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BOROUGH OF BANBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

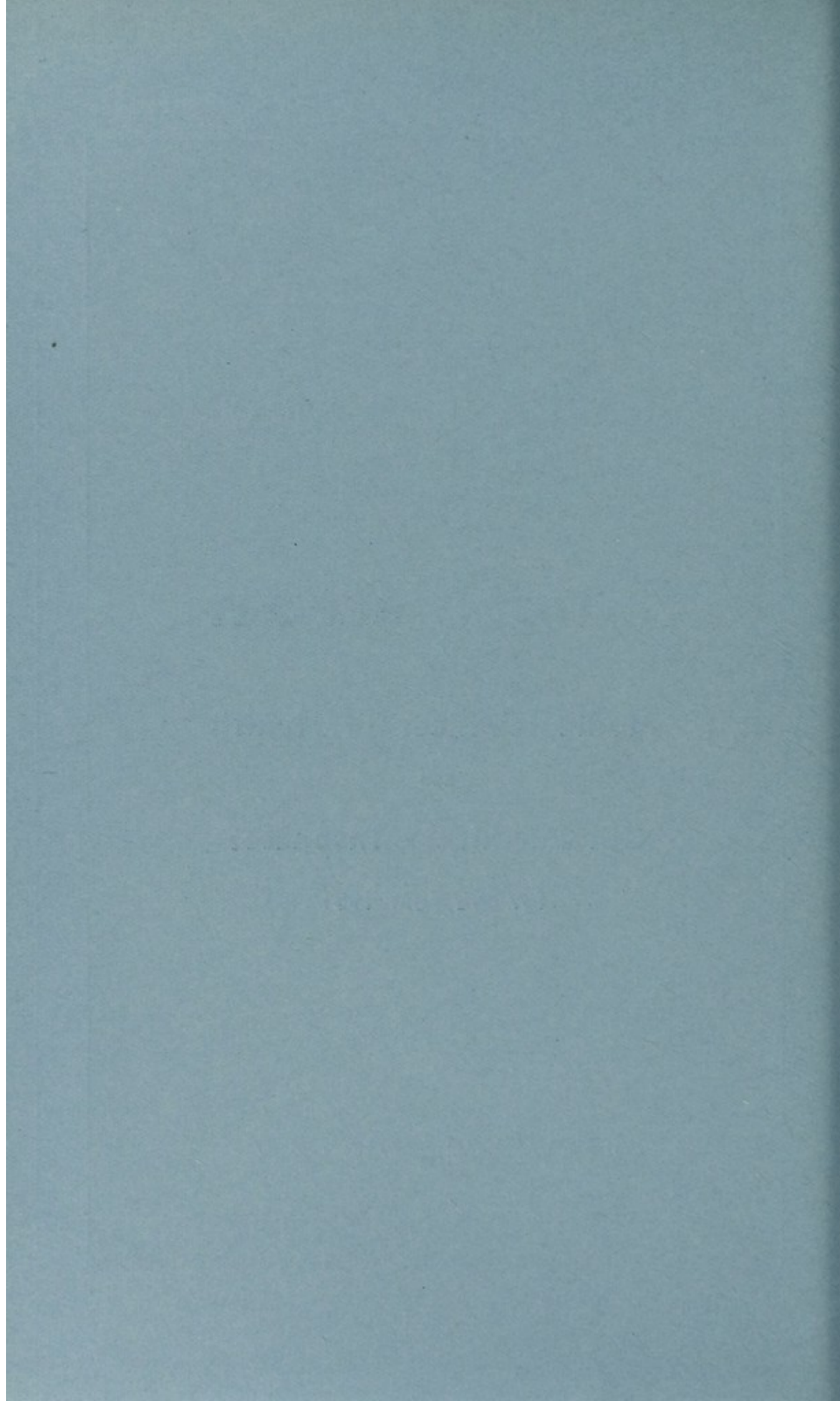
and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1951



H. E. Boddy & Co., Ltd., Factory Street, Banbury
1952





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BOROUGH OF BANBURY

Mayor—

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. A. JOHNSON, J.P., C.C.

Deputy Mayor—

COUNCILLOR THOMAS HASKINS, C.C.

Public Health Committee

*Chairman—*ALDERMAN J. TOOLE

*Vice-Chairman—*COUNCILLOR WALKLETT

ALDERMAN PARTRIDGE	COUNCILLOR CRINGAN
COUNCILLOR BERRY	COUNCILLOR DAWSON
COUNCILLOR MISS BUSTIN	COUNCILLOR JELFS
COUNCILLOR COLLISSON	COUNCILLOR TRINDER
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. APPLEYARD, D.P.A. (Lond.), F.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.,
M.I.H. (Hons.).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors and Certified Meat Inspectors:

S. D. COX, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E. (to July, 1951).

T. H. CUTLER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Certified Smoke
Inspector) (to May, 1951).

L. WHITELEY, M.S.I.A. (from July, 1951).

D. R. COTGROVE, M.R.S.I. (from August, 1951).

Clerks:

R. THOMAS (Chief Clerk).

Miss R. HARRIS (Shorthand Typist).

Rodent Officer and Disinfection 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 1951. The report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Circular 42/51 of the Ministry of Health.

Vital Statistics.

The Birth Rate in the Borough of Banbury in 1951 was 15.6 as compared with 15.5 for England and Wales and 16.4 in Banbury in 1950. The Death Rate was 11.5, as compared with 12.5 for England and Wales and 10.8 in Banbury in 1950.

There were 78 deaths from Heart Disease of which 28 were due to Coronary Thrombosis. The next most frequent cause was Cancer with 33 deaths (the same number as in 1950). Elsewhere in the report an analysis is given according to the site of the disease. It is interesting to note that in 1951 the lung was the commonest site and that 9 deaths occurred from Cancer of the Lung while there were only 6 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Next in the list is Vascular Disease of the Nervous System (Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.) with 30. There were 17 deaths from Pneumonia. The outbreak of Influenza in the early part of 1951 caused 10 deaths.

The Infant Mortality Rate in 1951 was one of the lowest recorded in the Borough so far. Only three infant deaths occurred (all of them under 4 weeks) giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 10.49.

Housing.

Housing is still the most important and the most difficult public health problem in the Borough. As stated elsewhere in the report, as soon as circumstances permit it will be necessary to deal with several clearance areas as well as many individual unfit houses. At present it is only possible to deal with cases where the tenants are being re-housed; whenever an unfit house is vacated an opportunity is taken to deal with it under Housing Act 1936, Sec. 11. Overcrowding is a serious problem and there are many cases where there are two and three families living in small houses.

Infectious Diseases.

Apart from Measles the incidence of infectious disease has been low. 547 cases of Measles occurred in 1951. This is about the average number which occurs in Banbury during an epidemic year; few complications were reported and no deaths occurred. There were 83 cases of Whooping Cough, with no deaths. The incidence of Scarlet Fever was lower than usual; 19 cases occurred during the year.

Five cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred. There is reason to believe that the incidence is very much higher than this as many of the milder cases do not seek medical advice. Five cases of Poliomyelitis occurred—of these 4 were associated with paralysis and one was non-paralytic.

Food Hygiene.

Increasing attention is being paid to the question of Food Hygiene and, as stated in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report, over 2,000 visits were paid to food premises in 1951. This is a subject of great importance in connection with the spread of Food Poisoning as well as diseases such as Dysentery and Typhoid. The increase in the number of cases of Food Poisoning in the country as a whole is mainly due to two causes—firstly the increase in communal feeding, and secondly the fact that owing to meat rationing there is a great increase in the use of made up dishes.

A report was submitted to the Health Committee during the year on the necessity for educating food handlers by means of courses of lectures, etc., and a scheme for this purpose is being started during 1952.

Staff.

Both Additional Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. S. D. Cox and Mr. T. H. Cutler left the service of the Corporation during the year on securing appointments elsewhere. They were succeeded by Mr. L. Whiteley and Mr. D. R. Cotgrove.

In conclusion I should like to thank all the members of the staff for their helpful co-operation during the year, and in particular the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. Appleyard, to whose untiring energy the successful working of the Health Department is almost entirely due.

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 (1951 Census)	18,917
Population (1951 Estimated Reg. Gen.) ...	18,870
Rateable Value	£115,876
Product of Penny Rate	£470

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1951.

Live Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	138	138	276
Illegitimate	5	5	10
Totals	<u>143</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>286</u>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated
Population 15.60
(England and Wales—15.5)

Stillbirths.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths) 6.99

Deaths.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	108	107	215
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population ... ..	...	...	11.50
(England and Wales—12.5)			

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

	Number	Rate
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ...	3	10.49
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	3	10.87
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	—	0.00
(England and Wales—29.6)		

Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Causes : Legitimate :

Intra-cranial Haemorrhage ... 2

Prematurity ... 1

(All under four weeks)

Illegitimate ... Nil

Causes of Death, 1951.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	4	6
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1	9
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	14	4	18
15. Leukaemia, a/eukaemia ...	0	2	2
16. Diabetes ...	0	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	19	30
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	15	13	28
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	10	13
20. Other heart disease ...	18	17	35
21. Other circulatory disease ...	3	3	6
22. Influenza ...	5	5	10
23. Pneumonia ...	8	9	17
24. Bronchitis ...	2	3	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	0	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	0	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	6	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	4	0	4
34. All other accidents ...	0	2	2
35. Suicide ...	1	0	1
Totals ...	108	107	215

Deaths from—Cancer (all ages) ... 33

Whooping Cough (all ages) ... —

Measles (all ages) ... —

Classification of Cancer Deaths.

Breast ... 1	Colon ... 3	Tongue ... 1
Uterus ... 1	Rectum ... 3	Kidney ... 1
Lung ...	Prostate ... 3	Testicle ... 1
Stomach	Oesophagus 2	Liver ... 1
Retro-peritoneal Sarcoma 1		

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 this report.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory work for the Borough is carried out at:—

- (a) the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford.
- (b) Horton General Hospital, Banbury.
- (c) Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1 (Water Examinations only).

The following are the details of the work carried out in 1951 at the Oxford Laboratory:

SWABS	Number examined	37
	Positive for Haemolytic Streptococci	13
	Positive for Vincent's Angina	1
	Negative	24
FAECES.....	Number examined	9
	Positive for Shigella Sonne	9
OTHER EXAMINATIONS		Nil

(b) Nursing in the Home.

Facilities are provided by the County Council under Section 25 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	Neithrop Hospital Warwick Road	Wednesday morning by appointment
3. School Clinic	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 Tues. each month
3 p.m. |

Puerperal Pyrexia—2 cases occurred during the year.

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

Illegitimate Children.

There were 10 illegitimate births during the year. Of these none died before reaching the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 0.0 per 1,000 as against 10.87 for legitimate children.

National Assistance Act 1948, Sec. 47.

No action under this section has been taken during 1951.

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 1951 the supply was constant and sufficient.

During the year, 65 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 (28 separate premises), all are on the public supply. During

the last six years town's water has been laid on at 20 premises hitherto supplied from wells or springs and the supplies have been improved at 6 premises by the provision of a filtration plant in one case; the cleaning out of wells in four cases; and the provision of an alternative satisfactory well supply at the other house. Four cases of unsatisfactory well water supplies were under consideration at the close of the year and steps were being taken to improve these supplies; the work of providing town's water being in progress at the time of preparing this report.

During 1951, 14 specimens of water were examined from wells and other private supplies in the Borough, with results as follows:—

Class 1	...	...	4	Less than 1 B.Coli per 100 c.c.
Class 2	...	...	3	„ 1—2 „
Class 3	...	...	0	„ 3—10 „
Class 4	...	...	7	Greater than 10 „

These classifications are those of the Ministry of Health.

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 1951 included:

Drains cleared of obstruction	...	...	...	38
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	28
Soilpipes repaired	...	...	...	5
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	4

3. Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy Board exercise 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 some cleansing of water-courses 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	...	...	...	9
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	112
W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	29
W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	17
W.C. cisterns provided	...	...	...	20

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 position with respect to housing conditions in the Borough still remains far from satisfactory and, as mentioned in previous annual reports, several areas in the town will need to be dealt with as Clearance Areas and many individual unfit houses will have to receive attention as soon as conditions permit extensive work of this nature being carried out. A recent survey of some 600 low standard houses in the town has confirmed this view and has also shown that many of the lower-standard houses are rapidly deteriorating.

During 1951, a good deal of housing repair work was again carried out and 534 houses were dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Housing Act, 1936. Six unfit houses were closed during the year following official representations and an undertaking was given by the owner of a further unfit house to close the premises immediately they are vacated by the present tenant. The occupiers of the six unfit houses closed during the year were all re-housed by the Corporation.

2. Overcrowding.

As mentioned in my last report, the absence of precise details makes it impossible for comment to be made, with any degree of accuracy, with respect to the position in the Borough in relation

to overcrowding. It is, however, true to say that a good deal of overcrowding still exists in the area although some of the worst cases have been relieved as a result of the Corporation's vigorous post-war housing programme. I would again point out that the re-housing of overcrowded families is likely to form a substantial part of any housing programme carried out by the Corporation in the future and this is a fact which should constantly be borne in mind when long-term housing policy is considered.

SECTION E

INSPECTION OF MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Milk Supply.

As a result of the operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Corporation's duties with respect to the supervision of the milk supply is now mainly concentrated on the distribution side, the responsibility for the supervision of milk production now being in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whilst the responsibility for supervising milk pasteurisation plants has been placed upon the County Council.

During the year under review, therefore, the work of the Sanitary Inspectors has been devoted to the inspection of dairies and the sampling of milk and both these duties have been given satisfactory attention. 41 visits of inspection of dairies were recorded during the year and 56 samples of milk were taken. Some improvements were effected to certain dairies in the area, such improvements being detailed on page 23 of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

During 1951, the following licences were granted by the Corporation under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealers' Licences (T.T. Milk) ...	4
Dealers' Licences (Pasteurised Milk) ...	2

Routine milk sampling was well maintained during the year and the following table shows the number and results of the samples taken:—

Type of Milk	Samples Taken	Samples Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Past.)	11	11
Pasteurised ...	44	43
Accredited ...	1	1
Totals ...	56	55

These results are highly satisfactory and it is interesting to note that 64 samples taken in Banbury during 1951 by the County Council's Officer were all similarly satisfactory. So far as is known, no raw milk—except T.T. milk—is now being retailed in the area and it is estimated that approximately 95% of the milk passing through the town's dairies is rendered safe by pasteurisation. On the whole, therefore, it is reasonable to state that the town's milk supply is at present highly satisfactory.

(b) Meat Inspection.

During 1951, as in the four previous years, every animal slaughtered for human food in the Borough was inspected prior to sale and, in the period under review, the carcasses, parts of carcasses and offal detailed in the table below were condemned and surrendered:—

	Cattle		Sheep		Pigs		Calves	
Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected	2601		5654		1411		1545	
	No	Weight	No	Weight	No	Weight	No	Weight
Carcasses Condemned :								
Tuberculosis : ..	18	9184	—	—	2	356	2	157
Other Diseases ..	28	11114	35	1647	16	1839	16	829
Total (A) ..	46	20298	35	1647	18	2195	18	986
Parts of Carcasses, Organs etc.								
Total Offal ..	46	3768	35	288	18	131	18	193
Livers	738	9820	307	630	22	83	5	12
Lungs	212	2146	327	702	86	319	6	22
Heads	156	3909	19	95	37	616	14	69
Tongues	153	1058	—	—	1	7	—	—
Spleens	10	22	—	—	1	4	—	—
Intestines ..	90	1836	2	4	12	78	—	—
Kidneys	9	32	4	4	8	11	—	—
Mesentery Fat ..	16	166	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meat	—	2032	—	717	—	353	—	81
Tripes	16	448	—	—	13	74	—	—
Skirts	16	61	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals (B) ..	1462	25298	694	2440	198	1676	43	377
Total Weight (A) & (B) in lbs. ..	—	45596	—	4087	—	3871	—	1363

The following table, in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives further details of the incidence of tuberculosis and other diseases in animals slaughtered and inspected in the Borough during the year 1951 :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed ..	2131	470	1545	5654	1411
Number Inspected ..	2131	470	1545	5654	1411
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned	3	25	16	35	16
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	753	233	15	698	133
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	35.5%	54.9%	2.0%	12.9%	10.6%
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	6	12	2	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	174	92	1	—	45
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.4%	22.1%	0.2%	—	3.3%

(c) Other Foods.

The following other articles of food were inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption during the year :—

TINNED FOODS.

Tinned Meat	...	...	...	281 Tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	149 Tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	73 Tins
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	273 Tins
Tinned Spaghetti	...	...	...	11 Tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	304 Tins
Tinned Soup	...	...	...	22 Tins

Tinned Jam	...	...	...	87 Tins
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	120 Tins
Tinned Pickles	...	...	...	8 Tins
Tinned Butter	...	...	...	2 Tins
Tinned Rabbit	...	...	...	28 Tins
Tinned Coffee	...	...	...	1 Tin
Tinned Mincemeat	...	...	...	1 Tin
Tinned Orange Juice	...	...	...	49 Tins

SUNDRIES.

Sponge Mixture	...	...	...	144 Packets
Scotch Short Bread	...	...	...	55 Packets
Pie Crusts	...	...	...	11 Packets
Cake Flavours	...	...	...	8 Packets
Pigs Feet	...	...	...	2 cwt.
Cheese	...	...	...	353 lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Meat Pies	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Eggs	...	...	...	34 Doz.
Pearl Barley	...	...	...	3 Tins
Potato Crisps	...	...	...	9 Packets
Anchovy Paste	...	...	...	16 Tins
Swiss Rolls	...	...	...	77

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No cases occurred in 1951.

Bye-laws under Food and Drugs Act 1938, Sec. 15.

These bye-laws have been adopted by the Council. Periodic visits are paid to food premises and stalls in the Borough by the Sanitary Inspectors to ensure that they are being complied with.

Clean Food Campaigns.

A scheme has been prepared for giving courses of instruction in Food Hygiene to food handlers; it is hoped to start these courses during 1952. At a Local Government Exhibition organised by the Officers of the Council in October, 1951, at the Town Hall, Banbury, an exhibit was shown on Food Hygiene, in which the public took great interest.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1951.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	19	12	—
Measles	547	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	83	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Dysentery	5	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis	5	5	—
Totals	665	20	—

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												
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	1	—	—	13	2	1	—	—	1	—
Measles ..	16	42	61	79	82	218	35	5	5	2	1	1
Whooping Cough ..	11	8	8	13	14	26	2	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery ..	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	27	52	71	92	98	258	42	6	11	2	3	3

Scarlet Fever.

19 cases occurred during 1951. 12 of these were removed to hospital and 7 isolated at home. 15 cases occurred in school children, 2 in children under school age and 2 in adults.

Diphtheria.

No cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following are the figures of cases immunised at the School Clinic, Warwick Road:—

Under 5 years ...	...	...	24
School Children ...	...	...	45
Re-inforcement Doses ...	...	...	279

In addition to the figures given above, a large number of children were immunised by the general practitioners under the National Health Service Act. Relatively few children were found entering school who had not been immunised in infancy. Unfortunately complete figures were not readily available, but there is reason to believe that the numbers immunised for the Borough apart from the County, were much higher than those given above. Also in 1951, owing to the cases of Poliomyelitis which occurred in the district, it was necessary to stop immunisation after June 1st; it was resumed again towards the end of the year.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Five cases occurred in 1951. Of these 4 were paralytic and 1 non-paralytic. All were removed to the Oxford City Isolation Hospital. Four cases were in children and one in a young adult.

Other Diseases.

Measles. 547 cases occurred during 1951. There was no deaths and few complications were reported.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 ..	2	1	1	3	—	2	—	—
25 to 35 ..	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
35 to 45 ..	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 ..	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
55 to 65 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	6	4	3	5	2	4	0	0

DEATH RATE per 1,000 from Tuberculosis:—

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Banbury	0.32	0.00
England and Wales ...	0.275	0.041

BOROUGH OF BANBURY
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948
Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year
1951

Part 1 of the Act

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

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	21	3	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	128	85	8	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ..	10	5	1	—
Total	162	111	12	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ..	5	5	—	—	—
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) Insufficient ..	1	1	—	—	—
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) unsuitable or defective	18	18	—	—	—
Other offences ..	4	4	2	—	—
Total	28	28	2	—	—

3. Outworkers

No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (All outworkers engaged in making of wearing apparel) ..	26
No. of cases of default in supplying lists	Nil
No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Nil

**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL
REPORT, 1951.**

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to submit herewith my sixth annual report which gives details of the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1951 and, as in previous years, I am able to record satisfactory progress in all phases of the Department's duties.

During the year under review, special efforts have again been directed towards raising the standard of food hygiene in the Borough and, as in the previous year, increased attention has been given to the sampling of ice cream with most satisfactory results. The increased attention given to these duties has not caused any relaxation in our duties with respect to work under the Public Health Act and Housing Act, whilst our routine duties in relation to Shops, Factories, Rodent Control, Smoke Abatement and Food Inspection have been steadily continued. The control of the milk supply has also been given adequate attention and, as in the case of ice cream, the sampling of milk in the area has shown highly satisfactory results.

The attached report gives details of our activities in 1951 and some comments are made with respect to each section of the work so as to assist the Corporation to assess the progress made during the year.

The two Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Mr. S. D. Cox and Mr. T. H. Cutler) both left the service of the Corporation during the year on obtaining better appointments elsewhere, and I have much pleasure in recording the excellent services both these officers rendered to the Corporation during the time they were on the staff of the Department. They were succeeded by Mr. L. Whiteley, of Dewsbury, and Mr. D. R. Cotgrove, of Southend-on-Sea, in July and August respectively.

In presenting this report, it is again pleasing to me to be able to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their unfailing support during the year and for the courtesy which is always shown to me. In addition, I would especially thank the Medical Officer of Health, the Town Clerk and the other Chief Officers of the Corporation for their ready help at all times.

Finally, my thanks are especially due to my own staff, without whose help the successful year's work recorded in this report would not have been possible.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. APPLEYARD, D.P.A. (Lond.), F.R.San.I.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

April, 1952.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1951.

Public Health Act.

Houses inspected	429
Verminous premises	26
Infectious Disease enquiries	107
Drainage inspections	120
Re-visits and work in progress	2023
Van dwellings	108
Smoke abatement	67
Streams and watercourses	2
Vacant land and refuse dumps	8
Canal Boats	20
Water sampling	20
Refuse accommodation	31

Housing Act.

Houses inspected and recorded	56
Re-visits and work in progress	977
Housing applications	5

Factories Act.

Factories inspected	94
Workplaces inspected	12
Outworkers premises inspected	9

Shops Act.

Shops inspected (health and comfort provisions)	131
Shops inspected (closing hours and records)	95
Shops re-inspected	8

Foods and Drugs Act.

Bakehouses	61
General food shops	462

Fried fish shops	...	...	...	42
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	83
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	649
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	1
Public Houses	...	...	...	63
Public Markets	...	...	...	143
Food inspection visits	...	...	...	153
Restaurants and cafés	...	...	...	105
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	115
Food vehicles	...	...	...	10
Dairies	...	...	...	41
Milk sampling visits	...	...	...	55
Ice-cream sampling visits	...	...	...	106

Miscellaneous.

Rats and mice	...	...	...	25
Schools	...	...	...	9
Cinemas and public halls	...	...	...	11
Diseases of Animals Acts	...	...	...	367
Interviews with owners and builders	...	...	...	1026
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	80
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	452
Total visits and inspections made	...	...	...	8407

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH, 1951.

Type of Notice	Out Standing 31-12-50	Served 1951	Complied with 1951	Out Standing 31-12-51
Public Health Act-Prelim ..	62	267	290	39
Public Health Act-Statutory	110	124	161	73
Housing Act-Prelim ..	3	11	13	1
Housing Act-Statutory ..	92	12	70	34
Factories Act-Informal ..	4	12	9	7
Shops Acts-Informal ..	2	5	7	—
Food and Drugs Act-Informal	30	122	114	38
Milk and Dairies Order- Informal	—	—	—	—
Canal Boats Regulations- Informal	3	2	3	2
Totals	306	555	667	194

**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED, NOTICES
COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND PREMISES IMPROVED,
1951.**

	Public Health and Housing Acts	Food and Drug Acts	Factories Act	Shops Acts	Misc. Acts & Reg's	Totals
Inspections made ..	3999	2089	115	234	1970	8407
Notices served ..	414	122	12	5	2	555
Notices complied with ..	534	114	9	7	3	667
Defects remedied	2091	282	32	12	5	2422
Premises improved	534	98	9	7	3	651

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1951.

(a) Dwelling Houses.

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	138
External walls re-pointed	...	...	188
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	45
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	41
Dampness abated generally	...	...	32
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	161
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	69
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	102
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	256
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	65
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	31
Sinks repaired, renewed or provided	...	...	19
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	26
Repairs to water supplies	...	...	40
Food stores provided or repaired	...	...	1
New sashcords to windows provided	...	...	146
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	28
Doors and woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	100
Chimneys and stacks repaired	...	...	74
Yards and passages paved or repaired	...	...	36
Interior water supplies provided	...	...	3

Cooking facilities provided	1
Hot water apparatus repaired	2
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated ...	214
Handrails provided in staircases ...	32
Houses closed or demolished	6
Drains cleared of obstructions	38
Drains repaired or renewed	25
Inspection chambers provided to drains ...	4
Soil pipes, vent. shafts, etc., repaired ...	5
W.C. compartments repaired and cleansed	84
W.C. pedestals provided	16
W.C. cisterns provided to W.C's hitherto without	2
New dustbins provided	43
Offensive accumulations removed ...	1
Verminous rooms disinfected	10
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed ...	18
Nuisance from animals abated	4

(b) Shops Acts.

Additional water closets provided ...	2
Water closets cleansed and repaired ...	6
Notices re Early Closing Day exhibited	1
Notices re Assistants' Half Holiday exhibited	1
Abstract of Act exhibited	1
Heating facilities provided	1

(c) Factories.

Additional water closet provided	1
Water closets cleansed, repaired, etc. ...	18
Structural repairs completed	1
Wash basins cleansed	2
Drains repaired	2
Smoke and grit nuisances abated ...	4
Floors cleansed	3
Water supply repaired	1

(d) Bakehouses.

Water closets repaired and cleansed ...	1
Bakehouses cleansed and re-decorated ...	4
Structural repairs completed	1
Accumulations of refuse removed ...	2
Flour rooms cleansed and re-decorated ...	3
Table renewed	1
Bins provided	2
Clean towels provided	1

(e) Dairies

Dairies cleansed and re-decorated	...	2
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(f) Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

Constant hot water supplies provided	...	29
Shops cleansed and re-decorated	...	15
Washing basins provided	...	3
Clean towels provided	...	6
First aid outfits provided	...	17
Cold water supply laid on to sinks	...	3
W.Cs cleansed and repaired	...	21
Structural repairs completed	...	24
Dustbins provided	...	22
Food storage improved	...	7
Refrigerators re-decorated	...	4
Floors cleansed	...	9
Protective clothing provided	...	2
Store rooms cleansed and re-decorated	...	22
Miscellaneous improvements	...	6

(g) Cafes and Public Houses.

Additional water closets provided	...	6
Constant supply of hot water provided	...	3
Rooms and cellars cleansed and re-decorated	...	22
W.C's cleansed and repaired	...	11
Urinals provided or repaired	...	2
Structural repairs completed	...	5
Sinks provided	...	7
Drainage repairs	...	1
Cold water supply laid on to sinks	...	2
Dustbins provided	...	2
New crockery provided	...	4
Floors cleansed	...	1
First aid outfits provided	...	2
Ventilation improved	...	4
Additional lighting provided	...	2
Bottling room reconstructed	...	1
Bottle washing room reconstructed	...	1
Clean towels provided	...	1

COMPLAINTS.

During the year, 222 complaints were received at the office with reference to the following matters:—

Defective water closets	...	16
Defective house roofs	...	23
Offensive smells	...	6

Choked drains	35
Burst water pipes and defective water supplies	11
Defective dustbins	13
Dumping of refuse	7
Flooding of cellars, etc.	11
Defective gutters and rainwater pipes ...	3
Defective windows	2
Verminous and dirty houses	15
Defective firegrates	4
Absence of internal water supply	1
Dampness	13
Smoke and chimney nuisances	6
Keeping of animals	4
General defects	52
	<hr/>
	222
	<hr/>

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

During the year, 38 choked drains were dealt with by the Department and, in addition at 28 premises, drains were reconstructed or repaired under our supervision—this work including the provision of 4 new inspection chambers. Several choked sewers were also found during the year and, in each case, these received prompt attention after being referred to the Borough Surveyor.

Nine additional water closets were provided at various premises in the Borough during 1951; 112 water closet compartments were repaired; 17 new pedestal pans were fixed and 20 flushing cisterns were repaired or renewed. In addition, proper flushing facilities were provided to two water closets which had hitherto been flushed by hand.

During 1951, 10 sinks or washing basins were provided at food premises in the area.

CANAL BOATS.

Ten canal boats were inspected during the year but only 8 of these were in use. The total number of persons for which the eight boats were registered was 24 and the boats were occupied by 4 adult males, 8 adult females and 11 children—a total of 23 persons. No boats were found to be infringing the Regulations during the year and no case of infectious disease was met with on any of the boats inspected. The general cleanliness of the boats inspected was again satisfactory.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Ten rooms infested by bugs or fleas were disinfested by the Department during 1951 and 26 inspections of such premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. In each case the premises were dealt with by the use of some form of D.D.T. preparation with most satisfactory results. In addition to the work carried out by the Corporation, a quantity of D.D.T. powder and liquid was supplied to residents upon request and, in this way, several cases of minor infestation by flies, cockroaches, ants, etc., were dealt with satisfactorily.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

During the year, 43 new dustbins were provided at various premises in the Borough following the service of notices by the Corporation. In three cases the owners failed to provide the dustbins and the Corporation made the necessary provision and charged the cost incurred to the owners concerned.

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES

The routine inspection of factories and bakehouses received the usual attention throughout the year and 176 visits of inspection were made to such premises. 17 premises were improved on our request and 47 defects or contraventions were remedied—details of this work being recorded on page 22 of this report.

SHOPS ACTS.

The general routine inspection of shops, under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, was given increased attention during 1951 and 131 shops were inspected with respect to the health and comfort provisions of the Act. In addition, 103 inspections were made in relation to closing hours, the employment of young persons, and the keeping of records. As a result of these inspections, it was found necessary to serve five notices and, to comply with these notices, two additional water closets were provided; water closets were cleansed and repaired at six premises; heating facilities were improved at one shop and proper notices were exhibited in three cases.

Your Inspectors are responsible for all duties under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and, during the year under review, a good deal of work has been carried out in this connection in the way of advising shopkeepers as to their responsibilities in relation to the hours of work of young persons; the keeping of the necessary records; general closing hours; the weekly half-holiday provisions; the requirements re Sunday trading and other difficulties which confront them in endeavouring to keep within the provisions of the Act.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year, repairs were effected to burst water pipes or to defective water fittings at 40 premises following the service of notices by the Department and, at another house where town's water was not available, a pump was put into proper order on our request.

The sampling of water supplies at premises not connected to the public mains received further attention during the year and 14 samples were taken in this connection. Of these 14 samples, 4 were reported to be highly satisfactory; 3 were found to show evidence of slight contamination with organisms of the faecal type and 7 were found to be grossly contaminated with coliform organisms. No action was taken in respect of the four satisfactory samples and re-sampling of the three slightly contaminated samples showed satisfactory results—in one case after a filtration plant had been put into operation again and in the other two cases by having a satisfactory alternative supply put into use. With regard to the seven grossly polluted samples, these were all taken from four houses at Nethercote and, in these cases, arrangements have now been completed for town's water to be made available at each house. This latter arrangement having cleared up a most unsatisfactory source of water supply which has given the Corporation some concern for several years.

The results recorded following the routine sampling of well water supplies show that, since 1946, town's water has been provided at 20 premises in the Borough which were hitherto supplied by unsatisfactory well or spring supplies and that, in addition, well water supplies have been improved to a more satisfactory standard at eight premises on the outskirts of the town.

VAN DWELLINGS.

During the period under review, 108 visits of inspection were made to van dwellings in the area, 48 of these structures being inspected during the period of the annual Michaelmas Fair.

The persons occupying the fair vehicles comprised 55 adult males, 66 adult females and 35 children and, once again, I am able to report that no serious cases of overcrowding were detected in the course of the inspections made. The caravans, generally speaking, were found to be kept in a very clean condition and, in most cases, the structures were provided with their own sanitary convenience and dustbin. No cases of infectious disease were found in any of the caravans visited.

Several instances again occurred during the year of van dwellings being placed on unlicensed sites in the town and, following informal action by the Corporation, such structures were removed from sites in Southam Road, Nethercote, Townsend and

the Cattle Market. There are, however, a few caravans still existing on unlicensed sites in the Borough and these cases are at present under consideration.

The difficulties in respect of caravans and the lack of satisfactory sites for such vehicles has been considered by the Public Health Committee of the Corporation on many occasions during the year and it may well be that the properly constructed and well-supervised caravan site, recommended in my last annual report, will become a reality within the not too distant future. Certain reports and recommendations in this connection have already been considered by the Corporation but, as the matter is still under active consideration, no definite information is yet available.

HOUSING.

As in the previous post-war years, a considerable proportion of the time of your Sanitary Inspectors was, in 1951, again devoted to the work of maintaining houses in as satisfactory a condition as is possible under present circumstances and, on the whole, some progress can be reported in this important field.

During the year under review, 429 inspections were recorded under the Public Health Act, 1936, and 56 houses were inspected and recorded under the provisions of the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations. As a result of these inspections, it was found necessary to serve 278 informal notices and 136 statutory notices and, including the completion of certain notices served during 1950, 303 informal notices and 231 statutory notices were complied with during the year. The number of dwelling houses repaired during 1951 was, therefore, 534 and in only three instances was it necessary for the Corporation to carry out work in default of the owners.

Official representations with respect to 6 unfit houses were made by the Medical Officer of Health during the year and, in all these cases, the owners gave undertakings to close the premises for human habitation—five of these undertakings being complied with by the end of the year. A further unfit house was closed informally during 1951, the Corporation re-housing the tenants from all the six houses thus put out of use.

As mentioned in previous reports, the general standard of housing in the Borough is a matter of grave concern. There are many groups of low-standard houses in the town which are ripe for demolition and, in addition, there are many houses which, owing to age and neglect, are rapidly approaching the same low category. In connection with these houses, the Department's efforts are devoted to making living conditions as tolerable as possible for the tenants and, wherever the opportunity occurs, to secure the closure or demolition of such houses.

With respect to houses which appear to have the prospect of many more years of use, the policy has been adopted of dealing with an area at a time by serving notices to secure the thorough repair of such premises and, with the general co-operation of the owners concerned, this policy has been successful. During the past four years, as a result of this policy, over 400 houses have been dealt with in this way and in only 12 instances has it been necessary for the Corporation to use their default powers under the Act. 34 unfit houses have been closed or demolished during the same period so that the Department's policy on housing, in general, may be regarded as being as satisfactory as present-day conditions allow.

The Corporation's creditable work in the field of post-war housing has been the means of relieving a good deal of overcrowding in the area but, in this sphere as well, I have reason to believe that much more still needs to be done before the position can be regarded as at all satisfactory. The unsatisfactory housing conditions of many people living in rooms and with relatives is another matter which frequently comes before our notice and is a further phase of the general housing problem which, as yet, appears to be far from being solved.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Attention was again given to the smoke problem by your officers during 1951 and, during the year, 67 visits of inspection were recorded. This figure includes many timed observations of factory chimneys and there were, in addition, several advisory visits paid to factories in relation to smoke nuisances. As mentioned previously, I regard this advisory work as being, by far, the most valuable part of our duties with respect to smoke abatement.

Five instances of excessive smoke emission were dealt with during the year and, in each case, some success was achieved although, in one case, the improvement proved only to be of a temporary nature.

At one factory, the stoves used for heating the premises had been a long-standing source of smoke nuisance to adjoining properties and, during the year, most of these stoves were removed and a hot water heating apparatus installed. At another factory, a dry cleaning establishment, the use of smokeless fuel put an end to complaints re. smoke emission and, at a laundry, advice on stoking was successful in reducing the amount of smoke emitted. The completion of the work of installing two new boilers together with automatic underfeed stokers cleared up a fairly long-standing trouble at a local dairy and no nuisances have been observed from these premises since this work was carried out.

The fifth case—the most troublesome one—has been before

the notice of the Public Health Committee for some time and, after having had further advice from the Regional Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the conclusion was reached that, owing to the present unsatisfactory fuel, a permanent remedy was not yet possible. During the latter part of the year, however, some improvement at these premises occurred and the position was under observation at the close of the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

During 1951, the Sanitary Inspectors made 107 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 33 houses were disinfected during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The work of eradicating rats and mice from premises in the Borough was continued during 1951 and the Corporation continued to participate in the N.S.19 Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries whereby a free service is given in respect of work carried out at private dwellings whilst a charge is made for rodent destruction work at business premises.

The year's work is summarised in the following table and figures for the four previous years are given for the purpose of comparison :—

(a) Surface Infestations.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
No. of complaints received	124	132	133	123	154
No. of premises inspected	1940	1660	1511	1792	1591
No. of revisits made ...	710	734	858	1150	1720
No. of premises cleared ...	432	406	407	474	508
Amount of bait laid :—					
Pre-bait (lbs.) ...	577	533	638	702	627
Poison bait (lbs.) ...	245	213	220	260	234
No. of treatments by gas	—	2	2	3	6
No. of times traps used ...	34	65	37	50	26
Actual rat bodies found ...	701	666	738	852	868

(b) Sewer Infestations.

During the four-weekly periods ending 26th May, 1951 and 28th November, 1951, maintenance treatments of the Corporation's sewers were carried out—a full treatment being given on each occasion. The results of these two treatments, together with the results recorded in previous years, are set out below :—

<i>Date of Treatment</i>	<i>No. of manholes baited</i>	<i>No. showing pre-bait takes</i>
November, 1951	289	19
May, 1951	283	16
December, 1950	73	17
May, 1950	234	22
November, 1949	243	23
May, 1949	265	20
1948	237	81
1947	211	84
1946	240	73
1944	241	94

The results of the sewer baiting carried out during the year show that the reduction in the degree of infestation, noticed in the two previous years, has been maintained during 1951, and it is reasonable to assume that this reduction is mainly due to the constant attention given to rodent control work by the Corporation during the past few years.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The arrangements which have been in operation since 1940, whereby all animals intended for human food in Banbury and district are slaughtered at the Ministry of Food's Centralised Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road, Banbury, were continued during 1951 and, once again, I am able to record amicable relations between your officers and the Ministry's officials there.

In spite of a very high "peak-kill" during the autumn, the total number of animals slaughtered during the year showed a slight decrease as compared with 1950, but the figures for both 1950 and 1951 show a decided increase on those of the two previous years. 11,211 animals were killed during 1951 and, in every case, the carcase and offal was inspected by one of your officers before it reached the public. 117 whole carcasses and organs were rejected during the year as being totally unfit for human food and 1,832 other carcasses had some part or organ rejected for the same reason.

The total weight of meat and offal found to be unfit during the year was approximately $24\frac{1}{2}$ tons, as compared with $23\frac{1}{2}$ tons recorded in 1950 and $27\frac{1}{2}$ tons in 1949.

The following table shows the number of animals killed and

the weight of unsound meat and offal condemned during the last few years:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Animals Killed</i>	<i>Weight of unsound meat and offal</i>
1951	11,211	54,917 lbs.
1950	11,580	52,828 lbs.
1949	9,934	61,603 lbs.
1948	8,065	55,097 lbs.
1947	10,658	58,214 lbs.
1946	13,356	42,417 lbs.
1945	15,654	38,282 lbs.

In addition to the above-mentioned unsound meat and offal, a considerable amount of tinned foods and other unsound foodstuffs were dealt with during the year—153 visits of inspection being recorded for this purpose. Full details of all unsound meat and other foodstuffs rejected during the year are set out in the Medical Officer of Health's annual report attached hereto.

The 100% inspection of animals killed at the local abattoir entailed a good deal of overtime being worked by your Inspectors as well as those duties having to be carried out, on occasions, on Sundays and on public holidays. The two Additional Sanitary Inspectors received a certain amount of overtime pay in respect of such duties carried out during the heavy killing period which occurred in the latter part of the year and this additional remuneration was refunded to the Corporation by the Ministry of Food. I should, however, record that the two previous Additional Sanitary Inspectors, and their predecessors, all willingly worked many hours of overtime at the slaughterhouse without either extra remuneration or compensating holidays and it is pleasing to note that the Ministry of Food has, at long last, acknowledged in a practical manner the long hours of duty which, at times, have to be put into this important public health duty.

MILK CONTROL.

No relaxation in the supervision of milk distribution in the Borough occurred during 1951 and regular routine inspection of dairies was carried out by your officers together with the taking of milk samples for examination for keeping quality, cleanliness and efficient pasteurisation.

The figures given below show the results of the samples taken during the year, together with the results of the four previous years:—

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Samples taken	56	66	135	138	120
Samples satisfactory ...	55	66	100	110	97
Samples not satisfactory	1	—	35	28	23

The 56 samples taken included 44 samples of Pasteurised Milk; 11 samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk and 1 sample of Accredited Milk. In addition to these samples, I was informed by the County Council's Officer that he had taken 64 samples (46 Pasteurised Milk and 18 Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised) Milk) in Banbury during the year with similarly highly satisfactory results.

Apart from raw Tuberculin Tested Milk, there is very little raw milk sold in the town, and it is estimated that about 95% of the Borough's milk supply is now rendered safe by efficient pasteurisation—the beneficial effect of this treatment being reflected in the sampling results detailed above.

Two dealers' licences, under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, were issued during the year and four dealers' licences were granted under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The dairies were maintained in a satisfactory manner by their owners during the year and on only two occasions was it necessary for informal action to be taken in relation to the need for cleansing and re-decorating such premises.

FOOD PREMISES.

The continuation of the full detailed survey of food premises, mentioned in my last report, was actively proceeded with during 1951 and, at the time of preparing this report, the survey is nearing completion. Very satisfactory progress was made in raising the standard of food premises and of food hygiene in the area as a result of action taken following the detailed inspection and recording of premises and it is again a pleasure to me to record the excellent co-operation I have received in this work from the food traders of the town. An increased awareness of the necessity for satisfactory premises and a high standard of food hygiene has been noticed during the period under review and both employers and employees, in general, appear to be most anxious to co-operate with your officers in this work.

The premises at which improvements were carried out, on our request, during 1951, comprised:—

Grocers shops	31	Fishmongers shops ...	3
Cafés and Restaurants	15	Confectionery and	
Butchers shops	15	Sweet shops	3

Bakehouses	8	Fried Fish shops ...	5
Greengrocers shops ...	11	General food shops, etc.	7

The work carried out at these premises is summarised in the following list :—

	<i>Premises</i>
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated at	52
Structural repairs and improvements at	30
Refuse storage facilities improved at	18
Food storage facilities improved at	22
Constant hot water supplies provided at	33
New washing basins provided at	6
Refrigerators cleansed at	4
Floors cleansed at	6
Unsatisfactory crockery withdrawn at	4
Clean towels provided at	7
First aid outfits provided at	20
Sanitary conveniences improved at	16
Protective clothing provided for employees at ...	1

A total of 2,089 inspections were made under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act during 1951 and, in the same period, 122 informal notices were served requesting improvements and, of these, 114 were complied with during the year. This resulted in the remedying of 282 defects or contraventions and in 98 premises being improved.

In September, a joint report was submitted to the Public Health Committee by the Medical Officer of Health and myself on the need for educating food handlers by means of courses of lectures, etc., and the Corporation agreed to the suggested scheme being put into operation. The scheme was commenced during the present year and will be reported on in subsequent reports.

In addition, the officers of the Corporation organised a Local Government Exhibition in the Town Hall during the year and the Health Department, with valuable assistance from the Ministry of Food; the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and the National Smoke Abatement Society, were able to provide a most interesting exhibit with a special emphasis on food and food hygiene. From what one has heard, this exhibit was much appreciated by the many persons who visited the Exhibition during the week.

As mentioned last year, food inspection duties and food hygiene work continues to take up an increasing amount of the time of your Inspectors but, in view of the very important nature of this work, I feel that it is time well spent, particularly in view of the success so far achieved by our efforts and the co-operation of the food traders.

ICE CREAM.

The efforts to raise the standard—from a cleanliness point of view—of ice cream sold in the Borough were continued during the year under review and samples were taken from all manufacturers and retailers in the area. In addition, constant supervision was exercised over ice cream making plant and premises and satisfactory co-operation with colleagues in other areas took place with regard to manufacturers making ice cream outside the Borough in the few cases where such ice cream failed to reach a satisfactory standard.

During the year, 74 samples were taken in the Borough and, of these, 67 were satisfactory (90.5%) and 7 were not satisfactory (9.5%). These figures compare very favourably with those for 1950 when only 59.2% of the samples taken were satisfactory and 40.8% unsatisfactory.

The following table gives the comparative figures, for locally produced ice cream and for ice cream manufactured outside the Borough for the year 1951 :—

	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. Satis'y</i>	<i>Percentage Satis'y</i>	<i>No. not Satis'y</i>	<i>Percentage not Satis'y</i>
Locally produced ice cream ...	18	13	72.2%	5	27.8%
Ice cream made outside the Borough	56	54	96.4%	2	3.6%
Totals ...	74	67	90.5%	7	9.5%

The gradings of all samples taken during the year, distinguishing locally manufactured ice cream from that made outside the Borough, are given below :—

	<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>	<i>Total</i>
Locally produced ice cream ...	12	1	2	3	18
Ice cream made outside Banbury	44	10	2	—	56
Totals ...	56	11	4	3	74

Summarising the year's work, it can be said that a very satisfactory improvement occurred in the cleanliness of the ice cream sold in the town and both locally produced and "imported" ice cream show a much higher percentage of satisfactory results than those for 1950. Sixteen manufacturers, out of a total of 20 sampled produced entirely satisfactory samples throughout the year.

Comparative figures of the samples taken in 1951 and those taken in the four previous years are as follows :—

			1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Grade 1	...	...	56	38	22	10	3
Grade 2	...	...	11	52	6	2	5
Grade 3	...	...	4	42	6	11	2
Grade 4	...	...	3	20	6	2	3
Totals	...		74	152	40	25	13

10 new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

One application, for premises to be registered under the provisions of Section 2 of the above-mentioned Act as premises in which filling materials, as defined by the Act, were in use for the purposes of upholstery, was received during the year and, following consideration of the application by the Public Health Committee, a certificate of registration was granted. The owners of other premises, likely to come within the purview of the Act, were circularised but, in no other case would it appear that the type of business carried on is registerable.

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DISEASES
OF ANIMALS ACT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st
DECEMBER, 1951.**

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my annual report on the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders in the Borough for the year 1951.

The duties entailed in this connection were considerably heavier during 1951 than in any year since the war and it was necessary for your Inspectors to devote much more time to these duties than has been the case in any recent year. The reasons for this may briefly be said to be : the increased incidence of both Foot and Mouth Disease and Swine Fever in the country ; the greatly increased number of animals passing through the local Cattle Market ; the more frequent holding of markets ; and the multiplicity of Orders, which it has been necessary for the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to issue, in respect of animal and poultry diseases. The local Cattle Market is now being held on three days weekly, and occasionally on four days a week and, on each occasion, it is necessary for at least one of your Inspectors to be on duty there for some part of the day. In addition, each time the market is held, it is necessary for the vehicle cleansing station to be operated and staffed.

It will be appreciated, therefore, that these duties have considerably increased of late and all the work connected with Diseases of Animals Act administration has correspondingly grown until it has again become a very important part of the work of the Department.

In the carrying out of this work I have been greatly assisted by the two Additional Sanitary Inspectors—who are also appointed as Inspectors under the Acts—and my thanks are due to them, and to the clerical staff, for the able manner in which they have discharged their often difficult duties during the year.

I give below some comments on the various phases of the duties :—

(1) Anthrax and Sheep Scab.

No outbreaks of either Anthrax or Sheep Scab were reported during 1951.

(2) Swine Fever.

Two outbreaks of Swine Fever occurred on premises within the Borough during the year. The first outbreak took place in August in pigs on the Castle Gardens Allotments and, fortunately, the outbreak was restricted to the one premises. Seven pigs died and one sow was killed in connection with this outbreak and the premises were not finally declared free from infection until the 11th October, 1951. The second batch of pigs affected with the disease were discovered during routine meat inspection duties at the local Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse and three, of a batch of 10 pigs, were destroyed as a result. This second outbreak was found on the 13th November and, after disinfection of the slaughterhouse and lairages, it was possible for the Ministry to declare the premises free from infection on the 15th November, 1951. In connection with this disease, it was possible for me to give considerable assistance to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the tracing of contact pigs which had passed through the local Cattle Market and, on many occasions during the year, I have been able to give information in this way. The Divisional Officer has thus worked very closely with your officers and has expressed his thanks to the Corporation and to me personally for the highly satisfactory co-operation which exists between the Divisional Office and my own Department.

(3) Foot and Mouth Disease.

No outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred during the year in which the Borough was actually included but, on account of the extensive outbreaks of this disease which took place in certain parts of the country, a good deal of licensing work was necessitated at the Cattle Market. The large number of new outbreaks and the necessarily large number of Orders, issued in connection therewith, meant that a very close watch had to be maintained with respect to the destination of animals purchased in the Market and, on occasions, of the animals admitted to the various sales. During the closing months of the year this part of the work became very onerous and, at the time of preparing this report, the position was, unfortunately, no easier as a large part of southern England was under restriction as a Controlled Area under the Foot and Mouth Disease Order of 1938.

(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 2,525, involving the movement of 14,567 animals. These figures are considerably higher than those for any year since the

war and illustrate the increased number of animals passing through the market. As a result of the relaxation of the Regulations respecting the movement of swine which took place in 1950, it was rather difficult to administer the Regulations when they came into operation again. Possibly as a result of this, it was necessary for me to caution several purchasers of pigs for failing to obtain licences and, in five instances, such offenders were reported to the Corporation and were severely cautioned by the Town Clerk. In all these cases, the persons concerned had not previously committed any infringement of the Regulations. The auctioneers very kindly co-operated with me in giving publicity to the need for obtaining licences and the contraventions were greatly reduced by the end of the year so that the position now is, on the whole, satisfactory.

(5) Importation of Animals.

Two licences were received during the year authorising the movement of 53 Irish cattle from the landing place to the Cattle Market. These cattle were re-licensed to private premises.

(6) Sheep Dipping.

The number of sheep dipped in the Borough during the year was 1,296. In addition, 154 Carlisle sheep and lambs were licensed to the Cattle Market for sale, all of which had been previously double-dipped or dipped by the use of an approved single dip.

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

During the year, 6,260 vehicles used for the conveyance of animals were cleansed and disinfected by the Corporation. This total gives a weekly average number of 120 vehicles for the year—the comparative figures for 1950 being 5,105 with an average of 98 vehicles weekly. The income received by the Corporation in respect of this work was £313. Owing to the greatly increased number of vehicles needing cleansing and disinfection, the vehicle cleansing "wash" at the market was extended during the year and improvements were made with respect to the reception and disposal of manure. All vehicles are now required to deposit manure, etc., in a newly-constructed manure pit previous to washing and disinfection and the whole site is thoroughly cleared of manure weekly. The disinfection of vehicles was strictly supervised during the year and the cleansing and disinfection of such vehicles may now be said to be carried out in a very satisfactory manner as a result of the various improvements which were effected during 1951. The officers of the Department on duty at the market enforce very strictly the Regulations relating to the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles and a few drivers had to be cautioned

during the year for attempting to evade the Regulations.

(8) The Live Poultry (Restriction) Orders.

The sale of poultry at the market was under restriction for the greater part of the year and the auctioneers were licensed to enable them to hold weekly sales of poultry intended for immediate slaughter. All poultry sold at the market were, therefore, slaughtered under the supervision of your Inspectors and no contraventions of the Order were discovered.

F. APPLEYARD, D.P.A. (Lond.), F.R.San.I.,
*Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Acts
and Orders.*



