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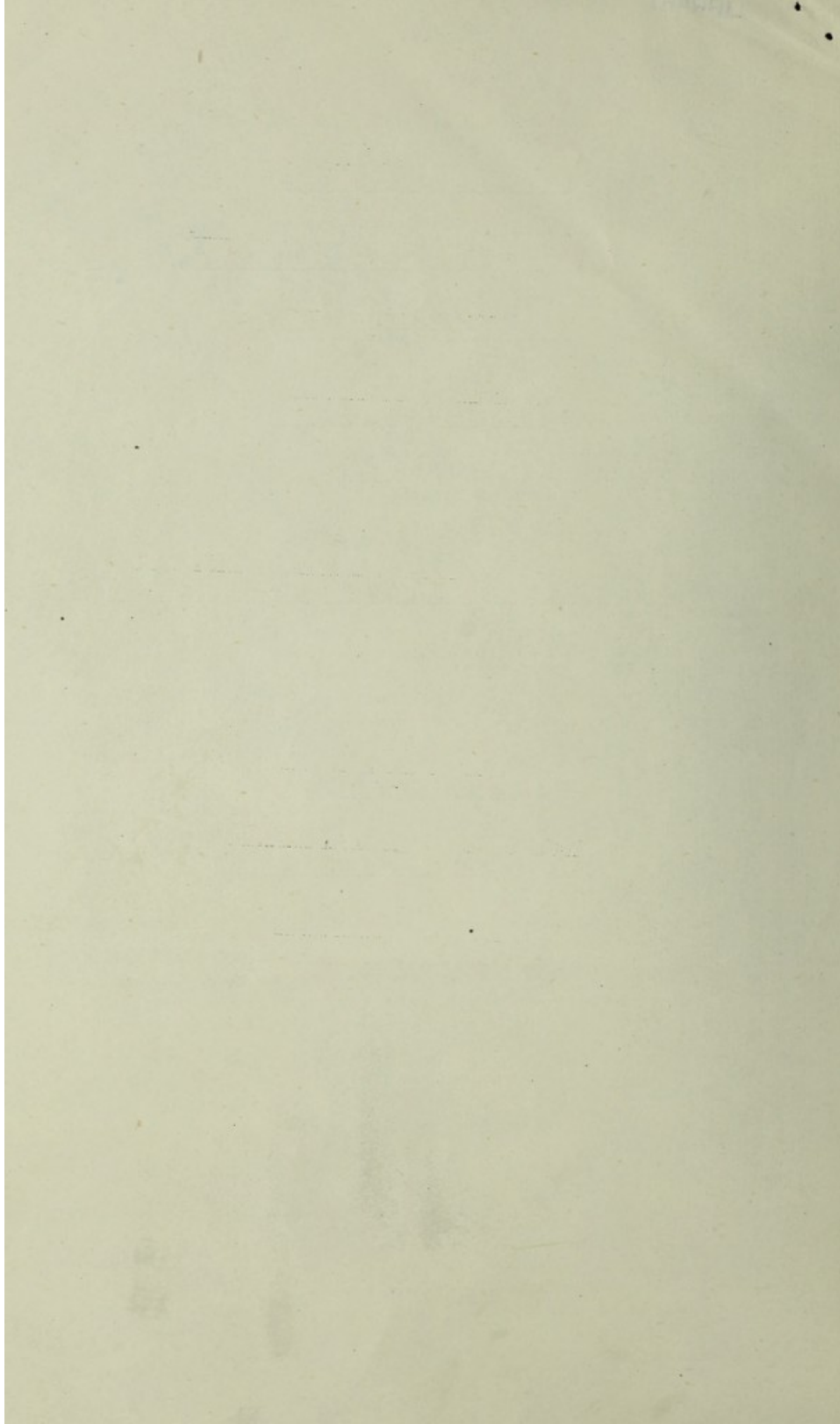
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1 9 4 7.

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BILLESDON RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1947

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Lady and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,728
Registrar General's estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,436
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,470
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£35,780
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£136.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births	-				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals</u>
					79	78	157
		Legitimate					
		Illegitimate			7	3	10
					86	81	167
					=====	=====	=====
					<u>Rate for</u>	<u>Rate for</u>	
					<u>District</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>	
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	22.4	20.5	
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	8.4	12	
Infant Mortality Rate per							
1,000 live births					23.9	41	

These statistics are very satisfactory.

The Death Rate is very low, and an analysis of the causes of death shows that those most prevalent in this district are associated with advancing years, to a large extent inevitable.

The small number of deaths among infants is most gratifying, and is evidence that the health and welfare of new arrivals is receiving careful attention. In this connection it should be noted that during the year the County Council opened an Infant Welfare Centre in Houghton-on-the-Hill.





# CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis ... ..	1	-
Influenza ... ..	1	-
Cancer of the breast ... ..	-	2
Cancer of other sites ... ..	2	2
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	3	4
Heart diseases ... ..	9	5
Other diseases of circulatory system	4	2
Bronchitis ... ..	2	1
Pneumonia ... ..	2	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	1	-
Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	-	1
Other digestive diseases ... ..	3	-
Nephritis ... ..	-	2
Premature birth .. ...	1	1
Congenital malformation - birth injury -		
infant diseases ... ..	1	-
Road traffic accident .. ...	1	-
Other violent causes ... ..	1	-
All other causes ... ..	1	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Camb.

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector. - A. E. Sweeting, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board. Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Member of the Sanitary Inspector's Association.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor and is a whole time officer.

### 2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations from your area were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory, Leicester:-

Throat swabs for K.L.B. ... ..	9
Sputa for T.B. ... ..	14
Sewage and water ... ..	45
Films for gonococci ... ..	1
Urine (Gen. and Bact.) ... ..	10
Urine for T.B. ... ..	4
Milk samples ... ..	181

1 Faeces examination was made at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester.





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. WATER

During the year, 15 samples of drinking water were taken from wells and all were found to be unsatisfactory.

Five wells were closed, six cleansed, and, with regard to the remainder, the owners of the property were requested, as a supply was readily available, to lay on a mains supply.

Progress made with regard to schemes for supplying mains water in various parts of the district is as follows:-

TILTON. During the year, the work of laying a main to this village was commenced and is expected to be completed early in 1948.

FRISBY, GAULBY AND KING'S NORTON. The laying on of a supply for these villages has been approved and the work is expected to commence very soon.

CARLTON CURLIEU. A scheme for supplying this village has been approved and the work will be proceeded with immediately labour and materials are available.

KEYHAM. All formalities with regard to the provision of a piped supply to Keyham have been completed and the work will be commenced as soon as possible.

SKEFFINGTON. This village is in urgent need of a piped supply, and, at the present time, a scheme is in course of preparation.

#### WATER SHORTAGE.

During the year, wells in the villages of Tilton and Cold Newton "dried up" and it was found necessary to cart drinking water.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     ...     29.

### 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1947 was 483 and during the year some 4000 emptyings were carried out.


Over 100 inspections were made of sewers and outfall dykes. Where the sewers were found to be fractured or choked, immediate repairs were carried out. All outfall ditches receiving effluent were cleansed.

With regard to the new housing estates at Tilton and Houghton, proper disposal works were constructed to deal with the sewage from these.

Where it was possible, all sewers, tanks and dykes receiving effluent were treated to prevent infestation by rats.

A scheme for the provision of sewers and installation of disposal works at Great Glen and Burton Overy has been approved by the Ministry of Health.





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### 3. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in the District at the end of 1947:-

Privies	...	...	...	...	117
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	1,390
Water Closets	...	...	...	...	685

Number of privies converted to water carriage system during the year ... .. 11

### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Continued improvement in this service was noticed during the year.

Proper vehicles are now being used which eases the work considerably and provides more hygienic collection.

Towards the end of the year, a further 22 parishes were added to the scheme and now the whole of the district is receiving a regular house refuse, nightsoil and cesspool emptying service.

Nightsoil and the contents of cesspools are tipped on agricultural land, whilst household refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

### 5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including those given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received	...	126
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	... ..	123

#### Nature of inspections:

			<u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Re-inspected.</u>
Animal Keeping	...	...	1	1
Bakehouses	...	...	4	-
Dairies & Cowsheds			85	26
Drainage Works	...	...	103	73
Dwelling Houses	...	... *	596	305
Food premises	...	...	4	3
Rats & Mice	...	...	20	-
Refuse Collection	...	...	69	45
Schools	...	...	3	3
Shops	...	...	8	-
Tents, vans, sheds	...	...	3	6
Verminous premises and scabies	...	...	2	2
Water supplies	...	...	45	15
Workshops, etc.	...	...	24	12
Visits re infectious diseases			30	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	254	-
			<u>1251</u>	<u>502</u>

\* This figure includes Rural Housing Survey figures.





# NOTICES.

<u>Preliminary.</u>	<u>Housing.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1947	2	-
Issued during the year ... ..	34	278
Complied with during year ... ..	36	267
Statutory action necessary ... ..	-	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1947 ..	-	11

<u>Statutory.</u>	<u>Housing.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
Outstanding 1st January, 1947 ...	5	-
Issued during year ... ..	1	-
Complied with during year ... ..	3	-
Outstanding 31st December, 1947	3	-

## H O U S I N G.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. \* 330
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. \* 635
- (ii) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... .. One
- (iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. \* 16
- (iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 132

\* A proportion of these figures relate to the Rural Housing Survey.

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	} 297
Number rendered fit by Owners ... ..	

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Number of Notices served ... ..	Nil
---------------------------------	-----

### 4. THURNBY CAMP.

The carrying out of improvements at this Camp is progressing favourably - water and drainage have been laid on to each hut and a cooking range provided where needed.





#### 4. THURNBY CAMP (Continued).

Attempts have been made to divide each hut to provide separate living and sleeping accommodation, and, where necessary, additional windows have been fixed.

It is regrettable that many of the huts show evidence of neglect and wilful damage in spite of the efforts which the Council has made to improve living conditions.

#### 5. RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

This Survey was carried out at the instigation of the Ministry of Health with the object of obtaining information regarding housing conditions and needs in rural districts. The following shows the categories in which the various houses in this district have been placed:-

Total Number of houses surveyed	...	...	1720
R. V. Limit of houses surveyed	...	...	£16

The houses were placed in five classes.

1. Houses which were fit for habitation.
2. Houses with minor defects.
3. Houses requiring extensive repair.
4. Houses requiring reconditioning.
5. Houses requiring demolition on account of their inability to be brought up to standard at reasonable expense.

These classifications were made bearing in mind the terms of the Public Health Act, 1936, the Housing Act, 1936 and the provision of local Byelaws.

The Classification resulted as follows:-

<u>Classification No.</u>	<u>No. of Houses.</u>
1	638
2	354
3	407
4	206
5	115
TOTAL	<u>1720</u>

#### 6. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.

We are still very restricted in our powers for dealing with unfit houses. Demolition is only advised when a house becomes unsafe, and during the year this course was taken in regard to one house at Owston. Urgent and necessary repairs have been dealt with informally, but we are hampered by the Building Licences Regulations which keep this class of work to a minimum. The result of these restrictions is an increasing need for general overhaul in many working class houses.





## 7. ERECTION OF HOUSES BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

20 houses have been completed at Great Glen.

12 Swedish Houses have been completed.

24. houses at Billesdon are nearing completion.

10 houses at Houghton " " "

12 Airey houses at Tilton are in course of erection.

In addition, a scheme for 12 houses at Hungarton has been prepared and tenders will be in early in the new year.

Sites have also been selected in another seven villages and it is hoped that sanction will be obtained for the erection of houses thereon.

These figures show that the Council is pursuing a vigorous housing policy, and represent a considerable achievement.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### 1. MILK SUPPLY.

	<u>Cowkeepers.</u>	<u>Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers.</u>
Number on the Register	156	40
Number of contraventions Outstanding from previous year	-	-
Number of contraventions found during the year	2	-
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	2	-
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st December	-	-

7 Samples were taken during the year, and all were Grade 1 standard.

I should like to see a larger number of samples being taken, but the Sanitary Inspector has so many other duties that it is difficult to find the time.

### 2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

During the year 127 tins or containers of various food-stuffs were surrendered as being unfit for human food, the main causes being blown tins or badly damaged containers.

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

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	25	14	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Measles	84 + 1 PoW	-	-
Whooping Cough	9	-	-

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Prevalence of and control over infectious and other Diseases.  
(Continued).

AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	13	8	-	1	2	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	7	9	13	8	38	4	1	1	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	2	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-

Scarlet Fever. The scarlet fever cases were of the mild type prevalent nowadays, and many of the cases had very slight symptoms. This infection has changed considerably in virulence and is now probably less serious in childhood than measles. Its mildness makes it more difficult to check when there are so many missed cases and contacts.

Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis), caused a good deal of anxiety to Health Departments throughout the country during the summer months. In this district we fortunately only had two cases. One case was a child in Thurnby Camp and the true nature of the disease was not ascertained until the mother had taken the child to a City Hospital for advice in regard to a limp. The disease is not readily spread by contact and our knowledge as to its causation is still incomplete.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

New cases and Mortality during 1947.

AGE GROUPS	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-



## D I P H T H E R I A   I M M U N I S A T I O N .

During the year, 86 children under 5 and 2 children over 5 were immunised.

72 children were given a "Boosting" dose.

In addition, we made arrangements for 30 children to be immunised, and although at the time of writing our records in regard to these cases have not been completed, it is most probable that the majority have been dealt with.

It is known that a number have been done privately.

The above facts and figures show that the rate of progress previously reported is being maintained, and that the working of the scheme is satisfactory. From all the information at my disposal I can say with confidence that between 80% and 90% of the "under fives" in the district have had protective treatment.

## S C A B I E S .

During the year 5 cases were treated at the Clinic under my supervision. Our thanks are again due to Mrs. Keay for the valuable services which she has given in checking the spread of this disease in the district.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,  
MELTON MOWBRAY.



