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BOROUGH OF BOSTON
AND
BOSTON
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Annual Report

of the

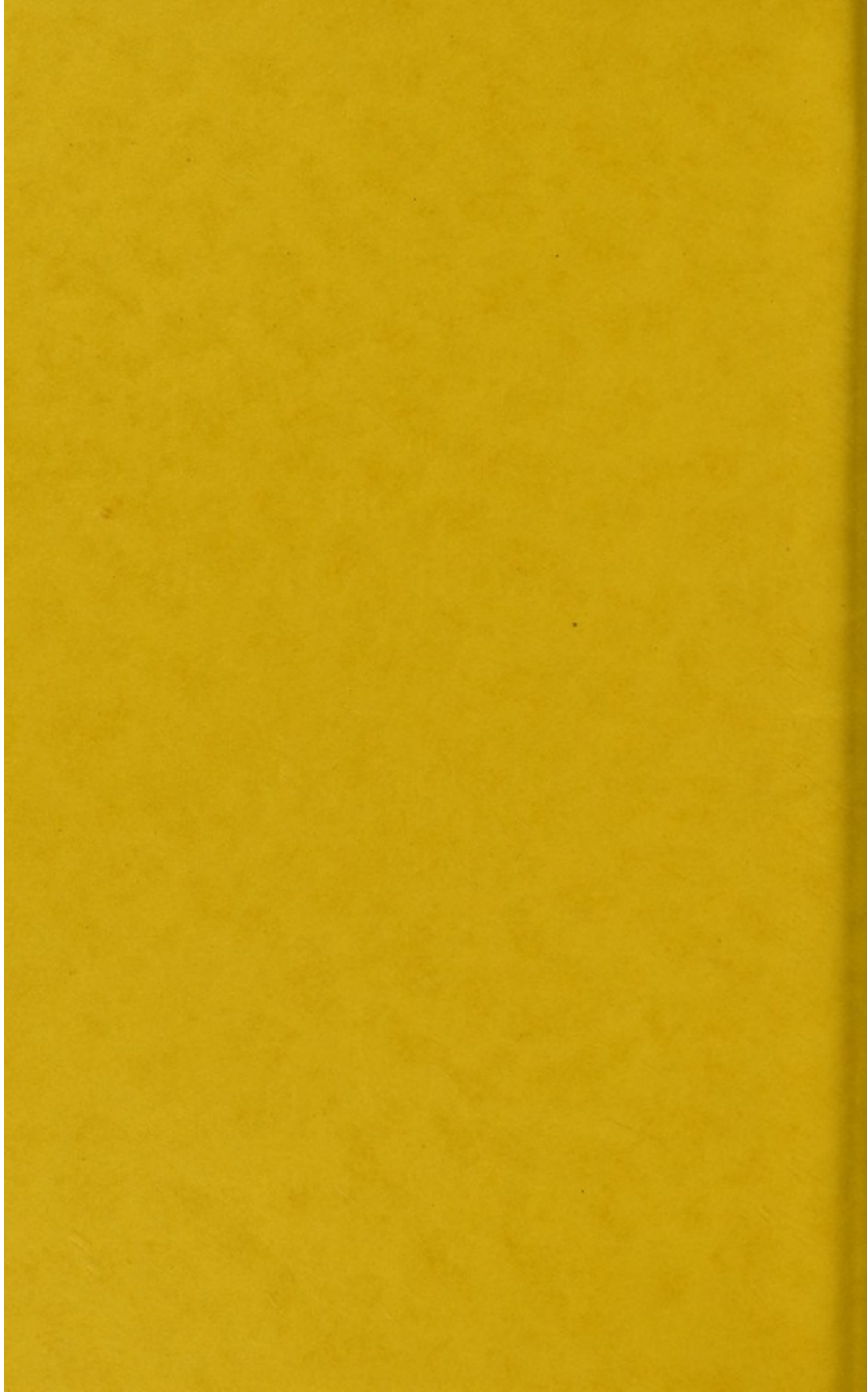
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1950





MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR J. HENRY MOUNTAIN, Chairman.

ALDERMAN A. BRADLEY, Vice-Chairman.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR J. W. MOWBRAY, J.P.

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„ J. H. HODGSON,

„ MRS. D. J. C. MOWBRAY, J.P.

„ J. P. ROE

„ E. C. STANWELL.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health and Port Medical Officer of Health :

D. C. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Retired June, 1950).

W. G. SMEATON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed July, 1950).

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Officer :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

S. DAVEY, M.S.I.A.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

G. FOX.

Chief Clerk :

D. DADY.

BOROUGH OF BOSTON

AND

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my first Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health.

The health of the community during 1950 has continued to be very satisfactory. The Registrar-General's estimate of the population is given as 25,020—an increase of 280 on last year's figure. The Birth Rate of 16.9 is, however, considerably lower than the corresponding figure of 20.5 for 1949, although it can still be favourably compared with the rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1950, namely 15.8. A slight increase in the number of deaths has also been recorded but the resulting adjusted death rate of 12.4 is an increase of only 0.3 on last year's figure although it is higher than the rate of 11.6 for the whole of England and Wales. Nevertheless, there were 90 births registered in excess of the total number of deaths.

Decreases in the still birth and infant mortality rates are noted with satisfaction, whilst it is very pleasing to report that once again there have been no deaths from maternal causes.

The most notable feature with regard to infectious diseases was the exceptionally high incidence of Measles which resulted in notifications being the highest for several years. Fortunately, few cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in the Borough although there was a rather widespread epidemic throughout the country.

Whilst it is encouraging to see an increase in the number of Council Houses erected during the year there is no doubt that there has been very little improvement in the situation as a whole, and it is to be regretted that more cannot be done to alleviate this major problem.

For some time now it has become increasingly apparent that the provision of a mussel cleansing station is a most urgent necessity if mussels are to continue to be marketed in a raw state. The results of samples taken over a period, point to the fact that the beds are polluted to varying degrees, but at the same time it is as well to bear in mind that the amount of pollution could quickly increase.

The slaughter of animals for human consumption continues to be carried out in premises that are most unsuitable from every aspect. A few alterations were carried out during the year but conditions still leave much to be desired.

Much work has been done in connection with the Clean Food Campaign and, although the results were not quite so encouraging as had been expected, there is reason to believe that many traders are endeavouring to improve their premises to bring them up to the required standard. In this respect I wish to thank Mr. Chamberlain, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his efforts in making the Campaign a success and also for the large part he played in the organisation of the Clean Food Exhibition.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Council for their support, and to acknowledge the assistance given to me by all other Officials of the Council.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. SMEATON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
Boston, Lincs.

August, 1951.

PART I

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

GENERAL STATISTICS :—

Area (in acres)	3,259
Home Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate for 1950)	25,020
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1950 (according to the Rate Books)	7,195
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1951	£134,378
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£530
Estimated average number of Persons per Inhabited House ..	3.5
Estimated average number of Persons per Acre	7.7
Average number of Inhabited Houses per acre	2.2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC. :—

The social conditions of the area have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS :—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude) ..	16.9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted) ..	16.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	25.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	13.3
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	12.4
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	30.7
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	32.7
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	25.9
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	27.7
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	Nil

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION :—

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for the mid-year is given as 25,020, an increase of 280 as compared with the estimate for 1949. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 90.

BIRTHS :—

A total of 424 live births (217 males, 207 females) were registered during 1950. This figure gives a crude birth rate of 16.9 per 1,000 of the population, and a rate of 16.8 after the application of the Comparability Factor, which is intended to afford a means of adjustment to make allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Both figures, however, show a decrease on the crude birth rate of 20.5 for last year although they compare favourably with the rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1950 which was 15.8

The number of illegitimate live births was 27 (15 males, 12 females) which is 6.4% of the total live births. The total illegitimate live births in 1949 was 41.

STILL BIRTHS :—

There were 11 still births registered (2 males, 9 females) giving a still birth rate of 25.3 per 1,000 total live and still births, as compared with 28.7 in 1949.

Taken as a rate per 1,000 of the estimated population a figure of 0.44 per 1,000 is arrived at, which is slightly higher than the figure given by the Registrar-General for the whole of England and Wales, namely 0.37.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :—

It is satisfactory to note that there were again no deaths from puerperal causes assigned to the Borough in 1950.

INFANT MORTALITY :—

There were 13 deaths of infants under one year of age (8 males, 5 females). The death rate of 30.7 per 1,000 live births shows a decrease on the figure for 1949 (namely 35.5), but is slightly higher than the rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 29.8.

Figures are also available in respect of infant deaths under 4 weeks of age ; the total for the year being 11 (8 males, 3 females). The resulting death rate per 1,000 live births is 25.9.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :—

The actual number of deaths allocated to the Borough after deduction of those occurring in non-residents and addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the Borough is 334. This figure gives a crude death rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of the population, but when the Comparability Factor has been applied, the rate is 12.4. Both figures are slightly higher than those for 1949 which were 12.9 and 12.1 respectively.

The figure for the whole of England and Wales for 1950 is 11.6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOSTON M.B., 1950.

No.	Cause of Death.	Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other	1	2
3.	Syphilitic disease	2	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	2
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	10
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	2	—
16.	Diabetes	—	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	29
18.	Coronary disease, angina	25	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	18	27
21.	Other circulatory disease	11	10
22.	Influenza	2	1
23.	Pneumonia	7	5
24.	Bronchitis	12	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—

No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	29
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	4	2
34.	All other accidents	4	2
35.	Suicide	4	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES		172	162

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to N. H. Middlebrook, Esq., Meteorologist, for the following particulars regarding weather conditions during 1950 as recorded by him at the Meteorological Station, Freiston Road, Boston :—

January :—The first three weeks were mild with temperatures well above normal. From the 23rd, however, a cold wind brought sharp frosts and a little snow, with temperatures well below normal. Snow fell on four days and hail on one day. Ground frosts were recorded on 16 days and air frosts on 11 days. Rain fell on 9 days giving a total rainfall of .97" against an average of 1.62". The mean maximum temperature was 44.4°, being 3° above normal and the mean minimum of 35.6° was 4° above normal.

February :—The month was mild during the day but the nights were generally cold. The mean maximum temperature of 48.4° was 5° above normal and the mean minimum of 35.6° about 2° above normal. Snow or sleet fell on four days and hail on two days. The total rainfall of 3.62" was well above the average of 1.46". The wind reached gale force on three days and 15 ground frosts were recorded.

March :—Another mild month with temperatures again above normal. The mean maximum temperature of 53.7° was 4° above normal, and the mean minimum of 37.4° was 3° above normal. Rain fell on 14 days giving a rainfall of .54" against the average of 1.56". Thunder occurred on one day. There were 10 ground and 7 air frosts.

April :—The month was cool compared with the first three months. A freak spell of wintery weather at the end of the month brought severe frost and snowstorms on the 24th, 25th, and 26th, the ground temperature on the night of the 26th, falling to 22°. The mean maximum temperature of 54.2° was 3° below normal and the mean minimum of 38° was over 1° below normal. Rain fell on 17 days giving a rainfall of 1.95" against the average of 1.35". Gales occurred on two days, and there were 6 ground frosts and 3 air frosts recorded.

May :—Another cool month, the mean maximum temperature being 59.2° against the average of 62.1° and the mean minimum being 43.8° against the average of 43.3° . Rain fell on 12 days, giving a total rainfall of $3.23''$ against the average of $1.76''$, $1.48''$ of this falling during a storm on the 21st. This storm was the tail end of the freak hurricane which did so much damage in the South Midlands. 2 ground frosts and 1 air frost were recorded. Thunder was heard on 4 days.

June :—A much warmer and drier month than May, the first 12 days being free of rain. A temperature of 89° was recorded on the 7th. Mean maximum temperature of 71.9° was 4° above average, and mean minimum of 52.1° was 3° above average. Rain fell on 8 days giving a total rainfall of $1.46''$ against the average of $1.82''$. Thunder was heard on 3 days.

July :—Although the weather was rather wet, fine warm spells were experienced and the mean maximum temperature of 71° and mean minimum of 53° were about normal. Rain fell on 13 days giving a total rainfall of $2.54''$ against the average of $2.20''$. Greatest fall in one day was $.82''$ on the 15th. Thunder was heard on 6 days.

August :—The month was warm and thundery with rain falling on 20 days although the total rainfall of $2.03''$ was $.36''$ below normal. The mean maximum temperature of 61.3° was over 1° above normal and the mean minimum of 52.3° was about normal. Thunderstorms occurred on 9 days.

September :—Wet and dismal weather prevailed throughout the month, rain falling on 22 days. The total rainfall of $3.81''$ was well above the average of $1.76''$. Mean maximum temperature of 63.6° and mean minimum of 49° were 2° and 1° respectively below normal. There were 3 days when gales occurred, and on 2 days thunder was heard.

October :—In contrast to September the month was unusually dry, with rain falling on 11 days only. Normally the wettest month of the year, with an average rainfall of $2.74''$, only $.95''$ were recorded, nearly $2''$ below normal. The mean maximum temperature of 57° and mean minimum of 42.4° were about normal. 4 ground frosts and 3 air frosts were registered. Sleet fell on one day.

November :—Contrary to October, this month was noteworthy for the almost continuous rain which fell on 25 of the 30 days, the total rainfall being $3.77''$ which was $1.75''$ above normal. The mean maximum temperature of 47.7° and the mean minimum of 37.4° were about normal. There were 7 ground frosts and 5 air frosts.

December —This month was outstanding as the coldest December for many years. Snow or rain fell on 19 days, snow covering the ground at the time of the 9 a.m. observation on 10 days and on 2 days, the 5th and 30th, snow lay to a depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". The mean maximum temperature of 37.6° was well below the normal of 44.5° as also was the mean minimum of 30° against the normal of 34.9° . Precipitation, which was almost entirely in the form of snow, totalled 1.80" against the average of 2.15". 25 ground frosts and 19 air frosts were recorded.

The total rainfall for the year was 26.31" against an average of 22.81".

The following table gives a summary of the meteorological conditions of the area for the past two years.

	1950	1949
Rain days	187	150
Mean humidity at 0900 hrs. G.M.T.	85%	84%
Mean day and night temperatures	49.4°	51.0°
Mean maximum temperature	56.7°	58.9°
Mean minimum temperature	42.2°	43.1°
No. of days with maximum temperatures of over 70°	57	78
No. of days with maximum temperatures of over 80°	7	16
Thunderstorms	25	15
Ground frosts	85	82
Fog at 9.00 a.m. observation	13	18
Snow, including sleet, days of	22	12
Gales, days of	8	9

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :—

Advantage has again been taken of the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln. Samples of milk, ice cream and water have been regularly submitted for examination and further details of this work will be found in Sections E and F.

The Laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, and Mr. W. W. Taylor, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Nottingham, have continued to carry out chemical and bacteriological examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :—

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the County Transport Department, Allan House, Carlton Road.

Four first line ambulances, including one of the most modern type which has been purchased during the year, and five sitting case cars are based in the Borough. In addition an ambulance is kept at the Infectious Diseases Hospital and reserved solely for the conveyance of infectious cases.

It is not possible to give separate figures in respect of the Borough as these vehicles are also used for work in other parts of the County of Holland, but it can be stated that demands on the service, particularly with regard to sitting case cars, have again increased during the year.

NURSING IN THE HOME :—

This service is provided by the Local Health Authority in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

PUBLIC MORTUARY :—

The Public Mortuary is managed by the Borough Engineer's Department. I am satisfied that the Mortuary is properly conducted and the facilities adequate.

HOSPITALS :—

All Hospitals in the area are under the control of the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :—

Boston General Hospital — Acute General.

London Road Hospital — Acute General and Orthopædic.

Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium — Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital — Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton — Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital — Sick Children.

Bargate Physiotherapy Centre, Boston — Physiotherapy.

Health Centre, London Road (School Clinic) — Ophthalmic and Rheumatic.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES :—

These services are provided by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :—

The Chest Clinic, Venereal Diseases Clinic and Orthopædic Clinic are held at the London Road Hospital.

Clinics operated in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services for Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor defects are held at the Health Centre, London Road.

Treatment for Scabies and similar complaints is available at the Health Centre, and details as to the number of cases of Scabies dealt with will be found in Section F of this Report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47—REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :—

In only one case was action considered necessary and this concerned a person who was aged and living in insanitary conditions and who was not receiving proper care and attention from other persons. In her own interests it was therefore considered desirable that she be removed and as a result of the Council's action an order was obtained from the County Court for her removal to the Myntling Home, Spalding, for a period of three months.

The Order was not renewed as she subsequently improved, and was considered clean and fit in all respects to take care of herself.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :—

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, 1946, these services are provided by the Holland County Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. D. H. Ball, Water Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply :—

1. STATISTICS.

(a) Rainfall.

The rainfall recorded at Revesby Waterworks during the year was 30.61" as against 20.16" in 1949, and 24.20" in 1948. The average rainfall at Revesby over 40 years is just over 25".

(b) Volume of water supplied from Revesby and Fordington and received in bulk from Boston R.D.C. with comparisons for 1949.

Year.	Thousands of gallons.				Average G.P.D.
	Revesby	Fordington	From Boston R.D.C.	Total	
1950.	225,991	209,661	5,711	441,363	1,209
1949.	179,891	264,053	7,741	451,685	1,237
Increase+					
Decrease—					
	+ 46,100	—54,392	—2,030	—10,322	—28

The average gallons per day may be subdivided as follows :—

	Thousands
(a) In bulk to Horncastle R.D.C.	67
(b) Domestic and meter supplies in the rural districts of Boston, Spilsby and Horncastle, within the Council's Statutory Area of Supply	100
* (c) Domestic supply in the Borough of Boston	770
* (d) Trade and other meter supplies in Borough	272
	1,209
* (c) represents (including waste) 31 galls. per head per day.	
* (d) represents (including waste) 11 galls. per head per day.	
	42 galls. per head per day.

As a matter of interest, the average daily consumption in 1939 was 674,000 gallons.

*A waste detection scheme is in course of installation.

As will be seen from the list of mains extensions and renewals considerable activity continues in the Water Department. A large number of new services have been connected, and a considerable amount of internal work undertaken by local plumbers, all to the benefit of public health.

No restrictions were placed on the public water supply during 1950, but the need to conserve supplies and cut out all forms of wastage, continues to be of paramount importance. Water pressures have definitely improved a little, and consumers (domestic and trade) are always encouraged to install the maximum amount of storage possible.

2. Water Analysis.

Based on analyses made by the Royal Institute of Public Health on samples, submitted by the Public Health Department at frequent intervals of water drawn from the mains in various parts of the Borough, the water has, with a few minor exceptions, been of satisfactory chemical and bacteriological quality. On no occasion has it been necessary to isolate any section of watermain from supply. It continues to be my policy to carry a small residual chlorine content in the town's mains, reduce "dead ends" to a minimum, install "washouts" wherever possible and undertake regular flushing of mains.

Samples have also been taken by the Water Engineer during each month of the year at Revesby and Fordington, of the raw water at each source and the treated water passing to supply. On no occasion has an adverse report been received from the Public Analyst, Mr. W. W. Taylor, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., of Nottingham, in respect of the treated waters passing to supply; in fact, he states that the water from Revesby has shown a marked improvement.

Effective filtration and sterilisation is applied to the impounded source at Revesby, and whilst the only treatment at present to the borehole water at Fordington is by chlorination, it is hoped that the Ministry of Local Government and Planning will soon authorise the installation of iron removal plant at this source, and at some future date water softening plant. Duplicate booster plant and a diesel generator have been installed at the Revesby works.

3. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

4. The proportion of the houses in the Borough supplied by standpipes and outside taps is relatively small, and only a few houses are without a piped water supply.

5. WATER MAINS LAID IN BOROUGH DURING 1950.

A. Extensions.

Location.	Dia. & type of pipe.	Length yds.	Remarks.
(i) Woodville Road Housing Site.	3" A.C.	173	Including link main to Revesby Av.
	4" A.C.	86	
(ii) Brothertoft Rd. Housing Site.	4" A.C.	626	
(iii) Broadfield St./Woodville Rd. Housing Site.	6" A.C.	382	Link main.
(iv) Robin Hood's Walk.	6" A.C.	65	To be extended.

A. Extensions—*continued.*

(v) London Rd./Garfitts Lane/ Borough Boundary.	6" A.C.	610	
(vi) Spilsby Road (East side).	6" A.C.	183	To be Extended
(vii) Albert Street.	4" A.C.	207	Link main to Horace St.
(viii) Pulvertoft Lane/Edwin St.	3" A.C.	97	}
	4" A.C.	40	
(ix) Oxford Street/St. Anne's Lane.	4" A.C.	161	
(x) Albert Terrace (off Frampton Place).	3" A.C.	33	
(xi) King Street.	4" A.C.	55	
		<hr/>	
		Total	2,718 yds. = 1.54 miles.

B. Renewals.

(i) Broadfield Street.	6" A.C.	75	Replaces old 3".
(ii) Horace Street.	4" A.C.	120	" 1½".
(iii) Pulvertoft Lane/Edwin St.	3" C.I.	57	" 1½".
(iv) Frampton Place.	4" C.I.	243	" 2".
(v) London Rd. (Rly. Crossing— Borough Boundary).	4" A.C.	726	" 1½" & 2".
(vi) High Street (Hatter Lane/ Fydeall Crescent).	6" A.C.	93	} Replaces 2½"/3" rider Main.
	6" C.I.	157	
(vii) Rosegarth Street.	4" A.C.	170	Replaces old 2" and 3".
(viii) Garfitts Lane (London Rd.— Police houses).	6" A.C.	142	Replaces old 1½".
(ix) Duke Street.	4" A.C.	185	" 2½".
		<hr/>	
		Total	1,968 yds. = 1.12 miles.

6. Proposed Extensions to Piped Water Supplies in 1951 (Borough).

Carlton Road and Fenside Corporation Housing Site, and private estate off Wyberton Low Road.

In addition to these extensions, the Council's policy to re-organise and modernise the distribution system in all districts will continue. A storage tank is to be installed on the roof of the new grain silo at the Dock and high pressure water conveyed to the adjacent industrial areas.

(Signed) D. H. BALL,

M.I.Mun.E., A.I.W.E.

Chartered Municipal Engineer,
Borough Water Engineer.

April, 1951.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

1. Tollfield Road Sewerage Scheme completed.
2. Sewerage extension Wyberton Low Road completed.
3. Brothertoft Road Housing Site Sewers commenced.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE SCHEMES :—

House refuse is collected at fortnightly intervals. Salvage collections again improved and waste paper collections increased from 531 tons in 1949 to 553 tons in 1950. Pig Food collections were 631 tons.

SWIMMING BATHS :—

The Swimming Baths were again well patronised and, now that swimming forms a part of the school curriculum, parties of school children were among those who regularly attended the baths.

Samples of water were taken regularly and owing to unfavourable reports from the analyst during the busy part of the season it became necessary to close the baths for a time and carry out improvements to the chlorination plant. This resulted in the water being of a more satisfactory bacteriological standard although the excessive amount of chlorine in the water became a source of annoyance to the bathers. In order to make the water more satisfactory it would be necessary to have a modern continuous filtration and chlorination system installed.

MEASURES AGAINST INFESTATION :—

(a) Rodent Control :—

The number of complaints received was 125, an increase of only 5 on the previous year. However, more infestations were detected by routine survey work and in June the Public Health Committee decided to appoint an assistant to the Pests Officer. I think that this move has been justified by the fact that far more routine survey work is now possible. An added advantage is that it is now possible to carry out sewer treatments without recourse to the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Division. The following table gives an idea of the amount of work done in controlling surface infestations :—

No. of premises treated	No. of bodies recovered
531	1672

It is estimated that where poisoning is the only method of destruction used, that the number of rats killed is five times the number of bodies recovered. It is also worth noting that 25 full grown rats eat as much food as a man, quite apart from the amount that they spoil and it will therefore be seen that this work represents a considerable saving of food.

(b) **Verminous Houses :**

The number of premises treated for vermin is as follows :—

Bed bugs	28
Fleas	11
Cockroaches, Ants, etc.	31

There has been an appreciable increase in the number of houses treated for vermin but it is now rare to find a heavy infestation. Included under the third heading were a number of premises infested by wasps which are not normally classed as vermin, but can give rise to as much discomfort as the more usual pests.

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE BOROUGH :—

The report of the Sanitary Inspector will be found at the end of this report :—

COMMON LODGING HOUSES :—

There are still three premises registered as Common Lodging Houses. They have been inspected regularly and do not cause much trouble. Verminous infestation is common and is very difficult to eliminate but the Lodging House keepers co-operate in trying to keep it at a minimum.

FACTORIES :—

The following tables give particulars of the visits made to factories during 1950. The number of defects found was small and in no case was it necessary to resort to statutory action to remedy the defects.

Inspections.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	4	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	11	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	Nil	Nil
Total	109	15	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	6	Nil	1	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :					
(a) Insufficient	4	3	Nil	2	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	5	Nil	4	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	Nil	2	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	21	18	Nil	9	Nil

OUTWORKERS' PREMISES :—

There are 19 outworkers' premises, 16 of whom are engaged in pea picking. All the premises have been found to be kept in a satisfactory condition and no action has been necessary to maintain the desired standard.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected in the Borough during the year :—

(a) By private enterprise	19
(b) By the Council	72

Number of houses under construction at the end of 1950 :—

(a) By private enterprise	11
(b) By the Council	53 houses 80 flats.

INSPECTIONS :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	893
---	-----

(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	1746
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	43
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	170
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	877
2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices.		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	176
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.		
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	14
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	2
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	48
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	14
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ..	14
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	6
(2)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.. .. .		
		1

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

Owing to the impossibility during the war years of keeping the records up to date, no accurate figures can be given. In my opinion a fresh survey of the whole Borough is urgently needed.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION :—

Slaughtering is of course still carried on at one slaughterhouse only. Minor improvements were attempted during the year, including the provision of a new floor in the sheep and pig slaughterhouse, but whether it was due to inferior materials or to insufficient time being allowed for it to set thoroughly, the surface very quickly wore off and the present condition is no better than it was before repair.

There was an increase of over 550 in the number of cattle slaughtered but this was partly offset by a decrease of 150 in the number of pigs killed. The number of sheep was practically the same, about 4,900. The incidence of tuberculosis was a little lower but in spite of that, 47 whole carcasses of cattle had to be condemned for this disease and of this number, 31 were cows. It is obvious therefore that the risk of tubercular infection from milk is still present and these figures provide a strong argument for compulsory pasteurisation of all milk not derived from tuberculin tested herds. A total of more than 64 tons of meat had to be condemned, an increase of over 50% of last year's figure. This is very regrettable but with the present meagre ration it is most important that standards of judgment should be maintained to ensure that all meat passed to the public is above suspicion.

The following tables give details of the number of carcasses inspected and of the meat condemned.

Carcasses examined during the year :—

Beef (including veal)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2325
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	4916
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	1699

Meat Destroyed.

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Total.
Carcasses whole with				
offal	108	7	122	237
Forequarters	11	—	—	11
Hindquarters	9	—	—	9
Plucks	—	22	337	359
Heads and tongues	337	6	65	408
Livers	535	14	—	549
Lungs	396	—	—	396
Intestines	969	1	943	1913
Miscellaneous	1618	17	655	2290
Meat	11cwt 96lbs	46lbs.	6cwt 93lbs.	19cwt 11lbs

Total weight of meat condemned :—64 tons, 7 cwt, 94 lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1443	602	280	4916	1699
Number inspected	1443	602	280	4916	1699
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses con- demned	17	29	12	7	96
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	409	111	7	43	556
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	29.5	23.2	6.8	1.0	38.4
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses con- demned	16	31	3	—	26
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	155	95	1	1	56
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	11.8	20.9	1.4	.02	4.8

ICE CREAM :—

The following table gives particulars of the results of the examination of samples taken during the year. The number of samples falling into Grades 3 and 4 has increased, due to the fact that a higher proportion of samples has been taken from vendors suspected of producing an ice cream of low bacteriological grade.

Examined by Methylene Blue Test.

Prov. Grade I	Prov. Grade II	Prov. Grade III	Prov. Grade IV	Total
22	9	8	10	49

FOOD POISONING :—

Four isolated cases of food poisoning were reported during the year but in none of them was it possible to identify the causative agent. Indeed, in no case was it possible to recover any of the suspected food and only in the cases of C. and D. Bedford was it possible to recover any food eaten shortly before the outbreak.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN :—

In January, Codes of Practice, approved by the County of Holland Clean Food Campaign Committee, were distributed to traders, together with application forms for participation in the Campaign and the award of a Clean Food Certificate. The response was not as good as had been expected but it is known that many applications were deferred pending the improvement of the premises. The position at the end of the year was as follows :—

No. of application forms distributed	No. returned	No. of premises inspected	No. of certificates issued
279	73	73	38

An Exhibition was held during the second week of June in conjunction with the Holland County Council and this was attended by approximately 1,500 persons. Organised parties of school children attended and they were also encouraged to enter for poster and essay competitions for prizes kindly donated by Councillor J. H. Mountain, Chairman of the Public Health Committee.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Table I shows the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, the numbers admitted to hospital, and the total number of deaths.

Diphtheria :—Once again no cases have occurred in the Borough and there is no doubt that this excellent state of affairs is largely the result of children being Immunised at an early age.

Scarlet Fever :—A total of 53 notifications were received during the year and 16 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. This figure is slightly higher than that for 1949 when 27 cases were notified.

Chicken Pox :—The epidemic of Chicken Pox which began during the last quarter of 1949 continued into the early part of the year and was chiefly responsible for the high incidence of this complaint. Of the 206 cases notified during the year approximately 50% were in respect of cases occurring during January and February.

Scabies :—The number of cases notified has again decreased and only 3 cases were reported as compared with 23 in 1949. 2 of the cases notified received treatment from their own doctors, whilst the remaining person was treated at the Cleansing Centre.

The Holland County Council undertakes the treatment of all cases of Scabies occurring in the Borough, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the Corporation. Arrangements in force ensure that details of all notifications received by this Department are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons are treated as early as possible.

Poliomyelitis :—Another extensive epidemic of Poliomyelitis occurred throughout the country during 1950 and, although a high incidence was reported in some areas, the Borough was again comparatively fortunate in this respect.

6 Paralytic cases were originally notified, the diagnosis in respect of 1 patient being subsequently not confirmed. Three of the patients died following admission to hospital, but the two remaining cases recovered and were eventually discharged to their homes.

Of the 2 Non-Paralytic cases, one was later diagnosed as a Paralytic type case, whilst the confirmed case recovered and was discharged from Hospital.

Measles :—As a result of a heavy epidemic during the latter half of the year, 826 notifications were received as compared with 11 in 1949. Thus Measles was easily the most common notifiable disease, whilst at the same time, this particular epidemic exceeded that in 1945 when 620 cases were reported in the Borough.

Notifications first began to be above normal towards the end of June and for the next three months were exceptionally heavy with 330 cases occurring during August. However, from this period until the end of the year the rate of notification, whilst being well above normal, showed a steady decrease.

Below will be found details of the number of notifications received during each quarter of the year.

January—March	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
April—June	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
July—September	..	..	..	..	..	..	628
October—December	..	..	..	..	..	..	164

Table I.
Notifiable Disease during the Year 1950.

Disease	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Acute Poliomyelitis :				
Paralytic	6	5	6	3
Non-paralytic	2	1	2	Nil
Chicken Pox	206	206	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	8	8	5	Nil
Erysipelas	4	4	2	Nil
Food Poisoning	4	4	1	Nil
Measles	826	826	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	16	16	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	1	Nil
Scabies	3	3	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	53	53	16	Nil
Whooping Cough	31	31	Nil	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS :—

Cases notified within the Borough come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Table II.
TUBERCULOSIS.
Showing New Cases and Deaths.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	2	5	—	2	—	1	—	—
25—35	4	2	—	2	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
55—65	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	13	12	—	5	4	3	—	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA :—

All arrangements in connection with immunisation within the Borough are under the control of the Holland County Council.

The following figures, supplied by the County Health Department, give details of the number of immunisations carried out during the year.

Children under 5 years of age	307
Children between 5 and 15 years of age	65
Children between 5 and 15 years of age given "Booster" courses	212

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1950.

To :—The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Boston.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report upon the work of your Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1950.

This has not been a year of major achievements ; indeed a comparison of many of the figures appearing in this report with those of past years might suggest that less work has been done. I think that the answer to this lies in the number of complaints received. These numbered 455, an increase of almost 70% over the number dealt with in 1938. Some were serious, some were trivial, some were non-existent—but they all required investigation and it might fairly be said that the time taken to investigate any complaint varied inversely with the seriousness of the cause. The net result was that less time was available for routine inspections and in my opinion it is only by regular and systematic inspection of the district that the sanitary circumstances of the Borough can be maintained at a satisfactory standard. In fact, a large increase in the number of complaints can easily produce a vicious circle, as more complaints means less routine inspection, and less routine inspection leads to more complaints. To some extent the position was relieved by the appointment in May, 1950, of a pupil Sanitary Inspector, but the effect of this appointment will be more noticeable in following years.

It is pleasing to note that the number of houses erected during the year showed a considerable increase over the number erected in 1949, but even so it can have made little impression on the long waiting list of those wanting houses. On the debit side, Demolition Orders had to be made in respect of 6 houses which could no longer be kept fit for habitation. I think that this number will be exceeded next year, and I hope that in succeeding years a gradual improvement in the housing situation may permit an increasing amount of slum clearance.

The inspection of food and food premises accounted for a great deal of our time and the Clean Food Campaign, which is referred to elsewhere, did much to improve the already good relations between your Sanitary Inspectors and those engaged in the food handling trades. It is very pleasing to be able to report that the large majority of food traders are willing and anxious to do their utmost to provide clean and wholesome food and that many of them have gone to considerable expense to improve their premises in spite of difficulties due to licensing regulations and shortage of materials.

Early in the year I wrote to all itinerant ice cream vendors in the Borough, suggesting that the day of open topped ice cream barrows had passed and that steps should be taken to provide better protection for their wares. Their response was most gratifying and without exception they all endeavoured to meet my requirements. There has also been a considerable increase in the sale of wrapped ice cream, which from an hygienic view point is much to be commended but it certainly does aggravate the litter problem.

There are many other matters upon which I could comment but I think sufficient has been said for one year. Much of our work appears in various sections of the Medical Officer's report and for those who like figures, the following tables give a very condensed summary of the year's activities. My best thanks are due to the staff of the Public Health Department, who have worked so well throughout the year; to Dr. Smeaton, with whom it is a pleasure to work, and to the Public Health Committee for their support and encouragement.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTIONS :—

Dwellings.

Inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	..	..	146
Inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	672
			— 818

Re-inspections.

Under the Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	393	
Under the Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	505	
						898
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	122
Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	4
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	8
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	103
Butcher's Shops	..	..	..	..	..	89
Prepared Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	73
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	80
Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	53
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	79
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	34
Food Shops and Premises	..	..	..	..	..	170
Market Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	154
Food and Drugs Act, Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	31
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	109
Factories Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	7
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	38
Slaughterhouse and Meat Depot	..	..	..	..	..	647
Rat Infestation	..	..	..	..	..	26
Rat Infestation Revisits	..	..	..	..	..	4
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	43
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	46
					Total	3636

Samples Taken.

Water

Public Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Swimming Baths	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Other	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
							80
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	9

Drains and Sewers.

Drains Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Drains Cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Sewers Cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	156

OFFICE WORK :—

Informal Notices.					Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	97	69
Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	61	56
Dustbin	..	..	..	..	96	77
Statutory Notices.					Served.	Complied with.
Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	..	..	..	..	11	16
Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	36	25
Dustbin	..	..	..	..	12	4
Conversions	..	..	..	..	1	—

PREMISES DISINFECTED :—

Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

NUISANCES REPORTED AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED :—

Total number of complaints received 455

The following are details of complaints received and remedied :—

Defective Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
General Housing complaints	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Defective W.C.'s	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Dirty Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Bugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Fleas, beetles, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Wasps nests	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	125
Choked drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Choked sewers	..	..	..	..	..	..	108
Choked street gullies	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Defective yard paving	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	31

NUISANCES FROM PREMISES OTHER THAN DWELLINGS :—

Chickens	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Flies	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Stables	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR :—

Defect	No. found	No. Remedied	
		(a) Informally	(b) By Statutory Action
Roofs	36	24	12
Chimneys	13	9	—
Pointing of external walls	6	4	3
Gutters and down pipes	41	26	7
Boundary walls or fences	4	1	—
Wall plaster	19	10	5
Ceiling plaster	9	9	6
Doors and door frames	7	3	3
Windows and window frames	15	7	5
Sash cords	1	1	4
Floors (solid)	2	—	—
Floor boards	10	9	2
Skirtings	1	—	—
Firegrates or ranges	25	14	6
Treads and risers	3	2	1
W.C. roofs	6	2	1
W.C. walls	7	4	1
W.C. doors and door frames	—	2	—
W.C. pans	23	15	1
W.C. Flushing cisterns	34	18	4
W.C. Flushing pipes	20	8	2
Yard and passage paving	25	3	9
Yard gullies	2	1	—
Drains	17	13	3
Dustbins	97	79	5
Water Supply	11	7	1
Sinks	5	5	—
Sink Waste pipes	5	5	1
Coppers	1	2	—

Other Items.

WATER :—

During the year 30 samples of water from the public mains were submitted for bacteriological examination and 13 for chemical analysis. 3 of the bacteriological samples were classified as “Doubtful” and 2 of the chemical samples were described as “not up to the usual standard.” In all these cases the trouble was rectified by flushing the mains, and follow up samples were classified as “highly satisfactory.”

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

PART II.
BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Year ended 31st December, 1950

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Year ended 31st December, 1950.

To :— The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Boston,
being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted by the
Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st December, 1950. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health.

The amount of shipping entering the Port during the year has been somewhat lower than that for 1949 owing to a decrease in coastwise shipping. However, the number of foreign vessels entering the Dock continues to increase and 447 vessels arrived during 1950 as compared with 431 in 1949. The character of the trade of the Port continues to be the same as in previous years, but the export of Coal has declined considerably.

Once again there has been a complete absence of infectious diseases, and in this respect I am satisfied that present arrangements are adequate to deal effectively with any outbreak that may occur.

During the year an inspection of the Port was made by Dr. M. D. Mackenzie, Principal Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, who expressed complete satisfaction with the manner in which the Health Administration of the Port was conducted.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. G. SMEATON,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

March, 1951.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

— of the —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year ended 31st December, 1950.

Table A.

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

		Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number reported to be Defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign	Steamers ..	59	36,344	42	54	16	13	Nil	Nil
	* Motor ..	388	62,169	21	31	5	3	Nil	Nil
	Sailing ..	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ..	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ..		447	98,513	63	85	21	16	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	Steamers ..	25	6,442	4	2	2	1	Nil	Nil
	* Motor ..	236	27,675	6	9	1	1	Nil	Nil
	Sailing ..	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ..	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise		261	34,117	10	11	3	2	Nil	Nil
Total Foreign and Coastwise		708	132,630	73	96	24	18	Nil	Nil

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. CHARACTER AND TRADE OF PORT.

Table B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year.

No. of Passengers				1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Trans-migrants
Inwards	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Outwards	..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) Cargo Traffic.

The Principal Imports are :—

Grain	Telegraph Poles	Fertilisers	Paper
Deals	Flour & Feeding	Fruit & Vegetables	Basic Slag
Battens & Boards	Stuffs	Petroleum	Oyster Shell
Sleepers	Potatoes	Bulbs	Tinned Milk

The Principal Exports are :—

Grain	Potatoes	Zinc Ashes	General Continental
Sugar	Fireclay	Coal	Goods

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.

Holland	Sweden	Finland	Germany	Eire
Amsterdam	Gothenburg	Hamina	Bremen	Arklow
Dordrecht	Halmstad	Kaskinen	Hamburg	Cork
Due Bommel	Hernosand	Kasko	Stettin	Dungarvan
Flushing	Hudiksvall	Kemi	Warnemunde	Foynes
Haarlingen	Norrkoping	Kotka	Wismar	Kinsale
Hansweert	Otterbracken	Kristinestad		Waterford
Hoorn	Pitea	Lapaluoto	France	
Maasluis	Stugsund	Mantyluoto	Bayonne	Belgium
Middleharnis	Sundsvall	Raumo	Bordeaux	Antwerp
Rotterdam	Westervik	Valkom	Caen	Ghent
Zierikzee		Vasa	Cherbourg	Vilvorde
	Russia	Yxpila	Dunkirk	
Norway	Archangel		Honfleur	Poland
Arendal	Mesane	Denmark	Rouen	Gdynia
	Onega	Odense	Treport	
Egypt				
Alexandria	Yugoslavia	Canada	Spain	
	Rijska	Picton	Almeria	

Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

1. Source of Supply.

Water is supplied, both to the Port and to shipping, from the mains of the Boston Corporation Water Undertaking.

2. Hydrants and Hosepipes. Precautions taken against contamination.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Water Boats.

There are no water boats in the Port.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

H.M. Customs and all shipping agents are issued by the Public Health Department with supplies of prescribed forms, which, after completion, are returned to the Medical Officer of Health.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival :—

All infected or suspected vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health, either at the Pilot Sloop or at the Landing Stage immediately outside the Dock gates. This of course depends upon the type of disease or other conditions to be dealt with.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention. (Wireless messages, land signal stations, information from Pilots, Customs Officers, etc.) :—

Each week, detailed lists of infected ports are extracted from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record, and forwarded to the Port Manager and H.M. Customs for the information of Pilots and other Officers concerned. Arrangements are in force for immediate notification to be given to the Medical Officer of Health of any vessels requiring special attention.

Communication by radio telephone is available between the Dock Master's Office, Lock Head, and the Pilot Boarding Station, which is situated in the Wash, five miles from Port.

The telegraphic address : "Port-helth, Boston" is registered with the General Post Office.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Article 10 :—

- (a) **Within the Docks :** The vacant berth in Boston Dock.
- (b) **Outside the Docks :** The Quarantine Station—"Clay Hole."

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14 :—

Nil.

6. Experience of working Article 16 :—

It has not been necessary during the year 1950 to take any action to restrict boarding or leaving ships.

7. What, if any, arrangements have been made for :—

(a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination :—

There are no arrangements in existence, or in my opinion necessary. Having regard to the type of shipping using the Dock, I am satisfied that medical examinations can most conveniently be carried out on board ships.

(b) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons and Clothing and other Articles :—

Arrangements in existence provide for disinfection of infected quarters under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer. Bedding, etc., can be disinfected at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

(c) Premises for the Temporary Accommodation of Persons for whom such Accommodation is required for the Purposes of the Regulations :—

Such accommodation is available at the Boston Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

(d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other Infectious Diseases :—

Cases occurring under this heading are sent to Laceby Hospital.

(e) Ambulance Transport :—

A motor ambulance is provided by the Holland County Council.

(f) Supervision of Contacts :—

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed post-cards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

8. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague :—

Such examinations are arranged through the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Medical Research Council.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations :

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for such examinations to be carried out at either of the undermentioned Laboratories :—

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.
(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).
- (b) The Laboratory, Boston Group Hospital Management Committee, General Hospital, South End, Boston.

10. Information as to the Location, days and hours of the available facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease among Merchant Seamen under International arrangements, including In-Patient Treatment ; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to Seamen :—

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee or the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient Treatment is available at the Clinic, London Road Hospital, Boston, which is within convenient reach of the Port. The fixed times of the Clinic are as follows :—

Tuesdays 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Fridays 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

If necessary special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

In-patient Treatment can be arranged if necessary, such cases being dealt with by the Grimsby Hospital Management Committee.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspections.

11. Arrangements for the Interment of Dead :—

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

12. Other Matters, if any, requiring or receiving Attention :

There are no items to report under this heading.—

Table C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during the Year 1950		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Table D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to Arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during the Year 1950		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred during the year 1950 and no plague infected rats were discovered ; neither did any outbreak of Malaria occur on an arriving ship.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague :—

(a) In Ships in the Port :—

Inspections are carried out by the Port Sanitary Officer.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, &c., in the vicinity of the Port :

The Boston Port Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, within the area. All premises are subject to frequent inspection by the Port Sanitary Officer.

2. Measures taken to prevent the Passage of Rats between Ships and the Shore :—

Masters of ships which are suspected of being rat-infested are instructed to provide " mushrooms " on their ropes and to take all precautions possible to prevent passage of rats from ship to shore.

3. Methods of Deratisation of :—

(a) Ships :—

The normal method is trapping. Poisoning is occasionally used and if infestation is so heavy as to warrant immediate fumigation, arrangements are made through fumigation contractors at Grimsby. As Boston is not an approved Port for the issue of Deratisation Certificates it has not been considered necessary to make any other arrangements for the complete fumigation of ships.

(b) Premises in the Vicinity of Docks or Quays :—

Under the general direction of the Port Sanitary Officer all such premises are kept under constant surveillance by the Authority's Rodent Officer. Prebaiting is carried out at regular and frequent intervals and is followed by any other necessary action.

4. Measures taken for the Detection of Rat Prevalence in Ships and on Shore :—

(a) The Port Sanitary Officer carries out examinations of ships, also of the Dock area.

(b) The Authority's Rodent Officer carries out frequent routine surveys of the Dock area.

5. Rat-proofing :—

(a) To what extent are Docks, Wharves and Warehouses, &c., Rat Proof?

The Fruit Shed (South Side) is of iron construction with a concrete floor, whilst the general merchandise warehouses on the North side of the Dock are of concrete.

(b) Action taken to extend Rat-proofing :—

i. **In Ships**, any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

ii. **On Shore**, the existing buildings are of satisfactory construction and are maintained in a rat-proof condition.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Table E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year.
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Brown	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	8	—	—	—	—	13
Species not recorded ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Infected with Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

Table F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves, and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in Year.
Black	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3*
Brown	19	—	28	3	—	7	4	7	4	16	14	—	102*
Species not recorded ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
Examined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Infected with Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—	—	Nil

*These figures relate to bodies recovered. It is estimated that as a result of poisoning a further 465 rats were killed during the year.

Table G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the Year.

Total Number of such Vessels arriving (1)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO ₂ (2)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of Rats killed (3)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN (4)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of Rats killed (5)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, &c., were employed (6)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of Rats killed (7)	.. .. .	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out (8)	.. .. .	Nil

Table H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This table is inapplicable as Boston is not an Approved Port. All ships inspected carried valid certificates.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

Table J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	25	2	1	4
Other Nations ..	72	5	5	20

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940 :—

No occasion for any action under the above Regulations arose during the year 1950.

2. Shell-fish :—

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected, and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1950, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :—

(a) Bacteriologist	Nil
(b) Analyst	Nil

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