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**BOLSOVER**

(DERBYSHIRE)



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

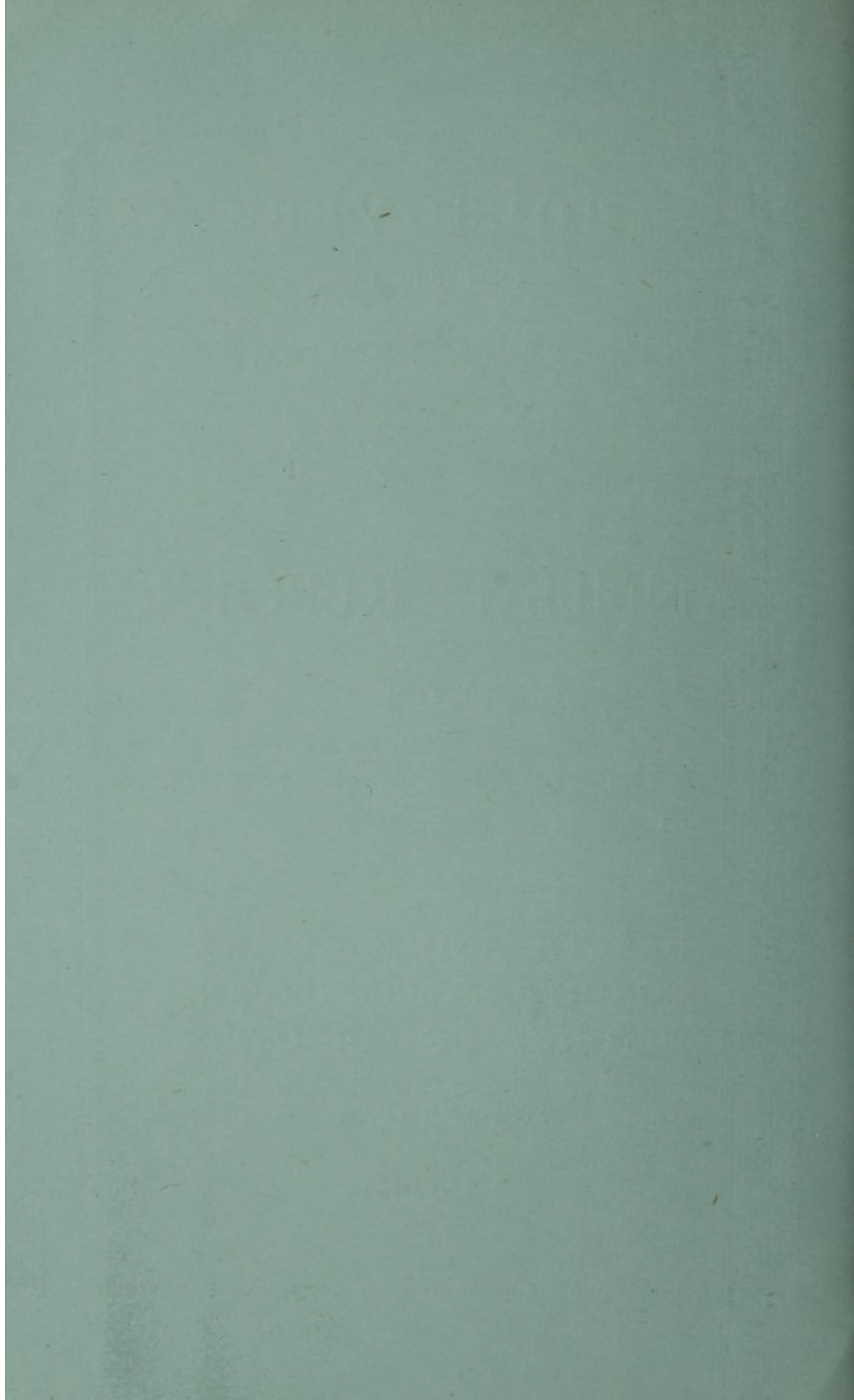
Medical Officer of Health

ON

HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CONDITIONS of the URBAN  
DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

FOR THE YEAR

**1950**





**BOLSOVER**

(DERBYSHIRE)



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OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

ON

**HEALTH AND SANITARY  
CONDITIONS of the URBAN  
DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER**

FOR THE YEAR

**1950**

# **BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF. 1950**

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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 AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT**

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

JOHN F. H. WALTON, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Tel. No. Bolsover 255 and 408  
(Council Offices).



# PREFACE

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

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1950.

The most serious matters requiring attention are the abatement of overcrowding and the re-housing of families living in rooms, which apart from contributing to illness, are a continuous cause of unhappiness.

The health of the district has been satisfactory apart from scarlet fever and measles. Both diseases have been present in the district throughout the year.

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,

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) 1950 ...	10,780
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) ... ..	2,952
Rateable Value, 1950 ... ..	£48,891
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1950 ...	£182-1-6

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## 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 Derbyshire Coalite Co. Ltd. have large works in the area where "Coalite", which is a smokeless fuel, is produced.

### SCABIES.

After presenting a very real problem during the war years, due to overcrowding and the movement of the population, this disease appears to have ceased to be a matter of serious concern in this district. Only 5 cases were treated at the Poolsbrook Centre, 3 adults and 2 children.

### VERMINOUS HEADS.

It has not been found necessary to send any children to the Centre for treatment.



## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS.

#### Live Births:—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	170	81	89	} Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.3 (crude)
Illegitimate	6	4	2	

Corrected birth rate 16.9

Still Births	4	1	5	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 22.2
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### DEATHS.

	Total	Males	Females	
	106	44	62	} Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.8 (crude)

Death rate corrected by comparability factor 11.5

There have not been any deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

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

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	28.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

#### DEATHS FROM:—

Measles (all ages) ... ..	1
Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	—
Cancer (all ages) ... ..	19
Influenza ... ..	—
Tuberculosis ... ..	2
Heart Disease ... ..	49
Pneumonia ... ..	3
Congenital Malformations... ..	—
Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	1
Diabetes ... ..	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	9



It is interesting to note that during the first year of life the principle cause of death is congenital malformation, birth injuries and prematurity. In children of school age, 5 to 14 years, accidents are the highest cause of death, those in the home being slightly more common than those on the road. Between the age of 15 and 44 pulmonary tuberculosis seems to claim the most and from 45 to 64 years cancer stands at the top of the list.

The Infantile death-rate of 28.0 compares favourably with that of England and Wales which is 29.8. Three of the five babies in this area died within the first four weeks.

There were 19 deaths from cancer, 10 women and 9 men. The Medical Research Council in an investigation lasting two years, found strong evidence that heavy smoking is at least responsible for the increase in deaths from cancer of the lungs in this Country. Apparently pipe smokers do not run so great a risk.

There were 49 deaths from heart disease. On account of the ageing of the population, cancer and heart disease are now the chief causes of deaths in this Country.

Comparing 1950 to a century ago the population of England and Wales has more than doubled and the death-rate is less than half. Typhus fever and cholera have disappeared entirely and smallpox virtually so. As causes of death, scarlet fever, diphtheria and typhoid are becoming rare, and measles and whooping cough are much less virulent.

# BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1950

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.						Rate per 1,000 Births.
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales ... ..	15.8	0.37	11.6	—	—	0.01	—	0.10	29.8
126 County Boroughs and great Towns, including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	—	—	0.01	—	0.09	33.8
143 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Population 25,000—50,000	16.7	0.38	11.6	—	—	0.01	—	0.14	29.4
London ... ..	17.8	0.36	11.8	—	—	0.01	—	0.11	26.3
Bolsover U.D. ... ..	16.9	0.37	11.5	—	—	0.00	—	0.00	28.0



## 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 ...	—	—	—
Brucella Abortus ...	—	—	—
C. diphtheriae ...	—	11	11
Vincent's Angina Organisms ...	—	11	11
Hæmolytic Streptococci ...	4	7	11
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ...	1	4	5
*Water ...	1	6	7
*Ice Cream, Methylene Blue Test ...	2	20	22
Ice Cream, Coliform Test ...	—	1	1
MILK:—			
Methylene Blue Test ...	—	6	6
Coliform Test ...	—	—	—
*Turbidity Test ...	—	—	—
Tubercle Bacilli, Biological Test			
Routine Samples ...	1	57	58
Min. of Agriculture ...	—	8	8
Clinical Specimens ...	—	2	2
Totals ...	9	133	142

\*Positive—Unsatisfactory.

Negative—Satisfactory.

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

### 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 & CHILD WELFARE, & 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**

Derby Royal Infirmary:—

Males—

Monday 6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday 10-30 to 12 noon.

Wednesday 6 to 8 p.m.

Saturday 10-30 to 12 noon.

Females—

Monday 3 to 5 p.m.

Thursday 10-30 to 12 and 6 to 8 p.m.

Children—

Friday 10-30 to 11 a.m.

Chesterfield Royal Hospital:—

Males—

Friday 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.

Tuesday 5 to 6-45 p.m.

Females—

Tuesday 2-30 to 4-30 p.m.

Friday 5 to 6-30 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 especially during a dry summer, 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 the raw water were analysed.

All 2952 houses are supplied from the town's mains.

The water is softened and chlorinated before use and 0.15 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—18<sup>0</sup>c

No. of Colonies per millilitre developing on Agar:

In 48 hours at 37<sup>0</sup>c            0.

In 3 days at 22<sup>0</sup>c            1.

Probable number of Bacteria Coli Aerogenes:

Group in 100 mils.            0

Free Chlorine pp. million    none.

Remarks—Satisfactory.

### CLOSET CONVERSIONS

There are 2952 houses in the district and apart from the number outlined below all are on the water carriage system of drainage.



Pail closets and Elsan Closets ...	...	114
Privies ...	...	9
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.

7 pail closets have been converted into water closets and 2 privy middens into pail closets.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

### CARR VALE SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME:—

Reference has been made in several previous reports to the damage caused to Carr Vale sewers by mining subsidence and to the resultant nuisance. A major scheme for dealing with the sewage in this part of the district was commenced in 1949.

All sewers on the above scheme have now been laid and the lengths are as follows:—

6"	100 yards.
9"	840 yards.
12"	250 yards.
15"	240 yards.
21"	302 yards.
33"	260 yards.

These are all reinforced concrete tubes with flexible joints. The 6" cast iron main has been laid and is 430 yards long.

### SEWAGE WORKS SITE.

All the pipe lines for the sludge bays, filters and storm tanks have been laid. The screening chamber and the sedimentation tanks are being reconstructed and the storm tanks repaired. Work on the existing and new sludge bays is half completed and the concrete wells to both pumping stations have been finished.



## SHUTTLEWOOD ROAD SEWER.

As mentioned in my last report, a new sewer has been laid in Shuttlewood Road to replace the existing defective sewer.

All the work on the sewer has been completed and the road reinstated to the satisfaction of the County Council's Surveyor. The lengths of the sewer laid are as follows:—

9" 302 yards.

12" 729 yards.

15" 99 yards.

All the above lengths are laid in reinforced concrete tubes and have flexible joints.

## WHALEY VILLAGE AND WHALEY COMMON.

The sanitary conditions at Whaley Village and Whaley Common are still unsatisfactory and a nuisance. I understand however, that a scheme has been prepared for the improvement of the present sewage disposal works at Whaley Common and the conversion of 28 pail closets there.

A further scheme has also been drawn up for the provision of sewers and sewage disposal works at Whaley Village where pail closets and privy middens serving many of these houses will be converted into water closets and several cess-pools abolished.

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## HOUSING

The unhappiness and misery caused to some families in Bolsover by having to live in overcrowded or dilapidated houses or in rooms continues and as I stressed in my previous Annual Reports the most urgent public health need for Bolsover is for more houses.

During the year 42 permanent houses were erected by the Council and 4 by private enterprise, the total representing a reduction of 16 compared with 1949.

To add to the difficulties, many of the houses scheduled for demolition are getting in a bad state of repair but at the present rate of building it is quite impossible to re house the tenants.

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) ... 590

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 872

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 ... nil.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose nil.

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

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. ... 529

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 ... 456

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 ... 7



- (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
    - (a) By owners ... .. 7
    - (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 ... .. 52
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
    - (a) By owners ... .. 34
    - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners 11
  
- 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 ... .. 1
  - (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. 4
  - (c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted ... .. 1

#### **VERMINOUS PREMISES**

One privately owned house had to be disinfested.

#### **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948**

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



1—**INSPECTIONS** for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	22	78	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises.)	4	15	2	—
Total	31	107	5	—

2—Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found.

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found.				Number of prosecution instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred.		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation*	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences.					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	—	—	—	—	—
	5	4	nil	nil	nil

3—Outwork.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council
Lace, lace curtains and nets	3	—

# **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

## **MILK, MEAT AND OTHER FOODS**

An account of the supervision of milk, meat and other foods 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 provision of a sewage works for Whaley Village and Whaley Common.

## **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT**

No person was removed compulsorily to hospital under Section 47 of this Act.



# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.													Total cases rem'd to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At Ages—years															
	At all Ages	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 and up			
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	45	...	3	5	3	4	26	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	27	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	2	...	...	...	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	175	6	23	27	28	23	66	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	104	8	13	18	21	12	29	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	339	14	39	50	52	39	121	8	2	4	6	3	1	1	27	3



# **PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

## **DIPHTHERIA**

No cases occurred. This is due to the efforts made to immunise children in the area. School children are immunised by the County School doctors and infants by either their own doctor or at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

In order to prevent any danger of contracting diphtheria it is recommended that children be immunised at 1, 5 and 11 years of age. During the year 100 toddlers and 34 school children have been immunised.

## **SCARLET FEVER**

45 cases were notified and 27 of these were removed to hospital. The infection was mild in character.

## **MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH**

175 cases of measles and 104 of whooping cough were received. Both diseases have been prevalent. One case of measles died.

The incidence of measles was 16.2 per 1,000 of the population compared with 8.39 for England and Wales. The incidence of whooping cough was 9.6 per 1,000 of the population compared with 3.6 for England and Wales.

No cases of poliomyelitis, gastro-enteritis or dysentery were notified.

## 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 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
15 ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
20 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
25 ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3	3	...	1	1	1	...	...



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING  
SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31ST DECEMBER, 1950

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration  
the Annual Report for the year 1950.

During the year under review solid progress was made in several aspects of public health administration, but much remains to be done, especially in the provision of good housing accommodation. The quota of houses allowed to this district is pitifully small and hardly keeps pace with the overcrowding continually being created by the birth of children to the younger married couples living in rooms. The mental and physical well-being of families sharing accommodation must of necessity be impaired by the shortage of houses. The contentment and happiness of raising a family in a home of their own is being denied many married couples, and equally important is the worry and upheaval being caused to the older people who are now forced to share their homes with their children and grandchildren.

Probably of even greater moment to the sanitary inspector, is the continued occupation of the old and insanitary houses in the district. Many of the houses have been unfit for human habitation for a good number of years, and it is felt that a vigorous slum-clearance policy in the 1930's would have removed most of them and materially reduced the problems which now beset us. Under present day conditions a comprehensive slum clearance programme cannot be commenced and many of these old and worn out dwellings must



continue to be occupied; but the deterioration of these houses is becoming progressively acute and demolition of some of them cannot be delayed for much longer.

During the last few years some of the worst overcrowding has been alleviated and a few of the most seriously defective houses have been demolished, but we still have a long road to travel before we attain the ultimate goal of a decent house for every family.

In 1950 the Council's byelaws regarding the handling, wrapping and delivery of food came into operation and ever increasing attention is being given to food hygiene.

A fairly large amount of repair work to dwelling houses was carried out during the year; further details and a reference to the continued policy of rent control will be found in the report.

During the year a scheme was prepared for sewerage and sewage disposal works at Whaley village and Whaley Common and this should allow for the abolition of most of the pail closets, privies and cesspools now in use in that part of the district. The purchase of more efficient cesspool emptying equipment has also been authorised and it is hoped that these improvements will be effected in the near future.

I desire to sincerely thank you Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your unfailing support in all measures taken for the health of the community, and I am also greatly indebted to my colleagues in other Departments for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

Sanitary Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover,  
May, 1951.



## GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Table showing inspections etc., undertaken during 1950.

Inspections of houses for nuisances and defects ...	471
Revisits to houses ... ..	587
Visits re Water Supply ... ..	13
Visits to Infectious Disease cases ... ..	77
Verminious Premises ... ..	4
Farms and Dairies ... ..	87
Milk shops ... ..	42
Bakehouses ... ..	18
Fried Fish Shops ... ..	33
Other Food Preparing Premises ... ..	97
Food Shops ... ..	82
Market Stalls ... ..	73
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	41
Inns and other Public Buildings ... ..	12
Factories ... ..	107
Knackers Yard ... ..	37
Schools ... ..	5
Controlled Refuse Tips ... ..	107
Colliery Spoil Banks ... ..	32
re keeping of Animals ... ..	12
Shops Acts ... ..	34
Petroleum Licensing ... ..	37
Rodent Control measures ... ..	184
Drainage work ... ..	361
to Public Baths ... ..	12
Number of miscellaneous visits ... ..	81
Interviews with owners and contractors etc. ...	141
	<hr/> 2787

## HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT DEFECTS

The following statement shows the defects found and remedied, other than those at Council owned houses.

Defects in connection with:—

	Found	Remedied
House Roofs ... ..	61	54
Chimney Stacks ... ..	12	11
Eaves Gutters ... ..	71	68
Rain Water Pipes ... ..	54	52
Pointing and brickwork of walls ... ..	34	30
Yard Paving ... ..	24	22
Waste Pipes ... ..	27	26
Wall Plaster ... ..	81	74
Ceiling Plaster ... ..	39	34
Windows and Sash Cords	30	29
Doors ... ..	10	8
Floors ... ..	49	37
Staircases ... ..	4	4
Cooking Ranges ... ..	49	47
Firegrates ... ..	29	27
Sinks ... ..	58	47
Washing Coppers ... ..	39	36
Rising and penetrating dampness... ..	47	36
Coal Stores ... ..	9	5
Verminous Premises ... ..	1	1
Dirty Houses ... ..	6	5
Accumulations ... ..	3	3
Drains ... ..	39	39
Inspection Chambers ... ..	14	13
Closet Pedestals... ..	41	40
Closet Flushing Cisterns	28	25
Closet Structures... ..	24	20
Closet Pails ... ..	5	5
Urinals ... ..	1	1
Dilapidated Dustbins ... ..	143	132
Choked Drains ... ..	247	247
	1279	1178

In connection with the foregoing defects 313 informal notices and 59 statutory notices were served on owners or occupiers.



During the year legal proceedings were taken against one owner under the provisions of Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in respect of nuisances at seven houses in Clowne Road, Stanfree; nuisance orders were made in each case.

Of the statutory notices served, 28 were in respect of defective dustbins and 22 called for the abatement of nuisances at dwelling houses. 11 dustbins were supplied in default of legal notice though in no case was there a formal appeal against a notice requiring the provision of a dustbin.

## HOUSING

During 1950, 42 permanent houses were erected by the Council and 4 were built by private individuals; the total represents a reduction of 16 compared with last year's figure.

It has been pointed out in the reports for the last few years that our greatest problem arises from the continued occupation of unfit houses. This problem is likely to become increasingly acute as the years go by, as the present rate of house building affords very little opportunity for slum clearance work. These insanitary houses possess few, if any, of the amenities and conveniences which are essential to a decent and healthy life and their continued occupation must have a deleterious effect on the health of the occupants.

For the time being every effort is being made to keep these dwellings weather-proof but in extreme cases the provisions of Sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 must be invoked. During the year three houses were represented as unfit for human habitation; in one case a demolition order was made, one was subject to a closing order, whilst an undertaking was accepted in respect of the third. Of the three families concerned, two were subsequently rehoused by the Council and the other family found alternative accommodation. During 1950 four houses (Nos. 20 and 22 High Street and Nos. 29 and 31 Hill Top) in respect of which demolition orders had become operative, were pulled down.

While the old houses have been kept in occupation, some of the most serious cases of overcrowding have been dealt



with, but it is thought that eventually the Council will have to give serious consideration to the commencement of a modified slum clearance programme at the expense of rehousing sub-tenants. I feel that there are many families now living in separate houses under more unsatisfactory conditions than families who are living as sub-tenants in reasonably fit houses.

The provision of new houses in every increasing numbers remains paramount and it is to be hoped that the defence programme on which the country is now engaged will not reduce the number, or lead to a marked reduction in the standard of new houses.

A considerable volume of repair work to dwelling houses was carried out during the year, but it was noticeable that increased pressure had to be brought to bear on several owners before the work was undertaken and this is reflected in the increased number of statutory notices served.

I hesitate to enter the field of political controversy, but feel that I must make some reference to the continuing increase in the cost of labour and materials for repair work and the control of rents at their pre-war level. It has been reliably estimated that house maintenance costs are now nearly three times as great as in 1939 and are continuing to rise, with the obvious result that property owners are becoming more reluctant to incur expenditure on repairs in view of the fact that there has been no compensating increase in rents. It is appreciated that there always has been a class of property owner who refuses to maintain his houses in a reasonable condition, but the enlightened and conscientious landlord who always has endeavoured to do justice to his property and to his tenants is now being compelled to reduce the amount of repair work which he can undertake at the present rent level. It is impossible to ignore this factor as it will result in an ever increasing number of dwellings falling into disrepair; such would be a disastrous consequence in view of the present housing shortage and the high cost of building new houses.

There is an urgent need to solve this particular problem and I am convinced that it is not beyond the ingenuity of our legislators to produce a scheme that would afford satisfaction and justice both to the owner of the property and to the tenant. It could be, and should be, a strict principle of any scheme for increasing rents that the property is kept



in a fit state of repair, ensuring that the greatest benefit is derived by those owners who have genuinely attempted to maintain their property in a reasonable condition.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION**

Particulars will be found in the Medical Officer's report of the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. 77 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred, 33 rooms and 28 library books being disinfected.

There was an increasing tendency during the year for infectious cases to be nursed at home due to the shortage of accommodation in infectious diseases hospitals. Advice was given to the parents regarding the precautions to be taken and no secondary cases occurred as a result of imperfect isolation of patients at home.

During the year the Council's disinfecting station continued to carry out disinfection of blankets, etc., used by the County Ambulance Service for the removal of infectious cases to hospital.

## **VERMINOUS PREMISES**

One privately owned house was disinfested during the year. D.D.T. powder, Gammexane dust, liquid disinfectant and D.D.T. fly solution continued to be available to householders free of charge.

## **WATER SUPPLY**

Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply of the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board.

Three samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be fit for drinking purposes.



## **PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD**

At the present time public opinion is very active in the field of food hygiene and this interest is welcomed most enthusiastically.

Compared with 1949, more than twice as many visits were paid to premises used for the preparation or sale of food. Of the total of 473 visits, 255 were to preparing premises and 218 to food shops and market stalls, etc.

33 premises were used for the preparation of food, including 2 bakehouses and 11 fish frying establishments.

The byelaws made by the Council under the provisions of Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 came into operation on the 28th August, 1950 and subsequently a copy was supplied to every food establishment in the district. Every effort was made to encourage cleanly conditions and practices in food premises and particular reference was made to the importance of personal hygiene among food handlers. At the end of the year consideration was being given to the staging of a small exhibition devoted to the educational aspect of food hygiene.

The vast majority of food premises in the district consists of small businesses and personal contact with the proprietors and employees at the time of inspection affords an opportunity of suggesting improvements in the handling and preparation of food.

## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKER'S YARD**

There are five licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District and in all five cases licences were renewed for one year.

None is in use at the present time except for the private slaughtering of pigs.

32 visits of inspection were paid to the Knacker's Yard. The business was conducted in a satisfactory manner and records were kept as required by the Council's byelaws.



## MEAT INSPECTION

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

Reference was made in the reports for 1948 and 1949 to the considerable number (almost 400 per year) of pigs slaughtered for private consumption and to the fact that in no case was a request made for a carcase to be examined.

I commented last year on the offer to the Bolsover Parish and Hillstown Pig Club to undertake the inspection of pigs slaughtered, in an attempt to preclude the possible consumption of diseased meat. During 1950 the staff at the Food Office kindly issued, with each licence to slaughter, a letter pointing out this offer and the importance of meat inspection. I am sorry to state that the attempt was unsuccessful as only two requests for inspection were received, and one of these was in respect of an emergency slaughter. I am indebted to the Food Executive Officer and his staff for their kind co-operation in this connection.

A person slaughtering a pig for private consumption is under no legal obligation to submit the carcase and organs to examination, but I feel there is a grave risk to health in the consumption of meat from carcasses which have not been thoroughly examined.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

16 persons hold licences to slaughter animals granted under this Act.

In no case was a licence granted or renewed during 1950.

## UNSOUND FOOD

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

Meat products ...	...	...	18 tins
Fish products ...	...	...	18 tins
Vegetables ...	...	...	16 tins



Fruit	...	...	...	...	58 tins
Soup	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Tomatoes and Tomato Juice					48 tins
Milk	...	...	...	...	43 tins
Eggs	...	...	...	...	219
Sausage & cooked meat	...				15 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Preserves	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Cake	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.

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

### MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

At the end of 1950 there were 20 milk producers in the district, 9 being wholesale producers and 11 retailing their product locally. Of the 20 milk producers, three were producing Tuberculin Tested milk and seven producing Accredited milk.

#### THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

#### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

#### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The registrations and licences granted as at 31st December, 1950 were as follows:—

Registered distributors of milk	...	...	14
Licensed dealers in Tuberculin Tested milk			6
Licensed dealers in Pasteurised milk	...		6
Licensed dealers in Sterilised milk	...		8

One supplementary licence to retail Pasteurised milk was granted.

Thirteen dairy farmers, including two from outside the district, retail milk within the urban area. Two of them are producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and three others produce Accredited milk. Two of the dairy farmers hold licences to retail Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised milks obtained from a Dairy Company.



## MILK SAMPLING

Samples of milk for biological examination continued to be taken throughout the year and these were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Derby. Samples were obtained from all dairy farms producing other than Tuberculin Tested milk and quarterly examination of each supply was carried out.

59 samples were taken during the year with results as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test.—6 samples were examined and all passed the test.

Biological Examination.—59 samples were examined, 1 was found to be positive, 57 were negative and in the remaining case the guinea pig died too soon for a definite result to be obtained.

In connection with the herd from which the positive sample was obtained, one Ayrshire cow found to be suffering from tuberculosis of the udder was slaughtered and a further sample from the herd was certified non-tuberculous.

No samples of pasteurised milk for phosphatase and methylene blue tests were obtained, this work now being undertaken by the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority.

## ICE CREAM

There are three premises at which ice cream is manufactured and 17 premises from which ice cream is sold.

22 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	16
Grade 2	...	...	...	4
Grade 3	...	...	...	2
Grade 4	...	...	...	nil

These results represent a marked improvement in cleanliness compared with last year's figures, 90% of the samples being in the satisfactory Grades 1 and 2, as against 65% in 1949.

The results for individual manufacturers were as follows:

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Total
Manufacturer A	2	1	2	5
Manufacturer B	5	2	—	7
Manufacturer C	9	1	—	10

During 1950 reports were received in respect of five samples submitted by the County Sampling Officer to the County Analyst for fat determination. The results were as follows:—

2.6% 3.3% 6.2% 9.5% and 9.6%.

It is gratifying to note that the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Food have recommended the establishment of an interim standard of composition for ice cream. The recommended standard being 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat, this representing a considerable improvement on the previous unofficial standard of 2½% fat.

The description "ice cream" should be restricted to a dairy preparation containing a high proportion of milk solids and it is to be hoped that this ideal will be reached before very long.

### **SWIMMING BATHS**

Four samples of swimming bath water were taken during the year from the Public Baths in New Station Road. Bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Derby showed three of the samples to be suitable for bathing purposes.

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS, INNS, ETC.**

Five cases of defective and unsuitable sanitary accommodation were reported last year. In each case the necessary works of improvement were completed during 1950.

### **SHOPS ACT 1950**

34 visits were paid to various shop premises regarding sanitary conveniences and the employment of young persons.



## **PETROLEUM LICENSING**

37 inspections were made of premises used for the storage of petroleum spirit and no contraventions were observed.

## **COLLIERY SPOILBANKS**

32 visits of inspection were made to colliery spoilbanks within the area.

No very serious nuisance was created, but the position at the disused spoilbank of the Bolsover Colliery deteriorated towards the end of 1950 and spraying was introduced.

It is understood that the National Coal Board, in certain areas, is carrying out experiment and research in connection with the possible extension of the practice of underground stowage. It is to be hoped that success attends the Board's efforts, as the spoilbanks which spread their tentacles ever wider and grow with alarming rapidity are an eyesore in an otherwise fair countryside.

## **RODENT CONTROL**

A total of 184 visits and inspections were made in connection with rodent control measures.

The Council's refuse tips and sewage works are regularly examined and any infestation is immediately treated. Two sewage disposal works and one refuse tip were treated during 1950 and the public sewers were test baited on two occasions.

Methods used were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and no undue presence of rats and mice was noticed.

## **CONVERSION OF PAIL CLOSETS AND PRIVIES**

For a number of years the Council have made a grant of £4 towards the cost of replacing a pail closet or privy by a water closet. This matter was considered during the year and it was agreed to contribute half the cost in approved cases, in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.



During the year 7 pail closets were replaced by water closets and 2 privies were converted into pail closets. The Council contributed to the cost in the case of five of the conversions, the other two houses being drained to a cesspool.

The replacements undertaken at joint expense were at Nos. 18 and 20 Elmton Lane and Nos. 22, 24 and 26 Mill Lane, the latter conversions being rendered possible by the recent laying of a new sewer from Oxcroft Lane to Mill Lane.

A scheme has now been prepared for the improvement of the existing sewage disposal works at Whaley Common and on completion it will be possible to carry out conversion of 28 pail closets serving the houses and the Community Centre. A further scheme has been prepared for the provision of sewers and sewage disposal works at Whaley village and pail closets and privies serving many of the houses will be replaced and several cesspools abolished.

The Whaley schemes should effect a very welcome improvement, especially as the cesspools in the village, having been constructed many years ago before the provision of main water supply to the houses, are now quite inadequate in capacity and a frequent source of trouble.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE**

### **LABOUR AND TRANSPORT.**

10 men were employed on refuse collection and disposal, and on emptying of pail closets, privies and cesspools.

Pail closets were emptied twice weekly.

Privies were cleansed every six weeks.

Cesspools were emptied weekly or fortnightly, as required, except in the case of one cesspool at Whaley village which was emptied three times per week in an attempt to prevent overflow into a nearby stream.

The vehicles used comprised:—

1 12 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter.

1 7 cu. yd. Karrier Bantam.

1 Fordson tractor and trailer drawn tank for cesspool emptying.



For the emptying of pail closets a tank is fitted inside the Karrier Bantam.

The Shelvoke and Drewry Freighter was employed full-time on refuse collection duties, the Karrier Bantam being employed part-time on refuse collection, also undertaking the emptying of pail closets and privies and the collection of waste paper and cardboard from shops and business premises.

One new Karrier Bantam in replacement of the existing vehicle of the same manufacture, was ordered in December, 1950, but delivery has not yet been effected.

For a long time I have entertained grave doubts regarding the efficiency of our cesspool emptying service, in view of the fact that the hand-operated lift pump fitted to the tank is only capable of extracting liquid. The reduction in the number of pail closets and cesspools which will be effected by the Whaley schemes, has afforded the opportunity to plan an improved service. On completion of the Whaley schemes it is proposed to use the Karrier Bantam vehicle for cesspool emptying, utilising a suitable tank inside the body and a trailer mounted 3" mud pump.

The proposals were approved by the Council in 1950 and the necessary new equipment is now on order.

It is hoped that a much more efficient service will be given.

Early in 1950 a reorganisation of labour was undertaken following the introduction by the Council of a non-contributory gratuity scheme and the retirement of employees aged 65 years or over. It was possible to engage younger replacements and the year was remarkably free from labour troubles.

I should like to pay tribute to the co-operation of the public cleansing staff. The men perform a most essential service to the community, receiving very little praise and only a low financial reward. In a colliery district such as this, their work must of necessity be more arduous than in other districts.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

Every effort was made to carry out this service in the



most efficient and economical manner and throughout the whole year a weekly collection was maintained. A weekly collection is essential in this district if we are to avoid overflow of dustbins and consequent delay occasioned by shovelling up the surplus refuse.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

All refuse collected was disposed of by controlled tipping at the following tips:—

New Byron Brick Works.	Limekiln Fields.
Shuttlewood.	

Refuse from Carr Vale continued to be disposed of at the New Byron Brick Works.

In September, 1949, tipping of refuse from the remainder of the district was concentrated at Shuttlewood to enable this tip to be more quickly filled due to its close proximity to several dwelling houses. This policy was continued last year and the Shuttlewood tip was completed and soiled in May, 1950 and has now been returned to the owner.

Tipping was commenced at Shuttlewood in 1921 and the work carried out has transformed a derelict and dangerous clay pit site into a useful field.

Since the completion of Shuttlewood tip, disposal of refuse has been concentrated at Limekiln Fields. This tip is approaching completion and is to be made into a playing field to extend the area already provided. 1,450 tons of good top soil for covering purposes were transported during the year from the Council's Moor Lane housing site to Limekiln Fields tip. This soil should go a long way towards covering the whole of the tip.

The New Bolsover tip will again be brought into use when the Limekiln Fields operations have been completed.

## SALVAGE

(Referring to the financial year ended 31st March, 1951).

It will be recalled that in September, 1949 the Council discontinued salvage of waste paper and cardboard due to



the fact that the Company with whom we had dealt since early in the war, were unable to accept any further supplies, and a satisfactory alternative outlet could not be secured. It was subsequently possible to dispose of our accumulated stocks during the financial year ended 31st March, 1950, but the price obtained was very low.

During the summer and autumn of 1950 the amount of waste paper and cardboard reaching Board Mills was insufficient to meet demands and the prices continued to rise until they eventually exceeded the controlled prices operating during the war years.

The reintroduction of waste paper salvage was considered on two occasions and collections were recommenced on the 1st December, 1950, the Council entering into a long term contract with a Board Mill.

An incentive bonus scheme was introduced as from the 1st January, 1951 and collections soon reached a level almost as high as any achieved during the war years.

The bonus scheme provides for payments as follows:—

For newspapers, books and magazines—3/6 for each hundredweight despatched to the Mill.

For other grades of paper and cardboard—A target of 10 tons per quarter has been set and bonus in accordance with the following scale is paid in respect of sales in excess of the basic 10 tons:—

First 2 tons in excess of the target	10/- per ton.
Next 2 tons ... ..	20/- per ton.
Next 2 tons ... ..	30/- per ton.
Next 2 tons ... ..	40/- per ton.
Next 2 tons ... ..	50/- per ton.
Each ton in excess of 20...per quarter	60/- per ton

Payments are made quarterly in direct proportion to the number of hours employed on duties connected with the collection, sorting and baling of waste paper and cardboard.

A pleasing result of the scheme has been the increased percentage of newspapers, books and magazines collected.

Due to the inflated prices paid for waste paper and cardboard an appreciable surplus was made during the four months.

Rag and bone collectors became increasingly active during the year, especially as a result of the boom in wool prices and fewer textiles were collected.

Salvage from 1st April, 1950 to 31st March, 1951:—

	T	C	Q	L	£	s.	d.
Waste paper and cardboard	23	8	1	0	275	16	10
Paper collection bonus					10	10	0
Textiles	1	3	1	0	11	13	0
Metals	1	8	0	0	4	4	0
Totals	25	19	2	0	302	3	10



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