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DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

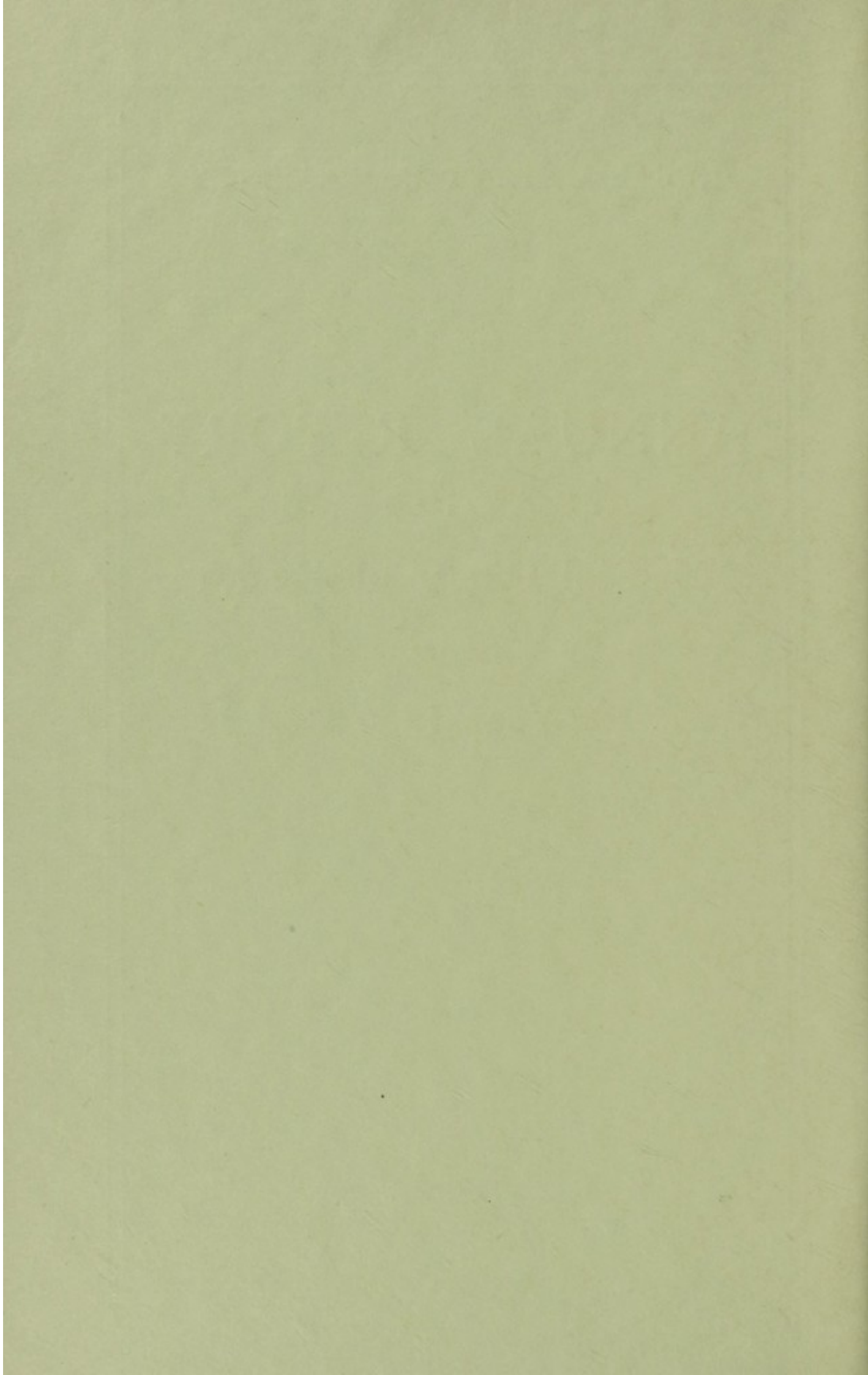
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1956



ARTHUR LUCAS



RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1956



ARTHUR LUCAS

MINERAL SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1926

ARTHUR H. K. AS

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Brackley.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Seventh Annual Report on the health of the Rural District and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1956.

The Statistics correspond with those for the rest of the County except that only one case of Infectious Disease was notified in this district during the year. Two reasons may be given for this (a) all cases were not notified that should have been and (b) infectious diseases in general are becoming less !

Slum Clearance has been going ahead and this Council compares favourably with any in the County in the progress made in this direction.

Whilst there have been complaints of the long periods between collection of house refuse in some villages, the Public Health Committee have considered this matter again and again but have reluctantly had to leave collections as they are owing to the increase in the cost to the rate payers if more frequent collections were made. Needless to say, the Public Health Department will keep this in mind for future improvement.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence and support during the year and particularly are my thanks due to Mr. Turbitt, Mr. Caley and Miss Canning for their continued assistance and co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR LUCAS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Brackley Rural District Council,
Brackley Lodge,
BRACKLEY,
Northants.
May, 1957.

BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

Rev. H. J. Boyd, J.P.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

Miss E. Watt.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

Lt. Col. V. G. Toler-Aylward (Chairman), Mrs. L. Acrid (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. M. E. Johnson, Lt. Gen. Sir B. N. Sergison-Brooke, Capt. G. W. M. Lees, Messrs. E. H. Barker, H. S. Bartlett, L. C. Bartlett, H. E. Easey, J. N. Gibbard, L. S. Prosser and W. A. N. Scott.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Public Health Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health :

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of :—

Medical Officer of Health in Brackley Borough, Towcester R.D.C., Northampton R.D.C., and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and School Medical Officer, Northants County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

W. E. Turbitt, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

Additional Public Health Inspector :

N. R. Caley, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I

Clerk to the Public Health Inspectors :

Miss Phyllis Canning.

Rodent Operative :

W. G. Bartlett.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1956.

Area in acres	58,132
Population	10,610
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1956	3,468
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1956	£42,084
Product of a penny rate at 31st March, 1956	£157.19.2

Live Births

	Total	Male	Female		(per 1000 population)	England & Wales	Northamp- tonshire
Legitimate	192	102	90				
Illegitimate	2	1	1				
					18.2	14.6	16.67
Total	194	103	91				

Stillbirths

Legitimate	2	2	—				
Illegitimate	—	—	—				
					(per 1,000 births)		
Total	2	2	—		10.2	23.3	18.25

Deaths

	121	73	48		(per 1,000 population)	11.4	11.3	11.24
--	-----	----	----	--	---------------------------	------	------	-------

Deaths from puerperal causes

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil

Infant Mortality

Legitimate	7	5	2				
Illegitimate	—	—	—				
					(per 1,000 live births)		
Total	7	5	2		36.0	23.9	19.68

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	20
.. ..	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil
.. ..	Measles	Nil
.. ..	Whooping Cough	Nil
.. ..	Infectious Diseases	10
.. ..	Tuberculosis	Nil

Some extracts from the report of the Chief Medical Officer on the state of the public health for the previous year are of great interest and some of which I feel should be quoted in my Report.

The expectation of life at birth in 1955 was 68 years for males and 73 years for females. In 1901-1910 it was 49 and 52 years respectively. In the chapter on epidemiology it is stated that for the second successive year there has been no case of smallpox in England and Wales. The number of persons primarily vaccinated shewed an increase, although the number of revaccinations was fewer.

The striking change in the incidence of tuberculosis has resulted in considerable optimism that present methods of treatment and preventing its spread are such that, within the next few decades, the disease may be effectively brought under control. But tuberculosis still ranks as by far the chief group of infectious diseases, especially in the most productive years of life. In 1955 it caused 67% of all deaths due to infectious diseases, and no less than 78% of these are in the age group 15-39 years.

The story about cancer is still depressing. The Chief Medical Officer's report pointed out, however, that the professional and the public attitude to cancer is so much in danger of becoming one of hopeless resignation in face of the apparent inevitability of the disease that it is salutary to be reminded by the investigations mentioned in the report that certain cancers have been prevented and are now rarities. It is suggested that it is, therefore, not too optimistic to hope that modern research may in time reveal the way to the prevention of the cancers which remain. Among these, cancer of the lung is one which is causing most anxiety. It is stated that there can be little doubt that this condition is on the increase. Two conditions seem to be associated with its occurrence—air pollution and excessive cigarette smoking—though other factors, at present unknown, may also be operative. It is suggested that the practice of those countries

abroad which do not countenance smoking in theatre, cinemas or even in public transport is one that deserves at least study, if not imitation.

One of the most important sections of the Chief Medical Officer's report refers to the need for the prevention of accidents in the home, and it is very unsatisfactory to learn that the numbers of these fatalities continue to increase. More than 4/5ths of the deaths occur in children under 5 years and in elderly people of 65 or over. Seventy-five per cent. occur among people of 65 and over, and fifty-seven per cent. among those of 75 years and over. The main cause of this high death rate is falls. Accidents from burning and from clothing catching fire have not decreased. It is urged that it is important that all fires should be guarded, especially when any children and old people are at home.

The registered causes of death were:—

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infectious and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
11. Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus ...	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	3	11
15. Leukæmia, aluckæmia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesion of the nervous system ...	8	9	17
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	2	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
20. Other heart diseases	13	12	25
21. Other circulatory diseases	2	2	4
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	8	1	9
24. Bronchitis	1	2	3
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	—	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	7	5	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
34. All other accidents	1	—	1
35. Suicide	2	—	2
36. Homicidal and operations of war	—	—	—
Totals	73	48	121

Population. The population figures as supplied by the Registrar General for the past ten years are as follows :—

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
9,150	9,320	9,482	9,647	9,930	10,220	10,320	10,340	10,400	10,610

The natural increase in population, or the excess of births over deaths, was 73.

It will be observed that over the 10 years the population of the district has increased by 1460.

Birth Rate 1947—1956

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Brackley	20.44	21.9	17.9	20.2	16.5	18.6	16.2	20.8	19.0	18.2
Northamp- tonshire	20.42	17.46	16.19	15.71	15.57	15.50	16.16	16.20	15.49	16.67
England and Wales	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	18.3	15.0	14.6

Births. The number of live births assigned to this district was 194 compared with 188 in 1955. The birth rate for 1956 of 18.2 is .8 per thousand less than the rate for 1955 and 3.6 higher than the rate 14.6 for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate, 1956

Still-Births. There were 2 still-births during 1956.

Illegitimate Births. There were 2 illegitimate births assigned to the district in 1956 (1 male and 1 female).

Infant Mortality Rate, 1947—1956

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Brackley	42.78	29.27	29.8	20.8	30.4	20.3	47.6	28.3	10.1	26.0
Northamp- tonshire	35.07	31.67	33.78	29.53	25.26	24.96	24.70	23.9	20.79	19.68
England and Wales	41.00	34.00	32.00	29.8	29.6	27.6	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.9

The number of children who died before reaching their first birthday was 7.

Maternal Mortality. It is pleasing to note that in 1956 there were no deaths from Puerperal Causes, or conditions allied to childbirth.

Death Rate 1947—1956

Year	Brackley			Recorded Rate	Northamp- tonshire	England and Wales
	Total	M.	F.			
1947	149	85	64	16.28	12.43	12.00
1948	97	53	44	10.4	11.00	10.8
1949	124	62	62	13.0	12.07	11.7
1950	124	66	58	13.0	12.01	11.6
1951	127	71	56	12.7	12.13	12.5
1952	92	61	31	9.00	11.04	11.3
1953	97	48	49	9.3	11.51	11.4
1954	94	46	48	9.09	11.04	11.3
1955	113	56	57	10.7	11.38	11.7
1956	121	73	48	11.4	11.24	11.3

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the examination of milk, ice cream and water samples and other specimens submitted from this district. The service is entirely free.

(b) Nursing in The Home

The County Council now provide "Nursing in the Home" services and also arrange for "Home Help" where possible. Some fairly full information on the latest development in the home nursing service may be seen upon reference to the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(c) Clinic and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare—Brackley	} Organised by County Council
Orthopædic Clinic	
Vision Clinic	
Infant Welfare Clinic, Middleton Cheney	

(d) Blind Persons

Incidence of blindness is reported on in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(e) Tuberculosis

The preventive and after-care services as a means of controlling tuberculosis are administered by the County Council.

(f) Dental Treatment

Details of dental treatment performed in this area may be seen on reference to the report by the Senior Dental Officer for the County which is incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

(g) Epileptics and Spastics

The County Council are responsible for any facilities available for treatment of these conditions.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Drainage and Sanitation.

More and more water closets are being installed in houses now that water facilities are available, and during 1956 there were 7 privies and 79 pails abolished. The discontinuance of earth and pail closets is bound to keep down the risk of flyborne infection which is all to the common good. Many occupants of cottages throughout the district are now enjoying the use of baths and sinks which has been made possible through good drainage and sewerage. Such facilities have existed for some considerable years in Council house properties and to a much lesser degree in cottage property because drainage and water services were either non-existent or restricted.

Sewerage.

Steady progress has been made in this respect and I am glad to record that work on new sewerage and disposal works has now been commenced in the villages of Farthinghoe and Helmdon. In Helmdon it is the Southern part only which is to be dealt with and it is illogical that the Northern part should not be dealt with likewise in the near future. Approval for the resewering with new works at Syresham has been received.

The following statement shews the present situation as regards sewerage and sewage works in individual parishes :

Modern	Adequate	Inadequate	No Works
Chacombe	Aynho	Aston-le-walls	Edgcote
Chipping Warden	Culworth (1)	Boddington	Warkworth
Croughton	Eydon	Evenley	
Culworth (1)	Marston St. Lawrence	Farthinghoe	
Kings Sutton (2)	Middleton Cheney	Helmdon	
Moreton Pinkney	Charlton	Hinton-in-the-Hedges	
Overthorpe	Radstone	Sulgrave (Part)	
Greatworth	Thenford	Syresham	
Sulgrave (Part)	Thorpe Mandeville	Middleton Cheney	
	Whitfield	Lower	

Water Supply.

Throughout the year 91 new connections have been made to the mains supply and altogether there are 2,654 properties now served with mains water.

The majority of consumers are now appreciating the advantages of an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on to their homes. Now and again one hears of complaints of the taste of chlorine in the water and on occasions possibly the chlorine content can be detected slightly by the sense of smell. At other times the clarity of the water may be affected—but not injuriously—by minute iron or lime particles in suspension. Nevertheless, the supply is a wholesome one which means that it is bacteriologically satisfactory and safe for use.

The unsatisfactory samples at Aynho and Warkworth were taken from the new water main extensions in these parishes prior to the mains being put into full service, subsequent samples were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples at Greatworth and Whitfield indicated some temporary pollution but subsequent samples failed to reveal the cause and these latter samples were satisfactory.

In addition to the numerous samples submitted for bacteriological examination a sample of mains water was also submitted for chemical analysis in regard to its physical properties which if read in conjunction with each other presents a complete picture of the wholesomeness and safety of this supply.

A copy of the chemical analysis is as follows, viz :

BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY,
Public Analysts' Laboratories,
37, Birchfield Road,
BIRMINGHAM 19.

16th May, 1956.

Ref. CG/ET/W.88.

Water Analysis Results expressed in parts per 1,000,000.

Received on : 9th May, 1956.

From : W. E. Turbitt, Esq.,

Description : Sample of water taken at 1 p.m. from kitchen
at 7, Meadow View, Evenley.

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.02
Albuminoid	0.152
Chlorine in Chlorides	34.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	1.5
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours ...	0.7
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	490
Nitrite	Absent
pH	7.52
Free Chlorine	0.06
Appearance	Bright, few small particles
Nickel, Chromium, Iron and Copper	Absent
Zinc, Lead, Cyanide and Phenols	Absent

The above results are normal ones for a purified river water and, as there was a trace of free chlorine left when we received the sample, there is little doubt that the sample would have been bacteriologically satisfactory and safe for use.

As you will also note from the results, we examined the water exhaustively for trade waste and that all the results were negative.

(Signed) Bostock Hill & Rigby,
Public Analysts.

Water Samples

Samples taken from the Regional Water Supply
and subjected to bacteriological examination.

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aston le Walls	3	—	3
Aynho	11	2	13
Boddington	5	—	5
Chacombe	4	—	4
Charlton	4	—	4
Chipping Warden	3	—	3
Croughton	4	—	4
Culworth	3	—	3
Evenley	4	—	4
Eydon	3	—	3
Farthinghoe	4	—	4
Greatworth	12	2	14
Helmdon	12	—	12
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	3	—	3
Kings Sutton	5	—	5
Marston St. Lawrence	3	—	3
Middleton Cheney	5	—	5
Moreton Pinkney	4	—	4
Radstone	5	—	5
Sulgrave	3	—	3
Syresham	3	—	3
Thenford	3	—	3
Thorpe Mandeville	3	—	3
Whitfield	6	1	7
Warkworth	6	9	15
	121	14	135
	or 89·6%	or 10·4%	

Samples taken from Private Supplies
and subjected to bacteriological examination.

PARISH	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Aynho	—	1	1
Chacombe	3	—	3
Chipping Warden	—	1	1
Croughton	1	—	1
Culworth	—	2	2
Evenley	1	—	1
Helmdon	1	1	2
Kings Sutton	2	4	6
Middleton Cheney	2	—	2
Syresham	—	1	1
Thenford	—	1	1
	10	11	21
	or 47·6%	or 52·4%	

Camping Sites.

The problems associated with caravan dwellers are still with us. There are now 2 caravan sites under licence by the Council, one site for a maximum of 4 moveable dwellings and the other a maximum of 14. In addition there were 21 licences issued in respect to individual caravans dispersed throughout the district. At each of the caravan sites, proper closet accommodation and water supply, together with sanitary refuse bins, is provided for the wellbeing of the occupants of the caravans. At one of these sites the standard of the vans used leaves something to be desired but even so the occupants are now living under better conditions than existed hitherto when they were camping in places without proper sanitation and water supply. The occupants are quite co-operative so far as the Health Department is concerned and are useful agricultural workers in the district.

Schools.

As in previous years all schools have been visited in regard to hygiene and sanitation.

Since my previous report Syresham school has been provided with waterborne sanitation and the only school now failing in this respect is at Thorpe Mandeville which is likely to be dealt with early in 1957.

There are 18 of the total of 21 schools in the district using the mains water supply. The mains supply will be connected to Thorpe Mandeville school at the same time that waterborne sanitation is provided early next year. It is unlikely that a mains supply of water will serve Overthorpe Hall School due to the considerable distance of the school from the water mains and the consequent heavy cost involved. The private supply still exists to the school at Aston-Le-Walls and bacteriological samples from this supply and also that serving Overthorpe Hall School were found to be satisfactory. Nevertheless, one cannot rely on the safety of water obtained other than from the mains supply.

It was observed in some of the schools, particularly in the larger ones, that the water drinking cups were not as clean as they ought to be, nor, according to the statement of some of the teachers, can they be kept as clean as they should be. Unless, therefore, individual cups are provided, the obvious remedy would seem to be the provision of drinking fountains.

The position at the end of the year as regards milk supply, water supply, sanitary circumstances and the provision of school meals is shown in the following table :—

SITUATION OF SCHOOL	Milk Supply		Water		Type of Closets		Drainage		School Meals		
	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Mains Supply	Non Mains	Water	Pail	To Sewer	To Septic Tank	Schools own canteen	Ex. Brackley Canteen	Ex. Byfield Canteen
Aston Le Walls	x			x	x		x				x
Aynho	x		x		x		x			x	
Boddington Upper		x	x		x		x				x
Chacombe	x		x		x		x				
Charlton	x		x		x		x				x
Chipping Warden	x		x		x		x				
Croughton	x		x		x		x			x	
Culworth	x		x		x		x				
Evenley	x		x		x		x				
Eydon	x		x		x		x				
Farthinghoe	x		x		x		x				
Greatworth	x		x		x		x				
Helmdon		x	x		x			x			x
Kings Sutton	x		x		x		x				x
Marston St. Lawrence	x		x		x		x				x
Middleton Cheney	x		x		x			x			x
Moreton Pinkney		x	x		x		x				
Overthorpe Hall	x			x	x			x			x
Syresham	x		x		x			x			x
Sulgrave	x		x		x		x				
Thorpe Mandeville	x			x		x					
Total	18	3	18	3	20	1	16	4	2	6	3

SUMMARY

18 Schools supplied with " Pasteurised " milk.
 3 Schools supplied with " Tuberculin Tested " milk.
 18 Schools supplied with Regional mains water.
 3 Schools supplied with Non-mains.
 20 Schools supplied with Water Closets.
 1 School supplied with Pail Closet.
 16 Schools connected to Public Sewer.

4 Schools connected to Septic Tanks.
 1 School without Water-borne Sanitation.
 6 Schools supplied with Meals from Brackley Canteen.
 3 Schools supplied with Meals from Byfield Canteen.
 2 Schools supplied from own School Canteen
 10 Schools do not partake of prepared School Meals.

Shops and Offices.

Most of the shops in the area sell food of one kind or another and are therefore subjected to inspection several times yearly. With a few exceptions they are small and do not employ assistants.

There are no offices requiring inspection

Smoke Abatement.

As in most rural areas it was unnecessary to take any action in regard to atmospheric pollution.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming places in the area. There are however two small privately owned pools.

Verminous Premises.

No action was necessary and it is seldom found that premises are seriously infested.

**Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises
during 1956.**

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	248
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	373
Inspections—Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278
No. of Public Health Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Food Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Food Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Factory Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Factory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Factory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

Visits to:—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Infectious Disease enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82

**Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work
completed during the Year 1956**

Details of work completed:—

Dwelling Houses

Roofs repaired or renewed	10
Chimneys repaired or renewed	4
Eaves or Valley Gutters repaired or renewed	3
Rainwater Pipes repaired or renewed	5
External Walls pointed or repaired	—
Dampness abated generally	5
Wall Plaster repaired	9
Ceiling Plaster repaired	9
Walls redecorated	7
Ceilings redecorated	7
Firegrates or Ranges repaired or renewed	1
Windows repaired or renewed	—
Floors repaired or renewed	1
Staircases repaired or renewed	1
Handrails to Staircase provided	1
Doors repaired or renewed	—
Washing Coppers provided or repaired	—
Sashcords provided	—
Yards and Pavings repaired or renewed	—
Through Ventilation provided	—
Ventilation improved	1
Sub-floor Ventilation provided	1
Lighting improved	1
Food Store provided	—
Outbuildings repaired or renewed	—
Houses closed or demolished	106
Verminous Rooms disinfested	—
Infected Rooms disinfested	—
Water Supply laid on	91
Water Supply improved	—
Wells closed when polluted	—
Wells repaired	—
Dwelling Houses cleansed (domestically)	--

Sanitary Conveniences

Pail Closets and Privies abolished	86
Water Closets provided	86
Closets repaired or renewed	4
New Closet Pans provided	—
New Sinks and Wash-hand Basins provided...	121
New Baths provided	66

Drainage

Drains cleared of obstructions	9
Drains repaired or renewed	6
Complete new Drainage installed	78
Drains connected to Sewer, Septic Tanks or Cesspool	78

Nuisances

Offensive Accumulations removed	11
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	1
Overcrowding abated	—
Smoke Nuisances abated	—
Miscellaneous Nuisances abated	2

Public Cleansing

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

The parishes are served as follows :—

Village	Date of collection	Refuse Tip
Kings Sutton	Alternate Thursdays	All refuse is now taken to Moreton Pinkney, Greatworth, Charlton or Helmdon.
Aynho	Alternate Fridays	
Middleton Cheney	Alternate Thursdays	
Chacombe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Chipping Warden	First Wednesday in each month	
Aston-le-Walls	First Monday in each month	
Boddington	First Monday in each month	
Eydon	Second Monday in each month	
Thenford	First Tuesday in each month	
Thorpe Mandeville	First Wednesday in each month	
Marston St. Lawrence	Second Tuesday in each month	
Culworth	First Wednesday in each month	
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday in each month	
Greatworth	First Tuesday in each month	
Sulgrave	Second Wednesday in each month	
Helmdon	Second Wednesday in each month	
Radstone	Third Wednesday in each month	
Charlton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Croughton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	First Tuesday in each month	
Evenley	First Tuesday in each month	
Whitfield	Third Wednesday in each month	
Syresham	Third Wednesday in each month	
Farthinghoe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Halse	First Tuesday in each month	

With the exception of three parishes, the collection of house refuse continues to be only once in each month. This, as stated in previous reports is to be deprecated on health grounds. Admittedly, the Council have on several occasions given lengthy and careful consideration to this service and reluctantly decided, on grounds of economy, that a more

frequent collection is not possible. But surely the postponement of a more frequent collection cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely and what might to some people be considered an economy may in fact prove a liability to the Council should any epidemic disease occur in the district which could for instance be associated with flyborne infection, especially when one realizes that putrifying material such as household refuse provides admirable breeding conditions for flies, which without doubt have some association with the incidence of diseases such as poliomyelitis, dysentery and diarrhoea.

The Council have done so well in the provision of safe water supplies, better housing, vigorously tackling the Slum Clearance Programme and improving the drainage and sewerage of the district, that in my opinion it is to be regretted the painting of this rosy picture cannot be completed in the not too distant future by the introduction of a more frequent collection of house refuse, especially in those parishes where the refuse has of necessity to be stored for a month, often in overflowing dustbins or any other miscellaneous receptacle similarly overflowing which constitutes a condition which, without doubt, is a menace to the health of the public.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

The table below shows the position during 1956 so far as factories and workplaces are concerned together with the number of inspections made, also the number of notices served for any breach of the Acts.

Inspections

No. of premises on register	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
14	15	8	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found

Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
8	8	Nil.

There are now no outworkers in the district.

A large factory at Chipping Warden is employing several hundreds of male and female workers. Much improvement has taken place recently in the provision of a new works canteen and bringing the premises up-to-date in regard to water supply and sanitation.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Although "slum clearance," a phrase disliked by some people and said to sound much nicer if described as "dealing with sub-standard houses," may at times become a rather depressing occupation for those whose duty it is to carry out the task, it does at times produce a funny side to the otherwise dull and dismal picture. For instance, there is the case of the dirty tenant shewing the public health officer round her not very salubrious home when, upon entering a bedroom the officer was confronted with this text conspicuously displayed on the wall "wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Also the very portly tenant who when standing with the officer on a wooden floor in danger of immediate collapse and having just previously warned the officer of the danger, the fear of the latter was allayed somewhat upon perceiving hanging from the wall of the room a text with the reassuring words "underneath are the everlasting arms."

Slum Clearance.

In 1955 the Council submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government a return showing that the Council considered 476 dwellings within the Rural District to be unfit for habitation. Of these dwellings, 95 were already subject to Clearance Orders, Demolition Orders or Undertakings not to be used for human habitation, and 66 were ex war-time hutments.

It was estimated that it would take 10-15 years to deal with all these dwellings but that 278 could be dealt with within the first 5 years (i.e. by August 1960).

A summary of the progress in 1956 is shown in the following tables.

Houses Demolished

					Number of Persons Displaced
In Clearance Areas	...	...	31	...	48
Individual Houses	...	...	4	...	10
Huts Demolished	...	...	41	...	142
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			76		200
Individual Houses—					
Closed	...	...	30	...	63
			<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	...	...	106	...	263
			<hr/>		<hr/>

**Number of Houses Made Fit
and Houses in which Defects were Remedied**

By Informal Action	57
After Formal Notice	12
	69

Orders Made During the Year

	No. of Houses
Clearance Orders (confirmed)	2
Demolition Orders	14
Closing Orders	18
Undertakings accepted that premises will not be used for human habitation ...	14

Since the commencement of the Slum Clearance Programme 38 houses and 41 huts have been demolished and 20 houses have been completely reconditioned.

Improvement Grants.

During the year the Council approved 57 applications for Improvement Grants. The amount of the Council's contribution to the reconditioning of these properties amounted to £17,940.

It is submitted that although the Improvement Grant Scheme is extremely useful in reconditioning houses and bringing them up to a modern standard it does not by any means "rescue" a large number of houses—by far the greater number of houses—in which the cost of 'repairing' the house as against 'improving' it is excessive; since no grant is available for 'repairs' as such. Consequently, in general it can be said that most applications are received from owners of properties which are merely lacking in amenities and in which the items of disrepair are relatively small in number.

Nevertheless, it would appear that the only effective way in which the Council can be instrumental in improving unfit houses to a modern standard is by way of the Improvement Grant.

Statement of Housing Progress
(i.e., provision of new houses).

PARISHES	Pre-war and Wartime Housing Position						Post-war Housing Programme					
	Housing Act 1920.	Housing Act 1924.	Housing Act 1930.	Housing Acts 1935 and 1936	War-time Agr. Houses.	TOTAL.	Undeveloped Sites	Developed Sites Houses not begun	Houses on Tenders Apprd.	Houses under Construction.	Houses Completed	Total No. of Houses owned by Council.
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	5	21
Aynho	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30
Boddingtons	—	4	—	—	2	6	—	—	—	—	13	19
Chacombe	—	—	3	14	—	17	—	—	—	—	11	28
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	45
Croughton	6	—	2	—	—	8	—	—	8	—	19	27
Culworth	6	—	5	10	—	21	—	—	—	—	21	42
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	11
Eydon	8	—	—	4	—	12	2	—	—	—	9	21
Farthinghoe	2	—	6	—	2	10	—	—	—	—	20	30
Greatworth	8	—	8	—	—	16	16	—	—	—	23	39
Helmdon	8	—	—	8	—	16	30	—	—	10	10	26
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Kings Sutton	18	—	8	40	—	66	33	—	—	37	111	177
Marston St. Lawrence	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	6	6	6	12
Middleton Cheney	20	—	22	30	—	72	67	—	—	—	122	194
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	17
Newbottle	6	—	12	—	—	18	53	—	—	7	13	31
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	8	—	6	—	—	14	7	—	—	—	17	31
Syresham	10	—	4	24	—	38	—	—	—	—	33	71
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	12
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
	112	4	76	154	4	350	208	—	14	60	546	896

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

Food Premises Generally.

The total number of premises in the district where food is sold is 149. There were 407 visits made to these premises during the year which shows an increase of 67 on the previous years's visits.

A steady improvement is proceeding in regard to food shops generally. It is now necessary for adequate hand washing facilities to be provided in certain shops and vehicles dealing with food and an encouraging number of these wash units was provided during the year. Much importance is attached to the proper washing of hands amongst persons who handle food and this point is emphasized by the Health Inspectors at the time of making visits to food shops.

A few cases of persons smoking in food shops and others wearing dirty overalls was observed. Also occasional cases of licking fingers when tearing off bags or wrapping paper were seen. It is hoped to stop these bad habits by the Health Inspectors making tactful approaches to the offenders. But persistent bad habits of this nature should be dealt with severely.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Regulations, most of which took effect from the 1st April, 1956 whilst others, which involved substantial changes were deferred until the 1st July, 1956, lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises; the hygienic handling of food; the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and their clothing, and the action to be taken when they suffer from, or are carriers of, certain infections; the construction, repair and maintenance of food premises, vehicles, etc., and the facilities to be provided and the temperature at which certain foods that are particularly liable to transmit diseases are to be kept in food premises. They apply wherever food is handled and whether or not there is any question of sale of the food, and also they cover the supply of food in the course of the business including canteens, clubs, schools and other institutions. They do not, however, apply to slaughterhouses, cold stores, warehouses, etc. All food dealers in this district have been supplied with a summary of these Regulations together with a covering letter emphasizing the importance of the new Regulations, the provision of which they should read so as to know all about them.

To ensure that the Regulations are being applied in this district takes up a considerable proportion of the time of the Health Inspectors, but it is time well spent, for the nature of such work is of the utmost importance.

Ice Cream.

There are 32 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. All ice cream sold conforms to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1949-54 as regards proper pasteurisation. Also all ice cream sold in this area is pre-wrapped. This is not compulsory but the Dealers have consented to the request of the Inspectors. All of the 25 ice cream samples taken were found to be Grade 1.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54.

The number of distributors of milk registered is 11.

11 selling Tuberculin Tested milk.

10 selling Pasteurised milk.

2 selling Sterilised milk.

Of this number, 6 distributors are within the rural area, and 5 outside the district who are holders of supplementary licences from this Council to trade in the area.

There were 25 milk samples taken all satisfying the various tests to which they were subjected. The nature of the samples were

Tuberculin Tested 8.

Pasteurised 16.

Sterilised 1.

The Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised milk passed the methylene blue test indicating that the milk was of good keeping quality and had been produced under good conditions. The Pasteurised milk satisfied the requirements of the Phosphatase Test shewing that efficient heat treatment had taken place. The sample of sterilised milk was found satisfactory when subjected to the Turbidity Test.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The various types of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Act are :—

32 ice cream premises.

9 premises for preparation or manufacture of sausages or preserved or pickled foods.

Meat Inspection.

As no slaughtering took place at either of the two private slaughterhouses no meat inspection was necessary during the year. The licences in respect to these slaughterhouses expire on the 31st July, 1957 and having regard to the small amount of slaughtering which has taken place, I doubt whether it is worth while renewing the licences.

Food Inspection.

It was not found necessary to condemn any article of food or was any surrendered at the Health Department as being unfit for human consumption.

Food and Drugs Sampling

The Northamptonshire County Council under powers conferred by the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, took samples of various foods, including milk, in this district during the year, details of which are as follows, viz :—

Milk	31	Brought forward	41
Cream	1	Pork Sausage	1
Ice Cream	1	Soft Drink	2
Sweets	1	Tea	1
Jam, Marmalade	3	Vinegar	1
Lard	1	Laxative Chocolate	1
Margarine	1	Bicarbonate of Soda.....	1
Olive Oil	1	Coffee and Chicory Essence.....	1
Pepper	1		—
	—		Total 49
Carried forward	41		—

Remarks

It is gratifying to be able to report that all the samples were genuine, complied with the appropriate standards and were free from prohibited preservatives and metallic contamination.

Details of Various Food Premises in the District are as follows

	No. in District	No. of Visits
No. of Provision Shops	47	126
No. of Butchers Shops	12	66
No. of Dining Rooms	2	2
No. of Public Houses or Inns ...	41	109
No. of Bakehouses	6	17
No. of Milk Distributors	4	12
No. of Ice Cream Shops	32	53
No. of Fishmongers & Fish Fryers	2	5
No. of Greengrocers and fruiterers	7	17

Details of Repairs and Improvements of Food Premises

Bakehouses

Cleansed and Limewashed	17
Benches or Tables cleansed	9
Accumulations of Refuse removed	2
Proper Fuel Containers provided	—
Lighting or Ventilation improved	—
Structural Repairs carried out	—
Hot Water Supply provided	—

Dairies

Cleansed and Redecorated	2
Accumulations removed	1
Hot Water Supply provided for washing hands	—
Wash-hand Basins provided	—
Suitable Closet Accommodation provided	—
Unsatisfactory Dairies discontinued	—
New Dairies provided	—
Structural Repairs made	4

Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises

Hot Water Supply provided for washing hands	11
Suitable Closet Accommodation provided	—
Wash-hand Basins provided	10
Structural Repairs made	6
Metal Storage Bins provided	—
Apparatus and Utensils cleansed or improved	—
Lighting and Ventilation improved	—
Redecorated internally	7

Cafés and Public Houses

Hot Water Supply provided for washing hands	1
Suitable Closet Accommodation provided	—
Wash-hand Basins provided	2
Structural Repairs made	5
Metal Storage Bins provided	1
Apparatus and Utensils cleansed or improved	3
Lighting and Ventilation improved	2
Proper Urinal Accommodation provided	—
Bar Sink with hot and cold water provided	—
Redecorated Internally	6

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The details of vaccination and immunisation carried out in this district during the year are shewn in the following table :—

Vaccination

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2-4)	(5-14)	(15 or over)	Total
Primary	52	3	5	4	9	73
Re-vaccination	—	—	1	3	16	20

Diphtheria Immunisation

(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	Booster
3	—	1	—	—	5	4	13	36

Whooping Cough Immunisation

	(Under 1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5-9)	(10-14)	Total	
Whooping Cough only	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Combined Diphtheria Whooping Cough	72	20	9	5	—	1	1	108	Booster 13
Poliomyelitis Vaccinations	—	—	6	2	4	20	—	32	

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Brackley Rural District, according to statistics for the year, must be a remarkably healthy area as up to the month of October, no notification of an infectious disease had been received. A single case of pneumonia at Kings Sutton was then notified and this was the only infectious case notified during the 12 months. It may well be, however, that some infectious cases have not been notified to the Department by Doctors attending the cases as is their responsibility by the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. Even allowing for such cases, the situation as regards infectious diseases throughout the year may be said to be unusually satisfactory.

Possibly better housing conditions; a safe water supply; clean food, and generally improved environmental conditions throughout the district, have in no small measure assisted in bringing about this unique situation. There is also to be considered the measures taken in the prevention of such diseases as Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis, Tuberculosis and Whooping Cough by the use of vaccines against the incidence of these particular diseases.

The rates for births, deaths and infantile mortality compare very favourably with similar rates in other districts throughout the country.

Such outstanding satisfactory statistics might well be the envy of any seaside resort or celebrated spa town.

It should also be noted that no case of food poisoning was notified, and perhaps this is some reward for the time spent by the staff of the Department in frequently visiting food premises and encouraging the better storage and handling of the public food supplies.

New cases of Tuberculosis which have occurred during the year are dealt with separately on page 36.

Number of Children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

Age at 31.12.56 i.e. Born in year	(Under 1) 1956	(1) 1955	(2) 1954	(3) 1953	(4) 1952	(5-9) 1947 1951	(10-14) 1942 1956	Total Under 15
Number immunised	12	95	106	100	105	613	591	1622

Tuberculosis

The Mass Radiography Unit carried out a survey during the month of March, the result of which was very satisfactory as may be seen from the following details, but the greater proportion of the people examined was not from the Rural Area.

Held at the Market Square, Brackley :

Response :—Firms 86%, Schools 100%.

SUMMARY OF WORK

	Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken.....	516	540	1,056
No. of large films taken.....	10	8	18
No. recalled for clinical examination.....	1	1	2
No. referred to chest clinic.....	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.....	211	252	463
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.....	305	288	593

Results of Cases Clinically Examined by the Medical Director but not referred to Chest Clinic

Tuberculosis :—NIL.

Non-Tuberculous Conditions :—

Bronchiectasis	1	1	2
----------------------	---	---	---

Summary of Newly Discovered Cases of Significant Tuberculosis found in Brackley Third Survey

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.B.	Inactive P.T.B.
Firms.....	168	—	—
General Public	489	—	—
Schools	399	—	—
Total	1,056	—	—

Another survey was performed during April at a factory in the Rural Area and exclusively in respect to the personnel employed there. This revealed one case of pulmonary tuberculosis. Details of this survey are as follows :—

Response :—61%.

Summary of Work

	Male	Female	Total
No. miniature films taken.....	152	100	252
No. recalled for large films.....	2	3	5
No. recalled for clinical examination.....	1	1	2
No. referred to chest clinic.....	1	—	1
No. previously examined by M.M.R.....	50	23	73
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.....	102	77	179

Result of Case referred to Chest Clinic

	Male	Female	Total
Active pulmonary tuberculosis requiring immediate treatment.....	1	—	1
(This was a newly discovered case; had a positive sputum; did not have previous M.M.R. examination).			

Result of Case Clinically Examined by the Medical Director but not referred to Chest Clinic

Inactive pulmonary tuberculosis.....	—	1	1
--------------------------------------	---	---	---

New Cases during 1956 :

Age Periods Years	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 — 1	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	—	—	—	1
25 — 35	—	2	—	—
35 — 45	2	—	—	—
45 — 65	2	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—
Total	4	2	—	1

The number of new cases of tuberculosis notified was 7, which is the same total as for the previous year.

Once again it has been unnecessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade, or to compulsory removal to hospital any person suffering from the disease as prescribed by section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

RODENT CONTROL

The almost complete disappearance of the rabbit due to the ravages of myxamatosis was thought likely to bring about some enforced change in the habits of stoats and weasels whose diet normally included rabbit, but it cannot be established that these animals have to any marked degree been responsible in reducing the number of rodents now that their diet of rabbits is short. The surest way of keeping rats and mice under control would appear to be the constant services of a keen and efficient Rodent Operative armed with the succulent yet lethal baits of modern times. Your Rodent Operative has carried out his work with the usual zeal and ability.

As in previous years, the Rodent Operative has played an active part in the control of rats and mice in the area. The amount of work in this respect performed throughout the year may be seen by reference to the following details.

Surface Infestations.

No. of complaints received	...	...	...	33
No. of premises inspected (private and business)	...	...	...	109
No. of visits made	...	...	...	380
No. of premises cleared	...	...	...	109
No. of survey visits made	...	...	...	18
No. of rat bodies found	...	...	...	465

Quantity of Material Used.

Sausage Rusk	...	...	...	221 lbs.	4 ozs.
Oatmeal	...	...	...	881 lbs.	0 ozs.
Cymag	...	...	...	8 lbs.	14 ozs.
Zinc Phosphide	...	...	...		1 oz.
Warfarin	...	...	...	45 lbs.	4 ozs.

Total Number of Bodies Found.

(1) Rats	...	...	...	...	721
(2) Mice	...	...	...	...	203

Sewer Infestations

	No. of Manholes baited	No. Shewing prebait taken
Aynho	10	No take
Eydon	14	"
Croughton	12	"
Overthorpe	10	"
Chipping Warden	10	"
Greatworth	8	"
Moreton Pinkney	11	"
Culworth	7	"
Chacombe	10	"
Kings Sutton	15	"
Middleton Cheney	10	"
Sulgrave	7	"

Local Authority Undertakings

No. of treatments at Refuse Tips	9
No. of visits made	44
No. of rat bodies found	185
No. of sewage disposal outfalls treated	7
No. of visits made	24
No. of rat bodies found	12
No. of survey visits made	6
No. of sewer surveys made	28

PANKHURST & SMITH
Printers, Bicester.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1870												
1871												
1872												
1873												
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