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BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of Bedford

FOR THE YEAR

1948

BY

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Report of

F. C. HAYNES, Cert.San.I., M.S.I.A.
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

BEDFORD
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BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1948



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

August, 1949.

*To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors of
of the Borough of Bedford.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1948.

The outstanding feature of the year was, of course, the coming into force on July 5th of the National Health Service Act, 1946, which, among many other changes in the medical service of the nation, involved the transference from non-County Borough Councils to County Councils of health services, including especially those relating to Maternity and Child Welfare.

This report, therefore, is concerned with the transferred services only up to the date of transfer.

I have to express my thanks to the staff of this department for their help in all parts of the work as well as to my colleagues in other departments.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. K. BOWES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Staff

The transferred staff is here given as it stood immediately before 5th July, 1948, the date of the coming into force of the National Health Service Act.

At the time of writing, among other changes, the staff of Health Visitors and Midwives has been transferred to the County Council. The vacancy in the staff of Sanitary Inspectors has been filled by the appointment of Mr. F. H. Valentine, formerly a clerk, to the position soon after his qualification.

(a) **MEDICAL.**

Medical Officer of Health.

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

F. A. WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Vict.)

(b) **DENTAL.**

Dental Surgeon for Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

V. A. VASEY, L.D.S.

(c) **SANITARY INSPECTORS.**

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

F. C. HAYNES, Cert.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector.

J. F. WILKINSON, M.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors.

E. J. CONSTABLE, A.R.San.I., Cert. Meat Inspection R.San.I.

One vacancy.

(d) **HEALTH VISITORS.**

Senior Health Visitor.

Miss B. M. RODGERS, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Health Visitors.

Miss F. D. COOPER, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Mrs. S. STREET, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Miss I. LOVE, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

Miss D. E. HELLETT, S.R.N., H.V.Cert.R.San.I.

(e) **MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES.**

Senior Midwife.

Mrs. M. E. L. MOLYNEUX, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Midwives.

Mrs. E. M. YARDE, S.C.M.
Miss S. V. BENNETT, S.C.M.
Miss A. L. MASKEY, S.C.M.
Mrs. I. HUGHES, S.R.N., S.C.M.

(f) **CLERICAL AND OTHER STAFF.**

Chief Clerk.

F. J. DIX.

Clerks.

F. E. CASEMORE,	Miss K. M. BUTLER
R. T. PRUDDEN	Mrs. B. R. BARCOCK
F. H. VALENTINE	Mrs. I. PERRY

Miss H. P. HAZELTON

Laboratory Assistant.

D. AYRES

Disinfectors and Drain Testers.

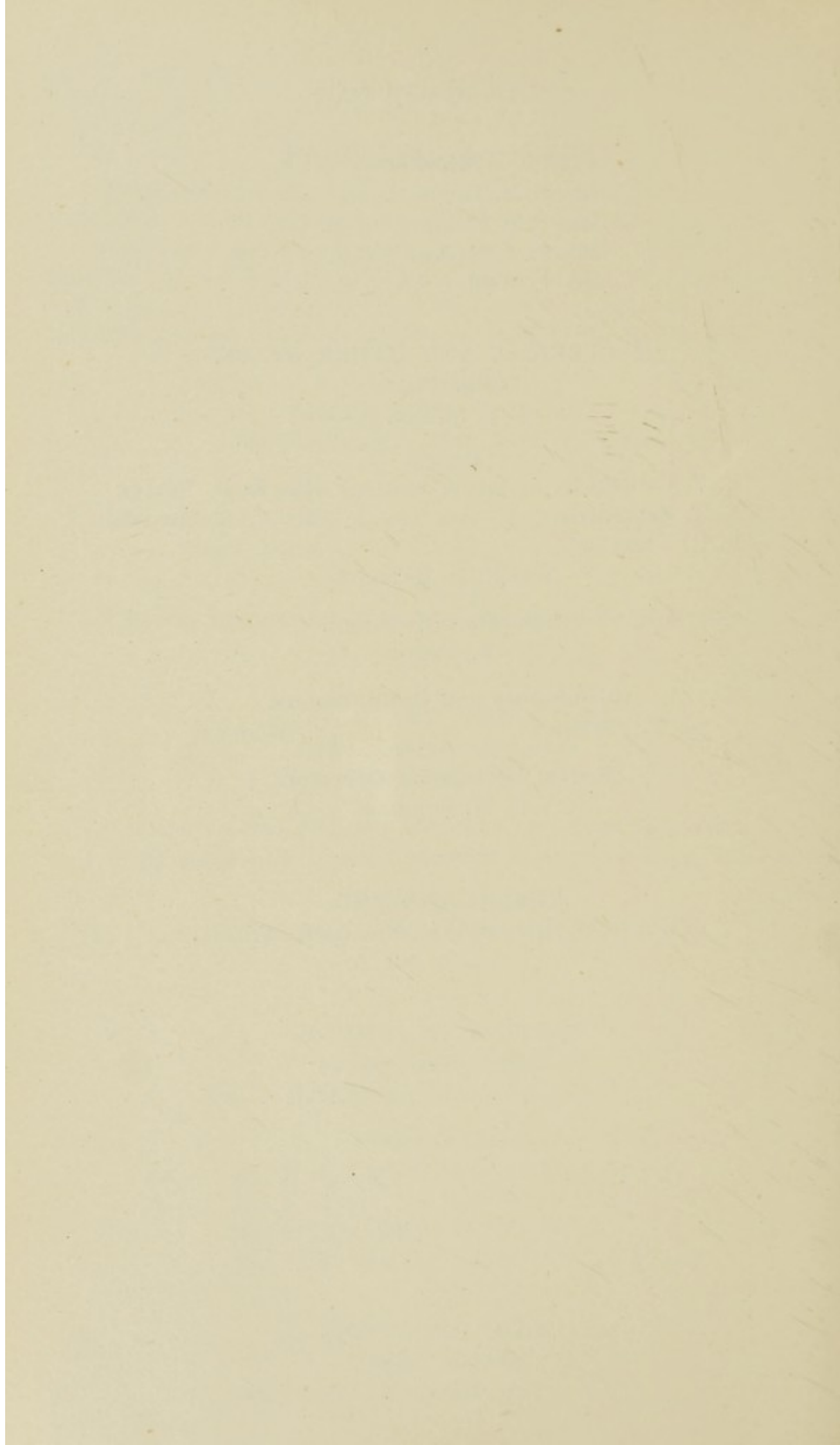
G. V. BURRIDGE F. WOOTTON

Rodent Destruction Operator.

H. W. COMMINS

PUBLIC ANALYST.

C. HARCOURT WORDSWORTH, B.Sc.(Lond.), F.R.I.C.



BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report of The Medical Officer of Health

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

I. Summary of Statistics

Area of Borough (in acres)	4,972
Population :—	
Census 1931 (before extension)	40,554
Census 1931 (including area added 1st April, 1934)	42,606
Registrar-General's Estimated Civilian Population for 1948	52,810
Number of Inhabited Houses :—	
Census 1931 (including added area)	10,427
According to Rate Books (31st December, 1948)	14,933
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census, 1931, including added area)	11,206
Rateable Value (1st January, 1949)	£394,132
Yield of One Penny Rate (30th September, 1948)	£1,600

1. Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1948

Live Births :—	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
Legitimate	834	438	396	
Illegitimate	65	34	31	
Total	899	472	427	Birth rate 17.0
Stillbirths :—				
Legitimate	14	8	6	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Total	14	8	6	Rate 0.27
Deaths	555	270	285	Death-rate 10.5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—				
Total	26	15	11	
Legitimate	24	15	9	
Illegitimate	2	0	2	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth :—				
From Sepsis				0
Other Causes				0
				} 0

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 Live Births :—

Legitimate 27 , Illegitimate, 2 ; total, 29.

Deaths from :—	Number	Rate
Measles	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	0.02
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	4	0.08
Respiratory Tuberculosis	13	0.25
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	0.08
Total Tuberculosis Deaths... ..	17	0.32
Cancer	103	1.95
Influenza	—	—

2. Causes of Death

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics.

Cause of Death	Males	Females
All Causes	270	285
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers... ..	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	7	6
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—
9. Influenza	—	—
10. Measles	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	1	—
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) ; Uterus (F)	5	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	12	12
15. Cancer of Breast	—	9
16. Cancer of all other sites	33	29
17. Diabetes	1	2
18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	19	48
19. Heart Diseases	72	84
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	23	25
21. Bronchitis	9	8
22. Pneumonia	14	7
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	7	4
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	9	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	3
26. Appendicitis	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	6	4
28. Nephritis	8	5
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortio Sepsis	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31. Premature Births	3	2
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	9	3
33. Suicide	2	3
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	—
35. Other Violent Causes	3	5
36. All Other Causes	18	22

3. Population

The population as given by the Registrar-General was 52,810, which shows an increase of 930 on the figure for the previous year. Part of this increase is due to excess of births over deaths among residents; but the larger part is on account of migration into the district.

4. Death Rate

The death rate was 10.5 in comparison with 12.7 for the previous year and 10.8 for England and Wales. The death rate for Bedford was slightly below that for England and Wales, though usually, on account of the greater average age of the population in Bedford, it is rather higher.

The following comments on causes of death may be made in addition to the special causes mentioned on page 10. Whooping cough caused one death; there were no deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria or measles. Influenza caused no deaths, compared with 4 in 1947 and 19 in 1946. Suicide caused 5 deaths. There were 3 fatal road accidents affecting borough residents. Of the accidents causing these deaths, only one occurred within the borough boundary; the other two, although affecting borough residents, outside the borough boundary. No fatal road accidents involving non-residents occurred in the borough.

5. Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths of residents in the area.

6. Infant Mortality

The following table shows the infant mortality from various causes stated in accordance with the age of death. Of this total (26), 15 were male infants and 11 female.

The headings of the table are those of the latest annual report of the Ministry of Health.

Cause	Weeks				Total under one month	Months				Total under one year
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculous Diseases ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convulsions ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	3
Congenital Malformations*	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	4
Premature Birth ...	7	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	7
Injury at Birth ...	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Asphyxia, Atelectasis ...	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital Debility ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haemolytic Disease ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Causes †...	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	3
Totals ...	14	-	1	1	16	5	4	-	1	26

*Includes—

- One myocardial failure, patent interventricular septum, congenital.
- One broncho-pneumonia, amyotonia congenita.
- One congenital atresia and stenosis of lower ileum.
- One hydrocephalus, ectopia vesicae.

†Includes—

- One asphyxia due to inhaled stomach contents, misadventure.
- One septicaemia, impetigo neonatorum.
- One erythroblastosis foetalis.

In the case of deaths from premature births the ages were as follows :—

2 hours	...	1	}	0-24 hours	...	...	...	2
9 hours	...	1						
24 hours	...	2	}	24-48 hours	...	...	...	3
29 hours	...	1						
48 hours	...	2	...	over 2 and under 7 days	...	...	...	2

The figures of infant mortality for Bedford and for England and Wales for comparison for the last 10 years are given in the following table :—

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

Year		Bedford		England and Wales
1939	.....	28	.....	50 (51)
1940	.....	55	.....	55 (57)
1941	.....	44	.....	59 (60)
1942	.....	36	.....	49 (51)
1943	.....	41	.....	49
1944	.....	25	.....	46
1945	.....	35	.....	46
1946	.....	31	.....	43
1947	.....	29	.....	41
1948	.....	29	.....	34
Average				
1939-1948	.....	35	.....	47

In explanation of the figures for England and Wales, it may be said that in recent years the practice of the Registrar-General has been to correct the infant mortality figure to allow for the varying time-lag in registration of births and of upward and downward trends in births during the 12 months preceding the deaths. In the earlier years of the table the deaths were related by the Registrar-General to births registered in the same year. Where subsequent calculation on the present basis has modified this figure, the figure as modified has been placed in brackets. In Bedford the figures relate to deaths and births registered in the same year.

On account of the smallness of the figures the annual variations for Bedford are considerable, but over the period of 10 years the average figure is 12 per 1,000 below that of England and Wales.

7. Birth Rate

The birth rate for Bedford was 17.0 and for England and Wales, 17.9. Both these figures show a considerable reduction below those for the previous year, namely 19.5 and 20.5. It appears, therefore, that, as many believed, the rise in the birth rate during the later war years and in the post-war period was purely temporary; and already the figure has again sunk to a point barely above the level necessary to replace the population.

The following table shows the total birth rate and the illegitimate birth rate for Bedford and for England and Wales for comparison. Neither in Bedford nor in England and Wales has the illegitimate birth rate or the proportion of illegitimate to total births fallen to the average figure for the pre-war years, though there has been a decline from the high figures for the later war years and the years just after the war.

BIRTH RATES—LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE AND PROPORTION OF
ILLEGITIMATE TO TOTAL BIRTHS, 1939-1948

Year	Total Birth Rate		Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 population		Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	
	Bedford	England and Wales	Bedford	England and Wales	Bedford	England and Wales
1939	14.2	14.8*	0.7	0.6	55	42
1940	13.2	14.1*	0.8	0.6	57	43
1941	13.5	13.9*	0.8	0.7	60	54
1942	14.7	15.6*	0.9	0.9	58	56
1943	17.1	16.2*	1.5	1.0	90	64
1944	19.8	17.7*	1.8	1.3	90	73
1945	18.2	15.9*	2.5	1.5	135	93
1946	18.4	19.1	1.7	1.3	90	66
1947	19.5	20.5	1.3	1.1	66	52
1948	17.0	17.9	1.2	1.0	72	53
Average						
1939-1948	16.5	16.5	1.3	1.0	77	59

*Rates in these years are based upon total population, including Armed Forces at Home and Abroad.

Something may be said here about the Royal Commission on Population which has recently completed its report: on the population trends in Great Britain, the causes and consequences of these trends, and the measures to be taken to influence the future trend of population. The parturition of this report does not seem to have been worth the time, the labour, and the expense it has cost. The authors in the end seem uncertain which trends should be encouraged though they make recommendations designed to influence these trends. It is reasonably certain that their recommendations and suggestions will not increase or diminish the birth rate by one jot or one tittle. It is even more certain that the Commission have not fairly faced the dilemma that with a high, or what may be called a natural, birth rate, all social services, which have become an integral part of western civilisation, must, in accordance with the principles of Malthus, become quite ineffectual; while with a low or artificially restricted birth rate, which is differently distributed among the different social grades, the decline and fall of civilisation must necessarily follow on account of increasing deterioration of the human stock. After all, even in a society which places unbounded faith in the planning by men of their destiny, it is perhaps better to realise that some of the movements of human life still obstinately refuse to be planned.

8. Still Births

The still birth rate for Bedford was 0.27, as compared with 0.42 for England and Wales. The figures for the last ten years are shown in the following table.

BEDFORD HEALTH REPORT

STILL BIRTH RATES

BEDFORD AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1939-1948

Year	Per 1,000 population		Per 1,000 total births, (live and still)	
	Bedford	England and Wales	Bedford	England and Wales
1939	0.41	0.59	28	38
1940	0.43	0.54	31	37
1941	0.29	0.50	21	35
1942	0.41	0.53	27	33
1943	0.49	0.50	28	30
1944	0.68	0.50	33	28
1945	0.47	0.45	25	28
1946	0.66	0.54	35	27
1947	0.48	0.50	24	24
1948	0.27	0.42	15	23
Average 1939-1948	0.46	0.51	26	30

**9. Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal
Death Rates and Case Rates for certain Infectious
Diseases in the year 1948**

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns)
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

[See Table on opposite page]

	Bedford	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
BIRTHS					
Live	17.0	17.9*	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still	0.27	0.42*	0.52	0.43	0.39
DEATHS					
All causes†	10.5	10.8*	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis	0.32	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza	—	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	29	34‡	39	32	31
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
NOTIFICATIONS					
Typhoid Fever	—	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.00	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough	2.40	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria	—	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas	0.26	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	4.86	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia	1.49	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis... ..	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)					
(a) NOTIFICATIONS					
Puerperal Fever	8.76	6.89	8.90	4.71	0.61
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..						7.34§
(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY					
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	—	0.13	Not available		
Abortion with Sepsis (No. 140)	—	0.11			
Abortion without Sepsis (No. 141)	—	0.05			
Others	—	0.73			
Total		1.02			

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths or notifications.

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

† On account of the complexity of population movements the Registrar-General is no longer able to furnish a comparability factor for correction of the death rate in respect of age and sex constitution.

‡ Per 1,000 Related Births.

§ Including Puerperal Fever.

II. Social Conditions

There is no change in social conditions to report compared with the last year or two. The housing shortage continues to be acute and is due not only to the natural increase in the number of families, but also to a certain amount of immigration into the district.

III. General Provision of Health Services in the Area

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following table shows the work carried out by the Municipal Laboratory during the year.

Nature of Specimen	Numbers
Nose and Throat swabs for examination for Diphtheria ...	85
Ringworm	—
Gerber Tests of Milk	70
Bacteriological examinations of Water samples	176

Specimens requiring further, or more elaborate, examination than can be carried out in the Public Health Laboratory were sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, Cambridge, or to the Pathological Department of the Bedford County Hospital.

SERVICES TRANSFERRED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON JULY 5th, 1948

The figures relating to the services given under the headings 2 to 11 relate to the period before transfer ending on 4th July. On July 5th the services were transferred to the Bedfordshire County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

2. MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

Midwives Service

During the six months ended July 4th 42 midwives notified their intention to practise, including some who undertook temporary duty only. The following table shows work carried out by midwives practising in Bedford, the number practising in the Institutions and under other headings being the numbers as they were on the 4th July.

Midwives—Cases Attended

	No.	As		Total
		Midwife	As Maternity Nurse	
Municipal Midwives	5	115	29	144
Midwives in Private Nursing Homes..	6	—	507*	507
Midwives attached to the Bedford District Nursing Association ...	3	28	31	59
Midwives attached to the Public Assistance Institution (St. Peter's Hospital)	5†	203	31	234
Midwives attached to the Bedford and County Girls' Home	1	16	5	21
Midwives attached to the Bedford County Hospital	4	107	23	130

* Including cases attended by Maternity Nurses who do not notify their intention to practise.

† One part-time.

Municipal Midwives

The number of midwives employed during the early part of the year was five. In order to deal with the increasing number of births attended by municipal midwives, the result not only of the rise in the birth rate but also of the difficulties in obtaining accommodation in maternity institutions, a fifth municipal midwife was appointed on the 30th March, 1948.

The table shows the number of cases attended during the last ten years.

Year		As Midwife	As Maternity Nurse	Total
1938	.....	281	63	344
1939	.....	237	44	281
1940	.....	231	46	277
1941	.....	194	42	236
1942	.....	198	40	238
1943	.....	183	30	213
1944*	.....	212	37	249
1945	.....	171	30	201
1946	.....	145	32	177
1947	.....	203	42	245
1948 (six months)		115	29	144

* Year of evacuation due to flying bombs.

All the midwives were trained in the use of the Minnitt apparatus for gas and air analgesia. This apparatus was not used as much as was at first expected. During the first six months it was used in eight out of a total of 144 domiciliary births.

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases

Thirty-eight cases for whom the Council accepted financial responsibility were admitted to the Maternity Wards of the Bedford County Hospital. Admission was generally on obstetric grounds.

The demand for institutional accommodation for mothers expecting confinement continued large, partly on the ground of difficult housing conditions, but partly on account of the difficulty in obtaining help in the home. A generation ago mothers were willing to look after their daughters in confinement, sisters their sisters, as the natural thing without question, but the spread of civilisation and progress is changing that, and, partly as a consequence, partly as a cause, of this change, there has been an increasing demand for, and reliance upon, aid from the local authority and the state. The health visitors continued their investigation into home conditions in order that the authorities at St. Peter's Hospital might be guided as to the selection of cases for the limited accommodation.

The following table shows the proportion of domiciliary and institutional births over a period of years.

Domiciliary and Institutional Births

Year	Total No. of Births notified among Residents*	Proportion of Domiciliary Births		Proportion of Births in Institutions	
		Percentage	Percentage	Private Nursing Homes	Other Institutions (Hospital, Girls' Home)
1939	686	52	48	15	33
1940	732	48	52	19	33
1941	826	41	59	21	38
1942	853	34	66	22	44
1943	927	32	68	26	42
1944	1,099	33	67	23	44
1945	982	31	69	28	41
1946	952	30	70	27	43
1947	1,033	34	66	25	41
1948 (6 mths.)	517	39	61	24	37

* These figures, being compiled locally, differ slightly from the figures as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Ante- and Post-Natal Supervision by Private Practitioners

The following table shows the work carried out under these headings by private practitioners.

ANTE- AND POST-NATAL SUPERVISION BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS (Jan.-4th July)

No. of ante-natal examinations	...	...	...	58
No. of first examinations included in above :				
Insured patients	...	...	...	14
Uninsured patients	...	...	...	28
Total	...	...	...	42
No. of post-natal examinations	...	...	...	4

3. HOME HELPS

The Women's Voluntary Services continued during the first six months of the year to be responsible, subject to the Town Council, for the Home Help Service.

Mrs. Symonds is County Organiser of the W.V.S., and Mrs. V. E. Pedley is whole-time Organiser for the service in question. The scheme was organised for Borough residents in conjunction with county residents. On account of the method of keeping records, the following figures, in which borough and county cases are separated, relate to the first five months of the year only.

Home Helps (January-May)

Number employed :				
Whole time	...	...	...	18.5 weekly average
Part time	...	...	...	21.0 " "
Casuals	...	...	...	15.0 " "

Householders

Number of cases served :

Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,103
County	...	...	...	...	...	...	862
Total (including repeat cases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,965

4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

In order to supply the needs of mothers resident in the eastern part of the town, namely the Goldington and adjacent area, a centre was opened in the Goldington Reading Room, Barker's Lane, on 13th February, 1948. This was held weekly and attended by the doctor fortnightly. In consequence of the new arrangements, Friday sessions at Brereton Road were entirely discontinued and replaced by weekly sessions on Wednesdays attended by the Health Visitors only.

Children

The following table shows the attendances of children at the Welfare Centres.

(January—4th July)

	Children under 1 yr.	Children 1-5 yrs.	Total
*First attendances :			
Brereton Road	136	19	
Barford Avenue	120	7	
Queen's Park	32	4	
Goldington	31	23	
	—	—	372
†Total number of children attending :			
Brereton Road	209	178	
Barford Avenue	204	212	
Queen's Park	52	52	
Goldington	37	40	
	—	—	984

* Children who were under 1 year at date of first attendance, included in first column of figures.

† Children who were under 1 year at the end of the half-year under review, included in the first column of figures.

The total attendances, as shown above, were distributed as follows :—

	Children under 1 yr.	Children 1-5 yrs.	Total
3 Brereton Road	2,176	669	2,845
29 Barford Avenue	1,882	634	2,516
Queen's Park	745	201	946
Goldington	303	195	498

Mothers

The following table shows the attendances at ante- and post-natal clinics.

(January—4th July)

					Ante-Natal Attendances		Post-Natal Attendances
3 Brereton Road	...	...	...	...	369	...	23
29 Barford Avenue	...	...	...	...	308	...	28

5. ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT

During the year two ultra-violet mercury vapour lamps were in use at each centre. Treatment is found useful in a number of conditions. The following table shows the work carried out.

(January—4th July)

						Number of Children Treated		Number of Individual Treatments Given
3 Brereton Road	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	291
29 Barford Avenue	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	269
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	41	...	560

The most usual conditions for which this treatment is given are general and nervous debility, skin diseases including boils and septic sores, chronic bronchitis, catarrhal conditions before and after tonsillectomy and otherwise, and ear diseases.

6. HEALTH VISITING.

The following table shows the work carried out by the Health Visitors, of whom the normal staff was five.

Health Visiting (January—4th July)

Total primary visits to infants	...	...	...	...	402
Total re-visits, under 1 year	...	...	...	...	2,090
Total re-visits, 1 to 5 years	...	...	...	...	2,195
Total number of ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	89
Total number of special visits	...	...	...	...	27
Total number of useless visits	...	...	...	...	848
Total number of post-natal visits	...	...	...	...	6

7. PREMATURE INFANTS

The following table shows the number of premature infants about whom information was received during the first six months of the year.

PREMATURE INFANTS
(January—4th July)

	Number of Premature Infants Born and Resident within the Borough	Number of Premature Infants Born outside but Resident within the Borough	Total Number of Premature Infants included within two preceding columns Alive within		Number known to have Died within		Number not traced at	
			One Month of Birth	Three Months of Birth	One Month of Birth	Three Months of Birth (additional to preceding col.)	One Month	Three Months
Domiciliary Births ...	11	—	8	8	3	—	—	—
Born in Hospital ...	15	—	13	12	2	1	—	—
Born in Nursing Homes..	5	—	5	5	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	31	—	26	25	5	1	—	—

Among the 11 premature infants born at home, two were admitted to hospital and died soon after admission, aged 2 hours and 1 day respectively; one died at home aged 2 days. The remaining premature infants who died were born and died in hospital, aged 29 hours, 13 days and 1 month.

Equipment for the use of premature infants, including blankets, feeders, cots and hot water bottles, are stored at the Welfare Centres at Barford Avenue and Brereton Road, and some equipment is also in the care of the Senior Midwife.

The apparatus provided was used on four occasions when hot water bottles only were required.

Cause of Death

	Prematurity	Other Causes
The following table gives details of causes of deaths:—		
Infants dying within one month	4	1*
Infants dying over 1 month and under 3 months	—	1†

* Cause—1 (a) Cerebral haemorrhage
(b) Excessive moulding
(c) Face presentation.

† Cause—(a) Broncho-pneumonia.

8. ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

Miss Mumford, Lady Superintendent of the Bedford and County Girls' Home, continued to co-operate with the Health Visitors in the care of illegitimate children.

The Town Council paid £104 per annum in reimbursement of the salary of an additional social worker employed for this purpose by the Bedford and County Girls' Home.

9. DENTAL TREATMENT

The following table shows the work carried out for expectant and nursing mothers, and for pre-school children.

Dental Treatment (January—4th July)

EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS

Number of mothers attending (a) Expectant	32
(b) Nursing	10
No. of attendances	90
Number of extractions	107
Number of general anaesthetics	34
Number of fillings	22
Number of scalings	—
Other operations	29
Dentures supplied (a) to Expectant Mothers	8
(b) to Nursing Mothers	2

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Number of individual children attending	26
Number of attendances made by these children	26
Number of extractions	61
Number of fillings	—
Number of scalings	—
Number of general anaesthetics	25

10. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—PART VII

Child Life Protection

The number of private persons who were receiving children for reward at 4th July was 12, and the number of children so received 16. In addition, children received for reward in various institutions must also be notified under the terms of the Act, and the complete table is as follows:—

Class of person receiving children	No. of persons so receiving	No. of children
Private persons	12	16
Bedford County Hospital	1	15
Boarding Houses of Harpur Trust	4	11
Voluntary Homes (including St. Albans Diocesan Home, Dr. Barnardo's Home)	2	13

Regular visits are paid to children and foster parents in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

11. DAY NURSERIES

There was only one day nursery, namely St. John's, in the borough during the period under review. From May 15th this was closed on Saturdays on account of the small number attending that day.

The following table shows the numbers attending.

(January—4th July)

Nursery	Number on Register	Number of Places	Average Day Number attending
St. John's	80	68	53.3

The following tables, prepared shortly before the transfer of duties, show the causes of admissions or applications for admissions to the nursery and the occupations of the parents whose children use it.

Day Nursery—Causes of Admission

	Children in Nursery	Applications for Admission
Mothers who are breadwinners :		
Unmarried	17	2
Deserted by husbands	3	0
Divorced or separated	8	5
Widows	7	1
Totals	35	8
Supplementing husband's earnings (in nearly all cases some reason for supplementing these earnings is given, e.g., saving for home, in expensive rooms, several children, earnings insufficient)	32	68
Invalid husbands	3	2
Grand Totals	70	78

Day Nursery—Employment of Mothers

	Children now in Nursery	Applications for Admission
Factories	30	32
Shop Assistants	8	8
Cafés	4	2
Clerical	2	6
Landwork	3	1
Domestics (including Hospital Nursery, Teachers Hostels and School Houses)	15	8
Home Helps	4	4
Laundry	3	3
Coal Merchant's Office	1	—
Nursery	—	2
Forces	—	1
Unknown	—	12
Total	70	79

12. ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Crèches

The following table shows the extent to which the crèches were used:—

	No. of sessions	No. of children attending	No. of attendances
29 Barford Avenue	24	20	214
Co-Partners' Hall	25	25	177

On account of the difficulty in obtaining staff as well as the fact that it appeared to be serving very little useful purpose, Co-Partners' Hall was closed on June 16th.

Sitters-in

The following statement shows the number of sitters-in provided through the Youth Organisation.

Number of occasions on which sitters-in were provided ...	112
Number of individual families to which sitters-in were provided	2

13. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936—PART VI

Nursing Homes

The Town Council remained responsible for registration and supervision of Nursing Homes throughout the year. The number of homes registered at the end of the year was nine, in which the total number of beds was 97, including 27 maternity and 70 other beds. The distribution of these beds is given below. No. 84 Castle Road, with three beds, was closed in September. The homes were regularly supervised by the staff of the Public Health Department.

Address of Home	Number of Beds		Total
	Maternity	Other	
3 Kimbolton Avenue	—	10	10
33 The Embankment	—	12	12
62 Chaucer Road	—	8	8
24 and 26 De Parys Avenue	15	3	18
34 Kimbolton Road	3	9	12
23 Kimbolton Road	4	7	11
42 De Parys Avenue	3	7	10
Bedford and County Girls' Home ...	2	—	2
10 Rothsay Gardens	—	14	14
	—	—	—
Totals	27	70	97
	—	—	—

IV. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

With few exceptions all the houses in the Borough are supplied from the public water supply, and in nearly all of these the supply is internal. Again, with few exceptions, all houses are connected to the sewers. I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for most of the information under the heading Water Supply.

WATER SUPPLY

(a) Quantity and Quality—General

The water supply has been generally satisfactory in quantity and quality.

(b) Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses

A Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Water Undertaking was appointed in September, 1948. From this date the scheme of examinations carried on in the Public Health Department was discontinued. Instead of this, in order to maintain an independent check, two samples, one of the completely treated water and one of the water before any treatment has been carried out, are sent weekly to the Ministry of Health Laboratory, Cambridge. The Bacteriologist to the Undertaking, in addition to the weekly bacteriological tests on the water in the course of treatment, as well as chemical tests when required, also carried out daily tests on the fully treated water for the presence of coliform organisms.

The following tables show the results of a chemical examination and a typical weekly bacteriological examination carried out by the Bacteriologist. The results of examinations of the water in the Ministry of Health Laboratory confirmed the satisfactory nature of, and absence of *b. coli* in, the fully treated water.

Bedford Corporation Waterworks

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER AS SUPPLIED

Results in p.p.m.

Colour (Hazen)	5
Turbidity (Silica scale)	0.7
Taste	Normal
Odour	Nil
pH Value	7.7
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	220
Chlorides	27.5
Ammonias—Free and Saline	0.05
Albuminoid	0.4
Nitrates	2.95
Nitrites	Nil
Oxygen absorbed (3 hours at 37 degs. Cent.)...	0.22
Total Hardness	274
Temporary	220
Permanent	54
Residual Chlorine	0.05
Magnesium	7.9
Calcium	124.5

BEDFORD CORPORATION WATERWORKS
 BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES AND CHEMICAL DATE
 REPORT No. 6

Sampled on 4.10.48 Cultured on Same day Samples taken by E. Duggan Reason for Testing Routine

No.	Source	Presumptive Coliforms in 100 ml.	Confirmatory tests for Typical B. Coli	Organisms per ml. in 24 hours at 37°C.	Organisms per ml. in 3 days at 20°C.	Remarks
1	Raw Water	130	130	3,000	240	
2	Raw Water Chlorinated (rising main)..	5	Nil	35†	58	†Overgrown by B. Mycoides
3	Outlet Raw Water, Reservoir No. 2 ...	20	3	47	1,776	
4	Influent to Filter No. 2	2	Nil	42†	1,250	†Overgrown by B. Mycoides
5	Outlet Filter No. 2	Nil	Nil	9	98	Head loss, 30ins.
6	Influent to Chemical House	1	Nil	23	420	Before post-chlorination
7	Effluent from Chemical House ...	Nil	Nil	22	35	After post-chlorination and de-chlorination
8	Daily tests on Tap Water	Nil	Nil	Not done	Not done	Six daily tests

Algal growths continue to cause trouble, which is increased on account of the large proportion of river water which must be used in order to supply the continually increasing demand for water. These growths are liable to cause clogging of the filters more rapidly than they can be cleaned off, and taste and discolouration in the treated water. It requires the constant vigilance of the waterworks staff, using treatment by chloramine and by copper sulphate at various selected points before filtration, to keep these growths in check. Apart from their liability to cause difficulties in the purification treatment, these growths are not in themselves injurious to health. It has on rare occasions been necessary to pass the water from the headings, unfiltered, direct to the service reservoirs. Here, of course, final chlorination is the safeguard.

Regular inspections are carried out above the pumping station intakes for possible sources of contamination. The major risk at present appears to be the outfall from the village of Stevington in the Bedford Rural District.

(c) Supply to Dwelling Houses

All the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied from public water mains direct to the houses, with the following exceptions. Thirteen houses only, in somewhat remote situations, are supplied by private wells, and not from the Corporation supply. Twenty-nine houses are supplied by standpipes; of this number, 13 are of the nature of almshouses, and the remaining 16 would already have been demolished had it not been for the war.

V. Housing

1. STATISTICS

The following table gives the statistics of housing work undertaken during the year under review :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :		
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	557
(b)	Number of inspections, including reinspections, made for the purpose	2,340
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses [included under sub-head (1) above] which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	169
(b)	Number of inspections, including reinspections, made for the purpose	849
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	418
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	260

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolitions Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..	10
2. Number of families dwelling therein	12
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	*72
Adults over 10	55
Over 1 year but under 10	16
Under 1 year	1
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	20
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	†117
Adults over 10	76
Over 1 year but under 10	37
Under 1 year	4

* Equivalent number of units, 63. † Equivalent number of units, 94½.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | — |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report (see pages 30 and 57) | |

2. OBSERVATIONS ON STATISTICS

The 557 houses inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors under the Housing and Public Health Acts may be classified as follows :—

I—Houses inspected under Housing Acts :—

(i) Reasonably capable of repair	166
(ii) Not requiring repairs	3
(iii) Totally unfit for human habitation	0

— 169

II—Houses inspected under Public Health Acts :—

(i) Minor defects	252
(ii) Not requiring repairs	136

— 388

Grand total 557

Many problems arise from the fact that on account of the standstill to repairs during the war years some property is in a very bad state. While it is practically impossible to consider demolitions of insanitary property at the present time, there are often considerable difficulties in getting repairs carried out.

A good deal more overcrowding than is given in the table probably exists, for, while it is often in the interests of the persons concerned to plead overcrowding as a means of obtaining council houses, yet there can be little doubt that in other cases overcrowding is concealed.

Fuller details on housing are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

3. NEW HOUSES

During the years 1945 to 1948 the following numbers and type of new houses were completed.

New Houses and Conversions—1945 to 1948

	Prefabricated Houses	Permanent Houses	Erected on Licences issued to Builders	Conversions under Licences issued to Builders		Other Adaptations on Licences issued to Builders. Additional units of accommodation	Adaptations of Requisitioned Houses	
				Houses into Flats			Houses for adapted Families	
1945	30	—	—	3	7	—	20	63
1946	150	26	38	7	19	—	17	60
1947	—	68	22	21	48	—	5	15
1948	48	146	7	19	45	6	—	—
Totals	228	240	67	50	119	6	42	138

In addition, two houses which suffered war damage were rebuilt.

4. HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

I have received the following statement from the Housing Manager as to the number of applicants for houses on the books at the end of the year.

Applications for Houses

The total number of applications for houses on the books of the Corporation at the present time is as follows :—

1. Applicants with families in rooms :	
(a) In Bedford	1,302
(b) Out of area, working in Bedford	98
(c) Out of area, not working in Bedford	72
2. Householders with families :	
(a) In Bedford	117
(b) Out of area, working in Bedford	54
(c) Out of area, not working in Bedford	47
3. Applicants without children	652
4. Single persons	47
Total	2,389

VI. Inspection and Supervision of Food

1. MILK

(a) Premises and Purveyors

The following table shows the number of registered premises and purveyors at the end of the year :—

Cowsheds on register	2
Purveyors with premises within the borough	21
County purveyors on register	9

(b) Bacteriological Examination

The following table shows the number of samples of milk, either specially designated under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, or heat treated, taken for bacteriological or other special examinations, and the results of such examinations.

In explanation it may be said that the methylene blue test is designed to determine the bacterial content of the milk, and the phosphatase test to ascertain whether the milk has in fact been heated to the standard required.

Specially Designated Milk

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Bacteriologist's Reports on Samples submitted for Examination
Pasteurised	76	Satisfied Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests ... 44
		Satisfied Methylene Blue but failed to satisfy Phosphatase Tests ... 10
		Satisfied Phosphatase but failed to satisfy Methylene Blue Tests ... 5
		Failed to satisfy either Test ... —
		Satisfied Phosphatase Test, Methylene Blue Test not reported upon ... 12
		Failed Phosphatase Test, Methylene Blue Test not reported upon ... 5
		...
Heat Treated	46	Satisfied Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests ... 30
		Satisfied Methylene Blue but failed to satisfy Phosphatase Tests ... 4
		Satisfied Phosphatase but failed to satisfy Methylene Blue Tests ... 4
		Failed to satisfy either Test ... 5
		Samples submitted but not tested ... —
		Satisfied Phosphatase Test, Methylene Blue Test not reported upon ... 2
		Failed Phosphatase Test, Methylene Blue Test not reported upon ... 1
Tuberculin Tested	4	Satisfied Methylene Blue and <i>b. coli</i> Tests ... 2
		Satisfied Methylene Blue but failed <i>b. coli</i> Tests ... 2

Pasteurising and heat-treatment plants still often give unsatisfactory results. The inspectors spend much time in trying to find out and eliminate the causes of inefficient working. Sometimes it seems to depend upon failure to maintain the constant cleanliness and sterilisation of the machinery; sometimes there are mechanical defects, and under present conditions there is often difficulty in obtaining new parts to replace those which have become defective.

(c) Licences

The following table shows the licences granted in 1948 by the Town Council to sell special classes of milk at present in force in the borough.

Type of Licence	Class of Milk			
	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested		Accredited
		Raw	Pasteurised	
Pasteurising	2	—	—	—
Bottling Establishment	—	1	—	—
Distributor's Licence	3	2	2	—
Supplementary Distributor's Licence	—	—	—	1

In addition one other dairy operates heat treatment plant under authority granted by the Ministry of Food.

2. MEAT

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned, 1948

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	2,808	906	2,436	6,010	402
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS : Whole carcasses condemned	3	14	10	9	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	770	430	14	75	33
Percentage of number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	27.5	49.0	0.98	1.44	9.2
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : Whole carcasses condemned	14	26	3	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	318	266	2	—	9
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.82	32.2	0.2	—	3.48

The following table for meat inspection during 1938 is given for comparison with the corresponding table for 1948. It shows the difference in character of the meat handled and the greater proportion condemned in the post-war as compared with the pre-war period.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned, 1938

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,040	68	203	4,870	5,160
Number inspected	1,256*	118*	203*	5,390*	6,014*
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS : Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	1	—	4	23
Percentage of number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	0.56	1.69	—	0.07	0.55
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1	—	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	20	10	—	—	60
Percentage of number inspected affected with with tuberculosis	1.68	9.32	0.50	—	1.11

* Includes animals slaughtered elsewhere and systematically inspected in Bedford.

Meat Weight Condemned, 1948

The following table shows the total weight of diseased and unsound home-killed meat condemned in 1948.

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offals	lbs.	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offals	lbs.	
Cattle (excluding Cows)	14	318	19,479	3	970	14,821	34,300
Cows	26	266	28,049	14	443	15,101	43,150
Calves	3	2	534	10	14	669	1,203
Sheep and Lambs	—	—	—	9	78	1,022	1,022
Pigs	5	9	1,085	4	33	839	1,924
Totals ...	48	605	49,147	40	1,538	32,452	81,599

3. OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the amount of other foods condemned.

Class of Food	No. of lbs.
Tinned goods—various commodities (3,195 containers) ...	4,620
Imported meats	1,231
Prepared meats	36
Meat products	719
Cooked meat	37
Sausage	154
Rabbits	28
Fish	3,631
Fish cakes	8
Cheese	87
Dried milk	112
Cereals	707
Cakes	24

Class of Food	No. of lbs.
Slab cakes	44
Sweets	300
Prepared pastry	39
Dried fruit	122
Meat rolls	250
Pressed chicken	5
Dried Egg	90
Frozen egg	7
Apricot pulp	224
Pickles	61
Synthetic cream	50
Total	<u>12,586</u>

4. ICE CREAM

Samples of ice cream are frequently taken for examination. The standards of purity now recognised are as follows:—

	Methylene Blue reduced in	
Grade 1	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
Grade 2	2½ hours to 4 hours	Fair
Grade 3	½ to 2 hours	Unsatisfactory
Grade 4	0 hours (<i>i.e.</i> , reduction at the end of the pre-incubation period)	Very unsatisfactory

The following table shows the result of testing in accordance with the standard given above. The figures for 1947 are given for comparison. Though it cannot be said that the results are satisfactory, yet they are better than in 1947. Much attention is given to the conditions in the places where ice-cream is manufactured or sold, but action is sometimes made difficult on account of the structurally unsatisfactory nature of the premises.

	Number of Samples		Percentage in Grades	
	1948	1947	1948	1947
Grade 1... ..	16	1	23.2	3.3
Grade 2	26	3	37.7	10.0
Grade 3	7	6	10.1	20.0
Grade 4	12	20	17.4	66.7
Not accepted—too old for testing	8	—	11.6	
Totals	<u>69</u>	<u>30</u>		

5. ADULTERATION OF FOODS

Sixty-eight samples of milk and 30 samples of other foods and medicinal preparations were submitted to the Public Analyst.

A summary of samples procured, both of milk, other foods and of medicinal preparations, is shown in the following table.

Table of Samples Taken

Commodity	No. of Samples			No. Genuine			No. Adulterated		
	Form'l	Inf'm'l	Total	Form'l	Inf'm'l	Total	Form'l	Inf'm'l	Total
Aspirin Tablets ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Black Pudding ...	—	3	3	—	3	3	—	—	—
Butter ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Caraway Seeds ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee (Chicory) ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee (Flavour) ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cooking Fat ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Curry Powder ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Faggots ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fish Paste... ..	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ginger	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Horseradish Sauce ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Iodised Throat Tablets	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemonade Powder ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lime Flavour									
Compound	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Margarine	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Milk	68	—	68	65	—	65	3	—	3
Meat Pie	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pudding Mixture ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Semolina	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Soya Flour	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sponge Mixture ...	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Steak and Kidney Pudding	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sweetening Tablets ...	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—
Totals	68	30	98	65	30	95	3	—	3

The following tabular statement shows the nature of samples found adulterated or deficient, and the action taken in these cases.

Action Taken on Adulterated Samples

Serial Number of Sample		Commodity	Nature of Adulteration	Remarks as to Action Taken
Formal	Informal			
13867		Milk	3.3% deficient in fat	Vendors cautioned and action taken to improve quality of milk as supplied to local retailer
13872		Milk	11.6% deficient in fat	
13877		Milk	6.0% deficient in fat	

In addition, 70 samples of milk were tested in the laboratory by the Gerber Test ; 61 were up to and 9 below the standard. Samples found deficient were made the basis for further action in determining causes of deficiency or in referring samples to the Public Analyst.

6. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

All the work of slaughtering is concentrated in four slaughterhouses under the Ministry of Food. 1,066 visits have been made to these premises during the year for the purposes of inspecting the animals slaughtered and of ensuring that the premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

7. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

At the end of December, 1948, there were 45 slaughtermen licensed under this Act.

VII. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

(a) General Statistics

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1948

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths registered
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	53	13	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—
Pneumonia	79	1	21
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	1	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis... ..	2	1	1
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Erysipelas	14	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—
Measles	257	1	—
Whooping Cough	127	1	1
Jaundice	6	—	—

The following table gives a statement of cases of infectious disease notified according to age.

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year ended 31st December, 1948

Disease	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and onwards	Total all ages
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	1	3	6	8	25	5	1	3	—	—	—	53
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—	4	1	11	5	1	8	16	13	—	87
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Measles	6	21	26	33	42	123	4	—	2	—	—	—	257
Whooping Cough	16	14	13	19	28	33	—	—	3	1	—	—	127
Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
								1	3	1	—	—	6

(b) Individual Diseases

Smallpox. No cases or suspicious cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever. Fifty-three cases occurred, giving a rate of 1.00 per thousand in comparison with 1.73 per thousand, the rate for England and Wales.

The following table shows the cases and deaths for the past ten years.

SCARLET FEVER, 1939-1948

Year	Bedford				England and Wales	
	Number of Cases	Case Rate per 1,000	Number of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000	Case Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000
1939	106	2.20	—	—	1.89	0.004
1940	244	4.59	2	0.038	1.60	0.004
1941	202	3.41	1	0.017	1.50	0.003
1942	360	6.39	—	—	2.19	0.003
1943	254	4.75	—	—	3.01	0.003
1944	109	2.07	—	—	2.40	0.003
1945	94	1.84	—	—	1.89	0.002
1946	74	1.44	—	—	1.38	0.001
1947	82	1.58	—	—	1.37	0.001
1948	53	1.00	—	—	1.73	0.001
Average 1939-48	157.8	2.93	0.3	0.006	1.90	0.003

The figures for the country as a whole show that although there has been little change in the prevalence of the disease, it is milder than it was a few years ago, and death from this disease is now rare.

Diphtheria

No cases occurred. The number of cases of this disease occurring, as well as the number of deaths caused, have declined to a mere fraction of what they were a few years ago in the country as a whole, a result which may with confidence be attributed to the success of the scheme for general immunisation.

The rate and deaths for the past twenty years are shown in the following table:—

DIPHThERIA, 1929-1948

Year	Bedford				England and Wales	
	Number of Cases	Case Rate per 1,000	Number of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000	Case Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000
1929	16	0.39	1	0.024	1.59	0.087
1930	13	0.34	1	0.024	1.84	0.088
1931	1	0.02	—	—	1.26	0.067
1932	4	0.12	—	—	1.08	0.058
1933	3	0.07	—	—	1.18	0.066
1934	7	0.16	1	0.023	1.70	0.101
1935	43	0.99	2	0.046	1.60	0.084
1936	199	4.46	11	0.246	1.39	0.074
1937	69	1.52	2	0.044	1.49	0.071
1938	35	0.76	2	0.044	1.58	0.069
1939	16	0.33	—	—	1.15	0.052
1940	8	0.15	1	0.019	1.14	0.062
1941	43	0.73	4	0.068	1.28	0.068
1942	33	0.59	4	0.071	1.05	0.047
1943	6	0.11	1	0.019	0.88	0.036
1944	7	0.13	—	—	0.59	0.024
1945	8	0.16	—	—	0.46	0.018
1946	4	0.08	—	—	0.29	0.011
1947	2	0.04	—	—	0.13	0.006
1948	—	—	—	—	0.08	0.004
Average 1929-48	25.85	0.56	1.50	0.031	1.09	0.055

Enteric Fever. No case of typhoid or paratyphoid fever was notified.

Cerebro-spinal Fever. Two cases of meningococcal meningitis were notified, in females aged 32 and 4 respectively. Both patients recovered.

The following table shows the number of cases notified during the last ten years. Though the illness has declined from its high epidemic prevalence of 1940 and 1941, isolated cases continue to occur from time to time in accordance with its epidemiological behaviour.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER, 1939-1949

Year	Bedford				England and Wales	
	Number of Cases	Case Rate per 1,000	Number of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000	Case Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000
1939	3	0.06	1	0.021	0.04	0.012
1940	19	0.36	5	0.094	0.28	0.062
1941	15	0.25	3	0.051	0.26	0.053
1942	1	0.02	—	—	0.14	0.030
1943	9	0.17	2	0.037	0.08	0.020
1944	3	0.06	—	—	0.05	0.015
1945	5	0.09	2	0.039	0.05	0.014
1946	4	0.08	—	—	0.05	0.012
1947	2	0.06	1	0.019	0.05	0.013
1948	2	0.04	—	—	0.03	0.007
Average 1939-48	6.3	0.12	1.4	0.026	0.10	0.024

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis. Two cases were notified. One, a man aged twenty, a severe paralytic case, died; the other, a boy aged fifteen, had mild paralytic symptoms from which he recovered completely.

Measles. Two hundred and fifty-seven cases were notified in the year. Though 1947 was an epidemic year in which 741 cases occurred, a considerable number of cases occurred in the summer of 1948, which does not seem in accordance with the usual epidemiological behaviour of measles, in which one has come to expect a two-year cycle of prevalence.

Whooping Cough. One hundred and twenty-seven cases were notified, a number almost identical with that in each of the two previous years. One death occurred from whooping cough.

Jaundice. Six cases were notified. There were no deaths.

Influenza. There were no deaths from influenza during the year. Usually influenza is responsible for a considerable number of deaths during the year. The following table shows the death rate of the last ten years.

INFLUENZA, 1939-1948

Year	Death Rate per 1,000 Bedford	Death Rate per 1,000 England and Wales
1939	0.12	0.21
1940	0.38	0.32
1941	0.19	0.19
1942	0.11	0.09
1943	0.22	0.37
1944	0.06	0.12
1945	0.09	0.08
1946	0.37	0.15
1947	0.08	0.09
1948	—	0.03
Average 1939-1948 ...	0.16	0.17

2. TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases, and the number of deaths in their age groups.

Age Distribution of Cases and Deaths

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
5	1	4	—	1	1	—	—	—
10	1	2	2	1	—	—	1	—
15	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
20	4	8	—	—	1	1	—	—
25	9	10	1	2	2	1	—	—
35	11	5	—	—	—	1	1	1
45	10	5	—	1	2	2	1	—
55	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	41	41	4	6	7	6	3	1

Two deaths occurred in cases not previously notified. In such cases a letter is sent to the doctor who attended the patient in his last illness, in order to ascertain why the case was not notified.

The causes of the four deaths due to non-respiratory tuberculosis were as follows :—

- Case 1—1(a) Miliary tuberculosis
- (b) Tubercular laryngitis.
- Case 2—1(a) Abdominal tuberculosis
- (b) Mongolism.
- Case 3—1(a) Toxaemia
- (b) Tubercular hip joint.
- Case 4—1(a) Miliary tuberculosis
- (b) Renal tuberculosis.

The number of cases of scabies occurring from year to year is shown in the following table. The figures include not only borough cases but also some from outside areas on account of the difficulty of separating the figures. The numbers are very much less than during the war and earlier post-war years.

SCABIES, 1941-1948						
Year	Cases discovered					
1941	719
1942	957
1943	1,083
1944	1,019
1945	835
1946	675
1947	325
1948	176

(b) Verminous Infestation

The following table shows the action taken in connection with the treatment of verminous heads.

NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH VERMINOUS HEADS EXAMINED AND TREATED AT THE CLEANSING STATION DURING 1948

	New Cases		Treatments		Examinations	
	Bedford	County	Bedford	County	Bedford	County
Pre-School Children	4	1	4	1	4	1
School Children ...	85	2	333	5	133	3
Adults ...	7	2	10	7	10	3
Totals ...	96	5	347	13	147	7

The school children are very largely members of families the children of which attend regularly at the beginning of each term for treatment.

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures show the numbers immunised during the half-year up to the end of the 30th June, the date preceding by a few days that on which the Town Council ceased to be responsible for this work.

Diphtheria Immunisation (1st January-30th June)

	Treatment completed	Treatment begun but not completed
Children aged 0-5 ...	299	11
Children aged 5-15 ...	91	9
Other children and adults	1	1

In addition to the figures just given, 494 children aged 5-15 received a reinforcing injection.

The number of children, with their ages, who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 30th June, 1948, and the estimated mid-year population for 1948, are given in the following table.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Numbers of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time before 30th June, 1948								
Age at 30.6.48 <i>i.e.</i> , born in 12 months preceding	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9 30.6.38 to 30.6.43	10 to 14 born between 30.6.33 and 30.6.38	Total under 15
	30.6.48	30.6.47	30.6.46	30.6.45	30.6.44	30.6.43		
Number immunised	27	402	339	499	337	2,276	2,585	6,465
Estimated mid-year population, 1948	4,289					7,103		11,392

The figures indicate that children immunised under the Council's scheme formed 37 per cent. of all children at ages from birth up to five, while from five to fifteen they formed 68 per cent. of the total.

When allowance is made for children immunised privately, it is probable that not less than 55-60 per cent. of children under five and 75-80 per cent. of older children had been immunised in some way or another.

VIII. Conclusion

This is the last report dealing with personal health services formerly administered by the Town Council. The passage of these services, as indeed of many other public services, to other bodies was a cause of regret to the Council, who felt that the way in which they had for many years administered them gave ground for some satisfaction. The writer, at least, feels that any regrets are useless, mere voices crying in the wilderness, and that if he reads aright not only the signs of the present times, but also the lessons of past history, the changes are simply steps in the concentration of all government, including matters up to now locally administered, in the hands of the central bureaucracy. Doubtless the old forms, of freedom and local autonomy, are for a time to be retained, even though modified, till gradual changes, by robbing them of their content, shall have brought about a general realisation of their uselessness. When this happens, but not till then, they may be allowed to die a natural and inevitable death, which will then call forth no protest. At present, some health services are already the concern of the central government, some have now by recent developments been transferred from smaller to the larger local authorities, while some are still retained by the smaller authorities. Already a certain lack of logic and co-ordination in the arrangements may be seen, and those who wish may certainly find grounds, when the time is ripe, for further transfers from smaller to larger local authorities and from them to the central authority.



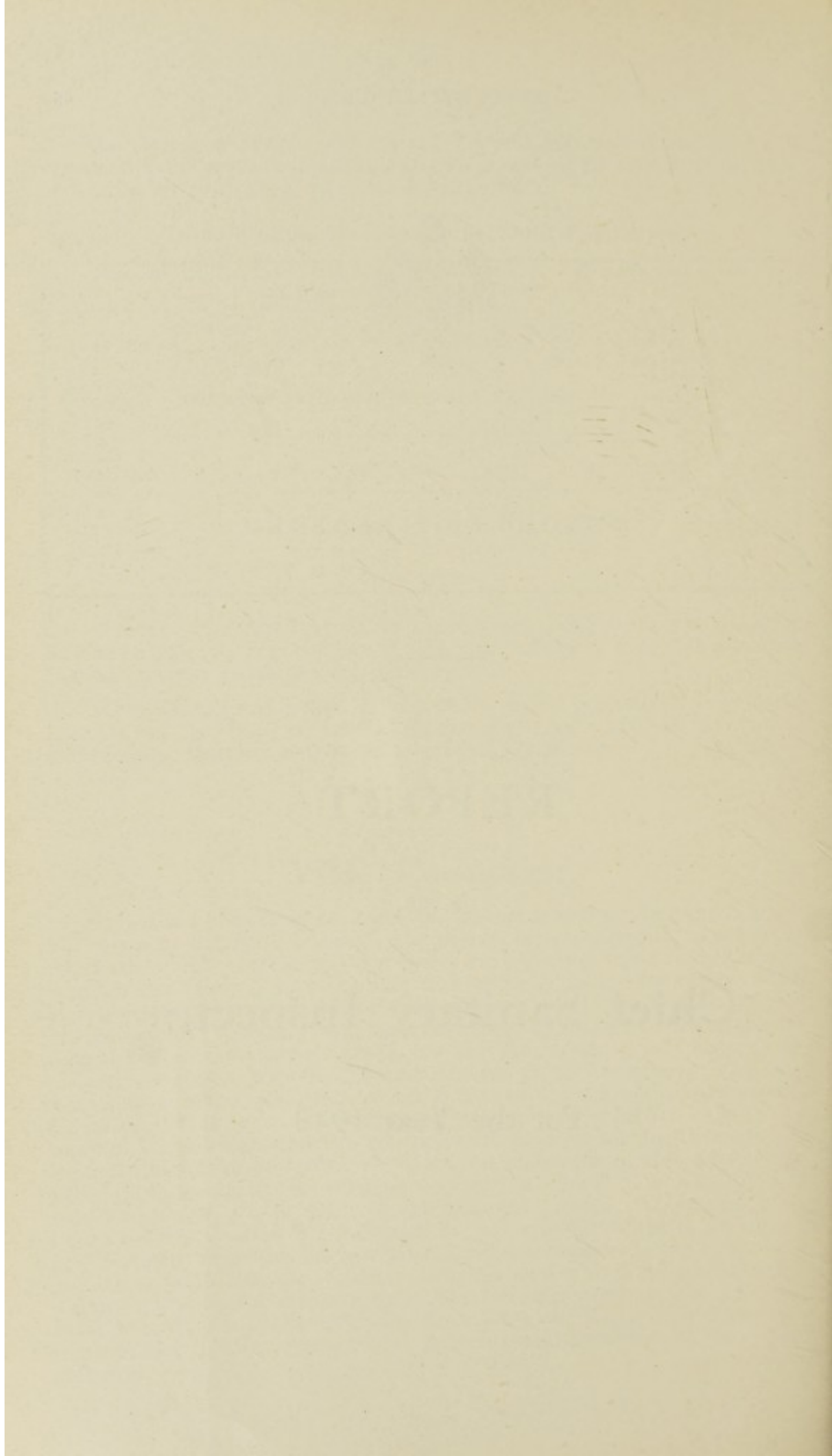
BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1948



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

August, 1949.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my report for the year 1948, on the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The report covers the year in which I achieved 20 years' service as your Chief Inspector, and as can be seen from its pages, the work of obtaining improvements in housing conditions, drainage, and at premises handling food has been maintained.

The problem of overcrowding of dwellings, and the replacement of houses of a low standard, cannot be overcome until such time as the present urgent need for more houses is met.

There was still a vacancy for a Sanitary Inspector, but steps were taken at the end of the year to fill this by the appointment, early in 1949, of Mr. F. H. Valentine, a clerk in this Department.

Two student Sanitary Inspectors have received practical training in this Department during the year. This training is undertaken in connection with a Government post-war training scheme for Sanitary Inspectors.

I desire to record my appreciation for the co-operation and consideration given me by the members of the Public Health Committee in the work undertaken, and also to express my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and other chief officers, the Sanitary Inspectors and office staff for their assistance and valuable support in the duties undertaken.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. C. HAYNES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

DRAINAGE—continued

Drains tested on complaint or inspected during alterations	...	247
Drains where defects found	... ..	173
Revisits for inspection during repairs or reconstruction	... ..	847
Retests made to drains	... ..	88
Houses Let in Lodgings		
Visits made	... ..	113
Common Lodging Houses		
Visits made	... ..	21
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.		
Visits made	... ..	66
Public Houses		
Visits made	... ..	257
Hotels		
Visits made	... ..	65
Restaurants		
Visits made	... ..	282
Fish-Frying Premises		
Inspections of premises	... ..	48
Slaughterhouses		
Visits made	... ..	1,066
Cowsheds and Dairies		
Visits made to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	... ..	228
Other Food Premises		
Visits to shops and premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale	... ..	1,758
Visits to bakehouses	... ..	155
Food and Drugs Sampling		
Samples submitted to the Public Analyst	... ..	98
Informal samples procured and examined in the laboratory of the Public Health Department	... ..	70
Samples of graded milk submitted for examination	... ..	126
Samples of ice cream submitted for examination	... ..	69
Places of Entertainment		
Visits made	... ..	27
Factories		
Visits to factories with mechanical power	... ..	270
Visits to factories without mechanical power	... ..	72
Visits to outworkers' premises	... ..	22

FACTORIES (INCLUDING BAKEHOUSES)—*continued*

Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with :							
(a)	Provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b)	Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing carried out							15

Smoke Abatement

Structural improvements	2
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Shops

W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
W.C. compartments repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Washing facilities provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shops or stores cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other improvements carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Places where Animals are kept

Structural defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Limewashing and general cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

II. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. HOUSING

(a) Inspections

(i) Housing Act, 1936

The filling of one of two vacancies on my Inspectorial Staff enabled more time to be devoted to this important work, and during the year it was found possible to inspect 169 houses under this Act, an increase of 93 over the previous year, namely 76. Of the houses inspected, three were found to be in order.

Informal notices were served upon the owners in respect of the 166 houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, and as the owners concerned agreed to carry out the works specified, it was unnecessary to serve statutory notices.

In order to supervise the work of carrying out the repairs, 1,783 visits were made under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

The cost of carrying out repairs is still very high, and care has to be taken to ensure that the works specified can be undertaken at a reasonable cost. I am still of opinion that where landlords keep their property in a reasonable state of repair, in cases where the standard rent is still on the 1914 basis, hardship may be caused, and to overcome this, a statutory increase in the standard rent should be permitted.

No houses were represented as unfit for human habitation in view of the still existing housing shortage.

(ii) Public Health Act, 1936

Under the above named Act, 388 inspections were made, and minor defects and/or nuisances were discovered at premises.

Two hundred and fifty-two informal notices were served, and in 201 instances the works specified were carried out. The remaining notices should be complied with during the current year.

(iii) Observations

On account of the fact that expenditure on repairs has been increased from ten pounds to one hundred pounds without the necessity of obtaining a licence, it has been somewhat easier for landlords to obtain builders to take their orders

At times, certain materials, such as slates and timber, have been in short supply.

The houses on which Demolition Orders were made in 1939, situated at Goldington, are still in occupation under licence issued by the Ministry of Health.

(b) General**(i) Overcrowding**

Twenty cases of overcrowding were reported or discovered, and as the only practicable way of abating these was by rehousing they were reported to the Housing Manager.

The following table shows the position with regard to overcrowding as at 31st December, 1948.

Overcrowding cases outstanding at 31st December, 1947	4
New cases discovered during 1948	20
	—
Total	24
Number of cases abated during 1948	14
	—
Number of cases outstanding at 31st December, 1948 ...	10
	—

Of the 14 cases abated, eight were rehoused in Corporation houses and in the remaining six cases the family circumstances changed and overcrowding no longer existed. The remaining cases of overcrowding should be abated as soon as other housing accommodation becomes available.

Many complaints of alleged overcrowding are brought to this Department by persons who have made application for Council Houses. While the shortage of housing accommodation remains, overcrowding is bound to occur, mainly due to young married couples living with their parents.

During the year, 37 applications were received from landlords and agents to supply the "permitted number" of occupants of individual houses.

(ii) Purchase of Property

Seven houses, Nos. 47-59 Ashburnham Road (terrace type), were purchased by me on behalf of the Town Council during the year.

At the present time, 30 families, consisting of 83 adults (over 10 years of age) and 15 children (under 10), are residing in these houses, in 29 separate lettings, and in due course it is proposed to rehouse some of the families, and then to adapt the houses into self-contained apartments for aged couples or other suitable tenants, including those not rehoused.

In addition, two cottages (Nos. 80 and 82 Greyfriars Walk) were purchased by private treaty.

I attended most of the property sales in the borough, but owing to high prices, no purchases were made; for example, one cottage (in a proposed redevelopment area) which I valued at £150, realised the price of £925 with vacant possession.

(iii) Estimated number of Houses

Estimated number of private houses in the borough	13,328
Houses owned by Corporation on estates	1,575
Houses owned by Corporation in various other parts of the borough	30
Total	14,933

It is estimated that some 464 houses may be regarded as unfit for human habitation, and 1,400 of a low standard.

(iv) Housing — Amenities**(a) BATHS**

During the year a number of owners have installed baths at their houses, there still being approximately 3,350 houses without baths, excluding some 1,500 houses of a low standard and where there is insufficient accommodation for the provision of baths.

The present high cost, due to purchase tax ($66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.) of water heaters is a handicap to the provision of baths in the older type of house. The installation of baths to houses is not a legal requirement, although in the case of houses built since 1920, the provision of this facility has been more or less automatic.

(b) WATER SUPPLY AND SINKS

Every house in the borough, with the exception of some 42 houses, as stated below, is provided with internal piped water from the public mains.

HOUSES WITHOUT INTERNAL WATER SUPPLY OR SINKS

Situation	Number of Houses				Means of water supply	
	Without internal water supply		Without sinks			
*St. John's Place (Almshouses)	...	5	...	5	...	3 taps in yard connected to public main
*St. Loyes Street (Almshouses)	...	8	...	8	...	3 taps in yard connected to public main.
*Clapham Road ... (Thatched cottages)	...	4	...	4	...	2 taps in gardens connected to public main
*Cricket Lane	2	...	2	...	1 tap in garden connected to public main.
*Goldington Road	...	10	...	10	...	3 taps in gardens connected to public mains.
†Cauldwell Walk	...	1	...	—	...	Well in garden.
†Brickhill Farm Cottage...	...	1	...	—	...	Well in garden.
†Biddenham, Ford End	...	6	...	5	...	Well in garden.
†Cardington Road (Old Fenlake)	...	5	...	2	...	3 wells in gardens.
Total	42	...	36	...	

* Scheduled for demolition.

† In remote situation.

‡ Provision of piped supply under consideration.

(c) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

All the houses in the borough have water closets with flushing cisterns provided, with the exception of 63 houses, 48 of which are provided with pail closets (details of these are given under the heading Drainage and Sewerage). Thirteen almshouses situated in St. John's Place and St. Loyes Street, share seven water closets, and Nos. 494 and 496 Goldington Road (scheduled for demolition), share one water closet.

It is estimated that some 500 houses (including 45 almshouses) have water closets which do not adjoin the dwelling houses, but are situated at the end of the yards.

(d) HOUSES WITHOUT SECONDARY MEANS OF ACCESS.

It is estimated that some 100 houses are without secondary means of access, that is the front door has to be used to gain access to the back yard, but the majority of these houses are scheduled for demolition.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(a) Drainage

The following table is a summary of the houses and other premises at which drains were tested and inspected and repair work carried out.

Type of Premises	No. tested	No. inspected	No. where defects found	No. wholly relaid	No. repaired
(i) Private Houses :					
(a) On payment of fee ...	2	—	2	—	2
(b) On complaint, etc. ...	5	226	154	11	143
(ii) Schools and Boarding Houses:					
(a) Harpur Trust ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Private ...	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Nursing Homes ...	1	—	1	1	2
(iv) Hospitals ...	—	—	—	—	—
(v) Other premises ...	—	16	16	5	11
Totals ...	8	242	173	17	156

For the purpose of supervising repairs and reconstruction of drainage, 847 visits of inspection were made, and 88 retests were made.

As can be seen from the table, there has been very little demand for the testing and reporting upon house drains on payment of fee, this being due to the fact that purchasers are only too pleased to obtain possession of houses without taking advantage of the facilities offered by the Authority for drain testing.

(b) Sewerage

All premises in the borough have drainage connected to the public sewers with the exception of 61 houses and seven small factories, at which the sewage disposal arrangements are stated in following table.

Situation	Number of Premises	Type of Closet	Drainage	
			Slops	Closet
HOUSES :				
†58 Kempston Road	1	Pail	Cesspool	—
†66 Kempston Road	1	Pail	Cesspool	—
†Cauldwell House, Kempston Road	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*†Rose Cottage, Cauldwell Walk ...	1	Pail	Cesspool	—
*†Cave's Cottage, Cave's Lane ...	1	Pail	Cesspool	—
*Cottage, Brickhill Farm ...	1	Pail	Cesspool	—
*Angler's Rest, Clapham Road ...	1	Pail	Cesspool	—
*Waterworks Pumping Station, Clapham Road	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
†*Thatched Cottages, Clapham Rd.	4	Pails	Cesspools	—
*Franklin's Cottages, Clapham Rd.	4	Pails	Cesspool	—
*"Denver," Clapham Road ...	1	Water	Septic Tank	Septic Tank
†409-427 Goldington Road ...	10	Pails	Soak-away	—
†8 Goldington Green	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
†22-24 Cricket Lane	2	Pails	Soak-away	—
*Farm, Putnoe Lane	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*Farm Cottages, Putnoe Street ...	3	Pails	Soak-away	—
*"Appledene," Putnoe Street ...	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*Farm Buildings (Old Hospital), Newnham	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
*Newnham Farm Cottage, Newnham	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
†198 Kimbolton Road	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
†Sewage Works House, Cardington	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
†Sewage Works Cottage, Cardington	2	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*Mill Farm House, Cardington ...	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*Mill Farm Cottages, Cardington..	3	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*Biddenham Ford End	6	Pail	Soak-away	—
*"The Manor," Old Fenlake ...	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*"Ashleigh," Old Fenlake ...	1	Water	Cesspool	Cesspool
*"The Laurels," Old Fenlake ...	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
*239 Cardington Road	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
*240 Cardington Road, Old Fenlake	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
*"The Anchor," Old Fenlake ...	1	Pail	Cesspool	—
*"Meadow View," Old Fenlake ...	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
*"River View," Old Fenlake ...	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
*242 Cardington Road, Old Fenlake	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
*"Brookside," Old Fenlake ...	1	Pail	Soak-away	—
FACTORIES :				
*Firtree, Cauldwell Walk ...	1	Pail	—	—
*Anstee's, Cauldwell Walk ...	1	Pail	—	—
*Pilgrim's, Cauldwell Walk ...	1	Pail	—	—
†Railway Goods Yard, Prebend St.	1	Pail	—	—
*Factory, Cave's Lane	1	Pail	—	—
*Quenby's, Cattle Dock Road ...	1	Pail	—	—
*Waterworks Pumping Station ...	1	Pail	—	—

*No sewer available.

†Connection to sewer too costly in view of remoteness of situation.

‡Scheduled for demolition.

With regard to the "Anglers' Rest," Clapham Road, and the ten houses at Old Fenlake, schemes of extension of the sewers and house connection thereto are in course of preparation.

A scheme is being prepared for the conversion of the old hospital, Newnham, into a number of dwellings, and when the works are completed, water closets will replace pail closets.

3. REFUSE (STORAGE, COLLECTION & DISPOSAL)

(a) Storage

The provision of new dustbins was made at 42 houses after service of informal notices. In 2 cases, following upon non-compliance of informal action, statutory notices were served, and these were duly complied with.

In accordance with the instructions of the Public Health Committee, the notices requiring provision of dustbins have been served upon property owners, and in some instances, the owners and agents have raised the question as to the responsibility of the provision of dustbins, following upon recent Court decisions in various parts of the country, but after discussion on the matter, they have provided the bins.

In view of Court decisions and the time involved in a Sanitary Inspector's duties in obtaining the provision of dustbins, consideration should be given by the Authority whereby they undertake to provide or replace all dustbins for house refuse on a charge to the General Rate in accordance with Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936. Such schemes already operate in a number of towns in this country.

(b) Collection

Arrangements for the collection of refuse is under the control of the Borough Engineer, and modern type motor vehicles are used.

(c) Disposal

Up to 25th September, 1948, refuse disposal was by incineration at the Refuse Destructor Works, but since this date disposal has been by controlled tipping in disused gravel pits at Willington.

4. INSPECTION OF PREMISES (OTHER THAN HOUSES). PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

(a) Offices

Inspections were made to 33 office premises during the year, and at three premises contraventions were discovered as follows :—

Two—insufficient sanitary accommodation.

One—cleansing of walls and ceilings.

Following upon service of informal notices, the works specified were duly undertaken.

The works of improvement to the men's sanitary conveniences at the Town Hall were in progress during the year.

(b) Public Houses

In accordance with the instructions of the Public Health Committee, a sanitary survey of public houses in the borough was carried out and completed by the end of the year.

In the borough there are 97 public houses, licensed as follows :—

57 ... Beer, wines and spirits.

10 ... Beer and wines.

30 ... Beer only.

These figures do not include off-licence or club premises.

A report was submitted to the Committee giving the following particulars :

(i) **Sanitary Conveniences**

At 76 premises, separate accommodation is provided for male and female customers and for the occupiers, whilst at 21 there were provisions for the male customers and occupier only.

All the public houses have water closets with drainage connected to the public sewer, with the exception of :—

*The Anglers' Rest, Clapham Road.

*The Anchor, Old Fenlake,

which are provided with pail closets only.

The following table shows the situation of the sanitary conveniences for the use of customers :—

Within the building	...	...	...	...	...	8
Adjoining the building	...	...	...	...	...	17
In yard, at a distance from bar	...	...	...	...	...	72

*Reference is made to these two premises under the heading "Drainage and Sewerage."

(ii) **General Conditions**

Structurally, the premises are generally in a satisfactory condition, but at 33 premises works of redecoration were required.

(iii) **Cleaning of Glasses, etc.**

In 42 instances, hot water is provided in the bar for the washing of glasses, etc., whilst at 52, cold water only is available in the bar. In three cases, no water supply is provided in the bar.

(iv) **Sinks**

Ninety-five of the houses have sinks fixed in the bar, of which 84 have waste pipes connected to the drainage system, while the remaining 11 discharge into buckets beneath the sinks. Attention was also given to the storage cellars and draw pipes and pumps, etc., and methods of disposal of waste beer.

The report was considered by the Committee at a meeting held early in January, 1949, when they resolved that the following principles be adopted as being most desirable in the interests of public health.

1. That all sanitary accommodation provided for the use of customers should, wherever possible, be situate within the actual building, or be adjacent thereto, with access by covered way.
2. That separate lavatory accommodation be provided for each sex.
3. That hot water supply should be made available over the sinks provided in the bars, to enable glasses, etc., to be properly cleansed.

With regard to (1) it is considered that this provision should be made in order to avoid risk of nuisances being committed in the yards of the public houses, and that the sanitary accommodation may be under adequate supervision.

Concerning (2), it is considered essential that occupiers should have separate private accommodation, apart from that provided for the customers' use.

Regarding (3), it is considered in addition that a suitable detergent should be used in the cleansing of glasses, etc.

These recommendations were communicated to eight breweries (in Feb., 1949), whose houses did not comply with the recommendations, and it is pleasing to report that they have agreed with them.

It must be realised that some considerable time will elapse before the works of structural improvements are carried out to the sanitary conveniences, as this will involve preparation of plans, obtaining specifications, and the necessary licences.

During the year additional W.C.s were provided at two premises, whilst at 17 works of redecoration were carried out.

In all, 257 visits of inspection were paid to public houses during the year.

(c) Hotels

There were 12 hotels in the borough, together with a small number of boarding houses.

In all, 65 visits were paid to these premises, and the bedrooms and sanitary conveniences were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

(d) Cinemas, Theatre, Dance Halls, etc.

Two cinemas were completely redecorated during the year. Periodic visits have been made to the four cinemas, and in addition a report was made on the sanitary condition to the Bedfordshire County Council (the licensing authority).

Routine visits have also been paid to the theatre and other public halls used for dancing, and other social events.

The Crofton Rooms were destroyed by fire at Christmas-time, and damage was also caused to the adjoining Glider Rink causing temporary closure.

A petition from residents in the neighbourhood of the Glider Rink complaining of noise from loudspeakers and from skates was submitted to the Local Authority. Acting on their instructions, investigations were made which entailed several evening visits to houses in the area, and to the Rink itself, and it was found that the complaint was not without foundation.

The management was interviewed and recommended to refix the loudspeakers in a more suitable position, and to reduce the power of amplification. This was agreed by them, and as a result, immediate adjustments were made, which reduced the sound of music.

In order to minimise noise from skates, the management was advised to ensure that as far as possible rubber-tyred roller skates were used, and this they agreed to undertake as far as practicable.

The management was also asked to consider the matter of under-drawing the roof so as to provide a proper ceiling, which should also tend to retain the sound of music and the noise of skating within the building itself. It is hoped that this work will be undertaken during the coming year.

(e) Offensive Trades

There is only one offensive trade carried on in the borough, namely, dealers in rags and bones, and 49 visits were made to the three establishments concerned. The premises were found to be a satisfactory condition.

In addition, the Corporation maintain a salvage department at the Newnham Depôt, under the supervision of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

(f) Rivers, Streams and Ponds

Generally there has been no cause for complaint regarding the river, streams and ponds, apart from the dumping of disused household articles in the King's Ditch in the Pilcroft Street area, and to some slop water gaining access to the pond near Goldington Green.

Periodic cleaning of the King's Ditch is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department, but indiscriminate dumping is still carried on.

On inspection of the ponds, streams and ditches in the Goldington area, mosquito infestation was discovered, and frequent spraying with an insecticide was undertaken.

(g) Places where Animals are kept.

Thirty-nine inspections were made at places where animals are kept, and despite the fact that there has been an increase in pig-keeping, only one complaint was received regarding smells from premises. In view of the fact that this pig sty was near dwelling houses, the owner was advised to re-erect the styes at a point further away from the houses, which was undertaken by him.

The only other complaint received was one of the smells emanating from the cooking of pig food in a yard of a densely populated area. Acting on advice from this Department, improvement was made to the cooking apparatus, and no further complaint has been received.

No complaints were received relating to stables.

(h) Smoke Abatement

There are 27 chimneys in connection with 21 factories which are in constant use, and only in respect of four factories was there cause for complaint regarding excessive smoke and grit emission at times.

Generally the cause of the complaint is due to a low grade fuel being supplied and in some cases to improper stoking. The managements have at various times been approached regarding stoking, and improvements have been made.

In two cases, technical experts from the Ministry of Fuel and Power have visited these factories, and whilst admitting the poor quality of the fuel, have given advice on methods of stoking with this fuel, together with advice on suggested plant alteration.

With regard to the two factories mentioned in my previous report, in which it was proposed to use oil instead of solid fuel, this has not been possible owing to the fact that the Ministry of Fuel and Power have not been able to grant the necessary licences to obtain the oil.

(i) Public Conveniences

The supervision of the public conveniences in the town and the parks and recreation grounds is under the control of the Borough Surveyor's Department.

A scheme for improvement of existing conveniences and the provision of adequate facilities has been drawn up by the Borough Surveyor, and this has received the approval of the Town Council. Under present circumstances it is expected that it will take some time to fully complete the scheme.

5. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1937.

FOOD PREPARING ROOMS

(a) Restaurants

There are some 37 restaurants in the town, and these have been regularly inspected. One new restaurant was opened during the year, and works of adaptation and redecoration were carried out prior to opening.

The Civic Restaurant, Mill Street, was extended by the adaptation of the ground floor of the adjoining disused Fire Station.

(b) Hotels

Inspections have been made of the kitchens and dining rooms of the hotels and boarding houses, and these were found to be maintained in good condition.

(c) Bakehouses

At the end of the year there were 33 bakehouses in regular use, none of which come under the category of "Underground Bakehouses."

The method of firing at these bakehouses is as follows :—

Solid fuel	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Gas	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Electricity	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

A number of occupiers are still interested in the use of gas for baking, and orders have been placed for adaptation of existing ovens or the provision of new ranges, but owing to existing conditions there will be some delay before orders can be completed.

(d) Ice Cream

The following table shows the premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream.

*Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	17
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	80
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	97
						—

Manufacture of ice cream is as follows :—

†Heat treatment	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cold Mix	...	...	...	...	...	4
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	11
						—

*Not manufacturing at present: 6.

†All manufacturers have had coolers installed and, although orders have been placed with makers, only two have recorder thermometers fixed.

At one manufacturing premises structural alterations were made and works of redecoration were carried out at two.

Most of the ice cream sold at shops is mainly pre-packed and is stored in cabinets. Where the commodity is sold from vehicles and kiosks, proper screening has been provided to avoid contamination.

An inspection was carried out by an official of the Department of Pathology of the Public Health Laboratory Service (under the direction of the Medical Research Council), in order to ensure that ice cream was being manufactured under hygienic conditions.

(e) Sausages and Preserved Foods

Premises at which sausages and prepared foods intended for sale are manufactured were inspected and found to be satisfactorily maintained.

(f) Fish Frying

Frequent inspections were made to the 17 establishments and one premises where vehicles are stored, and these were kept in good condition. At two premises new gas-fired ranges were fixed.

(g) Sweets

There are three premises at which sweets are manufactured and these are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

At one factory, complete redecoration was carried out.

(h) Slaughterhouses

Works of structural improvement were carried out at the three slaughterhouses occupied by the Ministry of Food.

(i) Shops, Stalls and Vehicles.

For the purpose of ensuring that food is prepared, stored and sold under hygienic conditions, 1,758 visits were made to shops, stalls and vehicles.

Generally the premises have been maintained in a cleanly condition, and in only 18 cases was it necessary to take informal action.

There is always risk of contamination from dust on the open stalls on the Market Square, but care is taken by the stallholders to prevent this as far as possible. The provision of a covered market in this connection would help to solve the problem.

(j) Cleanliness and Hygiene at Catering Establishments and Other Food Preparing Premises.

In support of the campaign inaugurated by the British Tourist and Holidays Board to secure proper standards of hygiene at all premises where food is prepared and/or sold, a circular letter was addressed in July to the occupiers of all hotels, restaurants, bakehouses, public houses, ice cream establishments and others concerned, drawing their attention to the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, relative to precautions required against contamination of food.

For information, the main essentials of the letter are quoted :—

“ With reference to the posters and circular letter on the matter of cleanliness and a standard of hygiene in all premises where food is prepared for human consumption issued recently by the British Tourist and Holidays Board in co-operation with the Ministries of Health and Food, in addition I desire to draw your attention to the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relative to precautions against contamination of food.

The following important extracts from Section 13 are brought to your notice :—

- (i) the walls, ceilings and doors of the room shall be painted, whitewashed, cleansed or purified as often as may be necessary to keep them clean, and the windows of the room shall be kept clean ;
- (ii) no refuse or filth, whether solid or liquid, shall be deposited or allowed to accumulate in the room, except so far as may be necessary for the proper carrying on of the trade or business for which the room is used, and the floor of the room shall be cleansed as often as may be necessary to keep it clean ;
- (iii) cleanliness shall be observed by persons employed in the room, both in regard to the room and all articles, apparatus and utensils therein, and in regard to themselves and their clothing ; and
- (iv) there shall be provided in, or within reasonable distance of, the room, suitable washing basins and a sufficient supply of soap, clean towels, and clean water, both hot and cold, for the use of persons employed in the room.

Failure to comply with any of these requirements renders the occupier liable to a fine not exceeding £20.

With regard to paragraphs (iii) and (iv), for your consideration I would emphasise the following points.

1. CROCKERY AND CUTLERY

Cleanliness of these articles should be undertaken by the provision of a sufficient supply of hot and cold water, and at least two sinks should be available, one for primary washing in hot water, to which has been added a suitable detergent for removal of grease, etc., and one for the final rinse. Crockery should be allowed to drain in racks (not dried by cloths) and then suitably stored. *Chipped and cracked crockery should not be used.*

2. COOKING APPARATUS AND UTENSILS

These should be maintained at all times in a cleanly condition.

3. PERSONAL CLEANLINESS

(a) *Cloakrooms*

Adequate cloakroom accommodation should be provided so as to avoid clothing being hung in food-preparing rooms.

(b) *Clothing*

Suitable protective clothing and headgear should be worn by all employees engaged in the preparation and handling of food.

(c) *Washing Accommodation*

Suitable and sufficient washbasins (separate from the sinks used for the cleansing of crockery, etc.), must be provided, together with hot and cold water, soap and nail brushes. It is strongly advised that a liquid soap in suitable containers be used.

(d) *Towels*

I would advise that either hand towels or paper towels be provided in preference to roller towels.

(e) *Notices*

Notices should be displayed in all staff lavatories and food-preparing rooms, drawing attention to the importance of the washing of hands after use of the W.C. or urinal.

4. STORAGE OF FOOD

In addition to the above and in order to avoid contamination all perishable food should be kept in a refrigerator and other foodstuffs stored under hygienic conditions.

5. PESTS

Adequate steps should be taken at all food premises to avoid infestation by rodents (rats and mice), and insect pests (flies, beetles, crickets, etc.). ”

This circular aroused much interest, and advice was sought by individual traders on the methods of effecting improvements, and in many cases, such advice was acted upon.

III Shops Act, 1934—Section 10

In order to ensure that the health and comfort of shop workers is catered for, 198 visits were made to shops, and apart from the undermentioned, were generally found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The following works were carried out at shops during the year :—

Additional W.C.s built	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective W.C.s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cleaning and redecorating of shops	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective floor repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Heating provided	...	...	...	...	...	1

IV. Building Plans

In co-operation with the Borough Surveyor's Department, all building plans are examined by me before submission to the Town Planning Committee. My observations, if any, are duly noted, and amendments are made where necessary.

In a number of instances, plans have been submitted for conversion of rooms into bathrooms and, in addition, a number of the larger type houses have been converted into flats.

V. Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Byelaws and Regulations

1. HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

A number of houses of the larger type, situated in the central and north-west areas of the borough, are still being let as "Houses let in Lodgings."

Seven houses of this type have recently been purchased by the Corporation, and it is hoped that these, as well as the privately owned ones, will, as soon as housing conditions improve, cease to be used as such.

2. COMMON LODGING HOUSES

The three registered Common Lodging Houses in the borough have been regularly inspected and found to be maintained in reasonable condition.

The following table shows the available accommodation at these premises together with the number of lodgers admitted. Only male lodgers are admitted.

Situation	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Beds	No. of Lodgers Admitted
8a Tavistock Place	6	40	13,395
4 All Hallows Lane	4	19	5,180
22 All Hallows Lane	2	16	5,309
	—	—	—
	12	75	23,884
	—	—	—

The demand for this type of accommodation is still large, mainly due to the fact that constructional work is proceeding on a fairly large scale at the Research Station just outside Bedford, there being an increase of 2,268 lodgers over the previous year.

The casual wards at Kimbolton Road were re-opened during the year, but accommodation is very limited.

(3) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**(a) Caravans at Fairground**

The caravans used by the showmen at the Statute Fairs in Commercial Road were inspected and found to be kept in a very satisfactory condition. Also inspection was made of the sanitary accommodation (pail closets).

No case of illness or disease was discovered among the van dwellers.

(b) Other Sites

During the year the occupiers of eight caravans were granted licences to station their vehicles at the following sites.

Site	No. of Caravans
Clarence Yard, St. John's Street	4
Park Farm, Bury Walk	1
Paddock at 1 Goldington Green	3
Total	8

The caravans were inspected and found to be in order. The occupants have facilities of sanitary accommodation and water supply provided at nearby houses.

I have from time to time received application to station additional caravans on these sites, but in view of the limited sanitary arrangements available, these have not been entertained.

VI. Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

The following table shows the work undertaken during the year:—

Type of Premises	No. of Inspections	State of Infestation						Free of Vermin	Treatment		Estimated Vermin destroyed		Contracts entered into
		Heavy 50-100		Med'm 12-50		Small 1-12			Visits for treatment	Pre-mises treated	Rats	Mice	
		R	M	R	M	R	M						
Business ...	402	6	1	11	10	17	35	322	299	80	960	542	38
Private ...	384	—	—	13	13	191	117	50	894	334	892	498	—
Corporation	38	6	1	5	5	7	7	7	122	31	1943	209	—
	824	12	2	29	28	215	159	379	1315	445	3795	1249	38

R=Rats

M=Mice

NOTE.—The number of rodents destroyed is estimated at three per ounce of poison bait partaken. This basis may be on the low side.

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED: Business, 47; Corporation, 15; Private, 265.

All complaints were duly investigated and in addition the work of routine survey was also continued.

The table indicates that, apart from some 14 premises, rodent infestation is not heavy, and in the majority of instances the infestation is slight.

The heavy infestation in the main relates to the area surrounding the refuse destructor at which it is estimated some 1,850 rats were destroyed. As the refuse destructor was closed at the latter end of the year, it is expected that the infestation will gradually decline.

Another source of heavy infestation was at a corn miller's premises in the centre of the town. In view of the nature of the business and the state of infestation, the matter was referred to the Divisional Rodent Officer, who arranged for a technical officer in conjunction with this Department to visit and make a survey of the whole of the premises and surrounding property.

A report was submitted by the Technical Officer on the method of treatment to be adopted, and this suggested treatment was carried out. As a result, 438 rats were estimated to have been destroyed on the miller's premises. A further estimated 66 rats were destroyed at the surrounding premises. At the completion of the course of treatment, the occupier entered into a contract with a servicing company of rodent exterminators to undertake periodic treatment of the premises. This has resulted in a diminution of the infestation.

At another food premises, heavy infestation was discovered, and courses of treatment have been given with satisfactory results.

The Rodent Operator attended a refresher course in London, given under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. I attended a one-day revision lecture on Rodent Control at Luton. These lectures proved very useful and enabled one to keep up to date with modern methods of rodent control.

The sum of £83 was received in respect of work undertaken in connection with the 38 contracts entered into. No charges were made for treatment carried out at private dwellings or Corporation property.

It can be stated that from a financial point of view, the work of rodent destruction is not a paying proposition, but the work of eradication is definitely a matter of great importance, and does prevent large scale damage to foodstuffs and properties.

The Ministry of Agriculture have agreed to continue the grant towards the cost of treatment carried out at private establishments.

The work of eradication of rats in the public sewers continues to be undertaken by the Borough Surveyor's Department, and this has no doubt assisted in the prevention of heavy infestation, particularly in the central areas.

VII. National Assistance Act, 1948

SECTION 50—BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD.

In accordance with the instructions of the Committee, I was appointed as the officer responsible for making necessary arrangements for the burial or cremation of the dead in the borough where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been, or are being, made by relatives or friends.

Tenders for funeral arrangements were invited from local undertakers, but only two quotations were received, the lowest being accepted, at £8 12s. 6d. for burials or £10 17s. 6d. for cremation, with lower amounts in each case where the body is that of a child under six years of age, plus registration and minister's fees.

Since 5th July, arrangements have been made for the burial of six persons, all of whom died at St. Peter's Hospital.

The Committee have approved the carrying out of the wishes of deceased persons, relatives or friends concerning place of burial, providing this is within the County of Bedford. This has involved an extra charge of 1s. 6d. per mile.

In only one case was burial undertaken outside Bedford.

In five instances the entire cost of burial was borne by the Council, and in the remaining case, the cost was recovered from the estate of the deceased.

XIII. Rent Restriction Acts, 1920-1939

1. UNFURNISHED ACCOMMODATION.

During the year, two complaints were received and investigated, and the following shows the action taken :—

Type of Letting	Rent Charged (per week)	Rent reduced to (per week)	Remarks
One Room	s. d. 30 0	s. d. 17 6	
House	30 0	10 0	New tenancy

In no case was it found necessary to resort to legal action, as the owners readily agreed to accept my advice regarding reduction in rents.

2. FURNISHED ACCOMMODATION

The authority was notified by the Rent Tribunal that in 15 cases investigated by them, rents had been reduced in respect of furnished accommodation.

I am of opinion that a number of people will not apply to the Rent Tribunal for investigation of their cases in view of the fact that there is also the risk that, if after investigation reduction is made in the rent, occupiers may be required to vacate the premises after the expiration of three months.

3. GENERAL.

A total of 364 interviews with tenants, sub-tenants and landlords were held following upon enquiries made concerning the above-named Acts.

IX. Factories Act, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS.

The following tables show the number of factories on the register, the number of inspections made, and the number of defects discovered and results of action taken.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections & Re-Visits	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	54	72	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	273	270	15	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	7	7	—	—
Total	334	349	20	—

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	1	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	5	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	9	8	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	4	4	—	—	—
Total	23	17	—	2	—

The outstanding notices for 1947 were duly complied with in 1948.

2. OUTWORK

The following shows the number of outworkers on the register.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers
Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	38
Household linen	1
Curtains and furniture hangings	1
Furniture and upholstery	8

Twenty-two visits of inspection were made and the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

X. Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Investigations were made in certain cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and the following up of contacts with such diseases. In all, a total of 137 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

2. DISINFECTION

Disinfection of 68 rooms and 6,770 articles of bedding and clothing, etc., after cases of infectious disease, tuberculosis and cancer were carried out.

In addition, steam disinfection of quantities of bedding, clothing, etc., was undertaken for bedding firms and national and local authorities' undertakings, for which moderate charges were made to cover expenses. A sum of £30 10s. 3d. was received in this connection.

By arrangement with libraries concerned, all books on issue to houses where infectious disease has occurred, are withdrawn by this Department for disinfection or destruction. After disinfection, books are returned direct to the libraries.

The work of destroying insect pests of all types is carried out by this Department, and no charge is made for this service. The general method employed is by spraying liquid insecticides containing D.D.T. In certain cases, insecticide powder containing D.D.T. is used. The results of treatment were satisfactory in all cases.

The following table shows the number of infested premises treated, together with the type of infestation.

Premises	No.	Rooms	Type of Pest
Private Houses—Council...	17	65	Bugs
Others ...	32	144	Bugs
Private Houses ...	12	6	Ants
Private Houses ...	6	17	Beetles
Private Houses ...	43	22	Other Pests
Business Premises ...	2	7	Other Pests

In addition to the above figures, in 12 instances it was found necessary to remove and destroy filthy bedding.

XI. Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1928

There are only a few premises at which rag flock is used by the furnishing trade, and as this material was supplied with guarantees of cleanliness, it was not considered necessary to take any samples.

XII. Merchandise Marks Act, 1926

In view of the fact that there was some laxity in the failure to label imported food products as required by the above-named Act, a circular letter setting out the requirements was addressed to 475 shopkeepers, stallholders and hawkers concerned.

Following upon this action generally the requirements are now being observed.

XIII. Floods

During the evening of August Bank Holiday, an excessive storm broke over the town (rainfall being 3.46 inches in 12 hours).

Following upon complaints of flooding, inspections were made of the dwelling houses situated between the Midland Road and Bromham Road areas.

Some damage was caused to floor coverings, and in one case it was necessary to find temporary accommodation for one family.

The Fire Service rendered assistance by pumping out water from many of the basement dwellings, and in order to assist the occupiers in cleaning, disinfectant was supplied free of charge by this Department.

