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Contributors

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AXERIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Somersch.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1959

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-

D. MCGOWAN.

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare.
Tel: Weston-super-Mare 890.

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.

Deputy Chief 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.
(To 30.6.59)

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.

R. T. BARRON.
(From 20.7.59)



District Public Health Inspector,
Certificate of R.S.A. (Scotland)
Certificate of R.S.I. for
Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.

J. S. S. STRONG.

Rodent Officer.

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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1959.

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 1959.

The statistics of life and death are satisfactory and compare favourably with other parts of the country, although mortality alone cannot give a true indication of the health of a community. The measurement of morbidity - the incidence of illness - would give a better picture, but apart from certain infectious diseases, it is not possible at present to get such statistics for any particular area.

Regarding the infectious diseases, measles was again prevalent among the children of the district but it was the only infectious disease which assumed any importance during the year. The response from parents of children under the age of fifteen to the poliomyelitis immunisation campaign was very good, and I estimate that over 90% of children in the district have now been immunised against this disease.

One of the main functions of a District Council is to provide certain essential services which will eliminate as far as possible the risk of serious disease arising from the environment in which people live, and as the years pass, improvements have been made in water supplies, housing, refuse disposal etc. The report of Mr. Ellis shows the care which is taken by the Public Health Department Inspectors in watching and advising on the conditions in which people live, and further improvements to these services will be made. As far as I can see, however, the main task now facing you is the provision of adequate drainage and sewerage to the main population centres of the district. I do not mean that every isolated cottage should be linked to a central sewage disposal system, but the main villages should be. Each year sees an increase not only in the resident population but in the holiday population and I feel that the present rate of provision of sewerage facilities is not keeping up with this increase.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman 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.

General Statistics.

Area of District	90,551 acres.
Population: 1931 Census	22,076
" 1951 "	26,535
" Registrar General's Estimate for Mid 1959.	29,680
Rateable Value	£364,558
Number of Inhabited Houses	8,924

Extracts from Vital Statistics for Year 1959LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	182	197	379
Illegitimate	7	6	13
	-----	-----	-----
	189	203	392
	-----	-----	-----

LIVE BIRTH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 13.2

CORRECTED BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.13) = 14.9

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS: (per cent. of total live births) = 3.3%

STILL BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
	3	2	5
	-----	-----	-----

STILL BIRTH RATE: (Per 1,000 live and still births) = 12.6

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 397INFANT DEATHS: (Deaths under 1 year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----
	1	2	3
	-----	-----	-----

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) - total = 7.6INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 legitimate live births) = 7.9INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) = NilNEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) = 5.1EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) = 5.1PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live & still births) = 17.6MATERNAL DEATHS - NilMATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live and still births) = Nil

DEATHS:

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
185	178	363

CRUDE DEATH RATE: (per 1,000 population) = 12.2

CORRECTED DEATH RATE: (Comparability Factor 0.87) = 10.6

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The Registrar General gives the corrected number of live births in the District as 392 (189 boys and 203 girls), this being 37 births less than in 1958. Of these births 13 were illegitimate (7 boys and 6 girls).

The crude birth rate for 1959 was 13.2 and when the comparability factor (1.13) is applied, the corrected birth rate was 14.9 per 1,000 of the total population compared with 16.4 in 1958. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1959 was 16.5

BIRTH RATES

<u>Year:</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
England and Wales.	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.6	16.1	16.4	16.5
Axbridge Rural District.	14.0	13.7	14.0	15.2	16.0	14.6	12.8	15.9	16.4	14.9

STILL BIRTHS

The registered number of still births in 1959 was 5 (3 males and 2 females) of which none were illegitimate, thus giving a still birth rate of 12.6 per 1,000 total births. The comparable still birth rate for England and Wales was 20.7 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS

After correction for transferable deaths the net total assigned to the District by the Registrar General was 363 (185 males and 178 females). This is 35 more than in 1958 and gives a crude death rate of 12.2. When adjusted for age and sex distribution to make it comparable with other districts, the death rate was 10.6 per 1,000 of total population compared with 11.6 for England and Wales as a whole.

The following table shows the causes of death in 1959:-

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>1959</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	-	-	-
Other forms of tuberculosis.	-	-	-
Syphilitic diseases.	1	-	1
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	7	4	11
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	6	1	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	4	4
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm.	15	16	31
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	2	-	2
Diabetes	-	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	21	39	60
Coronary disease, angina pectoria.	40	19	59
Hypertension with heart disease.	4	3	7
Other heart diseases.	32	40	72
Other circulatory diseases.	8	7	15
Influenza.	2	3	5
Pneumonia.	4	1	5
Bronchitis.	7	6	13
Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	3	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	3	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate.	5	-	5
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
Congenital malformations.	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	6	16	22
Motor vehicle accidents.	4	-	4
All other accidents.	6	5	11
Suicide.	6	1	7
Homicide and operations of war.	-	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>All Causes - Total.</u>	185	178	363
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS 1959.

Ages at Death in Years:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 1	1	2	3
1 - 4	2	-	2
5 - 14	1	1	2
15 - 24	2	2	4
25 - 44	3	5	8
45 - 64	58	19	77
65 - 69	16	13	29
<u>Total under 70 years</u>	----- 83	----- 42	----- 125
70 - 74	30	28	58
75 - 79	31	35	66
80 - 84	29	33	62
85 - 89	8	25	33
90 - 94	3	11	14
95 - 99	1	3	4
100 plus	-	1	1
<u>Total over 70 years.</u>	----- 102	----- 136	----- 238
	-----	-----	-----
	185	178	363
	=====	=====	=====

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from maternal causes in 1959.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Causes 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	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital malformations	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	3

Three children under the age of one year died in 1959. This is two less than in 1958 and gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 7.6 per 1,000 live births as compared with 22.0 for England and Wales as a whole. Two of the three deaths were due to prematurity.

The Infant Mortality Rate for the whole country has been steadily declining and most of the infant lives which have been saved have been in the age group between one month and twelve months. The fall in deaths under one month has not been so dramatic, and in fact the fall in deaths during the first week has been very little. In addition, the Stillbirth Rate has not been reduced for a number of years.

Much research is going on into the causes of death in the first week of life and the causes of stillbirth, and a new "Rate" has been devised to help in the study of these deaths. It is known as the Perinatal Mortality Rate and is the measure of the number of stillbirths plus the number of infant deaths in the first week of life per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. Medical Officers of Health are now being asked to give this Rate in their Annual Reports and this year the Perinatal Mortality for Axbridge Rural District is 17.6

WATER SUPPLIES.

Despite the long dry summer of 1959, no shortage of water supplies was reported from any part of the District.

Every parish has a piped water supply and 8,762 houses representing a population of 28,928 are supplied by the Bristol Waterworks Company. In addition 39 houses are supplied directly by private supplies. Four houses are supplied by standpipe. 102 houses depend on wells, 31 on springs, and 25 depend on rainwater for their water supplies. During the year a piped supply was substituted for well water in 9 houses.

Bacteriological and chemical sampling of the public supplies is now carried out by the Bristol Waterworks Company, but independent sampling is still done by the Council's Public Health Department. The results of such sampling are given in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following parishes have main drainage and efficient sewage disposal systems:- Axbridge, Banwell, Blagdon, Butcombe, Cheddar, Winscombe, Locking and part of Shipham.

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

(a)	<u>Completed</u>	<u>Cost</u>
	Cheddar - New Road extension of sewer - 711 yards.	£ 7,053
	Kewstoke - part village sewerage.	£ 4,287
(b)	<u>In progress</u>	
	Congresbury - Sewerage & Disposal.	£53,000
	Wrington - New Works.	£12,935
	Cheddar - Pumping Station.	£ 5,629
(c)	<u>Future proposals</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
	Wedmore Sewerage Scheme.	Not yet ascertained
	Hutton Sewerage Scheme - coupled with improvements to the Banwell Sewerage System.	Not yet ascertained
	Worston Road, Highbridge (Parish of Burnham Without) - small extension to connect to Highbridge Sewerage System.	£ 1,000

Needless to say, the future proposals for sewerage schemes in the District shown above are not the only ones envisaged in the future as rapid building development in many parts of the District makes efficient sewerage disposal systems more urgent from year to year. As I have pointed out in previous Annual Reports, the Council's main task now in the public health field is to provide efficient sewage disposal systems in all the more populated parts of the District.

HOUSING.

The number of new houses erected by the Local Authority during the year was 11, as compared with 54 in 1958 and 112 in 1957. 181 houses were completed by private enterprise compared with 145 in 1958 and 124 in 1957. The number of families rehoused during the year was 103 and the number of applicants for Council houses at the end of 1959 was 270 compared with 290 at the end of 1958. All hutments administered by the Council since the end of the war have now been vacated and the tenants rehoused.

The emphasis on house building by the Local Authority has now moved from the provision of houses for the younger family to the provision of dwellings specifically designed for the use of old people, and the housing programme for 1960 provides for the erection of 48 old people's dwellings. The great majority of families rehoused in 1959 went into "re-let" houses.

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

	<u>Houses erected in 1959.</u>	<u>Houses in course of erection at end of year 1959.</u>	<u>Conversion to flats and dwellings.</u>	
	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Perm.</u>	<u>Gained.</u>	<u>Lost.</u>
Local Authority	11	1	-	-
Private Enterprise	181	139	-	2
	<u>192</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
			<u>December 1959.</u>	<u>December 1958.</u>
Number of houses owned by the Council.			1551	1540
Number of houses requisitioned by the Council.			2	2
Number of applicants for Council houses.			270	290
Number of families rehoused during the year.			103	95

The number of post-war houses erected by the Local Authority up to the end of 1959 is 1,208 plus 4 flats. The programme for 1960 provides for the erection of 48 old people's dwellings.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>
Measles	678
Scarlet Fever	29
Diphtheria	-
Enteric and Paratyphoid Fever	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Meningococcal Infection	-
Dysentery	1
Whooping Cough	7
Acute Primary Pneumonia	37
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	

Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	1
Food Poisoning	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	11
Tuberculosis - Non-Respiratory	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eleven new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths due to this cause during the year. 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>
66	68	6	7	72	75

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during 1959, 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 336 children under 5 years of age received primary immunisation. 29 children in the age group 5 - 14 years received primary immunisation and 169 children under the age of 15 years received reinforcing doses.

320 children under the age of five years were immunised against Whooping Cough.

POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION.

Supplies of vaccine were plentiful during 1959, and the offer of vaccination was extended to all people up to 25 years. The response from the parents of children up to the age of 15 years was very good and during the year 3,442 children were given the primary course of two injections. It is now estimated that at the end of 1959 about 90% of children under the age of 15 years in the district had received this primary course. In addition, 3,471 people of all groups who had already received two injections were given the 3rd dose of the vaccine.

With regard to the group of young people aged 15 - 25 years, after an initial burst of enthusiasm (possibly connected with the sad death of a well known footballer from poliomyelitis) the response faded away rather quickly and at the end of the year, only 1,189 had been given the primary course. This represents only about 25% of this age group.

Immunisation is now available to all people up to the age of 40 years, but so far the response from those aged 25 - 40 appears to be small, although before vaccination was officially made possible to them, many were demanding the vaccine.

In addition to the numbers given above, another 172 people in other priority groups were given the primary course of vaccination.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The following table shows the number of people vaccinated or revaccinated by private general practitioners:-

<u>Under</u>	<u>1 Year</u>		<u>2 - 4 Yrs.</u>		<u>5 - 14 Yrs.</u>		<u>15 Yrs. or</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
<u>1 Year.</u>							<u>Over.</u>			
<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>R.</u>	
146	-	11	-	5	-	13	2	11	29	186 31

P. = Primary Vaccination.

R. = Revaccination.

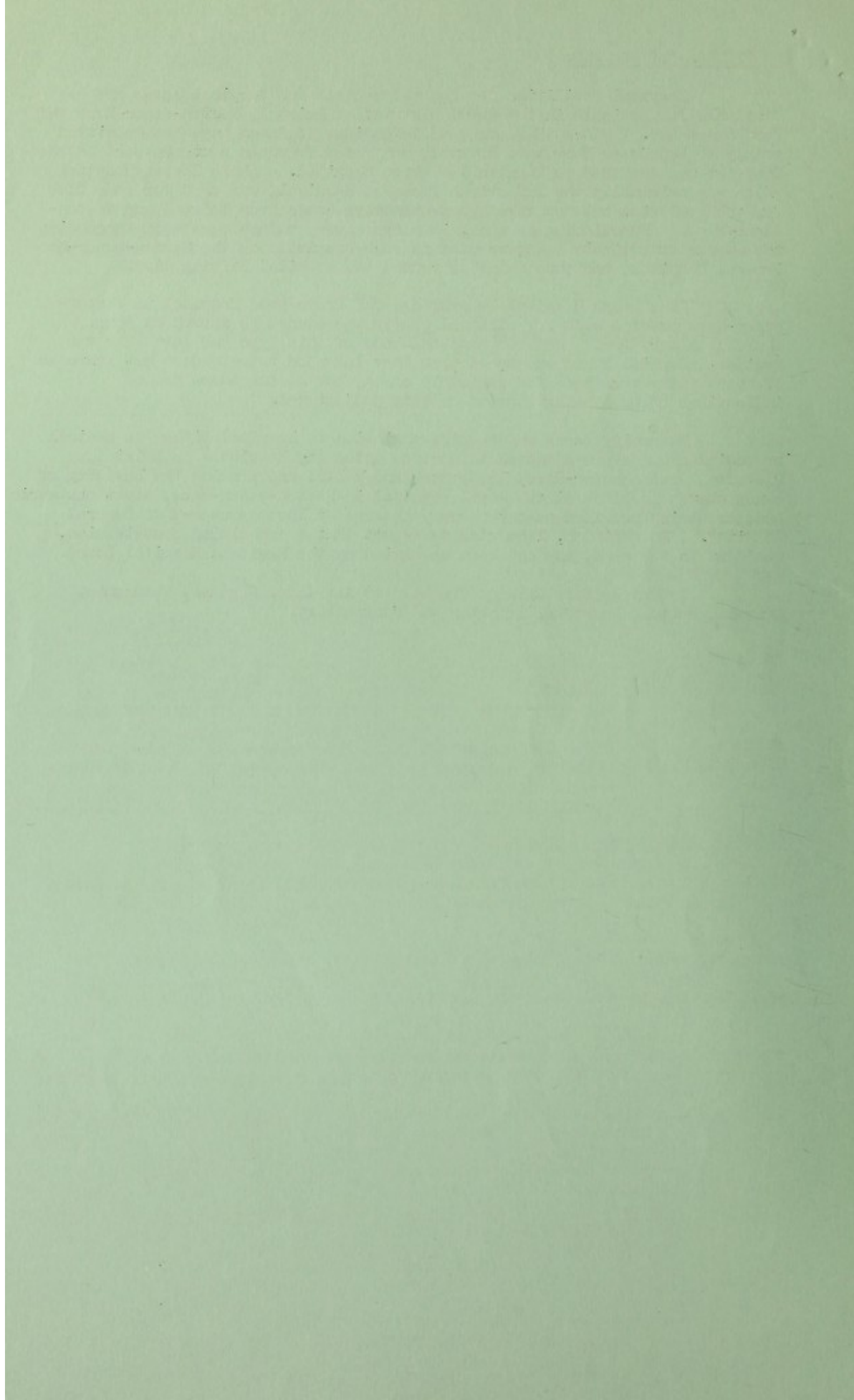
HOSPITALS, CLINICS ETC.

Hospital facilities for general medical and surgical cases are available for patients in the Rural District at Bristol, Weston-super-Mare and Burnham-on-Sea. Since 1949 cases of infectious diseases have been admitted mainly to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol, but a few from the southern part of the District are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital. Shute Shelve Hospital, which was originally the Infectious Diseases Hospital, was used for some time for tuberculosis, but now takes post-operative cases from Bristol and Weston-super-Mare. Functioning as such, it plays a very valuable role in increasing the number of patients being treated in such hospitals as the Weston-super-Mare General Hospital, and thus helps to reduce the hospital waiting list.

Ilex Lodge Hospital in Axbridge and Drove Road Hospital in Weston-super-Mare provide beds for sick old people who cannot be nursed at home. There is a very great need for hospital beds of this type and last year the Regional Hospital Board announced that they intended to provide a net increase of about fifty more beds for geriatric cases, but so far there are no indications of work being started on this project yet.

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, and pending the building of a new obstetric block at the Royal Hospital in Weston-super-Mare, eight obstetric beds are being provided as a temporary measure at Weston-super-Mare General Hospital. In addition, I am glad to report that a consulting obstetrician, resident in the area, has now been appointed by the Regional Hospital Board.

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



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1959

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 1959.

HOUSING

The new standard improvement grants became available during the year. It is believed, however, that discretionary grants will still make the major contribution towards raising the standard of houses in this District. Steady and solid progress in this direction has been maintained.

Discretionary Improvement Grants.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1958.	271 applications (312 dwellings)	260 applications (299 dwellings)	11 applications (13 dwellings)
Applications dealt with during 1959.	55 applications (59 dwellings)	55 applications (59 dwellings)	Nil
Position at 31st December, 1959.	326 applications (371 dwellings)	315 applications (358 dwellings)	11 applications (13 dwellings)

Standard Improvement Grants.

	<u>Applications Received</u>	<u>Applications Approved</u>	<u>Applications Rejected</u>
Position at 31st December, 1959.	22	18	4

Rural Housing Survey.

During the year 55 surveyed houses were made fit compared with 40 in 1958. 4 houses were demolished during the year. The summary of categories, revised to December, 1959, is as follows:-

Number of properties satisfactory in all respects (Category 1)	823
Number of properties with minor defects (Category 2)	515
Number of properties requiring major repair or structural alteration (Category 3)	2,248
Number of properties unfit for habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost (Category 5)	324

Statutory Action under the Provisions of
The Housing Acts.

During the year, statutory action under the provisions of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, was instituted in respect of 11 dwellings. The result of such action is summarised as follows:-

Cases under consideration at 31.12.58.	14
<u>During 1959</u>	
Demolition Orders made	1
Undertakings accepted not to use premises for human habitation until made fit	12
Undertakings accepted to make premises fit	Nil
Cases under consideration at 31.12.59.	12

OVERCROWDING

On the 31st December, 1959 there was 1 case of statutory overcrowding on the register.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The total number of moveable dwellings permitted on licensed sites exceeds last years figure by 200. Individual moveable dwellings licensed show a decrease of 3.

The number of caravans used for living purposes rose from 213 accommodating 493 persons, to 233 accommodating 563. Residential caravans occupied by families with children totalled 89 compared with 68 in 1958.

The major increase in the number of moveable dwellings on licensed sites was again in the Brean and Berrow area. No reports were received of shortage of drinking water supplies, even in the height of the season.

Number of camping sites licensed during the year	60
Total number of moveable dwellings permitted on these sites	2,027
Total number of individual moveable dwellings licensed	65

FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of food premises were carried out during the year. The number of inspections made is given in the summary at the end of this report. Consultations with food traders at these inspections result in a substantial number of improvements being carried out without the necessity of formal action by the District Council.

No statutory proceedings were instituted during the year.

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.	<u>Food Manufacturing Premises</u>	
	Edible Fat Refineries	2
	Cheese Straw Factory	1
	Cheese Factories	2
	Bakers	10
	Soft Drinks Factory	1
B.	<u>Retail Shops</u>	
	Grocers	108
	Confectioners	45
	Butchers	20
	Fishmongers & Greengrocers (combined)	4
	Greengrocers	11
	Dairies	2
C.	<u>Catering Premises</u> (including licensed premises)	139
D.	<u>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)</u>	
	Sausage making	14
	Fish frying	3

MILK AND DAIRIES

Investigations were made into the causes of all unsatisfactory milk samples. Collaboration with the County Milk Officer, when unsatisfactory samples indicated faulty methods at the place of production, has been maintained.

Number of registered dairies	9
Number of milk distributors registered (premises in this District)	49
Number of milk distributors registered (premises outside the District)	15

Milk Samples

Tuberculin Tested	58 Satisfactory	24 Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	9 Satisfactory	Nil Unsatisfactory
Sterilised	Nil	Nil

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 again 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	184

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	14	2	-	-	16
Ice-cream manufactured outside the District	47	12	4	2	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	61	14	4	2	81
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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. Due credit must be given to the Bristol Waterworks Company for the uniformly high standard of purity of the water supplies during the first full year these supplies have been under their control.

	<u>Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37°C.</u>
	<u>0 per 100 ml</u>
Cheddar & Axbridge	12 samples
South Mendip (Cross)	12 "
South Mendip (Dunyeatt)	12 "
Winscombe	12 "
North Mendip	12 "
Burrington (Chlorinated)	12 "
Twin Brook Adit	12 "
Blagdon	12 "
Kewstoke	12 "
North Mendip (Chelvey)	12 "

	120 "

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.

10 samples of well water were taken for bacteriological examination from 10 private premises. The samples of water from 7 of these premises proved to be satisfactory and 3 to be unsatisfactory. A water supply from the public main was substituted for a well supply in 9 cases.

DRAINAGE

The need for adequate sewerage of the District becomes more pressing each year. The modernisation of older properties and the erection of new houses inevitably results in increased amounts of foul water for disposal. The cost of emptying retentive cesspools would place an impossible economic burden on the owner or occupier of property. Septic tank drainage systems with effluent disposal to sub-soil irrigation drains, although the only practicable alternative where a sewer is lacking, gives rise to a considerable amount of trouble in those large areas of the District where the sub-soil is unsuitable for drainage irrigation, particularly in areas of relatively high building density. This trouble will never be permanently eliminated until these areas are sewered.

MEAT INSPECTION

The three slaughterhouses licensed 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	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	202	10	18	1,237	658	-
Number inspected	202	10	18	1,237	658	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	78	9	-	93	49	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	38.7	90.0	-	7.5	7.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.5	-	-	-	0.3	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:-						
(a) Tuberculosis	110	-	-	-	12	-
(b) Cysticercosis	1½	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	467½	145	-	158½	101	-
Total (in lbs.) condemned	578¾	145	-	158½	113	-

CESSPOOL CLEANSING

Difficulty was again experienced during the year in keeping pace with the demand for cesspool emptying. Substantial overtime working of the tanker was necessary to reduce arrears of work. In July the District Council decided that on the 1st April, 1960, the disposal of cesspool contents on land should cease and thereafter cesspool tanker loads should be discharged to selected sewerage systems.

Total number of cesspools and settlement tanks cleansed during the year. 681

REFUSE COLLECTION

There has again been an increase, of approximately 440 tons, in the amount of refuse collected during 1959.

The sale of waste paper proved difficult towards mid-year but the substantial storage facilities at the new salvage depot enabled paper to be stock piled. The position improved towards the end of the year and the stock pile was reduced.

Estimated total amount of refuse collected during the year. 7,136 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	160	9	3	818	5	6
(b) Rags	4	11	3	172	0	7½
(c) Non-ferrous metals	3	1	2	246	0	0
(d) Sundries	1	0	3	4	3	0
Total amount realised by the sale of material salvaged.				£1,240	9	1½

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 9 months ending 31st December, 1959.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 9 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>				
	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).</u>	<u>All other (inc. business premises).</u>	<u>Total of Cols. 1, 2 & 3</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
	1	2.	3.		
I. No. of properties in Local Authority's District	18	8924	560	9502	950
II. No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	39	9	48	10
(b) Survey under the Act	18	740	82	840	270
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	10	15	25	6
III. Total inspections carried out - inc. re-inspections	40	910	171	1121	291
IV. No. of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats (Major)	1	3	3	7	25
(a) Rats (Minor)	7	391	16	414	19
(b) Mice (Major)	-	14	3	17	10
(b) Mice (Minor)	1	60	4	65	124
V. No. of infested properties (in Sec. IV treated by the L.A.	9	351	19	379	30
VI. Total treatments carried out inc. re-treatments	12	391	21	424	33
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	39				

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.	3	3	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	108	122	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	9	9	Nil
	120	134	Nil

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	4	3
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-
	4	3

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS

Number of premises where filling materials are used - Nil
 Number 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, 1959, 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.

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

Total number of inspections made (including re-inspections)	4,758
Total number of houses and premises inspected	2,325

Number of inspections made of:-

Dwelling houses	1,815
Food premises and catering establishment (Food & Drugs Act)	570
Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings	587
Factories	134
Shops (Shops Act)	268
Ice Cream Premises	91
Dairies	139
Drainage Systems	192
Petrol Installations	334
Swill boiling plants	17

Number of Samples taken:-

Milk	99
Ice Cream	85
Water	160
Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials	8

Tests of Swimming Bath Water	20
Investigations into cases of infectious diseases	63
Premises, disinfected or disinfested	19
Drain tests of drainage systems believed to be defective	53

In conclusion I would like 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.

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