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BOROUGH OF BANBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

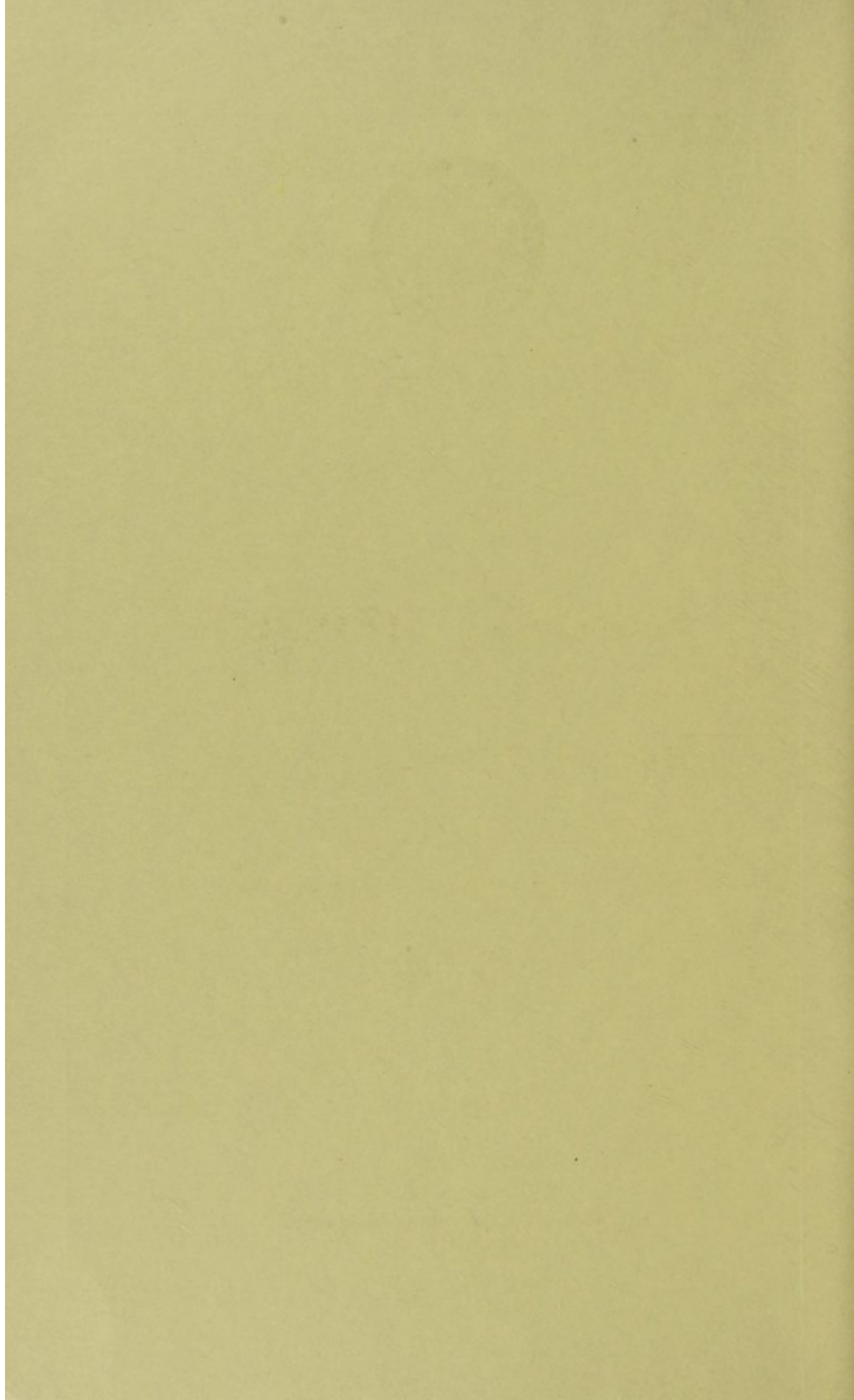
of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1948





BOROUGH OF BANBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1948

H. E. Boddy & Co. Ltd, Factory Street, Banbury
1949

BOROUGH OF BANBURY

Mayor—

COUNCILLOR FRANK PARTRIDGE.

Deputy Mayor—

ALDERMAN WILLIAM GEORGE MASCORD.

Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

*Chairman—*COUNCILLOR MRS. M. CHENEY.

*Vice-Chairman—*COUNCILLOR J. TOOLE.

ALDERMAN BLINCOWE

COUNCILLOR HASKINS

ALDERMAN DEACON

COUNCILLOR DR. HEWLINGS

ALDERMAN MASCORD

COUNCILLOR HUNT

ALDERMAN BRAGGINS

COUNCILLOR MRS. JOHNSON

COUNCILLOR MRS. CHILTON

COUNCILLOR YOUNG

*Town Clerk and Clerk of Peace—*E. OWEN REID,
Solicitor.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

A. J. CAMPBELL, B.Sc. (Oxon.), M.D. (St. And.),
D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and

Certified Meat Inspector :

F. APPELYARD, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.H. (Hous.)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors and

Certified Meat Inspectors :

G. RICHARDS, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

S. D. COX, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerks :

R. THOMAS (Chief Clerk).

Miss M. E. OXLEY (Typist).

Rodent Officer :

J. O. HUMPHRIS.



**To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Banbury.**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health Services of the Borough during 1948.

The report is prepared in accordance with Circular 3/49 of the Ministry of Health issued on 17th January, 1949.

The Birth Rate in 1948 was 20.48, a little lower than the previous year, but is still well above the pre-war figure. The Death Rate was 10.79, slightly lower than 1947. The Infant Mortality figure was 36.36 in 1948; in 1947 it was 28.87. The Tuberculosis Death Rate .37 is below the average for England and Wales.

With regard to Infectious Diseases, the number of cases of Scarlet Fever showed an increase over 1947. There was a large outbreak of Measles in the early part of the year, which had continued from the latter part of 1947. No cases of Diphtheria occurred. There was one case of Poliomyelitis.

Considerable changes in the Health Administration of the Borough occurred on 5th July, 1948, as a result of the National Health Service Act. The two hospitals formerly vested in the Council have now passed to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board. The Maternity and Child Welfare, Immunisation and Ambulance Services are now administered by the County Council.

Housing is still the most acute public health problem in the Borough, and the need for re-housing overcrowded families and tenants of unfit houses continues to be most urgent.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Sanitary Inspectors Health Visitors and the Office Staff for their valuable co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. J. CAMPBELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,051 acres
Population (1931 Census)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,953
Population (1948 Estimated Reg. Gen.)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,800
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£111,120
Product of Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£447

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1948

Live Births.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	175	191	366
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	12	7	19
Totals	...	...	...	...	187	198	385

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated
Population 20.48
(England and Wales—17.9)

Stillbirths.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.34

Deaths.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	99	104	203
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.79
(England and Wales—10.8)							

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

	Number.	Rate.
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	14	36.36
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	14	36.36
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	—	—

(England and Wales—34)

Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Causes : Legitimate :	Prematurity	4
	Atalectasis	3
	Pneumonia	2
	Cerebral Haemorrhage	1
	Asphyxia	2
	Congenital Heart Disease	1
	Multiple Congenital Defects	1
Illegitimate :	... ..	Nil

Causes of Deaths, 1948.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	4	7
13. Cancer of buc. cavity and oeso- phagus (male) uterus (female)	2	3	5
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5
15. Cancer of breast	—	3	3
16. Cancer of other sites	20	14	34
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	6	15	21
19. Heart disease	30	30	60
20. Other diseases of Circulatory System	5	3	8
21. Bronchitis	—	1	1
22. Pneumonia	3	5	8
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	—	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
27. Other digestive diseases	1	3	4
28. Nephritis	4	1	5
31. Premature birth	—	4	4
32. Congenital malformations, birth in- jury, etc.	3	4	7
33. Suicide	—	4	4

34. Road traffic accidents	...	...	2	1	3
35. Other violent causes	...	...	4	3	7
36. All other causes	...	...	7	5	12
Totals	...	...	99	104	203

Deaths from—Cancer (all ages)	...	...	47
Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Staff of the Public Health Department.

A list of members of the Staff of the Public Health Department is given at the beginning of the report.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

Laboratory work for the Borough is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford, in the grounds of the Radcliffe Infirmary. Dr. R. Knox is in charge of the Laboratory.

The following are the details of the work carried out in 1948 :

FAECES	.....	Number examined	...	...	...	108
		Negative	...	...	...	70
		Positive : B. Sonne	...	...	...	12
		B. Typhimurium	...	...	...	2
		Entamoeba Histolytica	...	...	...	7
		Gardia Lamblia	...	...	...	6
		Trichuris	...	...	...	6
SWABS	.....	Number examined	...	...	...	438
		Positive for Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	...	205
		Positive for Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	1
		Negative	...	...	...	232
OTHER EXAMINATIONS		Total	...	...	...	94

Water examinations (chemical and bacteriological) are carried out by Messrs. Bostock Hill and Rigby, Birmingham.

(b) Nursing in the Home.

Facilities are provided by the County Council under Sec. 257 National Health Service Act 1946 through the agency of the Oxfordshire Nursing Federation.

(c) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

CLINIC	PLACE	TIME.
1. Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic	School Clinic Warwick Road	Tuesday and Friday 2.30 p.m.
2. Ante Natal Clinic	"	Wednesday 2.30 p.m.
3. School Clinic	"	Each weekday 9 a.m., also Tuesday 2 p.m.
4. Child Guidance	"	Thursday 10.30 a.m.
5. Speech Clinic	"	Wednesday 10 a.m.
6. Eye Clinic	Horton Hospital	Monday 10 a.m.
7. Orthopaedic Clinic	"	Thursdays (1st & 3rd) 2.30 p.m.
8. Tuberculosis Clinic	"	Thursday 1 p.m.
9. V.D. Clinic	Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford	Males—Wed. 6 p.m. Sat. 3 p.m. Females Mon. 6 p.m. Wed. 3 p.m.
10. Diphtheria Immunisation	School Clinic	1st Wed. each month 3 p.m.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—8 cases occurred during the year.

Maternal Deaths.—There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Illegitimate Children.

There were 19 illegitimate births during the year. Of these none died before reaching the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 0.00 per 1,000 as against 36.36 for legitimate children.

SECTION C**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA****1. Water Supply.**

Water for the Borough was, up to the end of 1946, supplied by the Banbury Water Company but, during that year, a Bill was passed by Parliament under which the Town Council acquired the

undertaking as from the 1st January, 1947. (Banbury Corporation Act, 1946).

The water supply is from the River Cherwell at Grimsbury and the Sor Brook at Adderbury, it is treated by sand and mechanical filters and is also chlorinated. During 1948 the supply was constant and sufficient.

During the year, 75 samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. All were reported to be satisfactory and suitable for a public supply.

With the exception of a few houses on the outskirts of the town all are on the public supply. In 16 of those cases, samples were taken of well and spring water and, at the end of the year, 10 premises had been provided with town's water, in 2 cases arrangements had been made for this to be done and in another case a satisfactory alternative well water supply was provided.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

No important works were carried out during the year except the extension of sewers in connection with the Corporation's housing programme. Drainage repairs and improvements carried out under the supervision of the Department during 1948 included :—

Drains cleared of obstruction	...	38
Drains repaired or relaid	... ..	33
Soilpipes repaired	... ..	8
New gullies fixed	... ..	30
Inspection chambers provided	... ..	10

3. Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy Board exercises general supervision over the rivers and streams in the Borough. The water-courses conveying storm water received attention from the Sanitary Inspector during the year and a large amount of cleansing of watercourses was carried out.

4. Closet Accommodation.

Practically all the dwelling-houses in the Borough are provided with water closets except a few on the extreme outskirts of the town where the water carriage system is not available. Improvements to closet accommodation carried out as a result of the work of the Sanitary Inspector were :—

New water closets provided	...	15
W.C. compartments repaired	... ..	116
W.C. compartments cleansed	... ..	30
W.C. pedestals provided	... ..	96
W.C. cisterns provided	... ..	64
Elsan closets provided	... ..	1

5. Public Cleansing.

This work is carried out under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor and has been well maintained during the year.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Particulars of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector at the end of this report.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

1. Unfit Houses.

The housing position in the Borough generally leaves much to be desired and, owing to the war and shortages of labour and materials, the position has deteriorated very considerably. It will be necessary, as early as possible, to deal with several areas as Clearance Areas and with individual unfit houses by demolition. In addition, a large amount of repair and reconditioning work is required to houses in the town. The routine inspection of working-class houses was continued during 1948 and notices, on a modified scale, were served upon the owners requiring the remedying of urgent defects. 643 inspections were recorded under this heading and in two cases the Corporation carried out the work in default of the owner. A good deal of work was carried out during the year as will be seen from the table in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. In addition to work under the Housing Act, the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were extensively used during 1948 to secure abatement of urgent nuisances at many houses in the Borough.

2. Overcrowding.

The position detailed in the 1946 report still obtains and there are still many families living in lodgings, thus causing a good deal of overcrowding. Although no precise data is available, it is evident that there is still some serious overcrowding in the Borough and the need for re-housing should be borne in mind by the Corporation in considering their future housing commitments. The provision of houses by the Corporation is helping to relieve some of the overcrowding in the Borough, and several of the worst cases have now been relieved, but many more cases still need attention.

SECTION E

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Milk Supply.

The supervision of the town's milk supply has been given much attention by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. 162 visits of inspection were made to cowsheds and dairies and five premises were improved during the year—14 defects and contraventions being remedied on request. There are at present on the register :—

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	11
Cowkeeper Retailers	...	...	...	...	2
Retailers only	...	...	...	...	7

In addition, the following licences were granted during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order :—

Pasteurisers' Licences	...	...	...	2
Dealers' Licences (T.T. Milk)	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licence (Accredited Milk)	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licence (Pasteurised Milk)	...	...	...	1
Bottling Licences (T.T. Milk)	...	...	...	2

Routine milk sampling was continued during 1948, and the following table shows the number and results of the samples taken. All samples were examined by the methylene blue and coliform tests except the pasteurised and heat treated milks, which were subjected to the phosphatase test and the methylene blue test :—

Type of Milk.	Satisfactory.	Not Satisfactory.	Total
Tuberculin Tested	12	4	16
Pasteurised	51	0	51
Accredited	12	7	19
Raw Milk	28	16	44
Heat Treated	7	1	8
	—	—	—
	110	28	138
	—	—	—

In view of the fact that little sampling work was carried out during the war years, the above results can be described as fairly good. This work is being continued during 1949, and improvement has resulted from the work done during the last two years.

(b) Meat Inspection.

During 1948, as in the two previous years, every animal slaughtered for human food in the Borough was inspected prior to sale.

During the year the carcasses, parts of carcasses and offal detailed in the table below were condemned and surrendered :—

	Cattle		Sheep		Pigs		Calves	
	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight	No.	Weight
Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected ...	1518		4880		270		1409	
Carcasses condemned								
Tuberculosis ...	17	8205	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Diseases ...	27	10310	46	2101	4	643	10	475
Totals (A) ...	44	18515	46	2101	4	643	10	475
Parts of Carcasses, Organs and Offals :								
Offal ...	44	5411	46	431	4	39	10	145
Livers ...	563	7121	151	325	7	18	4	7
Meat ...	—	1858	—	372	—	128	—	57
Lungs ...	252	1818	1531	2997	74	219	—	19
Heads ...	96	2453	4	21	1	20	1	8
Tongues ...	93	717	—	—	6	15	—	—
Head & Pluck	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweetbreads	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spleen ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripes ...	12	276	10	43	4	16	—	—
Kidneys ...	13	43	2	1	4	3	2	11
Mesentery Fat ...	28	471	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals (B) ...	1102	15169	1744	4190	100	458	17	247
Total Weights (A) & (B) in pounds ...	—	33684	—	6291	—	1101	—	722

The following table, in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives further details of the evidence of tuberculosis and other diseases in animals slaughtered and inspected in the Borough during the year 1948 :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle & Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	1,518	1,409	4,880	270
Number Inspected	1,518	1,409	4,880	270
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	27	10	46	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	703	12	1,537	90
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	48.1%	1.5%	33.2%	34.8%
Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	17	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	154	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.3%	—	—	1.5%

NOTE :—Separate records for cattle (excluding cows) and cows are not available for 1948, but will be presented in future reports.

(c) Other Foods.

TINNED FOODS.

Tinned Meat	...	...	...	168 Tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	119 Tins
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	227 Tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	54 Tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	188 Tins
Tinned Dried Egg	...	...	...	2 Tins
Tinned Soup	...	...	...	35 Tins
Tinned Jam	...	...	...	74 Tins

WET FISH.

Cod	...	...	...	57	Stones
Mackerel	...	...	...	17	Stones
Herrings	...	...	...	43	Stones
Haddock	...	...	...	10	Stones

SUNDRIES.

Flour	...	...	...	7	lbs.
Pearl Barley	...	...	...	320	lbs.
Dates	...	...	...	131	lbs.
Spaghetti	...	...	...	6	lbs.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	259	lbs.
Pickles	...	...	...	113	Jars
Horse Radish Cream	...	...	...	925	Jars
Cod Liver Oil	...	...	...	2	Jars
Cheese	...	...	...	14	lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	19	lbs.
Syrup	...	...	...	14	lbs.
Tea	...	...	...	4	lbs.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during
the year 1948.

(Civilians only)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	58	43	—
Measles	315	10	—
Whooping Cough	23	—	—
Erysipelas	6	3	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Diphtheria	4	4	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—
Totals	418	61	—

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES.

Age over	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
and under	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	—
Disease												
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	3	6	4	8	31	1	3	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	8	57	45	46	34	112	11	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	4	4	5	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	64	55	56	48	149	12	5	13	5	1	1

Scarlet Fever.

58 cases occurred during 1948 as compared with 39 in 1947 and 83 in 1946. Of these 43 were admitted to hospital and 15 isolated at home. 32 cases occurred in school children, 21 in children under school age and 5 in adults.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

8 cases were notified during the year. 6 cases occurred at the Elms Maternity Hospital and 2 cases at home. Only two of these 8 cases gave a positive cervical swab of Haemolytic Streptococci. These cases were removed to the Radcliffe Infirmary. The remaining cases were due to other cases, such as Tuberculosis, Mastitis, etc., and not to puerperal infection.

Measles.

315 cases of Measles occurred with 12 admissions to hospital on account of such complications as Broncho-pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc.

Diphtheria.

No cases occurred during the year, but 4 patients were admitted to hospital as suspected cases, and found not to be suffering from the disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The responsibility for this has now passed to the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946 Sec. 26. Children are immunised at the School Clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.

Food Poisoning.

One case occurred in a young woman—due to *B. Typhimurium*. The cause was not definitely ascertained.

No. of outbreaks.	No. of Cases.	Organism Responsible.	Food Involved.
1	1	<i>B. Typhimurium</i>	Not known

Tuberculosis.

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 to 5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5 to 15	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0
15 to 25	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
25 to 35	2	3	0	0	2	1	0	0
35 to 45	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
45 to 55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 to 65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	5	11	2	0	3	4	0	0

Death Rate per 1,000 from Tuberculosis :-

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Banbury	0.37	0.00
England and Wales ...	0.44	.067

Isolation Hospital.

The following are the numbers of cases dealt with during the period from 1st January to the 2nd July, 1948:—

Disease	Banbury Borough	Banbury R.D.C.	Other Areas	Total
Scarlet Fever	28	5	—	33
Measles	12	7	—	19
Obs. Diphtheria	4	4	—	8
Erysipelas	2	—	—	2
Impetigo	3	—	—	3
Dysentery	1	2	—	3
Tonsillitis	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	2	—	2
Totals	52	20	—	72

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Banbury.**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL
REPORT, 1948.**

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my third annual report which records the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1948.

I am able to record, once again, that good progress has been made generally in improving the sanitary conditions of the Borough and throughout the year under review, special attention has been paid to the repair and improvement of dwelling houses, the supervision of the town's food and milk supplies and to work under the Shops Acts, the Factories Act, and the Infestation Order.

Records of the various inspections made, notices served and complied with, and the improvements effected thereby are set out in the tables in the report and various comments on the activities of the Department follow.

Good progress has been made in improving the conditions under which food is sold, stored and prepared for sale and a good standard of food hygiene is now being obtained in the Borough.

Housing continues to be one of the difficulties of the Department and I am still very far from satisfied with the general housing conditions of the area.

In submitting this report, I cannot refrain from expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support and courtesy throughout the year. To the Medical Officer of Health, the Town Clerk and the other Chief Officers of the Corporation my thanks are also due for their ready help at all times.

Finally, to the two Additional Sanitary Inspectors and the clerical staff of the Department I would express my thanks for their good work and loyalty throughout the year.

F. APPLEYARD, M.R.S.I.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1948.

Public Health Act	Houses inspected	936
	Verminous premises	32
	Infectious Disease enquiries ...	127
	Drainage inspections	100
	Revisits and work in progress ...	4449
	Van dwellings	150
	Smoke abatement	135
	Streams and watercourses	53
	Vacant land and refuse dumps ...	39
	Canal Boats	64
	Water sampling	21
	Refuse accommodation	330
	Housing Act	Houses inspected and recorded ...	643
Revisits and work in progress ...		2261
Housing applications		15
Factories Act	Factories inspected	102
	Workplaces inspected	26
	Outworkers premises inspected ...	2
Shops Acts	Shops inspected	270
Food and Drugs Act	Bakehouses	78
	General food shops	338
	Fried fish shops	30
	Food preparing premises	36
	Slaughterhouse	502
	Knackers Yard	2
	Public houses	57
	Public Market	101
	Food inspection visits	69
	Restaurants and cafes	78
	Ice-cream premises	123
	Food vehicles	14
	Cowsheds	30
	Dairies	132
	Milk sampling visits	126
	Ice-cream sampling visits	25
Other sampling visits	2	
Miscellaneous	Rats and mice	5
	Schools	11
	Cinemas and public halls	7
	Diseases of Animals Acts	103
	Interviews with owners & builders	678

Keeping of animals	...	...	13
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	80

Total visits and inspections made 12,395

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH, 1948.

Type of Notice	Out Standing 31.12.47	Served 1948	Complied with 1948	Out Standing 31.12.48
Public Health Act—Prelim. ...	87	584	576	95
Public Health Act—Statutory ...	165	198	299	64
Housing Act—Prelim. ...	22	193	141	74
Housing Act—Statutory ...	4	122	53	73
Factories Act—Informal ...	6	14	17	3
Shops Acts—Informal ...	4	52	28	28
Food & Drugs Act—Informal ...	28	30	48	10
Milk & Dairies Order—Informal	2	1	3	—
Canal Boats Regulations —Informal	1	1	—	2
Totals	319	1195	1165	349

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED, NOTICES COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND PREMISES IMPROVED, 1948.

	Public Health and Housing Acts	Food and Drugs Act	Factories Act	Shops Acts	Misc. Acts & Reg's.	Totals
Inspections made ...	9355	1743	130	270	897	12395
Notices served ...	1097	30	14	52	2	1195
Notices complied with ...	1069	48	17	28	3	1165
Defects remedied ...	3291	155	25	100	7	3578
Premises improved ...	714	52	17	37	3	823

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1948.

(a) Dwelling Houses.

Roofs repaired or renewed	211
External walls repointed	133
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed ...	75
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	148
Dampness abated generally	90
Wall plaster repaired	255
Ceiling plaster repaired	123
Floors repaired or renewed	147
Windows repaired or renewed	283
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed	97
Coppers provided or repaired	66
Sinks provided to houses hitherto without ...	18
Sinks repaired or renewed	20
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed ...	40
Interior water supplies provided	29
Repairs to water supplies	62
Food stores provided or repaired	4
New sashcords to windows provided ...	219
Stairs repaired or renewed	53
Doors and woodwork repaired or renewed	126
Outbuildings repaired	6
Chimneys and stacks repaired	85
Yards and passages paved or repaired ...	34
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	306
Overcrowding abated	28
Handrails provided in staircases	23
Additional lighting and ventilation provided	4
Houses closed or demolished	7
Drains cleared of obstructions	38
Drains repaired or renewed	23
Drains connected to sewer	2
Inspection chambers provided to drains ...	8
Soil pipes, vent. shafts, etc. repaired ...	8
New water closets provided	3
W.C. compartments repaired and cleansed	98
W.C. pedestals provided	93
W.C. cisterns provided to W.C.'s hitherto without	29
Elsan closets provided	1
New dustbins provided	230
Offensive accumulations removed	5
Verminous premises disinfected	25
Nuisance from animals abated	1
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	35

(b) Shops Acts.

Additional water closets provided	4
Water closets cleansed and repaired	3
Sinks provided	3
Additional lighting and vent. provided	6
Proper heating facilities provided	1
Premises cleansed and redecorated	1
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired	2
Structural repairs completed	2
Dustbin provided	1
Seats for female assistants provided	1
Notices re Early Closing Day exhibited	25
Notices re Assistants' Half Holiday exhibited	25
Notices re Seats for females exhibited	13
Abstract of Act exhibited	10
Young persons records properly kept	3

(c) Factories.

Additional water closets provided	4
Water closets cleansed, repaired, etc.	7
Structural repairs completed	7
Cleansed and redecorated	2
Drainage repaired	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	2
Smoke and fume nuisances abated	2

(d) Bakehouses.

Constant hot water supply provided	4
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	10
Structural repairs completed	8
Bakehouse entirely reconstructed	1
Additional lighting provided	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	1
Proper fuel containers provided	2

(e) Dairies and Cowsheds.

Unsatisfactory Dairy discontinued	1
New dairy provided	1
W.C.'s provided to dairy	2
Dairies cleansed and redecorated	3
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	4
Accumulations of manure removed	2
Structural repairs to cowshed	1

(f) Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

Constant hot water supplies provided	15
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	22
Washing basins provided	5

Cold water supply laid on to sinks	3
W.C.s cleansed and repaired	4
Structural repairs completed... ..	24
Additional light and vent. provided	3
Dustbins provided	2
Cooking range renewed	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	3
Apparatus and utensils cleansed	2
Drainage repairs	4
(g) Cafes and Public Houses.	
Constant supply of hot water provided	1
Rooms and cellars cleansed and redecorated	4
W.C.s cleansed and repaired	4
Urinals provided or repaired	3
Structural repairs completed	5
Sink provided in bar	1
Drainage repairs	3
Dustbins provided	2
Apparatus and utensils cleansed	2
(h) Cinemas and Public Halls.	
Additional water closets provided	2
Dustbins provided	4
Accumulations of refuse removed	1

COMPLAINTS.

During the year, 177 complaints were received at the office with reference to the following matters :—

Defective water closets	31
Defective house roofs	23
Offensive smells	9
Choked drains	9
Burst water pipes	5
Defective dustbins	2
Dumping of refuse	5
Flooding of cellars, etc.	6
Defective gutters and rainwater pipes	5
Defective windows	6
Verminous and dirty houses	6
Defective firegrates	4
Absence of internal water supply	2
Absence of sinks	2
Smoke and chimney nuisances	4
Keeping of animals	3
General defects	55

In each case, an investigation was made as promptly as possible into the subject of the complaint and, where the Department had power to intervene, the necessary action was taken. The complaints recorded above are only those received at the office and do not include the verbal complaints made to the Inspectors on their respective districts.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During 1948, interior water supplies from the town's mains were supplied to 29 premises which had hitherto been supplied from external stand pipes or from other sources than the public mains. In addition, at 62 other premises repairs were effected to burst water pipes or defective water fittings following requests from the Department.

The work of sampling the water supplies of all premises in the Borough not connected to the public-mains was continued during the year, and, in connection with this work, 16 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. 15 of these samples showed evidence of pollution and, in each case, the matter was taken up with the owner of the property concerned with a view to town's water being laid on where possible or for the wells to be cleaned out in other cases. At 10 premises, town's water was provided, in 2 cases arrangements have been made for this to be done and in a further case a satisfactory alternative well water supply has been provided.

Two samples of town's water were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and, in each case, the water was reported to be highly satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

During the year under review, 38 choked drains were dealt with by the Department and, in addition, at 23 premises drains were reconstructed or repaired under our supervision—this work including the provision of 8 new inspection chambers.

A most unusual defect was revealed in the early part of the year in connection with the drainage of two houses in Broughton Road. Following complaints of choked water closets at these houses, the drains were exposed and it was found that neither the water closet drains nor the sink gully drains were connected to the sewer but were simply discharging into a brick pit under the closet floors. The drains at both houses were entirely relaid and connected to the sewer and the yards and closet floors relaid.

Many complaints were received from the Grimsbury area during the year regarding flooding there especially from the new estate at Grimsbury Drive and Manor Road. This matter was considered by both the Public Health and Highways Committees

of the Corporation and the whole question was referred to the Corporation's Consulting Engineers for a report on the surface drainage of the Grimsbury Area.

Thirteen new water closets were provided at various premises in the Borough during 1948, 116 water closet compartments were repaired, 93 new pedestal pans fixed and 35 cisterns repaired or renewed. In addition, proper flushing facilities were provided to 29 water closets which had hitherto been flushed by hand.

During 1948, sinks were provided at 18 houses hitherto without such conveniences.

HOUSING.

As in previous years, a large proportion of the time of your Sanitary Inspectors was devoted to improving the housing conditions in the area and a considerable amount of repair work was carried out to comply with notices served under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Housing Act, 1936. Some improvement in the position as regards labour and materials was noticed during the year and the raising of the building licence limit from £10 to £100 had the effect of easing our difficulties in getting notices complied with. There is still, however, quite a long time lag between the service of a notice and the completion of the work due to the fact that the local builders are overburdened with work although one has found during 1948, a much larger amount of work carried out as a result of intimation notices without recourse to statutory action. The repair and maintenance of houses has become an increasingly heavy burden to the owners who, in many cases, are only receiving the pre-war controlled rents and the time appears to be much overdue for a revision of the Rents Acts. Personally, I am of the opinion that rent increases should be allowed on pre-war controlled rents *provided* the Local Authority is satisfied that the property is being properly maintained and I would welcome legislation to bring about such a scheme.

During 1948, the provisions of both the Public Health Act, and the Housing Act were extensively used to secure repairs and improvements to houses in the town and 936 houses were inspected under the Public Health Act and 643 inspections were recorded under the Housing Act. As a result of these inspections, 777 informal notices and 320 statutory notices were served and 717 informal notices and 352 statutory notices were complied with during the year. Repairs were carried out at 714 houses during the period under review and 306 notices remained unremedied at the close of the year. Details of the repairs and improvements carried out are set out in the table on page 20 of this report. During the year, it was necessary to carry out work in default of the owners at 14 houses under the Public Health Act and at 2 houses under the Housing Act, 1936.

The position regarding overcrowding in the Borough is still a matter of concern although the post-war housing work of the Corporation has already resulted in the re-housing of many overcrowded families and families living in unsatisfactory houses but it is a disquieting feature of the present position that a house in any condition can be immediately relet. No real solution of this problem is likely to be found until it is possible to commence slum clearance work.

During 1948, 3 unfit houses were demolished by informal action and 4 further unfit dwellings were closed for human habitation by action on the part of the Corporation.

An urgent necessity in the field of housing, is, to my mind, the carrying out of a national survey of housing conditions and, from the information available, it would appear that there is every likelihood of such a survey being required by the Ministry of Health in the future.

Such a survey locally would be of great value in ascertaining the precise housing problem which faces the Corporation and the data accumulated by such a survey would be of material benefit to the future development of the Borough.

During the year under review, a survey of the low-standard houses in the town has been commenced and it is hoped that details of this survey may be given in my next annual report.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Twenty-five rooms affected by bugs or fleas were disinfested by the Department during 1948 and 32 inspections of such premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. In each case, the premises were sprayed with D.D.T. solution and one must record the good results achieved by the use of this product. In only one case was re-infestation found to occur and, in this case, it is probable that carelessness on the part of the tenant caused the second infestation. During the year, the Corporation decided to charge occupiers with the cost of disinfesting verminous premises where I was satisfied that the infestation was caused by the neglect or carelessness of the tenant and, in two or three cases, such a charge was made during the period under review. Apart from the disinfestation work carried out by the Corporation, a large quantity of D.D.T. liquid and powder was supplied to residents of the Borough by the Department for their own use during the year and many cases of minor infestation caused by Ants, cockroaches, etc., were dealt with in this way.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

During the year, 230 new dustbins were provided at various premises in the Borough following notices served by the Department. In 14 cases the owners failed to provide the dustbins and

the Corporation provided dustbins in default and charged the costs incurred to the owners concerned.

VAN DWELLINGS.

During the period of Banbury Fair, 70 van dwellings were inspected in the Borough. The persons occupying these structures comprised 81 adult males, 90 adult females and 50 children. Generally speaking, the caravans were clean and well kept and, except for 6 cases, no overcrowding was noted. Most of the caravans had their own sanitary and refuse accommodation and no cases of infectious diseases were discovered. During 1948, 12 van dwellings were removed at our request from sites at Southam Road, Grimsbury, and Grange Road, and two wooden erections were closed for human habitation at Hardwick Hill and Castle Street East on the instructions of the Public Health Committee. At the close of the year, there existed in the Borough 12 caravans and other erections on 7 unlicensed sites and these were under consideration by the Corporation at the close of the year.

CANAL BOATS.

Sixty-two canal boats were inspected during the year 1948 and none of these were found to be carrying offensive cargoes. The total number of persons for which the boats were registered was 199 (Aft cabins 191, Fore cabins 8) and the boats were occupied by 56 adult males, 61 adult females and 23 children—a total of 140 persons. One boat was found to be infringing the regulations during the year and a notice was served upon the owners concerned. No cases of infectious diseases were met with on any of the boats inspected. One new canal boat was surveyed and registered during the year.

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The routine inspection and supervision of the factories and bakehouses in the Borough was given attention during the year and 208 visits of inspection were made at such premises. 24 factories and bakehouses were improved on our request during the period under review and 52 defects or contraventions were remedied. Three notices were outstanding at the end of the year. One unsatisfactory bakehouse was entirely reconstructed during the year and the premises are now in a highly satisfactory condition. The work carried out at factories and bakehouses is detailed on page 21 of this report.

SHOPS ACTS.

A good deal of attention was devoted to the inspection of shops under the provisions of the various Shops Acts during the year and 178 inspections were recorded under this heading. In addition to dealing with the health and comfort provisions of the

Act, attention was given to closing hours, employment of young persons, weekly half-holidays, seats for female assistants, etc.—matters which had been somewhat left in abeyance owing to war-time conditions. As a result of the inspections made, improvements were carried out at 12 premises and at a further 25 shops proper notices were exhibited and proper records kept at the request of the Department. A complete register of shops in the Borough is now almost completed and at the end of the year 28 notices were still outstanding under the Acts.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

At the request of the National Smoke Abatement Society, a survey of all manufacturing and heating installations in the Borough was carried out, as part of a national survey, during the year. The object of this survey being to discover the sources and incidence of atmospheric pollution throughout the country. In Banbury, it was found that there were 133 such installations and that in 19 of these installations atmospheric pollution had been noticed within the past six months. It was also found, as a result of this survey, that whilst very little improvement had taken place in atmospheric pollution since the war, there was no pollution of the atmosphere by grit in this area. The full records of this survey were submitted to the Society but the information gained is of the utmost use locally and gave the survey a local, as well as national, value.

Two serious cases of smoke pollution gave cause for some concern at the latter end of the year but in one case, following the installation of a new boiler and the provision of better quality fuel the trouble was abated. In the other case, the firm concerned were taking steps to reduce the smoke emission from their chimney at the close of the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

During 1948, the Sanitary Inspectors made 127 visits of enquiry into notified infectious disease cases and a report on each case was submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. As a result of the occurrence of infectious diseases, 112 houses were disinfected during the year. In addition, 2,150 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., were disinfected by steam.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The work of eradicating rats and mice from premises and lands within the Borough continued very successfully during the year under review. The benefit of the whole-time services of the Rodent Officer is reflected in the increased efficiency of the service we are now able to provide and good work is being done generally under this heading. The Corporation, during 1948, agreed to take

part in the N.S. 19 Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and, as a result charges are now made for the work of eradicating rats and mice from business premises in the Borough but a free service is still given for work carried out at private dwellings. The following summary shows the work done during the year with comparative figures for the two previous years :—

(a) Surface Infestations.

	1948	1947	1946
No. of complaints received ...	123	154	115
No. of premises inspected ...	1792	1591	439
No. of revisits made ...	1150	1720	1363
No. of premises cleared ...	474	508	329
Amount of bait laid :—			
Pre-bait ...	702 lbs.	627 lbs.	391 lbs.
Poison bait ...	260 lbs.	234 lbs.	207 lbs.
No. of treatments by gas ...	3	6	2
No. of times traps used ...	50	26	21
Actual rat bodies found ...	852	868	900

(b) Sewer Infestation.

During the four weeks ending 19th February, 1948, the third Maintenance treatment of the Corporation's sewers was carried out. This work entailed the pre-baiting of 237 sewer manholes and, following pre-bait takes, the poison baiting of 81 manholes. The results, with those of previous treatments are given below :—

	1948	1947	1946	1944
No. of manholes baited ...	237	211	240	241
No. of pre-bait takes ...	81	84	73	94

A further maintenance treatment of the sewers, arranged for late 1948, was postponed on account of severe flooding with consequent surcharge of the sewers which rendered the maintenance treatment impossible but a test-bait of the sewers was carried out in the first few days of 1949 when a great improvement was noticed in the extent of the infestation of the sewers by rats.

MILK CONTROL.

The transfer of the Corporation's powers of supervision of milk production had still not taken place at the end of 1948 consequently the supervision of both milk production and distribution was given very close attention by your Inspectors throughout the year under review. 162 inspections of dairies and cowsheds were recorded and some improvements were effected to premises as will be seen from the table on page 21 of this report. The owners of the unsatisfactory large dairy referred to in my last report, were able to move into their new premises during the year

and conditions at the new premises are now satisfactory. The routine sampling of milk was actively continued during the year, the following figures giving the results of this, and the two previous years :—

	1948	1947	1946
Samples taken	138	120	81
Samples satisfactory	110	97	64
Samples not satisfactory	28	23	17

The two pasteurisation plants were kept under close supervision during the year and 51 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and all proved satisfactory. One "Holder" process pasteurisation plant was replaced by a H.T.S.T. plant towards the end of the year.

On the question of milk generally, whilst one hesitates to generalise, I feel it is true to say that if all milk was either tuberculin tested, pasteurised or heat treated, there would be much less cause for concern about milk supplies generally in this country than is the case to-day and one welcomes the prospect of further legislation by the Government to achieve these ends.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food's Centralised slaughtering plans, all animals intended for human food in Banbury and district were again slaughtered at Swan Close Road Slaughterhouse, Banbury, and it is again a pleasure for me to record the continued satisfactory relationship which exists between your Officers and the Ministry's officials there. During the past year, 8,065 animals were slaughtered and the carcass and offal in every case was inspected before it reached the public. 101 carcasses and all organs were entirely condemned and 2,963 parts of carcasses were rejected as being unfit for human food. The total weight of meat and offal found to be unfit during 1948 was 24½ tons. The number of animals slaughtered dropped considerably compared with 1947 and I give below a list showing the animals killed and the weight of unsound meat for the last few years :—

	<i>Animals killed</i>	<i>Weight of unsound Meat</i>
1948	8065	55,097 lbs.
1947	10658	58,214 lbs.
1946	13356	42,417 lbs.
1945	15654	38,282 lbs.

The above figures, I think, bring out two points, *i.e.* (1) that the quality of the food animals slaughtered has deteriorated and (2) that the efficiency of the Corporation's meat inspection service has increased considerably during the years above mentioned.

FOOD PREMISES.

The work of improving the structural and hygienic conditions of the food premises in the Borough was actively continued during 1948 and the work accomplished, together with improvements effected during the two previous years, has resulted in considerably raising the standard of food hygiene in the area. It has been our aim to bring all food premises up to the standard required by Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and, at the same time, to generally improve methods of food handling, food manufacture and food storage. Special efforts have been directed towards obtaining constant supplies of hot water and the provision of washing basins, soap and towels in food shops and food premises generally and I must record the excellent co-operation received from the food traders of the town in this work. A large amount of structural work has also been carried out to bring food premises up to more modern standards and full details of the work done is recorded on pages 21 and 22 of this report. The value of this work cannot be over-estimated as the cleanliness of food premises and persons engaged in the food trade has a very direct bearing on the well-being or otherwise of the people resident in the town. The results achieved, therefore, in this work deserve special mention and I take the opportunity of thanking the food traders and their employees for the active co-operation they have given without which the good results could not have been achieved. The number of food premises improved on our request during the past three years is set out below :—

	1948	1947	1946
Butchers' shops	4	11	17
Bakehouses	7	15	11
General food shops and food premises	23	13	7
Cafés, restaurants, etc.	11	30	9

ICE-CREAM.

The control of premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream was again given considerable attention during the year, the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations being the standard aimed at. 123 inspections of ice-cream premises were made during the ice-cream "season" and 25 samples were taken and submitted for examination. The results of these samples, and those taken during 1947 are set out below :—

	1948	1947
Grade 1	10	3
Grade 2	2	5
Grade 3	11	2
Grade 4	2	3
	25	13

The larger number of unsatisfactory samples, *i.e.*, those coming within grades 3 and 4, is accounted for by the large number of low grade samples taken from one large manufacturer. 9 out of the 13 samples occurring in grades 3 and 4 being from this one source.

Another manufacturer produced a run of three unsatisfactory samples early in the summer but managed to achieve grades 1 or 2 with his subsequent samples and a third manufacturer gained 1 grade 3 result but achieved grade 2 subsequently. All the other samples taken were satisfactory and came from various manufacturers and retailers. It is intended to pay further attention to the question of ice-cream during the coming year.

F. APPLEYARD, M.R.S.I.

April, 1949.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1948.

(1) **Anthrax and Sheep Scab.**

No outbreaks of anthrax or sheep scab were reported during the year 1948.

(2) **Swine Fever.**

No outbreak of swine fever was reported in pigs on premises within the Borough during the year 1948.

(3) **Foot and Mouth Disease.**

No outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred during the year in which the Borough was included.

(4) **Movement of Swine.**

The number of licences issued during the year, authorising the movement of swine from the Cattle Market to private premises was 1,560, involving the movement of 6,283 animals. No contraventions of the Movement of Swine Regulations took place.

(5) **Importation of Animals.**

No licences were received during the year authorising the movement of Irish cattle from the landing place to the Cattle Market.

(6) Sheep Dipping.

The number of Sheep dipped in the Borough during the year was 886 (First Dipping 689, Second Dipping 197). In addition, 462 Kent Sheep and Lambs were licensed to the Cattle Market for sale, all of which had been previously double-dipped, and the Inspectors of the districts to which these sheep were removed were notified and particulars of the dipping given.

(7) Transit of Animals—Cleansing and Disinfection of Vehicles.

During the year 1948 3,380 vehicles used for the conveyance of animals were cleansed and disinfected, an average weekly number of 65, for a 53 weeks period. The comparative figures for 1947 being 2,711 with an average of 54 weekly.

F. APLEYARD, M.R.S.I.,

*Inspector under the Disease of Animals Acts
and Orders.*

