

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Basingstoke R.D.C.

Contributors

Basingstoke (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1955

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/tkvet4ua>

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>

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1955





BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Eastlands,
London Road,
Basingstoke.

June 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1955.

Vital Statistics for the year present no marked change. The increase in deaths is merely indicative of the trend to hospitalisation - the deaths at the Basing Road Hospital are all accorded to this district. The birth rate shows a slight decline and more babies are being born in hospital.

Epidemiology. 1955 was an epidemic year for measles and the number of cases was the highest on record. There was a high incidence of respiratory illnesses during the first quarter. Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, increase in cases was noted in all neighbouring districts, providing opportunity for contact, especially among senior school children in the large grouped schools. Other illnesses showed no great change.

Social and Sanitary Circumstances indicate a changing scene.. Contrast with 1950 figures shows a decreasing agricultural labour community and a growing dormitory one dependent upon industries in the town and at Aldermaston. New housing, both Council and private, has increased considerably. Amenities have also been much improved, piped water supply in most areas and sewerage schemes in the larger parishes started. The estimated amount spent on Improvement Grants to older housing now exceeds a rate of 1½d in the pound.

My thanks are due to the General Practitioners for their help and co-operation during the year, to the many Officials for help with this report, and to the Public Health staff for their loyal support.

Yours faithfully,

P.L. KARNEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

/A/

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	74,790 acres.
Population - estimated mid year.	17,340
Number of inhabited houses.....	4,393
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£435
Rateable Value.....	£110,424

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	124	93	217	235	287
	Illegitimate	7	13	20	15	10
Live Birth Rate per thousand (corrected figure)				14.79	16.40	21.08
Average for England & Wales				15.00	15.02	15.5

Births were largely at Bramley and Basing and to lesser extent at Sherborne St. John, Pamber, Oakley, Dummer, Sherfield and Wootton St. Lawrence.

DEATHS.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Deaths from all causes.	217	199	416	315	300
Death Rate per thousand (corrected figure)			19.83	15.27	14.94
Average for England & Wales			11.7	11.3	11.4

The death rate is of no great significance as many of the deaths of residents of neighbouring districts occurring at the Basingstoke Road Hospital are accorded to the District.

Summary of Deaths in Major Institutions in the District.

Deaths occurring in Park Prewett Hospital	-	141
" " " Basing Road Hospital	-	128
" " " Old Peoples' Homes	-	6

The age distribution is:-

Under one year	-	3
1 - 19	-	3
20 - 44	-	19
45 - 64	-	81
65 - 74	-	113
75 - 89	-	179
90 plus	-	20



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28908065>

The causes of the majority of deaths were:-

Heart Disease	151
Cancer	63
Vascular diseases of brain ...	51
Respiratory disease	49

Respiratory illness, which included 12 cases of influenza, has been included in the major contributing causes this year. Road accidents accounted for 5 deaths and 9 deaths were due to other accidents (in the home).

Causes of death in age group 45 - 64.

<u>Cancer</u> (including 11 cases of cancer of lung and bronchus)	-	21	
<u>Heart Disease.</u>			
Coronary disease	-	11	
Rheumatic carditis	-	3	
Others	-	11	
<u>Respiratory Disease.</u>			
Pneumonia	-	10	
Bronchitis	-	4	
Influenza	-	1	
Others	-	9	
Vascular diseases of nervous system	-	6	
Tuberculosis	-	3	
Diabetes	-	1	
Accident	-	1	
		<u>81</u>	Males - 52 Females - 19

Increasing attention is being given to deaths occurring in the age group 45 - 64 owing to ageing of the population and the diminishing earning group. The majority of deaths tend to occur in the males and the major causes are cancer and coronary disease of the heart (angina). Lung cancer appears to be an increasing cause.

Are these deaths the result of adverse factors and can preventative medicine play a part? Statistics appear to indicate that smoking has an adverse effect on lung cancer and excess fats in diet and undue worry on coronary disease

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

		<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
From Puerperal Sepsis	-	Nil	Nil	Nil
From all other causes	-	1	Nil	Nil

Death was due to Hepatitis and Nephritis due to Post partum toxæmia. The patient was an in-patient of Park Prewett Mental Hospital, and the death occurred at the Royal Hants County Hospital.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
(Number of deaths under one year of age)	Legitimate	3	-	3	5	7
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	1	-

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Age at Death.</u>
1. Cardiac failure; Congenital heart failure; Pneumonia. -	1 month.
2. Cerebral haemorrhage; Prematurity. -	1 day.
3. Subdural haemorrhage; Rapid delivery -	6 hours.

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Legitimate -	2	1	3	8	3
Illegitimate -	-	1	1	-	2

Analysis of Causes of Death.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	5	-	5
" Other	1	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	3	-	3
Other infective & Parasitic disease ..	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	6	5	11
Lung & bronchus .	9	2	11
Breast	-	5	5
Uterus	-	5	5
Other malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms .	15	15	30
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	3	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	22	29	51
Coronary disease	22	13	35
Hypertension with heart disease	6	12	18
Other heart disease	51	47	98
Other circulatory disease	11	11	22
Influenza	1	12	13
Pneumonia	16	12	28
Bronchitis	6	-	6
Other diseases of respiratory system .	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	-	5
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	-	4
Pregnancy and childbirth, abortion ..	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	15	28
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	5	4	9
Suicide	5	-	5

/B/ PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Whooping Cough	29
Scarlet Fever	11
Measles	424
Pneumonia	8
Dysentery	16
Erysipelas	2
Poliomyelitis	3
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	9
" Non-Pulmonary .	3
Gastro-enteritis	2

The following table indicates the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:-

	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Pneumonia</u>
January	-	-	-	2
February	3	-	3	3
March	4	5	1	1
April	2	2	9	-
May	5	-	110	1
June	2	1	263	-
July	4	1	36	-
August	2	1	2	-
September	7	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-

Measles.

Measles epidemics occur biennially. The epidemic this year was very high but mild in type and the infection largely affected the young school-going child in the 5-9 year group (249 cases).

Number of cases notified annually

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
206	5	172	9	424

Poliomyelitis.

Three cases were notified, two with paralysis. One case was not confirmed by the hospital and was later diagnosed as a case of osteo-myelitis. The case at Dummer followed 10 days after a visit by the family to a seaside resort. The case at Pamber Heath was possibly associated with an outbreak of 5 other cases at Tadley and Aldermaston where there has been a considerable increase of population from all areas of the country.

Tuberculosis.

9 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (4 males and 5 females) and 3 cases of non-pulmonary (all female) were notified. There were 5 deaths due to pulmonary and 1 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The mass X-Ray unit visited the area in March and revealed only a small incidence of unsuspected tuberculosis.

Number of Cases on Register.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1954</u>
Pulmonary	57	50	107	93
Non-Pulmonary	9	25	33	31

Respiratory Illnesses.

The cases of pneumonia notified were during the early months of the year and were associated with the harsh winter months, especially in February. As already noted there were 28 deaths in the year due to pneumonia and 13 to influenza. There was a mild outbreak of influenza in the Park Prewett Hospital.

Gastro Enteritis and other allied illness.

16 cases of dysentery were notified and two gastro-enteritis. Gastro-enteritis is not notifiable except if suspected as food-poisoning. An outbreak of dysentery occurred in a nursery at Mortimer accounting for 11 cases. The nursery is a Local Authority (Berkshire County Council) Institution and the outbreak was very fully investigated by their staff, though the cause was not determined.

Immunisation - Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

During the year 226 primary courses - of which 168 were combined with whooping cough, and 165 secondary or booster courses were carried out.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Primary doses -	226	233	161
Secondary doses -	165	100	136

Immunisation in relation to child population as at 31.12.55:-

Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)	Under 1 year	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total under 15 years
1951 - 1955 -	28	659	586	135	1,408
1950 or earlier -	--	--	680	952	1,632

Vaccination - Small Pox.

The percentage of children under one year successfully vaccinated during the year ending 31st December 1955 is:-

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Basingstoke Rural District -	70.42	66%	41.4%

/C/ SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The district comprises 34 parishes and is mainly agricultural and residential. Expanding industries in Basingstoke town and the Aldermaston Atomic Research Establishment provide additional employment. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in new houses built, both by the Council and privately. A piped water supply is now available in most of the villages and a start made with sewerage. Population increases correspond to the new building programmes and tends to concentrate in parishes closer to the town of Basingstoke.

General Health Services.

The County Council is the Health Authority responsible for the administration of the Health Services under the National Health Services Act 1946. In order to make the fullest use of local knowledge and to widen interest they have devolved upon the District Health Sub-Committee as far as possible, responsibility for the supervision of the Health Services in the area, in particular the care of mothers and young children, health visiting vaccination, and prevention of illness care and after-care (so far as that section does not relate to tuberculosis). The Medical Officer of Health is also part-time Assistant Medical Officer of the County and carries out duties associated with the above services in the district.

Maternity and Child Welfare - Health Visiting

Child Welfare Centres are situated throughout the district. Activities at the clinics, at which a doctor and nurse attend, include advice on feeding and child management, immunisation, and the distribution of Welfare Foods.

In recent years the trend has been to extend the work of the Health Visitor to helping and advising the whole family on health matters and to encourage the visits to specialised groups and problem families. The work for old people has also been pressed.

The District Nurse's appointment at Preston Candover was converted into that of a combined Health Visitor and District Nurse.

District Midwifery and Home Nursing.

Annual Statistics for 1955. (1954 figures in brackets for comparison)

	CASES			VISITS			Clinics
	Gen:	Mid:	T.B.	Gen:	Mid:	T.B.	
<u>Bramley.</u>							
Miss Pettman.	193 (178)	12 (14)	2 (2)	2073 (2365)	397 (469)	36 (41)	15 (14)
Miss Prior.	179 (147)	15 (13)	2 (-)	2265 (2364)	438 (510)	34 (31)	25 (14)
<u>Oakley..</u>							
Miss Witts	164 (128)	15 (18)	- (-)	1171 (964)	448 (565)	- (-)	21 (19)
<u>Preston Candover.</u>							
Miss Peters	129 (80)	5 (12)	- (2)	1173 (1149)	179 (399)	- (61)	20 (35)
<u>Upton Grey.</u>							
Miss Oddie.	63 (43)	16 (24)	- (-)	991 (1129)	660 (967)	- (-)	- (4)
<u>Silchester.</u>							
Miss Arnold.	129 (146)	12 (19)	- (-)	690 (910)	354 (657)	- (-)	58 (60)

The number of cases shows a considerable increase over the 1954 figures but the visits are less frequent, indicating a quicker turnover of patients. The character of the work is changing - about 50% of the patients visited were for injection only. Midwifery shows a definite drop - mothers appear to desire to have their babies in the maternity homes or hospitals.

Home Help Services.

Summary of cases assisted.

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Maternity -	8	11
General Sickness -	7	9
Post Hospital -	2	3
Child Care -	3	-
Chronic Sickness	1	2
Aged Sickness	6	4
Aged and Infirm	11	12
Tuberculosis	1	1
Total	<u>39</u>	<u>42</u>

Old Peoples' Welfare.

In view of the increasing interest in Old Peoples' Welfare, I am grateful to the County Welfare Officer for the following statistics of the work of the Area Welfare Officer for the year (comparative figures for 1954 are given in brackets).

Visits, Applications and Admissions to Welfare Accommodation.

No. of persons visited	-	-	-	42	(30)
Total Cases visited	-	-	-	28	(19)
Applications	-	-	-	9	(5)
Admissions	-	-	-	5	(3)
Senile Aged persons admitted to Mental Hospitals under Sec.2, Lunacy Act 1890	-	-	-	4	(3)
Visits to aged sick persons and referred to Bed Service for Chronic Sick	-	-	-	6	(3)

These figures do not give a complete picture of the work undertaken on behalf of aged persons in the area by the County Welfare Department. Extensive efforts are made so that old people may continue to reside in their homes or with relatives and friends before consideration is given to admission to an Old Persons' Home. The specialist section helps in carrying out re-habilitation work in difficult cases.

The work of Health Visitors in helping and advising old people has also increased in recent years.

No cases of neglect were dealt with under the National Assistance Act 1944, Sec. 47, but here again work in connection with this Act is increasing steadily each year.

/D/ SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Housing.

Number of dwellings completed since 1945 (as at 31.12.55):-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Private	333	56	76	42
Council	434	15	47	73

The Council houses completed this year were at Steventon and Bramley (Moat Close). The private building was widely distributed with a good many at Basing and Oakley. In addition, Council houses at Axford, Pack Lane, Oakley, and Little Hoddington, Upton Grey, are being modernised.

With the exception of No. 1, the Ex. W.D. Huts at Hollins Hill, Sherborne St. John, have all been vacated, the tenants having been offered alternative accommodation.

There is still no special housing provided for old people.

Details of the Survey of Category 5 houses carried out during the year under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Water.

Piped water supply is now available in all the villages in the district with the exception of Popham, Woodmancote and Winslade. A scheme for Popham is awaiting Ministry consent. The piped water supply at Ellisfield and Nutley under a non-statutory undertaking, is not very satisfactory and plans for an alternative supply have been requested from the Mid Wessex Water Company.

Sewerage.

Sherfield on Loddon - The work on the first contract covering the proposed housing scheme and existing houses West of The Common has been completed. Work on the second contract is progressing.

North Waltham - All sewers have been laid with the exception of a short length in Chapel Street which is still under test.

Sherborne St. John - Work has been started and is progressing.

Basing - It is regretted that work on this scheme has been deferred. This is the largest parish in the district and a growing one. Further Council building depends on sewerage and the opportunity to sewer the developing large private housing estate is being lost.

Food.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - New Food Hygiene Regulations were passed by Parliament and came into force on January 1st, 1956. Food premises must now have a constant water supply, adequate drainage, soap, nailbrushes, clean towels and a first aid box, and after July 1st 1956, sinks for washing utensils, hot water supply, separate hand basins for employees' use and locker accommodation for clothes. Regulations also specify rules for hygienic handling and the transport of food and the construction, repair and clean maintenance of food premises and vehicles.

Milk.

Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order - An important measure in preventative medicine came into force on December 1st 1955. This district was named a specified area under the above Order. The only milk which can now be sold in the area must be either Tuberculin Tested or heat treated.

JUNE 1956.

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following
report concerning work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors
during the past year:-

Number and Nature of Visits and Inspections

Houses under Public Health Acts.	282
Houses under Housing Acts.	649
Houses under Housing Acts 1949 - 1954.	381
Overcrowded houses.	10
re Disinfection of Premises.	13
re Water Supply.	248
Petroleum Installations.	19
Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites.	132
Premises for the Preparation, Storage and Sale of Food.	93
Registered Ice Cream Premises.	31
Dairies and Milk Distributors.	97
Factories.	19
Schools.	11
Refuse Collection and Disposal.	348
Rodent Control.	102
Cesspool Emptying Service.	53
Revisits following service of notices.	109
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits.	63
Complaints received and investigated.	45

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH

Outstanding December 1954		Served 1955		Complied with 1955		Outstanding December 1955	
Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal	Statutory	Informal
4	55	5	55	4	68	5	42

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year 128 samples of water were analysed with following results:-

	<u>CHEMICAL</u>		<u>BACTERIOLOGICAL</u>	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
PRIVATE	--	--	39	37
PUBLIC	19	3	27	3

The Medical Officer of Health has already referred to the Nutley supply which does not maintain an entirely satisfactory standard throughout the year.

Where samples from wells proved unsatisfactory, notices were served requiring owners to connect to main supplies where available. In other cases polluted wells have been cleansed. Results were achieved without resorting to the service of statutory notices.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The refuse collection service was maintained on a regular fortnightly collection throughout the year. The weight and bulk of refuse collected increases considerably year by year but the Council's policy of purchasing larger vehicles as older ones become redundant will result in fewer journeys to the tip and should ensure that the service will continue to run smoothly.

A new Shelvoke and Drewry "Fore and Aft" tipping vehicle was ordered in October 1955 and delivery is expected within a few weeks.

The refuse tip at Sherborne St. John is now in a very satisfactory condition, due largely to adequate covering material delivered from local contract works and continuous consolidation which mechanical plant affords at the tip face. No serious rat or other pest infestation arose during the year and flies were reduced to a minimum by regular treatment with insecticides.

Serious labour difficulties were encountered last summer and but for the temporary employment of service and other personnel on annual leave, collections could not have been maintained. Younger men best suited to the heavy lifting involved refrain from accepting employment of this type whilst more congenial and remunerative work is afforded by factories in the locality.

The re-introduction of a bonus scheme for salvage workers proved successful in its object of increasing the quantity of materials salvaged as shown below.

	Tons	Quantity			Lbs.	Value		
		Cwts	Qrs			£	s	d
Paper -	57	11	0		27	493	10	1
Rags -	1	4	1		8	35	2	2
Metals -	6	12	0		0	27	5	8
						<hr/>		
						£	555	17 11
						<hr/>		

Comparative figures with former years are:-

1953	-	£394
1954	-	£401

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

During the year the vehicle covered 13,031 miles and 2,322 loads were removed and disposed of on arable land. During late Spring some difficulties in disposal were encountered, but on the whole farmers and landowners were able to accept the sewage sprayed on their land. The service remains self-supporting and charges are as follows:-

For the first load (or part load)	-	£1. 7s. 6d.
For subsequent loads (or part loads)	-	£1. 1s. 0d.

A 10% reduction is allowed where a contract is entered into for the quarterly or more frequent emptying of a pit.

Ratepayers made more use of the service than at any previous time and the amount of work undertaken involved considerable overtime. In November 1955 a new Karrier machine was ordered to replace the existing one which has of late proved costly to keep in service.

FACTORIES ACT 1947.

Three notices were served requiring improvements to be carried out at factories and bakehouses.

SHOPS ACT 1934.

The routine inspection of shops continued throughout the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

During the year 919 lbs. of food was surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption. 72 samples of heat-treated and raw milk were tested. One Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) sample was unsatisfactory and the Local Authority in whose area the pasteurisation plant is situated investigated the matter.

Sampling of raw milk from farms was continued to ascertain that no milk infected by Tubercle and Brucella Abortus organism was being produced.

Unsatisfactory Analyst's reports were received upon two samples. One of these was positive for Myco Bacterium Tuberculosis. All animals in the affected herd were examined and a cow suffering from Tuberculosis of the Udder was slaughtered. The other revealed the presence of Brucella Abortus organisms.

No slaughterhouse has been re-opened in the area since the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relinquished control of slaughtering and meat distributors.

Detailed inspections of food premises were continued during the year and advice was given to occupiers on the clean handling of food. Notices were served where premises were unsatisfactory, but in general, improvements were effected as a result of verbal intimation.

All ice-cream samples submitted for bacteriological analysis proved satisfactory.

HOUSING ACTS.

A re-survey of the worst houses in the area was completed during the year, in the course of which your Officers inspected 418 houses thoroughly and made cursory inspections of a further 394.

It was noted that since the original Rural Housing Survey was completed in 1949, some 200 houses had been demolished or improved by their owners and satisfactory housing units are now provided.

The re-survey revealed that there still existed 268 houses which are unfit and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost. Many of these houses stand empty and semi-derelict and a fair proportion are occupied by aged persons. The Council has advised the Ministry of Housing and Local Government that 93 of these unfit properties will be dealt with during the next five years and by the end of the year appropriate action had already been commenced under Housing Act 1936 in respect of nine properties and formal undertakings had been accepted in respect of a further ten.

The Council intends dealing with each of these as individual unfit houses, since clearance areas appear inappropriate, and adhere to the policy of accepting a moral obligation to re-house displaced persons.

Improvement Grants.

A considerable amount of time was spent by your Officers in dealing with the many enquiries from owners respecting grants available under the Housing Acts 1949/54.

During the year grants were approved in respect of a further 64 properties. The total cost of the improvement works was £46,669 and grants amounting to £20,074 were made. Due to the financial effect upon the Rate Fund, authorised starting dates for Improvement Grant works have been delayed and for some months a waiting list of applicants has been formed.

Certificates of Disrepair.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 were received. Two Certificates granted during the previous year were revoked.

Repairs.

During the year 71 defective houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Overcrowding.

Only a complete re-survey of the houses in the district could reveal the precise number of overcrowded dwellings, but from information at present available it appears unlikely to reach serious proportions.

RODENT CONTROL.

During the year 2,172 dwelling houses and 68 business premises were surveyed for the presence of rats and mice, and 446 properties treated by the Council's Operators.

The Council's Agricultural Contract Service continued self-supporting during the year and has continued to meet a real need since the Agricultural Executive Committee ceased to undertake this type of work.

LICENCES IN FORCE.

Petroleum	-	86
Slaughtermen	-	1
Slaughterhouses	-	1
Game Dealers	-	1
Moveable Dwellings	-	62
Milk Distributors	-	18
Premises registered for sale of ice cream	-	37

1955 was probably one of the most progressive years the Council has experienced in the field of hygiene and in concluding this report I would like to compliment the staff in the Public Health Department for their ready help and support in dealing with the many intriguing problems which arose.

Yours obediently,

P.C.BOX,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



