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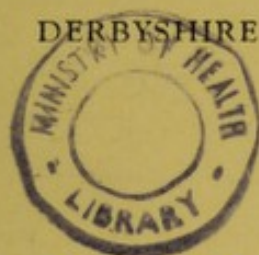
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URBAN DISTRICT
OF BOLSOVER



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1963

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

1883

URBAN DISTRICT
OF BOLSOVER

DERBYSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

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FOR THE YEAR

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1891

THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE

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ANNUAL REPORT

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BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As at 31st December, 1963)

Chairman	-	Councillor S. T. Fisher
Vice-Chairman	-	Councillor D. A. Coupe
Councillor J. W. Bluff		Councillor R. Raben.
Councillor F. Brothwell,		Councillor W. B. Revill,
Councillor S. J. Clarke,		Councillor J. W. Savage,
Councillor F. Cross, J.P.		Councillor J. Spray.
Councillor T. Fulleylove		Councillor W. A. Taylor,

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.
(Telephone : 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 : T. G. WINNARD

PREFACE

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

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

Once more I have the privilege of submitting an Annual Report to you. As always I hope you will find it of interest.

Unfortunately, there has been a decrease in the number of live births and in the birth rate this year. Also there has been a rise in the infant deaths. The number of deaths is virtually the same as last year. In the report you will see some of our figures compared to figures in England and Wales. I am sorry to see that our figures are poorer.

Once again I would like to thank you as a Committee for all your help and encouragement. Also my thanks to Mr Wright (Clerk of the Council) and to Mr Margerrison (Engineer and Surveyor). Finally, I must thank everyone on the staff of Bolsover U.D.C. for their help and courtesy throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. ROBERTSON
Medical Officer of Health.

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

ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

During 1963 some of the general practitioners continued to notify home accidents to me. Below I attempt to analyse these accidents.

Number notified ... **73**

Degree of Injury

Trivial	Moderate	Severe	Fatal
5	58	10	—

Accidents in Age Groups

Under 1	...	...	...	...	1
1	...	...	...	...	5
2	...	...	...	...	5
3	...	...	...	...	1
4	...	...	...	...	4
5-9	...	...	...	...	1
10-14	...	...	...	...	6
15-24	...	...	...	...	12
25-44	...	...	...	...	19
45-65	...	...	...	...	12
65 plus	...	...	...	...	6
Unknown	...	...	...	...	1

Cause of Accidents

Falls—27.

Burns and scalds—22.

Cuts—11.

Dropping an object on oneself or having it dropped upon one—6.

Putting too severe a strain on muscles—2.

Accidental poisoning (hypnotic)—1.

Impacted earring—1.

Trapping fingers—1.

Ring stuck on finger—1.

Playing with scissors—1.

Cause of Accidents in Age Groups

Under 1	Falls	1
Age 1	Burns and Scalds	2
	Falls	2
	Cuts	1
Age 2	Falls	3
	Putting too severe a strain on muscles	1
	Trapping fingers	1
Age 3	Falls	1
Age 4	Playing with scissors	1
	Burns and scalds	1
	Falls	1
	Dropping an object upon a person	1
Age 5-9	Burns and scalds	1
Age 10-14	Cuts	2
	Burns and scalds	2
	Falls	1
	Dropping an object upon a person	1
Age 15-24	Burns and scalds	4
	Cuts	3
	Falls	2
	Dropping an object upon a person	2
	Impacted earring	1
Age 25-44	Falls	8
	Burns and scalds	6
	Cuts	2
	Accidental poisoning	1
	Putting too severe a strain on muscles	1
	Dropping an object upon a person	1

Age 45-65	Falls	4
	Burns and scalds	4
	Cuts	3
	Ring stuck on finger	1
Age 65 plus	Falls	3
	Burns and scalds	2
	Dropping an object upon a person	1
Age unknown	Falls	1

Comments

1. There have been 13 more accidents notified this year than last. Unfortunately, this does not really mean anything because I have no idea as to how complete the notifications are. Many general practitioners have not notified any accidents to me. Of course the whole thing is voluntary and I am making no complaints about not receiving notifications. For myself I have no doubt that notification of home accidents should be a statutory requirement and the notifying doctor should be well paid for so doing. One must look at these accidents qualitatively and not quantitatively. What they do is to give a very good idea of the type of accidents that occur in the home.
2. For the third year running, most accidents have been due to falls and burns. Common things are common because they are common and I am willing to forecast that burns and falls will be the most common cause in succeeding years. Everyone should be extremely careful when a naked source of heat is present in a house. Similarly everyone should dispose of any hazards which are likely to cause falls. It must be remembered that falls are most serious at the two extremes of age.
3. All these accidents resulted in a doctor being seen, 68 of the accidents caused moderate or severe injury.

5 of them caused trivial physical injury but they no doubt caused some worry and upset as well. In other words, home accidents are important as a cause of injury.

4. Once again, no accidents due to domestic gas were notified to me.
5. The third cause of home injuries was cuts. I have already said that one must be extremely careful when a naked source of heat is present. In the same way care must be taken when a naked cutting source is present.

PREJUDICE

Prejudice is not something I had thought about very seriously. Perhaps that was due to two excerpts from books. The late James Bridie (pointing out a shortcoming of the Scots) told of a Polish Officer speaking to two Glasgow men in a busy street of that town. One said to the other "Whit's he saying Mac?" and the reply was "I dinna ken, kick his feet away from him". Then the late Brendan Behan tells how shocked he was to discover that one Irishman was not really as good as any ten Englishmen, a prejudice which had been instilled into him until it was as self evident as the roundness of the world. These anecdotes are amusing at first reading and the seriousness is masked by the humour. However, the full tragedy of prejudice was shown in a paper given at a conference I attended. Dr. Rees (formerly Director of the World Federation for Mental Health) was the author. He pointed out that children had no prejudices and had no worries about race, colour, sex or religion. However, as they grew older they became infected by prejudice, somewhere between the age of three and six. This infection was picked up from what their parents said, or how their parents acted, or from their school fellows. Dr. Rees then stressed that prejudice is a **killing** disease. It killed six million people in Germany not so very long ago and nearly two million in India and

Pakistan. Dr. Rees wished there were a vaccine which would make children resistant to infection by prejudicial concepts.

Recently a little Nigerian boy has been attending my infant welfare clinic. He has demonstrated every point made by Dr. Rees. He and the other babies behave as though they were the same in every way. At present he is having his programme of immunisations and when I inject him, he cries as intensely and for just as long as the other children. His pain upsets me as much as any other child's pain. He and the other babies mingle socially (in as much as babies can) as though they were all siblings of the same parents. Similarly, the mothers treat the little lad as they treat the babies of the other mothers. In other words, amongst the babies there is no prejudice while the adults have suspended their prejudice. All this is done without any effort on anyone's part. The smile of one little boy can banish years of prejudice.

You will notice I have used the verb 'suspend' and not 'abolish'. The prejudice is easily banished but like every other need it is tenacious and very often it soon flourishes again. What a pity this is. Life would be so much easier if we stopped prejudging any issue. Our health would be so much better too. For example, we are told that the world is hungry and will become hungrier. Yet many people will not eat certain wholesome foods because of racial or religious prejudice, or, even because they are too cheap. Similarly, modern methods of food cultivation can be choked by the roots of prejudice. As for mental and social health, one can hardly conceive the difference that would come about if prejudice were vanquished. If people were judged on their merits and not prejudged on their race, religion, colour, or habits, surely the benefit to our mental and social well being would be boundless. As mentioned earlier, the Scots have their fair share of prejudice. I must confess to being a true Scot. However, I am resolved to try and fight. For a start I intend to desist from the phrase 'All - - are - -'. It seems to me that a simple

thing like this will make a difference. Big trees from little seeds grow. Perhaps if we all tried a little, we might get rid of prejudice.

Dr. Rees wished there was a vaccine against prejudice. As you can see, I agree wholeheartedly. Although I do many immunisations at my clinic I cannot offer any against prejudice. While those I can offer are not so dramatic, they are still of great importance and now seems as good as any time to list them:—

Age	Visit	Vaccine	Injection	Interval
1-6 months	1.	Diphtheria, Lockjaw and Whooping Cough	1	4-6 weeks
	2.	Diphtheria, Lockjaw and Whooping Cough	2	4-6 weeks
	3.	Diphtheria, Lockjaw and Whooping Cough	3	
6-11 months	4.	Poliomyelitis	Oral	4-8 weeks
	5.	Poliomyelitis	Oral	4-8 weeks
	6.	Poliomyelitis	Oral	
18-21 months	7.	Diphtheria, Lockjaw and Whooping Cough	4	
1-2 years	8.	Smallpox		

The above is the schedule for babies. At school entry, they should have a further injection against Diphtheria and Lockjaw and a further dose of oral poliomyelitis vaccine.

IMPROVING HOUSES

One of the most important aspects of public health is the provision and maintenance of good housing. Good housing is a basic tenet in public health lore. Therefore, I could be expected to be wildly enthusiastic over the Improvement Grant Schemes which have been in operation for some years now. Well, enthusiastic I am, but I do have reservations. Of course these are my personal views. Many will disagree, but, even so they might serve as a basis for discussion.

There are two kinds of jungle. The first is where you meet lions and tigers, etc. The second has only human animals. During the depression in America there were countless hobos or tramps. In the day they would go their rounds oddjobbing and begging. At night they returned to their camp (on the wrong side of the tracks); these camps were called jungles. Around their fire they would show each other what they had found or 'won' during the day. One night, one hobo showed the others a pair of blue trousers which he had picked up earlier. Unfortunately, there was a hole in a strategic position in the seat. The others jeered about this but he was confident he could do something about it. Next night he showed them the trousers, now with a bright red patch. Their opinion was that while the trousers had been repaired they had not been improved. Next night the trousers had a blue patch but the cloth used was pretty near threadbare. His companions now opined there had been improvement but no repair. Next night he got it right at last. The trousers wore a nice patch of blue material which matched the original exactly. Everyone was happy now because there had been repair and improvement. The same applies to houses. Under the improvement schemes the house has to be in good repair before a grant can be given for improvements. However, I do not feel it is as easy as that. As I go round inspecting houses I feel that the dividing line between repair and improvement is often just a blur and that there is no definite fixed boundary. Suppose something is of obsolete design but still working satisfactorily. Would its replacement be repair or improvement? As repair and improvement dovetail so closely together, is there a case for giving a grant for repair and improvement? I am thinking particularly of someone buying a house in need of repair and improvement. If the main object of an improvement grant is to make a really good sound house, is it not necessary to encourage repairs to the highest possible standard? I feel a grant would gravitate against any cheeseparing on the repair side. Similarly, if a District Council buys houses to repair and improve, I suggest that a grant could be given for all the work necessary.

What about the amount given in grant? The Discretionary Grant scheme started, to all intents and purposes, in 1954. The amount which could be given in grant was half the cost of improvement with a grant maximum of £400. The Standard Grant scheme started in 1960. Here the maximum which could be given was £155 for the provision of all five standard amenities. Neither of these maxima has been altered. Yet any fool knows that £400 now goes nowhere near as far as it did in 1954. Nor can I see £155 doing as much now as it did in 1960. This is not just my notion. In 1963 an answer was given in Parliament, indicating that if £1 in 1951 was taken as being worth 20/-, in 1963, £1 was worth 13/3d. Without going into any further calculations it is obvious that the £400 of 1954 is worth a lot less now. Should not these maxima be tied to the fluctuating value of the £1? At least that way a grant in 1963 would have the same relative value as one given 9 years before. Once the principle of giving grants is established and accepted I believe equity demands that the amount of the grant be adjusted to allow for changes in the value of the pound.

How popular have the grants been? I can only speak for my three districts, where I have been disappointed. Many owner occupiers have taken advantage but it is a different story when it comes to tenanted houses. If the N.C.B. is excepted, not many private landlords have shown eagerness to improve their houses. There are very many streets of tenanted houses where no improvement has taken place. Perhaps this is the most important defect in the present schemes. I suggest that some way must be found to improve tenanted houses. Further, I would suggest that this is a matter of urgency and should be treated as such. I hold no doctrinaire belief for this being done by encouragement or compulsion. What I want is to see many more tenanted houses being improved and I want this increase to come about quickly.

How good is a house after it has had an improvement grant? After a discretionary grant, it must con-

form to a twelve point standard. After a standard grant it must have five basic amenities and they are basic. The twelve point standard was laid down in 1954. Since then there has been the Parker Morris Committee on housing standards. This Committee recommended new and much higher standards for housing (their recommendations can be found in 'Homes for to-day and tomorrow' published by H.M.S.O., 1961). Why can't we apply the Parker Morris standards to improvement grant houses? Of course I know! I am asking for the moon here because I am willing to bet that very few new houses built in the two years since these standards were formulated, came up to Parker Morris. Just as I want to see fluidity in the amount of grant so do I wish to see an end to static standards at the end of improvement works. I do feel that both should be reviewed regularly.

The above are some of my thoughts about improving houses. I have not mentioned finance. I know many people will say that my suggestions would cost too much. I can only counter by asking just how keen are we to improve as many houses in as short a time as possible? If we are really keen, we can find the money somehow. Myth has it that Scots are mean but we prefer to think that we merely desire value for money. From that point of view, I would prefer to see much more money spent on improving houses if by doing so we got many more houses improved to Parker Morris standards. I stress Parker Morris standards because I feel that if an improved house is not as good as a new house, in its standard of accommodation and equipment, the whole thing has been a waste of time and money! One last word, I have suggested Parker Morris standards for improved houses but I am prepared to listen to argument over this. However, I am adamant that they ought to apply to all new houses and that they should have been applied to these houses built since the report was issued in 1961.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	4,526
Population (Census) 1961	11,770
Population mid-year (Registrar General) 1963	11,840
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1963)	3,706
Rateable value (end of 1963)	£382,750
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1963	£473 6 7

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births	203	100	103
Rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	16.7		
Illegitimate Live Births	8	5	3
(per cent of total live births)	3.8		
Stillbirths	6	2	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	28.0		
Total live and still births	214	102	112
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	6	4	2
Infant Mortality Rates :—			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			28.8
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			30.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)			24.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)			24.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and still births)			51.4
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—Nil.			
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births—Nil.			

Comments

The number of live births and the birth rate are both considerably lower than last year.

The still birth rate has remained virtually the same but the infant mortality rate has risen. Also, there is a rise in the neo-natal mortality rate. There has been a large fall in the early neo-natal mortality rate but, unfortunately, there has been an increase in the peri-natal mortality rate.

Our figures compare with the national ones as follows :—

	Bolsover	England & Wales (provisional)
Infant Mortality Rate	28.8	21.1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	24.0	14.2
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	51.4	29.3
Five infants died under the age of four weeks. The		

causes of death were :—

- Congenital heart disease 1.
- Congenital abnormality 1.
- Prematurity 1.
- Congenital lung disease 1.
- Birth injury 1.

One infant died between the age of four weeks and one year. This death was due to bronchitis. These causes of death are quite usual. Unfortunately, we cannot yet do a lot about these causes of death. I can only say again how important it is to seek out and accept ante-natal care. General Practitioners and the Local Authority are only too keen to provide ante-natal care.

It is nice to see that there has been no maternal death and indeed we have not had such a death since 1957.

DEATHS

Total	Male	Female
110	68	42

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 12.8 (corrected) while the national death rate was 12.2 (provisional). The total number of deaths is virtually the same as last year.

However, there has been an increase of six in the number of male deaths and a decrease of 10 in the number of female deaths.

Causes of Death	Male	Female
Cancer, lungs	5	1
Cancer, breast	0	1
Cancer, other	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	5
Coronary disease, angina	16	6
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
Other heart disease	8	5
Other circulatory disease	4	3
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	2	2
Bronchitis	8	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Congenital malformations	1	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	5
All other accidents	4	2
Suicide	0	1

Comments

The pattern of deaths is similar to previous years although there has been an increase in male deaths in coronary disease and an increase in the number of deaths from bronchitis. As last year there have been seven deaths from accidents and suicide. I think this is far too many. I am pleased to see that there has been no death from tuberculosis this year.

Cause of death 1954—1963

	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer, stomach	-	4	3	4	2	3	4	2	4	3
Cancer, lung	6	6	4	3	-	2	1	1	1	5
Cancer, breast	1	3	2	1	2	5	-	2	3	-
Cancer, uterus	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	3	1
Cancer, other sites	7	7	8	6	6	17	6	7	5	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	13	17	14	7	19	14	12	15	15	8
Coronary disease, angina	22	14	15	20	17	25	7	15	8	10

Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1	2	-	1	2	7	3	3
Other heart disease	13	18	17	10	14	14	10	30	23	22
Other circulatory disease	7	5	6	10	6	7	11	8	5	5
Influenza	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia	4	9	10	5	3	7	5	3	2	4
Bronchitis	11	7	5	9	5	9	8	6	9	7
Other respiratory diseases	2	4	4	1	3	2	-	-	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	3	3	3	-	4	2	2	-	2	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	9	6	6	9	8	9	12	9	12	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	3	2	3	1	2	4	2	3	-
All other accidents	6	4	6	3	4	6	2	5	4	4
Suicide	1	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics

These are provided by the Derbyshire County Council

Chiropody Service

The County Council now provide such a service at their Clinic in Welbeck Road, Bolsover.

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

The water supply to the Urban District of Bolsover was until the 1st October, provided by the Chesterfield, Bolsover and Clowne Water Board. Subsequent to that date the newly formed North Derbyshire Water Board was the supplying authority. All the houses in the town have a piped water supply.

Report from Chemist for Year 1963

The supply proved adequate in quantity and routine chemical and bacteriological samples of raw and treated waters were taken at regular intervals to check quality.

The area derives its supply from two sources, the Bolsover Moor and Hillstown Works where treatment consists of softening and chlorination.

The following distribution points were selected for sampling :—

HILLSTOWN TOWER.
HILLSTOWN STORAGE TANKS.
TAP, STRATTON ROAD, BOLSOVER.
TAP, BOLSOVER COLLIERY.

All treated water samples gave satisfactory bacteriological and physical results (complete analyses are attached) and neither supply has given evidence of plumbo solvent action.

All new mains laid were sterilized and samples bacteriologically examined to ensure satisfactory results. No other action was necessary with regard to post treatment pollution.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water

Taken from Bolsover Moor (Chlorinated Blend)

Bacteriological Examination

Agar Plate counts per 1 ml.			
2 days at 37 C.	...	...	0
2 days at 20C.	...	...	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.

Colour (Burgess) — 5 m.m.

Taste — normal.

Electrical Conductivity — 890 units.

Turbidity — 0.05 mg/litre.

Odour — nil.

pH. — 7.4.

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in mg. per litre)

Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	144
Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3)	0
Total Hardness (CaCO_3)	144
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	0.002
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	0.002
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs. at 27C)	0.08
Calcium (Ca)	29.3
Magnesium (Mg)	17.3
Sodium (Na)	174.5
Total Solid (180 C)	637
Potassium (K)	0.6
Total Alkalinity (CaCO_3)	263
Excess Alkalinity (Na_2CO_3)	126
Chlorides (Cl)	40.3
Iron (Fe)	0.04
Manganese (Mn)	0.01
Aluminium (Al)	0.05
Oxid N. (N)	9.1
Sulphate (SO_4)	165.2
Silica (SiO_2)	6.0
Lead (Pb)	0.010

Residual Chlorine

Free 0.20 mg/l.

Combined Nil mg/l.

Results of Examination of Sample of Water

From Hillstown (Chlorinated Blend)

Bacteriological Examination

Agar Plate counts per 1 ml.

2 days at 37 C. ... 0

2 days at 20C. ... 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.

Colour (Burgess) — 5 m.m. (Hazen)

Taste — normal.

Electrical Conductivity — 780 units.

Turbidity — 0.05 mg/litre.

Odour — nil.

pH. — 8.0.

Chemical Analysis (Expressed in mg. per litre)

Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3) 150

Non-Carbonate Hardness (CaCO_3) 0

Total Hardness (CaCO_3) 150

Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N) 0.002

Albuminoid Nitrogen (N) 0.002

Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs. at 27C) 0.10

Calcium (Ca) 30.8

Magnesium (Mg) 17.7

Sodium (Na) 130.3

Total Solid (180 C) 533

Potassium (K) 2.0

Total Alkalinity (CaCO_3) 182

Excess Alkalinity (Na_2CO_3) 34

Chlorides (Cl) 69.6

Iron (Fe) 0.04

Manganese (Mn) 0.01

Aluminium (Al) 0.05

Oxid N. (N) 7.9

Sulphate (SO_4) 122.2

Silica (SiO_2) 7.0

Lead (Pb) 0.010

Residual Chlorine

Free 0.10 mg/l.

Combined Trace mg/l.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Normal treatment of sewage continues.
2. The Whaley Common plant remains inefficient as the National Coal Board are now working a further seam immediately under the works and nothing can be done until a period of relative stability arrives.
3. The Council's consulting Engineers have made a preliminary report with regard to the general state of sewerage in the town and are about to come in with their detailed report. The report will include for the provision of sewers, pumping machinery, etc. for the two new housing development areas. The contract has been let for an off-site sewer to drain foul sewage from Valley Estate. The Council's Consultants are also well ahead with the detailed report for the enlargement of the Bolsover Main Sewage Works at Carr Vale. This plant is at the present time subject to heavy subsidence caused by the extraction of a panel of coal which commenced recently and was then abandoned when the face had reached a position directly underneath the settling tanks. Nonetheless a very reasonable standard of effluent is being maintained.

HOUSING

During 1963 the Council built 8 houses (the completion of the second stage of the Valley Estate) and 18 houses were built by private owners. The total for 1963 was 26 which is a lot less than the total for 1962. (61).

Closet Conversions

Two pail closets were converted into water closets, these being in Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, where the new sewer was laid the previous year.

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 ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS 1961

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 (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	16	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	20	70	1
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding outworkers' Premises.)	3	18	1
Total	27	104	3

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Number of Cases in which defects were found.	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
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 nets	8	—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

We had 118 cases of measles this year. This is nowhere near as high as our last peak year (1961) when we had 462. Usually there is a year with a high number of measles then a year with a very low number. Our figures for Bolsover over the last three years have been 462, 60 and 118. Thus we have not had such a big difference between years as one would expect.

Whooping cough

This year we had 9 cases of whooping cough. This is more than in the previous year.

Poliomyelitis

Again, there was no case of poliomyelitis. 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. Vaccination can now be done by mouth.

Scarlet Fever

There have been 59 cases of scarlet fever this year. This represents a large increase over 1962 but fortunately the vast majority of them were very mild. No serious complications occurred to my knowledge.

Diphtheria

There has not been a case of diphtheria in Bolsover since 1948. We can keep this happy state of affairs by having our children immunised against diphtheria. In this connection I am sorry to report that only 140 primary immunisations against diphtheria were completed in 1963. This is 63 less than in 1962. I hope this decrease will be reversed in the future and I would urge that all parents should have their children immunised.

Food Poisoning

Once again, no case was notified nor came to our knowledge.

Dysentery

No case has been notified since the outbreak at the end of 1960 and the beginning of 1961.

Tuberculosis

This has been a better year. We have had three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary. There has been no deaths from tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars :—

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

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

for the Year 1963

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS of the
BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1963.

The report reveals only limited progress in new house building in the urban district during 1963, and the number of houses pulled down under slum clearance and redevelopment schemes exceeded the total of new houses erected. Some of these cleared sites in the central area of the town now represent rather ugly scars, and it will be pleasing when redevelopment has taken place. By contrast the road improvements and landscaping which have been carried out in Station Road and Bolsover Hill on the main road through the town have greatly improved and beautified the derelict areas which were formed by earlier slum clearance schemes.

Quite reasonable progress was again made on improving housing accommodation, for the second consecutive year the number was 61. To the end of 1963—a total of 342 houses had been improved, and exactly one third of these were tenanted houses. I should like to see this number greatly increased, but the proportion of tenanted houses is considerably higher than the national average.

The Council's first smoke control area came into operation in July, 1963. This was intended to be the first of seven areas designed to cover the urban district by 1973-74, but the implementation of this programme was postponed during 1963, and there are indications that this worthwhile public health measure designed to improve the health of the inhabitants of the area may be rather a long time in reaching fruition.

I should like to thank the Council for their unfailing help and encouragement in carrying out my duties.

I am, Mr Chairman 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 1963.

Inspection of houses for nuisance and defects	...	361
Revisits to houses	... ..	419
Visits in connection with improvement of houses	...	214
Visits re water supply	... ..	17
Visits to infectious disease cases	... ..	67
Milk Distributors and Dairies	... ..	55
Slaughterhouses — Meat Inspection	...	331
Butchers Shops	... ..	34
Bakehouses	... ..	8
Fried Fish Shops	... ..	10
Other Food Preparing Premises	... ..	71
Food Shops	... ..	96
Market Stalls	... ..	73
Ice Cream Premises	... ..	90
Inns and Other Public Buildings	... ..	12
Factories and Workplaces	.. ...	104
Knacker's Yard	... ..	19
Schools	... ..	5
Controlled Refuse Tips	.. ...	107
Colliery Spoil Banks	.. ...	5
Clean Air Act — Smoke Observations	...	15
Clean Air Act — Smoke Control Area	...	135
re Atmospheric Pollution	... ..	19
Moveable Dwellings	... ..	27
re Keeping of Animals	... ..	31
Shops Act	... ..	26
Petroleum Licensing	... ..	51
Drainage Works	... ..	162
to Public Baths	... ..	10
Miscellaneous Visits	... ..	19
Interviews with owners, contractors, etc.	...	219

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	...	...	...	...	51
Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	...	12
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	25
Pointing and Brickwork of walls	...	...	...	...	27
Yard paving	...	...	...	...	13
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	14
Internal wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	72
Windows and sash cords	...	...	...	...	24
Doors	...	...	...	...	8
Floors	...	...	...	...	16
Staircases	...	...	...	...	1
Cooking ranges and fireplaces	...	...	...	...	26
Sinks	...	...	...	...	4
Washing Coppers	...	...	...	...	1
Rising or penetrating dampness	...	...	...	...	39
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	14
Drains and Inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	29
Water closet pedestals	...	...	...	...	14
Closet flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	16
Walls and fences	...	...	...	...	2
Dilapidated dustbins	...	...	...	...	141

In connection with the foregoing defects 298 informal notices and 10 statutory notices were served,

HOUSING

To ensure that the inhabitants of its area are provided with good homes in which they can live contented and healthy lives, is surely one of the prime duties of every local authority. This is a duty and a problem which will always be with us, for as the general standard of living and housing is improved, the task of replacing older and less satisfactory houses must proceed. The problem must be tackled in several ways: by the erection of new houses for letting; by ensuring that those families who aspire to own their own houses are able to do so and are offered a reasonable choice; by ensuring that older houses which still have a fair number of years life ahead of them are provided with modern amenities which are now regarded as essential to a decent and healthy life; and by the removal and replacement of those houses which by present day standards are unfit for habitation and no longer capable of providing satisfactory homes.

It is doubtful whether we shall ever reach the stage where the problem has completely been overcome, and even that stage would be of temporary duration; but the problem must be tackled consistently and with sustained vigour to ensure that as high a proportion as possible of the residents in this urban area enjoy living conditions consistent with the age in which we now live.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Last year's report referred to the development of the second stage of Valley Estate and to the end of 1962 a further 44 dwellings had been completed. The remaining 8 houses, all with 2 bedrooms, were finished during the first 3 months of 1963, thereby completing the programme to erect 52 dwellings, of which 24 were bungalows for older persons. One of these bungalows was let to a warden who is available to help

the elderly people living in this group, and this venture represented the Council's first attempt to provide a warden service, and it is pleasing that this service has since been extended to a group of pre-war bungalows at East Avenue, Stanfree.

At the beginning of 1963 there were 19 private houses in course of erection in various parts of the Urban District. 18 privately built houses (13 with 3 bedrooms and 5 with 2 bedrooms) were completed during 1963 and at the end of the year there were 11 private houses under construction.

In total 26 houses were built in the urban district during 1963 and this represents a rather sharp decrease compared with the figure of 61 houses for the previous year. In fact the total number of houses in the Urban District declined during 1963 as the number of houses demolished during the year exceeded the number of new erections.

To the end of 1963 the number of post war houses in the Urban District had risen to 1,244, of these 824 had been built by the Council, 253 by the Coal Industry Housing Association and 164 by private developers. These 1,244 new houses represent a quite satisfactory proportion of the total houses in the Urban District, some 33.5%, but the most striking feature has been the very limited private development, when compared with many areas where private development has now overtaken local authority housing. In recent years there has been a sharp increase in owner occupation throughout the country, and this Urban District has been no exception; though the main increase in this district has been in owner occupation of older houses which have frequently been improved after purchase, and for those persons wishing to buy a newly erected house the choice available has been very limited.

During the past two years the Council have considered proposals to redevelop an area of land in High Street and Castle Street in the central area of the town which the Council have acquired following slum clearance action. This site is capable of providing accommodation in a convenient position for older people, but development has been deferred for financial reasons. This is a rather small Urban District where the number of Council owned houses at 1,159 is already quite high. In a district of this size the effects of increased land values, higher building costs and high interest rates are most noticeable, and each new scheme of local authority housing development results in a review of Council house rents or increased rate charges. It must however be borne in mind that we are living in an age where the purchasing value of money is continuing to fall, we are all anxious to enjoy the benefits of higher incomes, and house costs rise steadily each year. For the young man anxious to buy a new house, the moral has been to buy it as soon as possible, with the knowledge that the mortgage repayments would remain fairly stable and be helped by increased wages or salary in the succeeding years. Local authorities may not be in exactly the same position as the individual house purchaser but the basic economic facts are very similar.

During very recent years we have heard and read a lot about the drift of population from the more northerly parts of the country to the more southerly parts of the country, partly because of higher level of prosperity and employment and partly because of improved living conditions. We have been warned of the dangers of creating two separate societies in this country and of the urgent need to improve the level of employment and the standard of living conditions in the northern areas: certainly there are concentrations of older and more basic industries and older and more sub-standard houses in the north of the country, the legacy of the Industrial Revolution. I doubt if this population drift has affected this urban district, but there are here quite a large number of houses which, though not yet unfit,

will have to be replaced in twenty to thirty years time. At present every opportunity is being taken to provide modern amenities in these houses but their replacement cannot be delayed for ever, inevitably they must come to the end of their useful life.

A second topic which has received much emphasis in the past year or so has been the need to industrialise the building industry by greater use of prefabricated, and standard components, partly to offset the effects of bad weather and partly to speed up and increase the number of houses which can be built each year. For many years we were engaged on making good the damage and loss of houses resulting from the war years, the emphasis has now turned to the replacement of older houses and the slums and increased building to serve a growing population. Anything which can speed up building of houses and raise the number built to a far higher total than has been achieved in recent years is to be welcomed. One would also hope that the increased use of mass production and factory made parts could also tend to offset higher prices, and help to stabilise building costs. The question of future housing development is one which affects all of us, there are many who feel that the reducing of sizes and lowering of standards to offset increased costs is a false economy; rather we should be thinking of garages for every house, improved thermal insulation, central heating, ample room for electrical and other fittings which are likely to become in standard use and greater space to enjoy the increased leisure which will come in future years. Of course improved standards will cost more money, and we must be prepared to spend more of our national and personal incomes on providing good houses for ourselves. Our houses are expected to last a long time and the rising generation will demand and expect a much higher standard than their grandparents and even their parents were prepared to tolerate.

Each year the County Treasurer produces a most informative little booklet dealing with local government finance in Derbyshire, and one of the tables gives an

analysis of rateable values for all of the 26 district councils in the county area. We have all been told that valuation is a rather inexact science, but the rateable value is said to represent the annual rent a property can command in the open market. The tables analyse rateable values as at 1st April, 1963, of houses in various groups, for example, Bolsover was one of the six districts with no houses of a rateable value exceeding £200: this urban district had 13 houses in the £101 to £200 rateable value ranges and this was the lowest for any authority in the county. Bolsover had only 551 houses in the rateable value range £57 to £100: of the sixteen urban districts in the county there were only 2 others with a smaller number of such houses and both those districts are less than half the size of Bolsover on a population basis. By contrast the urban district with the nearest population level to that of Bolsover, having 350 persons more than this area, had 2,362 houses in the £57 to £100 rateable value range. It will, therefore, be seen that the vast majority of houses in this area fall into the two lower ranges of rateable value, not exceeding £56. Of course bare statistics can sometimes be rather misleading, and a totally different result might have been apparent had slightly different rateable value groupings been used. These figures do not immediately reveal that 1,244 of our houses have been built since the war, over 200 unfit houses have been demolished, over 340 houses have been improved with grant aid, and that the general standard of housing accommodation has been gradually improved year by year. They do, however, pose the question whether this urban district has attracted its share of the better type of post-war housing development, especially private houses. Have those families, especially young married couples, who aspired to purchase a nice house for themselves been forced to look outside the area of this district to satisfy their desires? It would be nice to see much greater emphasis being placed on good private development: this would have the effect of increasing the number of houses in the area and improving the standard of accommodation, without disturbing the level of rents or rates.

REMOVAL OF UNFIT HOUSES

To coincide with the erection of the 52 houses and bungalows on Valley Estate, a further stage of the Council's slum clearance programme was commenced in 1962. During 1963 action was continued on this programme and also in the cases of certain properties which were dealt with under an earlier programme. During the year a total of 30 unfit houses were demolished, and 8 further houses were pulled down, 5 to make way for central area redevelopment and 3 for road improvement purposes. Slum clearance action resulted in the rehousing of 25 families, a total of 63 persons.

The individual details are given below :—

Hill Top (No. 4) Clearance Area

This area comprised three houses, 4, 6 and 8 Hill Top, and negotiations to purchase all three houses proved abortive. A compulsory purchase order in respect of two of the houses was confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government during 1963, and the last remaining tenant was rehoused. Demolition of the three houses had been commenced but not completed by the end of 1963.

Church Road (No. 1) Clearance Area

A clearance order in respect of the six houses 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 Church Road, Stanfree, had been confirmed in November, 1962. The four remaining families were rehoused during 1963 but demolition of the properties had not been completed at the end of the year, as some of this work was having to be carried out in default.

Castle Street (No. 1) Clearance Area

This area comprised the four houses 10, 12, 14 and 16 Castle Street, and during the year the purchase of these houses was negotiated, together with 3 adjoining houses in the same ownership. All the tenants were rehoused, but demolition had not been completed by the

end of the year. This site is in the central area of the town and contiguous to cleared sites already owned by the Council : the whole area is ripe for development.

Cotton Street (No. 4) Clearance Area

This clearance area was represented in April, 1963, and comprised twelve houses, 21, 23, 25 Middle Street and 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, 31, 33, 35 and 37 Cotton Street. The purchase of the whole area together with two other houses, 19 Middle Street and 23 Cotton Street and several shop premises was completed during 1963. By the end of the year nine of the unfit houses plus the extra two houses had been demolished and the tenants rehoused. Three of the unfit houses 15, 17 and 19 Cotton Street are thought to have architectural and historical value and the Council approved the Engineer's recommendations that an attempt should be made to repair, modernise and retain these three houses. This site is in the town centre where plans exist for the development of a new shopping area.

Individual Unfit Houses

1, 2, 3, 4, Gas Works Cottages	Two tenants rehoused and all four cottages demolished.
107, 109, 111, 113, 115 and 117 Clowne Road, Stanfree	Last remaining family rehoused and all six houses demolished.
28, 30, 32, 34 and 36 Woodthorpe Rd., Shuttlewood	Last two families rehoused and all five houses demolished.
13 Middle Street	House demolished together with 15 and 17 Middle Street which had been purchased for central area redevelopment.

6 Church Road, Stanfree	Tenant rehoused during 1963
16 and 18 Middle Street	Last remaining tenant rehoused and both houses demolished together with 20 Middle Street, all three houses having been acquired for central area redevelopment.
Living Van, Woodhouse Lane	Site cleared.
Woodhouse Farm, Woodhouse Lane	House and outbuildings demolished.
Woodneuk, Station Road	House demolished.

In the past the implementation of the various stages of the Council's slum clearance programme has been very closely allied to new house building schemes, but the special subsidies which used to exist for rehousing families displaced by slum clearance action have now been replaced by a general subsidy. The Council now own 1159 houses and towards the end of 1963 approval was given to a further small stage of the slum clearance programme allowing for displacements to be catered for by normal vacancies. The official representations in respect of two further clearance areas were submitted to the Council early in 1964.

In addition to houses which may be classified as unfit for habitation under the existing Housing Act standard there are many houses which do not make very satisfactory homes and which do not lend themselves to being modernised and improved, frequently because of restricted size and space. The question of raising the Housing Act standard and dealing with these houses will inevitably have to be faced in the not too distant future, and this will have a great effect on the number of new houses required. It clearly demonstrates that the drive to secure better housing conditions is a continuing problem facing the country and each local authority.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

During 1963, 61 houses were improved with grant aid, one under the discretionary grant scheme and 60 under the standard grant scheme. This is the same total as for the previous year and maintains the improvement and progress made in preceeding years. Of the 61 houses improved, 20 were tenanted houses, compared with 30 tenanted houses the previous year.

The following table shows the number of houses improved under the grant schemes :—

	Owner-Occupied Houses	Tenanted Houses	Total Houses Improved
1954	3	—	3
1955	25	40	65
1956	23	6	29
1957	15	4	19
1958	19	6	25
1959	32	—	32
1960 (Standard Grants)	15	—	
(Discretionary Grants)	3	6	24
1961 (Standard Grants)	15	1	
(Discretionary Grants)	6	1	23
1962 (Standard Grants)	27	22	
(Discretionary Grants)	4	8	61
1963 (Standard Grants)	40	20	
(Discretionary Grants)	1	—	61
	228	114	342

Although better progress continued to be made last year, the improvement of suitable houses is not being carried out as systematically as one would wish. The grants have always proved more attractive to owner occupiers than to landlords of tenanted houses, and the Housing Bill now before Parliament is designed to in-

introduce some measure of compulsion to enable improvements to be undertaken in a more orderly manner on a street by street basis, rather than piecemeal improvement of odd houses here and there. An approach was made to the owners of over 300 tenanted houses which were thought to be suitable for improvement and so far 25 applications for grant have been approved by the Council following this appeal, though the owners of many more houses have promised to carry out improvements at a later date. It seems to me that many property owners realise that improvement will become compulsory but are deferring action until they are compelled to carry out the work.

It is of course, quite right that the best possible use should be made of older houses and that these should wherever possible, be converted into more comfortable and attractive homes. Many of these older houses are occupied by middle aged and elderly people who under the present house letting system have little prospect of being offered the tenancy of a Council house with modern amenities. As the proportion of new and improved houses in the district rises year by year, the welfare of those families who live in houses without modern facilities must of course be considered. Every effort should be made to ensure that as many houses as possible contain hot water, proper ablution facilities and indoor sanitation, enabling the occupants to live a decent and more comfortable life. The grants which are available afford the owner a satisfactory return on his outlay and give the tenant an improved house for a modest increase in rent.

It is more than likely that there will be a few cases where landlords, possibly because of advanced age, are unwilling or unable to bear the cost of improving their houses, and some local authorities are now purchasing suitable houses and subsequently improving them. I feel that this practice will grow if ordered progress is to be made, and that more Councils will have to consider the question of buying suitable houses

and installing modern amenities. This scheme would relate to houses with a reasonable life which are capable of being made into more comfortable homes: it would not involve local authorities in acquiring sub-standard houses which are by reason of disrepair, bad design or lack of space, incapable of being transformed into good homes at a reasonable cost.

It should, however, be borne in mind that the improvement of housing accommodation, especially the standard grant scheme, is fundamentally designed to provide modern amenities in houses and to make them into more comfortable homes where people can live a healthier and happier life. Improving a house does not of necessity prolong its life beyond a certain point, or completely eliminate the effect of age on its fabric. By all means every effort should be made to provide more comfortable homes for people, but the scheme is not a complete substitute for the provision of new homes.

Housing for the Elderly

During the year there was no addition to the number of Council bungalows for elderly persons, there now being 59 one bedroomed bungalows and 83 two bed-roomed bungalows. There are in addition 16 two bedroom ground floor flats and 25 two bedroom temporary bungalows, though these are not reserved specifically for older tenants. The Council thus own 183 bungalows and flats suitable for elderly persons who require smaller houses without stairs.

The proportion of older people in the community grows year by year and there is still quite a considerable demand for Council bungalows: no doubt many people look forward to moving to smaller well equipped bungalows later in life. It would be beneficial if the number of bungalows available were such that tenancies could be offered to couples in the middle or late fifties, enabling them to settle down in their new homes while they still enjoy good health and strength.

Work has now started on erecting the County Council Welfare Committee's old people's home in Oxcroft Lane. This will occupy a level site quite close to the centre of the town, providing accommodation for those older and more infirm people who are no longer able to look after themselves in their own houses. In the past there has been very great reluctance on the part of quite a number of old people who were very much opposed to entering a County home, presumably they were afraid of the old fashioned "workhouse". The erection of this new home in this district will at least give people some idea of the type of accommodation the Welfare Committee is endeavouring to provide for those people who are in need of care and attention.

Caravans — Moveable Dwellings

During 1963 there was again a further slight reduction in the number of occupied caravans in the Urban District. In 1961 licences were granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, in respect of six sites containing individual caravans: one of these sites was vacated in 1962, but the remaining five sites continued in use.

The Council's Housing and Planning Committee had previously decided to close down the Council's 'caravan site by April, 1963, in view of the improvements which would be required to secure compliance with the recommended standard. At the beginning of 1963 there were 13 standings still occupied on the Council's site and this number has been reduced to 11 occupied standings by the end of 1963.

The number of occupied caravans was therefore reduced from 18 to 16 during 1963.

There are now more houses available for sale than was the case a number of years ago and it seems likely that the residential occupation of caravans will tend to

decline. Enquiries continue to be made at the Council Offices regarding occupation of caravans on a temporary basis until the applicants can make more permanent arrangements, but when the requirements of the new Act are pointed out (these require planning consent and properly laid out and equipped sites before licences can be issued) most enquirers can see the advantage of deciding to secure a more permanent home.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection

Particulars will be found in the report of the Medical Officer of Health of the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year and 67 visits were paid to houses where cases had occurred.

Terminal disinfection is no longer carried out but disinfectant is available free of charge.

Vermineous Premises

There was again virtually no evidence of bed bug infestation though several houses experienced trouble from cockroaches and control measures were carried out; suitable powder and liquid insecticides are available free of charge to affected properties.

Water Supply

Every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply of the North Derbyshire Water Board. Six samples of tap water were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported as suitable for drinking purposes.

Premises used for Preparation or Sale of Food

During 1963, 188 visits were paid to premises used for the preparation of food (excluding slaughterhouses)—these comprised one bakehouse, five fish and chip shops, two ice cream manufacturers and ten manufacturers of sausages, etc.

256 visits were paid to food shops and market stalls including 45 shops registered under the Food and

Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream, this being an increase of one compared with last year.

During the year action continued to be 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. The vast majority of shops are combined shop and house premises of restricted size where the hygienic storage and display of a large variety of food and other goods gives rise to many problems. Many of the shops in the central area of the town are in old premises which have been converted into shops. It is pleasing that the redevelopment of the town centre is due to take place fairly soon and that the resultant new premises will have been properly designed for the purpose. Modernisation of several shops in the town centre has already been completed and these offer more hygienic conditions and better facilities for the shoppers.

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

Slaughterhouses

Regulations regarding Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty came into full effect in the Urban District on the 1st October, 1961, and by that date the three private slaughterhouses had been repaired and improved to comply with the requirements of the Regulations. The effect of the new Slaughterhouses Act and Regulations is to ensure the lairing, handling and slaughtering of animals in a humane manner, and to secure hygienic conditions for the handling of carcasses and offal and for efficient inspection of meat.

The three slaughterhouses were used to a greater extent than in the previous year, the number of units

increased by 24% and slaughtering was carried out on 236 days. The three slaughterhouses provide facilities for 9 butchers, 6 of them with shops in the Urban District and three with premises in adjoining rural districts. The units slaughtered and inspected in local slaughterhouses (11,483) represent 64.8% of local consumption requirements.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

The following table gives particulars of meat inspection carried out during the year, and although most of the slaughtering is done during the evenings and at weekends, once again all the carcasses were inspected. An arrangement exists with the Chesterfield Corporation Public Health Department whereby their inspectors carry out meat inspection in the Bolsover Urban District during my absence.

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

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	horses
Number killed ...	843	2	1	1485	20	—
Number inspected	843	2	1	1485	20	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5?	—	—	2	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	6.15	—	—	0.13	5.00	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	5.00	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the year an estimated 802 lbs of meat and offals were rejected as unfit for human consumption and were disposed of to the local knacker's yard for sterilisation. This is the first time since 1954 that the amount of unfit meat has increased in quantity, but that was to a large extent accounted for by the rejection of a pig carcase which was sent for emergency slaughter: had this emergency slaughter not taken place the increase in rejected meat would have been 25%, which could have been expected as the number of animals slaughtered rose by 24% during the year. A table showing the amount of rejected meat at local slaughterhouses in recent years is given below :—

1954 (six months only)	4,232 lbs rejected
1955	3,754 " "
1956	4,501 " "
1957	3,293 " "
1958	2,312 " "
1959	1,708 " "
1960	1,014 " "
1961	806 " "
1962	521 " "
1963	802 " "

The small amount of meat rejected pays adequate tribute to the quality of animals purchased and slaughtered by local butchers and the trend established in previous years is being well maintained in the early months of 1964.

For the second successive year no bovine animals inspected in local slaughterhouses were found to be affected by tuberculosis, and the disease was present in one pig only. The most striking feature of meat inspection in the past decade has been the virtual elimination of bovine tuberculosis and this illustrates the remarkable success of the national scheme to eradicate this disease from the cattle in this country.

The following table gives the percentage of bovine animals, slaughtered in this area, found to be affected by tuberculosis :—

1954	16.40%
1955	10.39%
1956	7.82%
1957	5.71%
1958	5.51%
1959	3.06%
1960	2.11%
1961	0.15%
1962	Nil
1963	Nil

This represents truly great success when we consider that in 1954 one in six of all cattle and nearly one in three of all cows slaughtered locally were found to be tuberculous. It is now six years since the disease warranted the rejection of an entire carcass.

On the 1st October, 1963, the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, came into operation. The main effect of the Regulation was to place a duty on local authorities to ensure that all animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected and marked before they are moved from the slaughterhouse and to allow local authorities to introduce charges for meat inspection as a means of recouping the cost of the service. The introduction of the Regulations created no difficulties as a 100% inspection service has been maintained since the re-opening of local slaughterhouses in 1954 and the services of the Chesterfield Corporation meat inspectors have always been available during my absence. The Council introduced charges of 2/6 per bovine animal, 9d. per calf or pig and 6d. per sheep or lamb, and to the end of December, 1963, these produced £36 19 9d.

Unfortunately, the Regulation gave local authorities no powers to control the hours or days of slaughter and Councils were urged to meet the reasonable require-

ments of the trade as regards times of inspection. There is no great volume of slaughtering carried out in this district, in fact the number of animals dressed represents 65% of local requirements, but the three slaughterhouses are rather small establishments and slaughtering takes place in small lots on several days each week. During the year slaughtering was carried out on 236 days and it is normal practice for inspection to be carried out 3 or 4 evenings and on every Saturday afternoon each week: almost two thirds of all carcasses are inspected outside normal working hours.

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

Canned meats	41 tins
Canned fruits	208 „
(including tomatoes)	
Canned vegetables	34 „
Canned milk and cream	23 „
Canned soup	6 „
Canned fish	5 „
Other canned foods	8 „
Frozen pigs plucks	35 lbs.

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., the County Analyst has kindly supplied the following report.

“76 samples, including 11 Milks, were taken under the above Act in the area of the Bolsover Urban District Council during the year 1963.

No serious irregularities were disclosed and no proceedings were taken.

The Milk samples were satisfactory with the exception of one sample of Tuberculin Tested

Milk. This was deficient in fat and was dealt with by caution notice.

An informal sample of Nicotinic Acid Tablets was deficient in Nicotinic Acid. A formal sample from the same stock confirmed this finding and the retailer was cautioned.

An informal sample of Aneurine Hydrochloride Tablets was deficient in Aneurine Hydrochloride. A formal sample from the same shop but from a new supply, was 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.

One producer of Tuberculin Tested Milk bottles his milk at the farm and retails it locally, but from all other dairy farms the milk is collected by dairy companies for pasteurisation or sterilisation.

Seven samples of milk were obtained from the one producer who retails his milk locally and on three occasions the samples failed to satisfy the methylene blue reduction test.

Three samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination and all were satisfactory.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations

There were in the Urban District on the 31st December, 1963, 10 registered distributors of milk.

Bacteriological Examination of Samples

There are two small manufacturers of ice cream in the Urban District and 8 samples were submitted for

bacteriological examination with results as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	7
Provisional Grade 2	-
Provisional Grade 3	-
Provisional Grade 4	1

On nine occasions samples from the inlet and outlet ends of the Public Baths were submitted for bacteriological examination and on 3 occasions the results were unsatisfactory due to presence of coliform organisms. Adjustment of the chlorine dosage subsequently produced satisfactory results.

Six samples from the main supply of the North Derbyshire Water Board were reported as satisfactory.

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

Slaughter of Animals Act

At the end of 1963, 12 persons held licences to slaughter or stun animals in Slaughterhouses or Knacker's Yards.

Knacker's Yard

20 visits of inspection were paid to the Knacker's Yard. This is a rather small business in a very remote part of the district, and it was conducted in as satisfactory a manner as its nature and location permits.

During the previous year these premises were enlarged to afford much better facilities for storage of meat, offals and waste products and to allow for sterilisation of diseased meat.

Two buildings in Mill Lane, Bolsover, are licensed for lairage of animals.

Shops Act, 1950

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

Petroleum Licensing

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

At the end of 1963, 20 licences were in force covering a maximum storage capacity of 284,268 gallons.

In recent years detailed inspection of all storage installations have been undertaken to secure strict compliance with the Home Office Model Codes.

Rodent Control

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

The Council undertake free treatment of domestic premises infested with rats or mice, but business premises are charged with the cost of treatments carried out. Four business premises were the subject of annual contracts and systematic inspections and treatments as and when required have resulted in these premises being kept well under control. Most of the other industrial and agricultural premises in the district have annual contracts with a private operator who was once an employee of the Ministry's rat and mouse destruction service.

The systematic survey of the district for rats and mice was continued throughout the year and the treatment of the sewers revealed very little evidence of infestation. Permanent baiting points were maintained at the refuse tips, sewage works and in certain lengths of public sewer and this method of treatment has been found to be highly successful.

Rodent Control Report for Year ended December 31st, 1963

	Type of Property			
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Business Premises	Agricultural
Total properties inspected	16	1014	104	34
Number of treatments carried out				
Rats	7	31	2	4
Mice	—	2	2	—

The number of treatments carried out shows little variation from the previous year. There was no major infestation, and those found were of a minor character. The general public now realise that a free service is offered for rodent control and co-operate wholeheartedly in the task of exterminating rats and mice.

Conversion of Pail Closets, etc.

The schemes providing sewers to serve a total of 22 houses in Chesterfield Road, Shuttlewood, were completed in the previous year. 21 of these houses were served by pail closets, and 20 of these had been replaced by the end of 1962. The remaining house had been empty for several months and the work of providing a water closet and bathroom was completed in 1963. In 20 of the 21 houses originally served by pail closets, it was possible to provide internal water closets in conjunction with the provision of bathrooms and other standard amenities.

The provision of the sewers and other amenities inside the houses have been very much appreciated by the various owners and occupiers.

Six houses, Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 Church Road, Stanfree, which were previously served by pail closets, were the subject of a confirmed clearance order and all were vacated by the end of 1963. There are now very few remaining pail closets in the Urban District and these are in isolated houses far removed from public sewers.

The Chesterfield Road sewerage scheme eliminated a few cesspools, but the number of houses drained to cesspools is not being drastically reduced as the erection of odd houses continues to take place outside the area served by public sewers. Most of these houses are in widely scattered locations where the provision of public sewers is virtually impossible.

Atmospheric Pollution

The measurement of atmospheric pollution in this district was commenced on the 1st February, 1959, and the instruments were sited with the co-operation of officers of the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. One deposit gauge was sited at Hall Farm in fairly close proximity to the Bolsover Colliery and the carbonising plant of Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd., which are the main sources of industrial pollution in the Urban District; the second gauge was sited in Moor Lane to the east of the town centre, to give records of deposited matter in the residential area. Two lead peroxide instruments were sited in Cundy Road and Moor Lane.

The results obtained since 1st February, 1959, are set out below :—

Deposited Matter

(Total solids, tons per square mile)

Hall Farm, Woodhouse Lane, Bolsover

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
January	—	14.44	24.34	28.35	8.35
February	8.50	12.65	15.14	—	9.04
March	13.11	12.45	10.87	7.58	13.71
April	16.49	14.74	23.75	47.16	11.26
May	16.10	8.38	11.76	14.67	13.55
June	19.74	17.39	13.74	10.69	13.15
July	16.73	17.29	16.16	14.51	11.59
August	16.79	15.63	14.98	12.55	12.52
September	17.22	13.74	13.22	13.64	14.01
October	13.14	11.29	15.87	12.65	9.17
November	16.43	13.18	11.29	15.37	13.48
December	12.22	20.86	16.69	16.23	7.16

1959 monthly average — 15.32 tons per sq. mile.

1960 monthly average — 14.35 tons per sq. mile.

1961 monthly average — 15.65 tons per sq. mile.

1962 monthly average — 17.57 tons per sq. mile.

1963 monthly average — 11.44 tons per sq. mile.

96 Moor Lane, Bolsover

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
January	—	11.24	13.05	13.42	7.25
February	12.15	11.41	9.29	7.35	5.67
March	12.86	10.67	6.10	9.53	14.39
April	12.58	9.87	15.14	12.59	12.15
May	10.60	17.89	8.25	11.27	11.98
June	16.01	13.49	8.52	6.27	8.66
July	11.78	8.49	9.19	9.16	8.36
August	10.60	10.59	13.19	13.39	10.20
September	11.00	10.60	9.30	9.53	4.63
October	10.17	—	8.26	6.55	12.51
November	12.45	9.36	7.45	10.23	12.12
December	11.38	9.96	7.51	11.74	7.85

1959 monthly average — 11.93 tons per sq. mile.

1960 monthly average — 11.23 tons per sq. mile.

1961 monthly average — 9.60 tons per sq. mile.

1962 monthly average — 10.09 tons per sq. mile.

1963 monthly average — 9.66 tons per sq. mile.

Estimation of Sulphur by the Lead Peroxide Method.

(Mg. of SO₃ per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO₂) (Louvered cover)

2 Cundy Road, Bolsover

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
January	—	2.21	2.47	2.89	2.11
February	2.28	2.62	2.78	2.13	2.04
March	1.56	1.22	2.87	1.97	1.70
April	1.87	1.90	1.36	1.64	1.44
May	1.17	0.98	1.14	1.15	1.19
June	1.43	0.33	1.31	0.82	0.83
July	0.87	0.97	1.27	0.67	0.71
August	1.13	1.12	1.10	0.95	0.97
September	1.20	1.03	1.05	1.01	1.21
October	1.58	1.18	1.40	1.40	1.36
November	2.32	2.12	1.90	2.00	1.65
December	2.47	2.87	2.89	2.76	1.62
1959 monthly average				1.62	
1960 monthly average				1.55	
1961 monthly average				1.79	
1962 monthly average				1.61	
1963 monthly average				1.40	

96 Moor Lane, Bolsover

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
January	—	2.30	2.30	3.08	3.23
February	2.11	2.51	2.47	1.78	3.33
March	1.43	1.07	2.34	1.94	2.48
April	1.62	1.63	1.53	1.54	1.88
May	0.98	1.10	1.14	1.20	1.58
June	0.88	0.83	1.16	1.06	1.20
July	0.69	0.90	1.10	0.98	1.13
August	0.84	0.95	0.94	0.96	1.07
September	1.05	1.12	1.33	1.31	1.60
October	1.49	1.39	1.65	2.26	2.03
November	2.57	2.27	1.91	3.12	2.33
December	2.59	2.88	3.18	3.75	2.78
1959 monthly average				1.48	
1960 monthly average				1.58	
1961 monthly average				1.75	
1962 monthly average				1.91	
1963 monthly average				2.05	

The deposit gauge at Hall Farm was located in quite close proximity to the Bolsover Colliery and Coalite Carbonising undertakings with the intention of monitoring pollution from the two major industrial undertakings in the district. The deposit gauge in Moor Lane was located about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the east of the town centre close to the area of post war and pre war housing development. It was expected that the recordings from the Hall Farm site would reveal a greater concentration of deposited matter than the gauge in the residential area and this has been the case for each of the five years since recordings began. The most striking and pleasing feature of the recordings of deposited matter is the sharp reduction in the figures at the Hall Farm site, the 1963 recordings being much lower than the average for any of the previous years. During 1962 work on electrifying one shaft at Bolsover Colliery was completed and during 1963 mechanical stokers were installed. A large amount of coal is burned annually at the Colliery and in the order of 600,000 tons is carbonised at the Coalite, and it is, therefore, most gratifying to report a reduction in pollution from these industrial sources. I should like to think that this progress can be maintained, and indeed improved. The recordings for deposited matter in the Moor Lane or residential area show a very slight reduction compared with the previous year and the averages over the past five years have been remarkably constant.

With regard to the measurement of sulphur the figures for the Moor Lane residential area show a further slight increase and the recordings at this site have risen slightly for each of the past five years. The increase results from higher figures during the extremely cold winter months at the beginning of 1963, but they do emphasise the pollution resulting from domestic sources where the products of combustion are emitted from chimneys not far above ground level. By contrast the sulphur recording station at Cundy Road and nearer to the industrial undertakings showed a further reduction being the third consecutive reduction reported.

During recent years Messrs Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd. have been actively engaged on replacing and improving the older and more smoky carbonising retorts and much progress has been made on eliminating pollution which previously resulted for the charging and discharging operations. There are considerable technical problems to be overcome especially in reducing pollution now resulting from the chimneys serving the waste heat boilers and the company's research department is constantly striving to effect improvement. These carbonising processes are under the control of the Alkali Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and regular liaison is maintained with the District Alkali Inspector who has given assurances that every effort will continue to be made to reduce pollution from this source.

The Council's first smoke control order was made in March, 1962 and confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in November, 1962 to operate from the 1st July, 1963. The order relates to a housing development area of some 86 acres lying to the south of New Station Road and to the windward side of much of the central part of the Urban District. This area when fully developed could contain up to 750 houses and the introduction of the smoke control area would allow development to take place without adding to the general level of smoke pollution. At the time the Order came into operation there were 140 houses in the area, 116 being new Council houses and 16 being new private houses; there were only 7 houses where works of adaptation were required: in addition there were school premises, a cutlery factory, water board premises and farm buildings.

Arrangements were made for one of the Council's new houses in the smoke control area to be used as a "show house" for a period of twelve days in January, 1963. The house was completely furnished by the local Co-operative Society, the Coal Utilisation Council provided one of their lady demonstrators and the various types of smokeless fuel were demonstrated. Although

this house was open during a period of very adverse weather, there was quite a good number of visitors, including almost all the people living in the smoke control area and many said they felt happier having seen these alternative fuels in use. The very willing co-operation received from the Pleasley Co-operative Society, the Coal Utilisation Council Regional Office, the National Coal Board, Messrs Coalite and Chemical Products Ltd., The National Carbonsiing Company Ltd., the East Midlands Midlands Electricity Board and the East Midlands Gas Board helped to make this a successful venture.

The winter of 1962-1963 was one of the coldest experienced for many years, and the question of supplies of smokeless fuels received considerable press publicity. In 1962 the Council had approved a programme of smoke control areas designed to cover all the urban area by 1973-1974. In January, 1963, in the middle of the adverse weather, the Council decided that the question of taking preliminary steps to introduce a second smoke control area should be deferred for six months. In March, 1963, assurances were received that the locally produced reactive solid smokeless fuel would be made available to meet the needs of all householders in the urban area, but in July, 1963, the Council decided to defer the introduction of further smoke control areas until the supply position of smokeless fuels had become clearer. It was rather unfortunate that this decision coincided with the coming into operation of the first smoke control order.

This is a mining district in which a high proportion of householders are supplied with concessionary coal and the National Coal Board made arrangements for miners, retired miners, and miners' widows living in the smoke control area to be supplied with smokeless fuel in place of coal. Initially they were supplied with Warmco, but as from 1st August, 1963, the Board made arrangements for beneficiaries to be supplied with Coalite. Although the principle of reducing pollution and making the area a clearer and more attractive place in which to

live was accepted, virtually without exception, there was considerable dissatisfaction with the allowance of smokeless fuel. This agreement is not the direct concern of the local authority but it is bound to have some effect on the co-operation and support which is given in reducing pollution from domestic sources. The National Coal Board will supply smokeless fuel to the value of £47 17 0d. per year to mineworkers, £23 6 0d. to retired miners and £12 8 0d. to miners' widows. Outside a smoke control area all the Coal Board beneficiaries receive allowances of coal which are sufficient for their annual requirements, whereas the allowances of smokeless fuels, especially to retired miners and widows have to be supplemented. It soon became obvious that, after their quarterly allocation of smokeless fuels had been used, many beneficiaries were using coal until the next allocation was due, and despite friendly persuasion they were extremely reluctant to purchase smokeless fuel. I understand that the agreements relating to allowance coal to mineworkers were originally negotiated at local level and varied very considerably in their scope: the new agreement relating to smokeless fuels is a national agreement and those districts with a more generous coal allowance are consequently less satisfied with the new terms negotiated. Some of the difficulties would have been less acute had a more generous allowance been made available to retired miners and to the elderly miners' widows, many of these being persons with a lifetimes connection with the mining industry.

Although we have for long insisted on the need for uncontaminated water and food to protect our health, we have only in comparatively recent times begun to realise the importance to our health of polluted air, and this remains one of the outstanding public health problems of our time. Nationally very good progress has been made on reducing pollution from industrial sources and industry is now burning coal much more efficiently than the domestic field with a consequent reduction of smoke pollution. At last year's Conference of the National Society for Clean Air the President stated that "of all the countries of Europe and America with a compar-

able standard of living, the average efficiency of domestic heating in Great Britain was the lowest ; and the pollution of the air by domestic smoke was the greatest. It is not surprising that the death rate from bronchitic disease was much greater here than in other countries. If local authorities made full use of the powers confirmed by the Clean Air Act, the inhabitants of the country would benefit".

During the summer and autumn of 1963, the Minister of Housing and Local Government and the Minister of Power instituted a review of domestic fuel supplies endeavouring to ensure that progress with smoke control would not be impeded. This review became necessary as a result of changes in the gas industry towards greater use of oil, natural gas and the total gasification of coal, rather than traditional coal carbonisation : these changes were expected to affect the availability of gas coke on which progress on domestic smoke control depended to a very great extent. The Circular issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in December, 1963, following this review, stated that in future smoke control programmes much greater use would have to be made of openable room heaters burning the more readily available hard cokes rather than the use of open fires burning gas coke or the more expensive reactive smokeless fuels. These openable room heaters operate at almost twice the efficiency of the open fire and use a cheaper fuel. Although they are more expensive to install initially they give a higher standard of warmth and comfort and are cheaper to operate.

This represents a step in the right direction, it is important that coal (and its by products) which form the one great natural asset of this country should be used as efficiently as possible. In this part of the country the hard work of winning coal and the toll in loss of life and injury are all too well known. Many of our old fashioned heating appliances operate at an efficiency of only 25% and contribute a great deal to the level of smoke in the atmosphere, it is high time we adopted less wasteful and cleaner methods of domestic heating.

Public Cleansing Service

The Council operate two refuse collection vehicles—one 18 cubic yard Karrier Dual Tip purchased in 1960 and a 12 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Dual Tip purchased in December, 1963, to replace a smaller side loading Bantam. A 1,000 gallon gully/cesspool emptier was purchased in 1961, enabling cesspools to be emptied more speedily and economically than with the former equipment, this machine has also undertaken cleansing of street gullies and the removal of sludge from the sewage disposal works without any increase in the labour engaged on public cleansing. Apart from the two men who operate the gully/cesspool emptier, there are 11 men engaged on the collection and disposal of refuse and the collection, sorting and baling of salvage materials. In addition the working foreman carries out rodent control measures, operates a free drain rodding service and is responsible for vehicle maintenance, together with other public cleansing duties.

The collection and disposal of refuse and the emptying of cesspools and pails are duties of vital public health importance. A weekly collection was maintained throughout the year and the almost complete absence of complaints from the public pays high tribute to the efficiency and devotion to duty of the workmen who perform this far from pleasant task. Throughout a great part of industry modern methods and machines have gone a long way towards improving working conditions, but the refuse collection service has not benefitted very greatly. It is still a dirty and not very pleasant job, especially in an area such as this where the ash content of the refuse is high, and I should like, once again to pay a very sincere tribute to the men who perform this service of such vital importance to all of us.

No undue labour difficulties were experienced during the year and the men engaged on public cleansing continued to receive a plus rate of 3½d. per hour. This plus rate was introduced a number of years ago at a time of acute labour difficulties and without it, it is very

doubtful whether the service would be able to recruit or retain decent workmen. An ever increasing number of local authorities have been forced to introduce collection and salvage bonus schemes to attract suitable workmen, but these involve increased clerical and administrative work and are not very easy to apply in smaller areas where workmen cannot always be employed on the same work all the time.

The collection and disposal of refuse is not an attractive occupation and not a very well paid job, the result being that it is not easy to recruit and retain younger able bodied men. The workmen engaged on this duty tend to be older rather than younger men and in recent years there has been a rather high incidence of sickness. For the past year or two plans have existed for providing improved waste paper baling and storage premises, including the purchase of an electric press to reduce baling costs and the time required for this work. At the end of 1963 the Council considered a report on the mechanisation of work at the refuse tip as another means of saving labour. I fully expect that next year's report will show progress in both these directions, which should have the effect of saving money on the employment of casual labour during periods of sickness or holidays.

The disposal of all refuse is now undertaken in a disused portion of the clay at the New Byron Brick Company's works just outside the boundary of the Urban District. A new long term agreement was negotiated with the new owners of the brickworks and they also agreed to sludge from the Bolsover Sewage Works being disposed of with the refuse. There is ample tipping space for very many years and disposal of refuse should present no difficulties in the foreseeable future.

The Council provide a free service, except in one special case, for the emptying of pails and cesspools and the contents are disposed of into suitable manholes near the various sewage works. In recent years there has been a steady reduction in the number of pails until very few now remain, but there has been an increase in the

number of cesspools to be emptied. Nowadays all householders desire the benefits of modern sanitation and amenities and an increasing number of isolated cottages now have larger cesspools to empty. There have also been cases of development beyond the town's public sewers and these add to the work to be done. The use of the 1,000 gallon gully/cesspool emptier has been of considerable benefit, enabling this work to be done in only a little over half the time required by the former equipment.

Salvage

(Referring to the financial year ended 31st March, 1964)

Sales from the 1st April, 1963, to the 31st March, 1964, were as follows :—

		T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper and							
cardboard	... ..	150	16	1	1247	17	5
Textiles	... ..		10	0	5	0	0
		151	6	1	1252	17	5

Although there was some restriction on the amount of waste paper which could be despatched to the Mill, sales during the year increased by over 10 tons and the income rose by over £83. As from the 1st April, 1964, there was a further increase in the amount of paper which could be despatched to the Mill and I fully expect that next year's report should cover record sales for this authority. In recent years there have been quite regular increases in workmen's wages and one reduction in working hours, but, unfortunately, the prices received for sales of waste paper have remained virtually unchanged. The effect has been to steadily reduce the profitability of this aspect of the Council's cleansing service, and to emphasise the need to improve efficiency in the handling and baling of waste paper. I am hopeful that the move to better premises and the use of a power operated press should do something to counteract this situation.



