

[Report 1952] / Medical Officer of Health, Cheadle R.D.C.

Contributors

Cheadle (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1952

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cm287jwu>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

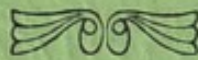


Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Library

CHEADLE

Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**Medical Officer
of Health**



1952.



Cheadle Rural District Council

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year ending December 31st, 1952.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.
2. GENERAL INFORMATION.
3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.
4. HEALTH STATISTICS.
5. WATER SUPPLIES.
6. HOUSING.
7. SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.
8. FOOD AND NUTRITION.
9. SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORT ON THE SANITARY
SUPERVISION OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.
10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.
11. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.
12. DETAIL OF NEW WORKS, ETC., REPORTED BY THE
SURVEYOR.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29100021>

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending December 31st, 1952.

1. INTRODUCTION.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cheadle Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

The report follows the pattern of that of previous years in being for the most part a history of the year's happenings and impressions rather than a comprehensive survey, although a certain amount of statistical detail has to be included for record purposes which taken by itself makes very uninteresting reading.

In this, my fourth annual report, I have however had in mind more than previously the fact that a Medical Officer's Report is in a way a public document as well as a report to members of the Council and for this reason I have endeavoured to set out the matter in a way which would be more readily understandable by such students and members of the general public as may be interested.

I would again state that the various sections are not arranged in order of importance, and I would again express my thanks to the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for their help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. TOMLIN.

Council Offices,

Cheadle, Staffs.

September, 1953.

2.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Chairman of the Rural District Council : Mr. A. E. FOREMAN.

Vice-Chairman of the Rural District Council : Mrs. H. M. GARDNER.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1952.

Chairman : Mr. P. CLOWES.

Members : Mrs. R. Berry, Mrs. H. M. Gardner, Messrs. J. H. Aberley, W. A. Ashton, J. H. Bailey, J. M. Berresford, J. Byatt, R. L. Carr, J. J. Chapman, P. Clowes, J. C. Cope, J. W. Crossley, T. H. Durdey, R. A. Evernden, J. Finnikin, F. R. Ford, A. E. Foreman, J. R. Goodwin, S. E. Goodwin, D. Heath, W. H. Hewitt, J. E. Horton, S. W. Lees, S. J. Looker, J. Moffatt, G. W. Morris, T. Mottram, W. Podmore, J. Price, G. H. Shaw, J. W. Slater, A. Smith, H. Snow, F. G. Taylor, B. Toottell.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

E. H. TOMLIN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.
A. P. KEEY, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector.
R. COMLEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector.
K. M. HAWKINS, Clerk.

STAFF : ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

JOHN WILLIAM BURTON, M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.,
Engineer and Surveyor.
HAROLD POINTON, Architectural and Town Planning Assistant.
TREVOR POULTON HUGHES, A.M.I.Mun.E., Engineering Assistant.
KENNETH JOHN RATCLIFFE, Engineering Assistant.
HENRY FREDERICK PARRINGTON, A.I.M.S.,
Town Planning Assistant.
PHILIP JOHN DREWRY, Architectural Assistant.
JACK SHAW, D.L.C. (Hons.), Engineering Assistant.
WILLIAM HENRY HOBSON, Clerk.
JOSEPH WILLIAM SHAW, Clerk.
HYLDA JEAN JAMES, Shorthand Typist.
ROSEMARY SHEMILT, Shorthand Typist.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).....	60,291
Registrar General's Estimate of population.....	32,810
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	9,121
Rateable Value	£112,555
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£441 4s. 1d.

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

No new industries were established during the year although work on the Blythe Valley Sewerage Scheme made some demands on local labour.

The depression in the textile industry referred to in my report for 1951 resulted in female labour being kept in short time in certain departments of the textile firms, but by the turn of the year recovery had taken place and full employment was again available.

A fire which destroyed a considerable part of the Cecilly Mills of Messrs. Brough, Nicholson and Hall seemed likely to present a problem of female unemployment in Cheadle Town, but the firm was successful in getting work going again in a surprisingly short time.

There was, at the year end, no unemployment problem in the district.

No case came to light where it was necessary for the District Council to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 in order to secure removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

During the year preliminary discussions took place with a view to a Housing Association establishing an estate of four hundred houses at Weston Coyney for persons employed by the National Coal Board. Half the houses were to be available for the rehousing of miners already living in the district and half to be available for miners who might come from other parts of the country.

4. HEALTH STATISTICS.

The Statistical Table "A" shows the general rates of births and deaths and also rates of notification and deaths from certain specific diseases for Cheadle in comparison with those for England and Wales as a whole and for certain classes of towns.

The Statistical Table "B" gives details of actual births and deaths as supplied by the Registrar General.

Statistical Table "C" shows the numbers and ages of notifiable infectious disease cases.

The following comment is made :—

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate for the District's population in mid. 1952 was 32,810 which shows a decrease of 70 on the estimate for the previous year. This is the first decrease recorded in post war years.

Live Births.

466 live births were registered in 1952 as against 509, 484, 507, 529, 684, 609 and 528 in the preceding years.

This decrease of births gives a Live Birth Rate of 14.2 per 1,000 of the population to be compared with one of 15.3 for the whole of England and Wales. The Rural District therefore had a lower birth rate than the country as a whole even if use were made of the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births of 1.06 which would give Cheadle a comparative birth rate of 14.9 per 1,000.

Still Births.

With 14 still births a rate of 0.43 is greater than that of 0.34 for England and Wales but the total numbers are too small for this to have any real significance.

Deaths.

322 deaths were registered during 1952. Comparison with previous years cannot be exact, as in this year it was decided that deaths in chronic sick hospitals, mental hospitals, old people's homes, etc., should be assigned to the district in which the hospital, etc., is situated instead of to the district where the persons resided before admission. We therefore had a number of deaths in St. Edward's Hospital and the Cheadle Hospital assigned to us which in previous years would have been assigned to other districts.

The number of deaths in the preceding years had been 344, 304, 348, 291, 333 and 322.

The general death rate of 9.8 per 1,000 (or using the Comparability Factor for Deaths of 1.04 is used 10.2 per 1,000) compares favourably with that of 11.3 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

Only 9 deaths occurred during the year of infants under 1 year of age compared with 21, 13, 16 and 11 in preceding years.

An Infant Mortality Rate of 18.8 per 1,000 related births is to be compared with one of 27.6 for England and Wales. While the total numbers are small and there is a correspondingly large likelihood of chance variation from year to year it is worthy of note that this is the lowest Infant Mortality Rate ever to be recorded in the Cheadle Rural District. As was said by Dr. Wilson in 1945 some credit for such an achievement must be given to the sanitary authority, to workers in the Health Services and particularly to the parents.

Maternal Mortality.

One death occurred during the year attributable to pregnancy or childbirth, giving a maternal Mortality Rate of 2.08 per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births compared with a rate of 0.72 per 1,000 for England and Wales. There again with only one death the rate cannot be given any significance, but is recorded for purpose of comparison.

Causes of Death.

Numbers from selected causes are shown in Table B. The commonest group are Heart Disease 104, Cancer 55, Cerebral Thrombosis, etc., (Strokes) 38 and Respiratory Diseases 36.

The majority of Heart Disease deaths were in elderly patients and the disease might be looked on as the effects of wear and tear in a long and healthy life.

Cancer is obviously our biggest single disease in which we should look for prevention. At present the only advice we can offer the public is that early treatment increases the probability of cure. The symptoms of cancer in its different sites are so diverse that it is difficult to point to any warning signs. A falling off in health or symptoms of illness coming on in the middle aged or elderly will in all probability not be due to cancer but a visit to the doctor can do no harm and may do a lot of good especially if the person concerned has previously enjoyed good health and has "never seen a doctor for years."

STATISTICAL TABLE "A"

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality
Maternal Mortality and Case rate for certain Infectious
diseases in the year 1952. Provisional figures based on
Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000— 50,000 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.	Cheadle Rural District.
Births—	Rates per 1,000 Home Population :—				
Live Births	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	14.2
Still Births	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34	0.43
Deaths—					
All Causes	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	9.8
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31	0.12
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58	0.43
Notifications—(corrected).					
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56	0.67
Whooping Cough	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66	0.79
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.12
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23	10.00
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57	1.40
Puerperal Pyrexia	17.87	23.94	10.22	30.77	6.24
Deaths—	Rates per 1,000 Live and Still Births :—				
All causes under 1 year of age.	27.6	31.2	25.8	23.8	18.6
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	Nil

STATISTICAL TABLE "B"

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN CHEADLE RURAL DISTRICT, 1952.

BIRTHS.						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Live Births—Total	....	....	....	....	....	238	228
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	229	221
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	9	7
Still Births—Total	....	....	....	....	....	9	5
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	....	9	5
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	....	0	0

DEATHS.

Total, all causes	....	....	....	....	....	168	154
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	....	....	....	....	....	5	4
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Deaths from Tuberculosis (respiratory)	....	....	....	....	....	2	0
Tuberculosis (other forms)	....	....	....	....	....	0	2
Meningococcal infection	....	....	....	....	....	1	0
Other infectious diseases	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
Cancer of Stomach	....	....	....	....	....	5	8
Cancer of the lungs and bronchi	....	....	....	....	....	3	1
Cancer of the breast	....	....	....	....	....	0	3
Cancer of the uterus	....	....	....	....	....	0	3
Other malignant neoplasms	....	....	....	....	....	15	17
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	....	....	....	14	24
Coronary disease and angina	....	....	....	....	....	23	13
Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	2	0
Other heart disease	....	....	....	....	....	34	32
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	7	7
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	12	7
Other respiratory disease	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	6	1
Gastritis and enteritis	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
Nephritis	....	....	....	....	....	5	4
Enlargement of prostate	....	....	....	....	....	4	0
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	....	....	....	....	....	0	1
Congenital malformations	....	....	....	....	....	3	1
Motor accidents	....	....	....	....	....	6	0
All other accidents	....	....	....	....	....	5	3
Suicide	....	....	....	....	....	2	0

Registrar General's Estimated Mid. Year Population 32,810

Registrar General's Comparability Factors—Births 1.06 Deaths 1.04

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISS

				Scarlet Fever	
				M.	F.
Numbers originally notified. ...				14	9
Final numbers after correction					
Ages—					
	0...	...	...	1	—
	1...	...	...	—	—
	3...	...	...	2	1
	5...	...	...	7	7
	10...	...	...	—	1
	15...	...	...	3	—
	25 and over.	...	...	—	—
	Age unknown.	...	...	—	—
	TOTAL	...	...	13	9
				Ac. Pneumonia	
				M.	F.
Numbers originally notified,				22	24
Final numbers after correction					
Ages—					
	0...	...	...	2	4
	5...	...	...	3	1
	15...	...	...	4	4
	45...	...	...	8	8
	65 and over.	...	...	5	7
	Age unknown.	...	...	—	—
	TOTAL	...	...	22	24
Other notifiable diseases.				Originally notified.	
				M.	F.
Puerperal pyrexia ...				—	3
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...				—	—
Malaria (imported) ...				1	—

E "C"

ES, BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS.

Whooping Cough.		Ac. poliomyelitis		Measles (excluding rubella)	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
12	14	—	1	159	170
—	3	—	—	8	8
2	2	—	—	24	32
5	1	—	—	53	51
5	8	—	—	68	74
—	—	—	—	4	2
—	—	—	—	—	3
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
12	14	—	—	157	170
Dysentery.		Erysipelas.		Meningococcal Infection.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	1	3	1	—
1	1	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	1	—	—
—	1	1	1	—	—
—	—	—	1	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
1	2	1	3	1	—
Final numbers after correction.					
M.	F.				
—	3				
—	—				
1	—				

5.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Tables showing the extent of piped water supply to properties in the different parishes and also the result of water analyses are again included in this report.

Developments in the Council's Water Supply Service are set out in the Surveyor's Report, and of these the most note-worthy is the fact that a new source of water has been found in Black Bank Wood, Foxt. A well there has been tested and found to give pure water in sufficient quantity to meet the domestic needs of the surrounding locality of Ipstones and Foxt where low pressure has at times resulted in poor supplies being obtained.

PARISH	Number of properties with mains water laid on	Population using same	No. of properties using stand taps	Population using same
Alton	173	590	66	231
Blore	0	0	0	0
Caverswall	1,091	3,600	36	118
Cheadle	1,527	5,404	68	225
Checkley	407	1,343	65	214
Cheddleton	524	2,499	7	35
Consall	0	0	0	0
Cotton	28	146	1	5
Dilhorne	57	228	28	112
Draycott	123	390	4	13
Farley	9	40	0	0
Forsbrook	463	1,508	14	45
Ipstones	212	754	18	64
Kingsley	61	193	13	41
Oakamoor	95	313	50	156
Waterhouses	104	338	7	23
TOTALS ...	4,874	17,346	378	1,282

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

	Ipstones and Foxy	Werrington	Alton	Whiston	Cauldon	Kingsley	Tea	Cheddle
Total Solids dried at 212 deg. F.	12.0	25.5	12.0	10.5	13.5	16.5	24.5	31.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0004	Nil	0.0008	Nil	0.0008	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0040	Nil	0.0004	0.0004	0.0016	0.004	Nil	0.0004
Nitric Nitrogen	0.05	0.60	0.07	0.10	0.01	0.35	0.32	1.00
Chlorine	1.10	1.70	1.10	0.90	1.0	1.40	1.9	2.05
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg. F.	0.099	0.006	0.002	0.006	Nil	0.014	0.004	0.002
Appearance	Clear	Heavy trace of white suspended matter.	Minute trace of suspended matter.	Clear	Clear	Clear	Extremely Minute trace of suspended matter.	Extremely Minute trace of suspended matter.
Injurious metallic contamination	Lead 0.013	None	None	None	None	None	None	Minute trace of Iron
p.H. Value	7.0	7.8	6.2	6.2	6.5	6.6	7.3	7.0

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION — WATER SAMPLES 1952.

	Ipstones and Foxy	Werrington	Alton	Whiston	Cauldon	Kingsley	Tea	Cheddle
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37 deg. C.	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	—
Probable number of faecal coli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

6.

HOUSING.

Details of the progress of building by the Council and by private enterprise are given in the Surveyor's report.

Building progress in recent years has been as follows :—

Year	Houses built by Local Authority	Houses built by Private Enterprise	Total Number of Houses built
1948	155	7	162
1949	103	19	122
1950	113	18	131
1951	61	16	77
1952	138	31	169
Total for five year period	570	91	661

The Hobhouse Rural Housing Survey completed in 1950 showed about 10% of our houses had been deemed unfit for habitation and incapable of being made fit at reasonable cost, and 3% (some of which would be included in the 10%) were over-crowded.

In 1950 we had about 9,000 inhabited houses.

On the figures of this survey then it would seem that the building of 270 houses would, in theory, have covered the over-crowding, but to replace the houses "deemed unfit for habitation" would call for a much more ambitious target of over 900 would have been required.

In the two years following the survey 246 houses were built, and it would seem that the time is approaching when further building on the present scale might call for planned demolition of houses "deemed unfit" and replacement on a "house for house" basis.

In passing on to this new phase, however, it will have to be decided to what extent the community can afford the costs of building and to what extent the individuals can afford the higher rentals. There is of course the possibility that the health advantages of a good house might be off-set by the disadvantages of a poorly filled larder or pantry.

Difficulties in the policy of "make do and mend" are referred to at some length in the Sanitary Inspector's report. His explanation of the use of Improvement Grants for landlords calls for much thought, as does his account of the difficulties of small landlords and the possibility of the local authority undertaking purchase and improvement of buildings which are falling into disrepair.

The Council's housing responsibilities will always prove a great problem, and unlimited building is not the only answer. Economic difficulties might lead to families electing to share houses (i.e. for one family to live with another as lodgers) and we might see houses empty and a burden to their owners the rate-payers. The question of what future housing provision should be made for old people and childless young families has no certain answer.

Nevertheless, I think that to the individual the house and the home has a value in life which is beyond measure. International crisis might result in a devaluation of our currency, but we have in recent times seen nations fall and rise again in less than a generation. Houses last for more than a generation. Whilst national economy must effect our housing programme I do not think pessimism as to the future should influence our planning. A home is a good thing, and surely it is better to have one even if you have to fight to keep it than never to have had one at all.

7. SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Details of new works are given in the Surveyor's Report. The major items here are a description of the comprehensive internal drainage scheme which will collect Draycott drainage for discharge into the Blythe Valley Sewer and the construction of a sewer and disposal plant to cover a part of the village of Dilhorne.

Minor sewer extensions, replacements, and closet conversions have continued as in previous years.

A public convenience has been provided at Tean on a site near the junction of the Stoke—Uttoxeter and Tean—Cheadle roads. I hope that this action and others like it will prove of benefit to the users of our roads, as I find that any secluded spot alongside a main road shows signs both of having been used for a picnic and also as a lavatory. Flies from the latter constitute a danger to those who, following on, wish to use the spot for the former purpose.

Nutrition.

The state of nutrition of the population of the Cheadle District would appear from the clinical impressions gained at schools and clinics to be satisfactory.

It is however a somewhat surprising fact that the best possible use is not being made of the various schemes to aid in this matter.

Many children do not take the "free milk" supplied in schools—presumably because they have not been brought up to drink and like milk.

Again, it is somewhat surprising to see school children making their mid-day meal of chipped potatoes when a cooked dinner at School is available at a cheaper cost than could be obtained elsewhere, and indeed at no cost at all for necessitous cases.

Pregnant and nursing mothers are advised to take certain vitamins and dietary "extras" for the benefit of their babies as well as themselves. Only 25% to 30% of these "extras" provided through the Ministry of Food are taken up by those to whom they are available.

The "take up" of vitamins preparations provided for infants also is only a fraction of what specialists skilled in nutrition advise.

Another surprising fact is that in Cheadle only around a quarter of the babies born are breast fed after the first four weeks, where in other districts up to three quarters are breast fed.

This I can only think is a matter of custom which has arisen through mothers having to go out to work.

Scientific advice on balanced feeding and nutrition would seem to be more generally accepted with regard to livestock than with regard to human beings.

Food Premises and Food handling.

In his report the Sanitary Inspector indicates that food is not always handled hygienically, and that more improvements are to be expected from persuasion than from legal action. It is difficult to prove in Court that dirty methods are habitual rather than solitary and accidental. The public should realise this is so, and should realise that a complaint from a customer is perhaps more effective than a complaint from a Food Inspector. The former may mean loss of custom.

The Food Trades themselves are doing much to obtain better facilities for hygienic preparation and storage of foods, but I think that only through public opinion can we deal with the majority of cases of unsatisfactory handling of food.

Milk distribution to villages.

During the year complaints were received that around Foxt, Cauldon Low and Waterhouses daily deliveries of milk could not be made and the milk was going sour in hot weather.

In a dairy farming district this seems strange, but it is obvious that situations will be met with where owing to the scattered nature of the houses it would neither pay the farmer to undertake a small retail round nor would it pay the big distributor to undertake a daily delivery. Persons living in these localities therefore have only two choices, either to make arrangements to collect milk themselves from a farm daily or else to accept from the distributor in the course of his deliveries on alternate days a quantity of sterilised milk.

Sterilised milk would appear to have the same nutritional qualities as raw milk, and keeps better. The objection to it is usually one of taste, but it may be mentioned that in some districts sterilised milk is more popular than raw milk.

Purity of milk.

Of 570 milk samples taken at random by the County Sampling Officer and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test for bacteriological "cleanliness" 16.7% were found to be unsatisfactory. Figures for the preceding two years were 18.7% and 34.4%.

Of 319 milk samples examined for tubercle bacilli 4 were shown to be infected, compared with 278 samples and 14 infected in 1951 and 333 samples with 10 infects in 1950.

In each of the four cases in 1952 it proved necessary to serve a formal notice on the milk producer concerned requiring pasteurisation of the milk until veterinary investigation had again shown the milk to be safe.

While an extensive system of sampling and veterinary checking is in operation there remains the fact that it may take around six weeks to complete the test of a sample and for six weeks or more there is the possibility of milk being sold to the public which is capable of transmitting the disease tuberculosis to a human being if the milk is unpasteurised and does not come from an attested herd.

9. SANITARY SUPERVISION OF THE DISTRICT.
REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Housing.

It is appropriate that in this report we express our views on the present housing position and in particular on the problems of repair of houses, demolition of unfit houses and the improvement of houses.

Repair of houses.

A major portion of your Sanitary Inspector's time is taken up in bringing about repairs to houses. The difficulties connected with this work are many and only those actively engaged in the work can fully appreciate these.

Not the least problem is that of the owner of perhaps one or two cottages who has no capital to expend on the houses and who relies on the small income derived from the rents to supplement a pension.

Whilst writing these notes a person in similar circumstances to these quoted has been to the office to explain why he, a man of 70 years of age, is attempting to repair himself the cottage owned by him. It might be thought that this is an isolated case but it is interesting to note that in this district the landlord owning up to ten houses is in by far the biggest group of owners of rented houses. On examining further these facts it is found that in this district approximately twenty-five owners have more than ten houses, of these seven own more than twenty houses and the total owned by these seven amounts to three hundred and twenty. Three of these seven are Companies owning local factories, and the total number owned by these three is approximately two hundred.

Demolition of unfit houses.

It will be noted from the statistical table that the demolition of two properties has been brought about and "Undertakings" obtained in respect of four dwellings. These figures are apart from the dwellings at Woodhead Camp, where on their vacation the hutments have been rendered uninhabitable, by the Council removing the doors, windows and fittings.

No specific allocation of new houses is set aside for the rehousing of families from unfit houses but on the offer of housing accommodation to such families in the normal allocation of houses, the opportunity is taken of serving Notice of Time and Place under the Housing Act 1936, Section II, and Demolition Orders are made or Undertakings are accepted as the Council decide on the evidence submitted. This method is helping to dispose of a few unfit dwellings but it is considered that the time has now arrived when a programme of clearance should be decided upon ready to be put into operation in the near future.

HOUSING ACT 1949.

Improvement Grant.

There is not the slightest doubt that in this area full advantage is not being taken of this most useful legislation for the improvement by private owners of their houses. Having made this assertion it is proper that we should examine the reasons for this failure. There appear to be three main reasons.

There is little public knowledge of this Act and where there is knowledge there is often a misunderstanding of the intentions and conditions of the Act. Who can be blamed for this failure is not easy to decide but if the Government is sincere in its desire that use be made of Section 20 then there has been a sad scarcity of National Publicity.

Despite this apparent Governmental failure the Local Authority cannot be altogether blameless as there has been little or no local Publicity and this does not only apply to our District as from our knowledge of other Authorities the same can be said of most of these.

The misunderstanding of the Act is mainly connected with the requirements that (i) the resulting dwellings should provide satisfactory housing accommodation for at least thirty years and (ii) the dwellings will conform with such requirements in respect of their construction and physical condition and the provision of services and amenities which the Minister may specify, one of these improvement requirements being that the house shall be in a good state of repair and this point is made clear in the "Notes for Applicants." "No assistance can be given for works of ordinary repair except in so far as they are incidental to improvement work."

The third and perhaps the most important reason for the comparative failure of the Act in the district is a problem of Finance.

As has been indicated above, the major portion of tenanted property in this area is owned by the "small" Landlord. It will be appreciated that despite the grant of up to 50% of the cost of the works of improvement there is required an equal contribution from the owner and many owners simply do not have the necessary capital.

Improvement of houses by Local Authority.

The question of the Local Authority carrying out improvements to properties has not as yet been investigated in this district but of course it would entail the purchase of houses by the Council in order to carry out the necessary improvements. This question is one of policy which only the Council can decide.

As we trust that this report is widely read in our district we consider it perhaps a good publicity measure to quote the relevant section from the Notes for Applicants for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949.

Cases in which Improvement Grants can be made.

The Housing Act 1949 enables local authorities to make "Improvement Grants" to private owners for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses or other buildings, or for the improvement of dwellings provided that :—

- (a) an application is made to the local authority and approved by them before the improvement works are started ;
- (b) the local authority are satisfied that the dwellings provided or improved by means of the improvement works will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for a period of not less than thirty years after the completion of the works ;
- (c) all such dwellings conform with the requirements set out in the Appendix below ;
- (d) the applicant owns the freehold of the land or owns the leasehold with not less than thirty years unexpired at the date of the application (except where the application is made in respect of the residence house of a void ecclesiastical benefice by the sequestrator of the profits, or by the trustees in respect of a building held upon trust for use as an almshouse or as the residence of a minister of religion) ;
- (e) the estimated expenses of executing the improvement works or, where more than one dwelling is being provided or improved, the proportion of those expenses attributable to each resulting dwelling is neither less than £150 nor (unless that local authority consider that the circumstances of a particular case justify it, e.g. where buildings of architectural or historic interest are involved, and the Minister gives his consent) more than £800.

Amount of Grant—The amount of the improvement grant may not exceed one-half of the approved expenses except in particular cases in which the restriction of the maximum to £800 is expressly waived (paragraph 1 (e) above).

Appendix—Standard of Improved Dwellings.

- i be in all respects dry ;
- ii be in a good state of repair ;
- iii have each room properly lighted and ventilated ;
- iv have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on for all purposes inside the dwelling ;
- v be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes ;
- vi have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet ;
- vii have a fixed bath, preferably in a separate room ;
- viii be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water ;

- ix be provided with facilities for domestic washing including a copper, preferably in a separate room ;
- x have a proper drainage system ;
- xi be provided with adequate points for artificial lighting in each room ;
- xii be provided with adequate facilities for heating each habitable room ;
- xiii have satisfactory facilities for preparing and cooking food ;
- xiv have a well ventilated larder or food store ;
- xv have a proper provision for the storage of fuel ;
- xvi have a satisfactory surfaced path to outbuildings and convenient access from a street to the back door.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT—SECTION 47.

The Council continue to make a grant of up to 50% towards the cost of replacing a privy by a water flushed closet.

Forty-three conversions have been completed with estimates submitted amounting to £1,135-18-2. Final costs were approved at £1,017-13-2 with grants amounting to £508-16-7 being made.

The cost per conversion amounts to an average of £23-13-4.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Food Premises and Food Inspection.

The Improvement in the premises where food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale has been slow. We attempt to bring about improvements by an informal talk to the owner but we regret that in many cases this has little or no effect although in others the result has given great satisfaction.

In the problem of food handling we note the strange difference in which a joint of meat is handled and the manner in which the carcass side, or quarter, is handled. The small joint is handled with care but the carcass is hung in the shop often at the entrance where everyone literally rubs shoulders with the meat. We appreciate that many shops are badly designed and too small for the trade that they handle but this should be no excuse for lack of method or elementary hygienic handling.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The Council carries out the duties under this Act employing a full time operative under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

All work carried out to business premises is chargeable and it has been found that to ensure a regular and proper treatment to these premises the system of yearly Contract is the most successful.

Thirty-one Contracts have been entered into amounting to a charge of £148-14-2 being made on owners of business premises.

Infectious Disease.

Number of visits	....	....	....	....	12
Number of disinfections	....	....	....	....	13

Bakehouses.

Number on register	....	....	....	....	9
Number of visits	....	....	....	....	21

Slaughterhouses.

Number of premises in use	....	....	....	....	6
Number of visits	....	....	....	....	12

Offensive Trades.

Number on register	....	....	....	....	3
Number of inspections	....	....	....	....	42

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections	191
-----------------------	------	------	------	------	-----

Petroleum Acts.

Petrol Licences issued	....	....	....	....	78
Carbide Licences issued	....	....	....	....	0
Number of inspections	....	....	....	....	12

Factories and Workshops.

Number on register	....	....	....	....	122
Number using mechanical power	....	....	....	....	68
Number of inspections	....	....	....	....	51

Details of Miscellaneous Food Surrendered.

314 tins of Miscellaneous Foods.
25 lbs. of Margarine.
61 lbs. 12 oz. Cooked Ham.
94 lbs. Beef.
9½ lbs. Shoulder and Neck Veal.
1 Pig, carcase and offals—280 lbs.

Letting of Houses.

Number of houses occupied during the year	....	....	....	132
Number of persons rehoused	....	....	....	494
Number of persons housed per dwelling	....	....	....	3.74

Housing Act 1936.

Number of houses condemned	....	....	....	2
Number of Undertakings accepted	....	....	....	4

Housing Act 1949.

Applications received for Improvement Grant	....	....	....	6
Number of applications approved	....	....	....	2
Amount of Grants	....	....	....	£545-0-0

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

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

PREMISES.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	54	51	2	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	68	—	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	122	51	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS.	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient &c. ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work). ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

Description of Visits.	Inspections and observations made.	Notices Served		Notices Complied with
		Informal	Formal	
To Complaints & Nuisances	434	149	17	152
Food Premises ...	121	20		18
Food Inspection ...	71			
Ice Cream ...	37	6		7
Bakehouses ...	21	10		10
Offensive Trades ...	42			
Shops Acts ...	191	10		10
Conversions ...	289		30	50
Drainage ...	323		20	25
Housing Act 1936 ...	25		6	6
Housing Act 1949 ...	37			
Housing Applications ...	1,126			
Water Supplies ...	76		10	10
Water Samples ...	53			
Water Connections ...	37			
Factories and Workshops	51	2		2
Farms & Dairies ...	86			
Infectious Diseases ...	12			
Disinfections ...	13			
Slaughterhouses ...	12	1		1
Scavenging ...	16			
Rodent Control ...	36			
Movable Dwellings ...	2			
Schools ...	5			
Keeping of Animals ...	5			
Rivers Pollution Prevent- ion ...	2			
Petroleum Acts ...	12			
Interviews and other visits ...	403			
	3,588	198	83	297

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASE, PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.

Notification. Details of notifications are shown in Table C. The only disease reaching epidemic proportions was Measles, with 327 cases but fortunately no deaths. No cases were notified of diphtheria, enteric or paratyphoid fever or of whooping cough.

The case of meningococcal infection was diagnosed on clinical grounds and proved fatal. This was the only death from the notifiable acute infection diseases.

Influenza. This disease cannot be said to have occurred in epidemic form during the year, and no deaths were attributed to it. As the disease is not notifiable exact figures of its incidence cannot be given.

Infective Diarrhœa. A small outbreak of what might be called infective diarrhœa occurred at Foxt Primary School. It would appear that initially one child was affected and two days later six others became infected. In all seven children were affected out of forty three, and six of these were in the infants class. Four adults at the school were not affected, neither were the parents of the children. It appeared that the illness had originated and spread in the Infants Class rather than in the kitchen. Examination of the fæces of the affected children failed to show any pathogenic organism. The staff were advised of the need for a full personal hygiene drill for themselves and the children, especially before meals and after visiting the toilet. No further cases occurred.

Tuberculosis.

During 1952 Medical Officers of Health of County Districts were relieved of their statutory obligation to maintain a register of Tuberculous persons, but at the same time were asked to continue to do so. I can make no comment on this fact other than that I do not understand its purpose.

Information as to notifications, movements of domicile and progress of cases continue to be exchanged between County Medical Officer, District Medical Officer and Hospital Medical Officer as they were formerly.

This system of liaison appears most effective.

I have found that the importance of the part of a District Council can play in the fight against tuberculosis is not understood as it should be. The resources of the Hospital Service for treatment and the Local Health Authority for home visiting are unavailing if through unsatisfactory housing conditions the disease is spread to others at home.

Tuberculosis is spread by coughs and sneezes just as in the common cold, but the infection need not be spread if the patient is reasonably co-operative and can have a room to him or herself. It is hoped that a patient can be kept in hospital until he is in a reasonably non-infective condition, but no absolute guarantee can be given that he will remain so, and for this reason he should have a good home to return to. In considering the housing of a tuberculosis case one must consider not only the welfare of the sufferer, but the possibility that inadequate housing may lead to the economic liabilities of another case and even a death which might have been prevented.

During the year 1952 the number of new cases notified was 31, 29 were of the pulmonary type, compared with 26, 16, 20 and 19 in the preceding years. Four deaths from tuberculosis occurred.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 308 children under five and 61 children over five years received a primary course of immunisation and in addition 57 children received a reinforcing injection.

Corresponding figures for 1951 were 345, 243 and 118.

While it is to be expected that the public will not avail themselves of protection as in the days when the disease was common it must be pointed out that only by maintaining a high level of immunity can we expect to eradicate the disease. When this has been done it may be possible to discontinue our efforts, but that time is not yet here.

Infectious Disease Reports from Schools.

The following cases of actual or suspected infectious diseases were reported from schools :—

Influenza	2	Whooping Cough	Nil
Mumps	25	Measles	158
German Measles	5	Scarlet Fever	5
Chicken Pox	59		

11. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These remain as outlined in my report for 1949. A difficulty which was not met satisfactorily was that of providing hospital accommodation for the chronic sick. To deal with the problem a form of Bed Bureau for these cases in North Staffordshire was set up, and this undoubtedly resulted in priority of demand being assessed more fairly. The most urgent cases were dealt with expeditiously, but there was an unfortunately long waiting period for the less urgent cases. Undoubtedly additional beds are needed for this type of case.

The Cheadle Isolation Hospital remained closed throughout the year in spite of further representations from the District Council that it should be put to some useful purpose. At the time of writing this report it is understood that it may be used for a hospital for the chronic sick cases.

12. DETAILS OF NEW WORKS, ETC., REPORTED BY THE SURVEYOR.

Cheddleton Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1952, to 31st December, 1952, was

102,220,600 gallons

which gives a daily consumption of 279,291 gallons.

Tean Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1952, to 31st December, 1952, was

21,722,000 gallons

which gives a daily consumption of 59,349 gallons.

Hollington Water—(Hollington Supply).

The amount of water supplied to the general public from this station from 1st January, 1952, to 31st December, 1952, was

22,717,400 gallons

which gives a daily consumption 62,069 gallons.

Cauldon Low Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1952, to 31st December, 1952, was

15,537,000 gallons

which gives a daily consumption of 42,451 gallons.

SEWER EXTENSIONS.

Dilhorne.

A contract consisting of the laying of approximately 470 yards of 6 inch diameter gravity sewer together with the construction of a sewage disposal works consisting of Sedimentation Tanks and Bacteria Bed at Dilhorne has been completed. The works are constructed on the site of an existing tank, and will serve the properties between Dilhorne School and Red House. It will abate a nuisance which has existed for some time caused by the discharge of crude sewage into an open ditch in the vicinity of the property. The present scheme has also been designed to enable it to form part of a comprehensive sewage scheme which will be required at some future date for Dilhorne.

Victoria Cottages, Cheddleton.

A contract consisting of the laying of a 6 inch diameter gravity sewer, the erection of a diverter chamber, the provision of a diverter type pump and the laying of a 4 inch diameter pumping main has been completed. The scheme takes the drainage from 11 cottages at Station Road, Cheddleton, and completion was delayed for some time due to the long delivery period for the diverter machinery.

Draycott.

The comprehensive scheme for the drainage of old and new Draycott consisting of the laying of approximately 145 yards of 12" diameter, 2192 yards of 9" diameter and 3717 yards of 6" diameter gravity sewers, together with the construction of 73 manholes is nearing

completion. Although this scheme will be ready in the near future no connections to the sewers will be possible until the main Blythe Valley Sewerage Scheme is ready for the reception of sewage. The construction of the latter scheme by the Cheadle Rural District Council, the Stoke-on-Trent City Sewage Department and the Stone Rural District Council is proceeding, but while a large proportion of the sewers have now been laid a considerable amount of work has still to be carried out on the Sewage Disposal Works at Deadman's Green before the scheme can be put into operation.

Felthouse Lane, Cheddleton.

The construction of a 6" diameter gravity sewer and grease trap on behalf of the owner of trade premises in this area has been completed. The sewer has been laid in order to abate a trade nuisance of long standing, and the applicant has agreed to pay for the construction of the sewer and for the disposal and treatment of the sewage under the provisions of the 1937 Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act.

Weston Coyney.

Approximately 224 yards of 9" diameter gravity sewer has been laid in order to abate flooding which occurred at times of heavy rainfall. The scheme is a duplicate of the existing main outfall to the sewage disposal works and has been successful in preventing the nuisance caused by surcharging of the existing sewer.

Public Convenience, Tean.

Work has been commenced on the construction of a public convenience at New Road, Tean. No similar facilities at present exist in the area, and the new convenience will consist of two sections—the male section having two water closets and urinal and the female section three water closets.

WATER EXTENSIONS.

Farley.

The laying of approximately 600 yards of 3 inch diameter Asbestos Cement water main has been completed. The main will supply 6 domestic properties and one farm which are at present short of water during periods of dry weather. The scheme was aided by a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Kingsley and Kingsley Holt.

Approximately 860 yards of 4 inch diameter C.I. water main has been laid between Kingsley and Kingsley Holt. The main is a duplication of an existing small diameter service and will increase the available supply to the Kingsley Holt area, from which complaints have been received at periods of heavy draw-off.

Glebe Road, Kingsley.

120 yards of 3 inch diameter C.I. water main has been laid to replace an existing small diameter service pipe. The latter was insufficient to supply the property in the area.

Westwood Manor, Wetley Rocks.

The laying of a 3 inch diameter C.I. water main from Mill Lane, Wetley Rocks, to supply Westwood Manor has been carried out by the Stoke-on-Trent City Architect's Department. The work has been carried out under the supervision and to the satisfaction of this Council and the ownership of the main will vest in the Council. The property is to be used as a residential school for maladjusted children.

Wallmyres Pumping Station.

The sinking of the second borehole at Wallmyres having been completed and the borehole having been tested and found satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality, a pump house has now been constructed to house a booster pump, the delivery of which is still awaited. The pump will act as a duplication of the present machinery as a safeguard against mechanical breakdown.

Wallmyres to Bolton Gate, Weston Coyney.

Work has been commenced on the laying of approximately 2800 yards of 6 inch diameter C.I. water main. This scheme is a duplication of an existing main, the object being to increase the supply to the Hardiwick and Wardhill areas. The new main will also supply the proposed Coal Industry Housing Association Site at Weston Coyney.

Leafields.

Work has been commenced on the laying of a 3" diameter C.I. water main to replace a length of 1" diameter service pipe. The new main will supply a number of farms and cottages between Kingsley Moor and Cheadle.

Ipstones and Foxt.

A continuous pumping test has been carried out on a deep well at Blackbank Wood, Foxt, to ascertain the possibility of obtaining a new source of water to supplement the existing supply to Ipstones and Foxt and to provide a supply to the Bottomhouses area. The test proved satisfactory both in quantity and quality so far as the domestic requirements only of this area are concerned. A further test is to be carried out on a second well in the area with the object of a supplementary supply. Plans are now being prepared of a comprehensive scheme for the area including the adaption of the first well as a permanent source.

Tean Pumping Station.

An electrically driven pump has been installed at Tean capable of delivering water both to the high level reservoir (Hollington Water Scheme) and in emergency to the low level reservoir (Tean Water Scheme). This pump forms a duplication of the existing plant and will provide against mechanical breakdown. A further safeguard has been provided by the installation of two electric motors to act as an alternative drive to the existing ram pumps, which are normally driven by Diesel engines.

HOUSING.

The number of houses erected and completed during the year was :—

By Local Authority	138
By Private Enterprise	31
Total	169

Weston Coyney.

During the year there have been 56 houses completed on this site with 32 houses still under construction.

Cheddleton.

During the year 18 houses have been completed on this site with 18 houses still under construction.

Cheadle—Well Street.

During the year 38 houses have been completed and 46 houses are still under construction on this site.

Werrington.

During the year 10 houses have been completed and 8 are still under construction.

Ipstones.

During the year 10 houses have been completed on this site. This site is now totally complete, having an attractive cul-de-sac with a green and a total of 18 houses arranged on three sides.

Vicarage Road, Tean.

During the year construction on 2 further houses on this site has been commenced. The Vicarage Road Site is now fully developed.

Farley.

During the year construction on a further 2 houses has been commenced on this site. These houses will make a total of 6 and the site will then be complete.

Kingsley.

The Council have acquired a site of approximately 1.71 acres in Holt Lane, Kingsley, which will accommodate 14 houses. The site is attractively laid out and the 14 houses are under construction together with the laying of the new streetworks and foul and surface water sewers.

Tean Housing Site, The Wentlows.

The Council have acquired a site of approximately 6.576 acres at The Wentlows, Tean, and a scheme has been prepared to provide for approximately 60 houses. Work has commenced on the construction of the streets, foul and storm water sewers. A contract for 32 houses has also been let and building will commence almost immediately.

Tithe Barn, Alton.

The Council have acquired a site of approximately 1.578 acres at Tithe Barn, Alton, and a layout prepared to accommodate 18 houses. Of these, 6 houses have been completed and the remaining 12 houses are under construction.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council carry out the whole of the refuse collection for the district with the exception of one parish. This is done by contract. A weekly collection of household refuse is made, the Council operating six covered ash collecting vehicles for this purpose. Three night soil vehicles are also operated by the Council for the emptying of cesspools and privy pails. Two other open type lorries are also used in connection with the maintenance of the Council's sewerage and water schemes including two small vans. The Council's vehicles and other mechanical equipment are maintained by the Council's own maintenance staff. A workshop has been established at the Council's depot for this purpose.

The Council have secured a site of approximately 1.75 acres in the vicinity of the new museum and that and quite near to the site of the new museum.

The Museum Site, The Trustees

The Council have acquired a site of approximately 1.75 acres in the vicinity of the new museum and that and quite near to the site of the new museum.

The Museum Site, The Trustees

The Council have acquired a site of approximately 1.75 acres in the vicinity of the new museum and that and quite near to the site of the new museum.

MUSEUM COLLECTION

The Council have acquired a site of approximately 1.75 acres in the vicinity of the new museum and that and quite near to the site of the new museum.



