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Contributors

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Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SENIOR
SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1955



Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council

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THE ROYAL SANITARY COMMISSION

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

REPORT
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1871

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To the Chairman and Members of the

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1955, based on Ministry of Health Circular 17/55.

The District has remained free from serious epidemics throughout the year and the customary standard of good health which this district enjoys has again been maintained.

There was no serious influenza epidemic, while only one case of poliomyelitis was recorded.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and all members of the Council and the Public Health Committee and my colleagues for their help and kindness to me during the year, also Mr. Noble for his co-operation and Mrs. Hannaford and Mr. Mills for clerical and other assistance so ably and willingly given.

Yours faithfully,

R. BRUCE KILLOH,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health :

R. BRUCE KILLOH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
who is also Medical Officer of Health to Melksham
Urban District.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. A. NOBLE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

T. P. BERESFORD, M.S.I.A. (from 17th January, 1955).

Offices :

The office of the Medical Officer of Health is 1, King
Street, Melksham. Tel. Melksham 2307.

The office of the Senior Sanitary Inspector is in Abbey
House, Bradford-on-Avon. Tel. Bradford-on-Avon 2174.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (Acres)	26,868
Number of Parishes	13
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel) ...	13,410
Number of Inhabited Houses	3,279
Rateable Value	£88,267
Sum represented by a penny rate	£360

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics have been compiled from information received from the Registrar General :—

Births

Live Births

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	90	87	177
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Total number of live births ...	93	89	182

Birth Rate for the District (i.e., per 1,000 population)	13·5
Comparative figure for England & Wales	15·0

Still Births

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of still births ...	1	—	1

Still Birth Rate for the District per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	5·4
Comparative figure for England & Wales	23·1

Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Number of Deaths in the Area ...	80	81	161
Local Death Rate (i.e., per 1,000 population) ...			12.0
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...			11.7

Infant Mortality

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	1	3	4

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	1	2	3

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	21.9
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...	24.9

Causes of Deaths

The causes of deaths, classified according to the Registrar General's system, are given in the following table:—

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	—	—	—
(other) ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic disease ...	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach) ...	4	6	10
(lung bronchus) ...	2	1	3
(breast) ...	—	2	2
(uterus) ...	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	11	18
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—
Diabetes ...	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	14	16	30
Coronary disease, Angina ...	9	4	13
Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	—	3
Other heart disease ...	18	21	39
Other circulatory disease ...	4	—	4
Influenza ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	2	4
Bronchitis ...	2	1	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	—	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	2	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	8	9
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	1	4
All other accidents ...	4	—	4
Suicide ...	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	80	81	161

Age and Sex Incidence of Heart and Arterial Disease

Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90		Over 90	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
2	1	1	—	—	2	3	1	8	11	16	10	18	14	—	2

This table has been prepared from data obtained from local sources :—

Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths from Cancer

Location of Cancer	Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Bowel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Cancer of Lung	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	1
Alimentary (other than above)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—
Genital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reproductive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1

OUTLINE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations in the District.

This laboratory with its skilled staff provides a most valuable service with regard to the examination of drinking water, food and milk samples, throat swabs, etc., and their willing co-operation and expert advice is much appreciated.

Hospital Facilities

The South-Western Regional Hospital Board is responsible for hospital facilities in this district.

The two hospitals in the area are a general hospital in Melksham, and a hospital for the chronic sick at Semington. Other general hospitals are situated in Devizes and Trowbridge, with larger ones in Bath and Bristol.

The nearest hospital for the treatment of common infectious disease is the Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge, while cases of Poliomyelitis are generally treated in Bath Isolation Hospital. The nearest Smallpox Hospital is at Bristol.

County Health Facilities

The following health services operating in the district are provided by the County Health Committee :—

- Care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.
- Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Health Visiting.
- Home Nursing.
- Arrangements for vaccination and immunization.
- Ambulances and ambulance cars.
- Domestic Helps.
- Arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness; care and after-care; and health education.
- Mental Health Service.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Disease	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever	22	12	19	3	4
Whooping Cough	42	32	27	26	40
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	1	1	3	2	—
Non-paralytic	4	—	3	—	1
Measles	211	9	267	1	183
Diphtheria	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	8	23	4	5
Dysentery	8	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	2	2	2	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	1	—	—
Salmonellosis	—	—	—	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1

NUMBER OF CASES AND ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL

Disease	Number of Cases	Admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	4	—
Whooping Cough	40	2
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	—	—
Non-paralytic	1	1
Measles	183	2
Diphtheria	—	—
Pneumonia	5	1
Dysentery	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—
Salmonellosis	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1

The distribution of cases according to age and sex are shown in the following tables.

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	2	—	—
1-2 years	—	—	3	3	—	—	10	16	—	—
3-4 years	—	—	4	11	—	—	27	17	—	—
5-9 years	—	2	6	9	—	—	41	64	—	—
10-14 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Not Known	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	13	27	1	1	82	101	—	—

Age Groups	Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
45-64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not Known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	1	1	—	1	1	—	1

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES

Parishes	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Non- Paralytic	Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Meningo- coccal Infection	Salmon- ellosis	Tuber- culosis	Puerperal Pyrexia
Atworth	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Broughton Gifford	1	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilperton	—	—	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Holt	2	—	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limpley Stoke	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melksham Without	1	16	—	1	58	4	1	—	—	—	—	4	1
Monkton Farleigh	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Semington	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
South Wraxall	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staverton	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wingfield	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winsley	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	40	—	1	183	5	1	—	—	—	—	6	1

Poliomyelitis

One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis occurred, affecting a young man who subsequently developed tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis

Year	NEW CASES			No. of cases
1951	10
1952	9
1953	11
1954	4
1955	6

Distribution of new cases according to age, sex, and localisation of disease, is as follows :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Under 1 Year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 Years	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-25 "	3	—	—	—	—	—
26-35 "	1	—	—	—	—	—
36-45 "	1	—	—	—	—	—
46-55 "	—	—	—	1	—	—
56-65 "	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	—	—	1	—	—

From the above table it will be seen that 5 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1955. No deaths from tuberculosis were recorded.

Re-housing of Tuberculosis Patients

Cases are referred from time to time by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows :—

Certificate No. 1. Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

Certificate No. 2. Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

Certificate No. 3. Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

Three certificates, requiring to be dealt with, were received during the current year.

Year	Number of certificates received	Number of cases re-housed
1931	3	1
1932	2	1
1933	1	1
1934	1	1
1935	1	1
1936	1	1
1937	1	1
1938	1	1
1939	1	1
1940	1	1
1941	1	1
1942	1	1
1943	1	1
1944	1	1
1945	1	1
1946	1	1
1947	1	1
1948	1	1
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2010	1	1
2011	1	1
2012	1	1
2013	1	1
2014	1	1
2015	1	1
2016	1	1
2017	1	1
2018	1	1
2019	1	1
2020	1	1
2021	1	1
2022	1	1
2023	1	1
2024	1	1
2025	1	1

Mass Radiography

A visit was paid to the New Mendip Engineering Co., Ltd., at Atworth, when 193 persons were examined. No active tuberculosis was found. Two cases of inactive tuberculosis and two non-tuberculous conditions were revealed.

Diphtheria Immunization

Diphtheria immunization is carried out systematically throughout the district by General Practitioners and County Medical Officers, in homes and schools.

Immunization Statistics, 1955

Number of primary immunizations completed during 1955 :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	57
From 1-4 years of age	...	...	...	...	49
From 5-14 years of age	...	...	...	...	22

Number of reinforcing injections administered ... 209

Total immunized child population at 31st December, 1955 :—

Up to 4 years of age	...	...	...	...	437
From 5-14 years of age	...	...	...	...	1511
				TOTAL	...	1948

Compared with 1954 the number of primary immunizations fell from 152 to 128. The number of reinforcing injections administered rose from 196 to 209. The total immunized child population at the end of the year was 1948 compared with 1818.

Vaccination

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1955 :—

Age Group	Number Vaccinated	Number Re-vaccinated
Under 1 year	57	—
1-4 years	10	—
5-14 years	4	—
Over 15 years	18	18
TOTAL	89	18

Considerably less primary vaccinations were undertaken during 1955, a total of 89 compared with 119 in the previous year.

Vaccination is performed under the National Health Service by General Practitioners. Emergency clinics can be operated in the event of an outbreak of smallpox in County Health Clinics at Salisbury and Swindon. Vaccination propaganda is undertaken by the County Health Authority.

It would continue to appear that too few babies are being vaccinated at the present time, and in sharp contrast to diphtheria immunization, which is relatively popular, vaccination in infancy is in my experience inclined to be viewed with relative indifference at the present time. Everything possible, therefore, requires to be done toward stimulating public opinion in favour of vaccination and impressing on them the constant danger of smallpox outbreaks in a poorly protected community.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948

SECTION 47 : REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

Happily, it was not found necessary to obtain compulsory removal of any persons against their will from their homes.

This latter step is one that should only be considered after all the assistance that can be given by Home Helps, District Nurses, National Assistance Officers and Welfare Officers, etc., has failed to provide the care and attention needed, and it is felt that there is need for more co-ordination of these services which are available to assist the aged and infirm.

REPORT
OF THE
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my eighth Annual Report to this Council.

The appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector in January, 1955, has enabled the work of the department to proceed more satisfactorily although, I regret to say, I had 6½ weeks' sick leave during the year.

May I mention my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees for their guidance and appreciation of practical difficulties, to Dr. Killoh for his co-operation and to Mr. Beresford and Miss Gatt for their unflagging assistance. The Rodent Operator and the six members of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Staff have again worked admirably.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. NOBLE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

STAFF

Additional Sanitary Inspector	MR. T. P. BERESFORD (from 17th January, 1955).
Clerk/Typist	MISS B. GATT.
Rodent Operator	MR. W. G. MATTHEWS.
Refuse Collection	MR. J. H. GOODENOUGH (Driver). MR. H. GENDERS (from 4th August, 1955). MR. R. C. TROTT. MR. P. SUTHERLAND (from 14th November, 1955).
Tip Operators	MR. P. SAWYER. MR. J. T. GILES.

MEAT AND FOODS

			Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Bakehouses	...	...	3	10	1	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2	428	—	—
Butcher's Shops	...	...	4	4	2	—
Catering Establishments	...	...	36	71	7	2
Food Shops	...	...	40	45	4	1
Licensed Premises	...	...	30	29	2	—
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	6	—	—	—

The two private slaughterhouses in this district have continued in operation during the year, one with slaughtering once a week and the other with slaughtering practically every day (animals slaughtered and condemnation figures are shown in Appendix "A"). This entails a considerable amount of overtime including work every Sunday and Bank Holiday. The appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector has enabled a rota to be operated so that alternate Sundays are spent off duty. Antemortem inspection of animals is not possible. No horses have been slaughtered in this District during 1955.

During the year plans were submitted and approved by the Council for enlarging and improving one slaughterhouse. The improvements will include a separate slaughtering booth so that the existing slaughterhouse can be used as a cooling hall. I would like to express here my thanks to Mr. Sillars, the Area Technical Adviser of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for his co-operation and suggestions when the improvement scheme was being prepared. It is hoped that the building work of this scheme will be done early in 1956.

Although meat inspection has absorbed a great deal of time, a re-survey of food premises has been made during the year and further work is being planned for 1956 following the arrival of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

ICE CREAM

		Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Retailers	...	22	216	1	1
Manufacturers	...	—	—	—	—

The results of the year's sampling are set out below.

Our figures for this year are not quite as good as in previous years. Samples taken from retailers supplied by a manufacturer outside this district gave poor results for a short period. I am glad to say that we obtained very good co-operation from the Sanitary Inspector of the district concerned, the supplies of ice cream were returned to the manufacturer for re-processing and later samples showed improved results.

Total Number of Samples 158

PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES

Grade I	Grade I or II	Grade III	Grade IV
82.3%	93.7%	4.4%	1.9%

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, no more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

MILK AND DAIRIES

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

		Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Dairies	...	4	} 184	—	—
Distributors	...	19			
Producer/Retailers	...	26			

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS

“Tuberculin Tested” Dealers' Licences	...	...	11
“Pasteurised” Dealers' Licences	...	...	9
Supplementary “Tuberculin Tested” Licences		...	11
Supplementary “Pasteurised” Licences		...	11

Set out below are the sample results of “designated” milk.

Number of “Tuberculin Tested” Milk Samples	...	111
Number of satisfactory “Tuberculin Tested” Milk Samples	...	106
Number of “Pasteurised” Milk Samples	...	53
Number of satisfactory “Pasteurised” Milk Samples	...	53
Number of Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus	...	45
Number of satisfactory Biological Samples	...	44

Our milk sampling routine is aimed to take a monthly sample from every distributor holding a special designation licence. In practice, all sorts of difficulties can arise in obtaining a supply of ice (in which to transport the samples) or in finding the roundsman in the district. This entails heavy demands on time and travelling but I think we can be proud of our sampling record. As this district became part of a specified area on the 6th December, 1955, we now have the satisfaction of knowing that no raw milk, other than "Tuberculin Tested" milk, is being retailed in our district.

WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District ...	14
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1955	73
Number of Samples taken for chemical analysis during 1955	1

Appendix "B" of this Report sets out the sample results for the year.

I am not in a position to give, with any degree of accuracy, the number of houses and the population in each Parish supplied from public water mains direct to houses, or by means of standpipes. None of the water supplies appears to be liable to plumbo-solvent action.

FACTORIES

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Factories with power ...	27	46	4	3
Factories without power ...	2	2	—	—
Outworkers	41	3	—	—

The requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, appear to be complied with and full details, as required by the Ministry, are contained in Appendix "C."

SHOPS

	Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Shops	41	48	1	—

During the course of the year, all the shops were visited and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

		Number	Inspections	Notices Served	Notices complied with
Site Licences	...	13	} 45	—	—
Individual Licences	...	—			
Licences Refused	...	—			

It is again pleasing to report that no complaints have been received during the year regarding gipsies at Norrington Common.

All the sites, licensed by the Council, have been visited during the year to ensure that the conditions of the licences were fulfilled.

RODENT CONTROL

Details, in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are given in Appendix "D."

The arrangement of a part-time Rodent Operator has generally proved satisfactory. I am also pleased to report good relations and co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Pests Officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee. Such co-operation leads to a good public service.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service, with a weekly collection, has been maintained throughout the year with scarcely any complaints from the public. Credit is due to the Driver and Loaders for this satisfactory record.

Nevertheless, the condition of our refuse vehicle has been causing some concern and we anticipate the delivery of a new vehicle in the early part of 1956.

SALVAGE

During the year, the following items of salvage have been sold :—

			Weight	Approx. Value
Waste Paper	...	...	51 tons 1 cwt. 0 qr.	£400 19 3
Scrap Metal	...	...	3 tons 12 cwts. 2 qrs.	£14 10 0
TOTAL				£415 9 3

The price for the salvaged paper was increased on the 1st February, 1955, from £6 10s. 0d. to £7 10s. 0d. per ton, and in May to £8 per ton. The Council have continued the salvage bonus for the men. This valuable raw material is being saved and the difficulties of disposing of it at our tips are avoided.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, brought into operation in 1948, has been utilized to clear 367 cesspools and septic tanks during 1955.

The contractors, employed by the Council, visit the district every 3 months.

The growth of the service can be judged by the following figures :—

1948	...	...	75 clearances
1949	...	...	98 clearances
1950	...	...	120 clearances
1951	...	...	175 clearances
1952	...	...	234 clearances
1953	...	...	290 clearances
1955	...	...	367 clearances

HOUSING

*Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	8
*Number of houses suitable for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	8
*Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	—
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—
Number of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	—

* See remarks regarding Housing Survey which was not made in detail but for the purpose of placing properties in categories.

During the year, a survey was made of cottages with a rateable value of £10 or less and the following results were obtained :

1. Total number of properties inspected	...	1,686
2. Properties placed in category 1 as satisfactory	...	176
3. Properties placed in category 2 with minor defects	...	908
4. Properties placed in category 3 as unfit but requiring detailed inspection	...	500
5. Properties placed in category 4 as unfit for human habitation	...	102

The Council have decided to immediately deal with the properties placed in category 4 and to encourage owners, with the aid of Improvement Grants, to re-condition wherever practicable. By the end of the year, 8 cottages were reported to the Housing Committee for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. Negotiations with the owners are in progress.

A fair amount of time is devoted to Improvement Grant enquiries. Ten grants were approved by the Council during the year.

No applications have been made to the Council for certificates of disrepair under Part II of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	196
Number of informal notices served	...	...	..	..	19
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	—
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	17
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	—

A summary of work carried out by informal action is given in Appendix "E" of this report.

RIVERS, STREAMS AND SEWERAGE

Informal action has been taken in various parts of the district to prevent pollution of streams and water courses. Sewer ditches continue to be a problem. Only three of the 13 Parishes (Winsley, Hilperton and Holt) have sewerage systems, but additional schemes are envisaged by the Surveyor to the Council.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area. Various samples and some advisory work was undertaken for a private pool at a school.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No formal action was found to be necessary during the year with regard to smoke abatement.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premises Registered	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	4
Number of Samples obtained	...	...	...	7

Four samples of rag flock and one sample of cotton felt, woollen felt and hair were obtained and in each case the Prescribed Analyst gave a satisfactory report. To save time and expense, these samples were taken informally.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premises Licensed	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	2

Before renewal of licences, the premises are visited by me and the Local Inspector of R.S.P.C.A., to whom my thanks are due for co-operation and advice.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

As there is only one retailer in this district who deals in heating appliances and enquiries were made in 1952 and 1953, no action has been taken during this year.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

I would like to make special mention of the very good service given to this Council by Dr. Mann and the Public Health Laboratory at Manor Hospital, Bath. All our milk, ice cream and water samples are given prompt attention and it is of very great assistance to have Dr. Mann's advice so readily available.

GENERAL

The following visits have been made in connection with miscellaneous items requiring attention :—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	839
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	148
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Housing Visits and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	2,237
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	11
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	201
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	33

APPENDIX "A"

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	414	1,728	31	32	3	—
Number inspected	414	1,728	31	32	3	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci—</i> Whole carcasses condemned	1	10	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	98	833	2	2	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	23·7	48·8	16·1	6·3	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i> Whole carcasses condemned	1	115	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	47	379	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11·6	28·6	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis—</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "B" BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1955

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks.
Avoncliff Supply	S(1)	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Chalfield Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Conkwell Supply	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949
Bath City (Combe Down) Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Holt Water Company	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Limpley Stoke Middle Village Spring Supply	U(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in March, 1949.
Limpley Stoke Lower Village Spring Supply	U(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949
Monkton Farleigh Ministry of Works Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.

Note—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

APPENDIX "B" (continued) BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1955

Name of Supply.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks.
Chippenham Water Scheme	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Norrington Common Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Main extension replacing this supply in November, 1955
Staples Hill Dip Hole Supply	S(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Main extension replacing this supply in February, 1955
Turleigh Troughs Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949
Trowbridge Water Board	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Sandridge Lane Dip Hole Supply	U(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	—	—	—

Note—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

APPENDIX "C"

FACTORIES

Inspections	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power)	2	2	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power)	27	46	4	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—

Defects	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	2	—	1	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "D"

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1956

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including business premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	Agri- cultural (5)
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	5	3250	316	3571	220
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	73	4	77	2
(b) Survey under the Act	5	301	30	336	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	29	90	119	—
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	Not readily available				
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats	4	5	1	10	1
Major					
Minor	1	54	—	55	1
(b) Mice	—	—	—	—	—
Major					
Minor	—	15	—	15	—

APPENDIX "D" (continued)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1956

	Type of Property					
	Local Authority (1)	Non-Agricultural			Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	Agri- cultural (5)
		Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including business premises) (3)			
V. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	5	72	1	78	2	
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	Not readily available					
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :						
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—	
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—	
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—	
X. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	—	6	—	6	—	

APPENDIX "E"

SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS AND WORK OBTAINED BY INFORMAL ACTION

Food Shop—suitable protection for cooked meats	1	Houses—repairs	3
Ice Cream Premises—improvements and re-decoration	1	Drainage—new systems and improvements	9
Factory—means of escape in case of fire provided	1	Ditches—cleansed	1
Factory—sanitary accommodation provided	1	Premises connected to public sewer	12
Drainage—choked drains cleared	5	Public Health Act—rubbish removed	1
		Petroleum—defective storage tank no longer used	1



