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URBAN DISTRICT
OF BOLSOVER
DERBYSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and the
Public Health Inspector



FOR THE YEAR

1959



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BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1959)

Councillor T. Colledge, C.A. (Chairman)

Councillor J. W. Bluff	Councillor T. Fulleylove
Councillor S. J. Clarke,	Councillor W. B. Revill
Councillor Mrs J. Colledge,	Councillor J. W. Savage
Councillor F. Cross,	Councillor M. W. Simpson,
Councillor F. H. Cutts	B.E.M., J.P.
Councillor S. T. Fisher	Councillor J. Spray

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. A. R. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
"Dale Close," 100, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield,
(Tel. : Mansfield 811/2)

Clerk: Miss P. M. WILSON.

Deputy Medical Officer (Part time)

Dr. R. R. LANE.

Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

JOHN F. H. WALTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
(Tel. : Bolsover 3255/6)
Council Offices.

Clerk : C. F. THOMSON.

PREFACE

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

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Once again I have the privilege of submitting to you an Annual Report. The year in question, 1959, was made sad by the death of my predecessor, Dr A. H. Wear. You know better than I the sterling service which Dr. Wear gave to the Council. He had worked long and hard and I am very sorry that his retirement was so short.

Unfortunately, I also have to record the deaths of two Councillors during the year. Councillor G. Fisher and Councillor S. Jennings both died. This is a sad loss to the Health Committee. Both of them were always keen and encouraging to me. Along with many other people I shall miss them greatly.

I hope you will find the Report to be interesting and of some use. Again, it is my privilege and pleasure to thank you for the interest you have shown throughout the year and for the help and encouragement you gave to my Department. Again too, I must thank Mr Margerrison (Engineer and Surveyor) for his contribution to this Report.

Each year I have to thank everyone on the staff of Bolsover U.D.C. for their help I wish to stress that this repetition is not just a meaningless formula. I mean it sincerely every year. Finally, my sincere thanks to Mr Wright (Clerk of the Council) for all his help and sound advice.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. ROBERTSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

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

LEUKAEMIA IN MY DISTRICT AND THE PRESS

In 1959 I attended the Royal Society of Health Congress in Harrogate. One morning I came down to breakfast (as usual I was the last down) to find that one of my districts was splashed across some of the National newspapers. Creswell, a town in Clowne Rural District, was described as a "village of fear". According to the papers, there had been five deaths from leukaemia in Creswell in the last two or three months. You got the impression that an air of doom lay over Creswell—like the feelings shown by a village in a Frankenstein picture. Of course, one paper in particular tied these deaths up with radio-activity and H. bombs, etc.,etc.

I want to stress here that the papers concerned did not get in touch with me, before they printed their story. I admit I was in Harrogate and not at home, but, my address could easily have been obtained from the Congress Headquarters.

Now, what are the facts? In 1959, there were three deaths from leukaemia in the Clowne Rural District. If you take my three districts together you find the following figures:—

Deaths from Leukaemia	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Bolsover U.D.	-	2	1	1	-
Blackwell R.D.	1	1	3	-	2
Clowne R.D.	-	1	-	-	3

Remember, the papers said there had been five deaths from leukaemia in Creswell within a few months! As the above shows, there have not been five deaths in the whole of Clowne R.D. in the last **FIVE YEARS**, never mind months. And, lumping my three districts together, there have only been fifteen deaths from leukaemia in the last five years. The figures published in the press were, therefore, an exaggeration (at best) and a figment of the imagination (at worst).

We have disposed of the figures given. What about the assumption that there was a common cause? I can do no better than quote from the report which I made to Clowne Rural District Council.

"I have now received notification of three deaths from leukaemia this year. These all occurred in men who live in Creswell. I have investigated these cases and I give my findings below :—

Case 1. age 15. This adolescent was admitted to hospital on 5.4.59. He had been ill for two years previously. He was diagnosed as myeloid leukaemia. Despite treatment he died on 27.4.59.

Case 2. age 67. This man was first seen at hospital on 13.8.58. and he had been ill for several months. He was diagnosed as lymphatic leukaemia. He initially gave a good response to treatment but his condition deteriorated and he was admitted into hospital on 12.3.59. He died on 18.3.59. I have said that he took ill in 1958 but on going through his history it was found that he developed an enlarged gland in 1941. It is very probable that his leukaemia started before 1941. Lymphatic leukaemia can behave in this manner. There can be phases of remission lasting years during which the disease is quiescent.

Case 3. age 35. This man was seen originally in hospital in 1954, when he had been ill for two years. He was diagnosed as chronic myeloid leukaemia. With treatment the disease was kept fairly well in control for nearly four years. However, by July, 1958, it became obvious that the leukaemia was changing to a more acute form. Further treatment produced six months remission but he again became acutely ill and died on 30.1.59."

If anyone, after reading the above report, can find a common cause in these three cases, then I shall eat my hat and boots as well. These deaths had nothing whatever to do with H. bombs, A. bombs or any other bombs.

Thus on both grounds, the papers were wrong. They printed wrong totals and suggested an impossible cause. The whole article was rubbish. All this without consulting the M.O.H. for the area. What happened when all the facts came out? Was there a retraction? Not on your life, there was only a 'dignified silence' on the offender's part.

My purpose in writing this is twofold. First, I want to reassure all the people in my districts. Second, I wish to show how irresponsibly the press can behave. At many Conferences one hears about how the Press will co-operate and about how they will only report soberly. Well, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. And, this particular pudding would have made anyone throw up. The galling thing is the lack of retraction. To this day there are probably people quoting Creswell as an example of the dangers of atomic radiation. We all know the old saying, 'seeing is believing' and it does hold good for many people. Unfortunately, what they saw in this instance was a mere mirage.

I must emphasise that all the above refers to national newspapers. The local papers (as they have always done with me) behaved responsibly and soberly. When I returned from Harrogate, they got in touch with me and ascertained the true facts. I thank them for their good sense and courtesy over this affair.

To sum up :—

1. There were three deaths in Creswell from leukaemia in 1959, not five in a few months.
2. I am firmly convinced that these deaths were not caused by atomic radiation.

AN UNEXPECTED RESULT

Recently, I was talking to a mother whose little girl had been in hospital suffering from an infectious disease. The little girl is aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years and she is an only child. Naturally, I asked if she were better now that she was home again. To my pleasure, the mother replied that her daughter was better in every way since her stay in hospital. As for the illness, that had been completely cured. But, in addition, there had been many other benefits. These improvements were as follows :—

1. She was more independent in every way.
2. She would bathe herself and use the toilet by herself, both with less fuss than before.
3. She would help get sandwiches and then enjoy them. And altogether she was much less 'faddy' about food.
4. She could dress herself.
5. Her previous attitude of not wanting to go to school had changed to one of positive anticipation. Now, she just can't wait to get started at school.

In short, to quote her mother: 'It was a pleasure to have her home'.

Well, that is what happened in a particular case. More important, though, is what happens generally. I worked as a paediatric house physician for six months. During that time I helped care for many children (there were well over 100 beds and cots in the unit in which I worked). Their ages ranged from a few days to 14 years and there were equal numbers of boys and girls. How did they get on?

They were visited regularly by their parents. Saturday afternoon was the longest and most important visiting time. I was present throughout this time and was always available to report progress to the parents (this is a procedure which I feel every hospital should follow; once a week a Doctor should be present at visiting time to answer questions). After the parents left, there were always tears. The amount of tears varied from child to child and in each particular child from time to time. I and the nurses then made a point of jostling the children up a bit. You would tousele the head of this one, look at that one's comics and accept a sweet or a chocolate biscuit from another one. In a short time we could have all the children laughing. Indeed with all the sweets and presents that had been brought in, we soon had a party of sorts going. All that was needed was a little extra time and relaxation on the part of the staff.

I used to tell the above to parents when they asked me if their child was fretting. Quite honestly, I doubt if they believed me because when they last saw their child, he or she was probably sobbing as though they would never stop. It may be difficult to believe that in 10 minutes that child would be laughing and swapping comics and sweets with a neighbour, but in my experience that is exactly what happened, time after time.

So, parents, if your child has to go into hospital, please do not worry about them fretting. They are more likely to have the time of their young lives. Of course, I cannot speak for every particular child, but, I can swear that the vast majority of the children in my care, while I worked in hospital, did not fret. Further, you have the example before you of the one particular child with whom I started this little section.

PAIL CLOSETS

One week of my 1959 holidays was spent in Skye. This is an island off the coast of Scotland. If you look at a large scale map of Skye you will see a place called Elgol which is situated on the south west coast of the island. This little hamlet must contain at least six houses. People go there because you get a wonderful view of the Cuillin Hills from Elgol and there is a motor boat trip round the base of the hills (there is also really clean air which has to be inhaled to be believed). While I was there, the sound of the sea had its usual effect on me. I looked around and saw a little whitewashed building with a welcome inscription upon it. With some trepidation, I entered, wondering what sort of primitive apparatus I should find. To my gratification, I found an efficient and spotless water closet, of which I made good use.

Has this anything to do with my districts? Yes, I feel it has. This year, we had a Clearance Area refused by the Minister. The houses in this area had pail closets. At the Hearing, the owners of the houses promised to

repair and improve them. They did **not** promise at the Hearing to convert the pail closets to water closets. The area concerned is situated only half a mile from a small town of some 3,000 people. Yet, the inspector found that having regard to the fact that we were a rural district etc., pail closets could be accepted. I cannot agree with this finding. In this day and age, should we not have housing standards which forbid the use of pail closets? And, if a water closet can be provided in a hamlet on Skye then surely they should be demanded by law in houses near a population of 3,000 or so.

I remember many trips I made with my mother when I was a little boy. My maternal grandparents are buried in Old Monkland cemetery which is near Coatbridge. We used to visit their graves frequently. Afterwards we would visit some cousins of my mother who lived in a village called Bargeddie. The village was supplied with very primitive pail closets. Even as a little boy I was offended to the depths of my being by these. The smell was loathsome and the flies were thick. I was literally very nearly sick every time I used them—I can remember fighting the urge to vomit. I am pleased to say that these houses were demolished long before 1939.

From the aesthetic point of view, nothing can be said for pail closets. As for health, anyone who is not blind can see that they attract flies. Flies are called flies because they fly. And they fly here, there and everywhere after they have investigated a pail closet. Can anyone doubt that disease is spread thus?

In short, I feel that our housing standards should be altered so that a water closet becomes compulsory. At present a back to back house is held to be unfit merely because it is back to back. I am certain that the same provision ought to apply to a house with a pail closet. Indeed, if my wife and I had to choose between a back to back house with a w.c. and a non back to back with a pail closet I know which we should have. I sincerely hope that I shall see pail closets made illegal during my working life.

Note. In case some of you are suspicious after reading

the first paragraph of this section, I wish to make it clear that I am not employed by the Scottish Tourist Board. At the same time, honesty compels me to admit that you could not find a better place for your holiday if you wish good scenery and healthy sparkling air, not to mention our National Product.

A WOMAN'S WORK

I am neither pro- nor anti-feminist. Yet I feel that many of the women in my districts get a very raw deal. Most of the men are on shift work. In many of the houses there are two or three men who are all on shifts. It seems to be the rule in such a case for them all to be on different shifts. Then, the lady of the house can become a slave chained to her cooker. Just think of how many meals she has to cook if she has three men all coming in at different times.

Because of shifts, women are faced with excess work. I can think of nothing worse. The ordinary household tasks are bad enough without increasing them. In addition, all this excess cooking is bad for health. Many times you hear a woman say: "I was so sick of cooking, I couldn't eat a thing". I have often seen grossly obese women who have said that they never sat down to a meal. True, but they did not say how many cups of tea they had per day. The temptation, when one is always cooking, is just to have a cup of tea and a biscuit or a piece of bread. It is surprising how many women live on such a diet. Thus, they live on a diet which is deficient in balance and which, to add insult to injury, is very likely to cause obesity.

Shift work is necessary, I admit. But I do not see any necessity for men in the same household to be on different shifts. Surely they could go to work at the same time and come back at the same time, thus cutting down the number of meals necessary. If housewives had a union, I would feel they were within their rights to demand this. The only objection I can see is the possibility of an accident occurring in a pit. Still, I think this could be minimised by having relatives working in different shafts or parts of the mine. And, not all shift work is in pits, anyway.

So far, I have mentioned adults. What happens at the other end of life? Well, the housewife can get both ends of the stick. When I came here I found that the infant, junior and senior schools (in the same town or village, mark you) all had different holidays. If I had been a mother I would have objected very strenuously. The position has improved a bit. Now all the schools in each Educational Division have the same holidays. But, this is not enough. Take for instance, the case of Bolsover. Bolsover is in the N.E. division but not a few Bolsover children go to school in Chesterfield which is an Excepted District. The result is different school holidays in some Bolsover households. To my mind, this is ridiculous.

As I have said above, the thought of extra work is abhorrent to me. When this extra work is prejudicial to health I become angry. Housewives arise, you have nothing to lose but the chains which bind you to your cooker.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	4,526
Population (census), 1951	10,817
Population mid-year (Registrar-General) 1959	11,720
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1959)	3,675
Rateable value (end of 1959)	£113,360
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1959	£449

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.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births	235	116	119
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	20.0 (corrected)		
Still-births	4	2	2
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still births	16.7		
Total Live and Still-births	239	118	121
Infant Deaths	10	6	4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	42.6		
Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate	44.2		
Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate	Nil		
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	34.0		
Illegitimate Live births per cent of total Live births	3.3		
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	nil		
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	nil		

Comments.

The number of live births and the corrected birth rate are both appreciably higher than last year. I sincerely hope this can be repeated.

The number of Still-births and the Still-birth Rate are much the same as last year.

It is sad to see that the Infant Mortality Rate and the Neo-Natal Mortality Rate are both higher than last year. This made a third year in which there were no deaths in illegitimate infants. Let us compare these figures with the national ones, viz :—

	Bolsover	Eng. & Wales
Infant Mortality Rate	42.6	22 (provisional)
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	34.0	15.6 (average for first 3 quarters of 1959)

It is sad to see these figures remaining consistently above those for England and Wales.

Eight infants died under the age of four weeks. The causes of death were :—

Intracranial Haemorrhage	1
Respiratory failure and intracranial haemorrhage	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis	1
Bilateral broncho pneumonia and intracranial haemorrhage	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis and Prematurity	1
Broncho pneumonia and intracranial haemorrhage	1
Congenital Abnormality	2

Two infants died between the ages of four weeks and one year. The causes of death were congenital abnormality and accidental death by burning.

Prematurity has been much less of a villain this year, being mentioned in one death only. Its place has been taken by intracranial haemorrhage which is mentioned in four deaths. Babies are very liable to brain haemorrhage when they are being born. All the more reason therefore for skilled and expert attendants to be present at each and every birth.

Again, I continue to stress the value of ante-natal care. Every mother to be should go to any lengths of trouble in order to receive ante-natal care.

DEATHS.

Total	Male	Female
100	60	40

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 11.1 (corrected), while the National Death Rate was 11.6 (provisional)

The total number of deaths and the corrected death rate are both appreciably lower than last year.

Causes of Death	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-
Cancer (stomach)	1	1
Cancer (Breast)	1	1
Cancer (Other sites)	4	2
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	10	9
Coronary disease, angina	11	6
Other Heart Disease	4	10
Other circulatory disease	5	1
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis	4	1
Other respiratory diseases	3	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Congenital malformations	2	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	4
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	4	-
Suicide	1	2

Comments.

There were 35 deaths less in 1959 than in 1958 (100 in 1959, 135 in 1958). The greatest decrease is in cancer deaths (10 against 29) and there is also a decrease in the deaths from coronary thrombosis (17 against 25)

Again, it is pleasing to record that there have been no maternal deaths.

However, it is unpleasant to see that there have been 2 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Causes of Death 1954—1959

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	2	-	-	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer, stomach	2	3	4	2	4	3
Cancer, lung	-	2	1	1	1	5
Cancer, breast	2	5	-	2	3	-
Cancer, uterus	-	2	2	1	3	1
Cancer, other sites	6	17	6	7	5	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1	2	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	1	1	2	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	19	14	12	15	15	8
Coronary disease, angina	17	25	7	15	8	10
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	2	7	3	3
Other heart disease	14	14	10	30	23	22
Other circulatory disease	6	7	11	8	5	5
Influenza	-	1	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	3	7	5	3	2	4
Bronchitis	5	9	8	6	9	7
Other respiratory diseases	3	2	-	-	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	-	3	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	2	-	1	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	2	-	-	3	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	1	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	4	2	2	-	2	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	8	9	12	9	12	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2	4	2	3	-
All other accidents	4	6	2	5	4	4
Suicide	1	-	1	1	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

These are provided by the Derbyshire County Council

Ambulance.

This service is provided by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.

1. **Analytical**—provided by the County Council.
2. **Bacteriological**—provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

I thank both for their courtesy and efficiency.

Chest Clinic.

The nearest Clinic is in Chesterfield, under the auspices of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Another Clinic is held at the Victoria Hospital, Worksop (Watson Road Clinic) and Mansfield hold one at Kings Mill Hospital.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment and advice can be obtained at Derby Royal Infirmary, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Victoria Hospital, Worksop, and Mansfield and District General Hospital.

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.

Report from Chemist for Year 1959

Monthly samples for Chemical and Bacteriological analysis were collected from the softening plants at Bolsover Moor and Hillstown. Both plants supply a treated water with an average hardness of 150 p.p.m. CaCO_3 and all treated water samples gave satisfactory bacteriological results.

Regular samples for bacteriological and physical analysis were taken from the following distribution points:

HILLSTOWN TOWER.

HILLSTOWN STORAGE TANKS.

TAP, GAS WORKS, BOLSOVER.

TAP, STRATTON ROAD, BOLSOVER.

Results proved satisfactory throughout the year at all points.

In this connection Hillstown Tower was out of service for a period early in the year to facilitate repair work but after sterilization and washing out was returned to service in April and gave satisfactory results for the rest of the year.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water.

Taken from Tap, Gas Works, Bolsover, on 20th August, 1959.

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.

Taste—Normal.

Electrical Conductivity 850 units.

Odour—Nil.

pH.—7.6.

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in mg. per litre.)

Carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	...	144
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	...	0
Total Hardness (CaCO ₃)	...	144
Total Alkalinity	...	244
Excess Alkalinity (Na ₂ CO ₃)	...	106
Chlorides (Cl)	...	44.4

Residual Chlorine.

Free 0.26 Combined Nil.

Closet Conversions

No conversions were carried out during 1959.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal

North Ward Sewerage

A scheme for the drainage of the small detached areas on the Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, has been ready in detail for some considerable time and was included in last year's report. Considerable difficulty has been met in the acquisition of land for one of the plants with the result that it will probably be necessary to use Compulsory Powers of Purchase. All details of the scheme are at present with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Valley Estate

A housing development area consisting of approximately 75 acres has been agreed with the Planning Authority and will entail the development for housing of an area lying between New Station Road and the old Chesterfield/Lincoln railway line. A certain amount of development has taken place, i.e. 64 houses for Bolsover Urban District Council and a private developer is in the preliminary stages of road works to develop a small number of private houses. This development can be accommodated, in a matter of drainage, by means of the existing town sewers but development beyond the present one will require the provision of a fair length of off sewer routed between the Model Village and the Chesterfield/Lincoln line to connect with the main trunk sewer in the valley bottom.

Housing

In 1959, 53 new houses were built in Bolsover. 44 were built by the Council and 12 by private enterprise. I am pleased at the increase over 1958 when only 17 were built.

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	4	21	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	49	1
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises.)	3	10	1
Total	30	80	3

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	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences.				
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—

3. Outwork.

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council
Lace, lace curtains and net	10	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 Public Health Inspector's report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 47.

No action was taken under this Act during 1959.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1953

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	
Diphtheria . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	31	1	..	..	4	1	18	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Encephalitis Lethargica . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
do. (Non-Paralytic) . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	12	2	2	1	2	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	78	6	9	11	17	10	24	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Para-Typhoid Fever . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastro Enteritis . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food Poisoning . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meninghccal Meningitis . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles.

I have been rather surprised by the number of cases this year: we had 78. Measles is regarded as a biannual disease. One year there are many cases, the next year there are only a few. However, the pattern has not worked out like that in Bolsover over the last three years. In 1957 there were 320 cases, in 1958 there were 117 and of course in 1959 there have been 78. It is not usual for this to happen. I wonder how we shall fare in 1960. As far as this year goes, the main thing is that all the cases were mild or very mild in character. One case only occurred after the age of 10. 59 cases occurred in the first and second quarters of the year.

Whooping Cough.

For the third year in a row, there were fewer cases. There were 12 cases in 1959. All were in children under the age of ten. I still advise immunisation against whooping cough. I admit there were very few cases, but I still regard whooping cough as a dangerous illness. Remember, it can kill young children.

Poliomyelitis.

There was no case of poliomyelitis this year. I can only repeat that it is my belief that all who are eligible for vaccination against this illness, should accept vaccination as soon as possible.

Scarlet Fever.

There was a sharp increase in the number. From 5 in 1958 we rose to 31 in 1959. However, I am not worried by this increase because the disease remained in its present mild phase of character.

Diphtheria.

There has not been a case in Bolsover since 1948. I am happy that 1959 did not break this record. I believe that the easiest way to keep this going is by continuing

to have our children immunised. Dr. Morgan (County M.O.H.) has kindly supplied the following figures regarding diphtheria immunisation :—

	1959	1958	1957
Under 1 year	109	83	81
1-4 years (incl.)	42	18	39
5-14 years (incl.)	14	55	11
	<hr/> 165	<hr/> 156	<hr/> 131

The number has increased steadily since 1957. I hope this increase continues.

Food Poisoning.

No case was notified during 1959, nor 1958.

TUBERCULOSIS

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

Age Period in years	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...								
15 ...		1						
20 ...	1							
25 ...	1							
35 ...								
45 ...	4	1						
55 ...	1							
65 & upwards	2					2		
Totals	9	2				2		

The death rate from tuberculosis is 0.17 per 1,000 of the population.

This has been a bad year. There were no deaths in 1958, but we have had two deaths in 1959.

Also there has been a large increase in the number of new cases. In 1958 there were six new cases in males. This year as shown above there were nine new male cases and two new female cases. These are the first cases in females since 1956. Let us hope that this increase is temporary. Fortunately, the deaths occurred in the age group of 65 and over, not quite so sad as it would be in younger people.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the
BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year
1959.

There was an increase in the number of houses erected in the district and further progress was made on the clearance of unfit houses and the improvement of those without modern amenities. The new House Purchase and Housing Act introduced a new form of grant towards the cost of improving housing accommodation. Unfortunately this grant is not available towards the cost of installing an internal water closet if the existing one is attached to the house. Where a w.c. is only a matter of one step away from the back door but is detached from the house, a grant can be given towards a new one inside the house; where the existing w.c. is attached to the rear of the house, even though it may well mean walking several yards past the kitchen, the pantry and the coalplace, no grant can be paid towards an inside one. This, to me, seems unnecessarily stringent and in this day and age the target should be to provide such fittings inside every house; an outside closet is just as inconvenient whether it be attached to the house or not. I trust that the Government will see fit to alter this provision at the earliest opportunity.

I should like to appeal once again to owners of rented houses to take advantage of these grants. The tenanted houses are not being dealt with at anything ap-

proaching a satisfactory rate. It is in the interests of all of us that the very best use be made of the middle aged houses so that the burden of slum clearance may be kept within reasonable limits.

I am particularly pleased that the National Coal Board is taking an increasing interest in the manufacture of solid smokeless fuels by new processes. This is a mining district; inside its boundaries large scale low temperature carbonisation of coal is carried out and not only is a smokeless fuel made, but valuable chemicals are thereby liberated which would otherwise be lost. There will be an increasing demand for good quality free burning smokeless fuels as the effects of the Clean Air Act are applied more generally throughout the country. It is appreciated that this will inevitably be a rather long term process, but I hope that the Coal Board will eventually be able to offer mineworkers a smokeless fuel in place of the raw coal which they now receive. I should like to see the benefits of clean air being extended to mining districts as well as to the larger towns in our country.

I should like to thank the Council for the help and encouragement which has always been given in carrying out my duties.

I am, Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. H. WALTON,

Public Health Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent.

General Inspection of the Area.

Table showing inspections, etc. undertaken during the year 1959.

Inspection of houses for nuisances and defects ...	583
Revisits to houses	612
Visits in connection with improvement of houses...	213
Visits re water supply	10
Visits to infectious disease cases...	39
Milk Distributors and Dairies	60
Slaughterhouses—Meat Inspection ...	341
Butchers Shops	94
Bakehouses	10
Fried Fish Shops	16
Other Food Preparing Premises ...	70
Food Shops	136
Market Stalls	53
Ice Cream Premises	66
Inns and Other Public Buildings ...	8
Factories	80
Knacker's Yard	31
Schools	4
Controlled Refuse Tips	92
Colliery Spoil Banks	5
re Atmospheric Pollution... ..	28
Moveable Dwellings	24
re Keeping of Animals	16
Shops Act	31
Petroleum Licensing	57
Drainage Works	176
to Public Baths	4
Miscellaneous Visits	20
Interviews with owners, contractors, etc. ...	273

Housing and Public Health Act Defects.

The following table shows the defects remedied as a result of action under the Housing and Public Health Act. Defects in connection with—

House roofs	...	...	...	...	62
Chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	19
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	24
Pointing and brickwork of walls	...	...	...	...	31
Yard paving	...	...	...	...	18
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	27
Internal wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	104
Windows and sash cords	...	...	...	...	36
Doors	...	...	...	...	19
Floors	...	...	...	...	27
Staircases	...	...	...	...	10
Cooking ranges and fireplaces	...	...	...	...	59
Sinks	...	...	...	...	12
Washing coppers	...	...	...	...	8
Rising or penetrating dampness	...	...	...	...	61
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	25
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	2
Drains and inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	63
Water closet pedestals	...	...	...	...	19
Closet flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	29
Walls and fences	...	...	...	...	7
Dilapidated dustbins	...	...	...	...	219
External decoration	...	...	...	...	12

In connection with the foregoing defects 161 informal notices and 2 statutory notice were served.

Housing.

I referred in last year's report to the Council's proposal to erect a number of houses on the Valley Estate in the West Ward of the Urban District. This development to provide 40 three bedroomed houses, 20 with two bedrooms and 4 two bedroomed bungalows was commenced early in 1959 and by the end of the year 44 dwellings had been completed—these being 20 three bedroomed, 20 two bedroomed houses and the 4 bungalows.

At the commencement of the year there were 8 houses under course of construction by private developers; 12 houses were completed during the year and at the 31st December, 1959, 8 were being built.

The total of 56 houses and bungalows completed is considerably higher than the corresponding figure for 1958 when the effects of the stringent financial controls introduced in the autumn of 1957 were still being felt, and is more in line with the normal construction programme in the post war period. The remaining houses on Valley Estate should be completed early in 1960 and the next programme provides for the erection of 20 houses and 20 bungalows on the Valley Estate, and a further 20 dwellings to be erected on sites in the central area of the town which become available by the clearance of unfit houses. I am very pleased that the percentage of houses suitable for older persons is to be increased in the next programme and especially as a number of these dwellings should be near the town centre in reasonably close proximity to the shops and to the Elder Citizen's Club which has just been built by the Council.

In 1958 virtually no progress was made in clearance of unfit houses due to curtailment of the Council's building programme but this task was resumed in 1959 to coincide with the development of the Valley Estate and the following action was taken :—

Clearance Areas

Hill Top (No. 2) Clearance Area

This area comprised six houses, Nos. 45, 47, 49, 51, 53 and 55 Hill Top and the Council decided to negotiate

the purchase of these houses with the intention of re-developing the site, this action had not been completed at the end of the year.

Hill Top (No. 4) Clearance Area

This area comprised three houses, Nos. 4, 6 and 8 Hill Top and the Council decided to negotiate the purchase of these houses to extend the open space which the Council already own at the side of this block of property ; this action had not been completed at the end of the year.

Market Place (No. 2) Clearance Area

This area comprised four houses, Nos. 23, 25, 27 and 29 Market Place and the Council made a Clearance Order which was subsequently confirmed without modification by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

High Street (No. 3) Clearance Area

This area comprised seven houses Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 High Street and the Council decided to negotiate the purchase of these houses with the intention of redeveloping the site, this action had not been completed at the end of the year.

Charlesworth Street (No. 1) Clearance Area

This area comprised three houses Nos. 1, 2 and 3 The Bungalow, Charlesworth Street, Carr Vale. A clearance Order made by the Council was the subject of a local hearing and was subsequently not confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the grounds that intercommunication between the dwellings existed and they could be dealt with as a single house under Part II of the Housing Act, 1957.

Individual Unfit Houses

31 and 33 High Street — Demolition Orders made
Hawksbrook House, 34 Church Road, Stanfree —
Undertaking accepted.

The Bungalow, Woodhouse Lane — Undertaking
accepted.

- 12 Town End — Undertaking accepted.
- 18 and 20 Town End — Demolition Orders made.
- 51 and 53 High Street — Demolition Orders made.
- Sutton View, 11 High Street — Demolition Order made.
- 2 North View Street, Carr Vale — Closing Order made.
- 18 Craggs Road — Demolition Order made.
- 49A High Street — Closing Order made.
- “Windy Ridge”, Station Road — Undertaking accepted.

As the new houses became available for occupation towards the end of the year the rehousing of families in unfit houses was commenced and 10 families had accepted alternative accommodation at the 31st December, 1959.

During the first four years of the Council's clearance programme, 112 unfit houses had been demolished or closed and action is in progress in respect of a further 33 houses. The task of removing unfit houses and offering modern houses to the families concerned is essentially a human one, and the Council's officers approach this duty with courtesy and understanding. The families in these worn out dwellings are ordinary decent human beings and the majority welcome the opportunity of living in a sound house with modern amenities and conveniences. There are, of course, some families who do not relish the prospect of being uprooted from their existing surroundings, and others who are owner occupiers, having been obliged to purchase their houses in the immediate post war period when it was well nigh impossible to rent a house apart from through the local authority, and who are extremely worried by these developments and the financial loss which they may sustain. To help soften the blow, compensation provisions have been in existence during the past few years and every effort is made to smooth out the problems which arise. It has been gratifying to see so many of these families after a month or two in their new homes and to find how appreciative they were of the modern amenities and conveniences which are now available to them.

Local authorities have the responsibility of securing the demolition, closure or repair of houses which are "unfit for human habitation" as defined in the Housing Act. Substantial progress has been made in recent years in dealing with the worst cases of unfitness and the end of the initial five year programme is now in sight. This does not mean that slum clearance will have been completed; in my opinion this is a continuing programme though of course not at the same tempo. Some of the older houses will become unfit as time passes, but it is to be hoped that in due course the standard for unfitness will be progressively raised to enable the occupants of poorer houses to share in the benefits of the rising standard of living and increasing prosperity which the country is now enjoying. There will always be room for improvement in housing conditions, and we must strive to secure the benefits of modern amenities and conveniences for an ever increasing percentage of the population.

During the year the House Purchase and Housing Act of 1959 introduced a scheme to enable more and bigger loans to be made for the purchase of older houses, and a new compulsory system of grant towards the cost of providing five standard amenities in houses which are without modern conveniences. Changes were made which simplified the making of grants and rendered them more attractive to owners. The previous system of discretionary grants towards the improvement of housing accommodation remains in existence for the more ambitious schemes.

This Council has encouraged the improvement of housing accommodation for a number of years under the 1949 Act scheme and it was felt that the new scheme would not materially increase the number of houses improved, though in certain cases it could benefit owners of houses with a rather more limited life.

The table below summarises the progress made in recent years in the improvement of houses :—

	Owner/Occupied	Tenanted	Total
1954	3	—	3
1955	25	40	65
1956	23	6	29
1957	15	4	19
1958	19	6	25
1959	32	—	32
Total	117	56	173

At the end of 1959 there were 11 further cases in which discretionary grant application had been approved but where the works were still in progress—these related to 8 tenants houses and three owner-occupied. In addition six applications for standard grant had been approved—all from owner-occupiers, and the works had not been completed.

It is pleasing to report that there was some increase in 1959 in the number of houses improved and in the number of applications received, but it is very depressing to see the extremely limited progress being made in the provision of modern amenities in tenanted houses. For many years I have consistently pleaded for increased powers for local authorities enabling them to require the provision of modern amenities in suitable houses, and am convinced that this must inevitably come if worthwhile progress is to be made. At the end of the war there was an acute shortage of housing accommodation, and efforts were concentrated on the erection of new houses to make good the damage and lack of construction in the war years. Many areas are approaching the position where the shortage of housing accommodation is no longer the main problem, though some limited new building may have to continue as people are now living longer, people are marrying earlier and most families can nowadays afford a home of their own. The number of sub-tenants on the Council's housing list continues to decline, but this list contains many applications from tenants of houses who want a home with modern conveniences—surely the solution is not to build new houses for all those applicants but, in suitable cases, to provide modern amenities in their existing homes and make them more comfortable among their friends and neighbours, and at a rent much cheaper than that of a new house.

Of course housing finance these days is most topical and highly political. When house building was resumed at the end of the war, interest rates were low, attractive subsidies were available, and the cost of land was fairly low. Nowadays, interest rates are much higher, subsidies have been virtually abolished apart from slum clearance rehousing, land is dearer and the cost of building roads, laying sewers and erecting houses has increased. The total cost over the 60 years repayment period of a new house is now almost five times as great as in 1945 and of course this must inevitably affect the rent. Local authorities throughout the country must wonder whether council house building can be carried on at the same rate and must seriously consider the effects that present day costs have, not only on the rents of new houses, but on existing council houses as well. It is significant that last year, for the first time in the post-war period, private building exceeded local authority building throughout the country as a whole. Under present financial conditions it seems to me to be more than ever necessary to make the very best use of the existing older houses in the district by systematic repair and modernisation.

In recent years there have been drastic changes in the working conditions in factories; mechanisation is helping to reduce the amount of hard work and the Factories Acts now require the provision of hot and cold (or alternatively warm) water for washing; this is to be welcomed by all and long may improvement continue. How do many of the housewives fit into the picture?—far too many of them are doing their work in houses which are not very different from the day when they were built; admittedly they probably now have electricity, a tap over the sink and the pail closet across the yard has given way to a water closet. By modern standards these houses offer very little, a mere drop of hot water in a side boiler and no decent facilities for washing or bathing; a walk outside in the cold or rain, possibly in the full view of the neighbours, to the water closet. As I go around the houses in this district a large number have electric washers and televisions and more and more have cars and I am delighted that this is so; but aren't we neglecting the fundamental amenities? If the housewives were to form a trade union and demand

improved working conditions what a formidable case they could put.

The number of owner occupiers continues to grow and the Council have played an important part in this trend by loaning money for house purchase ; to a great extent these are the people who are taking advantage of the improvement grants.

The effects of the Rent Act are now becoming more apparent, and a considerable amount of repair work has been done, but much of this work is being done rather slowly and very often much later than the six months allowed in the landlord's undertakings. During 1959, eleven applications for certificates of disrepair were received compared with twenty-five the previous year. In two cases certificates of disrepair were issued but in the other nine cases the landlords gave undertakings to remedy the defects. To the end of 1959, 65 applications had been received since the passing of the Act and 8 certificates had been issued.

There is no doubt that in recent years there has been a marked improvement in housing accommodation, more and more unfit houses are disappearing and an increasing number of families now occupy modern houses, but there is no room for complacency and much remains to be done. The benefits of modern amenities must be spread to a far greater number of the older houses and progress in this direction is not nearly fast enough. Of course, housing is a continuing problem ; old houses continue to become worn out and have to be removed and new houses are needed to replace them. The target to be aimed at is a decent home for every family and the nearer we reach this target, the happier and healthier we shall be.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

The Council's caravan site providing standings for 23 caravans has been fully occupied throughout the year. At the end of the year there were in addition, 15 other caravans in occupation, most of them on individual sites with proper provisions for water and drainage ; five were on a site in the central area of the town where drainage and water supply exists and most of these caravans were awaiting vacancies on the Council site.

Since it was established about five years ago the Council's site has proved rather popular and has done much to prevent the establishment of a serious caravan problem in the district.

No serious nuisance has resulted from the occupation of caravans in the Urban District, but cases arise where the young couples require the tenancy of a traditional house after the birth of one or two children. I cannot feel that a caravan offers a full and happy life especially to families with young children.

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. 39 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred.

During the year the Council's disinfecting station continued to be available, if required, for the disinfection of blankets, etc. in cases of infectious disease.

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 bed bug 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, Gam-mexane 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. Two samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported as suitable for drinking purposes.

Premises used for the Preparation or Sale of Food.

During 1959, 201 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food (excluding slaughterhouses)—these comprised two bakehouses, 5 fish frying premises, 2 ice-cream manufacturers, 1 jam and canning factory, 10 manufacturers of sausages, etc. and 2 small cafes. With the bakehouses and cafes, all the above premises are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act.

244 visits were paid to food shops and market stalls, including 38 shops registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice-cream.

Apart from the 5 fish frying establishments, there are 79 shops selling food, 4 being bakers and confectioners, 9 concentrating on the sale of fruit and vegetables, 10 predominantly grocers, 10 butchers and 46 general dealers. The vast majority are combined house and shop premises of restricted size where the hygienic storage and display of differing types of food present numerous problems.

During the year action was taken to secure compliance with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and to impress on all food traders and their staff, the vital importance of strict attention to cleanliness and hygienic practices in all aspects of the preparation and handling of food.

There was, again, no case of food poisoning resulting from food manufactured or processed in this district.

Slaughterhouses

At the end of the year there were four small slaughterhouses in the district providing slaughtering facilities for 7 local butchers and 1 from the adjoining area.

For very many years there have been innumerable reports and suggestions designed to reduce the number of private slaughterhouses and to ensure that slaughtering was carried out in a hygienic manner. Legislation in-

roduced in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, had not commenced to function when the Second World War began and all the small slaughterhouses were closed during the period of meat rationing, which continued through to the summer of 1954. In 1954, four slaughterhouses were reopened to provide facilities for local butchers, compared with nine premises in use before the war. Since that time there has been a number of reports dealing with slaughterhouses and in 1956 the Government White Paper outlining a policy to regulate the provision of slaughterhouses was presented to Parliament. This was followed by the Slaughterhouses Act in 1958 and later by Regulations dealing with the lairing, handling and slaughtering of animals in a humane manner; hygienic conditions for handling of carcasses and offal and for efficient inspection of animals and meat; and satisfactory working and welfare conditions for persons working in slaughterhouses.

These Regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1959 but certain of the requirements will not apply to existing premises until a date to be appointed by the Minister. The basic effect of the new legislation is not to reduce the number of premises but to ensure that all slaughterhouses are brought up to a satisfactory minimum standard, though it would seem inevitable that some reduction in the number of premises used throughout the country as a whole will result.

The Council are required to report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the slaughtering facilities in this area and preliminary discussions with the slaughterhouse occupiers took place during the year. A sub-committee of the Council is considering this matter at the time of preparation of this annual report and the Council's report to the Minister will be submitted within the next few months.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

The following table gives particulars of meat inspection carried out during the year, once again every carcase was inspected.

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

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed ...	392	130	1	1,171	143	—
Number inspected	392	130	1	1,171	143	—
All diseases ex- cept Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases con- demned	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	63	37	1	11	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	16.07	28.46	100.00	0.94	0.69	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	8	8	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tub- erculosis ...	2.04	6.15	—	—	2.10	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and tot- ally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the year an estimated 1,708 lbs. of meat and offals found to be unfit for food were voluntarily surrendered by the butchers to the local authority. After staining, the meat and offals were disposed of to the local knackers, and arrangements exist whereby part of the proceeds are returned to the butchers concerned in certain circumstances.

The quantity of meat rejected has declined steadily during the past four years and the percentage of bovine animals affected by tuberculosis has also decreased appreciably. Since local slaughtering was resumed in 1954 there has been a progressive reduction in the number of animals slaughtered; whereas local slaughtering in 1955 represented almost three quarters of total local consumption, the figure for 1959 had declined to less than a half and this trend appears to be continuing.

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 voluntarily surrendered, being disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tip.

Sausages	197 lbs.
Bacon	103 lbs.
Cooked meats and tongue	112 lb.
Canned meats	31 tins
Canned fruit	42 tins
Canned tomatoes	70 tins
Canned vegetables	18 tins
Canned milk and cream	14 tins
Canned soup	5 tins
Canned fish	7 tins
Cheese	2 pkts.
Mustard	3 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, O.B.E., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.C.S., the County Analyst, has kindly supplied the following report :

“41 samples, including 11 milks, were taken under the above Act in the Area of the Bolsover Urban District Council during the year 1959. All 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.

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 local dairy companies for pasteurisation or sterilisation.

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 1953.

The registrations and licences granted as at the 31st December, 1959, were as follows :—

Registered distributors of milk	...	...	11
Licensed Dealers in Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	6
Licensed Dealers in Pasteurised milk	...	...	6
Licensed Dealers in Sterilised milk	...	...	4

Bacteriological Examination of Samples

There are two small manufacturers of ice cream in

the Urban District and six samples were submitted for examination with results as follows :—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	3
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	2
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	5
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	1

Four samples of water from the Public Baths were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were reported as satisfactory. The new dressing accommodation and pre-cleansing facilities were brought into use before the 1959 swimming season and the improvements were appreciated by the users of the Baths, in addition reducing possible sources of contamination of the water.

Two samples of water from the Public Mains were reported as being satisfactory.

Three samples of orange juice bottled locally were submitted for examination and found to be free from coliform organisms.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

At the end of 1959, 11 persons held licences to slaughter or stun animals in Slaughterhouses or Knacker's yards.

Knacker's Yard.

31 visits of inspection were paid to the Knacker's yard.

This is rather a small business in a most remote part of the district, but it was conducted in as satisfactory a manner as its nature and location permits.

Shops Act, 1950.

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

Petroleum Licensing.

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

At the end of 1959, 20 licences were in force involving a maximum storage of 305,600 gallons.

Rodent Control

The Department has two trained rodent operatives and one of these men undertakes rodent control work regularly.

The systematic survey of the district for the presence of rats and mice was continued throughout the year. Permanent baiting points were maintained at the refuse tip and at certain sewage disposal works.

The Council carry out free treatment of private houses infested with rats and mice, but business premises are charged with the cost of treatment carried out. The Knacker's yard and the local jam and canning factory are the subject of annual contracts.

An attempt was made to negotiate annual contracts with the agricultural properties in the district but it was found that most farmers already had contracts with a private operator who at one time was an employee of the Ministry's rat and mouse destruction service. Two contracts were entered into and it is hoped to increase this number as opportunity arises.

Rodent Control Report for year ended March 31st, 1960

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Business Premises	Agricultural
Total properties inspected	17	1934	146	49
Number of treatments carried out				
Rats	5	19	3	2
Mice	—	3	3	—

There was a reduction last year in the number of treatments carried out and this reflects the continuous fight against infestation which has been undertaken in recent years. There was no major infestation and those that were found were of an extremely minor character. The public now realise that a free service is available to them and co-operate wholeheartedly in the task of exterminating rats and mice.

Conversion of Pail Closets, etc.

During recent years some limited progress has been made in the reduction of pail closets, etc. at farm cottages which have been improved under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, but no such case occurred last year.

A scheme has been prepared for the provision of a sewer to serve a number of houses in Chesterfield Road and when this is completed should further reduce the number of houses with pail closets and cesspools. The vast majority of the remaining houses in the district which are not served by a public sewer are isolated farms and cottages, much too remote and scattered to allow the provision of a sewer.

Atmospheric Pollution

The measurement of atmospheric pollution in this district was commenced on the 1st February, 1959. The Council had authorised the purchase of two British Standard Deposit Gauges for the determination of deposited matter, (material coarse enough to settle out of the atmosphere, including dust and grit which arise from the burning of solid fuel) and two lead peroxide instruments for the determination of sulphur dioxide (a corrosive acidic gas arising mainly from the combustion of fuels).

These instruments were sited with the co-operation of officers of the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. One deposit gauge was sited at Hall Farm, in reasonably close proximity, and to the leeward side of the Bolsover Colliery and the carbonising and chemical plants of Messrs Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd.—these being the main industries

in the district. The other deposit gauge was sited half a mile to the east of the town centre and in quite close proximity to the Moor Lane housing estate. A lead peroxide instrument was sited with this latter deposit gauge and the other one was placed in Cundy Road, nearer to the main industrial premises.

The results obtained are set out in the following tables :—

Deposited Matter

(Total Solids, Tons per Square Mile)

1959	Hall Farm	Moor Lane
February	8.54	12.15
March	13.11	12.86
April	16.49	12.58
May	16.10	10.60
June	19.74	16.01
July	16.73	11.78
August	16.79	10.60
September	17.22	11.00
October	13.14	10.17
November	16.43	12.45
December	12.22	11.38

Estimation of Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method

(Mg. of SO_3 per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A. Pb.O._2 (louvered cover)).

1959	Cundy Road	Moor Lane
February	2.28	2.11
March	1.56	1.43
April	1.87	1.62
May	1.17	0.98
June	1.43	0.88
July	0.87	0.69
August	1.13	0.84
September	1.20	1.05
October	1.58	1.49
November	2.32	2.57
December	2.47	2.59

Of course it would be foolish to reach too definite conclusions after so short a period, but the amount of deposited matter, especially at the Hall Farm site did not prove to be as heavy as feared. Of course there is room for much improvement and it is hoped that this will be evident in the future when modernisation and replacement plans of the National Coal Board and Messrs Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd. have been fully implemented.

With regard to pollution of the air from domestic sources, the problem facing this Council is by no means easy to solve. The majority of the householders are employed in the mining industry and whilst ever they continue to draw part of their wages in the form of miners' coal, the establishment of smoke control areas would be an extremely difficult and unpopular matter. Perhaps there is the slightest ray of hope, for at last year's Annual Conference of the National Society for Clean Air, Dr. J. Bronowski, the Director General of Process Development of the National Coal Board, outlined plans for the production of premium grade solid smokeless fuels by the Board. The Board is already producing one such fuel—Warmco—in this part of the country, and their plans are to step up the production of solid smokeless fuels reaching an annual rate of production of at least one million tons a year by new processes in 1965. If public demand is seen to be rising before 1965, the investment in the new processes is likely to be doubled. I am extremely pleased to see the National Coal Board taking a much greater interest in the production of processed smokeless fuels and hope that in the years ahead they will be able to increase production and to supply such fuels to their employees in place of raw coal. If this can be done the way will be wide open for reducing atmospheric pollution from domestic sources in the mining areas.

It has frequently been said that coal should not be burned in its raw state except in conditions where it can be burned to a high degree of efficiency; and that it should be regarded as a chemical and not simply as a form of fuel. There is no doubt that coal is one of the nation's vital natural resources and it should be used as efficiently as possible. To secure cleaner air for all, it may well be that in the future, only processed coal will

be used in domestic grates, and that coal in its raw state will only be available to industrial users where it can be burned smokelessly as well as efficiently. There is the possibility of one alternative: in recent years there has been much research into the production of a domestic firegrate which is capable of burning raw coal smokelessly and reasonably efficiently. Although considerable progress has been made no such appliance has yet been produced which is approved for use in smoke control areas.

Although no progress has been made in the establishment of smoke control areas, the degree of pollution from domestic sources must have been reduced very considerably in the past years. There has been a great increase in the percentage of houses with modern and more efficient firegrates which must have reduced the amount of raw coal burned; the use of gas and electricity for cooking purposes is much more widespread; and the reliance on coal for all cooking and heating is no longer so common a feature.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year.

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

No undue labour difficulties were experienced during the year and I should like, once again, to pay tribute to the loyalty and devotion to duty of all the workmen engaged on public cleansing duties. In recent weeks we have all heard a great deal about the dustman—the song “My old man’s a dustman” was for a while the best seller in the country. I only hope it had the effect of making some people realise how much the community is indebted to the men who perform their far from pleasant duties so that we may all be happier and healthier in our homes.

Refuse Disposal

The disposal of all refuse is now undertaken in a disused portion of the clay pit at the New Byron Brick Company's works just outside the boundary of the Urban District. The ownership of the brick works and the clay pit changed hands during the year and a new agreement for tipping refuse was negotiated. The new Company have commenced extraction of clay from the floor of the pit and disposal of refuse has been concentrated in one corner, but no undue difficulty has arisen. The water which flooded the pit to a considerable depth was pumped out during the year by the new company.

Emptying of Cesspools, Pail Closets and Privies

The Council provide a free service, except in one special case, for the emptying of cesspools, pails 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 three inch trailer mounted mud pump. The contents are conveyed to the sewage works, or to suitable manholes, for disposal.

In recent years there has been some reduction in the number of pail closets, but there has been some increase in the number of cesspools. Nowadays all householders desire the benefits of modern sanitation and amenities and in the case of isolated cottages and houses this adds to the work done on cesspool emptying. There have also been cases of development beyond the town's public sewers and this has added to the number of cesspools to be emptied.

Salvage

(Referring to the financial year ended 31st March, 1960)

Sales from the 1st April, 1959 to the 31st March, 1960 were as follows:—

		Tons	Cwts	Qrs		£	s.	d.
Waste paper and cardboard	...	134	3	0	0	1132	0	8
Textiles	...		12	0	0	6	0	0
Scrap Metals	...	5	9	0	14	53	7	6
Scrap Tins	...	2	11	0	0	3	16	6
		<u>142</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1195</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

Halfway through the year under review there was a relaxation in the restriction on sales of various grades of waste paper and some slight increase in sales and income occurred. Although there has been no increase in waste paper prices to balance increases in workmen's wages, the collection of wastepaper and cardboard continues to provide a source of revenue to the general rate fund.

For practically the whole of the year, the segregation of tins at the refuse tip could not be carried out as no outlet for loose tins could be found. The position is now somewhat easier but prices are extremely low.







