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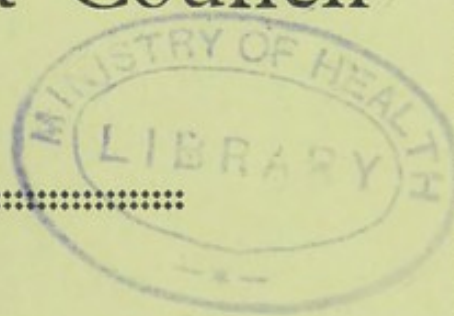
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CHEADLE

Rural District Council




ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer

of Health

1954.



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Cheadle Rural District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending December 31st, 1954.

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending December 31st, 1914

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending December 31st, 1954.

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, 1954.

The report follows the lines of those of previous years, and is to be looked on as a chapter in the history of the health of the district rather than a complete survey of all the conditions obtaining at the present time.

I would again thank all who have helped me in my work during the year, and in my compilation of the report.

I would finally apologise for the exceptionally late appearance of the report which has been occasioned by my illness.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. TOMLIN.

Council Offices,
Cheadle, Staffs.

October, 1955.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Chairman of the Rural District Council : Mr. A. SMITH.

Vice-Chairman of the Rural District Council : Mr. J. W. CROSSLEY.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1954.

Chairman : Mrs. H. M. GARDNER.

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

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.

J. W. BURTON, M.I.S.W., M.R.San.I., Engineer and Surveyor.
H. POINTON, Architectural and Town Planning Assistant.
T. P. HUGHES, A.M.I.Mun.E., Engineering Assistant.
H. F. PARRINGTON, A.I.M.S., Town Planning Assistant.
P. J. DREWRY, Clerk of Works.
J. SHAW, D.L.C. (Hons.), Engineering Assistant.
G. A. EVANS, Architectural Assistant.
M. H. J. EVANS, Engineering Assistant.
W. H. HOBSON, Clerk.
J. W. SHAW, Clerk.
R. SHEMILT, Shorthand Typist.
M. P. BROOKES, Shorthand Typist.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres).....	60,291
Registrar General's Estimate of population	33,230
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book.....	9,469
Rateable Value.....	£118,784
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£463 0s. 3d.

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

The most noteworthy change has been at Weston Coyney with the commencement of occupation of houses on the Coal Industry Housing Association Site. This Association is providing 400 houses in Weston Coyney, and the majority will be occupied by families coming from far outside the district.

Although these miners may be working outside the Rural District and their families may for the most part look upon the near-by Potteries as their urban centre many of their children will undoubtedly in the course of time become a part of the Rural District's community.

A number of the houses on the estate were allotted to miners belonging to the Cheadle Rural District who were on the Council's list for rehousing, and it is hoped this may help to obviate the disadvantages of setting up a community completely of new-comers.

No other major population changes or changes in industry took place.

There was no appreciable unemployment in the District, and the normal standard of living appeared to be well maintained.

No case came to light where it was necessary for the District Council to take action to secure the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

It may be opportune here to make some reference to the organisations and facilities which exist for the welfare of the aged.

Old aged pensioners' associations exist in Cheadle, Blythe Bridge, Werrington, Alton and Kingsley and do much good work. Unfortunately, they do not cover the whole of the Rural District, and often the more independent and solitary type of old person does not avail him or herself of what is available.

The County Welfare and Health Departments have an organisation which can help all old persons, but here again it is not always known where the need exists.

Not infrequently I get to know of cases only where the conditions have become deplorable. Many of these cases through a perhaps mistaken sense of independence have throughout life refused help when it was offered, and their neighbours have in consequence ceased to make offers.

I would welcome news of such cases from any source.

There is in existence a Cheadle Sub-branch of the North Staffordshire Old People's Welfare Committee. One of the main objects of this Committee is to provide a meeting and liaison between all voluntary and public bodies concerned with Old People's Welfare. Unfortunately, the difficulty of attendances at meetings has resulted in this Committee not working as well as I had hoped at the time of its formation.

To summarise my thoughts on old people's welfare in the District I would say that the will to help and the organisations are there, but there could be more co-operation than at present.

I feel, too, that the provision of a Home for Old People in Cheadle Town is a project which is well worth while considering.

4.

HEALTH STATISTICS.

Details of population, births and deaths in Cheadle as supplied by the Registrar General are tabulated below, and comment there-on follows.

STATISTICAL TABLE A.**BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN CHEADLE RURAL DISTRICT, 1954.**

BIRTHS.	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Live Births—Total	240	201
Legitimate	236	194
Illegitimate	4	7
Still Births—Total	9	4
Legitimate	8	4
Illegitimate	1	0
DEATHS.		
Total, all causes	237	239
Deaths of infants under 1 year	6	7
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	5	5
Deaths from Tuberculosis (respiratory)	3	0
Influenza	0	1
Measles	0	1
Other infectious diseases	1	1
Cancer of Stomach	8	6
Cancer of the lungs and bronchi	9	1
Cancer of the breast	0	8
Cancer of the uterus	0	2
Other malignant neoplasms	21	26
Diabetes	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25	30
Coronary disease and angina	27	23
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart disease	65	76
Pneumonia	0	4
Bronchitis	8	3
Other respiratory diseases	1	0
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	0	2
Gastritis and enteritis	1	3
Nephritis	5	1
Enlargement of prostate	4	0
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0	0
Congenital malformations	1	4
Motor accidents	1	0
All other accidents	6	6
Suicide	3	0
Registrar General's Estimated Mid. Year Population		33,230
Registrar General's Comparability Factors—Births	1.04	Deaths 1.03

TABLE B. Notifiable Infectious Diseases

				Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified. ...				11	16	28	27
Final numbers after correction							
Ages—							
0...	...	...	...	—	—	3	33
1...	...	...	...	—	2	4	55
3...	...	...	...	2	1	6	65
5...	...	...	...	7	9	15	122
10...	...	...	...	2	2	—	11
15...	...	...	...	—	2	—	—
25 and over.	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Age unknown.	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	11	16	28	277
				Ac. Pneumonia.		Dysentery.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified,				19	8	15	44
Final numbers after correction							
Ages—							
0...	...	...	...	3	1	1	—
5...	...	...	...	1	1	4	11
15...	...	...	...	5	1	7	22
45...	...	...	...	7	3	1	—
65 and over.	...	...	...	3	2	2	11
Age unknown.	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	19	8	15	44
Tuberculosis				Respiratory		Meninges C.N.S.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Numbers originally notified							
Total (all ages) ...				8	5	1	—
Final numbers after correction							
Under 5	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
5—14	...	...	...	3	—	1	—
15—24	...	...	...	2	2	—	—
25—44	...	...	...	2	1	—	—
45—64	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
65 and over	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (all ages)	...	...	...	8	4	1	—

by Sex and Age Groups.

Measles (excluding rubella)					
M.	F.				
370	365				
7	8				
77	66				
84	86				
188	192				
13	12				
1	—				
—	—				
—	—				
370	364				
Erysipelas.		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
—	8	—	1	12	8
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	2	—	—	3	4
—	4	—	—	2	2
—	2	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	8	—	—	5	6
Others		Other notifiable diseases— Puerperal pyrexia			
M.	F.				
2	2	Originally notified.		Final numbers after correction.	
1	—	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	2	—	2
—	1				
—	1				
—	—				
—	—				
2	2				

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate for the District's population in mid 1954 was 33,230 which shows an increase of 380 on that for the previous year.

Live Births.

441 were registered as against 473, 466, 509, 484 and 507 in the preceding years.

Still Births.

13 still births were registered as against 7 in the previous year.

Birth Rates.

Using the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor, Cheadle Rural District has a total (live and still) Birth Rate of 14.25 per 1,000 population which is lower than that of 15.2 per 1,000 for the country as a whole.

A Still Birth Rate of 28.8 per 1,000 total births is slightly higher than that of 24 per 1,000 for the country as a whole, but with such small numbers involved this has little significance.

Legitimacy of births.

Although figures as to the legitimacy or otherwise of births have previously been published in this report no comment has for many years been made.

For England and Wales as a whole in 1954, 46 per 1,000 live births were illegitimate. For the Cheadle Rural District in 1954 the rate was 27 per 1,000 and in 1953 was 55 per 1,000.

There is developing in medical and psychological circles an increasing awareness that the baby brought up without a father in the family circle is at a disadvantage throughout its later life. He or she grows up to lack mental stability and shows increased susceptibility to diseases caused by worry and stress in comparison with the child which has known a father, even though he is far from perfect as a parent or husband.

Although this generalisation obviously must have exceptions, I personally think it is true, and is perhaps an explanation of the social advocacy of matrimony which we have had for generations.

Admittedly, illegitimacy at birth does not mean that a child will grow up without a father in the family, but I do feel that the illegitimacy rate can be accepted as indicating to some extent the numbers of "problem children" and mentally or physically inadequate adults we may expect to find in the community in future years.

The only new angle on the problem which can be put forward is an attempt to develop increasing public awareness and realisation that from the child's stand-point even a poor father is better than no father at all.

Deaths.

476 deaths were registered in the Rural District in 1954. Numbers in preceding years were 432, 322, 344 and 304.

The rise in numbers in the past two years is, as was pointed out in my last Annual Report, due to the fact that we are now counting as residents those elderly people who come from other Districts to live and die in the Cheadle Hospital and St. Edward's Hospital.

The numbers of such cases is so great that I consider the death rates in the Cheadle Rural District have lost most of their value. We have an inflated General Death Rate of 14.7 per 1,000 to compare with that of 11.3 per 1,000 of the country as a whole.

Infant Mortality.

Thirteen children under one year of age died in 1954. The number for 1953 was fourteen. The Infant Mortality Rate of 30.8 per 1,000 related live births compares reasonably with the record low figure of 25.5 for 1,000 for the whole of the country.

Ten of the thirteen deaths were in children of under four weeks.

Maternal Mortality.

No deaths associated with childbirth occurred during the year, which is a matter for some satisfaction as only a generation ago we might have expected three such deaths in each year.

Causes of Death.

Here again the inclusion of all deaths from our Mental and Chronic Sick Hospitals means that a year to year comparison may show trends regarding hospital admissions rather than trends of sickness in our own community.

A point worthy of comment, however, is that 1954 was a year of low temperatures, excessive rainfall and no "summer" and yet it showed a marked fall in the incidence of deaths from the respiratory diseases.

Only 16 such deaths were recorded in 1954 against 40 in 1953.

The numbers of deaths from selected causes are shown in the Statistical Table.

The commonest groups are Heart Disease 194, Cancer 81, Cerebral Thrombosis, etc. (Strokes) 55 and Respiratory Diseases 16.

5.

WATER SUPPLIES.

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

The Surveyor's Report (Section 12) shows the extension of water mains within the district. The comprehensive water scheme for Oakamoor neared its completion.

It is of interest to note that the average daily supply to the public from the Council's four water supplies has increased from 401,180 gallons per day in 1948 to 532,592 gallons per day in 1954. These figures do not, of course, include the amounts supplied by the Cheadle Town Waterworks Company.

Parish	No. of Properties with Mains Water laid on	No. of Properties using Stand Taps
ALTON	350	66
BLORE	—	—
CAVERSWALL ...	1,995	36
CHEADLE	2,254	68
CHECKLEY	677	65
CHEDDLETON ...	928	7
CONSALL	26	—
COTTON	73	1
DILHORNE	132	28
DRAYCOTT	253	4
FARLEY	28	—
FORSBROOK	682	14
IPSTONES	342	18
KINGSLEY	719	13
OAKAMOOD	125	50
WATERHOUSES	251	7
TOTALS	8,835	378

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

	Ipstones and Foxt	Werrington	Alton	Whiston	Cauldon	Kingsley	Tean	Cheadle
Total Solids dried at 212 deg. F.	18.5	21.0	14.5	16.0	11.5	18.0	25.0	35.0
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.0004	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitric Nitrogen ...	0.30	0.60	Trace	0.10	Nil	0.25	0.30	1.54
Chlorine ...	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.5	2.8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg. F.	Nil	0.004	0.002	Nil	0.002	0.015	Nil	0.002
Appearance ...	No Colour	No Colour	No Colour	Clear and Colourless	Very slightly opalescent	No Colour	No Colour	Minute trace of suspended matter
Metallic contamination ...	—	—	—	—	Iron 0.026	—	—	—
p.H. Value ...	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.2	7.2	7.0

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION — WATER SAMPLES 1954.

	Ipstones and Foxt	Werrington	Alton	Whiston	Cauldon	Kingsley	Tean	Cheadle
Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37 deg. C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Probable number of faecal coli ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

6.

HOUSING.

The satisfactory progress in new house building can be seen in the following table.

Year	Houses built by Local Authority	Houses built by Private Enterprise	Houses built by Coal Industry Housing Association	TOTALS
1948	155	7	—	162
1949	103	19	—	122
1950	113	18	—	131
1951	61	16	—	77
1952	138	31	—	169
1953	150	85	—	235
1954	149	115	404	668
TOTALS	869	293	404	1,566

It would seem that at least a fifth of our population are now living in modern post war houses.

In spite of this progress it was not felt during the year that the time had been reached to deal in a large way with the problem of old houses of low standards. Individual unfit houses were dealt with as occasion arose—details of these are shown in the Sanitary Inspector's Report (Section 9).

During the year 24 applications for an improvement grant were made, and 19 of these were approved. In Section 9 of this Report the Sanitary Inspector comments on the fact that improvement grants are being sought for owner occupied houses and not tenanted houses.

7.

SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Progress in new sewerage schemes and works is shown in the Surveyor's Report (Section 12) and has in 1954 as in previous years been satisfactory. Nevertheless, much remains to be done.

The Council is not unmindful of the needs of the villages—proper sewerage is being provided for Kingsley, and will be provided for Ipstones and Alton. It can not be denied that the absence of proper sewerage here has been a threat to health.

Following the provision of sewers there is the problem of ensuring that households are properly connected up to them, and here I think much work is to be done.

Inevitably, some properties will remain which can not be drained into a sewer, and inevitably the septic tanks, etc., some of these will by old age, disrepair or improper maintenance become either a nuisance or a threat to health.

It is difficult to lay down standards on requirements in the treatment of sewerage and the costs must always be kept in mind.

Throughout the country as a whole improved sanitation has resulted in the virtual disappearance of many diseases. We cannot, and should not, wait for outbreaks of disease before improving our standards of sewage disposal.

In recent years emphasis has been placed on new criteria by which the efficiency of sewerage disposal of a district may be judged—the purity of the district's rivers and streams.

I feel there is much work ahead of us before the rivers and streams in the Cheadle Rural District can be shown as indicating our satisfactory sanitation.

8. **FOOD AND NUTRITION.**

No appreciable changes took place in 1954 and comment made in previous years still holds good.

The apparent improvement in cleanliness in production and distribution of milk has been maintained, and it would seem that here there has been a real achievement.

Taking the Methylene Blue Test as a standard of cleanliness of milk we find that in 1954 out of 464 samples 55 failed to pass the test. This means that 8.4% of the samples were not up to standard, but when it is realised that comparable figures for the preceding years were 13.4%, 16.7%, 18.7% and 34.4% it will be realised what strides have been made.

Of 322 samples tested for Tuberculosis it was found that 10 were infected and potentially capable of infecting the consumers. The problem here is not one of cleanliness but of eradication of Tuberculosis in the herds. Raw milk is still dangerous.

9. REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Meat Inspection.

In July the slaughter of animals for human food was taken from the control of the Ministry of Food and was handed to the private meat trader. Your Sanitary Inspectors were therefore again, in the course of their duties, required to carry out the inspection of all animals slaughtered in private slaughterhouses. I am glad to say that in my opinion the finished quality of meat is better than that delivered to the butcher from the public abattoir under the Ministry Control. Each butcher has his particular trade to foster—customers in some districts like lean meat, others fat, and consequently the local butcher is able to satisfy the demand for his particular trade by purchasing such animals for slaughter which he believes will be economical from his point of view and satisfactory in price and quality to his customers. The animals thus bought have every chance of receiving the period of rest essential before slaughter and the butcher takes great care that his meat is made to look as attractive as possible and this can only be established by skill and care in slaughter and dressing without undue haste.

The condition of labour in the abattoir is often not conducive to the best results throughout all the operations of slaughter and handling.

Although it is now generally known by this Council since the matter of meat inspection has been constantly brought to their notice before the printing of this annual report, the work of meat inspection at the eighteen licensed slaughterhouses which are scattered throughout the rural district, entailing visits sometimes twice a day, takes an Inspector four full days each week. It will therefore be necessary to obtain the services of a further Inspector who is qualified as a Meat and Food Inspector.

Many of the slaughterhouses were put to other use during the war period and it has become necessary in most cases to serve notice on the owners to make alterations and repairs and improvements and additions to the existing premises. In order to assist in the change from Ministry Controlled slaughterhouses to Private Slaughterhouses the Council has licensed slaughterhouses of a lower structural standard than could be desired but the Licence periods have been restricted.

Many slaughterhouses have now been brought to a fairly high standard. A separate room has been required for the hanging and cooling of the carcasses away from possibility of contamination in the slaughter room whilst other animals are being killed.

Impervious wall and floor surfaces are required and hot and cold water is required to be laid on.

All slaughterhouses have not as yet been brought up to the standard required by the Council, but it is pleasing to note that where such a standard has been reached the butcher himself is the first to acknowledge the beneficial result to him of the changes brought about.

Notification of slaughter—There has to date been found no difficulty with regard to Notification of Slaughter and with proper co-operation between Local Authority Officer and butcher no difficulties are expected. There has been 100% inspection of all animals killed within the District but this has only been achieved by neglect of other duties.

Public Health Act 1936.

As has been stated under the heading "Meat Inspection" much time has been spent on that work and this in fact reflects upon the amount of work carried out in other spheres and is showing especially in some aspects of public health work.

For example, the service of Notices under Section 47 for the conversions of privies to water closets has practically ceased because there is not sufficient time to inspect the work and make out proper specifications in order to invite tenders. Owners are encouraged to carry out this work themselves and the Council then make a contribution towards the cost according to the work involved, the grant not exceeding half the expense incurred. All work is inspected during its progress.

Repairs to houses generally under this Act have also been curtailed except those in connection with which complaints have been received. Routine visits have been discontinued.

Housing Acts 1949 and 1954—Improvement Grant.

On the other hand applications for Improvement Grants continue to be dealt with and the number of applications has gradually increased due to the greater publicity given to the Act.

In my opinion one of the failures in this section is the fact that the only persons who are taking advantage of the Act are those who own and occupy the property for which an Improvement Grant is sought. It seems the wrong principle for owners to be content to improve their own property when they have tenants living under the same unsatisfactory conditions as they themselves did and no action is taken.

A great deal of time is spent on this work in advising applicants before formal application is made. It is considered wrong to expect applicants to go to great expense in the submission of detailed plans and specifications when it is expected that the scheme will not prove acceptable under the Act. In this it is felt that the Council is carrying out the recommendations of the Minister to the full.

Demolition of Unfit Houses.

The Council still continue to favour the demolition of unfit property from which the tenant is rehoused by them. This is good policy as it prevents the occupation of that dwelling by another family who would later come along with complaints and expect a Council house. Many such dwellings have been dealt with in this way by normal procedure under the Housing Act 1936 whereby the owner is first asked by Notice to appear before the Council and is given an opportunity to state his objections.

Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit	232
Number of houses the defects of which were remedied by informal action	142
Number of representations made	
(a) execution of work	50
(b) demolition or closing	13
Number of notices served requiring works	50
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	50
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders	9
Number of Undertakings	4
Number of houses demolished	13

Offensive Trades.

There are three offensive trades carried on within the Rural District and visits are regularly made to these which include a Knackers Yard, Bone Calcining premises and a Gut Scraping Establishment.

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	44	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	71	—	—	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	125	44	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found to exist.

PARTICULARS.	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S1) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work). ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	6	—	—	—

Infectious Diseases.

Number of visits	....	....	....	....	2
Number of disinfections	....	....	....	....	11

Bakehouses.

Number on register	....	....	....	....	9
Number of visits	....	....	....	....	27

Slaughterhouses.

Number of premises in use	....	....	....	....	18
Number of visits	....	....	....	....	343

Offensive Trades.

Number of premises	3
Number of inspections	36

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections	168
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Petroleum Acts.

Petroleum Licences issued	84
Carbide Licences issued	0
Number of inspections	12

Factories and Workshops.

Number on register	....	....	....	....	125
Number using mechanical power	....	....	....	....	71
Number of inspections	....	....	....	....	44

Letting of Houses.

Number of houses occupied during year	....	....	....	....	145
Number of persons rehoused	....	....	....	....	505
Number of persons rehoused per dwelling	....	....	....	....	3.48

Housing Act 1949.

Number of enquiries made	....	....	....	....	72
Number of applications made	....	....	....	....	24
Number of applications approved	....	....	....	....	19
Amount of Grant	....	....	....	....	£3,259-15-7

Section 47.

Number of conversions carried out	....	....	....	....	31
Estimates submitted	....	....	....	....	£876-13-6
Final cost	....	....	....	....	£765-4-3
Grants made	....	....	....	....	£382-11-9
Average cost per conversion	....	....	....	....	£24-13-8

Rodent Control.

Number of contracts	....	....	....	....	22
Amount of contracts	....	....	....	....	£113-5-0

Details of Miscellaneous Food Surrendered.

25 lbs. Sausage. 6 lbs. Jellied Veal. 6 lbs. Corned Beef.
29 lbs. 7 ozs. Ham. 6 lbs. Tongue. 102 tins of Miscellaneous Foods.

Meat Inspection.

Number of animals inspected :—

326 Cows,	24 Bulls,	69 Bullocks,	182 Heifers,
676 Calves,	565 Sheep,	986 Lambs,	616 Pigs.

Meat condemned affected with Tuberculosis :—

Cattle—39 Heads and Tongues.	62 Lungs.
1 Udder.	11 Livers.
1 Spleen.	8 Mesenteries.
3 Whole Carcasses.	1 Buttock.
1 Forequarter.	1 Hindquarter of Beef.
1 Loin of Beef.	

Pigs— 12 Heads and Tongues.	3 Lungs.
2 Mesenteries.	2 Whole Carcasses.

Meat condemned otherwise affected :—

Cattle—32 Livers affected with Fasciola Hepatica.
1 Liver and 1 Spleen affected with Necrosis.
3 Livers affected with Hydatid Cysts.
3 Livers affected with Angioma.
5 Lungs affected with Hydatid Cysts.
5 Livers affected with Abscesses.
6 Livers affected with Cirrhosis.
2 Lungs affected with Abscesses.
3 Livers affected with Necrosis.
1 Liver affected with fatty infiltration.
1 Udder affected with Mastitis.
1 Udder affected with Mammatis.
1 Hind Leg of Calf—fractured.
1 Carcase of Lamb affected with Oedeama.
1 Carcase of Cow affected with Pyrexia.
28 lbs. of Forequarter—multiple bruising.
720 lbs.—1 Carcase affected with Pyrexia.
640 lbs.—1 Carcase—multiple bruising.

Pigs— 1 Carcase affected with Swine Fever.
2 Carcasses affected with Oedeama.
1 Carcase—Moribund (injury).

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Description of Visits.	Inspections and observations made.	Notices Served		Notices Complied with
		Informal	Formal	
To Complaints & Nuisances	266	97	6	83
Food Premises ...	113			
Food Inspection ...	701			
Ice Cream Premises ...	6			
Bakehouses ...	27			
Farms & Dairies ...	101			
Housing Applications ...	681			
Housing Act 1936 ...	126	7	13	20
Housing Act 1949 ...	170			
Slaughterhouses ...	343			
Offensive Trades ...	36			
Conversions ...	89	12	15	27
Drainage ...	292	48	23	71
Shops Acts ...	168			
Factories and Workshops	44			
Petroleum Acts ...	12			
Water Supplies ...	1	5	6	11
Water Connections ...	27			
Water Samples ..	35			
Rodent Control ...	20			
Disinfections ...	11			
Scavenging ...	8	13	2	15
Infectious Diseases ..	2			
Revisits of Complaints ...	173			
Interviews and other visits ...	427			
TOTALS ...	3,879	182	65	227

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASE, PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.

Notification. Details of notifications are given in Table B. The only disease occurring in epidemic form was Measles.

Measles.

This disease was made notifiable in 1940 and from that time the annual numbers have usually varied between 100 and 300 cases, with a previous highest figure of 460 in 1950. The year 1954 produced a record total of 735 notified cases.

The epidemic became recognisable as such in January and continued in the district until May.

Dysentery.

Three of the Dysentery cases were of the mild sonne type occurring in one house in Cheddleton, the remaining 16 cases being of the Flexner type in patients at St. Edward's Hospital.

The fact that the outbreak at St. Edward's Hospital was rapidly and successfully under control is, to those who knew the disease before the era of the "sulpha" drugs, almost a miracle. But even with the new drugs available all credit must go to the Hospital's Medical Superintendent and his staff for their vigilance and prompt action.

An extensive outbreak in the hospital with its non-resident staff could quite easily have started a major epidemic throughout the whole rural district and beyond.

Food Poisoning—Waterhouses.

The eleven confirmed cases of Food Poisoning were residents in the Cheadle Rural District who had attended a party at Waterhouses. Other cases living outside the Rural District were also affected.

The disease, due to *Salmonella typhi-murium*, was of some severity. Two of the patients had to be admitted to hospital.

By a process of elimination the food contaminated was found to be pressed meat from a shop in Ashbourne. Meat from this shop is believed to have been responsible for six cases in the Ashbourne District who did not attend the Waterhouses party.

No secondary cases came to light.

Epidemic Vomiting—Oakamoor.

On 4th January, 1954, an outbreak of food poisoning was reported involving perhaps 15 of 65 children who had attended a party. The illness was characterised by abdominal pain and vomiting coming on 30 hours after the party and food poisoning of *salmonella typhi* due to infected meat sandwiches was suspected.

On 5th January further information was obtained which was not consistent with this theory. Some children had been ill before the party, some had been ill but had not eaten the meat sandwiches. No source of food common to all cases was found.

By 6th January it seemed that the earliest cases had occurred about Christmas 1953. Two cases occurred on 1st January and two on 2nd January. One boy was taken ill on 1st, on 2nd January his father and mother were taken ill and on 3rd January this boy went to the Oakamoor party and was probably responsible for a mass infection of those present.

In all, 26 cases with a reasonably reliable history were obtained. Vomiting occurred in 24 and looseness of the bowels in 8 only. In all but three cases there was apparent recovery within twenty four hours.

On the case histories, the epidemiology of the outbreak, and negative bacteriological findings it was decided the outbreak was due to Epidemic Vomiting, discovered at the time of the third wave of the infection.

It was thought that the epidemic would subside as in all probability all susceptible would already have been exposed to infection. This turned out to be correct.

Streptococcal Infections—Wetley Rocks School.

On 1st July this school was visited following notification of a third case of Scarlet Fever.

The school was overcrowded and it seemed inevitable that any outbreak of respiratory infection would get out of hand.

In addition to the three notified cases of scarlet fever it was found there were six absentees with suspected scarlet fever, five absentees with tonsilitis and five children who had recently had tonsilitis. In all, nineteen children out of a total of around 120 could be presumed to have had some form of streptococcal infection.

The school was visited daily until the term end—swabs taken and children excluded as seemed necessary.

This resulted in the numbers attending school being reduced and to some extent counteracting the overcrowding.

With the dispersal of the school for the summer no further infections were reported, and none occurred in the following term.

At the time of the outbreak an additional Class Room had been built but was not in occupation as not completely finished.

Scarlet fever is not the danger to health which it was formerly, but the experiences at this school were a good example of the way in which a respiratory infection in an overcrowded school can disrupt the school's work and handicap the educational progress of a large number of children.

Tuberculosis.

New cases notified were 6 male and 2 female cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 male and 2 female cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The total of 8 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis compare with 25, 29, 26, 16, 20 and 19 in previous years.

Five deaths were certified as being due to tuberculosis, 3 male pulmonary cases and 1 male and 1 female non-pulmonary cases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 307 children received a course of primary immunisation and in addition 786 children received a reinforcing dose.

The annual numbers of primary immunisation in preceding years has been 260, 369, 588, 410, 398.

Although 1954 showed better figures than 1953 the downward trend is much to be regretted.

11. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

For the most part these remain as outlined in my report for 1949.

Two major problems experienced in the District are common to the whole country.

The first is that cases of chronic sickness do not always get admitted to hospital as expeditiously as might be desirable.

The second is that so far as can be judged from individual complaints difficulty is sometimes experienced in getting prompt dental treatment for children.

The solution to the two problems would seem to be simply the provision of more hospital beds and more dental surgeons—which is largely a matter of national finance in both cases.

In my report for 1953 I wrote at some length on the visit of a Mass Radiography Unit to the District. While the Unit has not been able to visit us again it is based on Stoke-on-Trent, and individual cases where a confirmation of absence of chest disease is desirable can visit the unit there.

Testing of hearing in schools.

A new and noteworthy advance in the promotion of health and general well-being has reached the Rural District in the provision by the County Council of an Audiometry Team which visits schools and with modern scientific apparatus can test the acuity of a child's hearing. Cases showing hearing defects are referred to an Ear Specialist, and when possible treatment is advised.

It is to be hoped that parents will realise the value of such early diagnosis of hearing defects and the value of their early treatment.

Unfortunately, slight defects may not be recognised either by child or parent, and may be inclined to be looked on as being of no handicap. By the time they are recognised as being a handicap it is often too late to have effective treatment.

From the view points of both individual health and national finance early diagnosis and treatment of hearing defects, as of other disease, exemplifies the old proverb that "a stitch in time saves nine."

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

Cheddleton Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1954, to 31st December, 1954, was 114,520,800 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 313,755 gallons.

Tean Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1954, to 31st December, 1954, was 24,156,000 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 66,180 gallons.

Hollington Water (Hollington Supply).

The amount of water supplied to the general public from this Station from 1st January, 1954, to 31st December, 1954, was 36,182,200 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 99,129 gallons.

Cauldon Low Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January, 1954, to 31st December, 1954, was 19,538,000 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 53,528 gallons.

SEWER EXTENSIONS.

Blythe Valley Sewerage Scheme.

During the year the Blythe Valley drainage scheme and the construction of the sewage purification works have been completed and officially opened.

The sewerage and sewage disposal works have been constructed as a joint scheme between the City of Stoke-on-Trent, and Stone Rural District Council and the Cheadle Rural District Council.

A scheme for the internal drainage within the Blythe Valley has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for their approval. This provides for the drainage of all properties within the Blythe Valley which can be drained by natural gravitation to the Blythe Valley trunk sewer, viz. Weston Coyney, Cookshill, Caverswall, Forsbrook, Blythe Bridge, Draycott and Cresswell.

The construction of these internal sewers has commenced and the properties within the Weston Coyney area have been connected to the Blythe Valley sewer.

It is anticipated that the internal drainage scheme of the Blythe Valley will be completed during the following twelve months.

Garden Village, Tean.

88 Lineal yards of sewers and four manholes have been constructed for the purpose of connecting the sewage from the Garden Village Council housing estate to the trunk sewer at Tean.

Tean Hall Mills Sewage Works.

A connection has been made from the existing sewers, which formerly discharged into a small sewage works at the rear of Tean Hall Mills, to discharge into the Blythe Valley sewer. This necessitated the laying of 72 lineal yards of 12" diameter cast iron pipes, together with the construction of two manholes.

WATER EXTENSIONS.

National Coal Board Site, Weston Coyney.

2,900 lineal yards of 3" diameter cast iron main, together with fittings, hydrants, etc., have been laid to serve the housing estate which has been developed by the Coal Industry Housing Association at Weston Coyney.

Tickhill—Sheepwash.

627 lineal yards of 3" diameter cast iron water mains, valves, hydrants, etc., have been laid to serve isolated properties at Tickhill and Sheepwash within the Parish of Caverswall.

Black Bank Wood, Foxt.

212 lineal yards of 3" diameter cast iron water mains have been laid from which the owner and occupier of Park House Farm has connected to serve his house for domestic purposes and farm buildings.

Southlowe Estate.

157 lineal yards of 3" diameter cast iron water main have been laid to serve housing development which is taking place on the Southlowe Estate.

Oakamoor Water Scheme.

Work has almost been completed on the construction of the comprehensive water scheme for the village of Oakamoor. Water for this scheme is supplied from the Council's Counslow reservoir at Counslow, the water being pumped from the Tean Waterworks at Teanford. The length of mains laid is 7984 lineal yards comprising 3"

and 4" diameter pipes. Asbestos cement pipes have been laid along the road known as Riverside since this road was formed in what was formerly a canal, the filling being of ashes. To avoid corrosion which would have taken place with cast iron pipes, asbestos cement pipes were used.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Household refuse is collected by means of six covered refuse collection vehicles throughout the whole of the Rural District, the collections being made as far as reasonably practicable, on a weekly basis. The vehicles are operated by the Council's direct labour force with the exception of one parish, namely Waterhouses, where this is done by contract.

The refuse is disposed of in various parts of the Rural District by controlled tipping. The material for sealing off the refuse is mainly waste sand which is obtained from the various sand and gravel quarries which material can be obtained free of cost, the only charge being for loading the material and haulage from the various quarries to the tips.

The vehicles are housed and maintained at the Council's Depot, off Ashbourne Road, Cheadle, where the collectors report for duty.

This Depot is also used for the housing of various equipment and vehicles for the Council's sewage, water and housing services. Three vans and an open lorry are used in connection with sewage, water and housing. The storage of the necessary materials for the maintenance of these services is kept at this Depot.

HOUSING.

The number of houses completed during the year was :—

By Local Authority	....	....	149
By Private Enterprise	....	....	115
C.I. Housing Association	....	....	404
Total			668

Cheadle.

Well Street—Robina Drive.

During the year twenty houses and two bungalows have been built and occupied, which completes the development of this site. The streetworks have also been completed and the housing scheme as a whole presents an attractive contribution to the development of the town.

Dandillions—Attlee Road.

The preliminary construction of the streetworks and the laying of the foul and surface water sewers and water main have been completed.

On the site 21 houses have been completed and 43 houses are now under construction.

Churchill Road.

Two bungalows have been completed and tenanted on the corner site of Churchill Road and Victory Crescent.

Cheddleton.

During the year 12 houses have been completed. There is still provision on this site for a further 16 houses, together with an area allocated for shops.

Kingsley.

The Council have acquired an area of .268 acres near The Plough Inn, along Holt Lane. A contract for the erection of four houses has been let and the houses are now in course of construction.

Waterhouses.

The Council completed a scheme of 18 houses, which have been carefully laid out and as the site is within the area of the Peak Park Planning Board, special care was given to the choice of building materials. The trees along the frontage have been retained to obtain a pleasing scheme harmonising with the natural surroundings.

Tean.

The Wentlows.

During the year 34 houses have been completed and 6 houses are still under construction.

Dilhorne.

The contract for 8 houses on this site has been completed. Due to the houses being well elevated, a high level footpath was constructed to provide a convenient access for the tenants.

Weston Coyney.

During the year there have been 18 houses and 2 bungalows completed and remaining under construction is a block of 2 shops with Flats over.

Blythe Bridge.

The new site at Blythe Marsh will accommodate approximately 60 houses. During the year 8 houses and one block of 4 two-bedroomed flats have been completed and 22 houses are still under construction.

Cheadle.

The Avenue.

The Council acquired .54 acres of land and constructed a new street linking up The Avenue with The Birches. On the north side of the new street, the land was divided into six plots for bungalows. Five of the plots were sold individually for private development. On the remaining plot the Council are erecting a bungalow.

Private Enterprise.

The number of houses being built by private enterprise at present under construction with the Rural District is 83.

Coal Industry Housing Association.

On their site at Weston Coyney the Coal Industry Housing Association have completed the housing scheme providing 404 houses for miners. Of these houses, 112 are Cornish Unit type and 292 of Wates Type.



Chapter

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