

Contributors

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RURAL DISTRICT OF
CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM

REPORT

of the

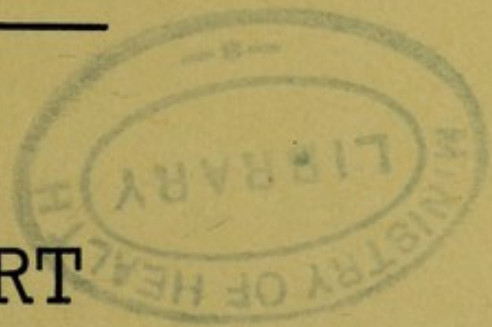
Medical Officer of Health

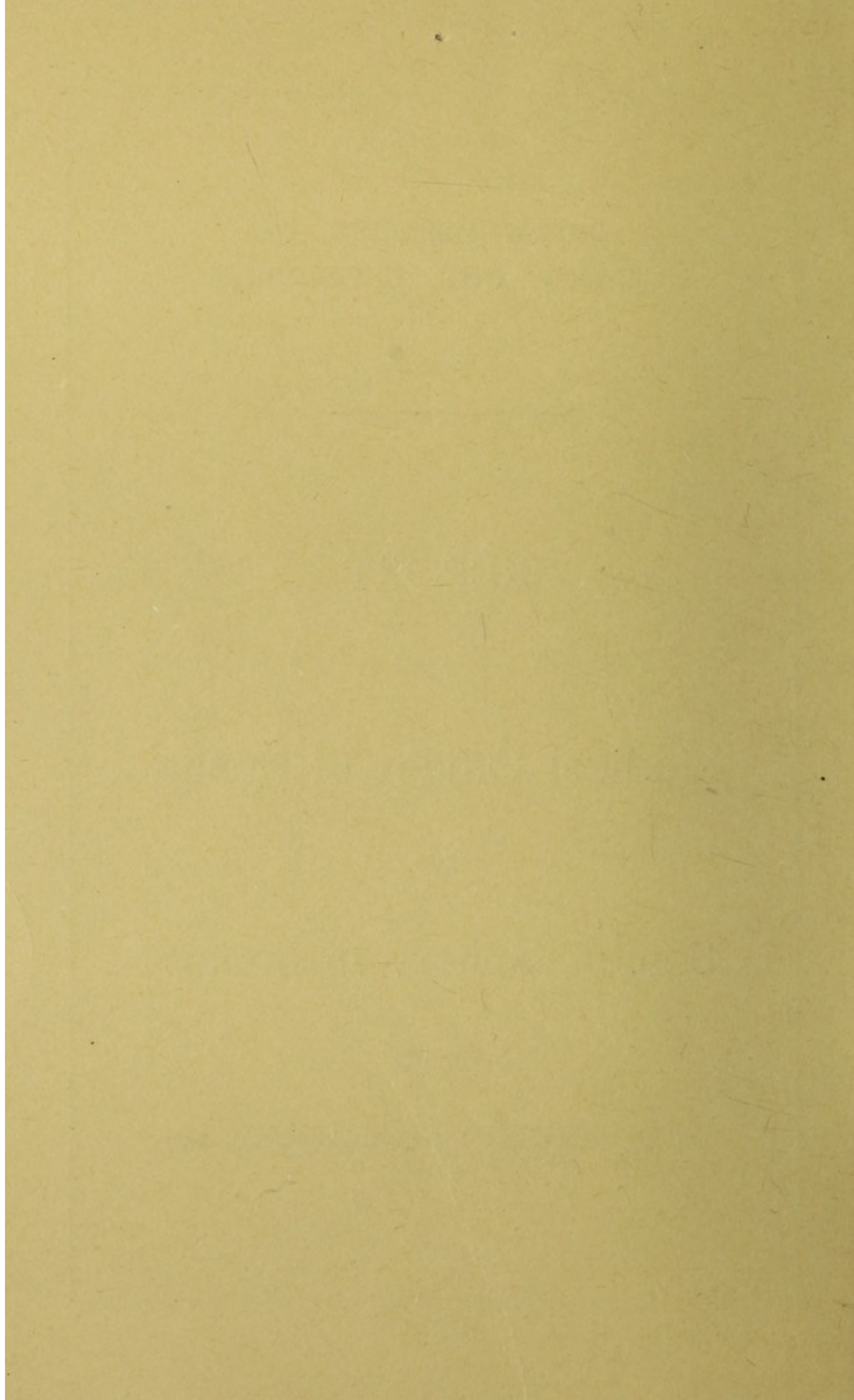
and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949





PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF
CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

OF THE

AUTHORITY

To 7th July—

- (a) Medical Officer of Health :
C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.
- (b) *Senior Sanitary Inspector :*
E. W. Stevens, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.S.E.,
who also holds the post of Surveyor.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

H. J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
S. H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., who also hold the posts of
Deputy Surveyor and Assistant Surveyor respectively.

From 7th July—

- (a) Medical Officer of Health :
C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.
- (b) *Senior Sanitary Inspector :*
H. J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., who also holds
the post of Surveyor.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

S. H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
J. N. Cope, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

To Chairman and Members,

Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

The report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 2/50 dated 25th January, 1950.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Taylor and the other officers of the Public Health Dept. for their help and co-operation during the year.

The re-organisation of the Public Health Dept. became effective in July, 1949. In consequence there has been an improvement in the Sanitary supervision of the Rural District as will be evident from perusal of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report for the year under review.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1949

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	86,034
Population	..	..	..	..	..	27,650
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1949 according to Rate Book)	..	..	..	..	..	7,546
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£203,082
Sum represented by penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£820 0s. 8d.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 E. & W.</i>
Live Births:							
Legitimate	..	..	254	261	515		
Illegitimate	..	..	17	17	34		
			271	278	549		
Birth Rate						19.8	16.7
Still Births	..	..	2	8	10	.36	.39
Deaths	..	..	128	132	260		
Death Rate	..	..				9.4	11.7
Deaths from Puerperal Causes:							
Puerperal Sepsis	..		—	—	—		
Other Maternal causes			—	—	—		
Deaths of Infants under 1 yr.:							
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	8	5	13	23.6	32.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	8	5	13	23.6	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	—	—	—	—	
Deaths from:							
Cancer (all ages)	..		22	18	40		
Measles (all ages)	..		—	1	1		
Whooping	..	..	1	—	1		
Cough (all ages)	..						
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.)			—	—	—		
Influenza	..	..	—	2	2		
Respiratory Diseases (21,22,23)	..	..	10	11	21		
Heart Diseases and Blood Vessels (18,19,20)	..		62	62	124		

The birth and death rates for the year are substantially the same as for 1948, when they were 19.3 per 1,000 of the population, and 9.3 per 1,000 of the population respectively.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)
occurring during the year, 1949.

<i>DISEASE</i>	<i>Total cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	49	42
Diphtheria	2	2
Whooping Cough	44	Nil
Measles	229	Nil
Poliomyelitis	10	10
Typhoid Fever	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	13	9
Dysentery	Nil	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	2
Erysipelas	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil

Of the 10 cases of Poliomyelitis notified, six were subsequently confirmed. In addition one case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis notified was later confirmed as Poliomyelitis.

The two cases of Diphtheria shewn above were not confirmed.

Deaths from all Causes

<i>CAUSE</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Influenza	—	2	2
Measles	—	1	1
Acute Polio-Myel. and Polio-Enceph. ..	—	—	—
Acute Inf. Enceph.	—	—	—
Cancer of Buc. and Oesoph (M) ..	2	—	2
Uterus (F)	—	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	5	5	10
Cancer of breast	1	2	3
Cancer of all other sites	14	9	23
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	12	20	32
Heart Diseases	42	30	72
Other Dis. of Circ. System ..	8	12	20
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Pneumonia	4	6	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	1	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive Diseases	2	3	5
Nephritis	4	6	10
Puer. and Post-Abort. Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	2	1	3
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Infant Disease ..	5	4	9
Suicide	1	2	3
Road Traffic Accidents	5	1	6
Other Violent Causes	3	4	7
All other Causes	5	16	21
Total ..	128	132	260

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality.

AGE GROUP	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			4	3				
15	1	1		1				
25	2			1	1			
35	2					1		
45	3		1		1			
55	1	1			1			
65 and upwards								
Totals ..	9	2	5	5	3	1	Nil	Nil

There is a slight decrease in the number of cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis notified during the year, as compared with 1948, when 14 new cases were notified. On the other hand notification of non-respiratory cases has increased by three.

Deaths from tuberculosis during 1949, show a decrease of three.

The above table only shows the new cases notified and deaths occurring from Tuberculosis during the year. It, of course, gives no indication of the actual number of Tubercular persons living within the Rural District.

Housing

During the year, a total of sixtyseven applications for Council Houses were brought to my notice for review on medical grounds under the Council's points scheme.

Each case was carefully investigated, and in many instances an inspection was made of the applicant's housing accommodation. This was followed by liaison with the County Tuberculosis Officer, and the Council's Housing Manager with whom queries were settled before a recommendation was made for the award of additional points on medical grounds.

An important feature arising as a result of these investigations was the obvious need for the re-housing of Tubercular persons who have not a separate home.

Food Poisoning

No outbreaks of food poisoning were notified in the district during the year under review.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No cases represented to the Council during 1948, for action under this act during 1949.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following children have completed a full course of immunisation during 1949.

Ages 1—4 249. Ages 5—14 417. Total 666.

It is estimated that the following percentage of children are immunised against Diphtheria.

Ages 1—4 (48.7%). Ages 5—14 (70.6%). Total (61.7%).

Water Supplies

Mr. R. A. Witham, the Council's Engineer has kindly supplied me with the following technical information concerning water supplies.

Existing Sources of Supply

Widdenham.

This is the largest single source of supply obtained in the Rural District. Due to the exceptionally dry summer the minimum yield from the source was only 63,000 gallons per day, compared with the previous lowest recorded yield of 65,000 gallons. The source which is obtained from a series of springs is chlorinated, daily readings of the rate of treatment being taken. No changes have taken place at the station except for the disposal of two surplus diesel engine driven pump units and the provision of improved sanitary accommodation. A rain gauge has been installed.

Nettleton.

The submersible pump and motor at this borehole has not been replaced during the year under review, but is now in need of overhaul. Unfortunately the instrument for indicating the water level in the borehole is out of action so that no information has been obtained as to the effect of the dry summer on the yield from this source. It has not, however, found necessary to reduce the hours of pumping from this source. The recorder cannot be repaired until the whole of the pump unit has been removed from the borehole which is some 300 feet deep. The supply is chlorinated and is checked twice weekly.

Goodshill.

This source which consists of two boreholes and pumping units was taken over from the Corsham Water Company. The pumps are driven by diesel oil engines which are left unattended during the day. One of the pumps has been overhauled during the year. Last year an abortive attempt was made to test the yield of this source in the autumn. It is hoped to repeat the attempt this autumn. The question of providing more efficient pumping machinery, preferably electrically driven, for this station should now be considered. Delay in this matter has been due to the uncertainty as to the ultimate use of this source in relation to the Eastern Area Water Supply Scheme. It now appears that the source should form a permanent part of the supply system for the district. **The supply is not chlorinated.**

Washwells.

This spring affords a gravitational supply to part of the parish of Box. Some difficulties have been experienced during the year in maintaining the efficiency of the chlorinating plant.

Hilmarton.

No difficulties have been experienced with this spring source, but the supply had to be augmented in the summer from the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett supply. The chlorinating arrangements are now reasonably satisfactory although results are not as uniform as could be desired.

Foxham.

This spring source has given no trouble during the year. A simple type of chlorination plant has been in use for most of the year and the results are not unsatisfactory on the whole.

Wick Hill.

This small spring supply produced a very small yield during the summer which occasioned some hardship to a few premises. There appears to be nothing which can be done to improve the source which is of poor quality. The consumers are advised to boil the water. With the provision of the Eastern Area Water Supply Scheme this source will be abandoned. As an interim measure it will be possible to boost water from the Regional Scheme main in East Tytherton when the Langley Burrell Link Main has been laid.

Slaughterford.

This is a small unchlorinated private supply from which the Council take the surplus to supply a few cottages in the village. With the extension of the main from Giddeahall to Ford, which will be laid during the next year, it becomes possible to provide a piped supply to this village by means of an extension from the proposed new main.

Chippenham Borough.

Over half of the water supply requirements of the district continue to be met by bulk supplies from Chippenham Borough taken at Yewstock and at Monks Lane and Copenacre, Corsham.

Distribution

During the year the 3 in. water main has been extended from Hungerdown to Upper Seagry to serve the new housing site. The extension passes 15 houses of which 13 have agreed to take a supply. No public standpipes have been provided. The extension has involved the provision of a small booster station at Hungerdown. This has been housed in a temporary building, as it is anticipated that ultimately the supply to Upper (and Lower) Seagry will be by means of a bulk supply of water from Malmesbury R.D.C. when certain of their new mains have been laid. The booster station will then be redundant and can be moved and utilized elsewhere.

A main extension has also been laid at Biddestone at the new housing site.

Due to the County Council's action in reconstructing High Street, Corsham, it has been necessary for a new 5 in. main to be laid at a greater depth than the original main. The latter was cut and examined and found to be in excellent condition in spite of its age of over 60 years.

A number of bursts have occurred during the year in the East Tytherton district due to corrosion of the mains in the clay soil. A constant watch has to be maintained on the consumption of water in this area due to the frequency with which such troubles develop.

Some progress has been made in the systematic detection of waste during the year, but there is still room for considerable improvement in this respect.

Capital Works

Sanction has been obtained from the Ministry of Health to the borrowing of £37,200 for the Western Area Main Extensions Scheme. These extensions will be commenced in November next when delivery of the pipes commences. It is also proposed to extend the high level main in the Devizes road, Box, to meet the complaints of lack of pressure from certain houses there.

There will also be a short extension at Hilmarton to supply the new housing site there.

Eastern Area Scheme

Some progress has been made with the preparation of this scheme which is intended to supply the eastern half of the district and to afford bulk supplies to Devizes R.D.C. and Calne Borough. Geologists have reported on a suitable site for a new borehole and negotiations regarding this have taken place with Chippenham Borough.

Restrictions of Supply

Although the year was a dry one causing considerable difficulties in many districts of the county no serious difficulties were experienced in the Council's area of supply. Nevertheless many reports were received from householders and farmers who were in difficulties due to failure of private supplies.

In June, 1949, the Chippenham Borough decided to restrict the use of hosepipes, etc., as a precautionary measure. And as this district obtain over half its water from Chippenham it was decided to take similar action for the whole of the Rural District.

Appendix 1

Water obtained during 1949-50 and corresponding figures for previous year.

<i>Source</i>	1948-9	1949-50
Chippenham Borough :		
Yewstock	67,858,000	72,991,000
Monks Lane	49,196,000	31,488,000
Copenacre	13,100,000	32,333,000
Other Places	4,343,000	6,861,000
	134,497,000	143,673,000
Widdenham	99,183,000	67,915,000
Nettleton	26,700,000	17,290,000
Goodshill	7,644,000	6,832,000
*Washwells	5,475,000	5,427,000
*Hilmarton	1,095,000	1,095,000
*Foxham	3,650,000	3,650,000
*Slaughterford	70,000	70,000
*East Tytherton	350,000	350,000
Compton Bassett (R.A.F.) ..	1,185,000	1,019,000
Yatesbury (R.A.F.)	735,000	986,000
Total	280,584,000	248,307,000 galls.

*Estimated figures

Appendix 1 (cont.)

STATICS

Population	27,650
Number of houses (inc. farms)	7,629
Number of farms	481

CONSUMERS

Supplied direct by R.D.C. ..	11,800	189
Supplied by other Authorities ..	5,530	11
	17,330 pop.	200 farms
Percentage of total	63% pop	42% farms
New Connections made	101	
Corresponding number pre- vious year	60	

CONSUMPTION

Bulk supplies to :—	1948-9	1949-50
Hullavington R.A.F.	24,414,000	29,285,000
Colerne R.A.F.	23,000,000	25,523,000
Other Service and Government Depts.	23,373,000	25,724,000
Domestic and Unmetered Supplies	170,022,000	128,862,000
Agriculture	28,122,000	28,429,000
Other purposes	11,653,000	10,484,000
	280,584,000	248,307,000 galls.

RAINFALL

April, 1949 {	Rain gauge installed on 17th May, 1949						
May {							
June	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.89
July	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.43
August	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.84
September	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.71
October	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.67
November	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.38
December	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.70
January, 1950	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.60
February	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.96
March	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.27

Appendix 2

Distribution of Public Supplies.

<i>Parish.</i>						<i>Sources</i>
Biddestone	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Slaughterford
Box	..	..	..	..	..	Widdenham Washwells
Bremhill	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Wick Hill Foxham
Calne (Without)	..	..	..	..	..	—
Castle Combe	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Cherhill	..	..	..	..	..	—
Chippenham (Without)	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Christian Malford	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Colerne	..	..	..	..	..	Widdenham
Compton Bassett	..	..	..	..	..	R.A.F.
Corsham	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Widdenham Goodshill
Grittleton	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Heddington	..	..	..	..	..	—
Hilmarton	..	..	..	..	..	Hilmarton
Kington Langley	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Kington St. Michael	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Lacock	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough Goodshill
Langley Burrell (Without)	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Nettleton	..	..	..	..	..	Nettleton
North Wraxall	..	..	..	..	..	—
Pewsham	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Stanton St. Quintin	..	..	..	..	..	—
Sutton Benger	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough
Yatton Keynall	..	..	..	..	..	Chippenham Borough

Note.—The West Gloucestershire Water Company supply the village of Burton in the parish of Nettleton.

Appendix 3

Water Samples

Regular samples of water are taken from the Council's various water undertakings and submitted to the Salisbury Pathological Laboratories for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis.

Many routine samples of private supplies from springs, deep and shallow wells are also taken.

Details of Water Samples.

188 water samples were taken and the results are analysed as follows :—

	<i>Fit</i>	<i>Suspect</i>	<i>Unfit</i>	<i>Total</i>
Wick Hill (unchlorinated springs) ..	—	1	3	4
Compton Bassett R.A.F. supply ..	10	3	—	13
Goodshill, Corsham, Spring Supply ..	3	2	—	5
Stockham Marsh, Foxham, Springs ..	—	4	—	4
Springs at Catcombe, Hilmarton ..	10	1	1	12
Nettleton Borehole	13	3	—	16
Slaughterford Springs	1	2	1	4
Washwell, Box, Springs after chlor. ..	11	2	—	13
Widdenham	33	3	1	37
Yatesbury R.A.F. supply	8	4	1	13
Regional supply, Borough source ..	15	3	—	18
Private samples taken and submitted for analysis	9	15	25	49
Sanitary Survey Samples	5	31	20	56
	118	74	52	244

In addition, 16 samples of water from various sources were submitted for chemical analysis.

Salisbury General Infirmary Pathological Department

Phone : Salisbury 2950

Pathologist : L. H. Douglas Thornton, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

REPORT on the Analysis of a Sample of Water received on 12.1.49, from Inlet reservoir Widdenham. Public Unchlorinated supply.

Physical Characters	.. .. .	Excellent
<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Reaction	.. .. .	Alkaline p.H. 7.3
Saline and free Ammonia	.. .. .	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	.. .. .	0.002
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27°C.	.. .. .	0.03
Chlorides	.. .. .	3.6
Nitrogen as nitrates	.. .. .	0.1
Total Hardness	.. .. .	24.4
(a) Temporary	.. .. .	20.1
(b) Permanent	.. .. .	4.3
Poisonous Metals	.. .. .	Nil
Nitrites	.. .. .	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment		Nil

Bacteriological:

Total Colonies in 48 hours, 133 Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37°C.
Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms, 13 Per 100 c.c. of Water at 37°C.
Number of Faecal types of B. Coli, Nil, Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44°C.

Opinion: Chemical analysis shows no evidence of pollution.

Bacteriological examination shows a moderate degree of pollution with coliform organisms none of which are of the faecal type.

Date : 14.1.49.

Pathologist.

Salisbury General Infirmary Pathological Department

Phone : Salisbury 2950

Pathologist : L. H. Douglas Thornton, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

REPORT on the analysis of a Sample of Water received on 26.7.49 from Calne and Chippenham R.D.C. Nettleton Borehole Public Supply. 11.20 a.m. 25.7.49. (Chemical examination only requested).

Physical Characters	.. .. .	Excellent
<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Parts per 100,000</i>
Reaction	Alkaline p.H. 7.5	
Saline and free Ammonia	0.013	
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia ..	Nil	
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27°C.	0.05	
Chlorides	31.5	
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.2	
Total Hardness	14.8	
(a) Temporary	10.8	
(b) Permanent	4.0	
Poisonous Metals	Nil	
Nitrites	Nil	
Microscopical examination of the Sediment..	Nil	

Bacteriological:

Total Colonies in 48 hours, Per 1c.c. of Water growing at 37° C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms, Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37°C.

Number of Faecal types of B. Coli, Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44°C.

Opinion: Chemical examinations shows no evidence of pollution.

The chlorides are extremely high and I presume this is either in a salt bearing strata or some very heavy chlorination has been undertaken.

Date : 27.7.49.

Pathologist.

Sewerage.

Biddestone.

A combined sewer and surface water drain exists in this Parish, a part being laid with pipes, whilst another section comprises a stone drock, a short length of this drock has been relaid with pipes. The sewer receives crude slop water drainage and the overflow of cesspools and septic tanks. The water course running through the village receives the outfall of the sewer and during the normal flow of this water course, complaints are non-existent, but as soon as the dry weather approaches, nuisances arise.

A proper sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is in course of preparation.

Box (Main Sewer Outfall).

The outfall discharges into lagoons at Mill Lane, from which the effluent overflows into a system of irrigation channels before reception in the Box Brook.

The effluent is diverted periodically to allow aeration, cleansing, etc., of the channels, while others are in use. The works are obsolete and do not conform in any respect with modern practice of sanitary engineering. Samples of effluent taken in the past have shown that it does not conform with accepted standards for discharge into streams.

Only the village proper is sewered, except for two small areas, which are served with two local sewage disposal installations. These are situated at the Bassets and Middle Hill, where groups of houses drain into covered settlement tanks, with effluents discharging over filter beds of slag media. The Middle Hill Works deal with a weak sewage as compared with other works, owing to the large volume of storm water conveyed by the sewer.

A new sewerage scheme for this Parish is also scheduled.

Bremhill, Calne (Without), Cherhill, Chippenham (Without), Christian Malford, Compton Bassett, Heddington, Hilmarton, Langley Burrell (Without), Nettleton and North Wraxall.

There are no sewerage systems in these Parishes. The larger properties are dependent upon small drainage disposal installations while occupiers of the smaller dwellings have to be content with the conservancy system and disposal of waste water in the garden. In some cases, however, ditches or water courses are used for the conveyance of drainage, and this often results in the production of nuisances and pollution of water supplies.

Castle Combe.

A combined sewer and surface water drain discharging into the stream comprises the sewerage system of the Parish. The major portion of the houses have slop-water drains connected thereto while the closet accommodation is of the conservancy system. A twice weekly emptying of pail closet is undertaken by the Council for the village.

A sewerage scheme for this area is being prepared.

Colerne.

The Sewerage Disposal Works, situated in this Parish were constructed to serve the local R.A.F. establishment. Sewers are now being laid in the village and the works extended to meet the increased flow.

Corsham.

These works are the largest in the district. During the year no special difficulty has been experienced although the disposal of sludge is always a problem at these Works.

During the year new enlarged foul sewers have been laid from the junction of Priory Street and High Street, along High Street and Church Street, to Church Square, where the storm water overflow has been reconstructed. The Council have also contributed to the cost of a new surface water sewerage system which has been constructed by the County Council. This has included new sewers in Priory Street, High Street, Church Street and across Corsham Park to the Lake. The result of these schemes will be to reduce considerably the danger of flooding in the town.

Grittleton.

There is no proper system of sewerage in this Parish, although there are lengths of drains in the main street in the village proper and at Littleton Drew, which act as sewers and receive the drainage from those properties connected to them. In each case the outfalls discharge into open water courses. This is not satisfactory and a sewerage scheme has been advocated for Littleton Drew where sanitary conditions are more acute.

Kington Langley.

Apart from a small sewer in the centre of the village, which serves only a few properties, the Parish is not sewered. The sewer discharges into a cesspool on private land and overflows into a channel in a field for irrigation. This seldom causes any trouble.

There are one or two ditches into which overflows from drains and cesspools discharge, and these are cleansed periodically by the Council. A new sewerage scheme is required.

Kington St. Michael.

This Parish possesses two separate sewers and each has a different outfall. One discharges into a ditch running through grazing land at the lower end of the village, whilst the other discharges into a ditch adjoining the allotments in the upper part of the village. The sewage is received in both ditches in an untreated condition. A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is required.

Lacock.

The main Sewage Disposal Works receive the sewage from the major portion of the Parish. Part of the sewage is pumped whilst the rest is by gravitation. The works have always functioned satisfactorily during the year.

There are subsidiary works at Bewley Lane. The outfall empties into a settlement tank, from which the effluent overflows on to an aerating stair. The effluent is then received into a system of irrigating channels which are used alternatively. These works continue to function satisfactorily and the irrigation land absorbs all the effluent. A short length of old sewer has been relayed and extended to serve the new housing site at Bewley Wharf.

Pewsham, Stanton St. Quintin and Sutton Benger.

There are no proper systems of sewers existing in these four Parishes. Each Parish has lengths of pipes and ditches serving as sewers, but these are not efficient and require constant attention.

The ditches were originally surface water channels, which in the process of time, have slowly been converted into nothing less than sewers, conveying untreated sewage.

The closet accommodation in these Parishes is mainly of the conservancy system.

Yatton Keynell.

There are several lengths of old sewers in the Parish which discharge into ditches. The present system is incomplete and unsatisfactory. A scheme of sewerage for the village is now being prepared. It is intended to provide one disposal works for both Yatton Keynell and for Castle Combe.

Cesspool Emptyer.

The Council have purchased a cesspool emptying vehicle which is to be used for emptying cesspools and septic tanks at the Council's housing sites and small sewage disposal works. It is also available for private work for which a charge is made. An attachment is provided to enable the contents of pail closets to be collected.

The present sewerage system is a very old one and is in a very bad state of repair. The sewerage system is a very old one and is in a very bad state of repair. The sewerage system is a very old one and is in a very bad state of repair.

Lacock

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Wetherham, St. Andrew and St. John's

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Yatton Keynoll

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REPORT
of the
Senior Sanitary Inspector
for the year ended
31st December, 1949

*To The Chairman and Members of the Calne and
Chippenham Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1949.

The work in the Department was disrupted during the first 6 months by the untimely and unexpected illness of Mr. E. W. Stevens, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. Mr. Stevens's illness was of such a serious character that he was reluctantly compelled to give the Council three month's notice, terminating his appointment.

His resignation was received with much regret both by the Council and Officers, for Mr. Stevens had been a loyal and conscientious Officer of the Council since April, 1932.

As from July 7th the Council appointed me as Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, with a Staff of two additional Sanitary Inspectors and One Assistant Surveyor.

The re-organisation of duties has enabled much more time to be devoted to routine work in the Public Health Department, with the consequent general improvement in the sanitary circumstances of the district.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. TAYLOR,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits for Year 1949

General Sanitation.

Water Supply	117
Drainage	193
Stables and Piggeries	5
Offensive Trades	1
Fried Fish Shops	2
Common Lodging Houses	—
Houses—Let in Lodgings	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	47
Factories	47
Workshops	—
Workplaces	1
Outworkers	10
Bakehouses	24
Public Conveniences	15
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	1
Refuse Collection	48
Refuse Disposal	47
Rats and Mice	—
Smoke Observations	3
Schools	2
Shops	15
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	244
Nuisances	292
Water Samples	251
Sanitary Survey	414

Housing.

Under Public Health Acts—	
No. of Houses Inspected	50
Visits paid to above Houses	97
Under Housing Acts—	
No. of Houses Inspected	52
Visits paid to above Houses	34
Overcrowding—	
No. of houses inspected	12
Visits paid to above Houses	13
Verminous Premises—	
No. of Houses Inspected	1
Visits paid to above Houses	—
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	113

Infectious Diseases.

Inquiries in Cases of I.D.	81
Visits re-Disinfection	31
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	18

Meat and Food Inspection.

Inspection of Meat—

Visits to Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	54
Visits to shops and stalls	..	..	..	..	2
Visits to other premises	..	..	..	..	1

Visits to—

Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	231
Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Ice-cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Market Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Street Vendors and Hawker's Carts	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Visits in Connection with Sampling —

Milk—Gerber Testing	..	..	..	..	3
Food and Drugs Samples	..	..	..	..	5
Miscellaneous Food Visits	..	..	..	..	22

2866

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 138 (Amended by Water Act, 1945. Section 30)

Informal notices were served on owners of nine houses requiring these properties to be provided with water sufficient for the domestic purposes of the inmates. Of these, six were connected without formal action being necessary.

Statutory Notices were served in respect of the other three.

Sanitary Survey of properties within a reasonable distance of proposed new water main extensions.

Areas

Mountain Bower, North Wraxall, Upper Wraxall.

The Shoe.

West Kingston Wick.

Ford.

Allington.

Leigh Delamere.

Upper and Lower Stanton St. Quinton.

Langley Burrell.

Upper and Lower Seagry.

Goatacre, New Zealand.

Wadswick.

Hill Corner.

A comprehensive survey of domestic property and farm premises within the above mentioned areas, to be provided by a piped supply of water, was undertaken during the year to prove the Council's contention that these areas were without satisfactory means of water supply.

From the survey the following information was obtained :—

Water Supply *Percentage*

No. of houses served by :—

Private shallow wells	.. .. .	237	59%
Public shallow wells	.. .. .	12	3%
Private deep wells	.. .. .	24	6%
Private Boreholes	.. .. .	35	9%
Public Boreholes	.. .. .	—	—
Public Deep Wells	.. .. .	—	—
Public Mains	.. .. .	25	6%
Air Ministry Mains	.. .. .	—	—
Private Springs	.. .. .	58	17%

Drainage.

No. of houses draining to :—

Private Sewers	.. .. .	3	1%
Public Sewers	.. .. .	5	1.5%
Septic Tanks	.. .. .	85	22%
Cesspools	.. .. .	32	8%
Soakaways	.. .. .	12	3%
Road Drains	.. .. .	5	1.5%
Ditches	.. .. .	152	38%
No drainage facilities	.. .. .	97	25%

Closet Accommodation.

No. of houses having :—

Water Closets	.. .. .	73	19%
Pail Closets	.. .. .	277	70%
Privies	.. .. .	24	6%
Chemical Closets	.. .. .	17	5%

Baths.

Number of houses having baths	.. .. .	85	22%
Total population	.. .. .	1255	

The survey revealed that over 60% of the properties within the above mentioned area obtained water from shallow wells, which were probably subject to surface contamination. Subsequent sampling of many of the sources of water supply confirmed the above opinion.

More than 60% of the properties had unsatisfactory drainage facilities.

81% of the occupiers had to rely on Earth Closets or Privies for closet accommodation.

Less than 25% of the properties were provided with baths.

38 farms were situated within the above areas. 18 were provided with a reasonable supply of water, but 20 were without sufficient water or the present source of supply was subject to contamination.

The following grades of milk were produced at these farms :

Non-designated milk	..	..	..	23
Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	..	8
Accredited milk	..	..	..	7

Sewerage

Sewerage—Parish of Colerne.

Nuisance Complaint.

A serious complaint of a nuisance from smells, in the Tutton Hill area of Colerne, was investigated and as a result it was ascertained that many properties were without adequate drainage arrangements, and the occupiers of these properties were disposing of slop water in the nearby street gullies.

Informal Notices under Section 39 (1) (a) of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served on the owners of the above 19 properties and as a result, 7 properties were connected to the Council's sewer.

Statutory Notices were served in respect of the remaining 12 properties and the work of connecting to the public sewer was carried out on all but one property.

Survey of existing drainage arrangements in Colerne.

A survey was made of all houses within 100 feet of the new and old sewers, with the exception of Tutton Hill. and the following information was obtained :—

Houses already connected to sewer	..	..	..	52
Houses with septic tanks	..	..	..	8
Total with satisfactory drainage	..			60
Houses with soakaways or cesspools	..	..	..	57
Houses without drains	..	..	..	36
Houses connected to storm water drains	..	..		3
Total with unsatisfactory drainage				96

Informal notices have been sent to the owners of all the 96 properties shown to be without satisfactory drainage, requiring this to be provided.

Offensive Trades

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no Offensive Trade Establishments as defined in Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, within the area of the Council.

Rag and Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

Fried Fish Shops

One new Fish and Chip Shop has been opened during the year, in the parish of Colerne. The shop was inspected and found to comply with the provisions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Moveable Dwellings

Licences authorising persons to erect or station and use moveable dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269 (11).

19 licences have been issued to erect, station and use moveable dwellings within the area of the Council for the period of 12 months.

Every site and moveable dwelling was visited and inspected before the Council was recommended to licence same. No licences have been issued by the Council authorising persons to allow land occupied by them to be used as sites for moveable dwellings.

A serious problem may face the Council in the future, concerning the licensing of moveable dwellings, as a certain firm in the Council's district is advertising the sale of disused bus bodies as moveable dwellings.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The Contract with the Council's Scavenging Contractor for the collection of Indestructible Household Refuse continued during the year, and refuse was collected from the various Parishes on the days indicated in the Schedule of Collection.

Towards the end of the year the Contractor experienced labour difficulties and upon my recommendation, the Council decided to engage the nucleus of the staff which would be required to carry out the collection and disposal of household refuse by direct labour, in the financial year beginning April 1st, 1950.

By engaging these men and loaning them to the Contractor the collection and disposal of refuse was continued throughout the 24 Parishes. Some complaints of non-collection were received during this period, but these complaints became less frequent as the new men became acquainted with their duties.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping in old quarries, disused sand pits etc., and every effort is made to level and cover the refuse on the day of disposal. Difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable material for covering these tips.

Salvage collected during 1949.

The Council continued a separate scheme for the collection of waste paper throughout the year, and the amount of paper collected each month was considered to be very satisfactory.

From October onwards it became increasingly difficult to sell waste paper to merchants, whose yards were becoming choked with salvaged material.

The Council was fortunate in being able to dispose of its salvaged paper to a paper mill situated within the rural district, but this paper could only be sold at a much reduced rate.

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrts.</i>	
Waste paper collected, 1948 ..	160	0	0	value £901 4 3
Waste paper collected, 1949 ..	200	17	0	value £999 16 5

The collection of 200 tons of paper in this district was an extremely good effort and everyone who assisted in achieving this total is to be congratulated.

£6,000 National Waste Paper Contest.

The Council entered the above competition, and it was gratifying to find that they were placed 24th in the list of all Local Authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who had entered the competition. The Council received a £50 prize for this splendid effort.

Collection of Night Soil

Castle Combe—Collection of Night Soil.

The charming village of Castle Combe has always had a very serious drainage problem, and the peculiar situation of the village, nestling between steep wooded slopes, has created a problem in the disposal of night soil. The village itself is very compact and some of the cottages have little or no gardens in which to dispose of the closet contents.

The problem became so acute that the Council decided upon the recommendations of the Medical Officer of Health and Senior Sanitary Inspector to institute a twice-weekly collection of night soil.

A contractor was engaged to make the necessary collections, and this service has proved of great benefit to the householders in the village.

A special vehicle is used for the purpose and the contents are disposed of at one of the Council's modern sewage disposal works.

Infestations

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

Filthy and verminous premises or articles and verminous persons.

Few cases of verminous premises or persons come to the notice of the Public Health Department. Persons suspected of being verminous attend at St. Andrew's Hospital, Chippenham. Their personal clothing and bedding is removed to the disinfection station for treatment.

Most complaints of infestation are received from very old property, with thatched roofs, and it has proved very difficult to rid such premises of fleas and other vermin by one treatment; invariably a further treatment is required.

The Council's Refuse Tips are regularly treated at least twice a year to control cockroach, cricket and fly infestations.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919

Infestation Order, 1943.

The Rodent Operator was engaged throughout the year making surveys of Business Premises, Private Houses and Council Property, including Council Houses, Sewers, Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Tips.

20% of the Rodent Operator's time is spent with the Borough of Calne and a proportion of his expenses are recovered from that authority.

Accurate day by day records are kept by the Rodent Operator, and he furnishes each Council with quarterly reports of his activities. The Regional Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is kept fully informed of the steps taken within the rural district to eradicate the rat menace.

Occasionally a serious major infestation is discovered, but generally speaking, most infestations are of a minor character, and these have been successfully dealt with.

Test treatments were given to the public sewers in the parishes of Lacock and Corsham and "no takes" were recorded in each instance, indicating that these sewers were free from rats at the time of the treatments.

Maintenance treatments were given to the sewers in the parishes of Box, Corsham and Colerne. Corsham sewers were found to be free from rat infestation, but evidence of infestation was found in the Box and Colerne sewers.

Regular treatments were carried out at all the Council's refuse tips and the number of rats occupying these tips were kept to a minimum. Chequers Tip was found to be most heavily infested and special attention was given to this tip.

Housing

The comprehensive survey of houses (as recommended in the Hobhouse Report) was continued for the first three months of the year, but owing to the re-organisation of the department due to Mr. Steven's illness the survey was discontinued. 102 premises were inspected during this period and placed in the following categories :—

<i>Category 1.</i> —Satisfactory	.. .. .	1
<i>Category 2.</i> —Minor defects	.. .. .	13
<i>Category 3.</i> —Extensive repairs	.. .. .	52
<i>Category 4.</i> —Appropriate for repair under Housing (Rural Workers) Act.	.. .. .	9
<i>Category 5.</i> —Unfit and beyond repair at reasonable cost	..	27
		102

The details of number of properties inspected since the inception of the survey are as follows :—

	Cat. 1 Satis- factory	Cat. 2 Minor Defects	Cat. 3 Extensive Repairs	Cat. 4 Approp- riate for repair un- der Hsg. (Rural Wkrs.) Act	Cat. 5 Unfit and beyond repair at reasonable cost	Total
Biddestone	3	35	78	—	14	130
Castle Combe ..	1	12	54	14	2	83
Yatton Keynell ..	2	38	50	2	19	111
Kington St. Michael	14	27	58	15	—	114
Kington Langley	8	37	51	—	26	222
Sutton Benger ..	8	89	55	—	13	165
Stanton St. Quintin	3	31	17	—	12	63
Grittleton	4	47	61	—	16	128
Nettleton	4	28	100	—	23	155
North Wraxall ..	2	18	66	—	10	96
Box	26	167	288	17	67	565
Colerne	16	45	151	—	21	233
Christian Malford ..	4	30	41	6	4	85
Cherhill	8	27	67	—	26	128
Bremhill	7	45	97	37	33	219
Compton Bassett	5	22	49	—	3	79
Chippenham Wt. ..	54	26	45	—	7	132
Langley Burrell Wt.	11	25	59	23	10	128
Lacock	33	54	148	8	30	273
Pewsham	5	14	109	1	18	147
Calne Wt.	3	41	130	23	51	248
Totals	221	858	1,774	146	405	3,404

Approximately 2,000 houses remained to be inspected in the undermentioned parishes :—

Calne Without (part).

Christian Malford (part).

Corsham.

Heddington.

Hilmarton.

Inspection of Houses under Housing Act, 1936 and Public Health Act, 1936.

The many complaints received during the year of unsatisfactory housing conditions were promptly dealt with and owners requested to carry out the necessary repair work. The continued restriction on building work, hampered the execution of prompt repairs and made the task of getting improvements carried out very laborious. Every priority was given to this form of building work when Building Licences were issued.

371 inspections and visits were made to house property during the year.

Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 57.

One licence was renewed during the year to use premises as a Knacker's Yard.

Regular visits are made to these premises and the buildings are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

No licences to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter-house or knacker's yard, were due for renewal in 1949.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14

Registration of Premises used in connection with the manufacture or sale of Preserved Foods etc.

Five premises are registered under the above regulations for the preparation, manufacture, and sale of sausages and cooked meats, situated in the parishes of Box, Corsham and Calne Without.

The preparation and sale of preserved foods is usually associated with premises purveying meat and other foods, and the standard of hygiene is very good.

Bakehouse Inspections

The 15 bakehouses within the rural district have received regular visits during the year.

Several informal notices were issued concerning limewashing and ablution facilities, and the matters referred to received the attention of the occupiers.

The accommodation provided at certain of the bakehouses is rather limited and consequently, congestion of these premises is inevitable.

Condemned Foods, 1949

The undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned during the year for the reasons stated in the third column.

<i>Food</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Flour	288 lbs.	Fouled by mice
Sugar	196 lbs.	Fouled by mice
Sausage rolls	42 dozen	Mould
Mixed cakes	822 dozen	Decomposition
Boxed cheese	27 lbs.	Putrefaction
White Fillet Fish	6 stone	Decomposition
Calves' Kidneys	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Nephritis
Foreign Beef	66 lbs.	Putrefaction

Catering Establishments

Close liaison is kept with the local office of the Ministry of Food concerning the provision of catering establishments. Before a licence is issued by the Ministry of Food, the premises are inspected to ensure that they are suitable for the purpose.

118 Catering Establishments have been licensed, but all the establishments do not cater for the general public. Some licences have been issued to Community Centres, Land Army Hostels, Cricket Clubs, Youth Clubs, Working Men's Clubs etc.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14

Registration of Premises used in connection with the Manufacture or Sale of Ice-cream.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture, storage or sale of Ice-cream.

(a)	Cold mix method	..	..	..	2
(b)	Hot mix method	..	..	..	3

Number of premises registered for the storage or sale of Ice-cream 28

The number of premises registered for the storage or sale of ice-cream increased by 15 during the year. Most of these registrations were in connection with the sale of ice-cream from existing food shops or general stores. In every instance, electrical ice-cream conservators had been installed for the storage of ice-cream prior to sale.

In addition to the five local manufacturers of ice-cream, eight other firms supply ice-cream in this district. The registered premises of these firms are situated in :—

Melksham.
Trowbridge.
Bath.
Bristol.
Cardiff.
Cheltenham.
London.

Contact is made with other local authorities to ascertain that the firms supplying ice-cream for re-sale in this district are duly registered and their product satisfactorily produced.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947.

All the above mentioned registered premises have been regularly inspected and 100 visits have been made to ascertain whether the above regulations are being complied with.

Ice-cream Sampling.

47 Ice-cream samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Salisbury General Infirmary.

As a result of these tests the samples were placed in the following Provisional Grades :—

15	in Provisional Grade I	..	..	Satisfactory.
12	„ „ II	..	..	Satisfactory.
14	„ „ III	..	..	Reasonably Satisfactory
6	„ „ IV	..	..	Unsatisfactory

Shops Act, 1934. Sections 10 and 13

Arrangements for Health and Comfort of Shop Workers.

15 Shops were inspected during the year to ascertain whether these premises were provided with suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, a reasonable temperature, and proper sanitary accommodation for the employees.

Milk and Dairies

The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926

The Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936-1948.

Number of Farms on Register	..	..	..	..	511
„ Milk Retailers	..	..	..	..	82
„ T.T. Dealers	..	..	..	..	4
„ Accredited Dealers	..	..	..	..	—
Pasteurisation Plants	..	..	..	..	—
Number of Accredited Farms	..	..	..	..	102
„ Tuberculin Tested Farms	..	..	..	..	105
Pasteurised Milk Dealers	..	..	..	..	5
T.T. Bottling Licences	..	..	..	..	3
Supplementary T.T. Licences	..	..	..	..	2
„ Pasteurised Licences	..	..	..	..	2
„ Accredited Licences	..	..	..	..	—

Summary of Work carried out.

Total number of farms and dairies inspected during year	112
Farms requiring improvements in methods etc.	13
Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed	21
Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition at time of inspection	47
Dairy inspections	31
Total number of inspections of farm premises	231

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1926 & 1943, were revoked by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and on and after the 1st October, 1949, the functions of local authorities under the previous Milk Regulations concerning the registration of dairy farms and the production of milk were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949
Registration of Dairies other than Dairy Farms, and of
Distributions. Section 8.

Under the above regulations it is the duty of every local authority to keep a register of all persons carrying on the trade of distributor in their district, and of all premises within their district which are used as dairies, not being dairy farms.

42 Inspections have been made of dairies since the above regulations came into force and all dairies and distributors have been duly registered.

Number of Registered Dairies	..	..	..	..	11
Number of Registered Distributors	..	..	..	..	23

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act.

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)
			Inspection (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	19	11	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	59	36	5	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total ..		78	47	5	—	

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases."

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were f'd				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Re- medied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding S.2) ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	5	5	—	5	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total ..	60	5	5	—	5	—	60

Outworkers

Factories Act, 1937. Section 110.

The occupiers of factories are requested to supply to the Council in the months of February and August, a list of outworkers employed by them during the preceding six months.

51 persons are employed as outworkers.

10 Inspections have been made of outworker's living accommodation.



**Spinkes Ltd.,
Printers, Chippenham**
