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Caistor Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

and of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

V. G. HUDSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.

for the Year

1955

**COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH,
PLANNING, HOUSING AND WATER :**

(a) Public Health, Water and Planning Committee.

Chairman : Councillor J. W. COUSINS.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor H. KEY.

(b) Housing.

Chairman : Councillor J. NICKERSON.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor Capt. J. CLAYTON.

(c) General Purposes Committee.

Chairman : Councillor J. NICKERSON.

(d) Market Rasen U.D. Joint Water Supply Committee.

Councillors	J. W. COUSINS	}	Caistor R.D.
	H. KEY		
	W. C. HALL,		
	W. B. LEANING		
	A. B. NAYLOR, J.P.		
Councillor	H. B. BECKETT, Market Rasen U.D.		

(e) Clerk of the Council.

C. G. BARR, M.B.E.

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

R. J. R. MECREDDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Telephone : Caistor 322.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

V. G. HUDSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.A.R.D.S.

Caistor 322.

Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Surveyor :

F. J. ANDREWS, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.A.R.D.S.

Caistor 322.

Part-time Sanitary Inspector :

C. KING, Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Water Manager :

H. DIXON.

Caistor 323.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The virtual completion of the Housing Survey has made possible a better assessment of housing requirements. It is fairly obvious that a number of elderly people will need to be re-housed in the future. A further point is that a number of unoccupied farmhouses and cottages have been abandoned by reason of their relative distance from the nearest village.

Extensions to the water supply mains have enabled 24 more properties in Bigby Parish to be connected and have also resulted in a much higher pressure in the Market Rasen area. The somewhat dubious supply at Nettleton is now chlorinated.

The sewage disposal in many villages still remains a constant source of anxiety.

The largest epidemic of measles experienced for many years occurred during the summer months.

The general health of the community would appear to be above the average for the country to judge from the low general mortality rate.

The amount of work required of your staff shows little sign of abating. With the conclusion of the housing survey, a spate of improvement plans has had to be dealt with.

A number of bacteriological investigations of water, sewage effluents, etc., were again dealt with by Dr. Croll. The volume of these tests needed appears to increase from year to year.

An extremely strenuous year has again been passed by Mr. V. G. Hudson and I have to thank him for his invaluable work in co-ordinating the activities of the Department.

Mr. F. J. Andrews has also been kept very busy and has done much useful work.

Your part time Inspector, Mr. C. King, did some useful work in completing the housing survey.

Mr. H. Dixon has again had to work very hard at times in dealing with the many emergencies that occurred in our water service.

We have had a very busy year in the Public Health Department and I would like to thank all the staff for collaboration in the duties which fall to them. Thanks are also due to the Clerk, Mr. C. G. Barr, and his staff for their co-operation in our work.

I wish also to thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and the various members who have taken a keen interest in our work.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,

Medical Officer of Health,
Caistor Rural District Council.

SECTION A — Vital and General Statistics

The estimated population, according to the Registrar General, was 14,310.

Taking the non-civilian population of Stainton-le-Vale Parish (Binbrook R.A.F. Station) as approximately 1,664, this would give 12,646 as the civilian population for the Rural District. This will include some non-civilian personnel stationed in Toft Newton (Faldingworth R.A.F.). This will probably account for the apparent increase in population. In most parishes there has been a steady decline in population since 1921.

The birth rate remains higher than that of the country as a whole, and the death rate is lower.

The Caistor Rural District comprises 40 parishes.

The area of the Rural District is 119,992 acres.

Population 1921 census	.. ..	12,670
Population 1931 census	.. ..	12,648
Population 1951 census	.. ..	14,310
Population 1955 estimated	.. ..	14,310
Population 1955 (civilian) estimated		12,646
Habitable houses (excluding Service Premises)	.. ..	4,121

The rateable value of the district on the 1st April, 1955, was £46,700 and the product of a penny rate was £189 12s. 9d. for the year ending 31st March, 1955.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

		For England and Wales
Total live births	230	—
Total illegitimate live births	10	—
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1955 (corrected)	18.5	15.0
Total deaths	134	—
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	8.9	11.7
Deaths of infants under one year of age	4	—
Stillbirths	3	—
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	1	—
Death rate of infants under one year of age	17.4 per 1000	24.9
Deaths of illegitimate infants	1	—
Deaths from all malignant Neoplasms	25	—
Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system	66	—
Deaths from Measles	Nil	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	1	—
Deaths from Puerperal causes	1	—

There was a considerable drop in the number of deaths of infants, resulting in an apparent low mortality rate. The number of deaths from Malignant Neoplasms continues to show an appreciable rise in relation to the total number of deaths. The actual proportion is just over 18%. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System account for just 50% of the total deaths. In 1939 these latter diseases were responsible for 25% of all deaths reported in Great Britain.

Causes of Death in Caistor Rural District, 1955.

	Male	Female	
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	
" " other forms	0	0	
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0	
4. Diphtheria	0	0	
5. Whooping Cough	1	0	
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	
8. Measles	0	0	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ..	1	1	
11. " " lung, bronchus	4	0	
12. " " breast ..	0	4	
13. " " uterus ..	0	1	
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neo- plasms	8	6	
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	
16. Diabetes	0	0	
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system ..	8	12	
18. Coronary disease, Angina	6	2	
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	4	1	
20. Other heart disease	14	10	
21. Other circulatory disease	3	6	
22. Influenza	1	0	
23. Pneumonia	2	3	
24. Bronchitis	1	0	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	0	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	0	0	
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	0	0	
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	0	1	
31. Congenital malformations	0	0	
32. Motor vehicle accidents	1	0	
33. All other accidents	3	3	
34. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	15	
35. Suicide	1	0	
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0	
	68	66	134

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

1. (a) *Mental Illness.*

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and aftercare is carried out by specially trained staff employed by the Lindsey County Council.

1. (b) *Mental Defectives.*

The County Council, through the Regional Hospital Board makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council is responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their homes.

2. *Laboratory Facilities.*

Examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Anti-typhoid serum, and Scarlet Fever (streptococcus) Anti-toxin are supplied from the above laboratories.

3 *Ambulance Facilities.*

The National Fire Service has general supervision of all ambulances. An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's doctor or nurse, or, in the event of an emergency, by asking the telephone operator for the ambulance station.

Summary (for reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.

Nursing in the Home. All district nurses come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

Tuberculosis Treatment Centres.

Treatment and aftercare of tuberculosis cases are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest centres are at Brigg, Lincoln and Grimsby.

Hospitals, Isolation.

All cases of infectious diseases, including Smallpox are dealt with by the Regional Hospital Board.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

These are controlled by the Lindsey County Council.

Health Visitors.

The Lindsey County Council is in charge of these.

Infant Life Protection.

This is undertaken by the Lindsey County Council.

Dental Clinics and treatments.

This is arranged for mothers and children by the Lindsey County Council. There is a Dental Clinic at Market Rasen.

School Clinics are held at Brigg and Market Rasen.

Home Help Service. This is supplied by the Lindsey County Council.

SECTION C

Notifiable Diseases

A widespread epidemic of measles occurred during the months of May, June, July and August.

The number of cases of Whooping Cough remained at about the average for the last ten years. Very little variation has been shown in this disease from year to year. It should be noted that there was one death from Whooping Cough. One case of paratyphoid fever was notified, but in spite of the usual follow-up the source of the infection could not be traced.

One case of Weil's Disease was investigated during the year. There was a possibility that a dog might have been implicated in the conveyance of the infection, but this could not be proved (from tests made on the dog's blood). A brother of a man who died from Weil's Disease last year contracted what was at first thought to be a similar disease, but extensive tests in hospital failed to reveal any causal agent.

Immunisation

Of 536 children aged from 5 to 15 years it was noted that 469 or 84.3% were immunised against diphtheria. A follow-up of unprotected children in the middle age groups led to a fair number of parents agreeing to the immunisation of their children. 79% of the children in the "leavers" group of 92 had been immunised.

Initial immunisations of children against diphtheria numbered 217, which shows a slight rise on last year's figures. "Booster" injections were given to 152 children. The latter figure shows a considerable drop from the figure for 1954. 154 children were immunised against Whooping Cough. These figures might be contrasted with the number of births recorded which was 230.

Notifiable Diseases	1955	1954	1953	1952	Average for 10 years 1942-51	Average for 10 years 1932-41	1901-10
Measles	265	4	77	161	140	—†	—†
Whooping Cough ..	47	51	81	82	43	—†	—†
Scarlet Fever ..	8	12	20	41	25.6	20.2	30
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	3.2	3.7	23.7
Pneumonia	3	3	4	9	6.4	7.3	†
Tuberculosis							
(Pulmonary) ..	3	1	9	4	7.4	8.7	—†
(Non-pulmonary) ..	2	4	5	1	5.4	3.8	—†
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	3	2	1	1.8	†	†
Erysipelas	0	3	0	0	3.5	3.2	4.2*
Poliomyelitis	2	1	0	0	0.6	0	†
Ophthalmia							
Neonatorum ..	0	0	0	0	1.0	0.6	†
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever ..	1	0	1	0	0.3	0.7	4.8
Dysentery	2	7	0	5	1.8	†	†
Food Poisoning ..	2	0	0	1	0	†	†
Encephalitis							
Infective	1	0	0	0	0	†	†
Totals	337	89	199	305	240.0	—	—

† Not notifiable.

* 1903-12.

SECTION D

Water Supply

During the year the extension of the water main from Bigby to Kettleby was carried out, a distance of about 4,300 yards; this afforded a good water supply to a district which depended solely on shallow wells and pumps. Twenty-four consumers were connected to this extension.

The new 6in. main from Tealby to Market Rasen was completed, giving a very good pressure to all parts of Market Rasen. Work was also started on the new reservoir situated on Hamilton Hill, this will give a reserve supply for the town and will also correct the present excessive pressure in the Market Rasen supply area.

Towards the end of the year work was commenced on laying new mains to the village of Walesby which, when completed, will give a pure supply to the village from the Otby source.

Samples

During the year samples from all the Council's sources of supply were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analyses. A summary of the results follows:—

Bacteriological Reports

Samples for bacteriological analysis are taken weekly and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Lincoln, for report. The results for the year ending 31st December, 1955 are as below.

Supply.	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Total
Nettleton	44	31	75
Otby	29	1	30
Tealby	18	1	19
Caistor	14	0	14
Supplies from other authorities ..	9	1	10
Walesby Village Supply (Private) ..	4	10	14
Other Private Supplies	8	8	16
Totals	126	52	178

The chemical analyses for the supply are as follows:—

DETAILS	SOURCES				
	Caistor	Nettleton	Otby	Tealby	Walesby
Total Solids dried at 100°C. ..	310.0	276.0	328.0	412.0	324.0
Free Ammonia as N.	0.002	0.042	0.008	0.018	0.060
Albumenoid Ammonia as N.	0.008	0.030	0.018	0.016	0.040
Nitrogen as Nitrates	2.0	3.3	2.0	2.4	3.5
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Chlorides as Cl	20.0	21.0	22.0	27.0	22.0
Alkalinity expressed as CaCO ₃ ..	185.0	170.0	195.0	285.0	220.0
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 Permanganate in 4 hours	0.104	0.126	0.116	0.130	0.134
Calcium as CaO	126.0	124.6	138.6	189.0	142.8
Magnesium as MgO	7.2	3.4	4.0	8.2	5.0
Sulphates as SO ₃	52.1	44.0	42.5	54.9	40.6
Possible Combination of Salts in Solution					
Calcium Carbonate	16.00	16.62	19.42	26.90	20.41
Calcium Sulphate	8.86	7.48	7.23	9.40	6.90
Sodium Chloride	3.29	3.46	3.63	4.45	3.63
Magnesium Carbonate	1.51	0.75	0.84	1.72	1.05
pH Value	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.3

It will be noted that the bulk of the unsatisfactory samples were from the Nettleton and Walesby Village supplies.

Nettleton supply is now chlorinated and no further unsatisfactory reports have been received since the chlorinating plant was installed. The Walesby Village supply will be abandoned in the near future and the village will be supplied from the Otby source, which is chlorinated.

Domestic Properties connected to water mains at December 31st, 1955

Parish	No. of houses	No. sup.	Parish	No. of houses	No. sup.
Bigby ..	77	55	Brought forward ..	2433	2199
Bishop Norton ..	103	91	Osgodby ..	156	144
*Brocklesby ..	58	58	Owersby ..	111	111
Buslingthorpe ..	26	22	Rasen, Middle ..	364	329
Cabourne ..	34	32	Rasen, West ..	49	49
Caistor ..	508	504	Riby ..	70	50
Claxby ..	59	53	Rothwell ..	64	43
Glentham ..	106	90	Searby-cum-Owmbly	55	49
Grasby ..	109	92	Sixhills ..	29	23
*Holton-le-Moor ..	60	58	Snitterby ..	73	70
Keelby ..	298	290	Somerby ..	23	12
Kelsey, North ..	271	219	*Stainton-le-Vale..	39	8
Kelsey, South ..	157	144	Swallow ..	66	36
*Kirmond-le-Mire..	19	11	Swinhope ..	23	6
Legsby ..	104	94	Tealby ..	198	170
Limber ..	124	103	*Thoresway ..	56	—
Linwood ..	52	52	*Thorganby ..	27	20
Lissington ..	59	58	Toft Newton ..	44	42
Nettleton ..	180	149	Waddingham ..	181	161
Normanby-le-Wold	29	24	*Walesby ..	78	58
			Willingham, North	47	28
Carried forward	2433	2199	Totals ..	4186	3608

* Private Supply only

During the year 18 new properties were connected to the water mains and connections were also made to 48 old properties.

Lengths and sizes of water mains in parishes :—

	9"	7"	6"	5"	4"	3"	2"	TOTALS
	m. yds.	m. yds.	m. yds.	m. yds.	m. yds.	m. yds.	m. yds.	m. yds.
Bigby	—	—	—	—	—	3 86	—	3 86
Bishop Norton	—	—	1 1137	—	—	2 217	—	3 1354
Brocklesby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buslingthorpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 1285	1 1285
Cabourne	—	2 1027	1 1064	—	1 0000	—	—	5 331
Caistor	—	—	—	—	1 578	6 596	—	7 1174
Claxby	—	—	—	—	—	2 0000	—	2 0000
Glentham	—	—	3 367	—	— 367	1 38	—	4 772
Grasby	—	—	—	—	—	3 570	—	3 570
Holton-le-Moor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keelby	—	—	1 367	—	1 440	2 367	—	4 1174
Kelsey, North	—	—	—	—	—	11 1706	—	11 1706
Kelsey, South	—	—	1 240	—	—	7 1513	—	8 1753
Kirmond-le-Mire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legsby	—	—	—	—	5 880	4 440	—	9 1320
Limber	—	—	—	—	3 1614	— 771	—	4 625
Linwood	—	—	—	2 1174	—	1 74	—	3 1248
Lissington	—	—	—	— 917	— 586	1 624	—	2 367
Nettleton	—	—	1 1093	— 660	—	3 74	—	5 67
Normanby-le-Wold	—	—	—	—	—	2 1174	—	2 1174
Osgodby	—	—	—	— 1027	2 880	5 1323	—	8 1470
Owersby	—	—	—	—	—	7 1068	—	7 1068
Rasen, Middle	—	—	—	5 368	—	2 546	1 856	9 10
Rasen, West	—	—	1 1247	— 1393	—	3 880	—	6 0000
Riby .. .. .	.. 1 513	—	— 1467	—	—	— 954	—	2 1174
Rothwell	—	—	—	—	1 1504	—	—	1 1504
Searby-cum-Owmbly	—	—	—	—	—	1 1320	—	1 1320
Sixhills	—	—	1 1166	—	—	— 586	—	1 1752
Snitterby	—	—	— 1320	—	1 477	1 1557	—	3 1594
Somerby	—	—	—	—	—	— 1248	—	— 1248
Stainton-le-Vale	—	—	—	—	—	— 477	—	— 477
Swallow .. .. .	.. - 1614	1 440	—	—	—	2 0000	—	4 294
Swinhope	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tealby	—	—	4 1426	3 477	—	1 704	—	9 847
Thoresway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorganby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toft Newton	—	—	—	2 294	—	2 623	—	4 917
Waddingham	—	—	1 400	—	— 180	3 1213	—	5 33
Walesby	—	—	—	3 220	1 73	1 1027	—	5 1320
Willingham, North	—	—	—	—	1 0000	1 0000	—	2 0000
Market Rasen	—	—	— 400	1 587	—	2 1104	1 1056	5 1387
TOTALS .. .. .	.. 2 367	3 1467	21 1134	20 77	21 539	92 -	4 1437	165 1501

SECTION E — Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Towns and villages with complete sewerage schemes :—

- (1) Caistor — disposal by land treatment over 7 acres. Standard of effluent — good.
- (2) Keelby — disposal to new sewage disposal works. Standard of effluent — good.
- (3) Tealby — disposal to new sewage disposal works. Standard of effluent — good.
- (4) Middle Rasen — disposal to sewage disposal works. Belonging to Market Rasen U.D.C. in Middle Rasen parish. Standard of effluent — quite good.

Villages with partial sewerage schemes :—

- (1) North Kelsey — disposal by combined "sewer" with land treatment in field of .652 acres. Discharge to dyke — effluent not good.

- (2) South Kelsey — North End — disposal by combined "sewer" to twin settlement tanks. Discharge of effluent therefrom to dyke.
- (3) South Kelsey — South End. New sewage disposal works with complete treatment — built in conjunction with new Council housing estate. Effluent good.

The position in Waddingham still remains unsatisfactory and there appears to be little prospect of the sewerage scheme being constructed in the immediate future. The condition of the stream through the village is far from satisfactory and, at times of low flow, is extremely bad.

The conditions at Osgodby, Grasby and Bigby are still poor and a public health nuisance exists, in varying degrees, throughout the entire year in these villages.

At North End, South Kelsey, further improvements were made and the conditions are better than they have been although they are still not entirely satisfactory.

A "sewer-dyke" Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee inspected all the dykes in the area which are grossly polluted by sewage and a record of those which the Council is prepared to cleanse was made.

During the year an inspection was made of the sanitary facilities in the 14 schools which have no W.C's.

Thirteen of these schools have pail closets which are emptied at regular intervals by a caretaker or by the Council's employees.

Toft Newton is still dependent upon closets which empty into a vault which is emptied twice a year by the caretaker.

The general state of the closets was reasonably satisfactory. The seats were found to be quite clean at the time of inspection.

At Waddingham the two new classrooms have had W.C's installed. The old school has still to depend on pail closets.

In the cases of Nettleton and Legsby I understand that a water carriage system is to replace the pails in the near future. I would like to call attention of all Councillors to the interesting experiment being made by your Inspector, Mr. Hudson, in the composting of nightsoil on the land.

The number of premises still given a weekly night-soil collection is as follows :—

Parish	No. of pails	Brought forward	No. of pails
			628
Bigby	16	Osgodby (Usselby) ..	40
Bishop Norton ..	29	Owersby	23
Brocklesby	24	Rasen, Middle	78
Caistor	80	Riby	35
Claxby	22	Searby-cum-Owmby	18
Glentham	48	Snitterby	33
Grasby	62	Somerby	5
Holton-le-Moor ..	5	Tealby (Thorpe) ..	10
Keelby	89	Thoresway	16
Kelsey, North ..	45	Thorganby	14
Kelsey, S. (Moortown)	39	Waddingham	94
Legsby (Bleasby) ..	12	Walesby	5
Limber	93		
Lissington	24		999
Nettleton	36		
Normanby-le-Wold ..	4		
	628		

Parishes in which no collection is made :—

Buslingthorpe	Stainton-le-Vale
Cabourne	Swallow
Kirmond-le-Mire	Swinhope
Linwood	Toft Newton
Rasen, West	Willingham, N.
Rothwell	
Sixhills	

Sewer Swabs, sewage samples, etc.

- (1) For general check on inflow and effluent from Sewage Disposal systems :—
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| (a) Caistor | 3 |
| (b) Kelsey, North | 1 |
| (c) Kelsey, South | 1 |
| (d) Waddingham | 3 |
| | — 8 |
- All negative
- (2) Used at Osgodby to test outflow from sewage works to T.B. San. :—
- | | |
|---|----|
| Total used | 31 |
| | — |
| Definite evidence of tuberculosis | 8 |
| | — |
- (3) Faeces — two specimens tested :—
- (a) Lissington — typhi murium isolated.
- (b) Linwood — shigella sonnei isolated.
- (4) Beast spleen — taken from carcass at time of slaughter for human consumption :—
- No salmonella, staphylococcus or streptococcus isolated.

The sewage from the Sanatorium at Osgodby was treated by chlorination by drip feed of the effluent. This appears to have had no material effect on the presence of tubercle and the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board are arranging for the transfer of the patients to a more urban area where a greater control over the sewage disposal can be made. (This was done April, 1956.)

SECTION F — Public Health Nuisances

The presence of pigsties in close proximity to the School and School House at South Kelsey was investigated during the year. It is unfortunate that these pigsties had been erected so close to the School.

It was found necessary on one occasion during the summer to ask the owners of the farm to abate the nuisance caused by manure which had been left in the open. They did co-operate with your inspectors and have installed a more satisfactory system of drainage from some of the sties. A sub-committee of the Public Health Committee visited the site and considered that the pigs were kept in a reasonable condition and there was no apparent nuisance at the time of the visit.

It was generally felt, however, that very careful supervision of these sties will be required during the summer months if a nuisance is to be avoided in the future.

SECTION G — Housing

Thirty-one new houses were completed during the year. Only eight of these were built by the Council. It will be noted that the total number of houses built is near the average for the ten post-war years. In addition, major improvements to 68 old houses were also made. The housing situation has steadily improved since the war and there is now very little overcrowding.

The housing survey reveals that 57 houses should probably be condemned for human habitation. Of these, 31 were still occupied. It is obvious that the necessity for rehousing the people in these houses will have to be faced in the immediate future.

In addition to these houses there are at present about 150 farm cottages or farm houses unoccupied by reason of their remote situation or for other reasons. The rehousing and care of elderly people in bungalows or in other ways will remain a major problem for some time.

SECTION H — Health and Welfare of Schoolchildren

During the year 556 children were examined in the schools of the Caistor and Market Rasen Districts. 117 children received treatment at the School Clinic in Market Rasen. 17 of this total were considered to be subnormal in their nutrition or with poor physical output. 22 children were treated for various diseases of the lungs. Impetigo was present in two children. Other skin conditions accounted for 17 cases. Scabies was not seen during the year. Six cases of anaemia were treated. Only one case of nocturnal enuresis came forward for treatment.

Wax was removed from four children's ears. 14 children attended for treatment for various defects of the ears, nose, pharynx, or for cervical adenitis.

Out of 15 retarded children examined ten were found to be educationally subnormal. One of these was excluded from attending school.

Eight out of the 556 children examined at the routine visits to schools had appendicectomy scars.

(In a group of 970 children examined in Scunthorpe, 46 had appendicectomy scars.) 15 out of the 556 children had either hernias or herniotomy scars.

The incidence of dental caries in the children examined shows little change. A comparison of the teeth of children in the Caistor Rural District as compared with those in Scunthorpe shows no appreciable difference in the extent of dental caries or the number of children with perfect sets of teeth.

SECTION I — Practical Hygiene in the Community

I would like to stress again the importance of certain elementary rules of hygiene. The thorough washing of the hands before all meals and always after the use of the water closet are still, I am afraid, counsels of perfection in many homes. Fortunately, many teachers stress these points in the schools and they should in time percolate more fully through the community as a whole.

The ordinary roller towel remains one of the most unsatisfactory methods of drying the hands in many schools, hotels, restaurants and places of business. The use of individual towels is now fairly common in many of the smaller country schools and also in some of the infant classes of the larger village schools. The cost of paper towels would appear to make their use prohibitive.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the CAISTOR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is again with pleasure that I set out details of the work done on public health by my Department during the year ending 31st December, 1955. The year saw a fresh impetus on housing, with particular reference to the clearance of derelict or unsatisfactory dwellings; the table on page 00 shows the details of houses which are to be dealt with in the next three years.

The following gives a list of the work which required major attention during the year :—

- (1) Meat inspection — a total number of 1563 carcasses were examined during the year and in only 56 were there conditions which required condemnation. This did not, of course, include minor damage to livers by distoma hepaticum, but even the incidence of these liver flukes has reduced on pre-war experience.
- (2) The record of " sewer dykes " was completed and the Council now has a written record for the entire area.
- (3) The sampling of water continued at a high level and appears to have been worth while in that it produced evidence to show chlorination was necessary in two areas.
- (4) The number of applicants for grant under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 increased still further and the amount of work involved became difficult to cope with. The schemes are, however, most beneficial in the area and bring many properties up to a high standard.

I should like to express my thanks to the Council, to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and the members of the Public Health Committee, to the Clerk and his staff and to the Medical Officer of Health and to my staff (both internal and outside workers) for their active support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

VINCENT G. HUDSON.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

(1) Town and Country Planning

The Council continued to operate delegated powers from the Lindsey County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and during the year 240 planning proposals were received and dealt with. The Planning Register is available on demand for examination by interested members of the public, but so far no one has availed himself of the privilege.

Of the 240 plans considered two were refused, both applications for petrol filling stations and both on planning grounds. Again, a few private garages were erected without prior submission of plans but the persons responsible were required to submit plans and the structures were, of course, put in for rating.

(2) Housing and Building Development

General

For the second time since the war the number of houses built by private enterprise exceeded those built by the Council. The standard of design and construction of the private enterprise dwellings was quite good and the new houses were an asset to the area. Of the 8 dwellings completed by the Council during the year, 6 were bungalows and two were houses.

(3) TABLE OF PLANS APPROVED DURING THE YEAR 1955 with corresponding details for 1951—1954

Type of Building	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
1. Council Houses	15	31	5	16	7
2. Private Houses	18	7	32	27	14
3. Additions and Alterations to Houses	37	91	49	65	65
4. Conversions to Houses	3	4	4	8	6
5. Farm Buildings	11	3	9	5	4
6. Factories (including alterations and additions)	1	1	3	—	—
7. Temporary Buildings	12	10	8	7	—
8. Licensed Premises (alterations and additions)	3	—	—	7	3
9. Shops (including alterations and additions)	3	1	1	2	—
10. Petrol Stations and Garages	11	7	3	4	6
11. Local Authority (sewers and water schemes)	7	7	—	1	3
12. Statutory Undertakings (Electricity Board, etc.)	52	52	31	73	57
13. Private Garages	8	10	30	20	42
14. Mineral Workings	2	1	1	—	2
15. Advertisements	5	16	6	8	6
16. Bus Shelters	—	2	1	—	—
17. Store Sheds	—	—	6	—	3
18. Cafe and additions	—	—	2	3	2
19. School	—	—	1	6	1
20. Deep Litter Houses	—	—	—	3	—
21. Caravan Sites and Caravans	—	—	—	1	1
22. Playing Fields	—	—	—	1	1
23. New Business premises and alterations	—	—	—	—	15
24. Burial Grounds	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	188	243	192	257	240

(4) New Houses

During the past 26 years (1930-1955 inclusive) 846 houses have been built in Caistor Rural District. (This figure is exclusive of houses built for the Services.)

The following table gives the rate of construction.

	Private Enterprise	Cl.	Rate per Year P.e.	Cl.
Pre-war (1930-1939) ..	247	80	25	8 (10 yrs.)
Wartime (1939-1945) ..	—	30	—	5 (6 yrs.)
Post-war (1946-1955) ..	144	345	14	34 (10 yrs.)

(5) The houses built in 1955 were in the following parishes :

	Private Enterprise	Caistor R.D.C.
Caistor	1	—
Claxby	1	4
Bishopbridge ..	1	—
Bishop Norton ..	4	—
Brocklesby	2	—
Grasby	1	—
Keelby	3	—
Kelsey, North ..	1	—
Kelsey, South ..	2	—
Linwood	1	—
Riby	2	—
Swallow	4	4
	—	—
	23	8
	—	—

(6) Caravans

The number of licensed caravans in the area was 17. The caravans did not constitute a public health problem and they were well maintained. Annual licensing for each caravan under Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936 is the method of control adopted.

The one licensed site, which is reserved almost entirely for R.A.F. personnel, was well-equipped and maintained in an excellent condition.

6) COUNCIL HOUSES — NUMBER IN EACH PARISH

Parish	Total Pre-War	War- time	Post- War	TOTAL	Being built	No. of current applications
Bigby	—	—	8	8	—	1
Bishop Norton	—	2	8	10	—	16
Brocklesby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buslingthorpe	4	—	2	6	—	5
Cabourne	—	—	4	4	—	1
Caistor	33	4	57	94	—	89
Claxby	—	—	6	6	—	7
Glentham	—	2	8	10	—	27
Grasby	4	—	4	8	—	2
Holton-le-Moor	—	—	4	4	—	4
Keelby	18	2	28	48	—	57
Kelsey, North	18	2	26	46	4	35
Kelsey, South	14	2	19	35	—	14
Kirmond-le-Mire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Legsby	2	2	10	14	—	5
Limber	8	—	12	20	—	22
Linwood	—	—	6	6	—	1
Lissington	—	—	4	4	—	4
Nettleton	14	—	24	38	—	40
Normanby-le-Wold	—	—	4	4	—	6
Osgodby	10	2	6	18	—	11
Owersby	6	4	8	18	2	7
Rasen Middle	18	—	20	38	—	40
Rasen West	—	2	2	4	—	8
Riby	—	—	4	4	—	9
Rothwell	—	4	22	26	—	15
Searby-cum-Owmbly	—	—	6	6	—	2
Sixhills	—	—	2	2	—	—
Snitterby	4	—	8	12	—	12
Somerby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stainton-le-Vale	—	—	2	2	—	—
Swallow	—	—	8	8	—	21
Swinhope	—	—	4	4	—	4
Tealby	—	—	12	12	—	24
Thoresway	—	—	—	—	—	1
Thorganby	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toft Newton	—	—	2	2	—	2
Waddingham	18	2	12	32	—	25
Walesby	—	—	6	6	—	8
Willingham, North	—	—	4	4	—	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	171	30	362	563	6	528
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Pre-War. 171 shown above are all houses.
Wartime. 30 shown above are all houses.
Post-War. 362 — Houses 296 Bungalows, 66.

(7) Council Houses — General Remarks

The rents of the normal houses during 1955 were as follows :—

	Weekly Rent	Rates vary between (per week)
Pre-warhouses		
All services	15/3	2/8—4/9
Other	12/6	
Agricultural houses (1944)	15/6	3/6—5/4
Post-war — houses	16/6	4/6—5/4
bungalows	11/3	3/1—3/9

The amount of contribution per dwelling to the Repairs Fund was £10 10s. 0d. per house. This allowed reasonable repairs to be carried out and 92 houses were repainted during the year. This meant that all houses would be painted twice every 11 years.

Most repairs are done by direct labour ; the general standard of maintenance of structures and estates is quite high ; the tenants keep the houses and gardens, on average, in a very good condition and there was little cause for complaint by the Council on the way the structures were kept. During the year the roofs of a number of Council houses were renewed and others were re-felting.

(9) Council House — Improvements

During the year only three houses were improved as follows :—

Hot Water Conversion

2, Manor Gardens, South Kelsey.

1, Council House, Buslingthorpe.

Electricity

2, Nettleton Road, Caistor.

At the end of the year only 16 houses remained to be modernised :—

Provision of bathroom, hot water system, etc. 10

„ „ electricity 6

(10) Repairs and improvements to private houses (other than grant work)

The number of plans approved and inspections of work in progress suggest that, without recourse to grant application, the number of houses improved during the year was again quite considerable.

(11) Housing Act, 1949 Section 20

The figures for 1955 were :—

Improved houses (i.e. completed in year)	68
Total cost of work — in excess of ..	£35,000
Amount of grant	£16,601 13 10
Total applications approved in year	61 houses

The amount of work involved in the inspection and checking of details, in the submission of reports to the Committee, and the numerous inspections of properties while the work is in progress is very considerable. The system adopted is for all would-be applications to be inspected prior to the submission of details, for plans and details to be submitted together with a priced builder's estimate and for a Sub-Committee of the Housing Committee to examine each application in detail. This Sub-Committee consists of the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of all Committees of the Council together with one other member.

The improved properties are an asset to the neighbourhood, they often materially assist in keeping labour on the land by giving the families satisfactory living conditions in an isolated situation, and the grant system gives real benefit to the owners of properties which, except for lacking amenities, are in all other respects sound homes.

(12) Summary of work under the Housing Act and Public Health Acts during 1955

(a) Dwelling-house inspection.

(1)	Total houses inspected for defects	425
(2)	Number of inspections made for purpose	565
(3)	Number of dwellings found to be dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	39
(4)	Number of houses found defective but repairable	115

(b) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	45
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(c) Overcrowding.

There is no record of overcrowding in the district at the moment. The permitted number of new houses and reconditioned properties are added to the register compiled under the Housing Act, 1936.

(13) Abatement of Nuisances

	Total number of nuisances investigated during the year ..	168
	Total number of nuisances abated as a result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	168

Details of nuisances are as follows :

	Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	39
	Fowls, pigs and other animals	14
	Dangerous premises	2
	Drainage	40
	Other nuisances under Public Health Acts	57
	Miscellaneous	16

(14) Housing Survey

305 houses inspected during the year.

The houses inspected were in various parts of the area ; they were a continuation of the survey commenced in 1947. The main reason for the inspections was to ascertain those which, in the opinion of the Council, ought to be condemned for human habitation and cleared or used as a store. An inspection of all the parishes resulted in the following list being presented to the Council in July, 1955 :—

Parish	No. of Houses Occupied	Unoc.	O/o.
Caistor	6	4	4
Claxby	3	1	—
Glentham	3	2	—
Keelby	9	8	—
Kelsey, N.	2	—	2
Kelsey, S.	4	2	2
Lissington	4	1	3
Legsby	1	1	—
Nettleton	1	—	1
Normanby-le-Wold	2	—	2
Osgodby	2	2	—
Owersby	4	2	2
Rasen, Middle	4	2	2
Snitterby	4	3	1
Waddingham	1	1	—
Walesby	5	—	5
Willingham, N.	2	2	—
TOTALS	57	31	26

This list was comparatively short but it represented the houses which are incapable of repair at reasonable cost and those which it is thought could be properly dealt with in a reasonable period. It will be added to as circumstances demand and is considered to be the basis of the problem rather than the complete solution in itself.

(15) Milk Regulations, 1949

List of samples taken during year.

Purpose	No. taken	Satisfactory	U/S.
For purity	7	7	—

**Meat Inspection
Unsound Food**

**Carcases Inspected
and condemned**

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	325	5	545	688
Number Inspected	325	5	545	688
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned ..	4	1	14	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	4	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	2	20	3.4	.9
Tuberculosis only— Whole carcases condemned ..	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	—	—	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	36	—	—	1.8

(16) Food Premises

The following premises are registered in the Rural District :—

Bakehouses	6
Fish and Chip Shops ..	10
Preserved Food preparation ..	11
Ice Cream (retail)	37

(17) Ice Cream

During the year 23 samples of pre-packed ice cream were taken and the results are as follows :—

Grade I	16
II	5
III	1
IV	1
	—
	23
	—

There are no producers in the area and the only grade IV sample taken was from a refrigerator which had broken down. A subsequent sample proved satisfactory.

(18) Factories Act, 1937

The list of factories in the district is as follows :—

Parishes	Factories		Total
	Mechanical Power With	Without	
Bigby	—	—	—
Bishop Norton	1	—	1
Buslingthorpe	—	—	—
Cabourne	—	1	1
Caistor	2	5	7
Claxby	1	—	1
Glentham	1	—	1
Grasby	1	1	2
Holton-le-Moor	—	—	—
Keelby	1	2	3
North Kelsey	2	2	4
South Kelsey	—	—	—
Limber	—	1	1
Nettleton	—	1	1
Normanby-le-Wold	—	—	—
Osgodby	1	4	5
Owersby	1	—	1
Middle Rasen	1	2	3
Riby	—	1	1
Searby	—	—	—
Swallow	—	—	—
Swinhope	—	—	—
Tealby	—	2	2
Waddingham	3	—	3
Walesby	—	2	2
Willingham North	—	—	—
	15	24	39

The number of inspections carried out during the year was 25.

(19) Sewerage

A commencement was made with the design of a sewerage scheme to serve the small village of Brocklesby. There is a village sewer which takes sink wastes only but discharges untreated to a ditch ; the proposal was to use this sewer for soil purposes and connect it to a new full-scale treatment works.

(20) Drainage

The Council recommended the giving of grants under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 on the following basis :—

For connection to septic tank	£10
For connection to sewer	£5

With the proviso in both cases that the grant would be 50% only if the work cost less than £20 or £10 respectively.

During 1955, 35 properties were the subject of assistance.

	Total Cost
26 for connection to sewer	£130 0 0
9 for connection to septic tank	£90 0 0
Total	£220 0 0

This brought the total amount of grant allowed under this section up to £3,680.

New lengths of drain on all properties are examined and tested before approval.

(21) Water Supply

During the year there was some preliminary discussion on the setting up of an all-purpose Water Board for North-East Lincolnshire.

(22) Public Scavenging

The system remained as in the previous year and a weekly collection continued in the Caistor and Stainton-le-Vale parishes, with the balance of the area receiving a fortnightly collection. The whole area is covered by the collection system with the exception of an isolated village, Kirmond-le-Mire.

Disposal is not an easy problem for the variation in condition between the stiff land of the Ancholme Valley and the pervious chalk of the Wolds means that there are few sites which are free from objection either by reason of sub-soil flooding or risk of underground pollution. There are comparatively few places where tipping is needed to straighten up previous excavation, quarries, etc., and sooner or later a more ambitious form of controlled tipping on marginal land will be needed.

Night soil is collected from 28 parishes and the disposal of the contents of the weekly 1,000 buckets emptied, together with the contents of the 100 septic tanks emptied during the year is again quite a difficult problem. With only three full-scale Sewage Disposal works in the area (Keelby, Tealby and Middle Rasen) much of the sewage has to be spread over agricultural land. This is open to objection in some ways; it is difficult to carry out in bad weather and again is totally unsuitable on the Wolds. A successful attempt to popularise the use of straw for composting sewage was made towards the end of the year and two systems are now being used.

Private septic tanks, cesspools, etc., are emptied at a flat rate of £1 per visit and other work of emptying is done on a charge basis — the actual cost plus 15% administrative charge. The service is growing increasingly popular, mainly due to the greater number of treatment tanks and the effect that the use of detergents has on the sludge in septic tanks.

(23) Rodent Control

The official methods of pre-baiting and poisoning were used and the results were as follows:—

Number of premises inspected:—

(a) on complaint	..	40	
(b) survey	.. ..	1101	1141

Number of premises treated:

(a) Major infestation	..	86	
(b) Minor infestation	..	272	358
Block Control	.. ..		8

The Council employ a full-time operator who is responsible for the Rural District and for the Urban District of Market Rasen. The arrangement worked well and resulted in the best possible service in rodent destruction. Minor infestations of fleas, etc., are dealt with by the same person; these are remarkably few in number.

Official methods were at all times employed and details of the work done in 1955 by this section of the Department are as above.

Refuse tips, sewers and other Council properties are regularly surveyed and treated as required so as to prevent any risk of infestation by rats or other pests.

There was complete harmony between the officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee and this Council on the question of rat infestations on agricultural properties and each side kept the other informed on contracts, infestations found, etc. The requirement of the law relating to the fencing of ricks was kept before farmers when thrashing took place. 327 inspections of farm premises were made during the year.

(24) Dangerous Structure — Public Health Act, 1936
Section 58

The Council became concerned at the safety of a Church spire in the area and appointed a Sub-Committee to view the spire with the Vicar and his Churchwardens. The Parochial Church Council for the parish was persuaded of the need for action and the spire is to be demolished.

