

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Blackwell R.D.C.

Contributors

Blackwell (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f3tpe7st>

License and attribution

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

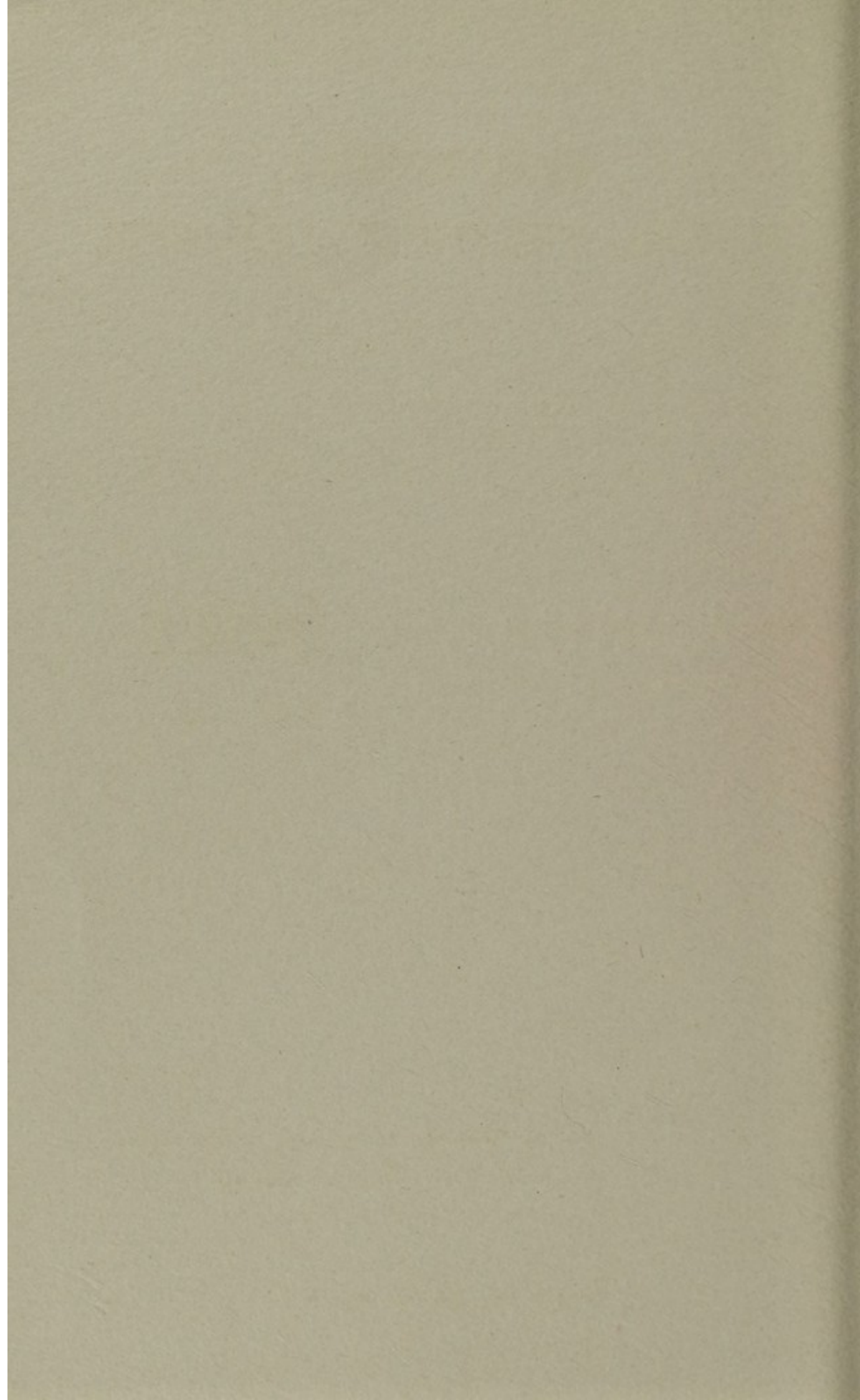
This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

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



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

Unable to display this page



With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.



BLACKWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1944

By

A. H. WEAR, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.,
Medical Officer of Health.

BY ADRIAN J. ...

GENERAL DIRECTOR ...

ANNUAL REPORT

1911

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ...

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Preface.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report on the general sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1944.

Unfortunately, owing to war conditions, many matters have had to be left in abeyance, the most urgent being the provision of more houses and the re-conditioning of existing ones.

A widespread but mild epidemic of scarlet fever commenced in March and continued right into December. The number of cases of scabies diminished considerably.

Every effort has been made to secure the immunisation of infants for diphtheria and to maintain the high level of immunisation in school children.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members and Officials of the Council for their continued interest and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Dale Close,"

100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

Statistics of the Area.

Area (acres)	21,922
Population (Census 1931)	44,891
Population mid-year (Registrar-General) 1944	41,420

Social Conditions.

As stated in previous reports, the social conditions are mainly industrial, the chief occupation of the inhabitants being coal mining.

During 1944 the number of evacuees diminished still further.

The Elm Tree, Amber House and Amber Vale Hostels still continue to do good service, although the number of children treated at Elm Tree Hostel, which comes directly under my care, has been less than in previous years.

Scabies continues to be the most common cause of invalidity in this area, although the number of cases have diminished considerably, from 1,381 in 1943 to 929 this year. There has been a slight increase in the number of verminous heads amongst school children, 59 being treated as compared with 39 in the previous year.

The following gives the number treated in the various parishes:—

Parish	Children: Scabies	Verminous Heads	Adults: Scabies	Total Treatments:	
				Elm Tree House	Bolsover
Shirebrook	126	12	30	388	120
Scarcliffe	72	—	35	181	105
Pleasley	54	2	16	140	35
Ault Hucknall	70	7	19	227	7
Glapwell	16	2	4	29	11
South Normanton	131	5	56	493	—
Pinxton	47	6	4	172	—
Tibshelf	127	7	116	667	—
Blackwell	4	18	2	43	—
Totals	647	59	282	2340	278

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS:

Live Births—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	935	469	466	{
Illegitimate	32	13	19	
Still Births	20	11	9	{
				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 20.

	Total	Males	Females	
DEATHS	390	220	170	{
				Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9.4.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	—	—
Total	—	—

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	45.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	45.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	62.5

In 1900 the Infantile mortality was 150 per 1,000 live births, and in 1944 it was only 45.8. The decline is due to several causes, the chief of which are:

- a. Higher wages for workers.
- b. More knowledge of nutrition among the population with consequent less rickets.
- c. Lesser families due to a fall in the birth rate. This brings about an improvement in social conditions as the

mother is able to look after the children, and parents have more money to spend on them.

- d. As there are fewer children, there is less danger of infection spreading in a family.
- e. Wholesale abolition of pails and privy middens, which was carried out after the last war, was largely the reason why deaths from diarrhoea in infants diminished to such a great extent. The flies from these nuisances infected the food supply.
- f. Improved care of the milk supply.
- g. The death-rate of infectious diseases in infants has dropped very considerably. For instance, in 1896-1900, the death rates from measles was 3.4 and whooping cough 5.8 per 1,000 live births. In 1944 it was nil for measles and .02 for whooping cough.
- h. More care of mothers and babies at confinements at home and in Maternity Hospitals by qualified midwives. In the old days there were many unqualified midwives, some of whom had very primitive ideas of asepsis.

DEATHS FROM:—

Measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	1
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.....	.....	.....	10
Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	52
Heart Disease	.....	.....	.....	111
Violent Deaths	.....	.....	.....	17
Road Accidents	.....	.....	.....	2

Nutrition.

The nutrition among school children still remains satisfactory, due largely to the provision of school milk and mid-day meals.

Mr. Carter, the Milk Officer, makes the following remarks relating to the Welfare Food Scheme for 1944.

Vitamins. There was a reduction in the number of Children and Expectant Mothers taking Orange Juice, and at the end of the year was probably not more than 50%. This was due in some measure to the defective quality of some supplies received during the summer months, and it has to be borne in mind that the importation of fresh fruit has had some effect on the issue of the concentrated juice.

National Dried Milk. The popularity of Dried Milk has increased, and compared with 1943 the quantity distributed during the year was greater by 20%.

Expectant Mothers. Full advantage was taken of the extra concessions granted by the Ministry, which included an extra pint of milk per day at the cheap rate or free, extra meat and eggs, cod liver oil capsules, and orange juice, as well as a supplementary provision of clothing coupons.

National Milk Cocoa. The new drink is now supplied to adolescents up to 21 years of age, and though there was an increase in the number of works taking the beverage, the quantity consumed has not been as high as anticipated.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1944.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION								RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	4.8	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	7.3	52
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Populations 25,000—50,000	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	4.4	44
London	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	10.1	61
BLACKWELL R.D.	22.5	0.38	9.4	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04	10.6	45

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

The number of types of specimens dealt with by the County Laboratories were as follows:—

Enterica—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid A & B	—	6	6
Gaertner, Dysentery, etc.	—	6	6
Diphtheria	18	136	154
Phthisis	7	61	68
Water	2	14	16

Milk:

T.B. Inoculation sent by Ministry of Agriculture	—	20	20
T.B. Inoculation, Routine Samples	2	178	180
Methylene Blue Test, Routine Samples	32	150	182
Bacterial Count, Routine Samples	1	31	32
Bacillus Coli., Routine Samples	28	165	193
Miscellaneous	—	50	50
Totals	90	817	907

In addition to the above, 14 urgent swabs were examined at the Mansfield Laboratory.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The Meden Valley Water Works Committee continue to supply upwards of one million gallons of water per day into the district, together with emergency supplies to outside Authorities.

The water has been analysed at regular intervals and found satisfactory. It is pumped from boreholes in the bunter sandstone at Budby, Nottinghamshire. There were originally two boreholes, but during this year a third one was constructed. The water from the first two boreholes is gradually getting harder as you will see from the following samples:—

Date	Temporary	Permanent	Total
29/3/1935	4.4	3.6	8
14/2/1936	4.5	4.5	8.8
16/1/1940	5.9	8.8	9.8
8/2/1944	5.6	6.6	12.3
30/10/1944	7.4	4.4	10.9
24/4/1945	6.9	7.8	14.7

The Analyst's report on a sample of water taken from the third borehole concludes with the following remarks:—

“This sample, taken at the end of the pumping test, contains a few particles of sand, but is clear and colourless.

The very low figures obtained for Oxygen absorbed and Albuminoid Nitrogen, and the absence of Ammonical Nitrogen show the water to be of a high degree of organic purity.

Bacteriologically, also, the supply is satisfactory.

The Mineral Content of the water is fairly low, and it is moderately soft.

In my opinion it is an ideal supply for drinking and general domestic use.”

The total hardness of the water from this borehole is only 6.72.

The following is a bacteriological and chemical sample taken from the Budby Pumping Station No. 1 Borehole, on April 27th, 1945:—

	Sample No. 1. Before chlorination	Sample No. 2. After chlorination
Physical Characters:		
Suspended matter	None	None
Appearance of a column 2-ft. long	Clear, colourless	Clear, colourless
Taste	Normal	Normal
Odour	None	None
Chemical examination:		
	Parts per 100,000:	
Total solids dried at 180 °C.	33.0	34.0
Chlorides in terms of chlorine	6.10	6.10
Equivalent to Sodium chloride	10.05	10.05
Nitrates	none	none
Nitrates as nitrogen	0.32	0.32
Poisonous Metals (lead, etc.)	none	none
Total hardness	20.8	20.8
Temporary hardness	9.5	9.5
Permanent hardness	11.3	11.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 F.	0.014	0.017
Ammoniacal nitrogen	nil	0.0036
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.0012	0.0012
Free chlorine, parts per million:	None	0.22
pH. Value	7.5	7.6
Bacteriological examination:		
Temperature on arrival	14 C.	14 C
Number of colonies per ml. developing on Agar in:—		
3 days at 22 C.	6	0
48 hours at 37 C.	0	0
B. Coli Test (MacConkey's Bile Salt Lactose Broth):		
Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 ml.	0	0

Remarks.

No. 1. The very low figures obtained for Oxygen Absorbed and Albuminoid Nitrogen, and the absence of Ammoniacal Nitrogen show the supply to be of a high

degree of organic purity. Bacteriologically, also, the water is satisfactory, the bacterial count being very low and coliform organisms being absent in 100 ml.

When compared with past analyses, the present analysis shows the supply to have increased somewhat in Chlorides and Hardness. The supply is, however, pure and wholesome and, in my opinion, ideal for drinking purposes.

No. 2 (Chlorinated). This sample gives practically identical results with sample No. 1, with the exception of a high figure for Ammoniacal Nitrogen. This is presumably due to the ammonia chlorine treatment of the water.

The sample showed a satisfactory residual chlorine figure.

There are 181 houses out of a total of 11,017 in this district which are served by standpipes, and of these 170 are in the southern Area. Therefore, 96% have an internal supply.

Part of the village of Shirebrook, known as the Model Village, is supplied by the Colliery Company, who obtain their water from a well in the magnesium limestone, and who have augmented this supply by pumping water from the Sookholme Stream, which is grossly polluted.

This water shows 38% of hardness; it is being chlorinated, and as much as .8 parts per million of free chlorine is added. During this year an unsatisfactory bacteriological sample was obtained, and a Statutory Notice served on the Colliery Company, but so far it has not been complied with.

WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS.

A water main has been laid in Mansfield Road, Scarcliffe, to supply a small holding and three cottages, hitherto supplied from wells which were polluted.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewers at Upper Langwith have been extended to the school. This will enable the school drainage to be dealt with and the existing cesspool abolished, and will also facilitate the conversion of the present conservancy closets.

CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

Blackwell	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 Pails
Pinxton	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 Pails
Scarcliffe	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 Privies
Shirebrook	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 Pails
Tibshelf	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 Pails

Housing.

Number of Houses inhabited at the end of 1944, 11,017.

Number of Houses erected during 1944:—

(a) By Local Authority	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.
(b) By Private Enterprise	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil.

Empty houses re-conditioned.

1. Nos. 10 and 11, West Street, South Normanton.

These were two condemned houses which, at the request of the Ministry, the Council re-conditioned and made habitable at a cost of £45 each.

2. A building at Cedars Farm, Tibshelf, which had been used as an outhouse, was converted into a dwellinghouse by the owner for the use of the farm overseer and his family.

Housing conditions remain the outstanding need of the population. Quite a large percentage require extensive repairs, and there is much overcrowding.

331 unfit houses have been already dealt with under the Slum Clearance Act of 1930, in the following parishes.

	Number
Ault Hucknall and Glapwell	15
Pinxton	89
Blackwell	23
Pleasley	9
Scarcliffe	8
Shirebrook	47
South Normanton	95
Tibshelf	45

Overcrowding is the first evil to overcome, and until accommodation is much more plentiful, it would be a mistake to demolish houses unless they are in a very bad condition.

The Council intend to build 354 permanent houses and 100 temporary bungalows in the first two years after the European War.

They hope to put up in ten years 2,500 permanent houses.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk, Meat and other Foods.

Full details of these will be found in the Sanitary Inspectors' reports.

URGENT SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1. Abatement of overcrowding.
2. Conversion of the pail closets at Pinxton.
3. Re-conditioning and augmenting of the Shirebrook Sewage Works to allow a general conversion scheme to be carried out in this village.
4. Connecting a sewer from 90 houses at Blackwell Colliery to the Primrose Hill Works, and the conversion of Blackwell Colliery, Primrose Hill and B. Winning houses to the water carriage system.
5. Properties with one tap to four or five houses to have a proper water supply.
6. Demolition of certain slum properties, particularly at Pinxton and Langwith.

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

Diphtheria.

23 cases of this disease occurred and all were removed to hospital. 14 were under 15 years of age, and of these 9 had been immunised. There were no deaths.

The percentage of children immunised at the end of 1944 was: toddlers 55 and school children 81, compared with 57 and 79 per cent. in 1943.

Every effort has been made to secure the immunisation of infants and to maintain the high level of immunisation in the school children.

It is interesting to note that diphtheria has been the leading epidemic disease of the war on the European continent. It has been especially prevalent in Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Finland. It was also the most important cause of fatal illness in the German army. The contrast with England, where the disease has been actually reduced, is most striking.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease has been more prevalent in the area than at any time since 1930. In all, 305 cases were notified. The outbreak started at Langwith in March, and from that time there were on an average about 27 cases each month until November, when the number suddenly rose to 50.

The disease was most prevalent in the Southern Area. The Alfreton Road School at Tibshelf appeared to be a source of infection, and this was closed for a fortnight. The cause of the spread was by direct contact, and due to the mild character of the disease. 45 of the patients were adults, 193 school children, and 67 under school age.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

7 notifications were received.

Infantile Paralysis.

One case was notified from Bramley Vale, Doe Lea, in August. The child has been under the care of the Orthopædic Surgeon, she is greatly improved and is now attending school.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the diseases during the year:—

Age Periods in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15	2	3	1	1	1	1	—	—
20	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
45	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	12	11	5	7	8	2	—	1

The phthisis death-rate is 0.24 per 1,000 of the population.

It will be noted from the following table that 1940 and 1942 were the two worst war years for this disease. In 1943 and 1944 the number of cases and the death-rate diminished.

Year	No. of cases		Phthisis death rate
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	
1939	24	17	.35
1940	31	22	.54
1941	28	15	.31
1942	35	17	.51
1943	24	11	.37
1944	23	12	.24

Reports of Sanitary Inspectors.

NORTHERN AREA.

Comprising the Parishes of Shirebrook, Scarcliffe, Pleasley, Ault Hucknall and Glapwell. 14,626 acres.

Sanitary Inspector: I. N. CREEAR, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

- (i.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (ii.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other Foods).
- (iii.) Member of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Offices: Cliffe House, Shirebrook.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

General Sanitation:

Water Supplies	23
Drainage	72
Stables and Piggeries	19
Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	166
Re-inspections of Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	130
Fried Fish Shops	22
Public Conveniences	11
Factories and Bakehouses	18
Refuse Collection	140
Refuse Disposal	126
Rats and Mice	190
Cinemas	4
Petroleum Acts	36
Inquiries re cases of Infectious Disease	118
Inquiries re cases of Scabies	54
Interviews and Appointments	633
General Inspections	114
Miscellaneous Visits	489

Housing:

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	114
Re-visits to houses inspected under Public Health Acts	160
Number of houses inspected re overcrowding	9

Meat and Food Inspection:

Visits to Slaughterhouses	10
Shops and Stalls (re meat)	418
Street Vendors' and Hawkers' Carts	14
Other Food Premises	327
Cowsheds inspected	240
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	255
Visits re National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme	210

Miscellaneous:

Government Evacuation Scheme	16
Salvage	424
A. R. P.	47

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council continue to administer delegated powers in respect of this Act.

A part-time Rat Catcher is employed, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and during the year 489 rats were destroyed, 226 baits laid, and 27 burrows gassed.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The work required to be done under this order was completed in March, since when the usual inspections and clearances have been carried out by the part-time rat catcher.

Treatment of Sewers.

This work was commenced in August, and up to the end of the year 222 sewer manholes had been inspected. 860 non-poison baits were laid, the large majority of which were

not taken. It is interesting to note that in the agricultural districts where rats could more readily find food, no baits were taken in the sewers.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Careful attention has been given during the year to conditions where food is stored and prepared for sale. A total of 759 inspections being made for this purpose.

The Chesterfield Abattoir is still being used as the Regional Slaughterhouse for this area. There has been an increase in the number of pigs slaughtered by cottagers for private consumption—697 against 350 for the previous year.

Unsound food condemned amounted to 2,426 lbs. (210 lbs. of mutton and 510 lbs. of pork and pork offal, and 1,726 lbs. of other foods, chiefly tinned goods).

Clean milk production necessitated 570 visits to cowsheds and dairies. 11 improvements were effected either by service of notice or interviewing the owners. There is one Pasteurised Plant in operation in the area for pasteurised milk.

Milk Samples.

Pasteurised Milk:

Bacteriological examination	.....	7	satisfactory
Phosphatase test	.....	7	satisfactory

New Milk:

M/Blue test	.....	65	(52 satisfactory, 13 unsatisfactory)
B/Coli	.....	65	(53 satisfactory, 12 unsatisfactory)
Biological Examination	.....	65	satisfactory.
Brucella Abortus	.....	1	satisfactory

NATIONAL MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

During the year 210 samples were taken under this scheme. In August this sampling was taken over by the Midland Agricultural College.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE.

This work has been carried out on the whole very satisfactorily. Shortage of suitable labour and holding up in repairs have caused delays, but the removal of nightsoil has been done regularly. The tips have been kept in good condition. Bins and closet pails are emptied weekly except in the most densely populated parts, where the pails are emptied twice weekly. Cesspools are emptied quarterly.

The total weight of salvage collected during the year was 181 tons; included in this was 88 tons of paper.

County Book Drive.

This was held in the area May 6th to 20th, and was very successful. The set target was 42,500 books, and the number collected 51,206. 95% of the books were collected by the school children, who were very enthusiastic.

The books were classified as:—

Salvage	47,892
Reading for the Forces	3,224

The following table gives details of the work carried out during the year:—

Month	Dustbins emptied	Ashpits emptied	Pail closets emptied	Cesspools emptied	Total No. of loads removed
January	15,584	—	6,448	2	332
February	14,779	9	6,870	4	326
March	12,720	—	6,869	5	266
April	13,700	25	6,486	10	283
May	15,830	2	7,355	5	291
June	16,827	8	7,307	17	326
July	16,046	18	6,522	16	315
August	17,061	2	6,739	21	336
September	14,947	15	7,118	21	340
October	16,952	4	7,063	22	362
November	16,638	—	7,006	17	335
December	13,290	1	6,558	2	261
Totals	184,374	84	82,341	142	3,773

The number of complaints received during the year was 93. A number of them were of a trivial nature and could not be dealt with under the Public Health Acts. In every case where a complaint was found to be bona-fide, action was duly taken.

Disinfection.

Number of infected rooms disinfected ,.....	1,720
Bundles of bedding removed for disinfection	571
Samples of water submitted for examination	13

My ordinary duties have been considerably interfered with owing to additional duties in connection with the National Emergency. This report, therefore, has been abbreviated in certain sections.

I. N. CREEAR,

Sanitary Inspector, Northern Area.

SOUTHERN AREA.

Comprising the parishes of Blackwell, Pinxton, South Normanton and Tibshelf - 7,296 acres.

Population (National Register, 1939), 18,683.

Sanitary Inspector: ROBERT CLARKSON.

- (i.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (ii.) Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other Foods).
- (iii.) Member of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

Sanitary Inspector's Assistant: W. E. GARRETT
(released from Civil Defence duties in November, 1944).

Clerk: MRS. L. EITE.

Offices: Victoria Street, South Normanton, Derbys.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

General Sanitation:

Water Supplies	5
Drainage	94
Yards	13
Stables and Piggeries	41
Accumulations	8
Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	461
Re-Inspections of Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	364
Fried Fish Shops	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	13
Public Conveniences	1
Factories and Bake-houses	39
Outworkers' Premises	3
Refuse Collection	150
Refuse Disposal	60
Rats and Mice	781
Schools	17
Cinemas	2
Shops Acts	1
Petroleum Acts	34

Inquiries re Cases of Infectious Disease	.....	.....	248
Inquiries re Cases of Scabies	.....	.....	99
Interviews and Appointments	.....	.....	239
General Inspections	.....	.....	4
Miscellaneous Visits	.....	.....	587

Housing:

Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts		88
Re-visits to houses	“ “	175
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts	.....	3
Re-visits to houses	“ “	40
Number of houses inspected re overcrowding	.....	13
Re-visits paid to houses	“	39
Number of verminous houses inspected	.....	21
Re-visits to above houses	.....	61

Meat and Food Inspection:

Visits to Slaughterhouses	.....	86
Occasional Slaughterings (Farms, etc.)	.....	72
Shops and Stalls (re meat)	.....	492
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	.....	9
Other Food Premises	.....	62
Cowsheds inspected	.....	221
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	.....	361
Visits re National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme		35

Miscellaneous:

A.R.P.—Visits, Interviews, etc.	.....	208
Government Evacuation Scheme	.....	40
Salvage	.....	431

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

	Served during 1944	Complied with during 1944	Out-standing on 31/12/44
Informal Public Health Act Notices	455	481	412
Statutory Public Health Act Notices	8	7	28
Informal Housing Act Notices	—	—	—
Statutory Housing Act Notices	—	12	51
Total	463	500	491

Ventilators repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Premises drained by provision of cesspool	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cesspools repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cesspools abolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Cesspools cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Drains connected to sewer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Length of drainage examined	.....	.....	.....	yards	.....	25

Sinks:

New sinks provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
New sink waste pipes provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Sink waste pipes repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7

Closet Accommodation:

Buildings repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Closets cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Water closet cisterns provided or repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Water closet pedestals renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Water closet service pipes repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
Closet pails renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	224

Ashplaces, Ashbins, etc.

Defective ashbins renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	172
Ashplaces and middens abolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Ashbins provided in lieu of ashplaces and middens	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

Miscellaneous:

Dangerous, defective and dilapidated buildings demolished	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Accumulation removed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Manure pits provided or repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Urinals repaired and cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Nuisances abated from keeping of animals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Other nuisances abated	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6

Four statutory notices were not complied with, and as a result the following work was carried out by the Council and the cost recovered from the owners:—

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 45):

One closet pail provided.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 75):

Three ashbins provided.

Housing Act, 1936 (Section 9):

Structural defects repaired.

No legal proceedings were taken.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Little alteration has taken place during the year to the types of sanitary conveniences in use, details of which were given in earlier reports.

There are still some 1,800 pail closets in use. The conversion of these is a matter requiring attention at the earliest possible date, particularly as there is now an adequate water supply and drainage system available in the majority of cases.

Number of pail closets converted to water closets	9
Additional water closets provided	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

The problem requiring most urgent attention in the district is undoubtedly that of Housing. During the past few years practically no work has been carried out, except the repair of defective roofs, the cleansing of choked drains, and similar urgent items. Whilst this is mainly due to the shortage of building operatives, more work of maintenance could have been carried out. It is noted that in a number of cases builders have preferred to build new boundary walls and fix new fireplaces, work which is more remunerative than house maintenance.

As a result, it is only with considerable difficulty that some roof repairs have been completed.

No accurate figures are available to show the true position regarding overcrowding, but during the course of ordinary inspections it has been noted that there is a large increase in the number of houses occupied by more than

one family. The billeting of evacuees, Bevin Boys, and the housing of workmen engaged on Open Cast Coal mining in the district has further increased this problem. It is hoped that by the end of 1945 the Rural Housing Survey will be well in hand, and it will be possible to obtain a more accurate picture of the true position.

Below are given details of houses subject to individual Demolition Orders and in Clearance Areas, which have not yet been fully dealt with. In addition to these it is estimated that some additional 310 houses are unfit, and that it will probably be necessary to deal with them by demolition.

**Houses subject to Demolition Orders
(Section 11 and Clearance Areas):**

	Pinxton	South Normanton	Blackwell	Tibshelf	Total
Still occupied	3	26	3	2	34
Vacant and awaiting demolition (derelict)	5	10	1	6	22
Total	8	36	4	8	56

During the year under review one house has been represented as unfit for human habitation, and one Demolition Order made.

Three houses, subject to Demolition Orders, continue to be used under the provisions of the Defence (General) Regulations, as follows:—

Regulation 68a: One house.

Regulation 51 (requisitioned by Council): Two houses.

Eradication of Vermin.

This work has necessitated 82 inspections and re-inspections, and the following work has been carried out for the eradication of vermin (bed bugs):—

Number of Council houses disinfested	.....	—
Number of other houses disinfested	.....	9
Number of other premises disinfested (Firewatcher's Hut)	.....	1
Total	.....	<u>10</u>

Verminous articles and persons dealt with:

Persons cleansed	4
Bedding and furniture destroyed	3
Personal clothing steam disinfected	4
Bedding steam disinfected	10

The disinfection of occupied premises presents a somewhat difficult problem, as it is usually impossible to provide alternative accommodation whilst the fumigation takes place. In the cases referred to above the following methods have been adopted with very satisfactory results:—

1. First day:

Ease all skirting boards, mouldings, and one or two floor boards in each bedroom, at the same time spraying with a vermicide (Lawvercide or Zaldecide), also sealing as many fireplaces, windows, etc., as possible.

2. Following day:

Complete sealing up, remove bedding for steam disinfection and fumigate premises with Lawes Block Disinfectants, allowing 50-60% for leakages and to secure saturation. This work is usually commenced between 7.30 and 8 a.m., the houses opened up about 5 p.m. for airing, and the possession given up to the tenants the same evening as soon as the fumigant is reasonably well cleared.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The Chesterfield Municipal Abattoir continues to be used as the regional slaughterhouse for this area, the meat being delivered direct from the abattoir to the butchers' shops on two or three days per week, depending on the availability of supplies. Careful attention is paid to these supplies and to the conditions under which the meat and other foods are stored and prepared for sale. For this purpose a total of 721 inspections have been made during the year. The meat shows evidence of having been carefully inspected at Chesterfield, and it has only been necessary to deal with unsatisfactory conditions on 4 occasions, involving 21½ lbs. of beef offal and 35 lbs. of bruised beef.

On several occasions during the year complaints have been received from butchers regarding the quality of the meat sent from the Chesterfield Abattoir. With the exception of one occasion, action by this Department has not been possible. In November, a consignment of frozen lamb was received, and on examination it was obvious that the majority of it should never have been issued for rationed meat. As a result of representations, immediate arrangements were made to withdraw 505 lbs., consisting of 20 bodies.

There has been a further increase in the number of cottagers' pigs slaughtered, the majority of which have been examined.

Number of animals slaughtered and examined:

	Bullocks	Calves	Pigs	Total
Private slaughterhouses	1	1	215	217
Farms and private premises	—	—	75	75
Total	1	1	290	292

Unsound food condemned amounted to 4,122 lbs.,
made up as follows:—

Beef and beef offal—57 lbs.: Bruised and Cirrhosis.

Carcase and offal of calf—56 lbs.: Emaciation.

Pork and pork offal—359 lbs.: Chiefly Tuberculosis.

Tinned goods and other foods—3,650 lbs.: Decomposition,
etc.

The tubercular pork and pork offal showed that 4.83% of the cottagers' pigs examined were affected with localised tuberculosis, as compared with 6.23% for the previous year. One carcase was affected with Generalised Tuberculosis.

Only one notice has been served and this required the cleansing of rooms used for food preparations. The notice was duly complied with and no further action taken.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

The production and distribution of milk has continued to take up a good proportion of your Inspector's time, and

whilst a number of improvements have been secured, there are still some cowsheds and dairies which need amendment. It is extremely difficult to make much progress in this matter as a result of the acute shortage of building trade operatives.

During the year, 582 inspections have been made of cowsheds and dairies, and the scheme of milk sampling has continued. On a number of occasions it was necessary to draw the attention of a large dairy company to the dirty condition of churns left at farm premises. As a result of much correspondence, many inspections of churns and an interview with the dairy manager, a considerable improvement has been effected in the cleanliness of churns left for the use of farmers.

Details of registered premises, etc.:

(a) Wholesale producers	27	Cowsheds in use	125
(b) Producers and retailers	50	Dairies	71
(c) Retail purveyors	12		
	—		—
Total	89		196
	—		—

The following improvements have been effected by the service of some 21 notices:—

Cowsheds: Reconstructed, 2; Floors re-laid, 3; Light and ventilation improved, 1; Premises re-drained, 1; Lofts removed, 1; New boskins and trough provided, 1; Rear walls rendered, 1; Limewashed, 11.

Dairies: New premises provided, 3; Improved, 1; Galvanised washing trough provided, 1; Coolers provided, 5; Cleansed, 5; Water supply provided, 1; Sterilizing equipment provided, 1.

Other improvements: Cows udders, flanks, etc., cleansed, 2; Removal of milk from shed, 1; Unsatisfactory cleansing of churns, 2; Milk stools cleansed, 4; Improper cooling, 4.

Milk Sampling.

The following samples of milk were submitted for examination:—

New Milk:

Methylene Blue test, 118 (99 satisfactory, 19 unsatisfactory).

Coliform test, 125 (104 satisfactory, 21 unsatisfactory).

Bacteriological examination, 9 (8 satisfactory, 1 unsatisfactory).

Biological examination, 116 (2 positive tuberculosis).

Examination for Streptococcal infection, 5 negative.

The number of samples submitted for examination is slightly more than last year. At least one sample has been obtained from each producer in the area and each retailer selling milk produced in the area, or from a source outside the district. All unsatisfactory reports have been investigated, and as a result many methods of production and cleansing and sterilizing of utensils have been improved. The percentage of samples failing to reach the standards laid down for Accredited Milk is the lowest for the last three years; details are set out below:—

Year	Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Coliform Test	
		Per cent. satisfactory	Per cent. below standard	Per cent. satisfactory	Per cent. below standard
1944	118	84	16	—	—
	125	—	—	83	17
1943	115	72	28	—	—
	117	—	—	79	21
1942	50	80	20	80	20

Of the 116 samples of milk examined for Tuberculosis, 2 (or 1.7%) were reported as positive. These were referred through the County Medical Officer to the Veterinary Inspector, and resulted in the slaughter of one cow affected with Advanced Tuberculosis. In the second case it was not possible to trace the diseased animal.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-44.

Number of retailers licences issued, 5.

Number of supplementary licences issued, 2.

It is pleasing to note that all samples of Pasteurised milk submitted for examination have been reported to be satisfactory.

Bacteriological examination, 12 samples satisfactory.

Phosphatase test, 12 samples satisfactory.

NATIONAL MILK TESTING AND ADVISORY SCHEME.

From the commencement of the year to the end of August your Inspector continued to co-operate with the Midland Agricultural College in the sampling of producer-retailers, and with the War Agricultural Committee in following up unsatisfactory reports. In August a circular was received stating that the Advisory Committee on Milk (Keeping Quality) Control had decided in future not to communicate milk test results to Local Authorities and Sanitary Inspectors. No other explanation. Why? As this scheme had operated for over 12 months in this district without the slightest hitch (the same applies to adjoining districts), and the conditions on which Local Authorities agreed to co-operate were that results of samples should be furnished, it is difficult to understand why such a decision should be arrived at. It is almost unnecessary to state that, as a result of the attitude of the Committee in question, it was decided to discontinue co-operation in the scheme.

Whilst the scheme was in operation much useful work was achieved, and details of the samples are given below. It is noted in September, 1944, the Advisory Dairy Bacteriologist stated he was arranging for samples to be taken. From that date to the present (May, 1945) no such samples have been taken.

Month	Number of samples placed in			Total number of samples
	Category A: Good keeping quality	Category B: Moderate keeping quality	Category C: Poor keeping quality	
January	44	5	—	49
February	49	—	—	49
March	49	1	—	50
April	38	1	1	40
May	51	5	1	57
June	44	5	—	49
July	31	6	12 *4	49
August	25	8	17 *13	50
Total				393

*Mean temperature exceeded 65 degrees F. No warning sent.

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year four routine samples of the district's water supply have been submitted for bacteriological examination and reported to be satisfactory. It will be noted from the following schedule that 99.88 of the houses in the district are supplied with water from the district council's main.

	Houses	Percentage
Number of houses without district water supply and using well water, etc.	6	.12
Number of Houses without an internal water supply, but using external stand pipes served by district water supply (Stand pipes vary from 1 to 1 house to 1 to 6 houses)	170	3.20
Number of houses with an internal supply of district water	5,148	96.68

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Council continue to administer delegated powers in respect of this Act.

A part-time rat catcher has been employed since December, 1939, and arrangements are made for him to regularly examine and deal with any rat infestation at the Council's

premises. This work has proved very effective, and as a result the Council's premises have been kept free from serious infestation. The work is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

During the year the part-time rat catcher attended a Ministry of Food two-day course on modern methods of rat destruction.

A total of 109 inspections of Council premises were made, 154 rats destroyed, and 6 poison baits laid.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The work outstanding in connection with this Order has now been completed, and a number of premises, which were subsequently found to be rat infested, have been dealt with. In 17 cases the work of destruction has been carried out by the Council's employees at the occupiers' cost. Five premises have been made rat proof, and the storage of waste food has been improved in one instance.

Number of notices served and complied with	19
Number of visits and inspections	104
Number of Token Baits laid	348
Number of Poison Baits	123
Number of Post Baits	61
Number of rats destroyed by dogs and ferrets	17

Zinc Phosphide has normally been used on the above work together with a bait base of sausage rusk. Where a second application has been required, use has been made of Barium Carbonate and Bread Mash.

Treatment of Sewer Inspection Chambers.

Work on the inspection and treatment of sewer inspection chambers was commenced in October, 1944, but had not been completed at the end of the year. By the end of December, 1944, the inspection chambers in the Parishes of Pinxton, Tibshelf and Blackwell had been dealt with, and it is estimated that some 370 rats had been destroyed. Further details in connection with this work will be included in the next report, when it will be possible to deal with the whole matter.

SCAVENGING.

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of refuse by direct labour in the whole of the Southern Area.

Collection and Disposal.

The work, which is carried out by motor transport, has resulted in the removal of 4,700 loads of refuse, night soil and cesspool contents, and the vehicles have covered some 34,045 miles. Four vehicles are in use:—

Two ton Karrier Bantam, supplied October, 1943.

Four/five ton Austin, supplied July, 1942.

Two ton Karrier Bantam, supplied September, 1939.

30 cwt. Morris Commercial, supplied March, 1941 (second hand).

Number of premises served:—

Ashbins	.....	5,559	(cleansed weekly)
Ashplaces	.....	2	(cleansed monthly)
Privies and middens		12	(cleansed monthly)
Closet pails	.....	1,837	(cleansed weekly)
Cesspools	.....	41	(cleansed quarterly)

During the year many difficulties have arisen as a result of the shortage of suitable labour, and it is now almost impossible to secure the immediate repair of lorry defects, with a result that many valuable motor-hours are lost. It will be noted that the costs of motor repairs are exceptionally high, and whilst this is partly due to increased charges, it is mainly attributable to the Council being obliged to employ inexperienced drivers. Applications to the local Employment Exchange for workmen usually have a negative result, and if men are sent for interview they are generally of a class only suitable for an old age or disablement pension.

In spite of these difficulties the collection service has been maintained at almost pre-war level, no ashbin has been more than two weeks overdue before cleansing, and very few complaints have been received.

In March, 1945, the Council purchased a Johnson's 3-in. Diaphragm Mud Pump and hose for use on cesspool cleansing. The pump is power driven (petrol engine) and is mounted on a trailer suitable for ordinary towing, and has a wheel base of 4 feet. It is hoped that the use of this pump will effect a considerable improvement in the cleansing of cesspools.

All dry refuse is disposed of by tipping (controlled), and night soil is taken by farmers for use as manure on agricultural land. Four tips have been used during the year. No facilities are available for weighing the refuse, and war difficulties have not permitted the usual weighing of test loads. After taking into account the loads of refuse removed and the cubic capacity of the vehicle bodies, it is estimated that the yield of dry refuse is 23 cwts. per 1,000 population per day; or 1.15 tons per house by annum.

Costs.

The total cost of this service shows a considerable increase (64%) as compared with the costs for the year ended 31st March, 1939:—

	1944/45	1938/39
Total cost (collection and disposal of dry refuse, night soil and cesspool contents)	£6,991	£4,254
Cost per annum per 1,000 population	£406	£206
Cost per annum per 1,000 houses	£1,313	£792

The increased cost is chiefly accounted for by the increases in workmen's wages, the basic rate having been increased by 48% since March, 1939. In addition, workmen engaged on night soil are now paid at additional rates, and a scheme is in operation for the payment of increased rates for overtime. In June, 1943, a scheme was introduced for the payment of wages during sickness, and during the present year this has accounted for the expenditure of £92 : 10 : 0. Charges for materials and vehicle repairs have also shown considerable increase, and the enforced employment of inexperienced drivers has resulted during the past year in many serious lorry defects, which a competent man would have avoided.

Below are set out details of the work performed by each vehicle, and the comparative cost of each vehicle:—

Work done by Lorries:

Lorry	Cleansing	Mileage Salvage	Total	Loads removed Refuse	Night Soil	Cesspool contents	No. of other journeys (chiefly Salvage)
Karrier Bantam (1939) GRA 810	6,170	211	6,381	962	—	—	71
Karrier Bantam (1943) HRB 408	8,711	552	9,263	1,036	273	111	67
Austin 4/5 ton (1942) HRA 287	4,561	1,618	6,179	917	111	73	184
Morris Com. 30 cwt. (1937) CVO 123	8,752	3,470	12,222	315	895	17	486
	28,194	5,851	34,045	3,230	1,279	191	808

Comparative Costs of Operation of Lorries:

(less Drivers' Wages and Depreciation charges)

Lorry	Repairs Maintenance, Tyres, etc.			Licences and Insurance £	Petrol and Oil £ s. d.			Total £ s. d.			Cost per ton	Cost per estimated mile
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
GRA 810 (2 tons)	207	9	1	39	106	0	11	352	10	0	1/1	3/8
HRB 408 (2 tons)	40	12	9	39	127	13	4	207	6	0	5½d.	1/5½
HRA 287 (4/5 ton)	120	15	1	46	140	7	9	307	2	10	1/0	1/6
CVO 123 (30 cwt.)	222	14	2	39	184	19	6	446	13	8	8½d.	3/10½
	591	11	0	163	559	1	6	1313	12	6	9d.	2/4

SALVAGE.

The returns for the recovery and disposal of salvage for the past five years are shown below:—

1944-45:	353 tons	19 cwts.	26 lbs.	£1,161	0	6.
1943-44:	458 tons	16 cwts.	56 lbs.,	£1,392	18	2.
1942-43:	631 tons	7 cwts.	30 lbs.,	£1,937	14	10.
1941-42:	465 tons	4 cwts.	30 lbs.,	£1,283	8	3.
1940-41:	266 tons	10 cwts.	76 lbs.,	£764	3	1½.

The various materials dealt with are summarised below:

	Tons	cwts.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	98	10	56	645	5	2
Baled destructor scrap	30	12	0	53	14	7
Other ferrous metal	6	18	0	8	12	6
Non-ferrous metal	6	0		7	2	7
Textiles	9	7	104	81	12	3
Rubber	3	0	0	7	10	0
Bones	12	2	42	57	15	6
Cinders	7	10	0		12	6
Bottles and Jars	15	10	11	40	2	0
Cullet	19	12	56	24	10	7
Kitchen waste	145	14	42	220	19	0
Miscellaneous (including boots and shoes, felt hats, timber, etc.)	4	15	84	13	3	10

It will be noted that the amount of salvage recovered during the past two years has steadily declined. This reduction is chiefly accounted for by the scarcity of materials, the clearing out of householders' stocks by repeated salvage drives, and improvements in the re-clamation of containers for re-use. The amount of waste paper recovered was similar to the previous year, kitchen waste and textiles showed reductions of 31 tons and 6 tons respectively, whilst the recovery of bones increased by 2 tons.

Every endeavour has been made to maintain an efficient collection service and keep the public interested in this vital work. Special trailers are fitted at the rear of all the refuse lorries, and the salvage is collected from householders when the refuse is removed, which is normally at weekly intervals. A special weekly collection is made for the collection of paper from shop premises. There are 155 kitchen waste bins in use. These are emptied twice per week, and the material sold in its raw state direct to pig keepers and farmers. It is extremely difficult to maintain these street bins in a satisfactory state.

All the schools in the district have continued to assist with the collection of waste paper, and during the year have recovered 12 tons 19 cwts. In January, 1945, a special offer

of free cinema tickets was made to children collecting over 10 lbs. of paper, and 265 qualified for the award. I am very much indebted to the Head Teachers for the splendid manner in which they have received all suggestions put forward for the improvement of salvage collections.

The Derbyshire Book Drive took place in May, 1944, and resulted in the collection of 47,001 books, 9,501 in excess of the target figure. Having regard to the number of books which have been received during previous special paper drives, the results of the Book Drive may be regarded as very satisfactory. There is no doubt that the Book Recovery Army, under which school children received badges of rank according to the number of books recovered, contributed very materially to the success of the Drive. The schools obtained 95% of the books recovered, and 41 children qualified for Field Marshall Badges (250 books each) and special certificates. All books were carefully scrutinised by representatives from the County Library, 494 being removed for the use of the Forces and the re-stocking of libraries.

GENERAL.

The shortage of staff, suitable labour for refuse collection and disposal, materials and spare parts, has made it extremely difficult to keep the work of the department up to date in every respect. Whilst some of the routine work has of necessity been neglected, every possible effort has been directed to the supervision of food supplies, the maintenance of an efficient cleansing service, and the remedy of urgent housing and drainage defects.

During the year 116 complaints were received and investigated. Of these, 101 were confirmed and the defects or nuisances dealt with. The complaints included 36 regarding housing defects, 15 drainage defects, 14 rat infestation, 12 dirty premises, and 11 defective sanitary accommodation.

ROBERT CLARKSON, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector, Southern Area.

