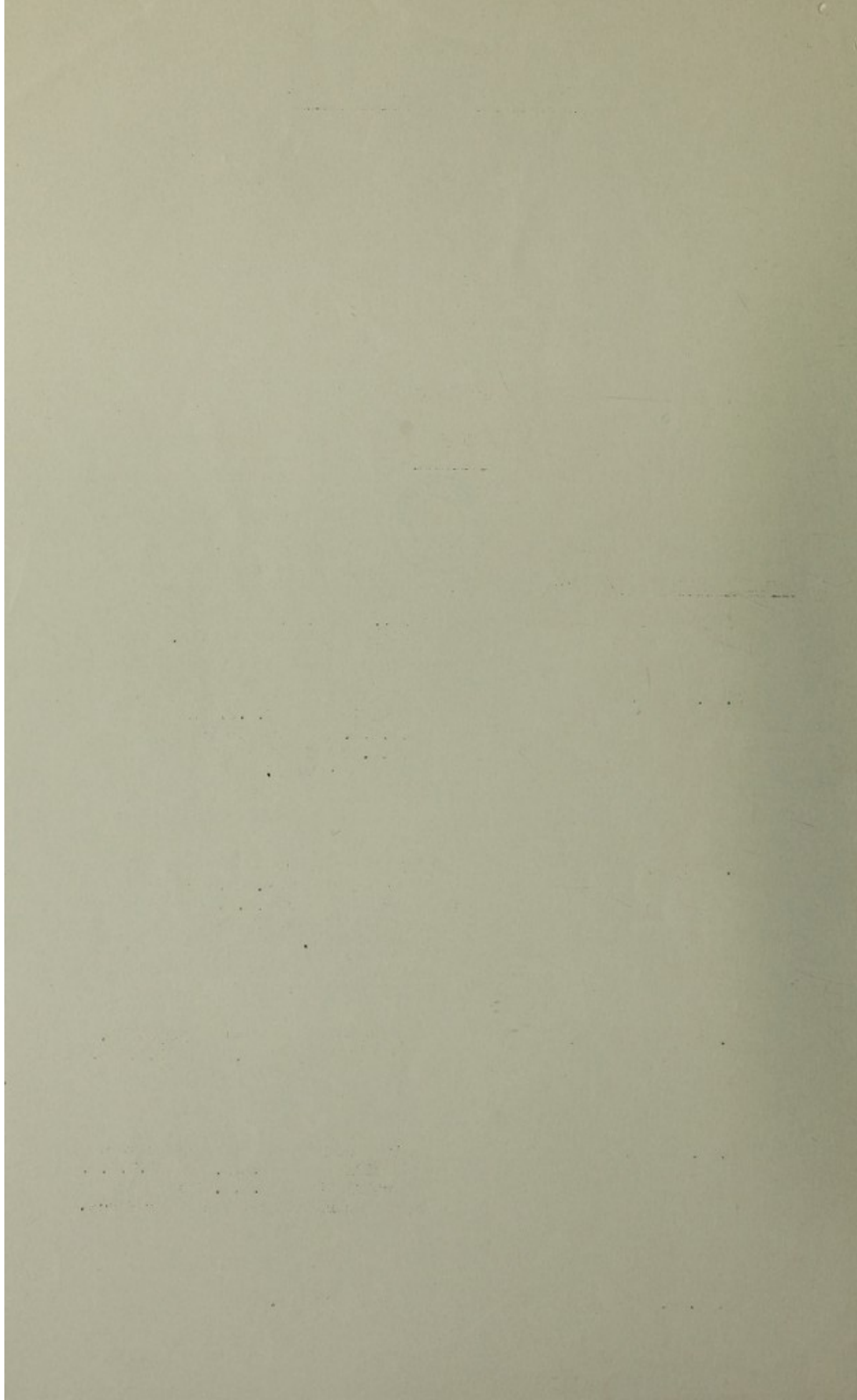
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ANNUAL REPORTS
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1956



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :-

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



AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1956.

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 in 1956.

The incidence of infectious diseases in the District was low, the only infection producing a fairly high number of notifications being Measles. Over the past twenty years we have seen the virtual disappearance of Diphtheria, due mainly to immunisation, and the infection which people fear now is Poliomyelitis. Fortunately there is now a vaccine available which we hope in time will eliminate Poliomyelitis, just as Diphtheria has been eliminated. The supplies of this vaccine are still very limited however, and only a comparatively small number of children have, so far, been able to get it in the District.

According to the Register-General's estimates the population of the District is increasing steadily, the estimate for 1956 being 29,250 compared with 28,790 in 1955. The Birth Rate showed a decrease from the rate for the previous year (14.6 in 1955, 12.8 in 1956), but so also did the Death Rate (10.0 in 1955, 9.4 in 1956). Last year I commented on the very satisfactory Infant Mortality Rate, but I am sorry to say that the number of infant deaths in 1956 rose to 10, compared with 6 in 1955.

Again there was good progress in the building of new houses both by the Local Authority and private enterprise, and the number of applicants on the Council's housing list was 362 at the end of 1956 compared with 423 in 1955.

The Report of Mr. Ellis shows how much has been done to make sub-standard houses fit by means of the grant-aided improvement scheme, and I would also like to draw your attention to his comments on moveable dwellings, the operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and drainage problems in a Rural District.

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

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

D. McGOWAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1957.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area of District.	90,551 acres.
Population: 1931 Census.	22,076
" 1951 "	26,535
" Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1956.	29,250
Rateable Value.	£316,798
Number of Inhabited Houses.	8,340

Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1956.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	153	164	317
Illegitimate.	7	6	13
	<u>160</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>330</u>

BIRTH RATE: per 1,000 population = 11.28

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.14) = 12.8

STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	6	3	9
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>

STILL BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 total births) = 26.5

DEATHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	161	171	332

CRUDE DEATH RATE: = 11.35 per 1,000 population.

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.83) = 9.4.

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

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	7	2	9
Illegitimate.	1	-	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 30.3.

MATERNAL DEATHS: NIL.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 330 (160 boys and 170 girls), this being 38 births less than 1955. Of these births 13 were illegitimate (7 boys and 6 girls).

The crude birth rate for 1956 was 11.28 and when the comparability factor (1.14) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 12.8 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 14.6 in 1955. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1956 was 15.7.

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

	<u>BIRTH RATES.</u>									
Year:	<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>	<u>1956</u>
England and Wales.	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7
Axbridge Rural District.	18.1	17.5	16.9	14.0	13.7	14.0	15.2	16.0	14.6	12.8

STILL BIRTHS.

The registered number of stillbirths in 1956 was 9 (6 males and 3 females) of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 26.5 per 1,000 total births. The comparable still birth rate for England and Wales was 23.0 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS.

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 332 (161 males and 171 females). This is 15 less than in 1955 and gives a crude death rate of 11.35. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 9.4 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>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
First Quarter	118	97
Second Quarter	72	79
Third Quarter	68	83
Fourth Quarter	74	88

The following table shows the causes of death in 1956 :-

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>1956.</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	4	1	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases.	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Men-ingococcal Infection	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	6	3	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung,bronchus.	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1

Causes of Death	1956		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm.	12	11	23
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	-	-	-
Diabetes.	-	5	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	26	40	66
Coronary disease, angina pectoris.	22	10	32
Hypertension with heart disease.	5	6	11
Other heart disease.	26	37	63
Other circulatory diseases.	7	5	12
Influenza.	-	1	1
Pneumonia.	9	9	18
Bronchitis.	6	1	7
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	6	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	14	24	38
Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-	3
All other accidents.	5	4	9
Suicide.	4	-	4
Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
All Causes - Total	161	171	332

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1956.

(The figures in brackets are those of 1955).

Ages at Deaths in Years:-

	Males.	Females	Total.
Under 1	7 (6)	3 (-)	10 (6)
1 to 9	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (2)
10 to 24	2 (6)	- (2)	2 (8)
25 to 44	3 (6)	1 (4)	4 (10)
45 to 64	44 (51)	21 (29)	65 (80)
65 to 69	23 (21)	12 (11)	35 (32)
<u>Total under 70 years</u>	<u>80 (91)</u>	<u>39 (47)</u>	<u>119 (138)</u>
70 to 74	25 (22)	27 (29)	52 (51)
75 to 79	21 (26)	32 (26)	53 (52)
80 to 84	21 (15)	39 (32)	60 (47)
85 to 89	10 (16)	17 (19)	27 (35)
90 to 94	2 (1)	12 (13)	14 (14)
95 to 99	2 (2)	5 (7)	7 (9)
100 & over	- (-)	- (1)	- (1)
<u>Total over 70 years</u>	<u>81 (82)</u>	<u>132 (127)</u>	<u>213 (209)</u>
	<u>161 (173)</u>	<u>171 (174)</u>	<u>332 (347)</u>

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1956.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 day	1-7 days	1-4 wks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity.	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital malformations.	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	3
Intra-cranial haemorrhage.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia due to aspiration of stomach contents.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Asphyxia due to respiratory obstruction.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Suffocation due to lack of attention at birth.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	5	1	1	7	2	-	1	-	10

After correction, for transferable deaths, 10 children (8 boys and 2 girls) under the age of 1 year, died in 1956. This is four more than in 1955 and gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 30.3 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 23.8 for the whole of England and Wales. This is high compared with the low rate of 16.3 per 1,000 live births in 1955 but as I have pointed out previously, the comparatively small numbers involved, makes wide fluctuations in the Infant Mortality Rate inevitable from year to year.

Half of the infant deaths were due to prematurity and congenital malformations, but it is disturbing to see that four deaths were due to asphyxia.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Owing to severe drought in the early part of the summer there was a shortage of water in the district especially the supply to the Brean and Berrow area.

The deficiency was overcome by taking a supplementary supply of raw water from the Bristol Waterworks Company. Unfortunately this raw water was not suitable for treatment by chlorination alone, filtration being also necessary. The Paterson Engineering Company had some unused war-time "Stella" filters in stock and after some experiment four of these filters were linked together as a single battery and the raw water passed through them prior to the usual chlorination. The battery of "Stella" filters was erected at the Cross Station.

Every parish has a piped water supply and 8,098 houses representing a population of 26,445 are supplied from the public mains. Fifteen houses representing 39 people obtain water from stand-pipes. 227 houses rely on wells for water supply and during the year a piped supply was given to five houses in place of a well supply.

The following extensions or improvements were carried out in 1956 :-

	<u>Cost</u>
Cross Booster Pump Installation.	£1,000
Completion of Summer Lane, Banwell, 2nd part of extension - 700 yds.	£1,400
Swymmers Farm, Blagdon - 637 yds of main between existing storage tank and Swymmers Farm.	£1,072

Future Proposals

	<u>Cost</u>
Charterhouse Water supply (including bulk supply to Clutton R.D.C. Various new mains (7,900 yds) New Pumping Plant and Reservoir.	£37,988
Replacement of defective mains at Brean and Berrow (7117yds)	£22,428
In consultation with Bristol Waterworks Company, Weston Borough Council and Burnham U.D.C. a scheme is being devised to improve supplies in the western extremities of the South Mendip area.	£33,000

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 Public Health Inspector.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Dwelling-houses receiving a supply from Public water</u>	<u>Population supplied from Public Water</u>	
			<u>Mains</u>	<u>Stand-Pipes</u>
		<u>Mains.</u>	<u>Direct to Houses</u>	
Axbridge	320	319	1120	-
Badgworth	107	106	339	2
Banwell	671	660	2316	-
Berrow	131	131	453	-
Blagdon	342	314	1081	-
Bleadon	221	214	743	-
Brean	116	114	295	-
Brent Knoll	260	255	815	-
Burnham Without	102	102	335	-
Burrington	151	133	419	-
Butcombe	63	60	191	-
Chapel Allerton	82	82	282	-
Cheddar	1010	998	2687	12
Churchill	421	401	1358	-
Compton Bishop	125	121	446	-
Congresbury	479	452	1492	-
East Brent	234	234	762	-
Hutton	207	198	608	9
+ Kewatoke	280	263	960	-
+ Locking	108	104	340	-
Loxton	55	50	186	-
Lympsham	181	181	597	-
Mark	270	269	885	5
Puxton	51	51	213	-
Shipham	215	210	623	2
Weare	135	133	454	-
Wedmore	711	669	2300	6
Wick St Lawrence	50	50	202	-
Winscombe	749	744	2342	3
Wroughton	493	480	1601	-

+ Weston-super-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, Winscombe, Locking and part of Shipham.

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

Locking sewerage - new scheme	£13,103
Extension of Sewer - Winscombe (Sandford)	£ 2,745
Improvement to Works, Winscombe.	£ 500
Improvement to Wrington Sewers and repairs.	£ 500

Future Proposals

Congresbury Sewerage and sewage disposal	£53,000
New Works, Wrington.	£14,000
New Pumping Station, Cheddar.	£ 4,000
Kewstoke - part village	£ 3,001
Sewer Extension, New road, Cheddar.	£ 6,000

HOUSING

The number of new houses erected by the Local Authority during the year was 87, compared with 54 in 1955. 100 houses were completed by private enterprise compared with 74 in 1955. The number of families re-housed during the year was 169 and the number of houses still requisitioned fell from 11 to 2. The number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1956 was 362. There are still 7 hutments occupied by families.

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 Public Health Inspector.

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

	<u>Houses erected in 1956</u>		<u>Houses in course of erection at end of year 1956</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	87	-	90	-	-
Private Enterprise.	100	-	76	13	-
	<u>187</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>

	<u>December 1956</u>	<u>December 1955</u>
No. of houses owned by the Council.	1369	1302
No. of houses requisitioned by the Council.	2	11
No. of hutments administered by the Council.	7	11
No. of applicants for Council Houses.	362	423
No. of families rehoused during the year.	169	86

The number of post-war houses erected by the Local Authority up to the end of 1956 is 871., and the programme for 1957 provides for the erection of 118 houses.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The measles epidemic of 1955 continued on into the beginning of 1956 and accounted for a further 115 notified cases, bringing the total number of notified cases during the epidemic to 528. Apart from this the incidence of other infectious diseases appeared to be low. No cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year. Although only one case of food poisoning and no cases of dysentery were notified, it is certain that there are many small outbreaks of diarrhoea occurring in the District which do not come to the notice of the Public Health Department.

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	115	-	-
Scarletina	25	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Membranous Croup	-	-	-
Enteric & Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Men-ingococcal Infection	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	1	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	12	1	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia			
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-
Typhus	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Small Pox	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Other notifiable diseases.	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

17 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 5 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>
62	70	7	10	69	80

DIPHTHERIA

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1956, 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 255 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 41 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 278 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

A total of 2,727 children under the age of 15 years have completed a full course of immunisation during the five years up to the end of 1956.

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 SMALLPOX

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

<u>Under 1 Year</u>		<u>1 Year</u>		<u>2 - 4 Yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14 Yrs.</u>		<u>15 Yrs or Over</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.	P.	R.
106	-	11	-	1	1	10	13	14	23	142	37

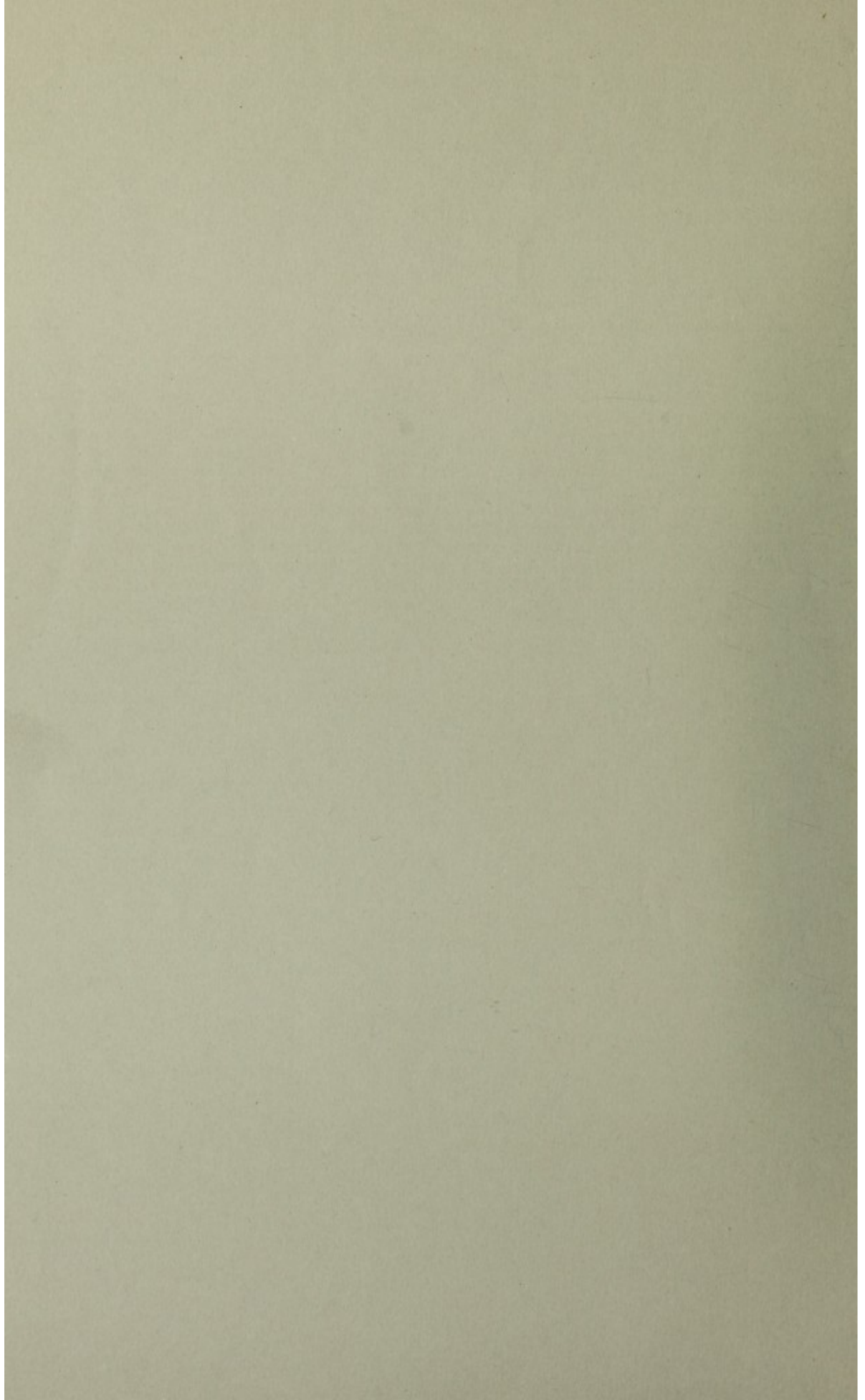
P. = Primary Vaccination.

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 Hen 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. Michaels Home, Axbridge, which dealt with tuberculous cases has now changed its function to a convalescent home and Compton Bishop Children's Hospital which admitted non-infectious pre-tubercular children and children with tuberculous glands, has now closed down as there was not a sufficient number of suitable children in the District to keep it open. This is a welcome indication of the declining importance of tuberculosis as a major source of ill-health in the District. 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-s-Mare, Bridgwater and Wells.

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



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1956

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1956.

HOUSING

The number of sub-standard houses made fit during the year is the highest recorded since the end of the war. Grant aided improvement schemes are mainly responsible for this increase. As fewer grant aid applications were received in 1956 than in 1955 it is possible that the rate of reconditioning work may now slacken. The main reason for this falling off in the number of applications appears to be that the "credit squeeze" is making it difficult for applicants to find the balance of the cost of an improvement scheme.

Improvement Grants.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st. Dec. 1955.	128 applications (147 dwellings)	122 applications (139 dwellings)	6 applications (8 dwellings)
Applications dealt with during 1956.	59 applications (70 dwellings)	56 applications (67 dwellings)	3 applications (3 dwellings)
Position at 31st. December, 1956.	187 applications (217 dwellings)	178 applications (206 dwellings)	9 applications (11 dwellings)

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 62 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 29 in 1955. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1956, is as follows :-

Number of properties satisfactory in all respects (Category 1)	673
Number of properties with minor defects (Category 2)	521
Number of properties requiring repair or structural alteration (Category 3)	2,335
Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost. (Category 5)	396

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 38 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows :-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.55.	28
<u>During 1956.</u>	
Demolition Orders made. ...	2
Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit.	40
Undertakings accepted to make premises fit.	4
Cases under consideration at 31.12.56.	20

OVERCROWDING.

On the 31st. December, 1956 there were 2 cases of statutory overcrowding on the register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The total number of moveable dwellings permitted on licensed sites is 141 higher than last year's figure. The position at Brean and Borrow was again stabilised following the increases permitted on those sites where private wells were constructed to replace the main water supply for flushing water closets.

The number of caravans used for living purposes showed a heavy increase. The 1956 total of 157 such caravans, accommodating 371 persons, compares with the 1955 total of 113 caravans, accommodating 286 persons. 51 residential caravans were occupied by families with children.

In recent years there has been, generally speaking, an improvement in residential camping conditions. Some of the smaller sites, which lacked reasonable facilities, have been closed down and residential camping has tended to concentrate on larger sites where such amenities as access roads, hard standings, wash-houses, bath-houses and even shops have been provided. In addition, the standard of the caravans used for living purposes has, in the main, improved.

Number of camping sites licensed during the year.	57
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted on these sites.	1,753
Total number of individual moveable dwellings licensed.	38

FOOD PREMISES.

Work in connection with food premises has been concentrated mainly on securing the provision of the washing equipment and appliances required by the Food Hygiene Regulations. Nearly all the food premises in the District are now provided with adequate facilities for hand washing and for the washing of utensils etc.

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	12
Soft Drinks Factory	1

B. Retail Shops.

Grocers	121
Confectioners	44
Butchers	22
Fishmongers & Greengrocers (combined)	4
Greengrocers	9
Dairies	2

C. Catering Premises. (including licensed premises) 138

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	12
Fish frying	3

MILK AND DAIRIES

There has been a steady reduction in recent years in the percentage of milk samples not satisfying the methylene blue test. When an unsatisfactory milk sample is obtained investigation is made into the cause and, if necessary, the County Milk Officer is advised in order that a check may be made at the place of production.

Number of registered dairies	10
Number of milk distributors registered (premises in this District)	46
Number of milk distributors registered (premises outside the District)	15

Milk Samples

Tuberculin Tested	103 Satisfactory	20 Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	18 Satisfactory	1 Unsatisfactory

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 especially constructed or adapted for the purpose. There are no matters which call for special comment.

The overall results of the samples taken are regarded as satisfactory.

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

Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream 154

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.	16	3	-	-	19
Ice cream manufactured outside the District.	45	4	1	1	51
	<u>61</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>70</u>

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.

Probable No. of Coliform
Bacilli MacConkey 2 days
37°C.

	<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>
Cheddar & Axbridge	12 samples	1 sample			
South Mendip (Cross)	11 "	1 "			
South Mendip (Dunycatt)	12 "				
Winscombe	11 "	1 "		1 sample	
North Mendip	11 "				1 sample
Burrington (Not chlorinated)	12 "	1 "			
Twin Brook Adit.	10 "	1 "		1 "	
Blagdon	12 "				
Kewstoke	12 "				
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 "				
	<u>115 "</u>	<u>5 "</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2 "</u>	<u>1 "</u>

A sample of water from each of the above supplies 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.

Seven samples of well water were taken for bacteriological examination from six private premises. The samples of water from one of these premises proved to be unsatisfactory and the owner took steps to lay on a supply from the public main. The supplies to the other five premises were reported upon as satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION

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

The following table gives particulars of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year :-

	Cattle	Cow	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	196	84	67	982	650	-
Number inspected	196	84	67	982	650	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	2	4	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	111	64	1	139	47	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	56.6	76.2	3.0	14.3	7.8	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	1	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	6	7	-	-	18	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	3.1	9.5	-	-	2.8	-
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for :-</u>						
(a) Tuberculosis	616	808	-	-	433	-
(b) Cysticercosis	56	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	753½	511	79	207	783	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	1425½	1319	79	207	1216	-

DRAINAGE

No annual report would be complete without reference to the biggest task still facing the District Council, namely the provision of adequate sewerage systems in the District.

The Council are already fully acquainted with the public health aspects of this matter but possibly do not appreciate the amount of time which is spent by architects, surveyors, estate agents, builders and the Council's officers in attempting to find temporary solutions to drainage problems which can only be properly dealt with by the provision of main drainage. Property owners are naturally critical when the efforts of these individuals bring about no lasting cure to their drainage troubles. The professional men and technicians, for their part, experience a sense of frustration that their work in this direction produces no satisfactory results. There are, unfortunately, innumerable instances in this District of such recurring drainage nuisances which will only be permanently abated by the provision of public sewers.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

During the year it has been difficult to keep pace with the applications for cesspool cleansing. The call on this service is now rather more than one tanker can comfortably deal with although it is not sufficient to justify a recommendation that an additional vehicle should be put in service.

Total number of cesspool and settlement tanks cleansed during the year. 605

REFUSE COLLECTION

There has been an increase of approximately 300 tons in the amount of refuse collected this year compared with the 1955 figure.

For a period of approximately 4 months during the year it was impossible to sell waste paper and the bulk of this material collected during that time has to be either burned or dumped. The fall from £1163 to £669 in the total amount realised by the sale of salvage is mainly attributable to this factor. The outlook for the year 1957 is more promising.

Estimated total amount of refuse collected during the year. 5,158 tons.

Total amount of salvaged material disposed of during the year.

	<u>T.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Qr.</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
(a) Paper and Cardboard	99	16	2	523	9	3
(b) Rags	2	9	0	110	5	0
(c) Scrap Non-Ferrous Metal		6	2	35	14	0
Total amount realised by the sale of material salvaged.				£669	8	3

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RODENT CONTROL

The following is a copy of the annual return submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, which gives details of rodent control work carried out in the District during the 12 months ending 31st. March, 1957.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st. MARCH, 1957.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses.)	All other (inc. business premises)	Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3.	
	1.	2.	3.		
I. No. of properties in Local Authority's District	20	7095	544	7659	950
II. No. of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	-	121	12	133	7
(b) Survey under the Act.	18	901	82	1001	321
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	2	291	195	488	1
III. Total inspections carried out - inc. re-inspections.	50	2941	321	3312	512
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by :-					
(a) Rats (Major)	1	4	4	9	20
(a) Rats (Min-or)	10	410	14	434	81
(b) Mice (Major)	-	14	10	24	21
(b) Mice (Minor)	-	20	6	26	10
V. No. of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A.	11	440	24	475	14
VI. Total treatments carried out inc. re-treatments.	19	480	26	525	15
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.	14	-	-	-	-

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.	6	6	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	90	88	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding Outworkers' premises)	21	11	-
	117	105	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 (S2)	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)		
(a) Insufficient	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-
	1	1

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, 1956 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 - 4
Rag Flock - 4

PETROLEUM

All petroleum storage installations are inspected annually before applications for renewal of licences are considered by the Public Health Committee.

Number of premises licensed for the storage of petrol - 132

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

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	4,079
Total number of houses and premises inspected.	1,471
Number of inspections of :	
Food premises and catering establishments (Food & Drugs Act)	464
Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.	1,053
Factories.	105
Shops (Shops Act).	214
Ice Cream Premises.	24
Dairies.	112
Drainage systems.	161
Petrol Installations.	280
Number of Samples taken:	
Sausages	44
Milk	145
Ice cream	79
Water	194
Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials.	8
Tests of Swimming Bath Water.	32
Complaints investigated.	136
Investigations into cases of infectious diseases.	87
Written Notices and letters sent.	1,960
Rooms, etc. disinfected.	21
Drain tests of drainage systems believed to be defective.	19

Finally I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and the Medical Officer of Health, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

J. H. ELLIS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

