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BOLSOVER

DERBYSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

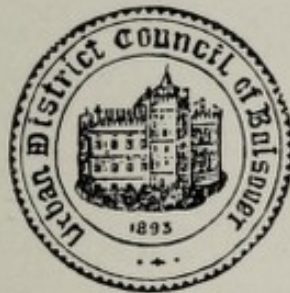
FOR THE YEAR

1955



BOLSOVER

DERBYSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1955

BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(As at 31st December, 1955).

Alderman T. Colledge (Chairman).

Councillor J. W. Bluff	Councillor W. B. Revill.
Councillor Mrs. J. Colledge	Councillor J. W. Savage
Councillor F. Cross	Councillor M. W. Simpson,
Councillor G. Fisher	B.E.M.
Councillor S. T. Fisher	Councillor J. Spray
Councillor S. Jennings	Councillor Mrs. E. M. Spray,
	B.A., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.
Until 29.11.55.

Dr. A. R. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
From 30.11.55.

"Dale Close," 100, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.
(Tel. : Mansfield 811).

Clerk : Miss P. M. WILSON.

Deputy Medical Officer (Part time).

Dr. J. B. 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. : Bolsover 3255/6).
Council Offices.

Clerk : T. G. ROBINSON.

PREFACE

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1955. As you know, I began in this appointment on 29.11.55. Therefore, this report is really the work of my predecessor, Dr. A. H. Wear, who served you so long and so well. Personally, I feel that I could not have been luckier in my predecessor because he has shown me so much kindness and help, and, I must take this opportunity to thank him, sincerely.

262 houses were built during the year. This is a truly formidable achievement when one considers the size of our district. The housing situation is much better because of this grand total.

It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths from tuberculosis, nor, were there any cases of diphtheria during the year. Each of us must strive to repeat this in future years.

May I end by expressing my thanks for the way in which you have made me (a newcomer to the district) feel at home. Therefore, I give my sincere thanks to all the Council members and staff for their extreme kindness.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. ROBERTSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

" Dale Close,"

100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

Statistics of the Area

Area (acres)	4,526
Population (census), 1951	10,817
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1955 ..	10,960
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) ..	3,566
Rateable Value (as at 31.3.56)	£63,427
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1955/56 ..	£234/3/4

Social Conditions

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and agriculture. Fruit is grown in the district in large quantities. The general standard of social condition shows little change from previous years.

SCABIES.

During the whole of the year not one case had to be sent to the Disinfestation Centre for treatment.

VERMINOUS HEADS.

The standard of cleanliness among school girls of recent years has shown a most satisfactory improvement. No cases were reported for treatment.

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	174	87	87	{ Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.14 (crude)
Illegitimate	3	—	3	
Corrected birthrate 16.1				

Still Births	6	4	2	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 32.
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DEATHS.

	Total	Males	Females	
	111	64	47	{ Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 10.1 (crude)

Death rate corrected by comparability factor 12.3.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	28.25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		28.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		nil

The Infantile death-rate is lower compared with last year. 5 infants died, 4 of these in the first four weeks of life. The remaining death was at the age of two months, from a severe congenital abnormality.

DEATHS FROM :—

Coronorary thrombosis	..	..	..	8
Pneumonia	..	..	..	2
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	0
Cancer	..	..	..	16
Diabetes	..	..	..	2
Measles	..	..	..	—
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—

The number of deaths from cancer was seven less than last year. There were eleven female deaths and one male. The only death from lung cancer was in a female, this is unusual as many more males develop lung cancer than do females.

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
C. diptheriae	—	3	3
Vincent's Angina Organisms ..	—	2	2
Haemolytic Streptococci ..	—	3	3
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ..	—	1	1
*Water	2	16	18
*Ice Cream, Methylene Blue Test	2	16	18

MILK.

Methylene Blue	—	1	1
*Phosphatase Test	—	2	2
*Turbidity Test	—	—	—
Tubercle Bacilli, Biological Test	—	2	2
Clinical Specimens	—	6	6
Totals	4	52	56

*Positive—Unsatisfactory.

Negative—Satisfactory.

Ambulance Facilities in the Area.

The Bolsover Ambulance Station (Bolsover 2121) provided a service for the whole of the Urban District during the day-time. For cases during night-time, the ambulances at Chesterfield Station (Chesterfield 6282) are available.

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 every second Saturday in the month at the same place.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

This is held at Brimington Road, Chesterfield, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Children and contacts attend on Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m. Workers on Thursdays from 4 to 6-30 p.m. A "Refill" Clinic is held on Mondays from 3-30 to 6-30 p.m.

There is no morning Clinic held on the second Thursday in each month.

Venereal Clinics.

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.

Urgent cases may attend on any weekday at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (except Saturday) but the specialist is not in attendance at these times.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water.

This is supplied by the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board and is satisfactory in quality. All the houses in the district are supplied direct from the town's mains.

Monthly samples for chemical and bacteriological analyses were collected at Bolsovermoor and Hillstown Softening Plants. At these plants the various raw hard waters are softened and chlorinated before distribution and the two copies of results of analyses are typical of the water supplied. The various raw water supplies to these plants are also sampled regularly and a pre-chlorine dose is also given. Samples of the softened chlorinated water have all shown the absence of Coliform organisms from 100 ml. and agar plate counts have also been zero.

Regular samples for bacteriological and physical analyses were also collected at the following distribution points :—

Hillstown Storage Tanks (2).

Tap, Gasworks, Bolsover.

Tap, Stratton Road, Bolsover.

These sampling points have all given satisfactory results throughout the year.

The fluoride content of both waters is only 0.1 p.p.m.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water.

TAKEN FROM HILLSTOWN SOFTENING PLANT ON 31st OCTOBER, 1955.

Bacteriological Examination.

Agar plate counts per 1 ml.

2 days at 37°C 0.

3 days at 20°C 0.

Coliform counts per 100 ml.

2 days at 37°C 0.

Bact. Coli type 1 (44°C) 0.

Physical and Physico-Chemical Examination.

Appearance—Clear and bright.
Colour—(Burgess) 5 m.m. (5 Hazen).
Taste—Normal.
Electrical Conductivity—750. units.
Turbidity—1.0 p.p.m.
Odour—Nil.
pH—7.9.

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in Parts per million).

Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	..	109.
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	..	0.
Total Hardness (CaCO_3)	..	109.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	0.01
Oxygen Absorbed (4hrs. at 27°C)	..	0.12
B.O.D. (5 days at 20°C)	..	—
Iron (Fe)	..	0.02
Manganese (Mn)	..	0.01
Aluminium (Al)	..	0.01
Lead (Pb)	..	0.01
Fluoride (F)	..	0.1
Total alkalinity (CaCO_3)	..	182.
Excess alkalinity (Na_2CO_3)	..	77.
Chlorides (Cl)	..	69.5
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	..	6.2
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	..	0.01
Sulphates (SO_4)	..	112.9
Calcium (Ca)	..	23.7
Magnesium (Mg)	..	12.2
Sodium (Na)	..	142.9
Silica (SiO_2)	..	8.0
Total Solid Residue (180°C)	..	515.

Remarks.

As supplied to parts of Bolsover U.D.C.

Residual Chlorine.

Free .10 p.p.m. Combined Nil p.p.m.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water.

TAKEN FROM BOLSOVERMOOR SOFTENING PLANT ON 31st
OCTOBER, 1955.

Bacteriological Examination.

Agar plate counts per 1 ml.	
2 days at 37°C	0.
3 days at 20°C	0.

Coliform counts per 100 ml.

2 days at 37 °C	0.
Bact. Coli type 1 (44 °C)	0.

Physical and Physico-Chemical Examination.

Appearance—Clear and bright.

Colour—(Burgess) 5 m.m. (5 Hazen).

Taste—Normal.

Electrical Conductivity—820. units.

Turbidity—1.0 p.p.m.

Odour—Nil.

pH—7.5.

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in Parts per million).

Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3) ..	171.
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3) ..	0.
Total Hardness (CaCO_3)	171.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.01
Oxygen Absorbed (4hrs. at 27 °C) ..	0.12
B.O.D. (5 days at 20 °C)	—
Iron (Fe)	0.01
Manganese (Mn)	0.01
Aluminium (Al)	0.01
Lead (Pb)	0.01
Fluoride (F)	0.01
Total alkalinity (CaCO_3)	248.
Excess alkalinity (Na_2CO_3)	83.
Chlorides (Cl)	36.2
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)	6.8
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)	0.01
Sulphates (SO_4)	147.8
Calcium (Ca)	36.0
Magnesium (Mg)	17.7
Sodium (Na)	140.8
Silica (SiO_2)	6.0
Total Solid Residue (180 °C)	572.

Remarks.

As supplied to parts of Bolsover U.D.C.

Residual Chlorine.

Free .15 p.p.m. Combined Nil p.p.m.

Closet Conversions.

There are 3,566 houses in the district and apart from the number outlined below all are on the water carriage system.

Pail closets and Elsan	..	64
Privies .. .. .	..	8
Cesspools.. .. .	..	30

A further report under this heading will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Moor Lane pumping scheme commenced in the last quarter of 1954 was completed this year and is operating satisfactorily.

Preliminary work has now started on the preparation of a scheme to provide drainage for houses on Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood to enable conversion from pail closets. As at present envisaged the scheme will be two fold. An ejector system will be provided to raise sewage into the existing gravity sewers, for houses in the near vicinity of sewers, and a small septic tank and filter will be provided for an isolated group of houses in the area of Nunnery Farm. A humus tank is to be provided at Stanfree S.D. Works. At Shuttlewood S.D. Works the filter dosing chambers are to be reconstructed.

Sewers have been extended to serve a further 102 houses on Castle Estate.

HOUSING.

During the year 262 houses were completed. The Castle Estate is being developed jointly by the Council and the Coal Industry Housing Association and provides for the building of 436 houses.

Number of houses inhabited at the end of 1955 3,566

Number of new houses erected during 1955

(a) By the Local Authority	178
(b) By Private Enterprise	10
(c) By the Coal Industry Housing Association	74
	<hr/> 262

This is a good total for an Authority of our size. These houses have eased the situation to a large degree.

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	Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	34	2
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	21	56	3
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	4	15	1
Total	32	105	6

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—
(c) not separate sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—
Total	6	6	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	5	nil.

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.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT. SECTION 47.

The Council made no applications under this Act.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1955.

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		
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	38	..	..	2	4	4	24	3	..	1	..	..	..	17	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Pneumonia ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebral Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	66	3	9	11	9	8	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	29	2	1	3	7	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Food Poisoning ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	140	5	10	16	21	20	60	3	..	2	1	1	1	19	..

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

Not one notification of this disease was received.

May I repeat that it is most important there should not be any lessening of the immunisation campaign. Diphtheria is still a deadly disease and will return if the number of immunised children diminish. Even when not fatal, diphtheria may affect a child's nerves and heart. It is very infectious and is spread by a germ which passes from one child to another. Diphtheria is not caused by bad drains.

Immunisation is the only safeguard and helps to build up natural defences against the disease. It is wise to have baby immunised at 8 months of age and again at 5 years. It is a simple process, usually painless and is free to every one under the National Health Service. Injections can be given either by the family doctor or by the doctor attending the Infant Welfare Centre.

Scarlet Fever.

38 cases were notified as against 3 for 1954. The disease was mild in character and there were no deaths.

Measles.

66 cases occurred compared with 109 last year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

29 cases were notified as against 18 last year.

Food Poisoning.

A man of 39 developed diarrhoea. It is possible that he infected himself while working on sludge beds at the sewage works. He ate sandwiches there for his lunch without washing his hands. He went to hospital for treatment and recovered.

Poliomyelitis.

Only one case occurred. The patient was a boy of 6 years. Fortunately the disease was mild and of the non-paralytic type.

Tuberculosis.

It is very pleasing to record no deaths from Tuberculosis and it is to be hoped that this can be repeated in the years to come. With modern treatment, tuberculosis is not the 'terror and killer' that it once was. However, we must not relax. Treatment must go hand in hand with prevention. Good housing, good food, sensible and moderate habits lessen the danger of contracting tuberculosis, and, just as important, lead to a happy and well rounded life.

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
20
25
35 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45
55
65 and upwards
Totals ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1955.

The report refers to the progress made in the development of the Castle Estate, which at the end of the year contained 434 completed houses. During the past year this development had a most marked effect on the housing position in this district and the acute housing shortage of the immediate post-war years has now very largely disappeared.

1955 will be remembered as the year when an all-out attack was launched against slum houses in this district. Of the estimated 141 slum houses remaining at the time of the survey early in the year, proceedings had been commenced against 48 of them by the end of the year and this task is being pursued with equal vigour during the present year. At the time of writing this report, proceedings have been commenced against a total of 93 unfit houses. It is particularly gratifying that the housing position in this district is now such that so bold an attempt can be made to secure decent houses for families who have endured sub-standard accommodation for so long a period.

Equally pleasing is the progress made during 1955 in the improvement of housing accommodation and it is hoped that this feature of housing administration will continue unabated until all suitable houses in this district offer modern amenities and conveniences to the occupants.

Slaughtering was carried out in the district throughout the year and it is very pleasing to note the appreciable fall in the percentage of cattle found to be tuberculous. It should also be noted that the amount of meat and offal surrendered as unfit for food was less during the whole of 1955 than during the six months from July to December, 1954, this gives some indication of the quality of the animals slaughtered to provide the local meat supply.

Sales of waste paper reached a new record level during the financial year 1955/56, but there are now signs that the future of the waste paper market may not be quite so healthy and that some difficulty may be experienced in disposing of the entire collection. It is to be hoped that these difficulties do not materialise as an assured outlet for waste paper is essential if local authorities are to be expected to provide a steady flow of this raw material for the board making industry.

Towards the end of the year Dr. Wear retired from the position of Medical Officer of Health to the Council and I cannot complete this report without referring to devotion he brought to the task of promoting the good health of the public in this district.

During the year Mr. Robinson, the clerk in my Department was successful in passing the sanitary inspector's qualifying examination and has now left to undergo National Service. I should like to take this opportunity of recording the valuable service he has rendered to the Department, especially during the past year or so when his increasing knowledge has been of great benefit.

In all, 1955 may be regarded as a year of great progress in the public field and certainly one of great activity in this Department.

I should like, once again to express my appreciation of the continued assistance and encouragement that I have at all times received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

General Inspection of the Area.

Table showing inspections, etc., undertaken during the year 1955.

Inspection of houses for nuisances and defects	..	513
Revisits to houses	.. .. .	392
Visits in connection with improvement of houses	..	245
Visits re water supply	.. .. .	7
Visits to infectious disease cases	.. .. .	78
Milk Distributors and Dairies	.. .. .	81
Slaughterhouses—Meat Inspection	.. .. .	652
Butchers Shops	.. .. .	96
Bakehouses	.. .. .	14
Fried Fish Shops	.. .. .	19
Other Food Preparing Premises	.. .. .	63
Food Shops	.. .. .	204
Market Stalls	.. .. .	41
Ice Cream Premises	.. .. .	42
Inns and Other Public Buildings	.. .. .	8
Factories	.. .. .	105
Knacker's Yard	.. .. .	39
Schools	.. .. .	18
Controlled Refuse Tips	.. .. .	143
Colliery Spoil Banks	.. .. .	8
Moveable Dwellings	.. .. .	21
re Keeping of Animals	.. .. .	14
Shops Act	.. .. .	32
Petroleum Licensing	.. .. .	41
Drainage Works	.. .. .	184
to Public Baths	.. .. .	12
Miscellaneous Visits	.. .. .	9
Interviews with owners, contractors, etc.	.. .. .	232

Housing and Public Health Act Defects.

The following table shows the defects remedied as a result of action under the Housing and Public Health Acts—

Defects in connection with—

House roofs	32
Chimney stacks	10
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes	62
Pointing and brickwork of walls.. .. .	29
Yard paving	17
Waste pipes	10
Internal wall and ceiling plaster	96
Windows and sash cords	41
Doors	8
Floors	32
Staircases	2
Cooking ranges and fireplaces	29
Sinks	11
Washing coppers	9
Rising or penetrating dampness	32
Outbuildings	21
Dirty houses	4
Drains and inspection chambers	54
Water closet pedestals	16
Closet flushing cisterns	31
Conveniences at places of public entertainment	2
Dilapidated dustbins	151

In connection with the foregoing defects 254 informal notices and 26 statutory notices were served.

Of the legal notices served, 3 required the abatement of nuisances at dwelling houses, 3 were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, 17 called for replacement of dilapidated dustbins, 2 required repair of defective water closets and 1 dealt with the improper keeping of animals.

In one case a dustbin was supplied by the local authority in default of legal notice.

Housing.

It is very pleasing to be able, again, to report a record number of houses built in the urban district. During 1955, a total of 262 houses were completed and occupied—178 local authority houses, 74 for the Coal Industry Housing Association and 10 privately built.

Reports for previous years have referred to the joint development of the Castle Estate by the Council and the Coal Industry Housing Association and to the end of 1955 a total of 434 houses had been completed—178 for the Council and 256 for the Association. During the year the extension to complete the estate by erecting a further 102 local authority houses was planned and commenced.

This major development has had a marked effect on the housing position in this district and the problem which faced the authority a few years ago has now very largely disappeared. It is pleasing to record that 20 two bedroomed bungalows were built by the Council on the Castle Estate and that plans now exist for a further 40 similar bungalows on the Oxcroft Lane site. The housing needs of the elderly will in years to come present to the Council an ever growing problem as the percentage of older persons continues to rise.

The improvement in the district's housing position enabled a vigorous start to be made on the removal of unfit houses. During the early months of the year much time was spent on inspecting houses to prepare the Council's slum clearance proposals for submission to the Minister as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The first stage of the Council's clearance programme was commenced towards the end of 1954, and prior to submitting the proposals to the Minister closing and demolition orders had been made in respect of 13 houses, and 25 houses were included in five clearance orders which had been forwarded to the Minister for confirmation.

The slum clearance proposals submitted by the Council were as follows :—

Total number of permanent dwellings in the area		
(as at 31/3/1955)		3,405
PART 1. THE TOTAL PROBLEM.		
(i)	Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation	141
(ii)	Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)	5
PART 2. ORDERS ALREADY MADE, ETC.		
(iv)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative	25

PART 3. ACTION IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS.

(vi)	Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister	76
(viii)	Number of houses under (iv) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years ..	101
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in five years as a result of action under Section II of the Housing Act, 1936	50

The action in respect of the 25 houses already included in clearance areas was completed as follows :—

Bolsover (Hill Top No. 1) Clearance Order, 1955. (5 houses).
Objections were made and the Minister confirmed the Order after excluding No. 13, Hill Top.

Bolsover (Springfields) Clearance Order, 1955. (4 houses).
Objections made, Order confirmed without modification.

Bolsover (Bolsover Hill No. 1) Clearance Order, 1955. (4 houses).

Bolsover (High Street No. 1) Clearance Order, 1955. (5 houses).

Bolsover (High Street No. 2) Clearance Order, 1955. (7 houses).
No objections made—Orders confirmed without modification after visit to the areas by an Inspector of the Ministry.

During 1955 the Bolsover (Station Road No. 1) Clearance Order was made, involving 8 houses, but the action had not been completed by the end of the year.

A further 3 houses in the Market Place were declared to be a clearance area but no clearance order was made during the year.

The action taken in respect of individual unfit houses during 1955 was as follows :—

52, Hill Top, Bolsover ..	.. Demolition order made.
6, Craggs Road, Bolsover ..	.. Demolition order made.

59 and 61, Hill Top, Bolsover	..Demolition orders made.
95 and 95A, High Street, Bolsover	Demolition orders made.
17 and 19, Station Road, Bolsover	Demolition orders made.
4 and 6, Castle Street, Bolsover	..Demolition orders made.
1, Bolsover Hill, Bolsover ..	..Demolition order made.
25 and 27, Bolsover Hill, Bolsover..	Demolition orders made.
45, Bolsover Hill, Bolsover ..	..Demolition order made.
14, High Street, Bolsover ..	..Closing order made.

In addition to the above, three houses—56, Station Road, 2, Bolsover Hill and The Bungalow, Moorfield Avenue, were demolished voluntarily after rehousing of the tenants.

To the end of the year a total of 21 families had been displaced by slum clearance action and this figure is now increasing month by month during the present year.

Towards the end of the year it became increasingly obvious that quite a number of owners were experiencing difficulty in securing demolition of their vacated houses, this arising from the scarcity of reputable demolition contractors. The question of carrying out this work in default was considered by the Council but no action in this respect had been completed by the end of the year.

The Government's proposals contained in the Slum Clearance Compensation Bill were particularly welcomed as action is being taken against a number of houses which were purchased for owner occupation during the period of acute housing shortage, despite repeated warnings by the Council of the danger of buying houses with so limited a life.

As is to be expected in a district of this character, the unfit dwellings are mainly individual houses or small blocks of property which have now outlived their useful life and are ripe for demolition by reason of lack of adequate repair. Many of these houses are in the central area of the district and the clearance of these sites will afford opportunities for a certain amount of planned redevelopment on a scale greater than has existed for very many years.

It is pleasing to report that there has been a great increase in the authority's activities with regard to the improvement of houses. During 1955, 65 houses were improved with the aid of grant, compared with 3 for the previous year, and it is particularly gratifying that 40 were tenanted houses. The fact that improvement grants are available is now quite widely known throughout the district and steady progress is

being made in this aspect of housing administration. I should like, again, to express the hope that more and more property owners adopt an enlightened approach ; no longer should the progressive landlord be content to maintain his houses in their present condition, rather should the emphasis be on the provision of amenities and conveniences not now available.

Whole streets of houses in this district are capable of being improved and only the fringe of the problem has so far been touched. As I have reported previously, improvement grants enable modern amenities and conveniences to be provided in older houses at a fraction of the cost of erecting a new house ; affording to the tenants greater comfort in their present homes and to the owner a fair return on his share of the cost and a modernised house with a greater expectancy of life. It is in the country's interests that the best use should be made of our existing stock of houses, we cannot afford to neglect them and allow them to deteriorate into slums. I look forward to the time when the local authority's powers in this connection are strengthened, enabling them to prepare organised programmes for the modernisation of all those houses which are capable of being transformed into desirable residences with modern amenities and conveniences.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings.

During the year there was a slight increase in the number of caravans used for human habitation, 19 being in use at the end of the year.

The Council have provided a municipal caravan site at Lime Kiln Fields with standings for 12 caravans, water supply, main drainage and sanitary conveniences. The site has been in use since September, 1954 and all the standings are now occupied.

There appears to be a small number of families who prefer to live in caravans rather than in traditional houses, purely as a matter of choice and not because they cannot afford anything better. Most modern caravans are extremely well equipped and one wonders whether their residential use is, in future, to become a permanent feature. In practically all cases, such families are anxious to have the benefits of main services, water supply, electricity and main drainage and no serious nuisance has arisen from the use of these caravans.

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. 78 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred and 13 books were disinfected on behalf of the Bolsover Branch of the County Library.

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

Terminal disinfection is not normally carried out, except where requested by the householder, but disinfectant is available free of charge.

Verminous Premises.

There was again very little evidence of bedbug infestation of houses in the district ; though a number of householders experienced trouble from cockroaches and silverfish.

The advice and assistance of the Department is freely available to householders ; D.D.T. powder, Gammexane dust, liquid disinfectant and D.D.T. fly solution continued to be supplied free of charge.

Water Supply.

Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply of the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board. Eight samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be suitable for drinking purposes.

Premises Used for the Preparation or Sale of Food.

During 1955, 147 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food (excluding slaughterhouses)—these comprising 2 bakehouses, 7 fish frying premises, 3 ice cream manufacturers, 1 jam and canning factory, 8 manufacturers of sausages, etc., and 2 small cafes. With the exception of the bakehouses and cafes all the above premises are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act.

413 visits were paid to food shops and market stalls, including 25 shops registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream.

Apart from 7 fish and chip shops, there are 85 shop premises selling food, 3 being bakers and confectioners, 10 concentrating on the sale of fruit and vegetables, 11 predominantly grocers, 10 butchers, 2 dealing in made up meat products and 50 general dealers. The vast majority are house and shop premises of restricted size where the hygienic

storage and display of foods of differing types present numerous problems.

There was, again, no case of food poisoning resulting from food manufactured or processed in the district and every effort continues to be made to impress on all traders the vital importance of strict cleanliness in all aspects of food preparation, handling and storage.

Slaughterhouses.

There are four small licensed slaughterhouses in the district providing slaughtering facilities for 7 local butchers and 2 from adjoining rural areas.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

With the exception of slum clearance duties, a greater proportion of time was spent on meat inspection than any other section of the Department's activities. Every animal slaughtered was inspected and much of this work was carried out during the evening and at week-ends.

The following table gives particulars of meat inspection carried out in this district during the year.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exc'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ..	513	209	4	1,585	548	—
Number inspected	513	209	4	1,585	548	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	41	24	—	20	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	7.99	11.48	—	1.26	0.55	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	32	—	—	17	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	8.19	15.79	—	—	3.10	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the year an estimated 3,754lb. of meat and offals found to be unfit for human food were voluntarily surrendered

by the butchers. After staining, the meat and offals were disposed of to the local knacker and arrangements were made for part of the proceeds to be returned to the butchers.

An agreement exists with the Chesterfield Corporation whereby one of their inspectors undertakes meat inspection in this district during my absence.

The following amount of food, apart from fresh meat, was found to be unfit for human consumption and was voluntarily surrendered, being disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tip :—

Sausages	152½ lb.
Bacon	25 lb.
Biscuits	9 lb.
Dried fruit	30 lb.
Fish fingers	4 doz.
Canned meat	27 tins
fruit	35 tins
tomatoes	125 tins
vegetables.. .. .	5 tins
milk and cream	11 tins
soup	6 tins
fish	2 tins

Sampling of Food.

Sampling of food under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Derbyshire County Council and Mr. R. W. Sutton, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.C.S., the County Analyst, has kindly supplied the following report :—

“62 samples, including 10 milks, were taken under the Food and Drugs Act in the area of the Bolsover Urban District during the year 1955.

No serious irregularities were disclosed and no proceedings were taken.

Enquiries failed to trace the manufacturers of an article described as “Cherrum Cocktail” which contained less than the 40 per cent proof spirit. The article was very old stock and the shopkeeper agreed to withdraw the remainder from sale.

A sample of ice cream was deficient in milk solids and the vendor was cautioned.

The remaining samples were classed as satisfactory.”

Milk and Dairies Administration.

The sale of non-designated milk is prohibited in this district by virtue of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order, 1953 which came into operation on the 1st January, 1954.

At the end of the year there were 16 dairy farmers in the district, five of them producing Tuberculin Tested milk.

One producer of Tuberculin Tested milk bottles his milk at the farm and retails it locally, but in all other cases the milk is collected by the local dairy company and pasteurised.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

The registrations and licences granted as at the 31st December, 1955 were as follows :—

Registered distributors of milk	13
Licensed dealers in Tuberculin Tested milk ..	7
Licensed dealers in Pasteurised milk	7
Licensed dealers in Sterilised milk	6

Supplementary licences to deal in Pasteurised milk and Tuberculin Tested milk were granted to the local Co-operative Society and to a dealer with premises in the adjoining rural district.

Milk Sampling.

During 1955 one sample of Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) milk was submitted for bacteriological examination, with satisfactory result.

Ice Cream.

There are three premises at which ice cream is manufactured and 25 premises from which ice cream is sold.

18 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and were graded as follows :—

Grade 1	9
Grade 2	7
Grade 3	—
Grade 4	2

Swimming Baths.

10 samples of swimming bath water were taken during year from the Public Baths in Castle Lane, Bolsover, samples being taken from the inlet and outlet ends of the bath.

Two of the samples from the outlet end displayed slight pollution of the bath water with Bact. Coli Faecal Type I and the chlorine dosage was adjusted to overcome this contamination, later samples being satisfactory.

The bath is used most extensively during the summer term by organised swimming parties from schools in Bolsover and the surrounding districts. I have previously commented on the need for improved pre-cleansing facilities and the re-arrangement of the dressing accommodation with a view to reducing the possible sources of pollution of the bath water. Plans have been prepared for an extension to the existing building to provide compulsory pre-cleansing facilities and improved dressing accommodation, but the work is at present held up by reason of the restriction on capital expenditure.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933—1954.

At the end of 1955, 13 persons held licences to slaughter animals in slaughterhouses or knacker's yards.

Knacker's Yard.

39 visits were paid to the knacker's yard.

The business was conducted in as satisfactory a manner as its nature and location permits, and the requisite records were kept.

Shops Act, 1950.

32 visits were paid to shop premises regarding sanitary conveniences, closing hours and the employment of young persons.

Petroleum Licensing.

41 inspections were made of premises used for the storage of petroleum spirit.

At the end of 1955, 21 licences were in force involving a maximum storage capacity of 320,550 gallons.

Rodent Control.

For most of the year the rodent control work was undertaken by the Clerk in the Public Health Department, a

trained operative, but in view of his impending departure on National Service, one of the Department's workmen attended an approved course and assumed these duties.

The Council carry out free treatment of private houses infested with rats or mice, but business premises are charged with the cost of the treatment.

The systematic survey of the district for the presence of rats and mice was continued throughout the year. Permanent baiting points were maintained at certain of the refuse tips and sewage works and treatment of the public sewers was carried out.

Rodent Control Report for the year ended 31st March, 1956.

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Business Premises	Agricultural
Total inspections carried out ..	102	805	96	45
Number of treatments carried out				
Rats	10	52	1	—
Mice	—	13	3	—

Agricultural properties are surveyed, but most of the farmers hold contracts with the County Agricultural Executive Committee for the extermination of pests.

Conversion of Pail Closets and Privies.

During 1955, 5 pail closets were converted into water closets, in all cases these being at premises which were being improved with the aid of grant. It has been noticed that certain farmers are displaying interest in improvement grants as a means of modernising farm cottages to attract agricultural workers, and some further progress in this respect is being made.

The majority of the houses in the district not served by a public sewer are isolated farms and cottages situated in rather inaccessible and scattered positions. The Council's Engineer is engaged on the preparation of a scheme to provide main drainage to a group of houses in Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood.

Atmospheric Pollution.

During 1955, seven local authorities in North East Derbyshire joined together to form a Smoke Abatement Joint Consultative Committee, and this Council is a member.

Towards the end of the year preliminary arrangements were being made for the holding of a domestic smoke abatement campaign throughout the area of the Consultative Committee during the spring of 1956. Discussion also took place in the Committee on the question of an approach being made to local leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers regarding the possibility of mineworkers being allowed to take smokeless fuel instead of coal as their concessionary allowance. There are in this district post war housing estates fitted with approved firegrates capable of burning smokeless fuels, and the question of allowance coal must be fully resolved before any steps can be taken to establish smoke control areas as envisaged by the Clean Air Bill now before Parliament. At the time of writing this report a joint meeting between representatives of the Consultative Committee and local leaders of the N.U.M. has been arranged and it is hoped that a successful outcome can be achieved.

The reduction in atmospheric pollution is now one of the most serious problems facing public health workers and it is to be hoped that the more positive provisions contained in the Clean Air Bill will ultimately secure a cleaner air for all.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year with the exception of certain small areas in the weeks immediately following the Easter and Christmas holidays.

2 refuse collecting vehicles—a 12 cu. yd. S. and D. Freighter and 7 cu. yd. Karrier Bantam, each with a driver and three loaders, are engaged whole time on refuse collection. During holiday periods, etc., the other Karrier Bantam assists to endeavour to maintain the weekly collection.

An excess rate of 3½d. per hour continued to be paid throughout the year, and although no undue labour difficulties were experienced, the fact remains that the present method of refuse collection and disposal is not an attractive occupation, especially in this period of full employment.

Refuse Collection.

During the past three years the bulk of the refuse collected has been disposed of by controlled tipping at the New Bolsover tip to extend the local N.C.B. sports ground. Towards the end of 1955 this task was completed and thereafter the whole of the refuse was taken to the New Byron tip. Concentration of disposal will henceforth take place at this site where adequate tipping space is available for very many years, and preliminary discussions took place to secure an extended lease with the New Byron Brick Co. Ltd. For several years difficulty has been experienced by the refuse collection vehicles in negotiating the very steep access road at this tip and at the end of the year arrangements had been made to transfer the disposal site to an area where all the clay had been extracted and to construct a new access road.

Emptying of Cesspools, Pail Closets and Privies.

This service is carried out during the day-time by a 7 cu. yd. Karrier Bantam fitted with a 300 gallon tank and using a 3 inch. trailer mounted mud pump.

On one day each week this vehicle also collects waste paper from business premises in the district.

Salvage.

(Referring to the financial year ended 31st March, 1956)
Sales from the 1st April, 1955 to the 31st March, 1956 were as follows :—

	T.	Cwt.	Qr.	Lb.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper and cardboard ..	152	7	2	—	1,371	8	3
Textiles ..	3	0	3	7	39	12	6
Scrap tins ..	7	17	0	0	15	14	0
Scrap metals ..	—	15	0	0	3	15	0
	164	0	1	7	£1,430	9	9

Sales of waste paper reached a new record level and a profit of over £500 was made. Early in the year there was a growing demand for waste paper and a salvage drive was held in conjunction with other local authorities throughout the county.

As will be seen from the table below, collections of waste paper have almost doubled during the last three years and during 1955 collections exceeded 23 cwts. per 1,000 population

per month. Towards the end of the financial year there were indications that collections of waste paper throughout the country were beginning to exceed the requirements of the board mills. It is to be hoped that local authorities will be able to dispose of their total collections as an assured outlet is required if waste paper salvage is to be continued as a permanent feature of the public cleansing service.

Sales of waste paper during recent years have been as follows :—

1955/1956	152 tons	7½ cwts.	sold for	£1,371	8	3
1954/1955	132 tons	10 cwts.	„ „	£1,045	13	5
1953/1954	107 tons	12¾ cwts.	„ „	£816	16	4
1952/1953	78 tons	16½ cwts.	„ „	£687	18	6
1951/1952	81 tons	5½ cwts.	„ „	£1,430	11	6
1950/1951 (part)	23 tons	8¼ cwts.	„ „	£286	6	10
1949/1950 (part)	31 tons	1¾ cwts.	„ „	£192	9	5
				<hr/>		
				607 tons	2¼ cwts.	sold for £5,831 4 3
				<hr/>		

At the refuse disposal tip an attempt is made to sort galvanised and tinned scrap for sale, but the frequency with which the one tip attendant is required to assist in refuse collection due to sickness or holidays, seriously reduces the output and the quantity disposed of during the year is very much less than could be achieved.

In concluding this part of the report relating to public cleansing, I should like, again, to express my appreciation of the loyalty and co-operation of the workmen engaged in this branch of the Council's services. These men perform a most unpleasant duty, but one which is of vital importance to every ratepayer in the community.

WILFRED EDMUNDS LTD.,
PRINTERS, CHESTERFIELD.



