

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Banbury Borough.

Contributors

Banbury (Oxfordshire, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ye5k9mx9>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library



BOROUGH OF BANBURY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

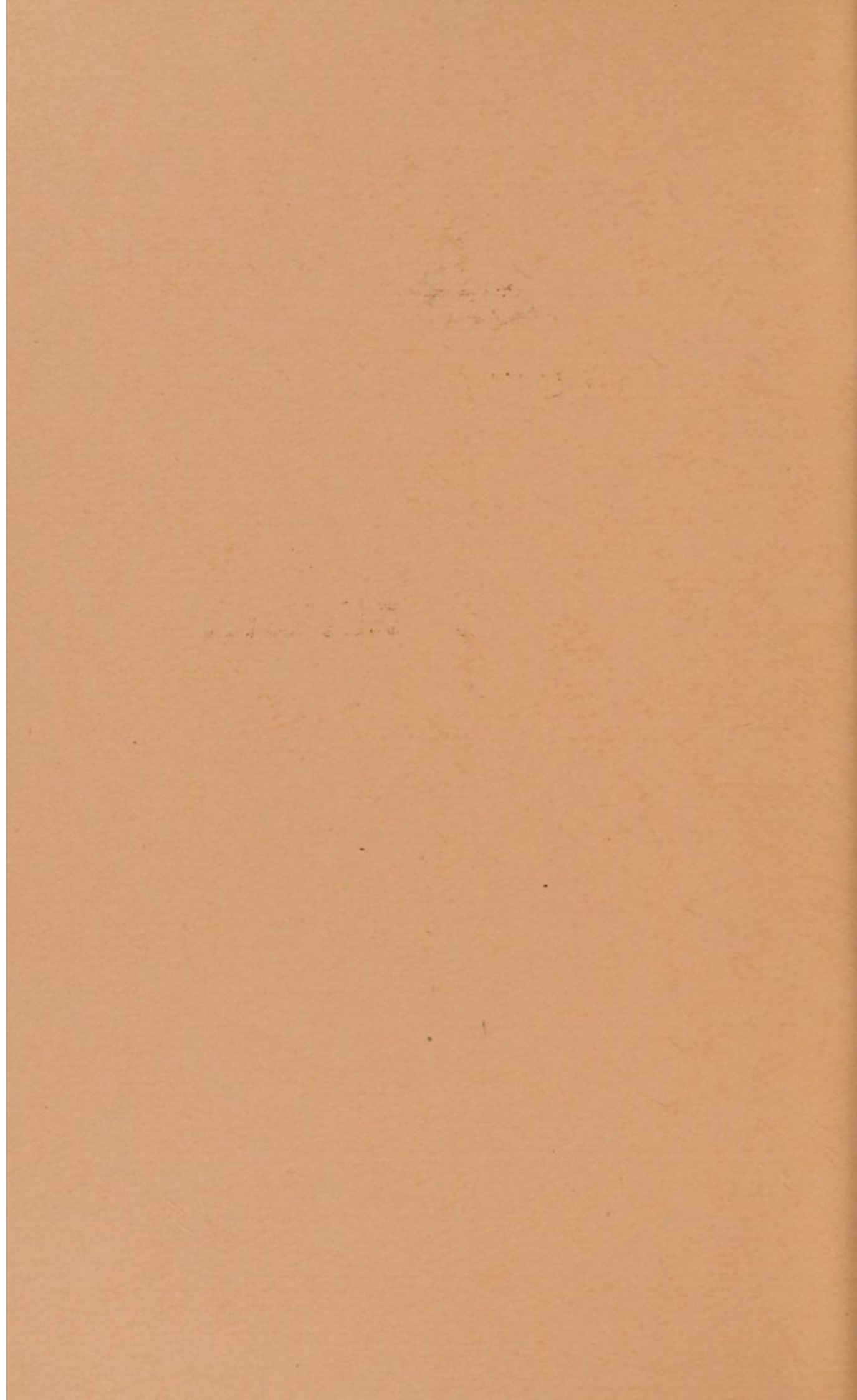
Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1953

H. E. Boddy & Co. Ltd., Factory Street, Banbury
1954





BOROUGH OF BANBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1953

H. E. Boddy & Co. Ltd., Factory Street, Banbury
1954

BOROUGH OF BANBURY

Mayor—

COUNCILLOR T. AULD, J.P.

Deputy Mayor—

COUNCILLOR J. H. PRICE

Public Health Committee.

*Chairman—*COUNCILLOR L. C. WALKLETT

*Vice-Chairman—*COUNCILLOR H. A. YOUNG

ALDERMAN JONES

COUNCILLOR MRS. JOHNSON

ALDERMAN PARTRIDGE

COUNCILLOR PRICE

COUNCILLOR CRINGAN

COUNCILLOR TOMS

COUNCILLOR DAWSON

COUNCILLOR TRINDER

COUNCILLOR JELFS

COUNCILLOR WALTERS

*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.).

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector:

G. WALSHAW, A.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., M.S.I.A. (from
June, 1953).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors and Certified Meat Inspectors:

L. WHITELEY, M.S.I.A. (to May, 1953).

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

M. A. BELTON, M.S.I.A. (from July, 1953).

Clerks:

R. THOMAS (Chief Clerk). (Retired August, 1953).

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 1953. The report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Circular 1/54 of the Ministry of Health.

Vital Statistics.

The Birth Rate in the Borough in 1953 was 15.93 as compared with 14.32 in 1952 and 15.5 for England and Wales. The Death Rate was 10.89 compared with 8.54 in 1952. It was pointed out in the 1952 report that the figure for that year was abnormally low—in fact the lowest recorded in recent years. The Death Rate for England and Wales in 1953 was 11.4.

205 deaths occurred in 1953 compared with 160 in 1952.

Heart Disease (other than Coronary Thrombosis) was responsible for 33. Cancer was next in frequency 31—the Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System followed with 30. The common causes of death in the Borough, therefore, in order of frequency were :—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	33
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	31
Vascular Diseases of the Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	30
Coronary Disease	...	...	...	...	...	26
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	19

As far as Cancer is concerned, the commonest site was Cancer of the Lung. Six cases occurred in 1953 as compared with 3 in 1952 and 9 in 1951. The incidence in Banbury, however, is not higher than in the rest of the country as a whole. It is satisfactory to note that no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred during last year.

The Infant Mortality figure is, however, higher than 1952—27.21 as compared with 15.21. The figure for England and Wales was 26.8.

Housing.

The housing problem in the Borough is still as acute as it has been in recent years. As stated in previous reports, it is at present

only possible to deal with cases where tenants are being re-housed. Whenever an unfit house is vacated an opportunity is taken to deal with it under the Housing Act, 1936 Section 11. Six houses and two flats were dealt with in this way during the year. Under the Housing (Rents and Repairs) Bill now before Parliament, it will, it is hoped, be possible to deal with many of the unfit properties in the town and, as reported elsewhere in this report, the Chief Sanitary Inspector is at present making a survey with this end in view. Overcrowding is still serious and there are still a large number of cases where there are two or three families living in a small house.

The question of caravans has continued to receive attention during the year. It was recommended in last year's report that a properly constructed caravan site is essential if adequate supervision of caravans is to be maintained. Negotiations for this purpose are at present in progress.

Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of infectious disease has been higher than in 1952. 1953 was an epidemic year for Measles and Whooping Cough. 416 cases of Measles and 74 cases of Whooping Cough were notified. There were few complications reported and no deaths. In addition, 24 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, of whom 12 were removed to hospital and 12 isolated at home; 15 cases occurred in school children. Only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred, a severe case in an adult.

Food Hygiene.

As in 1952 there was a small outbreak of Food Poisoning in 1953, involving 9 visitors to the Borough. The food involved had been consumed before arrival in Banbury, and the source of the outbreak was found to be staphalococcal, and a food handler outside the district was found to be a carrier.

As mentioned in the Annual Report for 1952, increased attention is now being paid to Food Hygiene and new statistics on the subject are now required by the Ministry of Health.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of Food Poisoning—both of the staphalococcal and Salmonella types. This was attributed to the increase of communal feeding in school and factory canteens and municipal restaurants which began during the War, and also to the increased use of made-up dishes owing to meat rationing. These are particularly liable to contamination with the food poisoning organisms.

Although meat rationing is due to end in July, 1954, it is unlikely, however, that this will lead to a diminution of the number of cases of food poisoning.

In this connection, I should like to mention the valuable work which is being done by the Chief Sanitary Inspector; over 2,000 visits were paid to food premises during the year. Although no organised course of lectures was given during the year, informal talks to local organisations have been given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and valuable educational work is being done during the visits of the Sanitary Inspectors during the course of their inspections.

Staff.

During the year Mr. G. Walshaw was appointed Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector; Mr. L. Whiteley left the service of the Corporation to take up another appointment, and Mr. M. A. Belton was appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector. Mr. R. Thomas, who has been Chief Clerk in the Public Health Department for many years, retired on superannuation.

I should like to thank Mr. H. Nelson, Water Engineer, for his valuable co-operation in connection with the public health aspect of the water undertaking. I should also like to thank all the members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation during the year and special thanks are due to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. Appleyard, to whom the efficient and successful working of the department is largely due. Although not on the staff of the Corporation, I should like to mention also the valuable work in environmental hygiene done by the Health Visitors of the Oxfordshire County Council and, in particular, the Senior Health Visitor, Mrs. G. Watts, whose long experience of public health work in Oxfordshire is of great value in the Borough.

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 (1953 Census)	18,917
Population (1953 Estimated Reg. Gen.)	19,000
Rateable Value	£123,873
Product of Penny rate	£505

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1953.

Live Births.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	150	130	280
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	5	9	14
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	...	155	139	294
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated
Population 15.93
(England and Wales—15.5)

Stillbirths.

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

RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths) 6.8

Deaths.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	93	112	205
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.89
							(England and Wales—11.4)

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

					Number.	Rate.
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	8	27.21
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	8	28.57
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	—	—

(England and Wales—26.8)

Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Causes : Legitimate :

Prematurity	...	...	...	4
Volvulus	...	...	...	1
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	...	1
Atalectasis	...	...	...	1
Erythroblastosis Foetalis	...	...	...	1

Illegitimate :—Nil.

Causes of Death, 1953.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malignant Neoplasm—stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm—lung, bronchus	4	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm—breast	—	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm—uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	9	18
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Vascular diseases of nervous system	14	16	30
Coronary disease, angina	14	12	26
Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
Other heart disease	12	21	33
Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
Influenza	—	3	3
Pneumonia	6	13	19
Bronchitis	7	3	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	12	17
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	3	1	4
Totals	93	112	205

Deaths from—Cancer (all ages)	...	...	31
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	None
Measles (all ages)	...	...	None

Classification of Cancer Deaths.

Breast	...	...	4	Stomach	...	...	2
Uterus	...	...	1	Other Sites	...	...	18
Lung	...	...	6				

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 1953 at the Oxford Laboratory:—

SWABS	Number examined	...	...	...	34
	Positive for Haemolytic Streptococci				4
	Positive for Vincent's Angina	...			nil
	Negative	...	...	...	21
FAECES	Number examined	...	...	...	3
	Positive	...	...	...	nil
OTHER EXAMINATIONS	...	...	...	...	29

(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 Clinic	"	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 | Every Tuesday 3 p.m. |
| 11. Whooping Cough
Immunisation | „ | Every Tuesday 3 p.m. |

Puerperal Pyrexia—1 case occurred during the year.

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

Illegitimate Children.

There were 14 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 28.57 for legitimate children.

National Assistance Act 1948, Sec. 47.

No action under this section has been taken during 1953.

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 Bodicote; it is treated by settlement filtration and chlorination. During 1953 the supply was constant and sufficient.

During the year 71 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 (24 separate premises); all are on the public supply.

A major scheme, estimated to cost £429,000, is being prepared to modernise the undertaking, to supply the additional consumption required for the Borough and Rural District.

During the year all the water works employees have been examined by the Vi Blood Test for the detection of Typhoid carriers, with negative results.

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 1953 included:

Drains cleared of obstruction	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	24
Soilpipes repaired	...	...	...	1
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	2

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	...	...	...	5
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	50
W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	12
W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	14
W.C. cisterns provided	...	...	...	18

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.

As in most towns, the position in respect to housing conditions in the Borough still remains far from satisfactory and, as has been stressed in previous annual reports, there remain several areas in the town which will have to be dealt with as Clearance Areas and many individual unfit houses which will have to receive attention as soon as conditions permit extensive work of this nature to be put in hand.

During 1953, a good deal of housing repair work was again carried out—269 houses being repaired following action under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 and 97 houses being dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. In addition to this work, 10 houses were closed or demolished as a result of formal action under the Housing Act and 5 houses were closed as a result of informal action.

The following statistics show the work done in the Borough under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, since 1946 :—

(1) Houses demolished by formal or informal action	23
(2) Houses permanently closed following formal or informal action	22
(3) Houses repaired (Section 9)	469
(4) Houses at which work was carried out in default of owners	27

In view of prospective new legislation in connection with Slum Clearance and Housing Repair Work a new survey of housing conditions has been commenced during the present year with a view to compiling the programme which will have to be submitted at a later date.

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. 66 visits of inspection of dairies were recorded during the year and 82 samples of milk were taken. Some improvements were effected to certain dairies in the area, such improvements being detailed on page 24 of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

During 1953, 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) ...	...	5
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:—

<i>Type of Milk</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Samples Satisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested (Pas.) ...	33	31
Pasteurised ...	49	45
	—	—
Totals ...	82	76
	—	—

These results are satisfactory and it is interesting to note that 59 samples taken in Banbury during 1953 by the County Council's Officer were all similarly satisfactory. So far as is known, practically all the milk passing through the town's dairies is now rendered safe by pasteurisation and it is reasonable to state that the town's milk supply is at present highly satisfactory.

(b) Meat Inspection.

During 1953 as in the six 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 ..	4526		9293		4888		2558	
	No.	Weight	No	Weight	No	Weight	No	Weight
Carcasses Condemned:								
Tuberculosis ..	18	8492	—	—	2	288	2	182
Other Diseases ..	19	7759	62	2465	18	2469	127	3975
Total (A) ..	37	16251	62	2465	20	3757	129	4157
Parts of Carcasses, Organs, etc.								
Total Offal ..	37	2064	62	444	20	128	129	993
Livers ..	1116	14233	496	915	140	428	17	33
Lungs ..	260	2348	315	690	430	1273	16	75
Heads ..	203	4703	61	425	101	1467	4	36
Tongues ..	188	1318	—	—	1	2	—	—
Spleens ..	23	46	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestines ..	25	415	—	—	37	60	—	—
Kidneys ..	6	46	—	—	1	1	—	—
Mesentery Fat ..	13	177	—	—	3	21	—	—
Meat ..	—	4568	—	208	—	814	—	50
Tripes ..	8	204	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skirts ..	38	84	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals (B) ..	2917	30206	934	2682	733	4194	166	1187
Total weight (A) & (B) in pounds ..	—	46457	—	5157	—	7951	—	5344

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 1953:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed ..	3191	335	2558	9293	4888
Number Inspected ..	3191	335	2558	9293	4888
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned	12	7	129	62	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1025	121	23	872	551
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	32.5%	32.2%	5.9%	10.1%	11.6%
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	5	2	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	206	52	4	—	97
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	6.9%	17%	0.2%	—	2.0%

(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	...	...	...	155 Tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	63 Tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	205 Tins
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	166 Tins
Tinned Spaghetti	...	...	...	11 Tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	867 Tins
Tinned Soup	...	...	...	23 Tins
Tinned Jam	...	...	...	43 Tins
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	37 Tins
Tinned Pickles	...	...	...	3 Tins

Tinned Steak	...	...	...	62	Tins
Tinned Tomatoes	...	...	...	109	Tins
Tinned Coffee	...	...	...	1	Tin
Tinned Mincemeat	...	...	...	4	Tins
Tinned Fruit Juices	...	...	...	10	Tins
Tinned Pudding	...	...	...	1	Tin

SUNDRIES.

Wet Fish	...	...	...	11	Stones
Sausages	...	...	...	358	lbs.
Faggots	...	...	...	36	Dozen
Cheese	...	...	...	44	lbs.
Biscuits	...	...	...	4	lbs.
Pork Pies	...	...	...	56	
Dessert Gelatine	...	...	...	106	Packets
Puff Pastry	...	...	...	9	Packets
Fowls	...	...	...	168	
Bacon	...	...	...	4	lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	17	lbs.
Rabbits	...	...	...	30	lbs.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Nine cases occurred in the passengers of a bus from Stroud, who had eaten some cooked meat sandwiches on the way to Banbury. All were admitted to hospital where they were found to be suffering from Staphalococcal Food Poisoning; the cause was eventually traced to a food handler in Stroud. All the cases made a complete and rapid recovery.

Clean Food Campaigns.

As will be seen from the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, 2,254 visits to food premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. Although no organised course of lectures was given in 1953 informal talks to local food organisations were given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Valuable educational work is being done also by the Sanitary Inspectors during their visits to food premises.

Byelaws under Food & Drugs Act, 1938—Section 15.

These byelaws have been adopted by the Council and frequent visits are paid to food premises and market stalls in the Borough by the Sanitary Inspectors to ensure that the byelaws are being complied with. Further details of this work will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FOOD PREMISES

The following statistics, required by the Ministry, are given with respect to food premises in the Borough:—

(1) No. of Food Premises on record.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Confectioners and Sweet Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Food manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Greengrocers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Grocers and General Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Public Houses and licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	47

(2) No. of Premises Registered under Sec. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(a) For the manufacture or storage of ice cream	91
(b) For the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	17

(3) No. of Dairies Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 8

(4) No. of inspections of Registered Food Premises

Details of this work are recorded in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector (pages 20 and 21).

(5) Method of Disposal of condemned food.

Generally by destruction at the Corporation's refuse destructor.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1953.

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	12	—
Measles	416	—	—
Whooping Cough	74	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Food Poisoning	9	9	—
Sonne Dysentery	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Totals	533	25	—

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	—	—	3	2	2	13	2	1	—	1	—	—
Measles ..	9	15	45	55	68	212	6	1	5	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	6	6	7	12	11	30	1	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	4
Sonne Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	15	21	55	69	81	255	9	3	10	4	6	5

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-four cases occurred during 1953; twelve of these were removed to hospital and twelve isolated at home. Fifteen cases occurred in school children, seven in children under school age and two in adults.

Whooping Cough.

Seventy-four cases occurred during the year. No serious complications were reported.

During 1953 a Whooping Cough Immunisation Scheme was started by the Oxfordshire County Council. As the scheme did not start until October there were only 18 completed cases during the year. Immunisation is carried out on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at the School Clinic, Warwick Road. Facilities are also available through the general practitioners in the area.

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	...	...	...	...	84
School Children	...	...	...	...	87
Re-inforcement Doses	...	...	...	...	278

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Only one case occurred in 1953—a man, age 32, who had paralysis. He was treated at the Slade Hospital, Oxford.

Measles.

416 cases occurred during 1953. There were 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	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 25	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 to 35	4	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
35 to 45	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 to 55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	9	1	5	—	—	—	—

Death Rate per 1,000 from Tuberculosis:—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Banbury	...	Nil	...	Nil
England and Wales	...	0.179	...	0.022
Death Rate per 1,000 from Cancer of the Lung:—				
Banbury	0.315
England and Wales	0.343

BOROUGH OF BANBURY

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1953
Part I 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 ..	21	10	4	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	128	93	8	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	10	8	—	—
Total	159	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	9	9	—	—	—
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) unsuitable or defective ..	12	12	—	—	—
Other offences ..	4	4	—	—	—
Total	27	27	—	—	—

3. Outworkers

No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110(1) (c) ...	17
(All outworkers engaged in making of wearing apparel)	
No. of cases of default in supplying lists ...	—
No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises ...	—

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR FOR 1953**

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to present to you my eighth annual report which records the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1953 and, in doing so, I am once again able to report good progress in all phases of our work.

As in previous years, a great deal of attention has been given to the work of repairing and reconditioning houses and to the supervision of the town's food supplies but, in spite of the special emphasis laid on these two branches of our duties, it has been possible to maintain the customary routine inspections of shops, factories and other registered premises and to achieve noteworthy improvements in such premises.

Once again, I would mention the particularly heavy burden which is laid upon your officers in connection with the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders and in respect of meat inspection work, but I would add that the appointment of a Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector, which took effect from the 1st June, 1953, has been of great help in this regard and it is felt that the Department is now sufficiently staffed to cope satisfactorily with the multifarious duties which have to be performed.

I would also express my sincere thanks to the Council for making it possible for the Department to be re-housed in new—and most comfortable—offices at the Cross, Banbury. The new accommodation to which we moved in May, 1953 is ideal, both from the point of view of the public and the staff, and the change has been of benefit and has, I am sure, increased the efficiency of the Department.

The report which is attached hereto gives statistical information of our work for the year 1953, together with some comments thereon and it does, I trust, reflect the industry and efficiency of the staff, which it is my pleasure to supervise.

I cannot conclude this brief introduction without once again expressing my most sincere thanks to the Chairmen and Members of those Committees of the Corporation with which I am more closely associated for the courtesy and the support which is always shown to me. Also, I would record the happy relationship which exists between the Medical Officer of Health and myself and I would thank him, together with the Town Clerk and the other Chief Officers of the Corporation, for their ready assistance at all times.

Finally, I would express my thanks to my own staff—both technical and clerical—because it is mainly due to their work and co-operation that I am able to record such a satisfactory year's work.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. APPLEYARD,
Chief Sanitary Inspector

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1953

Public Health Act.

Houses inspected	213
Verminous premises	19
Infectious Disease enquiries	40
Drainage inspections	161
Re-visits and work in progress	956
Van dwellings	276
Smoke abatement	161
Streams and watercourses	11
Vacant land and refuse dumps	29
Canal boats	10
Water sampling	3
Public houses—conveniences	71
Refuse accommodation	35

Housing Act.

Houses inspected and recorded	294
Re-visits and work in progress	991
Housing applications	17

Factories Act.

Factories inspected	93
Workplaces inspected	10
Outworkers premises inspected	11

Shops Act.

Shops inspected (health and comfort provisions)	158
Shops inspected (closing hours and records)	147
Shops re-inspected	63

Food and Drugs Act.

Bakehouses	45
General food shops	396
Fried fish shops	14

Food preparing premises	...	...	122
Slaughterhouse	...	...	686
Knackers yard	...	...	9
Public Houses	...	...	100
Public Markets	...	...	352
Food inspection visits	...	...	148
Restaurants and cafés	...	...	68
Ice-cream premises	...	...	95
Food vehicles	...	...	56
Dairies	...	...	66
Milk sampling visits	...	...	72
Ice-cream sampling visits	...	...	25

Miscellaneous.

Rats and mice	...	...	40
Schools	...	...	5
Cinemas and public halls	...	...	12
Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	1496
Interviews with owners and builders	...	...	1106
Keeping of animals	...	...	32
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	1160
Pet Animals Act visits	...	...	51
Rag Flock Act visits	...	...	6
Total visits and inspections made			9931

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH, 1953

Type of Notice	Out-standing 31-12-52	Served 1953	Complied with 1953	Out-standing 31-12-53
Public Health Act-Prelim ..	37	209	186	60
Public Health Act-Statutory	35	82	83	34
Housing Act-Prelim ..	36	53	55	34
Housing Act-Statutory ..	53	28	42	39
Factories Act-Informal ..	1	12	7	6
Shops Act-Informal ..	30	24	43	11
Food and Drugs Act-Informal	21	67	56	32
Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts-Informal ..	—	2	2	—
Canal Boats Regulations- Informal	6	—	6	—
Totals	219	477	480	216

**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED, NOTICES
COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND PREMISES
IMPROVED, 1953**

	Public Health and Housing Acts	Food and Drugs Act	Factories Act	Shops Acts	Misc. Acts & Regs.	Totals
Inspections made ..	3287	2254	114	368	3908	9931
Notices served ..	372	67	12	24	2	477
Notices complied with ..	366	56	7	43	8	480
Defects remedied	1656	124	18	76	13	1889
Premises improved	366	56	7	43	8	480

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1953.

(a) Dwelling Houses.

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	76
External walls re-pointed	...	...	99
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	38
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	46
Dampness abated generally	...	...	25
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	85
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	59
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	61
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	188
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	45
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	13
Sinks repaired, renewed or provided	...	...	15
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	24
Repairs to water supplies	...	...	20
Food stores provided or repaired	...	...	10
New sashcords to windows provided	...	...	128
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	20
Doors and woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	79
Chimneys and stacks repaired	...	...	52
Yards and passages paved or repaired	...	...	18

Coalhouses provided or repaired	...	12
Interior water supplies provided	...	5
Town's water provided to houses (hitherto well supplies)	... ..	4
Additional light or ventilation provided		29
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated	...	138
Handrails provided in staircases	...	21
Houses closed or demolished	... ..	15
Drains cleared of obstructions	... ..	5
Drains repaired or renewed	... ..	24
Inspection chambers provided to drains		2
Soil pipes, vent, shafts, etc., repaired	...	1
W.C. compartments repaired and cleansed		62
W.C. pedestals provided	... ..	14
New dustbins provided	... ..	53
Offensive accumulations removed	...	2
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	18
Verminous rooms disinfected	... ..	26
Nuisances from animals abated	... ..	2
Additional water closets provided	...	2
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.s hitherto without	... ..	2

(b) Shops Acts.

Water closets cleansed and repaired	...	7
Notices re Early Closing Day exhibited		27
Notices re Assistants' Half Holiday exhibited	... ..	11
Notices re Sunday Closing exhibited	...	6
Abstract of Act provided	... ..	10
Additional ventilation provided	... ..	1
Heating facilities provided	... ..	1
Young persons records kept	... ..	2
Notices re seats exhibited	... ..	11

(c) Factories.

Water closets cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	12
Structural repairs completed	... ..	1
Urinals cleansed or repaired	... ..	1
Intervening ventilated space to water closet	... ..	1
Smoke and grit nuisances abated	...	1
W.C.s marked for sexes	... ..	2

(d) Bakehouses.

Water closets repaired and cleansed	...	3
Bakehouses cleansed and re-decorated	...	8
Structural repairs completed	... ..	4

Clean towels provided	1
Confectionery trays cleansed	1
Floors, etc., cleansed	3
Apparatus cleansed	2
New sink provided	1
Soap and clean towels provided	1
Additional light and ventilation provided	1

(e) Dairies.

Dairies cleansed and re-decorated ...	2
Constant hot water supply provided ...	1

(f) Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

Constant hot water supplies provided ...	3
Shops cleansed and re-decorated ...	3
Food storage rooms re-decorated ...	8
W.C.s cleansed and repaired	2
Additional water closets provided ...	1
Structural repairs completed	4
Dustbins provided or properly sited ...	1
Food storage facilities improved ...	2
Floors cleansed	1
Food rooms entirely reconstructed ...	2
Miscellaneous improvements	3

(g) Cafes and Public Houses.

Additional water closets provided ...	2
Constant hot water supplies provided ...	7
Rooms and cellars cleansed and re-decorated	23
Water closets cleansed and repaired ...	5
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 or properly sited ...	1
Apparatus cleansed	4
Lighting improved	2
Ventilation improved	3
Food storage improved	2
New kitchen provided complete	1
New cafe and kitchen provided complete	1
Unsatisfactory cafe and kitchen closed	1

COMPLAINTS.

During the year, 155 written or verbal complaints were

received at the office and these were in respect of the following matters :—

Defective water closets	16
Defective house roofs	14
Choked or defective drains	33
Offensive smells	9
Burst water pipes	4
Defective dustbins	11
Dumping of refuse	6
Flooding of cellars	6
Defective gutters and rainwater pipes ...	5
Defective windows	3
Defective ranges or fireplaces	3
Verminous or dirty premises	2
Dampness	6
Smoke and chimney nuisances	8
Nuisances from animals	2
Overcrowding	4
General defects	23
	<hr/>
	155

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

During the period under review, 35 choked drains were dealt with by the Department and, at a further 24 premises, drains were re-constructed or repaired under our supervision—this work including the provision of two new inspection chambers. In addition, several choked sewers were found and, in each case, these received prompt attention after being referred to the Borough Surveyor.

Improvements to sanitary accommodation effected comprised the provision of 5 additional water closets; the repair of 50 water closet compartments; the provision of 14 new pedestal pans and the repair or renewal of 18 flushing cisterns.

In addition to these improvements, 10 sinks or washing basins were provided at food premises in the area following requests by your Inspectors.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The incidence of infectious disease was again low during 1953 and, as a consequence, the Sanitary Inspectors made only 40 visits of enquiry in respect of notified cases. A report on each of these cases was made to the Medical Officer of Health. Following the occurrence of infectious disease, 27 rooms were disinfected by the Department.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

As a result of complaints and routine inspections 55 new dustbins were supplied at various premises in the Borough following the service of notices by the Department. In eight cases the owners failed to make the required provision and the Corporation provided the dustbins in default—the cost of this work being recoverable from the owners concerned.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

161 visits of inspection were recorded by the Sanitary Inspectors under this heading, 92 of these inspections consisting of half-hour observations of the factory chimneys in the area. During 89 of these periods no excessive black smoke was recorded and, during the remaining 3 observations, black smoke was emitted for periods of 4, 6 and 13 minutes respectively. All the latter emissions were from one chimney and following extra attention being paid to these premises, and a large number of check observations being made at varying times of the day, I am able to record that a considerable improvement took place taking the year as a whole.

In two other cases complaints were received of excessive smoke from factory chimneys and, upon investigation, only one of these complaints was found to be justified. The premises concerned were in use as a dairy and, following action by the Department, the chimney at these premises was raised with the result that no further complaints have since been received.

In general, it can be said that, following the action taken by the Department during recent years, and the consequent improvement of boiler plants and methods of stoking, the smoke problem in the Borough is now a very small one.

VAN DWELLINGS.

276 visits of inspection were made of van dwellings in the area during 1953, 108 visits being paid to 88 van dwellings during the period of the annual Michaelmas Fair.

The persons occupying the fair vehicles comprised 80 adult males, 84 adult females and 83 children. As in previous years, I am able to report that no serious cases of overcrowding were found in the course of these inspections. The caravans in general were clean and well maintained and, whilst most of them were provided with their own sanitary convenience and dustbin, it was found that, being in the centre of the town, the occupants of the vehicles preferred to use the public conveniences owing to the difficulty of disposing of the contents of their Elsan closets. No cases of infectious disease were met with during the survey of

the fair vehicles and, after their departure, inspections made of the sites occupied by them showed that they had been left in a clean and tidy condition.

As no properly constructed caravan site is yet available in the area, the Public Health Committee continued the policy of taking no action with respect to van dwellings placed on a site at The Marshes, Southam Road, and, by the end of the year, some 25 vehicles were on this site. Two temporary licences were granted to occupiers of van dwellings on another privately owned site during the year.

At the close of 1953 negotiations were in progress with the owner of the site at The Marshes for certain improvements to be effected there and it is hoped that during the present year this site will be properly equipped so that the Corporation may licence it for this purpose.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

26 rooms infested by bugs or fleas were disinfested by the Department and 19 inspections of such premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. In each case the infested premises were dealt with by some form of D.D.T. preparation with satisfactory results. In addition to this work, 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. The decrease in the number of cases of infestation by bugs and fleas, which has been noticed in recent years, was again evident during 1953.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Interior water supplies were provided at 5 houses during the year, 4 of these houses having hitherto been supplied from unsatisfactory wells. In addition, burst pipes or defective fittings were repaired at 20 premises following the service of notices by the Department.

Very few premises in the Borough are not connected with the Corporation's water mains and it is anticipated that this number will be reduced when the Corporation are able to put into effect their slum clearance proposals.

HOUSING.

As in previous years, the work of maintaining houses in a reasonably satisfactory condition still continues to be one of the most important duties of your Sanitary Inspectors and the year 1953 again saw a considerable amount of time being devoted to this work.

In connection with these duties, 213 inspections were recorded under the Public Health Act, 1936 and 294 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 262 informal notices and 110 statutory notices and, during the year, 241 informal notices and 125 statutory notices were complied with. The number of dwelling houses repaired during the year was, therefore, 366 and in 10 instances it was necessary for the Corporation to carry out work in default of the owners. In 8 of these cases the Corporation provided new dustbins in default and, at two houses, repairs were executed by the Corporation under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936 at a total cost of £149.

Following representations by the Medical Officer of Health, 5 unfit houses were demolished and 4 unfit premises were closed for human habitation. In addition, 6 further houses were either closed or demolished following informal action by the Department. The occupiers of these houses were re-housed by the Corporation.

The housing conditions in the Borough are still far from satisfactory and, in view of prospective new legislation with regard to slum clearance and housing repairs, a survey of housing conditions has been commenced during the present year with a view to compiling the programme which will have to be submitted to the Ministry at a later date.

In this connection the work of the Corporation in this field during the past 8 years has been reviewed and the following information is given to illustrate the efforts made during that period :—

(a) Demolition and/or Closure of Unfit Houses.

During the past 8 years the work of the Corporation has been very limited in this respect but it has been possible to secure, by either formal or informal means, the demolition of 23 unfit dwellings. In addition, during the same period, 22 other premises, used for human habitation, were closed as being unfit for further use.

(b) Repair of Houses under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Since 1946 approximately 469 houses have been repaired or re-conditioned under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act and Section by either formal or informal means. 442 of these houses were repaired by the owners themselves following the service of notices and, in 27 instances, it was necessary for the Corporation to carry out the repairs in default of the owners

concerned. The cost of this work amounts to £1,071 18s. 2d. or an approximate average cost per house of £40—these costs being, of course, recoverable by the Corporation from the owners of the properties concerned.

The houses which have been dealt with by this procedure are, generally speaking, houses which appear to have a prospect of many more years of use and which are not likely to be demolished for some time yet.

In spite of the work which has been carried out there still remains a considerable amount of work to be done in the Borough in connection with housing and it is anticipated that a good deal of slum clearance work, together with the reconditioning of a large number of houses, will have to be carried out under the provisions of the anticipated new legislation.

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The usual routine inspection of factories and bakehouses has been carried out at irregular intervals throughout the year and 159 visits of inspection were made to such premises. 16 premises were improved on request and 43 defects or contraventions were remedied—details of this work being recorded on pages 23 and 24 of this report.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No applications for registration under the above-mentioned Act were received in the period under review.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

The Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for all duties under the somewhat complicated provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 and, in connection with this work, 158 shops were inspected with respect to the "health and comfort" provisions of the Act and 210 inspections were recorded in relation to closing hours, the employment of young persons and the keeping of records. In addition to the recorded inspections, a good deal of work has been carried out in connection with shops legislation in the way of advising shop keepers of their manifold and somewhat difficult duties under the Act.

As a result of the inspections made, it was found necessary to serve 24 informal notices, most of which were in respect of the keeping of records and the exhibition of the necessary notices. The improvements effected as a result of the service of these notices included, the repair or cleansing of water closets at 7 shops; the provision of additional heating

and ventilation at 2 premises; the exhibition of 65 notices; and the proper keeping of records with respect to young persons employed at two shops.

CANAL BOATS.

Six canal boats were inspected during 1953 and the total number of persons for which the boats were registered was 18. The boats were actually occupied by 7 adult males, 5 adult females and 1 child—a total of 13 persons. No contraventions were found during the year and no infectious disease was met with on any of the boats inspected. As in previous years, the general cleanliness of the boats inspected was satisfactory.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The usual attention was given to the work of rats and mice destruction in the Borough during 1953 and the Corporation continued their policy of giving a free service with respect to private dwellings and of making a charge for rodent destruction work at business premises.

The following figures, giving details of the year's work and that carried out in the four previous years, are given to illustrate the continued attention which has been given to these duties:—

(a) Surface Infestations.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
No. of complaints received ...	97	81	124	132	133
No. of premises inspected ...	2171	2016	1940	1660	1511
No. of revisits made ...	868	539	710	734	858
No. of premises cleared ...	435	426	432	406	407
Amount of bait laid:—					
Pre-bait (lbs.) ...	416	433	577	533	638
Poison bait (lbs.) ...	287	223	245	213	220
Actual rat bodies found ...	707	687	701	666	738

(b) Sewer Infestations.

During May and November 1953, the Corporation's sewers were again dealt with and, on these occasions, on the instructions of the Ministry, full maintenance treatments were not carried out. The first treatment carried out in May consisted of a test baiting of those parts of the sewers which had previously showed signs of infestation and, out of 45 sewer manholes baited, 6 showed signs of rats. Immediately after this test baiting, a further 29 manholes were baited in various parts of the Borough and 12 "takes" were recorded. In November the portions of the sewers showing infestation during the May treatment were again dealt

with and, out of 13 manholes baited, 9 showed the presence of rats.

The general results of these treatments shows that the small amount of infestation in the sewers which has been evident since 1949 still continues and it can be said that, on the whole, the position is very satisfactory having regard to the age and condition of some of the Corporation's sewers.

It is felt that the constant attention which has been given to both surface and sewer infestations by the Corporation during recent years is responsible for the general position, in this regard, being satisfactory.

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 1953 and, once again, I am able to record satisfactory relations existing between your officers and the Ministry's officials there.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year showed a large increase as compared with 1952, the kill being the largest recorded for some years. 21,265 animals were slaughtered during 1953 and, in every case, the carcase and offal was inspected by one of your officers before it reached the public. 248 whole carcasses and organs were rejected during the year as being totally unfit for human food and 4,760 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 29 tons, as compared with 28½ tons recorded in 1952 and 24½ tons in 1951.

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>
1953	21,265	64,909 lbs.
1952	17,501	63,278 lbs.
1951	11,211	54,917 lbs.
1950	11,580	52,828 lbs.
1949	9,934	61,603 lbs.
1948	8,065	53,097 lbs.
1947	10,658	58,214 lbs.
1946	13,356	42,417 lbs.

In addition to the above-mentioned unsound meat and offal, a considerable amount of tinned foods and other unsound foodstuffs were dealt with—148 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 again entailed a good deal of overtime being worked by your Inspectors as well as those duties having to be carried out on Sundays and on public holidays.

MILK CONTROL.

During 1953, increased attention was given to the supervision of milk distribution in the Borough and, as in previous years, the 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 in the table set out below show the results of the samples taken during the year, together with the results for the four previous years:—

		1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Samples taken	...	82	88	56	66	135
Samples satisfactory	...	76	84	55	66	100
Samples not satisfactory	...	6	4	1	—	35

In addition to these samples, I was informed by the County Council's Officer that he had taken 59 samples in Banbury during the year with similar satisfactory results.

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

The dairies were maintained in a satisfactory condition by their owners during the year and on only three occasions was it necessary for informal action to be taken in respect of contraventions.

FOOD PREMISES.

The detailed survey of food premises, referred to in previous reports, was continued during 1953, and I am again able to report that further progress was made in raising the standard of food premises and of food hygiene in the area. The efforts made in this direction during recent years are now becoming apparent in the noticeably higher standard of

premises and methods of handling food and I would again thank the food traders of the Borough for their co-operation in this regard.

The premises at which improvements were effected during 1953 comprised:—

Grocers Shops	...	...	7	Fishmongers and	
Butchers Shops	...	...	2	Greengrocers	2
Bakehouses	...	...	7	Confectionery and	
Public Houses	...	...	11	Sweet Shops	1
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	3	General Food Shops	6

The various improvements carried out at the 39 premises concerned are summarised in the following list:—

	Premises
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated at	23
Structural repairs and improvements at	12
Refuse storage facilities improved at	2
Food storage facilities improved at	5
Constant hot water supplies provided	11
New washing basins provided at	8
Floors cleansed at	3
Equipment cleansed at	4
Soap and clean towels provided at	1
New kitchens provided at	2
Sanitary conveniences improved at	7
New premises completely provided at	1

During the year under review a total of 2,254 visits of inspection were made under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Byelaws and, in the same period, 67 informal notices were served requesting improvements and 56 notices were complied with during the year. This resulted in the remedying of 124 defects or contraventions and the consequent improvement of 39 food premises.

Special attention was devoted to the requirements of the Corporation's Food Byelaws with respect to stalls in the Public Market during the period covered by this report and, as a result of informal action taken by the Department, the following improvements were effected:—

Foodstuffs properly protected against contamination on	8 stalls
Stall-holders names and addresses properly displayed on	9 „
Refuse storage conditions improved at	21 „
Personal hygiene of stall holders improved at	2 „

In addition to these matters, following the consideration by the appropriate Committees of the Council of a special report in August, a general improvement was achieved in connection with

the storage and removal of refuse from the Market Place following the Thursday and Saturday markets. This improvement was largely due to the co-operation of the Borough Surveyor whose assistance, in this matter, I greatly appreciated.

The provision of a water supply for the use of stall holders at the Market was also secured during 1953 so that on the whole, the general position at the market with respect to the hygienic handling and storage of food may be said to have been greatly improved as a result of the efforts made during the year.

Apart from talks given to local organisations by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, no further organised lectures on Food Hygiene were arranged during the year. It is felt, however, that the constant attention which has been given to the supervision of food premises during recent years has been productive of a noticeable improvement in this regard and that good educational work is being done through the medium of the Sanitary Inspector's frequent visits to premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for sale.

ICE CREAM.

In view of the tendency for ice cream to be supplied by a comparatively small number of large manufacturers the number of ice cream samples taken for examination was reduced as compared with previous years. 24 samples were taken from retailers in the area and, of these, 22 samples were satisfactory and 2 samples failed to reach the accepted standard. 21 of the samples taken were produced outside the Borough and 3 were manufactured locally.

The gradings of the samples taken were as follows:—

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Ttl.
Locally produced ice cream ...	2	—	1	—	3
Ice cream made outside Banbury	16	4	—	1	21
	—	—	—	—	—
	18	4	1	1	24
	—	—	—	—	—

The year's results show that 91.7% of the samples taken were satisfactory and these results compare favourably with those of the previous year (91.5% satisfactory); for 1951 (90.5% satisfactory) and for 1950 (59.2% satisfactory).

The position generally with regard to ice cream may thus be said to be quite satisfactory—the standard being higher during 1953 than in any previous year.

There has been a great increase in the number of ice cream retailers in the area since the war and, last year, eight further premises were registered for the sale of this commodity.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS AND ORDERS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my eighth Annual Report on the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders in the Borough, this report covering the year 1953.

Although no outbreaks of scheduled diseases occurred in the area, the duties carried out by your officers were again most onerous and this part of our work continues to occupy a good deal of time. The continual growth of the local cattle market; the holding of more special sales and the inauguration of fortnightly Irish Cattle Sales are the main reasons for our increased activity in this regard and, when it is considered that the Banbury cattle market is now one of the largest—if not the largest—in the country, it will be appreciated that it is necessary for us to devote more attention to this work than is required in most other similar areas.

As indicated above, the number of animals passing through the market increased very considerably and the holding of markets on four days of the week was a frequent occurrence. This, of course, entailed more visits to the market by your Inspectors, especially early morning visits to check the efficiency of the cleansing of the premises between sales and, in addition, it was also necessary for the vehicle cleansing station to be staffed and operated each time the market was open.

I give below some comments on the various aspects of our work for the year, but would first like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Baths, Parks and Markets Committee of the Corporation for the support which is always so freely accorded to me and, secondly, I must pay tribute to my staff for their willing and efficient work. As I think is well understood, it is not possible to restrict our work in this field to the usual office hours and, on several occasions during the year—as in former years—it was necessary for your officers to be on duty during evenings, on Sundays and during public holidays, as well as carrying out early morning inspections of the market. I would, therefore, specially commend my staff, both technical and clerical, for their work in this important section of the Department's duties.

(1) Anthrax and Sheep Scab.

No outbreaks of either of these diseases were reported during 1953.

(2) Swine Fever.

Although a great many cases of Swine Fever occurred throughout the country during the year, no cases were reported in the Borough. As previously, I was able to assist the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry, on many occasions, in the tracing of pigs which had passed through the local market and, in this way, fairly constant liaison was maintained between the Department and the Divisional Officers of the Ministry.

(3) Foot and Mouth Disease.

Following the wide prevalence of this disease during 1952, the year now under review was noteworthy for the much lower incidence of Foot and Mouth Disease and no cases occurred either in Banbury or in the neighbourhood. On two occasions, animals which had been in contact with the disease in other areas were brought into the Borough, and it was necessary to put such stock under detention for the usual period. I am glad to report, however, that no actual development of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred.

(4) Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1950.

The number of licences issued authorising the movement of swine from the cattle market to private premises was 2,653, involving the movement of 17,969 animals. These figures are higher than those for 1952 and again illustrate the constant growth of the local market.

Four contraventions of the Order were reported to the appropriate Committee of the Corporation and, in two of these cases—being first offences—the persons responsible were cautioned by the Town Clerk. In the other two cases, however, legal proceedings were instituted and fines totalling £25 were imposed, together with costs of £1/1/0d. In addition, 14 cautions were issued by the Inspectors in respect of minor contraventions of the Order.

(5) Importation of Animals.

70 licences were received during the year authorising the movement of 3,297 Irish Cattle from the landing place to the cattle market and all these cattle were re-licensed to private premises—this involving the issue of 182 licences.

Towards the end of the year the market was licensed for the holding of fortnightly sales of Irish Cattle on Fridays and such markets have become a noteworthy feature of the work at the market and have placed a further burden upon your officers because such markets now involve, on every occasion, the licensing

of over 1,000 animals, together with the administration of the various Regulations which govern sales of this nature.

One caution was administered by the Town Clerk in respect of an offence under the Animals (Landing from Ireland etc.) Order, 1933.

(6) Sheep Dipping.

The number of sheep dipped in the Borough was 1,097 and, in each case, the single type dip was used. New Regulations, under the Sheep Scab Orders 1938 and 1948, are being made by the Corporation during 1954 and, when these are in operation, they will accord with similar new Regulations made by the Oxfordshire County Council.

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

During 1953, a total of 7,532 vehicles, used for the conveyance of animals, were cleansed and disinfected at the Corporation's cleansing station at the cattle market. This figure gives a weekly average of 144 vehicles for the year—a similar figure to that for the previous year. The income received by the Corporation in respect of this work was £410 10s. 6d.—an increase of £127 10s. 6d. when compared with the receipts for 1952. The increased revenue being due to the charge for this service being increased, towards the end of the year, from 1/- to 1/6d. per vehicle.

Strict supervision over the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles was again maintained and, on the whole, it can be said that the cleansing and disinfection of such vehicles is being carried out most satisfactorily. As has occurred in previous years, it was necessary to caution certain firms whose drivers had evaded the Regulations and 16 such cautions were given by your Inspectors. In one further case, it was necessary for me to administer a caution with respect to defective side rails to the ramp of a cattle carrying vehicle.

The number of washing bays at the cleansing centre was increased during the period under review and, at the close of the year, it was possible to cleanse and disinfect 9 vehicles at once as a result of this improvement. The new washing bays were constructed by the owners of the market and were equipped by the Corporation. Further extensions of the facilities in this connection have also been carried out during 1954 and at the time of preparing this report 13 washing bays were in operation.

(8) The Live Poultry (Restriction) Order.

The sale of poultry at the market was again under restriction

for the whole of the year and the auctioneers were licensed to enable them to hold weekly sales of poultry, intended for immediate slaughter, within the precincts of the market. In addition, they were licensed to hold sales of store poultry on premises adjoining, but not within the boundaries of the market premises. The poultry sales were kept under observation as far as was practicable during the period covered by this report and no serious contraventions of the Order were discovered.

(9) The Markets, Sales and Lairs (Amendment) Order, 1926.

The provisions of the above-mentioned Order were given constant attention during 1953 and a very large number of routine inspections in the early morning and at other relevant times were carried out. Several verbal requests had to be made for better cleansing and disinfection of the market between sales and one written caution was issued in this connection.

As a result of these warnings, increased efforts were made by the owners of the market to comply with the Order and, whilst it was not always possible to cleanse and disinfect the whole of the market on every occasion after a sale, it was found generally that the portion of the market which was to be used on a particular day had been cleansed and disinfected before it was so used.

The administration of this Order alone creates a good deal of work for your officers but, in view of the importance of the provisions of the Order, it was felt to be essential that the condition of the market between sales should be checked and regular inspections, i.e. on three or four occasions weekly, are specially made for this purpose—mainly in the early morning before the market gets into full operation.

The special attention given to these duties has resulted in a considerable improvement being effected, but the ever-increasing frequency of sales calls for even more attention to be paid to this matter by the owners of the market, and for the continual vigilance of your officers in enforcing the provisions of the Order.

(10) Fowl Pest.

No cases of this disease were reported in the area during 1953.

(11) General.

I cannot conclude this report without mentioning the excellent co-operation which exists between your officers and the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who are so closely associated with us in this work. I would specially record the advice and help which is always so freely accorded to me by Col. J. C.

Bennison, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., the Ministry's Divisional Inspector, and the members of his staff. In addition I would mention the help which I have received from the local Police on many occasions in the past year and would accordingly express my thanks to the Deputy Chief Constable, Superintendent Buckingham, and the officers serving under his control.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

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

Inspector under the Diseases
of Animals Acts and Orders.



