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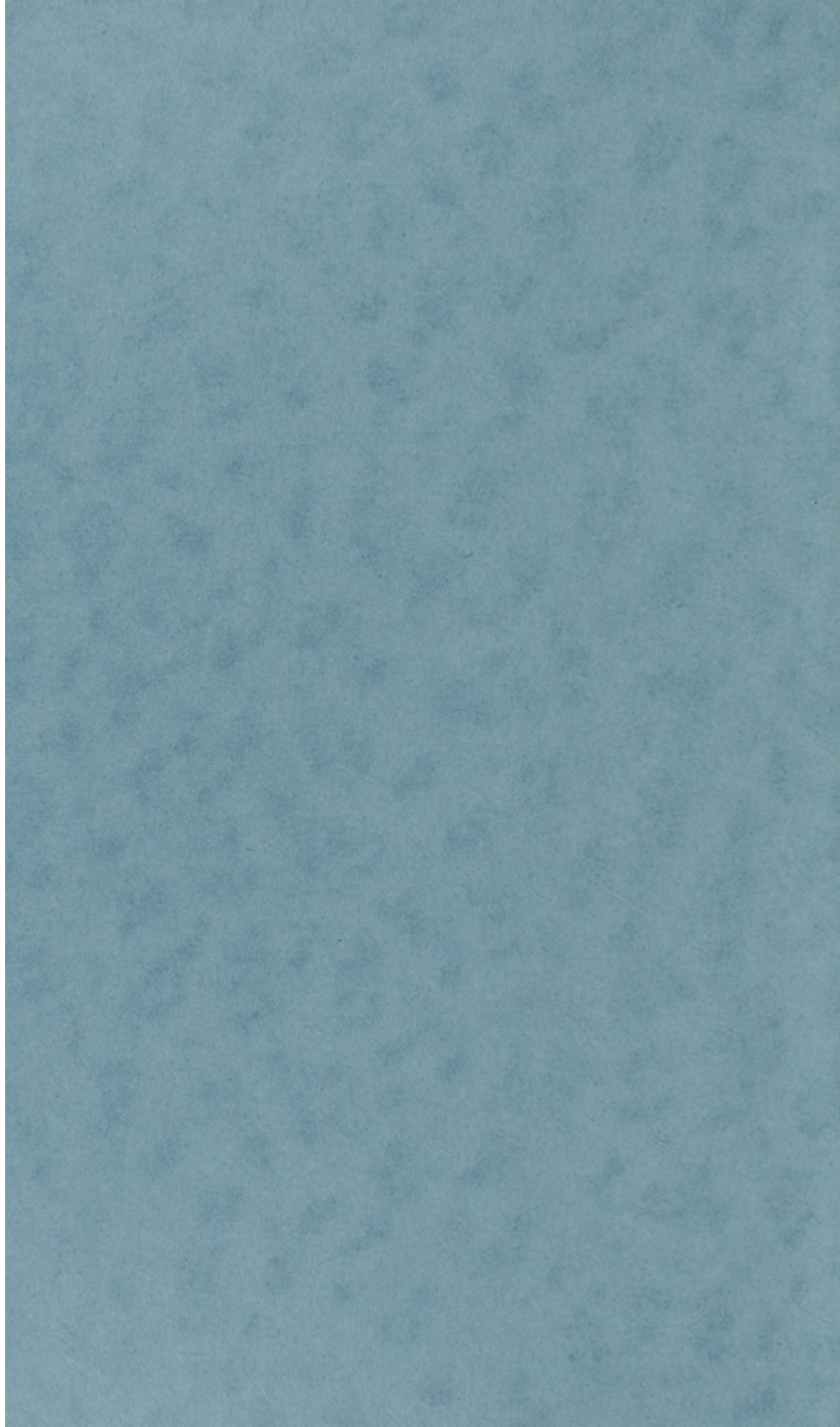
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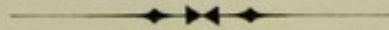


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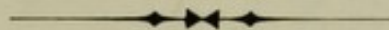
BLACKWELL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1956



By

A. R. ROBERTSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

BLACKWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. A. R. ROBERTSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

"Dale Close," 100 Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.

(Tel. Mansfield 811)

PREFACE

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in submitting this report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1956. As you are aware this has been my first full year in office as your medical officer. I have enjoyed my year and have done my best to serve you. Throughout, I have been grateful for your kind help, interest and co-operation and I look forward to this continuing in the future.

This report will be slightly different from those of the past. As you know I am medical officer for three County districts, therefore, I have decided to make the first part of each report a general one and then the second part will appertain to the particular features of each district. I hope you will like this new style of report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. ROBERTSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Dale Close,"
100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

OLD PEOPLE

We all know that the proportion of old people in the population is increasing. As it is, old people create problems in some cases. It seems reasonable to suppose that the problem will grow hand in hand with the increase in number. Therefore, I feel we should learn as much as possible during the present and strive at the same time to plan ahead for the future. Let us look at those who came to our notice in 1956.

1. **A lady aged 75.**

This lady's husband died in the early part of 1956. Since then she has lived by herself in an isolated, small country cottage. However, she is very well and very active. She is as happy as she can be considering the loss of her husband. Her house is spotlessly clean. She wishes to stay in her house. I visit her every three months or so, just to see that all is well.

2. **A gentleman aged 79.**

When he was younger this man was a shepherd, and he is still fit enough to help out in the lambing season. He has lived by himself since his wife died. Now, he wishes a bungalow in a certain district, so that he can be near a woman who is keen to help him and who nursed his wife in the past. We will let him have his bungalow as soon as possible. Again, I visit regularly.

3. **A gentleman aged 79.**

This man is also fit and well. He lives by himself, and he wishes to keep on doing so. He has a daughter who lives about four miles away. She is willing to have him but he wants to stay as he is for as long as he can manage. Well, he is managing well so far and I hope he will continue so for many years to come. He is clean and fit and his house is tidy.

4. **A lady aged around 70.**

We received complaints that this lady's house was being badly kept. My Public Health Inspector and I went to see her. The house was by no means perfect but it was by no means as bad as we had been told. However, we persuaded her to give

the house a bit of a clean. Since then my Public Health Inspector and I have visited regularly. The house is now much better than it was. The lady is in reasonable physical health but, she is not as bright mentally, as she has been when younger.

5. A lady aged over 80.

This lady had been living by herself for some years. Her health, physical and mental, failed gradually. Her only relative was a man of fifty odd and he had an aged mother to care for, and, he lived some miles away. The home was in a filthy condition. After several visits I advised my Council to take action under the National Assistance Act. The Council agreed and we duly made our application in the magistrates court. Our application was refused. Some months later, the lady's health began to deteriorate very rapidly. Using the emergency procedure set out in the above Act, I was able to have her admitted to hospital (at the last minute she said she wished to go). Unfortunately, she died a few days later.

6. & 7. Two old gentlemen.

In December, I was approached about these men. They were both aged and they were both incontinent, of bowel and of bladder. One lived with his wife who was aged and suffered from arthritis. The other lived with a brother whose wife had recently died—and the only woman in the house was a girl of sixteen. In both cases, the washing had become a terrible problem. Both men were placed on the waiting list for admission to hospital.

These are the old people we have tried to help. What have we learnt? Well, in Cases 1, 2 and 3 we only need to give our moral support and to be sympathetic and considerate. I am proud to record that you (as Councils) and we (your officers) are always ready and willing to dispense our help. A friendly visit can go a long way. Case 4 has also had a happy outcome. Persuasion and visiting has helped a lot. Case 5 was tragic. Perhaps things would have been different if our original application had succeeded. I think it might have succeeded if the magistrates had seen the lady and her home. (She did not appear in court). I realise that

justices are very busy, and, I realise that no-one should be taken from their home lightly. But, I do feel that in such a case time spent by the magistrates, in a visit to the home, would be time well spent. After all, words can never take the place of eyes and I feel that a visit should be routine. It must be very difficult to decide such a case and I could only do it by seeing for myself (indeed, by law that is what I have to do). Cases 6 and 7 are also tragic. I firmly believe that these men could have stayed at home, if there had been a washing service available, and I feel that such a service will be a "must" in the future.

It can never be said too often that all the above are individual people. They are all different and have to be treated differently. So far, we have managed to give them a personal service. It is prodigal of time and there may not be much to show for our efforts. However, we can rest easy in that we have all done our best to help.

TUBERCULOSIS

I give below the number of cases of tuberculosis in England and Wales in 1956.

Respiratory	Meninges & C.N.S.	Other
31,642	434	3,739

Deaths from tuberculosis were :—

Respiratory	Meninges & C.N.S.	Other	Total
4,849	92	427	5,368

Now, I have heard many people say that tuberculosis is "on the way out." Well, it is, if one compares the deaths for 1956 with those for 1954 and 1955.

1954	—	7,897
1955	—	6,492
1956	—	5,368

Thus, you can see that the total deaths have fallen by over 1,000 a year in these three years. But, let us look a little more closely at them. In **males** the deaths from respiratory tuberculosis

have fallen from 4,944 in 1954 to 3,532 in 1956, i.e. a fall of 29%. In females, the fall has been from 2,125 in 1954 to 1,317 in 1956, i.e. a fall of 38%. Thus the fall in female deaths is $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the fall in male deaths. Therefore, it seems to me that we have no right to be complacent because **everything** in the garden is not lovely. Besides, over 5,000 people lost their lives in 1956 because of tuberculosis. Can we wait for this total to diminish year by year, or, should we jump in now and attack tuberculosis from every angle? Surely in this, the 20th Century of Christian Civilisation, there can be only one answer. Everyone from the throne down, should attack tuberculosis in any way they can. Remember, 5,000 deaths is bad enough, but, in addition some 36,000 people have fallen ill and their worries, loss of earnings and cost in medical care would be a staggering computation if they could be measured. But no-one can assess the anguish of one person, never mind that of 36,000.

Well then, what are we to do about Tuberculosis? It seems to me that many things are necessary and many of these necessities will help in many ways, i.e. they will not be specific against tuberculosis. Therefore in casting our bread upon the waters of Tuberculosis we would have it brought back many times on the tides of General Health and Wellbeing. I now give my ideas as to what should be done :—

1. **Housing.**

Everyone should be in a house which is easily and well ventilated and overcrowding must be ended.

2. **Food.**

Good sound nourishing food is a "must." To quote one example, the giving of milk to school-children has been of great value to them and to the nation. If our school-meals are good, we must hope that future generations will automatically demand good food. In school-meals we have a weapon ready forged with which to cut away prejudices, sloth and ignorance.

3. **Habits.**

Health Education is now a very up to date and scientific subject. Yet, I wonder if it can give any better advice than

the old-fashioned "Be moderate in all things." Moderation is the ideal. We should neither play nor work too hard. Physiologists often compare the human body to an internal combustion engine. We all know what happens if such an engine is worked too hard.

4. **Working Conditions.**

These are just as important as homes. Most of us spend $\frac{1}{3}$ of our life at work. Therefore, we must have good ventilation at work and we must have dust suppressed as much as possible. Obviously, some occupations are harder to be rendered good than others. But, even in the difficult cases, we must make full use of all advances in scientific knowledge **now**.

5. **Treatment**

The treatment of Tuberculosis has been revolutionised in recent years. People for whom there would have been no hope, can now be restored to good health. I feel this should be brought home repeatedly to the public. Every one must be made to realise that most cases of tuberculosis can be cured.

6. **X-Rays**

The Chest Clinics and the Mass Miniature Radiography Units do a job of tremendous importance. I would like to see them increased in availability. It should be as easy to have a chest x-ray as it is to buy a loaf.

7. **The Infective Case**

Here we are on thorny ground because we are dealing with personal liberty. I am all for personal liberty until such liberty damages other people. After all, we incarcerate thieves and murderers. A person who goes around liable to spread tuberculosis, can rob people of health and can cause death. Surely they too should be "incarcerated." Now that the number of cases and deaths are falling, a move like this might have a dramatic affect. You know, there is legal provision in the Public Health Act whereby this could be done.

Tuberculosis is an immense subject and many Doctors devote their whole career to it. They could add and subtract to my list,

I am sure. Even so, I feel that my points are valid and if we all proceed along these lines I hope we shall be able to hasten the decline of tuberculosis.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINE

An outstanding event of 1956 is the introduction of a British vaccine against poliomyelitis. We are not Local Health Authorities and at first glance we may not seem to be very concerned. Yet in some ways we are even more concerned than Local Health Authorities. When people wish advice about the vaccine, they go to their own doctor, or to you as councillors, or to me as your Medical Officer of Health, as well as going to Local Health Authorities Clinics. As we are nearest to the people concerned, we are often approached.

First, a word about the disease itself. It is a disease of long standing and Ancient Egypt art shows people who have flail legs due to poliomyelitis. In this country the first big epidemic was in 1947. It is an infectious disease and is notifiable. There are two forms :—

1. Paralytic.
2. Non Paralytic.

The number of cases and deaths for 1956 are given below.

Paralytic	Non Paralytic	Deaths
1,708	1,497	114 (Provisional)

Now, 1,708 people with paralysis is tragic. But, it must be remembered that not all of these people would be seriously affected. Indeed, I guarantee that a fair number will now have recovered completely. Thus, I feel that we should not become hysterical about this illness. After all, more people died from tuberculosis than became ill from poliomyelitis. I would appeal to the press and to the public to refrain from becoming panic stricken because of a cases or a few case of polio.

As for the vaccine, we are using a modification of the Salk vaccine introduced in the U.S.A. in 1954. Parents whose children

are eligible have been asked to register their consent. Alas, there will not be sufficient vaccine to satisfy demand. Therefore, the Medical Research Council will select certain children (by date of birth) who will be offered vaccination. Then by comparing the number of cases in these children with those in a similar group of non vaccinated, they hope to gain some idea of the efficacy of the vaccine. I have no doubt that they will plan this with statistical thoroughness and I hope their results will be good.

It seems to me that this vaccine may well be an extremely useful addition to the armamentarium of modern medicine. In face of this it may seem rather petty to carp about it. Still, I feel there are two points which must be raised. Firstly, I feel it is a great pity that we could not have had the supply equal the demand. I know the people of my district and I am very afraid that their enthusiasm will wane considerably, if they register, yet do not have their children done (this will not apply to everyone but I predict that it will to many in my districts). Also, I abhor the idea of selection in any shape or form. After all, we have a National Health Service, which is the envy of many. Therefore, as a matter of principle, it seems wrong that one should get what another can not have. Everyone is surely entitled **at all times** to the same benefits from a National Health Service. Secondly, I feel that a warning should have been given to parents that their children may have to be vaccinated at regular intervals. No one can forecast how long lasting will be the immunity conferred by vaccination. But, I am certain that it will not last for ever and I shall not be surprised if five years or thereabouts is the answer. There is one snag here. By and large, the older you are when you contract paralytic poliomyelitis, the more likely you are to have severe and lasting paralysis. So, it looks as though repeated courses will be necessary. This must be stressed, because I feel that any parent who refuses a second course may well have done their child more harm than good in allowing it to be vaccinated.

Well, I have expressed my reservations, but I still welcome the advent of the vaccine and I do hope that it will not be long until we are able to immunise on demand (as we do now for diphtheria and whooping cough).

FOOD HYGIENE

In 1956 there were 11,008 cases of food poisoning in England and Wales. Also, there were 48,982 cases of dysentery, and in many of these, contaminated food would play a large part. These figures are truly shocking. Therefore, I welcome The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, with open arms. These regulations came into operation on January 1st, 1956. They are greater in scope than earlier legislation. Personally, I am very pleased that they place responsibility on both employer and employee. Indeed, I think this dual responsibility may well be the most important point in the Regulations. If all public health devotees can help to convince everyone connected with food that they are responsible, then I feel sure we shall see a reduction in the number of food poisoning cases.

We have not had many cases notified to us. But, this does not mean that we have not had many cases. You see, food poisoning is like an iceberg—1/10 is visible while 9/10 are hidden. Many people with a slight attack do not consult their doctor. Also, not all cases are notified—I meet people who say that they have had food poisoning yet I have received no notification. Therefore, we can not be content simply because we do not have many notifications.

While on this subject I feel I must mention education in food hygiene. To me, education and schools are synonymous. All school-children should be taught to handle food hygienically and, most important, they should be taught by example. By example I mean that every school kitchen and canteen should be impeccable. Their standards should be exemplary. Surely this would have an effect on children and, who knows, it may even jolt some parents who would be badgered by their children, into increasing their standards.

The more one looks at this problem, the more vexed one becomes. After all, this country has been interested in Public Health for approximately one hundred years. Yet, we still have to use legislation to try and ensure clean handling of food. We should be ashamed that we have needed Regulations. Let everyone who handles food develop a sense of cleanliness and regulations will not

be needed. Any dirty food handler is guilty of a great moral wrong. We must make such people realise this, and every food handler should search his conscience and see if it is clear—remember, food poisoning can be a mild illness—it can also be FATAL.

One final word addressed to everyone—are you free from guilt? Do you accept low standards? Do you drink from cracked or lipsticked cups? Do you eat in dirty surroundings? etc., etc. Well, if you do, you too are guilty. If you insist on hygiene, you will get it. So, in many ways its up to you and you and you.

A VIRUS OUTBREAK

In the late autumn, we had a violent epidemic of illnesses caused by a virus. I understand that the epidemic raged thro' Nottinghamshire before coming to us. We had hundreds of cases. The illness lasted from 4 days to 2 or 3 weeks; the reason for the wide variation in time is that the illness could be uni-, bi-, or even triphasic. As for symptoms, all the sufferers felt really ill (this is characteristic of virus illness). Also, they suffered from sickness and fever and headache. Many had a rash which was often only of fleeting duration. If they had any sores or cuts when they fell ill, these took very much longer to clear up than usual. The illness was very infectious and raged thro' whole families.

In a considerable number, there were also signs of meningeal irritation (e.g. stiff neck, severe headache, stiff limbs). This picture looked like non paralytic polio, and it was difficult to differentiate between the two. Here, the patient was often sent to hospital.

There were no deaths from the illness and as far as I know there were no lasting ill effects.

Lodge Moor Hospital for Infectious Disease was very interested in this illness. One of their doctors in collaboration with a Bolsover doctor visited many of these people and took specimens from them. From these, he was able to isolate and type the virus responsible for the illness. Thus, we have helped to contribute to the store of medical knowledge.

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

Area (acres)	21,922
Population (Census 1951)	43,112
Population mid-year (Registrar-General, 1956)	42,950
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1956) according to Rate Books	13,158
Rateable Value, 1956	£305,842
Sum represented a by Penny Rate, 1956	£1239 9s. 8d. (estimated)

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Coal mining and to a less extent agriculture are the chief occupations of the district. Over 60% of the population are coal miners. There is very little unemployment.

Verminous Heads

57 treatments were given at the Disinfestation Centre to 29 cases of Verminous Heads. They were from the following parishes :

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Cases</i>
Blackwell	8
Pinxton	8
South Normanton	11
Shirebrook	2
	—
	29
	==

Scabies

13 treatments were given at the Disinfestation Centre to 5 cases of Scabies.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS :

Live Births—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	725	372	353	{ Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.5 (crude)
Illegitimate	29	19	10	
Corrected birth-rate, 16.9				
Still Births	19	10	9	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births, 24.5

The births in this area and the Still Birth rate are both higher than last year.

	Total	Males	Females	
DEATHS	450	281	169	{ Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.5 (crude)

Corrected death-rate, 13.3

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Rate per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births	29.17
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.2
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	103.4

The infantile death-rate of 29.17 is higher than the rate for 1955. In fact, the rate for legitimate infants has dropped, while the rate for illegitimate has increased enormously. This increase is made greater by the small numbers involved (29 illegitimate births with 3 deaths under one year). We all know that an illegitimate pregnancy is more dangerous than a legitimate one. The accepted reason for this is the tendency for an unmarried mother to be to

neglect to obtain ante-natal care and skilled attention at birth. I think this is a great pity. After all, it's not just the woman who is involved, there is the baby. Isn't it horrifying that babies should die thus? Surely all of us, whether saints or sinners should revise our opinions on this. Every pregnant woman should have good ante-natal care and the best possible attention at the birth.

The following were causes of death :

Prematurity (either by itself or along with other causes)	8
Congenital abnormality (either by itself or along with other causes)	9
Pneumonia	4

About these causes of deaths, I can only repeat that good Ante Natal Care is a **must**. We do not know the cause of prematurity but it is accepted that we can lessen the incidence by ante natal care. At present, we cannot do much about preventing congenital abnormalities.

DEATHS FROM :—

Measles	—
Whooping cough	—
Heart and circulation	114
Suicides	6
Cancer (51 males 24 females)	75
Coronary thrombosis (35 males 7 females)	42
Pulmonary tuberculosis (3 males)	3
Road accidents	7
Other accidents	15

The number of suicides is greater than last year, but due to the small numbers involved we must not draw conclusions from this.

The number of deaths from **cancer** is higher. This increase is solely in male deaths, in fact, there are 2 cancer deaths less in females. The increase in male deaths is 13 in number and 33½ in percentage.

Coronary Thrombosis. Last year I pointed out how unusual it was to have a large increase in female deaths here. Well, this increase has disappeared this year, and with a total of 7 we are the same as 1954 when there were 6 (1955-17). The number of male deaths continues to increase here.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 3 deaths, exactly half the number for 1955, occurred. However, all these deaths were in males and underlines my general statement on Tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics, are provided by the County Council.

Ambulance Service, provided by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities, are provided by the County Council. I would like to thank them, here, for their help and efficiency.

Chest Clinic. Sheffield Regional Hospital Board provide such a clinic in Chesterfield.

Veneral Disease. Treatment and advice can be obtained at Derby Royal Infirmary and at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Williams, the Surveyor and Water Engineer, has kindly given me this information re. water supplies.

The district has an average daily water consumption of 1,252,000 gallons. This supply is regularly examined bacteriologically and chemically for evidence of contamination.

The following mains extensions were completed during the year :—

Slade Lane Housing Estate,			
Pinxton	....	....	114 lin. yds. 3" dia. main.
			224 lin. yds. 6" dia. main.
Slade Lane/Town Street,			
replacement	....	....	326 lin. yds. 6" dia. main.
Primrose Terrace, Newton	....		450 lin. yds. 3" dia. main.

Installation of Pressure-reducing valve, Norwood.

Byepass to Pleasley Reservoir.

Newtonwood Lane Bridge insertion of connections for emergency supply.

Diversion of 4" main, Carter Lane, Shirebrook, in connection with County Council Improvement Scheme (44 lin. yds.).

WATERWORKS

Budby and Stony Houghton Pumping Stations

During the year 1,018,155,000 gallons of water were pumped from Budby Pumping Station of which 708,001,000 gallons were repumped from Stony Houghton to Whiteborough Reservoirs.

Reservoirs at Whiteborough have been emptied, inspected and put back into service.

Maintenance of surface pumps and motors at No. 1 station at Budby and Stony Houghton have been carried out and repair work to No. 3 borehole pump has been completed.

Provision of apparatus for remote control of Stony Houghton is progressing and improvements to stores access and flag paving from No. 1 to No. 2 station at Budby have been carried out. An

additional filter has been installed in No. 2 borehole pump well at Budby and a 10" meter inserted at Newtonwood Lane to register supplies to the southern Area of the District.

Cathodic Protection

A cathodic protection rectifier and transformer has been purchased for installation at Staffa Street, Tibshelf. It is anticipated that the apparatus will provide protection for water mains within one mile radius of the site.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- (a) **Astwith.** Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme deferred until 1958.
- (b) **Pleasley.** Pumping scheme incorporating new disposal works at Common Lane ; outline proposals submitted to Ministry.
- (c) **Pinxton.** Work commenced on installation of flow recorder.
- (d) **Shirebrook.** Improvement to entrance gateway to sludge drying beds carried out.
- (e) **Stainsby.** Scheme prepared for sewerage and sewage disposal works but postponed until 1959 in view of mining proposals for the area.

SEWERAGE

- (a) **Scarcliffe.** 146 lin. yds. of 9" diameter sewer has been laid by direct labour at Lidgett Lane.
- (b) **Shirebrook.** 6" diam. sewer extension 72 yds. long completed by direct labour at Long Lane.

15 manholes were reconstructed in the District during the year. A scheme was prepared for connection of 19 houses, Main Street, Newton, to the public sewer, but was not proceeded with.

CONVERSIONS

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Pail Closets</i>				<i>Converted to Water Closets</i>
Scarcliffe	....	....	....	....	2
South Normanton	....	....	....	....	8
					—
	Total	....	....	....	10
					==

HOUSING

257 houses and bungalows were completed by the Council and 65 were built privately. Thus the total is 322. The Council total is less than 1955, but, the private total is appreciably higher (65 as against 48).

Mr. Wells, the Architect, has very kindly supplied the following table which shows the rate of progress in the Council's housing programme. Two paraplegic bungalows were built during the year. These are designed specially for people with paralysis. They are a great boon to these unfortunate people. We should be proud of having them and prouder still that we intend to build another four.

Parish	Dwellings completed 1956		Dwellings completed January 1st to June 1st, 1957		Dwellings in course of erection or contracts approved 1st June, 1957	
	Houses	Bungalows	Houses	Bungalows	Houses	Bungalows
Shirebrook	131	18	44	34*	64	16
Tibshelf	84	14*	—	—	—	—
Glapwell	8	—	8	2*	—	—
Total	223	32	52	36	64	16

*Includes 2 Paraplegic Bungalows.

FACTORIES ACT

There are 42 factories registered in the Blackwell Rural District which are inspected from time to time, and action taken as is necessary. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	30	4
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	26	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	37	15	—
Total	121	71	4

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number Found	Number Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	11	11	—	—
Ineffective cleanliness of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	6	6	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	9	9	—	—
Total	27	27	—	—

3.—OUTWORK.

Nature of Work.	No. of Out-workers	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	28	—
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets	1	—
Total	29	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A report will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report about this aspect of public health.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

One application was made under Section 47 of this Act. It concerned an old lady (over 80). She was living in insanitary conditions and she was not receiving proper care and attention. Our application was refused. However, her condition continued to deteriorate and I had her admitted to hospital, using the emergency procedure of the above Act.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Diphtheria

For another year we had no case of diphtheria (our last was in 1949). Let us keep in this happy position by continuing to have children immunised.

Scarlet fever.

We had 95 cases which was pretty much the same as last year. Two cases were in people over school age. The disease continues in its present mild form.

Poliomyelitis

There were 4 notifications but, fortunately, they were all of the non-paralytic form. One of these was a boy who developed his illness 4 to 5 days after his first injection of poliomyelitis vaccine. Because of the short interval between the injection and the illness, it is extremely unlikely that there was any connection between the two. Be that as it may, the main thing is that he made a quick and complete recovery.

Food Poisoning

We had 3 cases. The first was a lady who ate a meal in a cafe outside our district. She became ill and had to be removed to hospital. In hospital, the causative organism was found to be *Salmonella Typhimurium*. We got in touch with the district concerned and found that there were some further cases there. The

other cases were a husband and wife who suffered from staphylococcal food poisoning. Here the meat was bought from a reputable butcher's shop. But it was kept and reheated for two days. Reheating meat can be a dangerous business and I am sure that this contributed to the illness. The illness was short and violent. Both recovered inside 48 hours. No other customer of the butcher reported illness.

Measles

There were only 15 cases as against 402 in 1955. This means that we shall have a large number in 1957.

Whooping cough.

We had 79 cases. Here I would urge immunisation. It is not foolproof but in the opinion of the Medical Research Council it does confer sufficient benefit to make it well worth while.

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease 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	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Totals	14	9	—	2	3	—	—	—

The death rate from tuberculosis is 0.07 per 1,000 of the population.

It is nice to see the death rate fall—a tribute to present day care and treatment. But it is very disturbing to see that we have had 25 new cases as against 15 in 1955. To me this emphasises my feeling that we should all attack tuberculosis in every way now.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1956.

Notifiable Disease	Number of Cases notified											Total Cases notified in each Parish of the District									Total Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At Ages—years											Shirebrook	S. Normanton	Pinxton	Tibshelf	Blackwell	Pleasley	Scarliffe	A. Hucknall	Clapwell			
	Under 1	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 & upwards
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	2	4	13	13	53	8	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	5	7	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebral-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" " (Non ")	4	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	15	2	2	2	1	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	79	2	7	10	10	40	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	239	10	6	25	24	103	13	6	13	12	12	2	79	6	1	15	34	24	47	18	14	89	—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the department during the past year. The various sections of work are set out in the following pages under appropriate headings.

Without doubt the maintenance of a 100% meat inspection service has caused the greatest difficulty throughout the year. The number of animals slaughtered has risen to approximately 1,000 per week, and evening and weekend work has been continuous. It was natural for the staff to be dissatisfied with such regular overtime work. The Council gave this question long and serious consideration and at the end of the year regraded the salaries of all inspectors in recognition of the extra work caused by meat inspection. This has resulted in a more contented staff and a rota system for evening and week-end inspections has worked well.

Good progress has been made in the reduction of industrial atmospheric pollution except at Glapwell Colliery where a serious smoke nuisance arises from two chimneys. Negotiations and representations to the National Coal Board have continued since 1954, but up to the present there has been no improvement.

Since the Housing Programme was approved in July 1955—103 unfit houses have been dealt with. Pressure of other work has delayed the representation of several Clearance Areas, which will now be dealt with in 1957.

I desire to thank the Chairman and members of the Committee for their encouragement and interest in the work of the department, and Dr. Robertson and my colleagues in other departments for their ready co-operation. I appreciate the way in which the Inspectors have again stood the strain of regular evening and weekend meat inspection duty and by their efforts an efficient meat inspection service has been maintained.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT CLARKSON, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector.

STAFF

Chief Public Health Inspector :—

ROBERT CLARKSON (a) (b)

District Public Health Inspector :—

JAMES A. YOUNG (a) (b)

Additional Public Health Inspectors :—

GEOFFREY G. EITE (a)

ARTHUR T. SINGLETON (a) (b)

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS**General Sanitation :**

Atmospheric Pollution	....	....	....	....	....	13
Water Supplies	....	....	....	....	....	43
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	718
Drains tested	....	....	....	....	....	63
Stables and Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	25
Accumulations	....	....	....	....	....	42
Colliery Spoilbanks	....	....	....	....	....	12
Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	....	....	....	....	....	607
Re-inspections of Sanitary Conveniences, Ashplaces and Ashbins	....	....	....	....	....	121
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	....	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds	....	....	....	....	....	30
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	2
Factories and Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	71
Refuse Collection	....	....	....	....	....	62
Refuse Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	136
Street Cleansing	....	....	....	....	....	14
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	....	1,135
Schools	....	....	....	....	....	54
Cinemas	....	....	....	....	....	6

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH

		Served during 1956	Complied with during 1956	Out- standing on 31/12/56
Informal Public Health Act Notices	....	694	653	286
Statutory Public Health Act Notices		31	16	25
Informal Housing Act Notices	....	—	—	—
Statutory House Act Notices	....	1	1	—
		<hr/> 726	<hr/> 670	<hr/> 311

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Dwelling Houses :

Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Vermin Disinfestation	....	....	....	....	....	....	32
Lighting improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Ventilation improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Windows repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	159
Walls rendered free from dampness	....	....	....	....	....	....	126
Plasterwork repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	177
Floors re-laid or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	108
Woodwork renewed or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	81
Fireplaces and grates repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	101
Cooking facilities improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	83
Kitchen boiler repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	35
Food stores improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	35
Coal stores improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	39
Washing accommodation provided or improved	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Internal water supply provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
Roofs repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	187
Walls pointed and brickwork repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	97
Chimney stacks repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	140
Damp proof course provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	80
Yards and passages paved or repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	62

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

There have been 10 conversions during the year bringing the total since 1950 to 2,356. In the remaining cases there are serious drainage difficulties which it has not yet been possible to satisfactorily overcome. Negotiations are proceeding to this end.

Details of the conversion of sanitary conveniences and the number of pail closets still in use are set out below :—

Parish			Pail closets converted to water closets	Pail closets in use on 31/12/56
Ault Hucknall	....	....	—	77
Blackwell	....	....	—	67
Glapwell	....	....	—	2
Pleasley	....	....	—	15
Pinxton	....	....	—	24
Scarcliffe	....	....	2	15
Shirebrook	....	....	—	16
South Normanton	....	....	8	23
Tibshelf	....	....	—	26
			10	265

HOUSING

A total of 322 houses have been completed during the year—237 Council houses and 65 private houses. The continuance of this rate of house building has relieved many unsuitable housing conditions, so that the frequency of complaints to this department of two or more families living in one house, has almost ceased. Known cases of overcrowding have been reduced from 35 to 28.

Work on the Slum Clearance Programme approved in July, 1955 has continued and at the end of the year 103 had been officially represented as unfit. It had been hoped to deal with the several Clearance Areas but the pressure of other work prevented this. These Clearance Areas will now be represented during 1957. This Programme only deals with the worst housing features and there are many houses built during the past 50/70 years which require

extensive repair. With the low rents it is difficult to persuade owners to carry out improvements and the position is made worse by the shortage of building contractors who are prepared to undertake repair and improvement work, particularly in Shirebrook and adjoining districts.

Applications for Improvement Grants are dealt with by the Engineer ; they usually require the submission of Building Byelaw plans. These are being mainly received from owner/occupiers and 57 grants were approved during the year.

A total of 695 houses have been inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts with a view to the repair or remedy of defects.

Certificates of Disrepair under the provision of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954 have now been issued in 163 cases, and of these 87 have now been revoked.

Certificates issued during 1956	....	....	....	....	2
Certificates revoked during 1956		....	....	....	16
Statitistical summaries of housing work are set out below :—					

A. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

1.	(a)	No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health and Housing Acts)	....	695
	(b)	No. of inspections made for this purpose	....	2,475
2.	(a)	No. of dwelling houses (included under 1a) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	....	143
	(b)	No. of inspections made for this purpose	....	909
3.		No. of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation	....	66
4.		No. of dwelling houses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	374

B. Remedy of Defective Dwelling Houses

1. Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts 272

2. Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice.

Houses in which defects were remedied :

- (a) By owners 16
- (b) By local authority in default of owners —

3. Housing Act 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 ; 10 ; 11 and 16) :

Houses made fit :

- (a) By owners —
- (b) By local authority in default of owners —

C. Demolition or Closure of Dwelling Houses

	No. of Houses	No. of persons displaced
1. Housing Act 1936		
(a) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	23	62
(b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	1	3
2. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1953.		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1) and 11 (2)	4	13

D. Overcrowding

Parish		No. of Houses Overcrowded on 31/12/56	Cases of Overcrowding abated during 1956	No. of Persons affected by abatement
Ault Hucknall	....	1	—	—
Blackwell	....	5	1	9
Glapwell	....	—	—	—
Pleasley	....	—	—	—
Pinxton	....	7	—	—
Scarcliffe	....	1	—	—
Shirebrook	....	—	3	23
South Normanton	....	13	7	39
Tibshelf	....	1	—	—
		<hr/> 28	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 71
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

E. Houses subject to Demolition and Closing Orders :

Parish		Still occupied	Vacant and awaiting Demolition	Total
Ault Hucknall	....	4	14	18
Blackwell	....	5	1	6
Glapwell	....	1	—	1
Pleasley	....	—	5	5
Pinxton	....	20	7	27
Scarcliffe	....	7	6	13
Shirebrook	....	2	3	5
South Normanton	....	10	23	33
Tibshelf	....	3	2	5
		<hr/> 52	<hr/> 61	<hr/> 113
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

A total of 86 inspections and re-inspections have been made of houses and other premises and in 36 cases work has been carried out by this department.

Bed Bugs

No. of Council houses disinfested	....	....	....	3
No. of privated premises disinfested	....	....	....	8

Cockroaches

No. of Council houses disinfested	....	....	....	14
No. of private houses disinfested ....	....	....	....	2

Other Vermin

No. of premises dealt with for woodworm infestation				3
No. of premises dealt with for ant infestation			....	6
				<hr/>
				36
				<hr/>

The whole of this work has been carried out by the Council's trained staff, the following methods being used :—

- Cockroaches —Floor boards removed near fireplaces, skirtings, etc., eased and sprayed with Gammexane powder (D.034) by means of a foot pump.
- Ants —Spraying with Gammodex containing Dieldrin.
- Woodworm —Use of Gammexane Smoke Generators.
- Bed Bugs and
- Other Vermin—Spraying with Gammexane liquid (L.044).

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

The inspection of meat at the 15 private slaughterhouses, two of which carry on large wholesale businesses, has taken an increasing proportion of the department's time. The number of animals slaughtered during 1956 rose to 51,142 as against 38,383 in 1955—an average of almost 1,000 animals per week. This kill is considerably in excess of the needs of the rural district. The wholesale butchers regularly send consignments to the meat markets at Birmingham, Sheffield and Chesterfield and supply many butchers in adjoining districts. The slaughtering of these animals regularly continues after 5 p.m. on a weekday, Saturday afternoons and most of Sunday, so that to secure a 100% inspection the Inspectors regularly work in excess of normal hours. To maintain

this inspection rotas are drawn up to cover work after 5 p.m. each evening and also to cover week-end duty.

The problems created by the large number of animals slaughtered and the meat inspection entailed have caused the Committee much concern. Meetings have been held with the butchers with a view to securing better co-operation and whilst some improvements have resulted, the major problem has remained unaltered. The Council is continuing to press, on every possible occasion, for some amendment of the Regulations which will improve this position or for the abolition of Sunday slaughtering. The present arrangements for licensing slaughterhouses does not give the District Council any control over the number of animals which may be slaughtered. This is a weakness which frequently leads to the number of animals slaughtered being in excess of the facilities provided. With satisfactory premises, including sufficient cold storage and suitable staff the trade could, without serious inconvenience, be re-organised to reduce week-end work and to cut out Sunday slaughtering.

No. of Animals slaughtered and examined :

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Total
Wholesale Private Slaughterhouse, Tibshelf	2268	741	150	6696	5748	—	15603
Wholesale Private Slaughterhouse, Pleasley	1490	87	53	10705	15484	—	27819
Other Private Slaughterhouses (North)	291	70	9	823	1137	—	2330
Other Private Slaughterhouses (South)	537	483	23	2043	2304	—	5390
	4586	1381	235	20267	24673	—	51142

Condemnation of Carcasses and Offal

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	4	31	15	
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	947	459	2	533	1303	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and Cysticerci	20.65	33.23	2.59	2.72	5.47	—
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	10	7	1	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	289	311	—	—	455	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.52	23.02	0.42	—	1.89	—
Cysticercosis Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	17	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat and offal amounting to 28 tons 12 cwts. 72 lbs. has been condemned, and 228 lbs. of other unsound food and 1,556 tins of food have also been dealt with.

The number of carcasses affected with Localised Cysticercus Bovis and dealt with by cold storage was 21, compared with 3 the previous year.

All condemned meat and offal is coloured "green" and disposed of by manufacture into animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers. There is no sale of raw meat for animal feeding at the works to which the unsound meat is sent, the whole of such unfit meat being completely sterilised in the process of making it into fertilisers and animal feeding stuffs. At the two large slaughterhouses the condemned meat and offal is removed daily and the butchers are credited with the salvage value.

Where meat is condemned at the smaller private slaughterhouses it is immediately removed by one of the department's vans and delivered to the processing plant. In these cases the amount received is retained by the District Council as part payment for the removal service. This system has worked satisfactorily and there has been no ground for complaint.

A summary of the food condemned is set out below :—

Condemnations for Tuberculosis :

Beef	10,989 lbs.	Pork Offal	719 lbs.
Beef Offal	15,482 lbs.	Veal	45 lbs.
Pork	5,030 lbs.	Veal Offal	8 lbs.

Condemnations for Cysticercus Bovis :

Beef	126 lbs.	Beef Offal	1,476 lbs.
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Condemnations for diseases other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis :

Beef	631 lbs.	Mutton	1,747 lbs.
Beef Offal	18,804 lbs.	Mutton Offal	2,587 lbs.
Pork	1,500 lbs.	Veal	348 lbs.
Pork Offal	4,579 lbs.	Veal Offal	66 lbs.

LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSES

In January 1955—15 private slaughterhouses were granted licences to expire on 30th June 1959. This was a reduction of 10 on the number in use prior to the de-control of meat. Of these 13 are in regular use. They have generally been maintained in a satisfactory condition and many improvements added. The facilities include 1 stunning pen, 6 have cooling halls and two have large cold stores. It is expected that as a result of improving hygienic standards there will be a further reduction in the number of licences to be granted in 1959.

The large number of animals killed at one slaughterhouse, which drains to a small sewage works, has caused serious difficulties in the purification of the effluent. The Engineer has now arranged for the treatment of the effluent from these premises on a trade basis and a special screening and sedimentation tank was being constructed at the slaughterhouse at the end of the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS 1933-54

Number of licences issued (including 8 to new applicants to work under the supervision of an experienced licensed man) 77

FOOD PREMISES

There are 494 food premises within the district. A classified schedule of these is set out below.

Business	Tibshelf	Pinxton	South Normanton	Blackwell	Ault Hucknall	Glapwell	Pleasley	Scarcliffe	Shirebrook	Total
Ice Cream Manufacturers	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Canteens, Cafes and Restaurants	2	3	2	5	3	1	3	6	7	32
Meals Served	3	4	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	15
Bakehouses	3	1	4	1	—	—	1	—	1	11
Butchers Shop and Making Up Rooms	5	7	8	3	—	—	1	4	16	44
Confectionery, Bread and Cakes	5	3	3	—	1	—	—	3	12	27
Fish Friers	3	4	6	3	2	—	—	2	1	21
Grocers	4	8	15	5	—	1	4	10	22	69
Wet Fish and Greengrocers	2	2	6	—	—	—	—	3	11	24
Mixed Business	12	24	28	22	11	6	9	23	25	160
Public Houses	8	10	16	10	3	2	4	14	12	79
Corn Merchants	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Market Stalls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
TOTAL	47	67	94	53	20	10	22	65	116	494

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947

The premises registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream have been closely supervised during the year and

attention has also been paid to the vans used for the sale of ice cream within the district. A total of 32 samples of ice cream have been submitted for examination.

Details of premises registered under Section 16 and the results of samples submitted for examination are set out below :—

Premises registered :

(a)	Manufacture and sale of ice cream	....	....	....	2
(b)	Sale of ice cream	....	....	....	3
(c)	Sale of pre-packed ice cream....	....	....	....	126
					<hr/>
					131
					<hr/>

Results of ice cream samples :

Ice Cream				Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
Complete Cold Mix	....			2	—	—	—	2
Pasteurised	....	....		4	3	1	—	8
Pre-packed	....	....		22	—	—	—	22
Total	....	....		28	3	1	—	32

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES FOR PREPARATION OF PRESERVED FOOD, etc.

There are 19 premises within the district registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the preparation/manufacture of sausages, preserved food, etc.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955

Soon after these Regulations became fully operative a Circular was addressed to all food premises within the district drawing attention to the Regulations and enclosing a poster to exhibit and a copy of the booklet prepared by the Central Council for Health Education—"Your Guide to the Food Regulations 1955." The Circular informed the occupier that at a later date a detailed survey would be made of all food premises. Posters have, from time to time, been exhibited on notice boards in the district and in the larger food premises. No further educational work, apart from that by the Inspectors in their daily contacts with the food trade and public, has been undertaken.

The survey of these premises commenced in September 1956 and at the end of the year 78 premises had been examined. With the present staff and the volume of other work on meat inspection, housing, cleansing, etc. a complete and detailed survey of these is a task which will take many months.

As a direct result of the survey work 25 notices were served, 2 fish fryers and 1 cafe using unsuitable premises were closed and a hot dog stall moved to a more suitable position. During the year 1,198 inspections have been made of the various classes of food premises. A summary of improvements effected is given below :—

Hot water supplies provided	....	....	....	....	4
New sinks provided	....	....	....	....	5
New washbasins provided	....	....	....	....	4
Hand dryer repaired	....	....	....	....	1
Premises cleansed	....	....	....	....	9
Water closets provided	....	....	....	....	1
Notices re "washing hands"	....	....	....	....	5
Drainage improved	....	....	....	....	1
Improved refuse storage	....	....	....	....	3
Accumulations removed	....	....	....	....	2
Floors repaired or re-laid	....	....	....	....	3
Plasterwork repaired	....	....	....	....	1
Doors and windows repaired	....	....	....	....	2
Walls tiled	....	....	....	....	3
New fixtures provided	....	....	....	....	1
Improvement of equipment	....	....	....	....	3
Improper storage of goods	....	....	....	....	2
Protection from flies and animals....	....	....	....	....	2

The condition of the privately owned Shirebrook Market still causes some concern particularly having regard to improvements which are being made in food premises surrounding the market. The arrangement for the cleaning of the Market Place by the District Council at the owner's cost, still continues. This arrangement, plus the provision of additional bins for the use on market days has considerably reduced the litter nuisance. One stallholder was warned for smoking while handling food. Other items of interest which have been dealt with under this heading :—

(a) Complaint of glass splinter in a bread roll baked in this area and sold in adjoining areas—the baker was warned in this case.

(b) Stewed meat prepared at the Blackwell School Canteen was rejected before the serving of meals. Investigation of this case showed that some of the food preparing utensils were badly chipped and inclined to rust—these were immediately rejected, and that the meat supplied was of a poor quality and somewhat scrappy. This has been rectified and the meat now supplied is satisfactory.

MILK DISTRIBUTION

The sale of loose and raw milk has been prohibited in this area since January 1955.

The supervision of the distribution of milk has resulted in 56 inspections being made and 43 samples being submitted for examination.

There are 58 registered distributors of milk and one dairy within the district. The dairy is a pasteurisation plant at Pleasley and Pleasley Hill Co-operative Society Limited and is under the supervision of the Derbyshire County Council. The County Public Health Inspector informs me that 26 samples of pasteurised milk from this dairy were examined by the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests and found to be satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Number of dealers' licences (Tuberculin Tested milk)	36
Number of Supplementary dealers' licences (Tuberculin Tested milk)	2

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Number of dealers' licences (Pasteurised Milk)	36
Number of dealers' licences (Sterilised Milk)	17
Number of Supplementary dealers' licences (Pasteurised Milk)	2
Number of Supplementary dealers' licences (Sterilised Milk)	2

MILK SAMPLES**Tuberculin Tested Milk**

Methylene Blue Test	....	....	....	8 satisfactory.
Biological Test	....	....	....	4 satisfactory.

Pasteurised Milk

Methylene Blue Test	....	....	....	14 satisfactory.
Phosphatase Test	14 satisfactory.

Sterilised Milk

Turbidity Test	3 satisfactory.
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FOOD AND DRUGS

The Food and Drugs authority for this district is the Derbyshire County Council and Mr. R. W. Sutton, County Analyst, has very kindly supplied the following information in respect of work carried out in the Blackwell District during 1956.

"A total of 106 samples, including 67 milks were taken and submitted for examination.

No serious irregularities were disclosed and no proceedings were taken.

One sample of Cheese Spread was classed as deficient in fat. No action was taken in this instance pending the fixing of a standard for this commodity which is still under consideration at the Ministry following the recommendations of the Food Standards Committee."

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the district has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. From the table it will be seen that 144 samples have been examined of which 13 were found to be unsatisfactory. Eleven of these samples were from three wells and steps are being taken with a view to the improvement of these supplies.

WATER SAMPLES

		<i>Bacteriological Examination</i>	<i>Chemical Analysis</i>
District Supplies	....	103 satisfactory 2 unsatisfactory	12 satisfactory
Other district supplies		8 satisfactory	
Well Supplies	....	8 satisfactory 7 unsatisfactory	4 unsatisfactory

A schedule giving details of the water supplies to dwelling houses is set out below. From this it will be noted that 13,420 houses (99.6%) are provided with a piped supply of district water, 37 houses (.27%) are provided with district water by means of external stand pipes and 17 houses (.13%) have to rely on wells for their water supply.

Water Supplies

Parish	No. of houses supplied with district water direct to houses	Population (estimated)	No. of houses supplied with district water from stand pipes	Population (estimated)	No. of houses using wells, etc.	Population (estimated)
Pinxton	1,434	5,026	1	1	—	—
South Normanton	2,195	6,674	32	130	—	—
Tibshelf	1,248	3,263	2	9	—	—
Blackwell	1,288	4,253	1	1	—	—
Shirebrook	3,350	10,206	—	—	8	23
Scarliffe	2,174	7,403	1	1	3	11
Ault Hucknall	527	2,205	—	—	1	3
Glapwell	458	1,224	—	—	—	—
Pleasley	748	2,502	—	—	5	15
	13,422	42,756	37	142	17	52

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

A combined Disinfector/Rodent Operator is employed. He has been trained for this work and the Council also employed a trained part time operator, as required. Routine inspection and the baiting of Council premises and sewers is carried out by these men, with the assistance of the Public Health Inspectors in connection with complaints and to direct and supervise the work.

A total of 1,135 inspections and visits have been made. It has not been necessary to issue any statutory notices. To assist the general public in dealing with small mice infestations arrangements exist for the sale of small Warfarin packs, and advice is given as to the methods to be followed. This has been found to be most helpful.

Summary of Work Done :

Council Premises

Number of premises examined	....	....	....	....	134
Number of premises treated by use of Warfarin bait containers for rat infestation....	....	....	....	....	17
Number of Council houses treated by use of Warfarin bait containers for rat and mouse infestation	....	....	....	....	7
Number of pre-baits laid	....	....	....	....	670
Number of poison baits laid	....	....	....	....	267
Number of post-baits laid ....	....	....	....	....	140
Number of Council premises gassed by Cymag	....	....	....	....	4

Private and Business Premises

Number of premises treated	....	....	....	....	26
Number of pre-baits laid	....	....	....	....	314
Number of poison baits laid	....	....	....	....	269
Number of post-baits laid ....	....	....	....	....	156
Number of premises treated by use of Warfarin bait containers	....	....	....	....	17
Number of farms treated by use of Warfarin bait	....	....	....	....	5
Number of burrows gassed by Cymag	....	....	....	....	89

Shop and house premises re Mouse Infestation

Number of premises treated by use of Warfarin bait containers	6
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Sewer Manholes

Number test baited....	145
Number baited with poison	35

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Number of premises licensed	1
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NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

Two enquiries were dealt with regarding the burial of persons without suitable means and two cases were dealt with under Section 47. In one of the latter cases the aged man eventually agreed to accept hospital treatment, but died before he could be admitted. In the other case the Alfreton Magistrates refused in March to make an Order for the removal of an old lady, aged 85. The case was kept under observation, conditions further deteriorated and in November, she was voluntarily removed to hospital. She died 5 days later.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There are no recognised camping grounds. Control of individual vans to prevent duplication of licences, etc. is exercised under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts. No nuisance has arisen during the year in connection with the use of vans for living purposes.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-48

During the year 71 inspections have been made and 4 notices complied with.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

Number of licensed premises	55
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One court case for storing petrol without a licence resulted in the defendant being fined 30/-d.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The increased effort to reduce industrial pollution, which has been made during the last few years, is now beginning to show results. Whilst there are still serious smoke nuisances arising at the Glapwell and Brookhill Collieries, the chimneys and spoilbanks at the other collieries have been well controlled throughout the year. Regular routine inspections, accompanied by the National Coal Board engineers are made of all spoilbanks. The advantages of using bulldozers and disposing of spoil on a layer principle are being increasingly recognised. It is mainly due to this that no complaints have arisen regarding burning spoilbanks. The work at A. Winning Colliery is a very good example of efficiency of this method.

The smoke nuisance from the Brookhill Colliery chimneys has continued unabated. In my last report I referred to the decision to convert all machinery for the use of electric power. After a long delay the East Midland Electricity Board made a supply available in December 1956 which enabled all power to be converted to electricity, except the winding gear. Unfortunately six of the old Lancashire hand fired boilers are still being used and smoke emission is, at times, very heavy.

At **Glapwell Colliery** the position has not improved and the two chimneys serving the hand fired Lancashire boilers are easily the worst in the district. In November 1954 the National Coal Board made a promise to fix chain grate stokers, this was eventually abandoned in favour of Martin Black slurry burning boilers, and the latter promise was withdrawn in favour of an "Atritor," subject to a trial on one Lancashire Boiler at Bolsover being satisfactory. The trial plant will be ready for use in January, 1957. The delay in this case appears to arise entirely from the decision of the management to fire the boilers with far greater quantities of slurry than is used at collieries in other nearby National Coal Board areas.

A serious nuisance ceased in February 1956 when the **Blackwell Coke Ovens** closed and production was transferred to the new plant at Wingerworth.

The Committee decided to fix two soot deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments for the **Measurement of Atmospheric Pollution**. These will be in use early in 1957.

SHOP ACTS

During the year 2 inspections were made. One shop for the sale of electrical accessories was found to be without sanitary accommodation and subsequently closed.

LICENSED PREMISES

It has not been possible to carry out the necessary detailed survey of all the premises in this area. In the meantime the breweries are proceeding with isolated reconstructions and where plans are submitted for such work particular attention is paid to the sanitary accommodation and the facilities for the washing and sterilising of glasses.

SHIREBROOK MARKET

The privately owned open-air market continues to be held in Shirebrook on Friday of each week.

COMPLAINTS

A total of 558 complaints were received and investigated (254 at the South Normanton Office and 304 at the Shirebrook Office).

The majority of these complaints were found to be fully justified. A summary of them is set out below :—

Housing defects	....	....	....	....	....	....	170
Drainage defects	....	....	....	....	....	....	130
Sanitary Conveniences			....	....	....	....	53
Dirty and Verminous Premises			....	....	....	....	35
Refuse Collection	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	....	....	57
Keeping of Animals			....	....	....	....	4
Accumulation	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Other matters	....	....	....	....	....	....	72

ASHBINS—SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE OF

Since the 1st April, 1951, the District Council has operated a scheme for the renewal of defective ashbins as a general rate charge. The scheme has worked very satisfactorily—details of the bins provided are set out below.

Although the scheme has operated for six years many houses are still using ashbins provided by owners prior to April, 1951. A careful record is kept of all issues so that if a bin needs replacement due to neglect or misuse on the part of the occupier he is required to pay compensation before a new bin is re-issued. Three of these cases arose in 1956 and amounts of 25/6d., 20/-d., and 20/-d. were paid.

<i>Year</i>						<i>Ashbins Provided</i>
1951-52	....	....	....	....	....	1,064
1952-53	....	....	....	....	....	1,006
1953-54	....	....	....	....	....	1,030
1954-55	....	....	....	....	....	1,538
1955-56	....	....	....	....	....	1,766
1956-57	....	....	....	....	....	1,714

PUBLIC CLEANSING

An organisation for the collection and disposal of refuse by direct labour covers the whole of the rural district.

Collection and Disposal

This work, which is undertaken by motor transport (details of vehicles below), has resulted in the removal of 6,816 loads of refuse, night soil and cesspool contents, and the vehicles have covered 48,624 miles.

One S. & D. Fore and Aft tipper (16 cub. yds.) supplied April 1955—Diesel engine.

One S. & D. Freighter (11.3 cub. yds.) supplied April 1953.

One S. & D. Freighter (11.3 cub. yds.) supplied May 1952.

One S. & D. Freighter (9 cub. yds.) supplied April 1952.

Two S. & D. Freighters (11.3 cub. yds.) supplied July 1949.

One Karrier Bantam (8 cub. yds.) supplied 1946.

There has been no alteration during the year in the fleet of vehicles.

Number of Premises served

Ashbins	....	....	....	14,121 (cleansed weekly).
Ashplaces, etc.	....	....	....	13 (cleansed monthly).
Closet Pails	....	....	....	288 (cleansed weekly).
Cesspools	....	....	....	127 (cleansed quarterly).

There has been a further increase of 295 premises requiring a weekly collection of refuse, making an increase in the number of ashbins of 2,358 over the past three years. These increases, with some re-organisation, have been absorbed without additional staff or vehicles but the time is fast approaching when further additions will need some additional staff and vehicles, or larger capacity vehicles. It is intended to purchase another Fore & Afte tipper in 1957, which will be of assistance in dealing with extra premises. The decision in 1949 to purchase S. & D. vehicles for refuse collection is being adhered to.

The regularity of the collection service has been well maintained, except during Bank holiday weeks. Absenteeism during the year has amounted to 9.5% chiefly due to certified sickness and accidents. The loss of this time has caused difficulties and on occasions the service has only been maintained by overtime on the part of the willing employees.

It is unfortunate that some men appear to take advantage of the scheme for the payment of wages during absences due to sickness. The recruitment of cleansing employees is still difficult, but not quite so bad as 2/3 years ago.

All dry refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, with the maximum recovery of salvageable material (chiefly loose tins and other metals). Control of the tips has been greatly improved since muledozers were used on this work. The first muledozer was purchased in 1949 and a second and improved model was purchased in June 1956. In addition to spreading and consolidating refuse these machines are used as much as possible on removing and re-instating top soil.

Eight sites have been used during the year for refuse disposal, the chief ones being Shirebrook and B. Winning Playing Fields. The tips in the Southern part of the district have been well maintained and further progress has been made in improving the tips in the Northern part of the district. The chief points regarding the tips are mentioned below :—

- (a) **Sookholme Lane, Shirebrook.** A total of 1941 loads of refuse has been dealt with—approximately 6,700 tons. Work aimed at cultivation of the completed parts of this tip has been

commenced. The available space is filling rapidly so that an extension of the tip, or an alternative site will be necessary within 2/3 years.

- (b) **Glapwell Tip.** This site is almost completed. Negotiations have been proceeding during the year with a view to using the disused Rowthorne railway cutting.
- (c) **B. Winning Welfare Playing Fields.** Since the commencement to the end of the year 6,464 loads have been tipped at this site to provide new playing areas for cricket and football. Small trees have been planted on the completed banks and two sections seeded with grass.
- (d) **Wharf Road Tip, Pinxton.** Cultivation of the completed portion (3½ acres) has continued and in 1956 seeds were sown. This work has considerably improved the appearance of the site and reduced the spread of weeds and need for control of them.

It is very disappointing to have again to report no progress on the provision of adequate garages, salvage workshops and mess facilities for cleansing employees at the Shirebrook depot—particularly having regard to the excellent facilities enjoyed by the men at the South Normanton depot. The Nissen hut used for paper baling is in a deplorable condition and the garages are so insufficient that a new vehicle costing over £2,000 has been left to stand in an open yard for the past 12 months.

Cleansing Costs

The unit costs on cleansing (i.e. net cost of collection and disposal of refuse including pail closet collection service and cleansing of cesspools) is set out below :

					UNIT COSTS	
					<i>per 1,000 population</i>	<i>per 1,000 premises</i>
1.	1955/56	....	....	....	£553*	£1,633*
2.	Nearest comparable figures—Costing Returns 1955/56—House and trade refuse from coal mining Towns	....	....	....	£525	£1,681
3.	1956/57	....	....	....	£565	£1,660

* These figures include over £2,400 for new vehicle and equipment charged direct to the year's account.

Following are details of the work performed by each vehicle, and the comparative running cost of each vehicle :—

Work done by Lorries :

Lorry	MILEAGE			LOADS REMOVED			No. of other journeys
	Cleansing	Salvage	Total	Refuse	Night Soil	Cesspool contents	
S. & D. Freighter (1949) NRA 729	6,318	152	6,470	1,090	—	—	27
S. & D. Freighter (1949) NRA 730	5,114	31	5,145	814	—	—	13
S. & D. Freighter (1952) RRB 300	8,330	582	8,912	500	102	312	119
S. & D. Freighter (1951) RNU 378	4,032	1,444	5,476	868	1	—	10
S. & D. Freighter (1953) TNU 478	7,022	527	7,549	1,092	—	—	14
Karrier Bantam (1946) JRB 68	6,799	587	7,386	398	50	553	81
S. & D. Fore/Aft Diesel (1955) XRA 56	6,515	—	6,515	818	—	—	66
S. & D. Freighter OUR 473 *	1,038	133	1,171	53	—	65	35
	45,168	3,456	48,624	5,733	153	930	365

* Vehicle on loan from Messrs. Shelvoke & Drewry Ltd.

Comparative Costs of Operation of Lorries :

Lorry	Repairs, Maintenance Tyres			Licenses and Insurance			Petrol/Diesel and Oil			Total			Cost per mile
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
NRA 729 (S.&D.)	201	10	8	69	7	3	307	17	5	578	15	4	1/9½d.
NRA 730 (S.&D.)	172	15	7	69	7	2	258	17	1	500	19	10	1/11¼d.
RRB 300 (S.&D.)	107	6	1	70	5	6	291	14	4	469	5	11	1/0½d.
RNU 378 (S.&D.)	84	8	6	72	19	9	243	4	3	400	12	6	1/5½d.
TNU 478 (S.&D.)	71	18	2	68	18	5	311	9	10	452	6	5	1/2¼d.
XRA 56 (S.&D.)	151	14	0	108	19	8	150	10	10	411	4	6	1/3d.
DIESEL JRB 68 (K.B.)	45	3	6	49	0	5	213	7	6	307	11	5	10d.
	834	16	6	508	18	2	1,777	1	3	3,120	15	11	1/3¼d.

MULEDOZERS

A Fordson muledozer using T.V.O. was purchased in 1949 and continues to give good service and a second Fordson muledozer using diesel fuel was purchased in June 1956. These machines are used on tip maintenance, including removing top soil and soiling and cultivation of completed tips. They have been successfully used without special tracks by water ballast in the rear tyres, in lieu of normal inflation. Details of the work done by these machines is set out below :—

Refuse Tips

				Hours operated	
				ONU 56	44 CNU
				(T.V.O.)	(Diesel)
B. Winning Playing Fields	....	....		75	518
Wharf Road, Pinxton....	....	....		68	136
Manor Farm, Tibshelf	....	....		3	59
Bateman, South Normanton		....		113	16
Palterton	....	....	....	19	6
Sookholme Lane, Shirebrook....		....		969	81
Glapwell	....	....	....	37	—

Other Jobs

Water main trench, Newton					
(Engineers Dept.)	....	....		—	14
South Normanton Meadow Lane Depot				1	—
Dale Close, Langwith	....	....		4	—
Haslam, Tibshelf (Private)	....	....		—	6

The cost of operating the machines, including an allowance of one-third for depreciation, was :—

ONU 56—£434 12s. 8d. or 6s. 9d. per hour.

44 CNU—£532 9s. 11d. or 12s. 9d. per hour.

SALVAGE

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

1956-57 :	762 tons	9 cwts.	105 lbs.	£6,245	1s. 1d.
1955-56 :	681 tons	3 cwts.	92 lbs.	£5,600	7s. 9d.
1954-55 :	616 tons	9 cwts.	57 lbs.	£4,450	18s. 2d.
1953-54 :	581 tons	15 cwts.	38 lbs.	£3,833	19s. 2d.

The various materials dealt with are summarised below :

	Tons	cwts.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	446	11	28	3,856	17	1
Ferrous Metal	55	6	—	183	5	9
Non-ferrous Metal	1	13	74	179	19	5
Baled Tins	194	11	28	1,610	6	4
Textiles	22	7	86	404	5	2
Miscellaneous	42	—	—	10	5	2
	702	9	105	£6,244	18	11

In comparing these returns with previous years it is pleasing to note that in spite of difficulties in the disposal of waste paper the income for the year shows an increase of £645. This is almost entirely due to the increased recovery of baled destructor scrap and other ferrous metal. In April, 1956, the Thames Board Mills notified a reduction of 10/- per ton in paper prices and from 1st July fixed a quota for despatch to the mills of 34 tons per month. As a direct result of this the stock of paper on the 31st March, 1957, was just over 40 tons and unless the quota is relaxed or other avenues to dispose of the stock serious difficulties will arise.

The success of this salvage recovery (the best returns since this work commenced in 1939) is largely due to the effective way the cleansing employees carry out their work. The Bonus Scheme has continued to operate and from the 1st April, 1956, was increased to 12½% of the salvage income, payable monthly. Altogether £780 18s. 4d. has been paid during the year, making a total of £17 13s. 3d. per employee.

The N.E. Derbyshire Cleansing and Salvage Officers Committee has continued to meet, and has been of considerable help in dealing with some of the problems which have arisen. One of the most helpful features of this Committee is the willingness with which information is exchanged between adjoining districts.

