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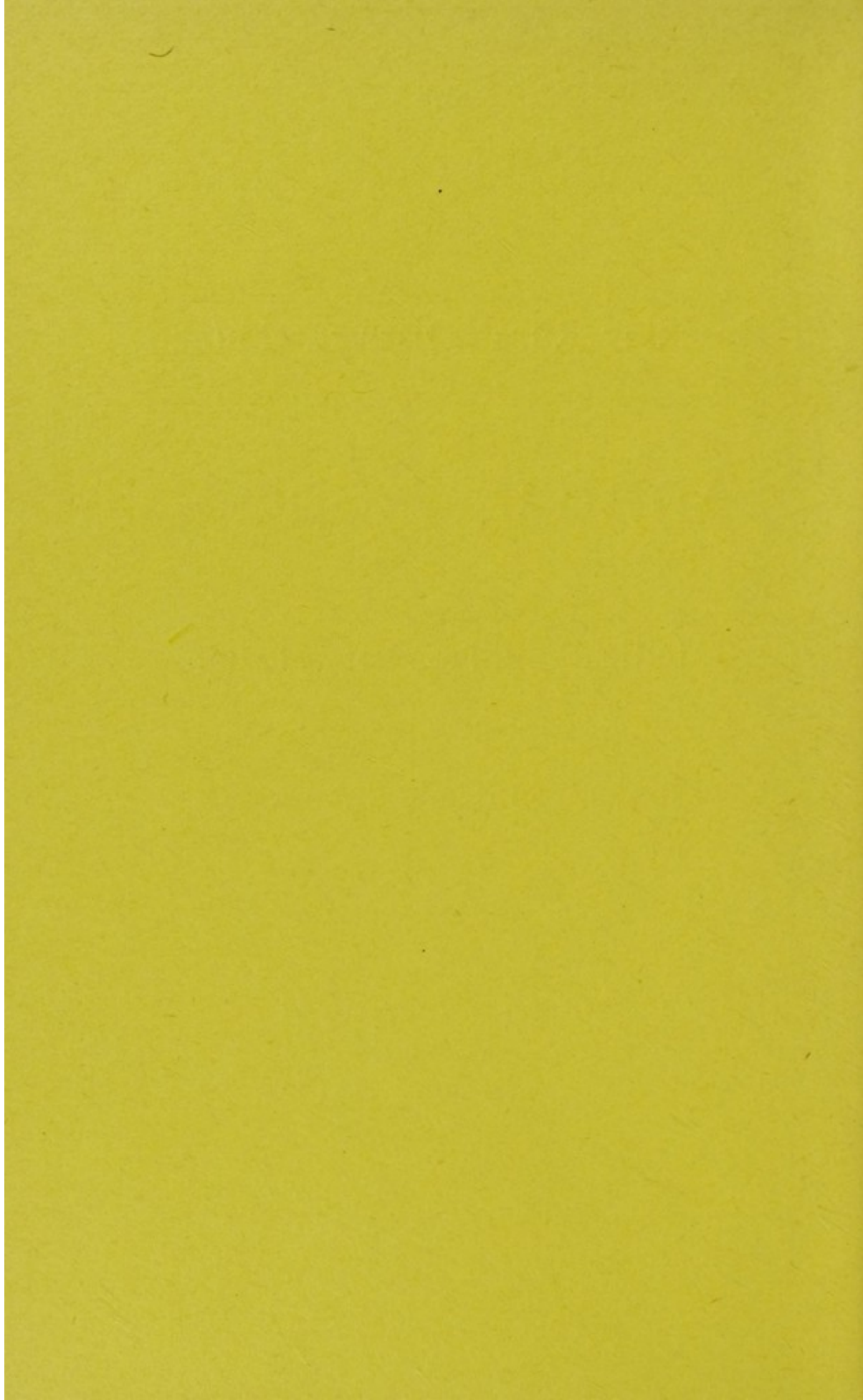
of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1941



BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the year ended 31st December, 1941

Mr CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector for the year 1941. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Members of the Council and of the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation since my appointment.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

DAVID J. JONES.

Public Health Department,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley,
Northants.

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1943.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman—L. Watson, Esq., J.P.,C.C.

Vice-Chairman—Lt. Col. J. L. Fisher, C.M.G.,D.S.O.,J.P.,C.C.

Health Committee :

Major G. R. Guinness (Chairman), Mrs M. E. Johnson,
Mrs N. N. Kekewich, Mrs H. M. Norris, F. W. Smith, Esq.,
R. Barrett, Esq., E. T. Fell, Esq. (deceased), J. N. Gibbard, Esq.,
H. S. Watson, Esq.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio Members of
the Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Your present Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector took up their respective positions on January 1st, 1940.

OFFICER.

CERTIFICATES AND QUALIFICATIONS.

1. DAVID J. JONES. M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., B.Sc.
Medical Officer of Health.
(Entered H.M.Forces 21st November, 1942)
2. W. E. TURBITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector.
 - (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
 - (b) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Other Foods.
 - (c) Diploma, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene in Advanced Hygiene and Sanitation.
 - (d) Certificate, Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene in School Hygiene.
 - (e) Certificate, First Class (Special) Air Raids Precaution School, Falfield.
 - (f) Certificate Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene in Hygiene and Sanitation.
3. J. F. DUNNING, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board. (Commenced duties 3rd June, 1941). (Resigned 4th April, 1942).
4. Miss D. W. HOWELL.
Joint Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyor.
(Commenced duties 24th April, 1941).

Miss E. E. PARKINSON.
Joint Clerk to Sanitary Inspectors and Surveyor.
(Resigned 8th March, 1941).

Public Health Law.

Following are the most important of the Acts, Orders or Regulations operating in the Area of the Brackley Rural District Council.

Public Health Act 1936.
 Housing Act 1936.
 Food and Drugs Act 1938.
 Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919.
 Factories Act 1937.
 Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.
 Shops Acts 1934 and 1936.
 Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.
 Milk & Dairies Orders 1926 and 1938.
 Public Health (Meat Regulations) 1924 and 1935.
 Tuberculosis Order 1938.
 Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1930.
 Sanitary Accommodation Regulation 1938.
 Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations 1937.

Vital Statistics.

The following extract from the Vital Statistics of the year relate to the birth and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar.

	Total		Males		Females		Rate per 1,000 Population	
	For Infantile Mortality	For Birth Rate	For Infantile Mortality	For Birth Rate	For Infantile Mortality	For Birth Rate	Brackley Rural District Council	England and Wales
Live Legitimate	140	125	79	72	61	53		
Births Illegitimate	7	7	3	4	3	4		
Still Births	...	...	1	...	3	3	0.38	0.51
Deaths	134		69		65		12.6	12.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	}	Nil.
Other Puerperal causes		

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	61.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	57.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	142.8

Deaths from :

	Total	Males	Females
Cancer (all ages)	24	11	13
Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1	1	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1	—

The registered causes of death were :—

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	—	1
5. Diphtheria	1	—	1
6. Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	2	2
7. Tuberculosis—Other Forms	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	1	1
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis; Polio Encephalitis... ..	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	2	—	2
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	1	4
15. Cancer of Breast	—	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	6	8	14
17. Diabetis	1	—	1
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	9	6	15
19. Heart Disease	9	19	28
20. Other Diseases of Circulation	2	—	2
21. Bronchitis	3	3	6
22. Pneumonia	9	2	11
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—	2
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	2	4
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis	2	—	2
27. Other digestive Disorders	—	2	2
28. Nephritis	2	1	3

29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	... ..	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	... ..	3	1	4
32.	Congenital Malformation : Birth Injury :				
	Infantile Disorders	... ..	1	2	3
33.	Suicide	... ..	—	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	... ..	1	1	2
35.	Other Violent Causes	... ..	1	1	2
36.	All Other Causes	... ..	7	9	16
			—	—	—
			69	65	134
			—	—	—

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, the School of Pathology, South Parks Road, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the bacteriological analysis of water samples and other specimens submitted from this district.

Samples of milk are taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and are examined in the laboratory section of the County Health Department.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Unchanged from 1940 Report.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Unchanged from 1940 Report.

(d) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Infant Welfare—Brackley.	}	Organised by County Council.
Orthopædic Clinic.		
Vision Clinic.		

Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 213 cases of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified.

The following table sets forth the nature of the various diseases and shows the distribution of the cases throughout the parishes in the district.

Notifiable Diseases.
(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1941.

Parish.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Polio Encephalitis.	TOTAL.
Aston-le-Walls ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
Aynho ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Boddington ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	23
Chalcombe ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2	—	11
Charlton ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chipping Warden ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	4
Croughton ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	13	—	20
Culworth ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	5	1	23
Edgcote ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	6
Evenley ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Eydon ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	23
Farthinghoe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4
Greatworth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Helmdon ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	8
Hinton-in-the-Hedges ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kings Sutton ...	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	10	—	29
Marston St. Lawrence ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Middleton Cheney ...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	—	8
Moreton Pinkney ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Radstone ...	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6
Sulgrave ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syresham ...	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	11
Thenford ...	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	14
Thorpe Mandeville ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	9
Warkworth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	25	11	—	—	5	—	—	1	120	50	1	213

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases—1941.

A statement shewing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder :—

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	1	2	—	1	3	5	3	2	5	2	25
Diphtheria ...	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	11
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles ...	74	22	12	3	—	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	120
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	1	7	2	11	11	7	8	3	—	—	50
Polio Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total ...	75	22	20	14	2	20	15	12	18	6	5	4	213

TUBERCULOSIS.

All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, when considered necessary, is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health and County Tuberculosis Officer in the County Sanatoria.

The living conditions, etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

During the year 8 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 4 being of a respiratory nature and 4 non-respiratory.

The following table gives the incidence of new cases with their age distribution.

New Cases during 1941.

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1	...	...	...	...
1 — 5	...	...	...	...
5 — 15	...	...	1	1
15 — 25	...	1	1	...
25 — 35	...	1	...	...
35 — 45	1	...	...	...
45 — 55	...	...	...	...
55 — 65	1	...	...	1
65 and over	...	...	...	...
Totals	2	2	2	2.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases, etc.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Council at the end of 1940 approved a Scheme recommended by the Medical Officer of Health to offer to the public immunisation against diphtheria for children between the ages of

1—15 years, free of all cost. At the beginning of 1941 the Government launched a campaign (in which all Local Authorities took part) similar to that proposed by the Council, and the Ministry of Health would supply all prophylactic required.

Great publicity was given to the campaign by the Ministry of Health through the medium of the Press and B.B.C. and the people in this rural district proved receptive, but in order to eliminate diphtheria at least 80 per cent. of the under 5's and 70-75 per cent. of the 5-15's must be protected. From the figures given below it can be seen that they fall of short of the desired achievement, but are indicative of the trend of thought of the population in the protection of their children against a dreaded and fatal disease.

The figures referred to, so far as the rural district of Brackley is concerned, are :—

285 immunised children under 5 years of age, i.e., 45 per cent.
1076 immunised children over 5 years of age, i.e., 74 per cent.

The success of the campaign has, in no small part, been due to the very active co-operation of the Head Teachers of the Schools in the rural district and their staffs. Also the County Health Visitor, Miss Green. The actual immunisation procedure within the rural district has been performed mainly by the Medical Officer of Health.

The essential part of the future campaign is the protection of every child as soon after its first birthday as is practicable and all means of propaganda should be utilised to ensure the success of this very important part of preventive medicine.

So far as the Brackley Rural District is concerned the Assistant School Medical Officer of the County Council will carry out the necessary inoculations at the beginning or end of school medical inspections at the various schools throughout the rural district.

Consent Forms may be obtained from Miss Green (County Health Visitor), or Mr W. E. Turbitt, Sanitary Inspector, Rural District Council Offices, Brackley, and after completion, returned to either of these officials, after which arrangements for immunisation may then be made by the Medical Officer of Health.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year 38 drainage systems were repaired or renewed and 10 premises were connected to the sewer.

All new drains were required by the Sanitary Inspectors to withstand the hydraulic test before the work was passed as being satisfactory. Full details of the various sanitary and drainage apparatus or fittings provided or installed are referred to under the headings 'Sanitary Conveniences' and 'Drainage' respectively on Page 20 in the Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the year under review.

A considerable number of premises in the various parishes throughout the district are unfortunately not able to enjoy the conveniences of a drainage system due to the fact that either no sewer is available or that the existing sewers or disposal works cannot cope with any additional connections being made.

It is hoped that after the war a proper system of Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works can be provided throughout the district.

Closet Accommodation.

In the main pail closets or privies are existing in the district. Privies are a most objectionable type of closet accommodation and are being abolished whenever encountered and a pail closet or (where practicable) water closet provided in lieu thereof. The conversion of closets from the conservancy to water carriage system is dealt with, when possible, as nuisances or when insufficiencies arise. The conversion of course depends on the availability of sewers in the district.

Water Supply.

During the year 15 samples of water were taken from shallow wells and subjected to bacteriological examination. Only two samples came into Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading, and one of these was not obtained until after the shallow well had been thoroughly cleaned out and partly reconstructed; even then it was suggested by the Analyst that frequent bacteriological examinations should be made to check the quality of the supply. In the case of the 13 bad samples, bacteriological examination of the water revealed pollution in varying degrees from slight to heavy—and even gross—contamination. Part of the contamination was apparently due to organisms of excretal origin. This serious condition is no doubt due to the objectionable practice—though inevitable during the continuance of the war—of cottagers burying the contents of the pail closets and privies in the garden ground belonging to their cottages in which shallow wells are all too frequently situated. From these remarks it will be appreciated how closely good water supplies are associated with satisfactory means of drainage and sewerage.

Unfortunately, the bulk of the water supplies throughout this rural district are derived from shallow wells of very imperfect construction.

Enough has been said to indicate the grave risk of a water-borne infection breaking out in a district where so many of the population obtain drinking water from shallow wells situated in "sewage sick" garden ground. This risk is accentuated now that many evacuees are residing in this rural area. Local inhabitants, through drinking this water over a considerable number of years, have acquired some degree of immunity from the risks of water-borne infection.

The risk will not be entirely eliminated until the time arrives when the whole district can be served with a proper piped supply of wholesome water from a satisfactory source in conjunction with the introduction of good systems of house drainage and sewerage.

The following detailed information gives some idea of the present position of water supplies in each parish throughout the district, viz.—

ASTON-LE-WALLS.

A privately owned piped water supply from a spring situate about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the village serves a farm house, the Rectory, the Presbytery, the School, the Old School House and a number of cottages. The supply is inadequate in times of drought. A number of cottages obtain water from shallow wells which become dry during the summer.

Appletree has a public well serving a row of eight (now condemned) cottages and also a number of private shallow wells.

16 Council Houses erected in 1939 are served by piped supply from a tower situated on the Housing Estate and which is fed from a well nearby.

AYNHÖ.

Approximately 50% of the village obtains water from a privately owned supply. This supply is laid on to a number of houses and to three standpipes.

BODDINGTON.

Lower Boddington has a public water supply from a spring serving a number of farms and four standpipes. The pipe from the spring to the service reservoir is unsatisfactory, resulting in frequent blockage and pollution during and after heavy rain.

Upper Boddington relies entirely on shallow wells.

CHALCOMBE.

The majority of the inhabitants obtain water from one of three sources.

(1) Lion's Head Spring—The spring discharges through a pipe by the road side.

(2) A spring situated by the side of a stream in Berry's Close. The stream at this point is grossly polluted and it is possible for the spring water to be polluted with stream water.

(3) The seventeen Council Houses are served by a piped supply from a water tower fed by a nearby well.

A number of inhabitants have to carry water considerable distances from one or other of these three sources. The first two sources have frequently been polluted and building in proximity to the third will possibly lead to its pollution in the future.

CHIPPING WARDEN.

Four or five of the larger houses have private piped supplies, but the greater part of the village obtains water from wells of varying depths in the Marlstone. Many of these become short in summer and a number of them are at times so polluted as to become undrinkable.

CROUGHTON.

A public piped water scheme for this village was completed in 1937.

CULWORTH.

The village depends mainly for water on shallow wells in the Northampton sand. To serve the Council's new Housing Estate of ten houses, a borehole is in course of construction, upon the completion of which a piped supply will be available to these houses.

EVENLEY.

The greater part of the village obtains water from a privately owned scheme serving a number of standpipes.

EYDON.

A shallow well situate to the west of the village supplies water by gravity to a number of houses and to standpipes. It is impossible to supply houses near the well by gravity. The collecting area is not protected in any way. This supply is unsatisfactory and the

Council should appreciate that specific pollution of this supply might cause widespread disaster.

The twelve Council Houses are served by a water tower fed by a nearby well.

FARTHINGHOE.

The Council have acquired a village water supply on condition that water is not laid on to private or public premises. The water is pumped from a shallow well situated near to the elementary school to a service reservoir whence water gravitates to five standpipes. This supply should be subjected to control by bacteriological examination of samples taken at least monthly. The elementary school buildings would be greatly improved if water could be laid on.

GREATWORTH.

A public scheme supplies water from a spring by means of a ram to a reservoir of about 4,000 gallons situated on high ground in the village. The height of this reservoir is insufficient to ensure an adequate pressure of water to the new Council Houses. Many houses have water laid on and there are also five standpipes.

HELMDON.

The greater part of the village depends on shallow wells inadequately protected against pollution and liable to run dry in periods of drought. A number of houses are supplied by a private water company which obtains water from a spring and supplies by gravity. The gathering ground is unprotected. The difficulties of providing a proper supply of water in this village are great but not insuperable. Eight new Council houses are served by gravity from a small reservoir at ground level in the field adjoining the houses. This reservoir is fed by a spring.

HINTON-IN-THE-HEDGES.

Water is pumped by a ram and electrically operated pump to a 4,000 gallon elevated service reservoir, whence it gravitates to four standpipes. A number of premises have water laid on.

KING'S SUTTON.

This village obtains water from a large number of shallow wells situated amidst built-up areas. The new estate of forty Council houses at Newlands, is served from a spring situated near the

lower end of the village. Another spring nearby flows into an open chamber in the cellar of a bakehouse. The overflow from this chamber supplies a few premises and a tap available to the public. A scheme for supplying the village with a piped supply was in course of preparation at the outbreak of war.

MARSTON ST. LAWRENCE.

The water comes from the same source as the supply to Greatworth, by gravitation.

OVERTHORPE.

This village has a piped water supply.

MIDDLETON CHENEY.

All water is obtained by handpumps or windlass and bucket from shallow wells. These wells are situated amidst built-up areas and in many instances there is no protection against the entry of surface water.

A scheme for a piped supply for the entire village was in course of preparation at the outbreak of hostilities and an adequate supply of water is available from a well constructed for this purpose before work had to be postponed.

The Council's new Housing Estate at Barnett Road is served by a piped supply from a water tower fed by a nearby well.

MORETON PINKNEY.

Water from a spring is collected in a small tank and then gravitates to four standpipes from which the majority of the inhabitants obtain water. The eight new Council Houses have a piped supply from a water tower on the Housing Estate fed by means of an electrically operated pump, from the above-mentioned small tank.

NEWBOTTLE-CUM-CHARLTON.

Newbottle itself is a hamlet and the supplies of water are apparently adequate.

Charlton. A ram situated to the north east of the village pumps water from a spring to an elevated reservoir of 8,000 gallons capacity, whence water gravitates to six standpipes and a num-

ber of houses. An electric pump is available if necessary. The gathering ground of this spring is unprotected. Samples for bacteriological examination should be taken monthly.

RADSTONE.

Three farms are supplied by ram. Cottages obtain water from wells.

SULGRAVE.

This village derives its water supply from shallow wells, which is a most unsatisfactory source.

SYRESHAM.

Water is obtained from shallow wells in close proximity to dwelling-houses, etc. Inhabitants have to walk considerable distances to obtain water. In times of drought many of the wells run dry. The Council's Burnham Place Housing Estate is served by a piped supply obtained from a water tower situated on the housing site which is fed by a nearby well.

THENFORD.

The Manor House and Manor Farm obtain water from a private installation. The remainder of the village depends on shallow wells.

THORPE MANDEVILLE.

Water is obtained from shallow wells.

WARKWORTH.

This small parish depends mainly on shallow wells.

WHITFIELD.

This village is served by a public supply obtained from two wells, one in the Great Oolite and the other in Northampton sand, about half a mile away to the south west of the village. Water is pumped from both of these wells by wind engines with an electrically operated pump as a reserve source of power, to a concrete reservoir. Water gravitates to four standpipes and to a number of houses. Shortage of water has been remedied since the installation of meters.

Public Cleansing.

A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

There is a noticeable scarcity of metal sanitary refuse bins in the district. Such bins are conducive to the proper storage of household refuse pending collection. By the provisions of Section 75, Public Health Act 1936, a Local Authority is empowered to call on the owner or occupier of any dwellinghouse to provide a sanitary refuse bin.

The Parishes are served as follows :—

Village.	Date of Collection.	Refuse Tip.
King's Sutton	Alternate Fridays	King's Sutton
Aynho	" "	Croughton
Middleton Cheney	First Tuesday in each Month	Greatworth
Chacombe	" "	"
Chipping Warden	" Wednesday "	Moreton Pinkney
Aston-le-Walls	" " "	"
Boddingtons	" " "	"
Eydon	" " "	"
Thenford	Second Tuesday "	Greatworth
Thorpe Mandeville	" " "	"
Marston	" " "	"
St. Lawrence	" " "	"
Culworth	" " "	Moreton Pinkney
Moreton Pinkney	" " "	"
Greatworth	" Wednesday "	Greatworth
Sulgrave	" " "	"
Helmdon	" " "	"
Radstone	" " "	"
Charlton	Third Tuesday "	Croughton
Croughton	" " "	"
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	" Wednesday "	"
Evenley	" " "	"
Whitfield	" " "	Greatworth
Syresham	" " "	"
Farthinghoe	" " "	"

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year 1533 inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. 104 complaints were received and promptly investigated. 149 Preliminary Notices were served and 115 complied with. 8 Statutory Notices were served of which 6 were complied with.

Shops and Offices.

No action was necessary or was taken during the year.

Camping Sites.

No camping sites have been set up in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no baths or pools subject to inspection in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No evidence of infestation was discovered during the year.

Schools.

The Sanitary Inspectors have commenced to make an inspection of all the schools in the district, special attention being given regarding the type, number and condition of the sanitary accommodation; washing facilities ; nature of water supply ; condition of school playground. Samples of the school milk are periodically taken for examination.

Most of the Institutions are under the control of the County Education Department and are visited by the Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer. Inclusion in this report would therefore not be relevant. It was not necessary to close any school owing to infectious disease.

Housing.**I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.**

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	83
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	344
2	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—
3		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
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 ...	—

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 69

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 —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 66

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 13

(b) By local Authority in default of owners Nil.

(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 Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING.

Nothing to report. Present position unknown.

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year 1941.

Details of work completed.	Total.
Roof renewed or repaired... ..	11
Chimney Stack repaired or renewed	4
Gutters repaired or renewed	5

Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	5
External walls repaired or re-pointed	3
Dampness abated :—	
i. repairs to roof	4
ii. repairs to external walls	1
iii. repairs to gutters or rainwater pipes... ..	2
iv. waterproofing of internal walls	—
v. Damp proof course provided	—
Permanent ventilation provided	—
Wall plaster repaired	6
Ceiling plaster repaired	13
Walls cleaned or redecorated	19
Ceilings cleaned or redecorated	15
Windows repaired or renewed	7
Sashcord provided	—
Doors repaired or renewed	1
Floor repaired or renewed	12
Stairs repaired or renewed	9
Window and door sills repaired	1
Plinth provided	3
Through ventilation provided	1
Yard or passage surface paved	1
Firegrates or ranges repaired or renewed	—
New sink provided	20
New waste pipe to sink provided	18
Separate water supply provided	—
Washing copper repaired or renewed	2
Wash-house rebuilt or repaired	3
Ventilated food store provided	1
Food store repaired or improved	1
Verminous rooms disinfected	—
Miscellaneous Housing items	—
Staircase handrails provided	—
Wells repaired or cleansed	—

Sanitary Conveniences.

Elsan Closets provided	6
Separate accommodation provided	9
New W.C.'s provided complete	8
New W.C. basin provided	5
W.C. cistern repaired or renewed	1
W.C. compartment repaired	—
Closets repaired	5
Closets limewashed	6
New pails to closets	6
Closets cleansed	10
Urinals repaired or cleansed	—
Privies abolished	6
Privies converted to pail closets	6
Pail closets converted to water closets	2

Drainage.

Drains examined	52
Drains cleansed	39
Drains repaired or reconstructed	38

Premises drained to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	10
Soil pipe or vent-shaft repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection chamber provided	...	...	...	...	...	24
Fresh air inlet fixed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Vent-shaft provided	...	...	...	...	...	11
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	40
Miscellaneous draining items	...	...	...	...	...	3
New septic tanks provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances.						
Offensive accumulation removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisance from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	—
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	14
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds and Dairies.						
Cowshed cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Accumulation of manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Impervious floor provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Proper dairy provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	5
Additional lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses.						
Slaughterhouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses.						
Bakehouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Benches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Preparing Premises, Shops, Stalls, Etc.						
Premises cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Benches etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste foodstuffs and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—

Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Visits to Premises during 1941.
(Dwelling Houses and Premises other than Shops)

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	—
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	—
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	167
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	66
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	344
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	104

SEDIMENT TESTS.

Towards the end of the year sediment testing of milk was commenced. This process consists of forcing one pint of milk through a finely woven cotton pad which causes most of the sediment in the milk being retained on the cotton pad. This method of milk testing is hoped to impress the producer as it does actually show some direct evidence as to whether the milk is being produced under cleanly or uncleanly conditions. A clean pad indicates **clean methods** of production.

Twenty-one tests were made during the latter months of the year and the results of these are as follows :—

Clean, 6. Dirty, 9. Very Dirty, 6. Total, 21.

The above classification is not based on prescribed bacteriological standards, as such standards do not exist for ordinary raw milk.

Producers whose samples are ' moderate ' or ' bad ' are again visited by the Health Officers who, together with the Producers, endeavour to investigate the probable cause of the unsatisfactory milk sample. All unsatisfactory samples are followed up until a satisfactory sample is finally obtained.

The year under review has seen the completion of a comprehensive inspection of all premises in the district where milk is produced or dealt with. This has taken two years to carry out, but proved to be a very necessary undertaking in such a large milk producing district as this, where the larger proportion of the milk is collected and conveyed to London and other towns outside this area.

This comprehensive survey of the milk industry which has been performed in the district has revealed many interesting features, the most important of which I should like to bring to the notice of all who read this Report.

Generally, the structural condition of the cowsheds is fairly good, although many lack sufficient light, ventilation and floor space. Quite a considerable number of the farm yards, through which the milking herds have to pass, are not efficiently paved or drained. During wet weather this is responsible for the cows becoming seriously contaminated and apart from not being conducive to the production of clean milk, causes unnecessary labour for the milkers in removing the dirt from the cows previous to the commencement of milking.

The conditions of the buildings where "designated" milk is produced were observed generally to be satisfactory and in only a few cases was it necessary to suggest a general clean-up of the interior of the buildings.

It was found that conditions were as a rule much better, from the point of view of cleanliness, in buildings where an adequate supply of water was available, for these premises were properly swilled down. Similarly, it was noticeable that proper cooling of milk was not being performed in premises where the water supply was inadequate. It is a regrettable fact that in some instances cooling was not being carried out at all. Efficient cooling should be looked upon as one of the most important aids to clean milk production and distribution and should be carried out immediately after milk leaves the cow. Inadequate cooling of milk—or the complete neglect of cooling—is largely responsible for many cases of early souring.

It is very noticeable that numerous churns of milk are left standing off the public highway pending collection and conveyance to the milk depots. During the summer days this practice encourages early souring of the milk if no protection is afforded the churns from the heat of the sun.

The majority of the notices served, in respect to milk premises during the year, concerned "dirty conditions." It should entail little time and cost to keep the premises clean.

In the main the cowsheds in the district are of fairly old construction and consequently many of the modern developments such as cement plinths to the walls behind the cows ; tubular steel partitions, etc., are absent. These developments do assist considerably in keeping the cowsheds clean.

At the present time, however, milk producers are not being asked to spend money on elaborate premises and equipment, although this is being done in some cases at the present time by the producers' own free will. **Methods** of milk production should always come first, and if good methods can be encouraged throughout the district then I am convinced that a cleaner and safer milk supply will be the result. The Officers of the Public Health Department are continuously striving to introduce better methods for the production of clean milk whenever such an introduction is necessary. **No modern premises, however hygienic they may be, will compensate for deficiencies in method.**

I again should like to express my gratitude to Major Guinness, Chairman of the Health Committee for his continued valuable assistance and the interest he has shown in the efforts made to see that clean milk is produced in the district.

Food Premises.

Shops and places where food is prepared or stored are visited as regularly as is possible and close supervision is exercised to detain foodstuffs which are unfit for human consumption.

Following are details of food premises existing in the district together with the number of visits made during the year, viz.:—

	No. in District.	No. of Visits.
No. of Provision Shops	57	30
„ „ Butchers' Shops	13	53
„ „ Fish Shops	1	1
„ „ Greengrocers	5	2
„ „ Ice Cream Shops	4	1
„ „ Dining Rooms	1	2
„ „ Public Houses or Inns	38	8
„ „ Bakehouses	14	49

Previous to the outbreak of war a considerable number of the Public Houses and Inns in the district provided meals for tourists and visitors. Kitchens where the meals are prepared, together with the utensils used therein, have been inspected. Beer cellars have also been visited at each Public House in order to ascertain that clean conditions exist. On making these inspections due attention was given to the sanitary accommodation provided. All privies discovered have been filled in and pail closets provided in lieu. "Elsan" closets have also been installed after the insanitary privy has been abolished. Where practicable, water closets have been provided.

Food and Drugs Act 1938.

By the provisions of the above-mentioned Act, premises must not be used on and after the 1st October, 1939, for the preparation, or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, unless they are registered for that purpose by the Local Authority.

There are 16 premises in the district which are affected by this Act, viz :—

12 Butchers' Premises.

4 Ice Cream Premises.

All the above premises have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors and a Registration Certificate has been granted to each occupier.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

In pursuance of the provisions of this Act, 27 Licences were granted to Slaughtermen in the district, authorising them to slaughter or stun animals in a licensed slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in accordance with the said Act.

The Licences are issued for a period of 3 years from the 1st January, 1940.

This Act makes it compulsory for all animals to be stunned with a mechanically operated instrument preliminary to slaughter. This renders the animals insensible to pain until death supervenes.

Slaughterhouses and Slaughtering.

There are 13 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district. Details of their situation and the respective occupiers of the slaughterhouses are as follows, viz :—

Situation of Slaughterhouse.	Occupier.
AYNHO	R. S. Oakey & Sons
CHIPPING WARDEN	G. H. Gibbins
CHARLTON	H. Thornton
CROUGHTON	Ben Payne
CULWORTH	G. H. Mumford
KING'S SUTTON	J. Taylor
KING'S SUTTON	J. H. Williams
MIDDLETON CHENEY	J. Waters
MIDDLETON CHENEY	G. H. Jarvis
MORETON PINKNEY	Miss M. Higham
HELMDON	C. R. Buckingham
SYRESHAM	L. M. Blencowe
SYRESHAM	W. G. Thomas

The Livestock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order 1940, made by the Ministry of Food, which came into operation on the 15th January, 1940, provides that the slaughter of livestock shall not be carried out except at certain slaughterhouses provided by Local Authorities on behalf of the Minister of Food, under agreement made by him in each case with the Local Authority, or at certain other slaughterhouses, of which the Minister of Food has taken possession under the Defence (General Regulations) 1930.

Home-killed meat for this district is now slaughtered in Brackley Borough in the slaughterhouse at the rear of Mr. J. Lathbury's shop.

The Borough of Brackley is the responsible Authority for the inspection of carcasses of animals slaughtered in the central slaughterhouse. No animals therefore are being slaughtered at the present time in the private slaughterhouses in the area of the Brackley Rural District Council. Such slaughterhouses are for the time being closed for the purpose of slaughtering.

Meat Inspection.

Your Senior Sanitary Inspector is qualified to inspect and examine meat and foods in the district. The inspection of meat is carried out according to the standard laid down in the Memorandum 62/Foods.

Up to the time that centralised slaughtering came into operation routine visits were made to the private slaughterhouses scattered throughout the district for the purpose of examining the carcasses and viscera of animals which had been slaughtered for the purposes of human consumption.

Frequent visits are made to the Butchers' Shops within the district.

The amount of food condemned during the year is set out in the following table. The decision of the Sanitary Inspector was accepted in all cases where meat or food had of necessity to be condemned.

Description.	Weight.	Disease or Condition.
PORK.		
1 Head and Tongue...	14 lbs.	Tuberculosis
1 Spleen	3 ozs.	Neoplasms
1 Heart.....	12 ozs.	Pericarditis
3 Pairs Lungs	9lbs 8 ozs.	Pneumonia
English Green Bacon ...	14 lbs.	Decomposition
1 Carcase and Viscera.	70 lbs.	Emaciation
		Associated with Valvular Verrucose Endocarditis
	108 lbs. 7 ozs.	
BEEF.		
Piece of Beef	4 lbs.	Decomposition
	4 lbs.	
MUTTON.		
	Nil.	

Following are details of the number of carcasses or parts of carcasses examined by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year in the Butchers' Shops throughout the district, viz. :—

BEEF. 13 hind quarters, 21 fore quarters, 4 sides.

VENISON. 1 carcase.

PORK. 9½ whole carcasses, 3 sides.

MUTTON : 24½ whole carcasses, 7½ sides.

Police Court Proceedings.

During the year under review it has unfortunately been necessary to take legal proceedings against the following person for failing to comply with certain requirements as required by Statute.

Every endeavour was made by the Health Department to get the requirements complied with without having to resort to legal action.

The following are details of the proceedings, viz. :—

<u>1. Court where heard.</u> <u>2. Date of hearing.</u> <u>3 Parties Concerned.</u>	<u>Offence.</u>	<u>Result of legal action.</u>
1. Middleton Cheney Petty Sessions. 2 29.10.41. 3. Brackley R.D.C. v. Mrs M. D. Allfrey.	Failure to abate a nuisance under Public Health Act 1936.	Nuisance Order made for abatement of nuisance within 3 months. Defendant fined £2 and 6/- costs, plus Advocates fee of £3.3.0.

DAVID J. JONES,
Medical Officer of Health.



