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BOROUGH OF CALNE

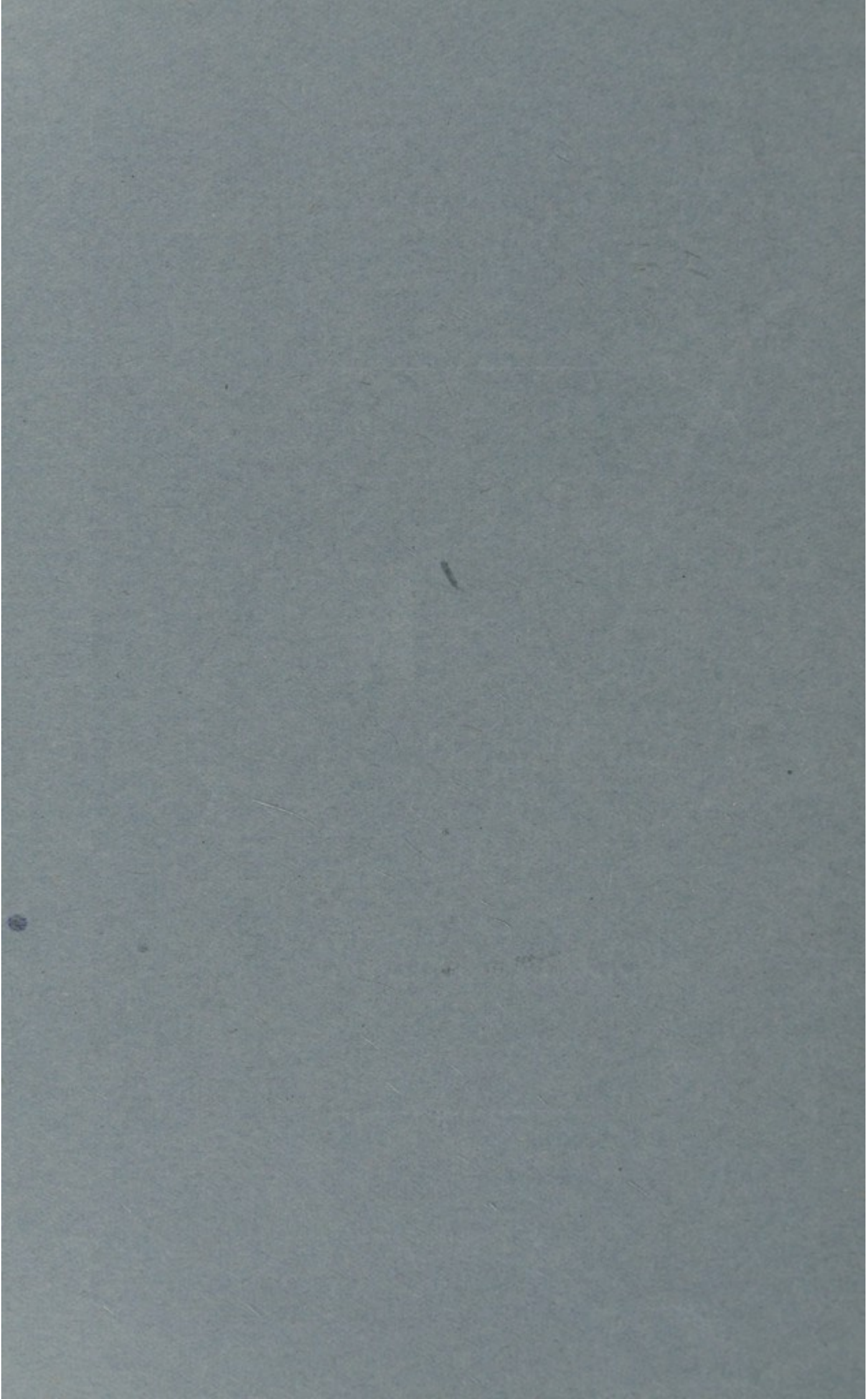
REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1948



BOROUGH OF CALNE

Public Health Officers of the Authority

- (a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H., who is also an Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and Medical Officer of Health to the Boroughs of Chippenham and Malmesbury, and to the Rural Districts of Calne and Chippenham and Malmesbury.
- (b) SANITARY INSPECTOR.
T. V. OLIVER, C.R. San.I., M.S.I.A., who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Calne.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. T. V. Oliver, Borough Surveyor, for his great help in compiling this Report.

This Report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 dated 17th January, 1949.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1948.

Area (in acres)	1,276
Population (1948)	5,398
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948 according to Rate Book)	1,610
Rateable Value	£29,876 0 0
Sum represented by penny rate	£119 16 6

	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1000	Rate per 1000 E. & W.
Live Births					
Legitimate	36	43	79		
Illegitimate	2	2	4		
	<hr/>				
Birth Rate	38	45	83	15.37	17.9
Still Births	0	2	2	.37	.42
Deaths	26	40	66		
Death Rate				12.2	10.8
<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes</u>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0		
Other Maternal Causes	0	0	0		
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>					
All Infants per 1,000					
Live Births	2	2	4	48.19	
Legitimate Infants per 1,000					
legitimate live births	2	2	4		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000					
illegitimate live births	0	0	0		
<u>Deaths from :-</u>					
Cancer (all ages)	1	6	7		
Measles (")	0	0	0		
Whooping Cough (")	0	0	0		
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0	0	0		
Influenza	0	0	0		
Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23)	3	4	7		
Diseases of Heart & Blood					
Vessels (18, 19, 20)	12	18	30		

The Birth rate is slightly lower during the year under review than during 1947, when it was 16.5 per 1,000 of the population. Death rate however shows a slight increase to the previous year when it was 10.58 per 1,000 of the population.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring
in the Borough during the year 1948.**

Disease.			Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	...	...	14	6
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	22	—
Measles	...	...	5	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis	...	...	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	—	—

Deaths from all Causes

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Parat. fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of resp. sys.	1	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Ac. Polio-myel. & Polio-enceph	—	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph	—	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph. (M)	—	—	—
uterus (F)	—	1	1
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	1	1	2
Cancer of breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	—	3	3
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	5	8
Heart dis.	9	11	20
Other dis. of cir. sys.	—	2	2
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Other resp. diseases	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digve. dis.	1	—	1
Nephritis	2	4	6
Puer. & Post-abort. sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Prem. birth	—	—	—
Con. mal. birth Inj. infant dis.	2	2	4
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic acc.	—	—	—
Other violent causes	1	—	1
All other causes	2	6	8
Total ...	26	40	66

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15								
25		3						
35								
45		1						
55								
65 and upwards ^s					1			
Totals		4			1			

Four cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year under review, as compared with three cases notified during 1947. There was one death from Tuberculosis during 1948.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day; from this information the following table has been compiled:—

Month	Total Rainfall Inches	Greatest Fall in 24 hrs.	Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
January ..	6.28	.87 12th	28
February ..	1.37	.33 5th	15
March ...	1.18	.54 31st	8
April ...	1.98	.58 3rd	14
May ...	4.19	.77 30th	13
June ...	2.79	.59 16th	22
July ...	0.76	.33 17th	8
August ...	3.21	.49 2nd	15
September ..	2.36	1.19 12th	12
October ...	4.35	1.49 16th	14
November ...	1.46	.30 4th	13
December ...	4.40	.66 30th	17
	34.33		179

During the year there was a partial drought between 13th February and 15th March inclusive.

In the previous year March was the wettest month (4.97 inches) and October was the driest (0.52 inches).

The rainfall was no less than 9.65 inches higher than the previous year which, incidentally, had the lowest rainfall recorded in Calne for a considerable number of years.

The average rainfall for the previous 5 years was 27.77 inches.

WATER SUPPLY

After prolonged negotiations the water undertaking was purchased by the Town Council from the Calne Water Works Company Limited in December, 1947 for the sum of £17,500 0s. 0d.

The supply is obtained from Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the south-east of the town in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

It is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent. The water is chlorinated at the source

The consumption per capita per diem is 26 gallons for all purposes.

The number of houses still relying on well water for their domestic supply is 20 or 1.24% of all the inhabited houses in the district. Half of these houses are beyond the existing water mains and the other wells have been subjected to analysis and have been passed as fit for potable purposes.

Two water main extension schemes were decided upon during the year, viz:—600 yards of 4 in. main at Stockley Lane and 670 yards of 3 in. main at Oxford Road, both of which are beyond the built-up area.

There are no street standpipes.

Samples of town water are taken frequently for bacteriological examination and the Analyst's Reports on the raw water are invariably to the effect that it shows no evidence of harmful pollution.

The Chemical and Bacteriological Report on the latest sample taken is as follows:—

Physical Characters			Excellent
Chemical			Parts per 100,000
Reaction	Alkaline	pH. 7.1	
Saline and free Ammonia			0.001
Organic (or "Albuminoid") ammonia			0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 2 hours at 27 °C.			0.03
Chlorides			1.6
Nitrogen as nitrates			0.25
Total hardness			28.6
(a) Temporary			23.2
(b) Permanent			5.4
Poisonous Metals			NIL
Nitrates			NIL
Microscopical examination of the Sediment			NIL

Bacteriological.

Total Colonies in 48 hours NIL per 1 c.c. of water growing at 37° C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms NIL Per 100 c.c. of water growing at 37° C.

Number of Faecal types of B Coli NIL Per 100 c.c. of water growing at 44° C.

Opinion :

Neither bacteriological examination nor chemical analysis shows any evidences of pollution.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although there will always be, of necessity, a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into septic tanks or are provided with earth closets.

The Sewage Disposal works are situated in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham, about 1½ miles to the North-west of the town, and were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000 and continue to function satisfactorily.

The effluent which discharges into the river Marden, just below Hazeland Mill, about ½ mile below the Sewage Works, is normally up to the required standard.

A sample of the final effluent was taken on the 11th February last by the County Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the Wiltshire County Council and the Analyst's Report on the sample is as follows:—

Appearance.

Slightly turbid, brownish. Faint earthy smell.

Reaction : P.H. 7.2

Parts per 100,000

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.064
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.08
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	23.5
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	38.8
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	0.8
Nitrate	Strong reaction
Nitrogen in Nitrite and Nitrate	1.9
Dissolved Solids	99.0
Suspended Solids	1.6
Total Solids	100.6

Dissolved Oxygen absorbed after 5 days' incubation (B.O.D.) 1.0

"Impurity" figure 8

Stability Test.

Does not blacken or become offensive when incubated 48 hrs. at blood heat.

This is a very good effluent.

(Signed) Waterfall & O'Brien.

It may be added that the above figures show a purification index of 92.955%

The number of houses not connected to the main drainage system at the end of 1948 was 96 or 5.96% of all the inhabited houses in the district.

The condition of the outfall sewer, which has been in existence for more than 60 years, gives rise to constant anxiety, particularly where it runs parallel with and/or close to the river Marden. Indeed, on 25th August, the sewer did actually burst at a point in the Canal Cottage Garden causing temporary pollution of the river for some days until the defect could be rectified. A claim for the loss of fish by the owner of the fishing rights was still outstanding at the end of the year.

The length of town sewers is approximately 9 miles, to which must be added the length of the outfall sewer and effluent sewer from the outfall works to the river, approximately 2 miles.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

House refuse is collected weekly from every house, under contract, the receptacles being placed at the kerbside by the householder. The Town Council provide the tip which is situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town in a north-easterly direction. The refuse is dealt with on the "Bradford" system and causes no nuisance.

Since the early part of the summer the Town Council have been negotiating with the owners of the sand-pits at Calne Low (Messrs. E. H. Bradley & Sons), together with the various Ministries and other bodies concerned, regarding a new site for the disposal of house refuse. Satisfactory terms were arranged and the first load was deposited on this site on the 28th December.

SALVAGE.

A weekly collection of Salvage has been in operation since June, 1940. The tonnage collected by the Town Council so far is 1,398 tons valued at £4,161 12 0.

A collection of kitchen waste has been in operation for five years. The amount collected during this period was 192 tons 6 cwt. valued at £288 9 3 (included in the above figures). It is estimated that this has provided food for 22

pigs over the whole period. There are 50 communal bins placed at strategic points throughout the district. The waste is sold in a raw state to National By-Products Ltd. and dry rendered in a solvent extraction plant in Messrs. C. & T. Harris' By-Products factory in the Borough and sold by them to local farmers.

The communal bins are brought in periodically and steam sterilised.

HOUSING.

The Town Council have erected to date 355 houses under the various Housing Acts since 1919 (including 4 at Quemerford taken over from the former Calne R.D.C. in the Borough extension of 1934 and 2 houses in the Pippin sold to owner/occupiers). Included in this number are 64 houses at Abberd erected since 1945. A further 28 houses are now under construction, also on the Abberd Site. In addition, the Council own 22 other houses in the district. The Town Council have advanced loans to owner/occupiers under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923, in respect of a further 28 houses. Under the Housing Act, 1923, lump sum payments have been made in 57 cases and the Council have subsidised 12 owners under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924.

Seven houses have been requisitioned under the Defence Regulations and two houses are rented (including a former Air Ministry hut.)

In short, out of a total of all houses (1503) with a Rateable Value of £25 or under, the Borough Council have either erected, own, or are interested in, no less than 484 or 32.2%.

Six houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

Three aged persons, found to be in need of proper care and attention, were placed in suitable Homes under the terms of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Under the scheme for the Control of Civil Buildings, 95 licences were issued for housing repairs, 3 for new dwellings and 3 for conversion and adaptation of buildings and dwelling houses into flats, to the total value of £8,377 0 0. For the latter six months of the year Building Licences were not necessary for work estimated to cost less than £100.

INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

A rodent operator is employed to act jointly as between the Borough and the adjoining Calne and Chippenham Rural District in the proportion of 20% and 80%.

Under the terms of Local Authority Circular N.S. No. 19 the systematic treatment of sewers, refuse tips and other Local Authority properties was carried out during the year. A survey was also made of each section of the town, including dwelling houses, business premises and river banks.

A few major and minor infestations were found and all were dealt with.

A maintenance treatment of the sewers was carried out under the terms of Local Authority Circulars N.S. Nos. 11, 13 and 15. A good poison "take" was recorded. The estimated number of rats destroyed was 50.

A further test of the sewers was undertaken but no "takes" were recorded.

Records of these treatments were made on Sewer Form 7 and forwarded to the Divisional Rodent Officer.

Several large retail food-stores as well as the Bacon Factory have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the overriding supervision of the rodent operator, and there is close co-operation between all parties concerned.

During the year, 521 inspections were made and the estimated number of rats destroyed in the district was 451.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat

Since 7th May 1943, all slaughtering of animals to provide meat for human consumption has been centralised at Chippenham.

There is a part-time Veterinary Inspector employed at the local Bacon Factory who reports regularly to the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, the number of licensed slaughtermen in the district is 22. They are all employed at Messrs. C. & T. Harris' Bacon Factory.

There are two holders of Game Licences.

The amount of meat condemned by the Sanitary Inspector in the town was 12 lbs. of veal, 15 lbs. of lamb and one turkey weighing 18 lbs.

Fish.

There are two retailers of fresh fish and two fried-fish establishments in the district. The supply has been fair throughout the year, having regard to the difficult circumstances prevailing.

The trade is carried on satisfactorily.

Milk.

There are now two producers of "Accredited" milk and six other cow keepers in the district.

Two retailers hold Dealers' Bottling Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and one retailer has a Dealers' Retailing Licence to use the designations "Pasteurised" and "Tuberculin Tested" Milk, which is bottled in a neighbouring district.

There are also two retailers of ordinary milk resident in the district and two who operate from without.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Milk is supplied daily, during term, to the Secondary Modern, Secondary Grammar, C. of E. Junior, Guthrie Infant and Holy Trinity C. of E. Junior schools in the town.

No points have arisen during the year to which special attention need be drawn.

Ice Cream.

Seven premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, two of which are registered for manufacture as well as for sale.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting samples to the analyst within a reasonable time, but it is hoped to be able to make at least temporary arrangements at an early date.

The two manufacturers carry out their obligations in a satisfactory manner. The supplies to the other retailers, which are all pre-packed, are very irregular.

Other Foods.

During the year, 575 tins, bottles or jars of foodstuffs were condemned owing to the contents having become unfit through blown or damaged tins, faulty cappings, etc., also 1 bag of flour weighing 1 cwt. and 30 packets of pudding mixtures.

The food shops (including the five registered bakehouses) and vehicles are inspected from time to time. No official action has been necessary, either with regard to the vehicles, shops or the sanitary conveniences used in connection therewith.

SHOPS.

No Statutory action has been necessary under the Shops Act, 1934.

The number of inspections made for this purpose during the year was 18.

Factories Act 1937.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act with respect to the matters under Part I and Part VIII which are administered by the District Council.

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1		13	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	2	47	4	1	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (exclud- ing out-workers premises) ...	3		5	—	—	3
TOTAL ...		47	22	1	—	

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CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	2	2	—	1	—	9
(a) insufficient	10	2	2	—	—	—	10
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	1	1	—	—	—	11
(c) not separate for sexes	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	60	7	7	—	1	—	60
Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

So far as part VIII of the Act is concerned (Section 110 and 111—Homework, etc.) it is a "Nil" Report.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 251 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 135 (53.7%) were found to be of good nutrition, 100 (39.8%) were normal or fair, whilst 16 (6.3%) were found to be of poor nutrition.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

NIL

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

Average attendance October, 1948	907	
No. of $\frac{1}{8}$ pts. supplied on a day in October on the basis of $\frac{1}{8}$ pt. per child.	651	71.7%
Pasteurised Milk supplied to	651	

SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Number of children receiving mid-day meals October, 1948.	Part or full payment	169	Free	40
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DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following number of children completed a full course of immunisation during the year under review.

Ages 1—4...81	Ages 5—14...12	Total...93
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It is estimated that the following percentage of children have been immunised against Diphtheria.

Ages 1—4 (62.1%)	Ages 5—14 (100%)	Total (90.2%)
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SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

The following is a summary of the year's work under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Dwelling houses inspected	...	...	289
Re-inspection and visits	...	...	103
Inspections for housing records	...	...	53
Registered and licensed premises inspected	...	...	46
Miscellaneous sanitary duties involving visits	...	...	149
Complaints received and inspected	...	...	38

The tabulated list of major improvements is as follows:—

Number of new houses connected to main drainage system	...	...	31
Number of new houses connected to main water supply	...	...	34
New drain lengths constructed and tested			21
Drain obstructions cleared	...	...	43
W.C. obstructions cleared	...	...	8
New W.C.'s. constructed to existing houses			7
W.C. pans repaired or renewed		...	31
New sinks, baths or lavatory basins fixed to existing houses	...	...	19
Houses disinfected	...	...	14
Bedding disinfected	...	...	2
Houses re-decorated internally		...	23
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	29
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	81
External walls repaired or rebuilt		...	28
Accumulations of manure removed		...	5
Nuisances re animals abated	...	...	2
Water samples taken for analysis		...	42
Walls replastered	...	..	40
Ceilings repaired or replastered		...	24
Rain water pipes or gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	53
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed		...	71
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed			29
Miscellaneous	...	...	176

1. The first part of the report is devoted to a general survey of the situation in the country. It is found that the country is in a state of general depression, and that the people are suffering from want and distress. The cause of this is attributed to the war, and the consequent destruction of property and the loss of life.

2. The second part of the report is devoted to a description of the state of the country. It is found that the country is in a state of general depression, and that the people are suffering from want and distress. The cause of this is attributed to the war, and the consequent destruction of property and the loss of life.

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8. The eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the state of the country. It is found that the country is in a state of general depression, and that the people are suffering from want and distress. The cause of this is attributed to the war, and the consequent destruction of property and the loss of life.

9. The ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the state of the country. It is found that the country is in a state of general depression, and that the people are suffering from want and distress. The cause of this is attributed to the war, and the consequent destruction of property and the loss of life.

10. The tenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the state of the country. It is found that the country is in a state of general depression, and that the people are suffering from want and distress. The cause of this is attributed to the war, and the consequent destruction of property and the loss of life.





