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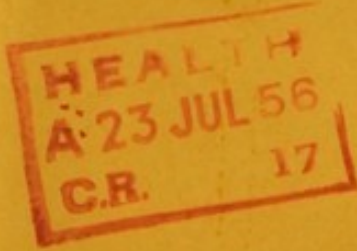
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BOROUGH OF BANBURY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

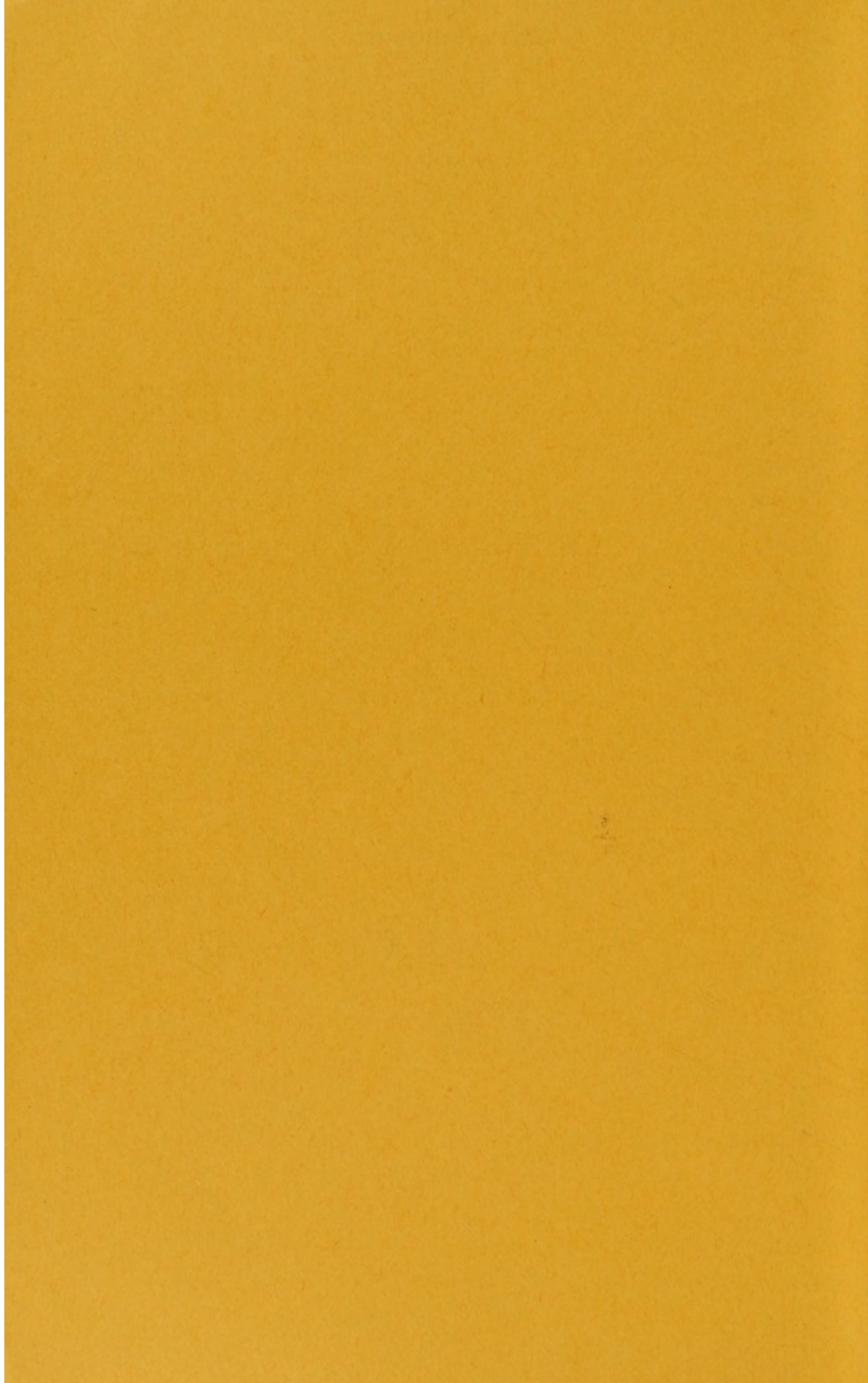
Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year

1955



BOROUGH OF BANBURY

Mayor-

COUNCILLOR L. C. WALKLETT, J. P.

Deputy Mayor-

ALDERMAN T. HASKINS, C. C.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman - COUNCILLOR L. G. F. HYDE.

Vice-Chairman- COUNCILLOR J. PORTERGILL.

ALDERMAN HASKINS
COUNCILLOR AULD
COUNCILLOR MISS BUSTIN.
COUNCILLOR CRINGAN.
COUNCILLOR DAWSON.

COUNCILLOR FOUNTAIN.
COUNCILLOR JELFS.
COUNCILLOR LOVE.
COUNCILLOR TRINDER.
COUNCILLOR WALTERS.

Town Clerk and Clerk of Peace - E. OWEN REID, Solicitor (TO AUG 1955).
Town Clerk and Clerk of Peace - F. G. E. BOYS, Solicitor (FROM SEPT 1955).

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.

C. R. Paling, M. S. I. A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors and Certified Meat Inspectors.

M. A. Belton, M. S. I. A. (To Nov. 1955)

D. H. HIBBERT M. S. I. A.

H. PHILLIPS, M. S. I. A. (From Dec. 1955).

Clerk.

Miss R. Harris (Shorthand Typist) (To Nov. 1955).

Miss J. G. Rix. (Shorthand Typist) (From Nov. 1955).

Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders.

G. Stevens.

Rodent Officer and Disinfection Officer:

J. O. Humphris.

Manager of Public Slaughterhouse:

T. W. Pargeter.

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, -

I beg to submit my nineteenth Annual Report, which records the Health Services of the Borough during 1955. The report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Circular 17/55 of the Ministry of Health.

Vital Statistics.

The vital statistics for the Borough appear to be satisfactory and compare favourable with those of the country as a whole.

The Birth Rate was 14.4 in 1955 compared with 15.8 in 1954 and 15.0 in England and Wales. The Still-birth Rate 24.7 per 1000 was much the same in 1954 (26 per 1000) (England and Wales 23.1).

The Death Rate was 11.6 as compared with 10.35 in 1954 and 11.7 in England and Wales.

The most common causes of death were:-

Heart Disease (including Coronary Thrombosis)	67
Vascular Diseases of Nervous System	45
Cancer	29
Other Diseases of Circulation	15
Pneumonia	14

A satisfactory feature is the considerable reduction in the number of deaths from Cancer, 29 as compared with 43 during the previous year. The number of deaths from Cancer of the lung was 4 compared with 10 during the previous year. It was suggested in last year's Annual Report that the increase in Banbury in 1954 was probably of a temporary character and this seems to be borne out by figures for 1955. Nevertheless this is not true of the country as a whole and the matter has recently received a great amount of publicity by the Press and by the B.B.C. Cigarette smoking has been implicated as a factor in its causation and benz-pyrene which is present in cigarettes is undoubtedly a cancer-producing agent, but it is also present in petrol and diesel oils, which have increased enormously in use in recent years.

There appears to be undoubtedly some relationship between cigarette-smoking and lung cancer, but in the case of petrol and diesel fumes the position is less clear. As far as the public are concerned probably the best advice on the subject is contained in a leading article in a recent issue of the "British Medical Journal" where it is stated:-

"There would seem to be no doubt that if young men and women to-day refrained from smoking cigarettes the mortality from lung cancer would drop sharply in say, twenty years

time. And it seems probable that if the middle-aged smoker gave up smoking his chances of escaping cancer of the lung would be increased. It is that long latent interval which takes away the sense of urgency It is essential to bring home to the youth of to-day the great dangers to life and health from smoking cigarettes, certainly in excess. Doctors, school teachers and parents should therefore be insistant in pointing out the dangers.

Although there were 4 deaths from Cancer of the lung during the year it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. B.C.G. Vaccination in the 13-14 age groups was started in the Borough in 1955 and the Mass Radiography Unit will visit Banbury early in 1956.

Housing

Housing continues to be the main public health problem in the Borough. The five years slum clearance programme submitted to the Ministry includes 444 houses in clearance areas and 31 individual unfit houses. Owing to lack of re-housing facilities, no clearance areas were dealt with during 1955 but it is hoped to make a start in 1956.

Overcrowding is still a serious problem and there are unfortunately a large number of cases where there are two or three families living in one small house. There still remains also the problem of caravans which has so far not been solved but it is hoped that during the course of the next year the site at the Marshes will be properly equipped and licensed

Infectious Diseases

1955 was an epidemic year for Measles; 431 cases occurred but apart from this the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases has been low. Scarlet Fever was less prevalent than usual (16 cases compared with 34 in 1954). No case of Diphtheria has been notified since 1950. Only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation are carried out at the School Clinic. B.C.G. Vaccination for Tuberculosis in the 13-14 age groups was started in the autumn of 1955, and it is hoped to start immunisation for Poliomyelitis in 1956.

Food Hygiene

Four cases of infection from Salmonella Typhi-murium were notified; three were in members of the same family, the infections being acquired outside the Borough.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of cases of Food Poisoning throughout the country generally since the war and this has been attributed to the increase in Communal Feeding in school and factory canteens and the use of made-up dishes, which are particularly liable to become contaminated with food poisoning organisms. A consider-

able number of sporadic cases and carriers of Salmonella infection are discovered by the Public Health Laboratory each year and there seems to be no doubt that there is a fairly high carrier rate in the population. This means that there must be increased vigilance and care by all who handle food.

This is emphasised in the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 which place increased responsibilities on Local Authorities in this connection. Sanitary Inspectors are now required to visit school and factory canteens, childrens' and old peoples' homes as well as shops, hostels and restaurants.

Nearly 2000 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to food premises in 1955 and in view of the new regulations it seems likely that this number will be far exceeded in 1956. The regulations contain many new provisions and should help greatly to raise the standard of hygiene both with regard to premises and personnel. Although no organised course of lectures was given to food handlers during the year, a great deal of valuable educational work was done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the course of their routine duties.

Staff.

During the year two senior officers of the Council, the Town Clerk, Mr. E. Owen Reid and the Borough Surveyor Mr. Sidney Hilton retired and I should like to express my appreciation of the valuable co-operation which I have had from them during the past 18 years, and wish them every happiness in their retirement from Local Government Service.

With regard to the staff of the Public Health Department, Mr. Belton, Additional Sanitary Inspector resigned to take up an appointment under Aylesbury Rural District Council and was succeeded by Mr. H. Phillips.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the capable and efficient administration of his department, and the members of his staff for their loyal support.

I should like also to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support of the work of the Department.

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 (1955 Estimated Reg. Gen)	...	...	...	19,130
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£303,643
Product of Penny rate	...	...	...	£1,200

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1955.

Live Births.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	141	113	254
Illegitimate	...	...	13	9	22
			<u>154</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>276</u>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population... 14.4
(England and Wales - 15.0)

Stillbirths.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	2	5	7
Illegitimate	...	...	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
			<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>

RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths) ... 24.7
(England and Wales - 23 . per 1000)

Deaths.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	108	109	217

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimates Population... 11.6
(England and Wales 11.7.)

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

		Number.	Rate.
All Infants per 1,000 live Births	...	11	39.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate			
Live Births	...	10	39.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate			
Live Births	...	1	45.5

(England and Wales - 24.9)

Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Causes: Legitimate:	Prematurity	...	2
	Congenital Heart Disease		1
	Atalectasis	...	1
	Broncho-Pneumonia	...	3
	Infective Hepatitis	...	1
	Hydrocephalus	...	1
	Anencephaly	...	1
Illegitimate:	Hydrocephalus	...	1

Causes of Death, 1955.

	Males	Females	Total
Measles	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasms (Stomach)	4	3	7
Malignant neoplasms (lung: bronchus)...	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasms (breast)	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	7	16
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	29	45
Coronary disease, angina	23	10	33
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4	6
Other heart disease	12	16	28
Other circulatory disease	5	10	16
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	6	8	14
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	-	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	3
Enlarged prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy and childbirth	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	7	13
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
Other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	4	4
	<u>108</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>217</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	29
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Measles (all ages)	1

Classification of Cancer Deaths.

	M.	F.		M.	F.
Breast	-	2	Stomach	4	3
Uterus	-	-	Other Sites	9	7
Lung	4	-			

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 greater part of the work is now carried out at the Horton General Hospital.

Full details of this are not available.

The following are the details of the work carried out at the Oxford Laboratory during 1955.

SWABS.....	Number examined	18
	Positive for Haemolytic Streptococci	5
	Negative	13
FAECES.....	Number examined	1
OTHER EXAMINATIONS	... ..	1

(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 Warwick Road.	Every Tuesday 3 p.m.
11. Whooping Cough Immunisation.	" "	Every Tuesday 3 p.m.

Puerperal Pyrexia - 2 cases occurred during the year.

Maternal Deaths - There was 1 maternal death during the year.

Illegitimate Children

There were 22 illegitimate births during the year. Of these 1 died before reaching the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 45.5 per 1,000 as against 39.3 for legitimate children.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

No action has been necessary in the Borough during the year.

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 1955 the supply was constant and sufficient.

During the year 61 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 (21 separate premises), all are on the public supply.

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 1955 included:-

Drains cleared of obstruction ...	27
Drains repaired or relaid ...	20
Soilpipes repaired ...	3
Inspection chambers provided ...	2

3. Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy Board exercises general supervision over the rivers and streams in the Borough. The water-courses conveying storm water received attention from the Sanitary Inspector during the year and 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	...	...	2
W.C. Compartments repaired	...	...	54
W.C. Compartments cleansed	...	...	36
W.C. Pedestals provided	...	...	22
W.C. cisterns provided	...	...	8
Elsan closets provided (on building sites etc.)			7

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

The suggested five year's programme of slum clearance work, recommended in a report submitted to the Public Health Committee in March, 1955, was approved by the Council in June and the proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during that month.

These proposals were for the inclusion of 444 houses in clearance or compulsory purchase areas and for the dealing with of a further 31 individual unfit houses during the five years programme.

In October, the Ministry requested details of the first year's programme and, following a report to the Committee, a list of 93 houses (in 11 areas) and 8 individual unfit houses was approved by the Council as the suggested first years stage of the slum clearance programme.

Owing to the lack of rehousing facilities no areas were represented during 1955 but, subject to the Corporations building programme proceeding as expected, it is hoped to commence active work under the programme during 1956.

As in previous years, a good deal of housing repair work was carried out as a result of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors - 302 houses being repaired under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Housing Act, 1936 during the period under review.

The records show that since 1946 the following work has been carried out in the Borough under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(a) Houses demolished by formal or informal action	27
(b) Houses permanently closed following formal or informal action	25
(c) Houses repaired or reconditioned under Section 9	506
(d) Houses at which work was carried out in default of owners.	31

SECTION E.

INSPECTION OF MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Milk Supply.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Corporation's duties with respect to milk supply has been mainly concerned with 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 is dealt with by the County Council.

The work of the Public Health Department in this connection therefore, during 1955, has been mainly in connection with the inspection of dairies and the sampling of milk. 46 visits of inspection were recorded and 64 samples of milk have been taken.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/54 and the Milk (Special Designations), (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949/54, the following licences were granted by the Corporation:-

Dealers' Licences (T.T. Milk)	...	5
Dealers' Licences (Pasteurised Milk)		2

Routine milk sampling was maintained throughout the year and the following statistics show the number and results of the samples taken:-

Type of Milk	Samples Taken	Samples Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Past.)	24	22
Pasteurised	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>
	<u>64</u>	<u>62</u>

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 conclude that the town's milk supply is at present highly satisfactory.

(b) Meat Inspection

During 1955, as in the eight 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.	882		4179		3908		61	
	No.	Weight.	No.	Weight.	No.	Weight.	No.	Weight.
Carcases Condemned:-								
Tuberculosis	2	1204	-	-	1	214	-	-
Other Diseases	2	675	17	866	1	30	1	16
Totals (a)	4	1879	17	866	2	244	1	16
Parts of Carcasses & Organs condemned:-								
Meat	-	309	-	180	-	516	-	18
Total Offal	4	190	17	52	2	16	1	2
Livers	153	2056	114	233	93	294	-	-
Lungs	42	433	76	143	315	695	-	-
Heads	51	1347	-	-	91	1174	-	-
Tongues	54	363	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spleens	2	6	-	-	2	5	-	-
Intestines	5	135	-	-	1	5	-	-
Kidneys	4	56	-	-	10	33	-	-
Mes. Fat	10	103	-	-	13	31	-	-
Skirts	5	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plucks	-	-	2	12	23	200	-	-
Hearts	34	167	1	1	44	34	-	-
Totals (b)	364	5178	210	621	594	3003	1	20
Total weight (a) & (b) in lbs.	-	7057	-	1487	-	3247	-	36

The following table, in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives further details of the incidence of tuberculosis, cysticercosis and other diseases occurring in food animals slaughtered and inspected in the Borough during 1955:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	HORSES
Number killed (if known)	881	71	61	4179	3908	-
Number inspected	881	71	61	4179	3908	-
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	1	17	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	188	39	2	206	472	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	23.4%	50.5%	4.9%	5.3%	12.1%	-
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	55	7	-	-	92	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.9%	11.3%	-	-	2.3%	-
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	1	-	-	-	-
Carcass submitted to treatment by refrigeration	17	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

(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	...	...	33 Tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	135 Tins
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	42 Tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	164 Tins
Tinned Soup	...	...	6 Tins
Tinned Jam	...	...	7 Tins
Tinned Steak	...	...	8 Tins
Tinned Ham	...	...	18 Tins
Tinned Tomatoes	...	...	83 Tins
Tinned Fruit Juices	...	...	6 Tins

SUNDRIES.

Wet Fish	...	...	...	35 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	88½ lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	6½ lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	78½ lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	14½ lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	1 lb.
Cake	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Jellies	...	...	...	12 packets.
Sugar	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Sweets	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Cocoanut	...	...	...	2 packets.
Flour	...	...	...	8 packets.
Cereals	...	...	...	9 packets.
Sauces	...	...	...	7 bottles.
Pickles	...	...	...	7 lbs.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

4 cases of Food Poisoning occurred in the Borough during 1955.

Slaughterhouses.

Following the decontrol of meat and livestock in June, 1954, the Corporation took over the lease of the Banbury Centralised Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road, Banbury, as from the 1st July, 1954, and these premises are now being used as a Public Abattoir. There are no other licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, the Corporation having determined not to grant or renew any such licences in accordance with the provisions of Section 4(2) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, by the terms of a resolution approved in September, 1954.

The Corporation has provided the necessary staff of slaughtermen at the Swan Close Road premises and the abattoir, which is supervised by a manager, working under the control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector has functioned most satisfactorily both from the public health angle and from the point of view of the butchers in Banbury and the surrounding area. Details of the work carried out during 1955 appear in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Clean Food Campaigns.

As will be seen from the annual report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, 1,960 visits to food premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year and, considerable educational work, of the utmost value, was carried out in the course of these routine inspections.

In addition although no organised course of lectures dealing especially with Clean Food was given during the year, informal talks to various local organisations were given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and on these occasions opportunity was taken to emphasise the importance of Clean Food.

Byelaws under Food and 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.

During the period of the Annual Fair in October, 1955, special attention was again paid to the observance of the Clean Food Byelaws by the occupiers of stalls dealing in food stuffs and, although conditions were, on the whole, more satisfactory than in previous years, it was necessary to issue several verbal cautions in respect of minor offences under the Byelaws.

Further details of the work in this connection will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following statistics, required by the Ministry, are given in respect of food premises in the Borough:-

(1) No. of Food Premises on record.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	15
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	21
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	38
Confectioners and Sweet Shops	...	...	...	29
Dairies	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	5
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	6
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	11
Greengrocers Shops	...	...	...	19
Grocers and General Shops	...	...	...	54
Public Houses and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	65

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

(a) For the manufacture or storage of ice cream	...	98
(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:-

6

(4) No. of inspections of Registered Food Premises.

Full details of this work are recorded in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(5) Method of Disposal of condemned food.

Generally by disposal at the Corporation's refuse tip.

SECTION F.

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

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1955.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever	16	11	-
Measles	431	1	1
Whooping Cough	51	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Salmonella Infection	4	1	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
	512	14	1

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	-	-	2	2	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	36	58	47	56	222	3	3	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	7	5	4	9	21	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1
Salmonella Infection	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	9	44	65	53	68	254	3	6	5	1	3	1

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases occurred during the year, both at the Elms Maternity Home. One was due to Influenza, the other due to a mild puerperal infection.

The staff was swabbed once a month with a view to detecting streptococcal carriers.

Scarlet Fever.

16 cases occurred during the year of which 11 were removed to the Pines Isolation Hospital and five treated at home. 9 cases occurred in school children, 7 in children under school age and none in adults.

Whooping Cough.

51 cases occurred during the year.

No. of children immunised at School Clinic:- 61

Diphtheria.

No cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year. There have been no cases in the Borough since 1950.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following figures show the cases immunised at the School Clinic, Warwick Road:-

Under 5 years ...	...	78
School Children	...	26
Re-inforcement Doses	...	138

Poliomyelitis.

One case occurred during the year, a paralytic case in an adult male, who was removed to the Slade Hospital, Oxford.

Salmonella Infections.

4 cases occurred, the infection being due to Salmonella Typhi-murium in each case. All were isolated cases, unassociated with each other.

Measles.

1955 was an epidemic year for Measles. 431 cases occurred with one death 222 cases occurred in school children.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 to 5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	-

B. C. G. Vaccination.

At the present time the Ministry of Health have agreed to B. C. G. Vaccination for the following groups of individuals.

1. Contacts to cases of Tuberculosis (infants and young children in particular.)
2. Nurses, Medical students and others who are normally in contact with cases.
3. Children in the 13-14 age group.

The first two groups are normally dealt with through the Chest Clinic but the third group (school children between 13 and 14) is dealt with by the School Health Service. Vaccination was carried out for the first time in the Autumn of 1955.

The number of children in the age group in the Banbury Schools - i.e. all the Secondary Modern Schools (St. Marys, St. John's, Easington and Grimsbury), the Grammar School and the Technical School was 380. 83.6% consented to vaccination, 16.4% were positive to the initial skin test (Heaf Test). This means that these children did not require vaccination. Of the remainder 95.9% were successfully vaccinated.

BOROUGH OF BANBURY

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1954
Part I of the Act.

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

Premises.	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities ...	23	13	2	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	132	121	8	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	12	10	5	-
TOTAL:	167	144	15	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) Insufficient	5	5	-	-	-
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) unsuitable or defective	7	7	-	1	-
Other offences	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL:	15	15	-	1	-

3. Outworkers.

No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110(1)(c) ... 15

(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 THE YEAR 1955.**

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

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of submitting to you my tenth annual report which records the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1955 and, in doing so, I have again to report good progress in all aspects of our many duties.

The work carried out by my section of your Public Health Department is not of a spectacular nature - in fact much of it is quite the reverse - but I feel that the records presented in this report demonstrate the careful watch which is kept on the environment and the food supplies of the inhabitants of the Borough. Much of our work is of a routine character and is quite unknown to many of those for whose benefit it is performed but I think it is still true to say that, without a satisfactory and efficient environmental health service, the general health of the town, and the country, would not be so satisfactory as it is today. In other words, for healthy living it is still necessary to ensure pure water, clean air, healthy housing and working conditions, freedom from infection and disease together with a pure and unadulterated food supply and it is to these ends that the work recorded in this report has been carried out.

The main emphasis of our duties during 1955 was again on housing work and responsibilities connected with the supervision of food and food premises but, in spite of these primary calls upon our time, it was possible to maintain our usual routine work in other directions.

In connection with housing work, the completion of the special survey with respect to proposed slum clearance and the preparation of the five year programme accounted for a good deal of time but it was possible also, as shown later in this report, to resume routine housing inspection for the repair and reconditioning of houses which are expected to remain in use for a great many years.

Meat and food inspection, the sampling of milk and ice cream, and the supervision of food premises were other duties which received considerable attention whilst the inspection of van dwellings, the supervision of drainage work and the routine inspection of various premises such as shops, factories and the like were given their customary attention.

The public slaughterhouse, established in July, 1954, functioned most satisfactorily during the year and I am certain that the provision thus made by the Corporation is one which is of benefit to the town from the public health point of view.

Work under the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders is also one of the major functions of the Department but, as mentioned in my last report, the wise decision of the Corporation to appoint a full-time Inspector for this work, has been of great benefit to the Department in so far as it has allowed the Sanitary Inspectors to devote themselves much more to the duties for which they are specially trained.

As has happened too frequently during recent years, I have again to record two staff changes - both of which took place in the latter part of the year. In October, Mr. M.A. Belton, Additional Sanitary Inspector, left us to take up a new post as Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor with the Aylesbury Rural District Council and Miss Rhonywn Harris, the Clerk/Typist in the office resigned, after nearly seven years service, on the occasion of her marriage. I should be failing in my duty if I did not place on record the most efficient and loyal services rendered to the Corporation and to the Department by Miss Harris whilst she was with us.

During the year also, the Corporation lost the services of Mr. E. Owen Reid, the Town Clerk, and Mr. Sidney Hilton, the Borough Surveyor, both of whom retired, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying a tribute to the help and support I have received from both these officers during the past ten years.

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

Finally, I would again express my thanks to my own staff - both technical and clerical because, as I have said in previous reports, it is in the main due to their efficient work and loyal co-operation that I am able to present another record of a satisfactory year's work.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. APPLEYARD.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1956.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE. 1955.

Public Health Act.

Houses inspected	...	...	196
Verminous premises	...	...	13
Infectious Disease enquiries	...	...	32
Drainage Inspections	...	...	304
Re-visits and work in progress	...	...	1059
Van dwellings	...	...	231
Smoke abatement	...	...	45
Streams and watercourses	...	...	38
Vacant land and refuse dumps	...	...	53
Canal boats	...	...	4
Water Sampling	...	...	16
Public houses - conveniences	...	...	125
Refuse accommodation	...	...	204

Housing Act.

Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	780
Re-visits and work in progress	...	...	1062
Housing applications	...	...	11
Improvement grant applications	...	...	29

Factories Act.

Factories inspected	...	...	121
Workplaces inspected	...	...	13
Outworkers premises inspected	...	...	14

Shops Act.

Shops inspected (health and comfort provisions)	...	...	96
Shops inspected (closing hours and records)	...	...	136
Shops re-inspected	...	...	16

Food and Drugs Act.

Bakehouses	...	...	32
General food shops	...	...	548
Fried fish shops	...	...	17
Food preparing premises	...	...	66
Slaughterhouse	...	...	502
Knackers yard	...	...	9
Public Houses	...	...	101
Public Markets	...	...	159
Food inspection visits	...	...	112
Restaurants and cafes	...	...	111
Ice-cream premises	...	...	106
Food vehicles	...	...	53
Dairies	...	...	46
Milk sampling visits	...	...	55
Ice-cream sampling visits	...	...	43

Miscellaneous.

Rats and mice	...	...	191
Swimming Pools	...	...	9

Cinemas and Public halls	...	...	...	6
Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	476
Interviews with owners and builders	...	...	...	733
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	41
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	1281
Pet Animals Act visits	...	...	...	28
Rag Flock Act visits	...	...	...	2
Total visits and inspections made...				<u>9295</u>

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH, 1955.

Type of Notice.	Out- standing 31.12.54	Served 1955	Complied with 1955	Out- standing 31.12.55
Public Health Act-prelim	45	194	211	28
Public Health Act-Statutory	38	53	61	30
Housing Act- Prelim	12	50	26	36
Housing Act-Statutory	18	5	4	19
Factories Act-Informal	6	15	16	5
Shops Act - Informal	7	2	4	5
Food and Drugs Act-Informal	16	18	16	18
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act - Informal	1	1	1	1
Milk and Dairies Regulations Informal	-	-	-	-
Canal Boats Regulations - Informal	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	143	338	339	142

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED, NOTICES COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND PREMISES IMPROVED 1955.

	Public Health and Housing Acts	Food and Drugs Act	Factories Act.	Misc. Acts and Regs	Totals
Inspections made	4202	1960	148	2737	9295
Notices served	302	18	15	1	338
Notices complied with.	302	16	16	1	339
Defects remedied	640	101	19	5	779
Premises improved	302	36	16	2	350

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1955.

(a) Dwelling Houses.

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	34
External walls re-pointed	...	...	40
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	14
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	33
Dampness abated generally	...	...	34
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	26
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	14
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	25
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	91
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed			11
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	10
Sinks repaired, renewed or provided	...	...	2
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	13
Repairs to water supplies	...	...	2
Food stores provided or repaired	...	...	3
New sashcords to windows provided	...	...	22
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	11
Doors and woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	32
Chimneys and stacks repaired	...	...	24
Yards and passages paved or repaired	...	...	3
Coalhouses provided or repaired	...	...	2
Interior water supplies provided	...	...	1
Town's water provided to houses(hitherto well supplies)-			
Additional light or ventilation provided	...	...	7
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated	...	...	25
Handrails provided in staircases	...	...	3
Houses closed or demolished	...	...	2
Drains cleared of obstructions	...	...	27
Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	16
Inspection chambers provided to drains	...	...	2
Soil pipes, vent. shafts, etc., repaired	...	...	3
W.C. Compartments repaired and cleansed	...	...	22
W.C. Pedestals provided	...	...	22
New dustbins provided	...	...	51
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	1
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed.	...	...	8
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	20
Additional water closets provided	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns provided to W.Cs. hitherto without			-
Elsan closets provided to caravans	...	...	2

(b) Shops Acts.

Water closets cleansed and repaired	...	...	6
Notices re Early Closing Day exhibited	...	...	2
Notices re Assistants' Half Holiday exhibited...			2
Abstract of Act provided	...	...	1
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	-
Washing facilities provided	...	...	-
Young persons records kept	...	...	2
Notices re seats exhibited	...	...	1

(c) Factories.

Water closets cleansed, repaired, etc	...	6
W.Cs. marked for sexes	...	4
Additional W.C. Provided	...	1
Elsan closets provided on building sites	...	5
Artificial light provided to W.Cs.	...	2
Intervening ventilated space provided to W.C.	...	1

(d) Bakehouses.

Water closets repaired and cleansed	...	2
Bakehouses cleansed and redecorated	...	2
Structural repairs completed	...	1
Flour stores cleansed and redecorated	...	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	1
Additional lighting and ventilation provided	...	1
Clean towels provided	...	1
Confectionery trays cleansed	...	1
Floors, etc., cleansed	...	2
Apparatus cleansed	...	3
Drainage repairs	...	3
Soap and 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	...	-
Shops cleansed and redecorated	...	1
Food storage rooms re-decorated	...	7
W.C's. cleansed and repaired	...	1
Structural repairs completed	...	3
Dustbins provided or properly sited	...	3
Food Storage facilities improved	...	4
Floors cleansed	...	3
Soap and towels provided	...	1
Miscellaneous improvements	...	2
Additional W.C. provided	...	1
Apparatus cleansed	...	3

(g) Cafes and Public Houses.

Constant hot water supplies provided	...	1
Rooms and cellars cleansed and redecorated	...	20
Water closets cleansed and repaired	...	12
Urinals provided, repaired and suitably screened	...	8
Structural repairs completed	...	12
Sinks provided	...	1
Drainage repairs	...	1
Chipped crockery withdrawn	...	2
Apparatus cleansed	...	6
Food storage improved	...	2
Refuse and storage improved	...	1

COMPLAINTS

During the year, 141 written or verbal complaints were received at the office and these were in respect of the following matters:-

Defective water closets	...	...	...	14
Defective house roofs	...	...	...	8
Choked and defective drains	...	...	...	40
Offensive smells	...	...	...	16
Burst water pipes	...	...	...	1
Inadequate water supply	...	...	...	1
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	3
Dumping of refuse	...	...	...	1
Flooding of cellars	...	...	...	4
Defective gutters and rainwater pipes	...	...	...	5
Defective ranges and fireplaces	...	...	...	2
Verminous or dirty premises	...	...	...	4
Dampness	...	...	...	3
Smoke and Chimney nuisances	...	...	...	13
Nuisances from animals	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	1
Choked ditch	...	...	...	1
Dangerous structures	...	...	...	2
Dust nuisances	...	...	...	1
General defects	...	...	...	19
				<hr/>
				141
				<hr/>

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

During the period under review, 27 choked drains were dealt with by the Department and, at a further 21 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 3 additional water closets; the repair of 59 water closet compartments; the provision of 24 new pedestal pans and the repair or renewal of 7 flushing cisterns.

In addition to these improvements, 1 washing basin was provided at a food premises in the area following a request by your Inspectors.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The incidence of infectious disease was again low during 1955 and, as a consequence, the Sanitary Inspectors made only 32 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 54 new dustbins were supplied at various premises in the Borough following the service of notices by the Department under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

VAN DWELLINGS

231 visits of inspection were made to van dwellings in the area, 75 of these visits being paid to caravans coming into the town for the period of the annual Michaelmas Fair.

The persons occupying the fair vehicles comprised 84 adult males, 93 adult females and 41 children and, as in previous years, I am able to report that no serious cases of overcrowding were found in the course of these inspections and that, on the whole, the caravans were clean and well maintained. No cases of infectious disease were met with during the survey of these caravans and, after their departure, inspections of the sites occupied by them showed that they had been left in a clean and tidy condition.

It is to be regretted that no properly constructed caravan site is yet available in the Borough. The proposals of the new owner of the proposed site at the Marshes, Southam Road, suffered several unavoidable delays during the year but it is hoped that 1956 will see extensive improvements completed there and the site licenced. In the meantime, the several caravans at present on this site are being allowed to remain until the future of the land is clarified.

A colony of caravans was established in Grimsbury during the year and, as the site was unlicenced and not properly equipped for the purpose, the Corporation - and the Town Planning Authority - put in hand action calculated to secure the removal of the van dwellings from the unauthorised site.

As in many other similar areas, the problem of caravans shows no signs of diminution but every effort is made by your officers to keep the position under control and to ensure, as far as is possible, the prevention of nuisances from caravan sites.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

20 Rooms infested by vermin were disinfested by the Department and 13 inspections of such premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. In each case the infested premises were dealt with satisfactorily and the decrease in the number of cases of infestation by vermin, which has been noticed during recent years, was again evident during 1955.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No applications for registration under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act were received during 1955.

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 these duties, 96 shops were inspected with respect to the "health and comfort" provisions of the Act and 136 inspections were recorded in relation to closing hours, the employment of young persons, and the keeping of records. Apart from these 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 responsibilities under the Act.

As a result of the inspections made it was found necessary to serve 10 informal notices. As a result of this action water closets at 6 shops were cleansed or repaired; proper notices were exhibited at 8 premises and, at two shops, satisfactory records were instituted in respect of the employment of young persons.

HOUSING

The basic and most onerous duty of your public health officers continues to be housing work and the year under review again saw a considerable amount of time and thought being devoted to our duties in this connection.

A total of 976 inspections of houses was recorded - 196 houses being dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936, and 780 premises were inspected and recorded under the provisions of the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations. The large increase in the number of houses inspected under the latter regulations being accounted for by (a) the completion of the special survey in connection with the Corporation's proposals for a five year programme of slum clearance work and (b) by the resumption of housing repair work and the reconditioning of houses.

As a result of the inspections made, it was found necessary to serve 244 informal notices and 58 statutory notices and, during the year, 237 informal notices and 65 statutory notices were complied with. The number of dwelling houses repaired was, therefore, 302 and, in 3 instances, it was necessary for the Corporation to carry out work in default of the owners under the provisions of Sections 39, 45 and 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, respectively.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health and myself in respect of the proposed slum clearance programme was approved by the Council in June, 1955, and the proposals were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the same month. These proposals envisage the inclusion of 444 houses in areas together with the representation of 31 individual unfit houses during the same period. At the request of the Ministry, the first year's programme was compiled in October - this section of the scheme containing proposals for dealing with 101 houses during the first year.

No clearance or compulsory purchase areas had been declared at the close of the year but it is hoped to commence active work under the programme during 1956.

Nine applications for certificates of disrepair under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received during the period covered by this report and four certificates were revoked following the completion of the necessary repairs by the owners concerned.

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES

The usual routine inspections of the factories and bakehouses in the Borough were carried out and 180 visits of inspec-

tion were made to such premises. As a result of these inspections and following requests from the Department, 21 premises were improved and 39 defects or contraventions remedied -details of this work being recorded on page 24 of this report.

CANAL BOATS.

Four canal boats were inspected during the year and no contraventions were found on any of the boats visited. No cases of infectious disease were met with on any of these boats and, once again, I am able to report on the satisfactory state of cleanliness in which these boats are now usually kept.

Following the sale and re-naming of a locally registered canal boat, the boat was re-registered by the Corporation during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The usual attention was given to the work of rodent control in the Borough and, as in former years, the Corporation continued their policy of giving a free service with respect to private dwellings and of making a charge for rodent destruction work carried out at business premises.

The following table shows the work done during the year and, in the case of surface infestations, comparative figures for the four previous years are given.

(a) Surface Infestations.

		<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
No. of complaints received	...	121	117	97	81	124
No. of premises inspected	...	1867	2214	2171	2061	1940
No. of revisits made...	...	1086	1116	868	539	710
No. of premises cleared	...	395	435	435	426	432
Amount of bait laid (lbs).	...	676	667	703	656	822
Actual rat bodies found	...	672	753	707	687	701

(b) Sewer Infestations.

During September, 1955 and March, 1956 the Corporations Sewers were again dealt with on the lines suggested by the Ministry. The first treatment, carried out in September, consisted of a test-baiting of those parts of the sewers which had previously showed signs of infestation and, out of 34 sewer manholes baited, 8 showed signs of rats. Immediately after this test baiting, a further 63 manholes were baited in various parts of the town and 21 "takes" were recorded. In March, the portions of the sewers showing infestation during the September treatment were again dealt with together with those portions of the sewers which had shown signs of infestation on previous occasions and, out of 41 manholes baited, 18 showed the presence of rats.

The results of the year's working shows that satisfactory attention has been given to this part of our work and it would seem that, on the whole, there is a gradual decrease in the number of premises showing signs of infestation by rats and mice.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

This topic is one which received a considerable amount of national publicity during the period covered by this report and, at the time of writing this paragraph, a new "Clean Air Bill" is being considered by the Standing Committee of the House of Commons. The Bill is likely to receive much amendment before it becomes an Act and further comment on its proposals is of little use at the moment.

Locally, the matter received attention from your officers and 22 formal observations of factory chimneys were recorded. On six occasions, excessive black smoke was noted from three premises and, following advisory visits to the factories concerned, I am able to record that subsequent observations did not reveal any necessity for further action by the Corporation.

Apart from these formal observations, the District Sanitary Inspectors kept a watchful eye on the chimneys in their respective areas and, during the year, they paid 23 advisory visits to factories for the purpose of interviewing stokers and engineers when short bursts of black smoke were noticed.

Three complaints regarding smoke nuisances were received and enquires into these complaints showed that, in the case of a large dairy, the trouble was due to a breakdown of the mechanical stoker and that, at the other two premises, unsuitable fuel and unskilled stoking appeared to be the cause of excessive smoke.

In general, it can be said that the smoke problem in this area is not a very serious one but, with the increasing industrialisation of the Borough, it is one which needs the constant vigilance of your officers.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

(a) Meat Inspection.

As in previous years, all animals slaughtered for human food in the Borough were inspected prior to sale and the following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected together with the carcasses, parts of carcasses and organs which were rejected as being unfit:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Slaughtered and Inspected:	952	4179	3908	61	9100
2. Whole Carcasses Condemned :					
(a) Tuberculosis	2	-	1	-	3
(b) Other Diseases	2	17	1	1	21
3. Parts of Carcasses and Organs Condemned:					
(a) Tuberculosis	62	-	92	-	154
(b) Other Diseases	227	206	472	2	907
(c) Cysticercosis	18	-	-	-	18

The total weight of meat and offal rejected was approximately 5½ tons - a figure which is considerably less than that recorded during previous years.

(b) Other Foods.

In addition to the unsound meat detailed above a considerable amount of tinned foods and other unsound foodstuffs were dealt with - 112 visits of inspection being recorded for this purpose. Full details of all unsound meat and food are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health attached hereto.

(c) Public Slaughterhouse.

The Public Slaughterhouse, which has been in operation since the 1st July, 1954, functioned most satisfactorily during the year under review and, once again, I can sincerely commend the manager and the slaughtermen for the efficient manner in which they have performed their duties and for the high quality of the dressed carcasses they have produced.

The number of animals slaughtered amounted to 9,100 - comprising 952 cattle; 4179 sheep; 3908 pigs and 61 calves - and the fees received for slaughtering charges, lairage fees and refrigeration charges amounted to £3296. 9s. 9d.

During the early part of the year the number of animals dealt with fell somewhat on account of Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions and the high price of stock in the Markets but the second half of the year showed a definite increase in the number of animals slaughtered as compared with 1954. This increase has continued into the present year (1956) and has shown that the premises are being increasingly used by butchers in the Borough and in the adjoining rural areas.

There is no doubt that, from a public health point of view, the public slaughterhouse is an asset to the town and has enabled your officers to maintain an efficient meat inspection service in the area. Apart from this, I am satisfied that the provision which has been made has been greatly appreciated by the butchers in Banbury and the surrounding area.

(d) Slaughtermens' Licences.

During the year the licences of 13 slaughtermen were renewed and two new licences were granted under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

MILK CONTROL.

The usual 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 below show the results of the samples of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk taken during the year together with the results of the four previous years:-

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Samples taken	64	75	82	88	56
Samples satisfactory	62	72	76	84	55
Samples not satisfactory	2	3	6	4	1

Two dealers' licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949/54 were issued during the year and five dealers' licenses were granted under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/54.

The dairies were maintained in a satisfactory condition by their owners during the year and on only 2 occasions was it necessary for informal action to be taken in respect of contraventions of the Regulations.

FOOD PREMISES.

A considerable amount of attention was again paid to the food premises in the Borough and, as will be seen from the figures given below, further progress was again made in raising the standard of food premises and of food hygiene in the area. The efforts of the Corporation in this direction, which have now continued for some years, are becoming increasingly apparent in the noticeably higher standard of premises and methods of handling food in the area and I would again pay tribute to the food traders for their co-operation in this regard.

The premises at which improvements were effected during 1955 comprised:-

Grocers Shops	...	...	2	Fishmongers & Greengrocers	1
Butchers Shops	...	...	2	Fried Fish Shops	1
Bakehouses	...	...	5	General Food Premises	4
Public Houses	...	...	11		
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	8		

The various improvements carried out at the 34 premises concerned are summarised in the following list:-

	Premises
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated at ...	26
Structural repairs and improvements at ...	14
Refuse storage facilities improved at ...	3
Food storage facilities improved at ...	4
Constant hot water supplies provided at ...	1
New washing basins provided at ...	1
Floors cleansed at ...	2
Equipment cleansed ...	8
Soap and clean towels provided at ...	2
Sanitary conveniences improved at ...	10

During the year under review a total of 1,960 visits of inspection were made under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Byelaws and, in the same period, 18 informal notices were served requesting improvements and 16 notices were complied with. This resulted in the remedying of 101 defects or contraventions and the consequent improvement of 34 food premises.

PUBLIC HOUSES.

The survey of public houses in respect of the condition and sufficiency of sanitary conveniences and the facilities

for the proper cleansing of glasses after use has been continued and further progress was achieved in the carrying out of these desirable improvements. Up to the end of the year sinks had been provided in, or in close proximity to, the bars at 25 premises; constant supplies of hot and cold water had been laid on to bar sinks at 33 premises; beer cellars had been cleansed and redecorated at 23 premises and at 40 premises the sanitary conveniences had been brought up to a more satisfactory standard. In all, therefore, 52 premises have now been improved in some of the respects mentioned and, in addition, work is at present in progress or on order at several other licensed premises in the area.

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 again reduced as compared with recent years. 42 samples were taken from retailers and producers in the area and, of these, 37 samples were satisfactory and 5 samples failed to reach the accepted standard.

37 of the samples taken were produced outside the Borough and 5 were manufactured locally.

The gradings of the samples taken were as follows:-

	<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Locally produced ice cream	2	2	1	0	5
Ice cream made outside Banbury	30	3	2	2	37
	<u>32</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>42</u>

The year's results show that 88% of the samples were satisfactory and, as these results are better than those obtained in the previous year, they can be considered to be satisfactory.

As is happening in most areas, there has been a great increase in the number of ice cream retailers in the Borough since the war and, last year, 9 further premises were registered for the sale of the commodity.

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DISEASES OF
ANIMALS ACTS AND ORDERS FOR THE YEAR 1955.**

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

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again pleasure in submitting to you my annual report on the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders in the Borough for the year 1955.

Although only two outbreaks of scheduled diseases (Swine Fever) occurred in the Borough during the year, the duties carried out by the department were again most onerous and this work is now a most important part of the responsibilities falling upon my section of the Public Health Department. As mentioned in my last report, the continued growth of the market; the regular holding of fortnightly Irish Cattle Sales and a further increase in the number of special sales held are the main reasons for our increased responsibilities in this connection. The local cattle market is now one of the largest; if not the largest in the country, and I am sure the members of the Corporation will appreciate the necessity for the large amount of attention which must now be given to this work.

In this connection, I would again refer to the very wise decision made by the Council at the end of 1954, to appoint a full-time Inspector on my staff to carry out these duties. The appointment of Mr. George Stevens to this post was a most suitable one and I cannot praise too highly the efficient and conscientious manner in which Mr. Stevens has carried out his duties and I feel that we were most fortunate to secure his services.

Apart from this, the new arrangement has made it possible for the Sanitary Inspectors to devote more of their time to those duties for which they are specially trained and has resulted generally in the whole work of the department being carried out with greater efficiency.

I give below some comments of the various aspects of the work carried out during the year:-

(1) Anthrax and Sheep Scab.

No outbreak of either of these diseases was reported during 1955.

(2) Swine Fever.

Although Swine Fever was again prevalent in various parts of the country during the year, only two small outbreaks-involving 18 pigs - occurred in the Borough. As in previous years constant liaison was maintained between the Department and the Divisional Veterinary Officer and I was, once again, able to assist the Ministry in tracing pigs which had passed through the local market.

(3) Foot and Mouth Disease

No cases of this disease occurred either in Banbury or the immediate neighbourhood.

(4) Regulations of Movement of Swine Order, 1954

The number of licences issued authorising the movement of swine from the cattle market to private premises was 2,585, involving the movement of 28,573 animals. These figures show an increase on those for 1954 and illustrate the constant growth of the market.

8 contraventions of the Order were reported to the appropriate Committee of the Corporation and, as 7 of these cases were first offences, the persons responsible were cautioned by the Town Clerk. In the other case, legal proceedings were instituted and fines and costs totalling £11.2s. were imposed. In addition to these cases, 14 cautions were administered by the Inspectors in respect of minor contraventions of the Order.

(5) Importation of Animals

830 licences were received during the year authorising the movement of 31,914 Irish Cattle from the port of landing to the local market and these cattle were re-licensed to private premises - this involving the issue of 1,655 licences.

The market was licenced during the year for the Holding of fortnightly sales of Irish Cattle on Fridays and these markets have now become a special feature of the work of your officers and have, as the figures given indicate, imposed a pretty heavy burden on the staff.

3 cautions were issued by the Town Clerk in respect of offences in connection with the movement of Irish Cattle and 1 caution was issued by your Inspectors in respect of a minor contravention of the Order.

(6) Sheep Dipping

The number of sheep dipped in the Borough during 1955 was 913 and, in each case, a single type dip was issued. New regulations under the Sheep Scab Order of 1938 and the Sheep Scab (Amendment) Order of 1948, were confirmed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in February, 1955, and these Regulations accord with similar Regulations which are in operation in the rest of the county.

(7) Transit of Animals - Cleansing and Disinfection of Vehicles

During the year a total of 6,758 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 129 vehicles - a figure rather lower than that for 1954. The income received by the Corporation for this work was £506. 17s. 0d., a decrease of £81. 14s. 6d. as compared with the previous year.

As in previous years, strict supervision over the cleansing and disinfection of vehicles was maintained and the increased

number of washing bays, mentioned in my last report, had the effect of minimising the waiting period of vehicles on busy market days.

(8) The Live Poultry (Restriction) Order.

As in previous years the sale of poultry at the market was under restriction and the auctioneers were licenced to enable them to hold weekly sales of poultry intended for immediate slaughter, within the precincts of the market. In addition, they were licenced to hold sales of store poultry on premises adjoining, but not within, the boundaries of the market premises. The various sales were kept under observation throughout the year and no serious contraventions of the Order were found.

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

Special attention was again given to the market during the year in respect of the above-mentioned Order and 230 routine inspections were carried out for this purpose. The owners of the market improved their cleansing facilities during the year by providing high-pressure hoses and, as a result, the cleansing of the premises generally was expedited and improved. It was necessary, however, on several occasions for your inspectors to make verbal requests to the owners to comply with the provisions of the Order but, on the whole, it can be said that the cleansing and disinfection of the market is carried out satisfactorily - particularly having regard to the amount of stock passing through the premises.

(10) Fowl Pest.

No cases of this disease were reported in the area during 1955.

(11) General.

I cannot conclude this report without expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Baths, Parks and Markets Committee of the Corporation for the support and courtesy which is always so freely accorded to me and I must pay tribute to the members of my staff for their willing and efficient work during the year. Finally, I should like to mention the help and advice which is always available to me from Colonel J. C. Bennison, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., the Ministry's Divisional Inspector and the co-operation I have received from the members of his staff.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

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

Inspector under the Diseases
of Animals Acts and Orders.



