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# BOLSOVER

(DERBYSHIRE)



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

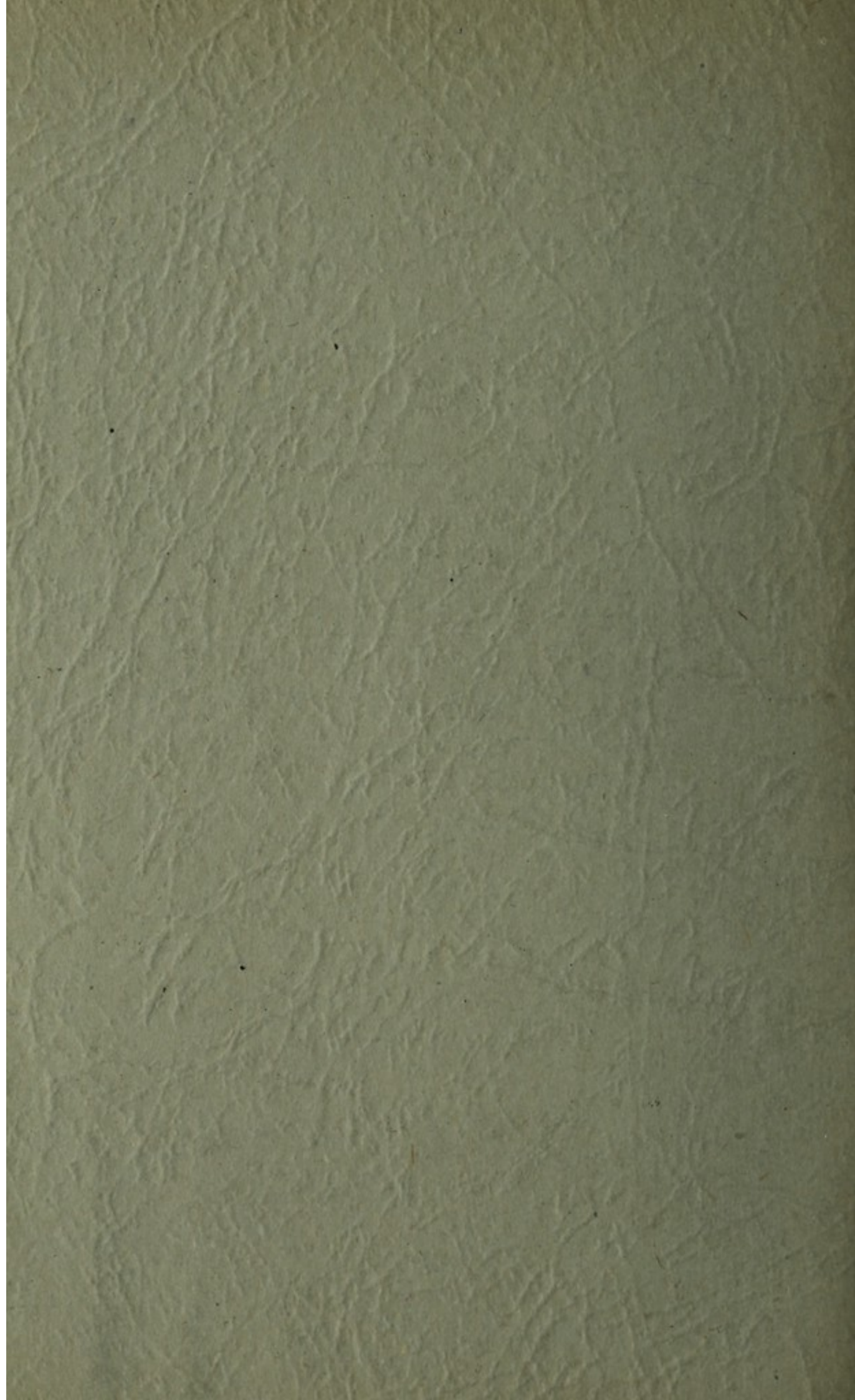
**Medical Officer of Health**

ON

HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CONDITION of the URBAN  
DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

FOR THE YEAR

**1948.**



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(DERBYSHIRE)



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CONDITION of the URBAN  
DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

FOR THE YEAR

**1948.**

# BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1948

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### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.,  
Dale Close, 100 Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield  
(Tel. No. 811 Mansfield).

### DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER (Part-time)

Dr JOHN BENJAMIN McKAY, M.B., Ch.B.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR (Full-time) AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT:

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector  
under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts).

JAMES HOLDEN SMELLIE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

From 15th February, 1943.

Tel. No. 255 Bolsover.  
(Council Offices).

# PREFACE

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To the Chairman and Members of the Bolsover  
Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Mrs Colledge and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1948.

On July 5th the National Health Act came into existence and all cases of infectious disease have now to be reported to the County Council who have also taken over Immunisation, Vaccination and the Ambulance Service. Our Infectious Disease hospitals have been transferred to the North Regional Hospital Board whose headquarters are at Sheffield.

Apart from a mild outbreak of scarlet fever and measles the health of the district has been satisfactory.

In addition to overcrowding, which is still the most serious problem, there are over 200 unfit houses in Bolsover waiting to be dealt with in Clearance Areas.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued interest and support, and also the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am very grateful to Mr Walton (who commenced his duties in April, 1949) for completing the Sanitary Inspector's report, the bulk of which had been written by Mr Smellie.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Dale Close,"

100 Chesterfield Road South,  
Mansfield.

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,526
Population (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	11,811
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1948	...	...	...	...	...	10,550
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948)	...	...	...	...	...	2,851
Rateable Value, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	£47,774
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	£177-15-3

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and agriculture. Fruit is grown in the district in large quantities, and there is a Fruit Preserving Works. The British Diesel Oil and Petroleum Co., have large works in the area where "Coalite", which is a smokeless fuel, is produced.

There is no doubt that Bolsover is gradually developing into an industrial area.

### CHIEF CAUSES OF INVALIDITY in the DISTRICT.

#### SCABIES.

There has been a welcome drop in the number of cases of scabies in the area. 39 persons had 102 treatments which compares very favourably with those of last year.

Only one child was treated for a verminous head. The Health Visitors advise parents regarding treatment and only severe cases have to be sent to the Baths.

#### NUTRITION.

The health and well being of the school children was much the same as last year. The number of under-nourished children remained very small and free milk and school meals are a great benefit.

The extra milk, eggs and vitamins for expectant mothers also proved very beneficial and was one of the causes of the low infantile death-rate.

## NATIONAL DRIED MILK.

Since April, 1948 the supply of National Dried Milk previously available for children up to two years of age has now been restricted to those under twelve months. Consequently the quantity issued has considerably reduced.

## VITAMINS.

Unfortunately the reduction in the number of customers for dried milk has had a detrimental effect on the issue of Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil and there has been a falling off in demand.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS.

#### Live Births.

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	201	102	99	} Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.7
Illegitimate	7	3	4	
Still Births	7	5	2	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 32.5

	Total	Males	Females	
DEATHS	98	57	41	} Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.2

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	2	9.3
	2	9.3

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

All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	38
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...		39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		—

## DEATHS FROM:—

Measles (all ages)	... ..	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)...	... ..	—
Cancer (all ages)	... ..	18
Influenza	... ..	—
Tuberculosis	... ..	5
Heart Disease	... ..	40
Pneumonia	... ..	6
Premature Birth	... ..	2
Congenital Malformations	... ..	1
Violent Injuries	... ..	—
Road Traffic Accidents	... ..	—

# BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY during the Year 1948.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.							Rate per 1,000 Births.
			All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	
	Live Births	Still Births								
England and Wales ...	17.9	0.42	10.8	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	3.3	34
126 County Boroughs and great Towns, including London	20.0	0.52	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.03	4.5	39
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Population 25,000—50,000	19.2	0.43	10.7	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.04	2.1	32
London ...	20.1	0.39	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02	2.4	31
Bolsover U.D. ...	18.7	0.66	9.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	38

## 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:—

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Enteric Group of organisms ...	—	4	4
Brucella Abortus & B. dysentery ...	—	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	12	12
Vincent's Angina ... ..	1	8	9
Hæmolytic Streptococci ... ..	3	15	18
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ...	—	8	8
* Water ... ..	2	6	8
* Ice Cream, Methylene Blue Test...	3	9	12

Milk:—

Methylene Blue, Routine Samples	22	56	78
Bacillus Coli do	1	2	3
* Bacterial Count do	—	—	—
* Phosphatase Test, do	—	6	6
Methylene Blue, Heat Treatment Scheme ... ..	2	19	21
* Phosphatase Test, Heat Treatment Scheme ... ..	4	19	23
Tubercle Bacilli, Inoculation Test (Routine Samples) ...	—	64	64
Miscellaneous ... ..	—	1	1
Totals	38	230	268

\* Positive—Unsatisfactory.

Negative—Satisfactory.

In addition to the above, 6 urgent swabs were examined at the Mansfield Laboratory. All proved to be negative.

### **AMBULANCE FACILITIES IN THE AREA**

When the National Health Act came into force the ambulance service was taken over by the County Council. Chesterfield is now the central depot (Telephone No. 4141).

### **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, AND SCHOOL CLINICS**

All these clinics are under the control of the County Council. A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held every week on a Wednesday afternoon in Bolsover.

A School Clinic for the treatment of minor ailments is held fortnightly on a Saturday in the same place.

### **TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC**

This is held at Brimington Road, Chesterfield, on Tuesday and Friday, from 10 to 12-30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

### **VENEREAL CLINICS.**

These are at Chesterfield Royal Hospital.

Males      Mondays from 6 until 8 p.m.  
               Wednesdays from 6 until 8 p.m.  
               Saturdays at 2-30 p.m.

Females   Mondays at 3 p.m.  
               Thursdays from 2 until 4 p.m.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **WATER.**

This is supplied by the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board and is satisfactory in quality. The quantity however is limited and extra supplies are obtained from the Meden Valley Water Supply.

15 bacteriological samples were taken during the year after chlorination and all were satisfactory. Of these 12 were taken by the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board and 3 by the Local Authority. No samples of raw water were analysed.

Of the 2,851 houses in the district only one house is not supplied from the main supply. This house of 3 occupants in Welbeck Road draws its water from a private well.

There are no stand pipes. The water is softened and chlorinated before use and .15 parts per million of chlorine is added. The chlorinating plant is installed at the Hillstown Water Tower.

The water is not liable to plumbo solvent action.

The following is a bacteriological analysis taken after chlorination.

Temperature on arrival	...	...	...	...	11° C
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

No. of Colonies per millilitre developing on Agar:

In 3 days at 22°C	...	...	2
-------------------	-----	-----	---

In 48 hours at 37°C	...	...	2
---------------------	-----	-----	---

Probable number of Bacteria. Coli Aerogenes

Group in 100 mls.	...	...	0
-------------------	-----	-----	---

Free Chlorine p.p. million	...	...	none
----------------------------	-----	-----	------

Remarks:—Satisfactory

## CLOSET CONVERSIONS

There are 2,851 houses in the district and apart from the number outlined below all are on the water carriage system of drainage.

During the year one privy midden was converted into a Water Closet.

Pail Closets and Elsan Closets	...	...	121
--------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Privies	...	...	11
---------	-----	-----	----

Cesspools	...	...	31
-----------	-----	-----	----

Where no sewer is available it is the intention of the Council to ask the owners to replace privy-middens by pail closets.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year defective sprinklers at the Shuttlewood disposal works were replaced.

At the request of the Ministry of Health an amended scheme has been prepared and submitted dealing with repairs to Carr Vale sewers following damage caused by mining subsidence. The original scheme was not approved and there is reason to believe that the amended scheme will receive early approval. The contract for the work has already been made and work will thus commence immediately the Ministry's approval is received.

## HOUSING

The most urgent need of the district is for more houses. During the year 44 were erected and in 1949 it is proposed to erect 70 but the supply of houses is a mere trickle compared with the demand and at the present rate of progress it will be many years before all persons living in rooms or unfit houses can be re-housed.

### 1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

- 1 (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 753

- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 863

- 2 (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1926 and 1932 76

- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 83

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 669

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 487

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 69

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 46

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

(a) by owners. 40

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners 6

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 2

(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil

## VERMINOUS PREMISES

Two bug infested houses were treated by the Council.

## FACTORIES ACT

Visits are paid regularly to the factories in the district, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Full details of these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

### URGENT SANITARY REQUIREMENTS

1. The abatement of overcrowding by the provision of more houses.
2. The closing and demolition of unfit houses.
3. The abatement of the nuisance at Carr Vale Sewage Works.



# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

## DIPHTHERIA

One case was notified, a boy of 13 years who attended a school in Chesterfield. He had not been immunised. The patient was removed to Lodge Moor where a tracheotomy was performed.

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

## SCARLET FEVER

62 cases occurred, 55 of which were removed to hospital. The cases were mild in type and there were no deaths.

## MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

317 cases of measles and 35 of whooping cough were notified. There were no deaths.

## 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	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
35 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

## **Part 1 of the Act.**

### **1.—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).**

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	82	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	54	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding out-workers' premises)	1	9	—	—
Total	20	145	—	—

### **2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND**

reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
(1)					
Want of cleanliness (S.1)					
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient					
(b) unsuitable or defective					
(c) not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1948

---

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.

Mr Chairman, Mrs Colledge and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1948.

The details are given under the various headings relating to matters connected with the Public Health and Cleansing Services of the Urban District.

After having held the position of Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent for almost six years, Mr Smellie resigned in January, 1949 on taking up an appointment as Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Norwich County Borough Council. I know Mr Smellie would wish me to record his sincere appreciation of the assistance and co-operation of the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

I desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr Smellie for having prepared much of this report prior to his departure. It is regretted if the report appears to be mainly statistical, as I, having no personal knowledge of events in Bolsover during the year, am in no position to provide much in the nature of a commentary to add interest to figures, which in themselves, only portray the barest outline of the activities of the Department.

The Details are as follows:—

## INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

During the year 2837 visits were made re complaints received and in general inspection of the district.

## NUISANCES.

306 nuisances were reported to the Public Health Committee. The following table gives particulars of such nuisances, respecting which Preliminary Notices were issued or owners interviewed.

Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
" Ceiling Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
" Wall Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
" Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
" Fire Ranges	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
" Grate to Washing Copper	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
" Washing Copper	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
" Ovens	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
" Fire Backs	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
" Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
" Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
" Sink Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
" W.C. Pedestals	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
" W.C. Cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
" W.C. Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
" W.C. Cones	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" W.C. Seats	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Damp Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective Yard Surfaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
" Yard Wall	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Burst Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Weather Boards and Threshers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Window Frames	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" Window Cords	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
" Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
" Rain Water Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
" Inspection Chambers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
" Manhole Frames	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Manhole Covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

"	Window Fasteners	...	...	...	...	1
"	Flues	...	...	...	...	3
"	Dustbins	...	...	...	...	58
"	Lead Flashing	...	...	...	...	2
"	Pointing	...	...	...	...	12
					Total	306

## NOTICES.

112 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 46 Statutory Notices were served upon owners or occupiers to abate the above mentioned nuisances, found in connection with dwelling houses, etc.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings during the year, but in six cases dust bins were provided in default and the cost recovered informally.

## FACTORIES ACT.

136 visits of inspection have been paid to factories in the district which were found to be in a satisfactory condition generally. No contraventions were observed.

## WORKPLACES.

19 visits of inspection were paid to workplaces in the district during the year. No contraventions were observed.

## BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register, December 1948 ... 2

These premises have been regularly visited and inspected. No contraventions were observed.

## FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There were 9 fried fish shops on the register at the end of the year. The premises have been regularly visited and inspected.

## FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

There were 12 Food Preparing premises being used as such during the year. 49 visits of inspection have been made to these premises.

## BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

27 visits of inspection have been paid to Butchers' Shops within the district. There were 12 on the Register at the end of the year.

## MEAT REGULATIONS.

75 visits of inspection were paid to Market Stalls. There were no contraventions of the Regulations during the year.

## UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amount of diseased or unsound food was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

	Tins.	Weight
Meat	8	
Beans and Peas	23	
Fruit	5	
Tomatoes	14	3 lbs.
Beetroot	46	
Bacon	3	
Milk	19	
Soups	5	
Fish	7	
Sausage	1	42 lbs
Cereals		12 oz
Preserves	18	
Fruit Juices	5	
Pickles	1	37 Jars
Vegetables	10	
Gravy Salt	1	
Totals	166	37 Jars. 1qr. 17lbs. 12oz.

All the above were surrendered at the time of inspection prior to being exposed for sale.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARD.

There are five licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District and in all five cases the licences were renewed. None is in use at the present time, except for private slaughtering of pigs.

There is one Knackers Yard on the Register. 57 visits of inspection have been paid to these premises during the year.

The Business was carried out in as satisfactory a manner as the nature permits, and records were kept up-to-date as required.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

The whole of the meat sold in the district is drawn from the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Chesterfield, where a thorough system of meat inspection is in operation.

A considerable number of pigs is killed in the district for local pig keepers and it is a matter of regret that in no case was a request received for the carcase to be examined. I feel most strongly that pig keepers should take advantage of the inspection service and thus preclude the possibility of consuming diseased meat, quantities of which must now be eaten unknowingly.

#### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Out of a total of 22 milk producers in the Urban District, three are producing Tuberculin Tested Milk and five Accredited Milk.

28 visits of inspection were made to dairies within the district, 87 to farms and cowsheds.

It is felt that the Milk (Special Designations) Bill at present before Parliament will provide additional encouragement for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk, and, following the recent general improvement in farm premises, it is hoped that an ever increasing number of farmers in your district will strive to attain the standards required for the production of T.T. Milk.

## MILK SAMPLES.

95 samples of milk were taken during the year.

72 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and 3 were submitted to the B. Coli Test.

No. of Samples	Test Methylene Blue	
	Good	Bad
72	51 or 71%	21 or 29%
No. of Samples	Test for B. Coli	
	Good	Bad
3	2 or 66.7%	1 or 33.3%

66 samples of milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for Biological Test. In two cases the guinea pig died too early for a definite result to be obtained, but in the remaining 64 samples Tuberculosis was not produced 28 days after inoculation.

23 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test. 19 samples reacted as having been adequately pasteurised. 4 failed to pass the test.

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

The registrations up to the 31st December were as follows:

Cowkeepers in the Urban District	
retailing milk within the District	14
Wholesale producers within the District	8
Shopkeepers within the District	
retailing milk	11
Purveyors of milk within the District	37

### ICE CREAM.

There are two premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and 14 registered for the sale of this commodity.

During the year 12 samples were submitted for Methylene Blue Test and 9 were reported as satisfactory and 3 as unsatisfactory.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases and the number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital.

	Notified	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ... ..	62	55
Diphtheria „ ... ..	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ... ..	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—
Measles ... ..	317	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	35	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	5	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	17	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1

22 rooms were disinfected by means of spraying with formalin or fumigating with formic aldehyde gas. 39 books have been disinfected. Several beds and articles of clothing were steam disinfected at the disinfecting station, Council Yard. In some cases a charge was made.

### WATER SUPPLY.

There now remains only one house in the district not supplied with water from the town's mains. This house is in a remote part of your area and draws its water from a private well.

Three samples of tap water were taken for bacteriological examination and all proved satisfactory.

## SWIMMING BATHS.

Five samples of Swimming Bath water were taken during the year from the Public Baths in New Station Road. Bacteriological examination showed three of the samples to be satisfactory.

## PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATED) ACT.

25 visits of inspection were paid to premises where petroleum spirit is stored. All licences were renewed during the year. No contraventions were observed.

## SCHOOLS.

141 visits of inspection were carried out during the year for various purposes: W.C. Accommodation, Defects, Immunisation, Health and Education Propaganda, etc.

## PUBLIC BUILDINGS, INNS, ETC.

9 visits of inspection were paid to the above premises re Sanitary Accommodation.

## SHOPS ACTS.

In connection with the above there were no complaints during the year. 35 visits were paid to various premises where mixed staffs were employed.

## RODENT CONTROL.

A free service is provided for domestic dwellings in the district; business premises being charged the cost of treatments carried out.

Very few complaints of rat or mouse infestations have been received.

## VERMIN.

There were two complaints of bug infestations during the year. D.D.T. Powder and Gammexane Dust were made available to the public free of charge. Liquid Disinfectant and D.D.T. fly solution is also available free of charge.

## CONVERSIONS.

Progress is being made with a view to the abolition of Privy Middens and subsequent installation of pails and dust bins in the areas where no sewers are available. 1 privy midden has been replaced by a Fresh Water Closet. Wherever the sewer is available dwellings are supplied with a fresh water closet, except in one or two cases of property to be dealt with sometime in the future as Clearance Areas.

## HOUSING.

44 Permanent Houses have been built and occupied.

No premises have been converted into dwellings.

Housing Statutory Notices served (Section 9) 69.

The defects under the Housing Acts are as follows:—

Defective Handrail to Stairs	...	...	...	...	...	70
" Window frames	...	...	...	...	...	42
" Window cords	...	...	...	...	...	102
" Window fasteners	...	...	...	...	...	14
" Doors	...	...	...	...	...	62
" Door casings	...	...	...	...	...	28
" Beadings	...	...	...	...	...	7
" Fire ranges	...	...	...	...	...	72
" Fire back brickwork	...	...	...	...	...	13
" Flues	...	...	...	...	...	26
" Washing coppers	...	...	...	...	...	15
" Grates to washing coppers	...	...	...	...	...	16
" Ovens	...	...	...	...	...	49
" Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	54
" Chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	...	32
" Ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	...	197
" Wall plaster	...	...	...	...	...	258
" Eaves gutters...	...	...	...	...	...	67
" Rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	...	69
Damp walls	...	...	...	...	...	34
Defective weather boards and Threshers	...	...	...	...	...	62
" Skylights	...	...	...	...	...	44
" Rendering of walls	...	...	...	...	...	5
" Yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	8
" Stair treads	...	...	...	...	...	4
" Hearths	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Yard gullies	...	...	...	...	...	2

"	Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	9
"	W.C. Pedestals	...	...	...	...	...	4
"	W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	...	23
"	Ridge tile joints	...	...	...	...	...	68
"	Pointing	...	...	...	...	...	70
"	Flashing	...	...	...	...	...	45
"	Gable end walls	...	...	...	...	...	5
"	Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	65
"	Floor boards	...	...	...	...	...	20
"	Quarry floors	...	...	...	...	...	37
Total							1699

Our greatest problem lies in deciding the best means of making houses, which are now unfit for human habitation, capable of being lived in for some time to come. There is great dissatisfaction among these tenants which does nothing to ease the burden, and in very extreme cases the 'only course open to us is procedure as Individual Unfit Houses and consequent demolition. Such action adds to our rehousing problem but some of these dwellings can be dealt with in no other way. During the year 7 such dwellings were represented as unfit for human habitation—in 5 cases undertakings were accepted and in the other two cases demolition orders were made.

General housing standards are gradually improving both from an overcrowding point of view and from a raising of the standard of fitness resulting from the increased amount of repair work as labour and materials become more available. Of major importance is the fact that certain property owners are most reluctant to undertake repair work and considerable pressure is needed to secure compliance with notices. If dwelling-houses are not adequately maintained and thus allowed to deteriorate rapidly, the housing problem of the district will be considerably aggravated by the increased number of unfit houses.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE.

This is probably the most costly item in the Council's commitments, and every effort is being made to keep the cost down to a minimum consistent with the maintenance of the high standard of efficiency in collection and disposal which our ratepayers now accept as a matter of course.

We have maintained a weekly collection and, only when extreme weather conditions prevail, do our services fail to continue this practice.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION.

Particulars are as follows:—

#### STAFF.

15 men are employed covering Refuse Collection, Salvage Recovery, Cesspool and Wet-pail Emptying, Tip Servicing etc.

#### VEHICLES.

- 1 10 cu. yd. S.D. Freighter.
- 1 Commer Lorry.
- 1 Karrier Bantam and Trailer.
- 1 Tractor and Water Cart.

Pails. All pails within the district are emptied twice weekly.  
Cesspools. All cesspools within the district are emptied weekly  
Middens. All middens within the district are emptied every six weeks.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All refuse collected by the Council is disposed of by controlled tipping at:—

New Byron Brickworks.  
Limekiln Fields.  
Shuttlewood.

#### SALVAGE.

Salvage from 1st April, 1947 to 31st March, 1948.

Total Weight—608 tons 11 cwts. 1 qr. 9 lbs.  
Total Income—£1546-8-6.

## Salvage from 1st April, 1948 to 31st March, 1949:—

					T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d
Screened Ashes	...	...	...	...	222	0	0	0	305	15	0
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	...	19	10	0	0	124	14	5
Paper	...	...	...	...	94	7	2	17	665	0	3
Cullett	...	...	...	...	23	2	0	0	36	11	0
Textiles	...	...	...	...	6	3	0	14	37	6	0
Metals	...	...	...	...	5	1	2	0	45	14	7
String	...	...	...	...	0	2	0	16	0	12	10
Tins	...	...	...	...	15	16	0	0	10	15	6
Bones	...	...	...	...	1	14	2	0	10	2	9
Rubber	...	...	...	...	2	6	2	0	2	6	1
Paper Collection Allowance									22	15	0
Totals	...	...	...	...	390	3	1	19	1270	13	5

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1949 there was a decrease in income of £275 compared with the record sales of the previous year.

The most encouraging fact arising from the comparison of the two years, is the considerable increase in the amount of paper collected. Collection of paper last year averaged nearly 8 tons per month, or almost 80% of the Board of Trade suggested target of 1 ton per 1,000 population per month, compared with less than 60% the previous year. There was also a slight increase in income from the sale of salvaged metals.

The most noticeable decreases during the year were from the sales of screened ashes, bottles and cullett, due to a lower output of cinders and greatly reduced prices for bottles and cullett. The collection of these articles proved most uneconomic and the position was reviewed at the end of the year, when it was decided to discontinue the screening of ashes and the collection of bottles, cullett and tins.

# SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN SANITARY DEPARTMENT

Inspection for nuisances and miscellaneous visits	...	2837
Number of nuisances found	... ..	306
Number of Preliminary Notices served	... ..	112
Number of Statutory Notices served	... ..	115
Visits to Factories	... ..	136
" Workplaces	... ..	19
" Bakehouses	... ..	9
" Butchers' Shops	... ..	27
" Market Stalls	... ..	75
" Dairies	... ..	28
" Farms and Cowsheds	... ..	87
" Knackers Yard	... ..	57
" re Rat Infestation	... ..	37
" Food Preparing Premises	... ..	49
" Schools	... ..	141
" Public Buildings, Inns, etc.	... ..	9
Milk samples taken	... ..	95
Water samples taken	... ..	8
Food condemned	166 tins, 37 Jars, 1qr. 17lbs. 12ozs.	
Library Books Disinfected	... ..	39
Rooms Disinfected	... ..	22
Conversions	... ..	1

I am,

Mr Chairman, Mrs Colledge, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

May, 1949.

JOHN F. H. WALTON.



# THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY JAMES M. SMITH

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1889

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