### Contributors

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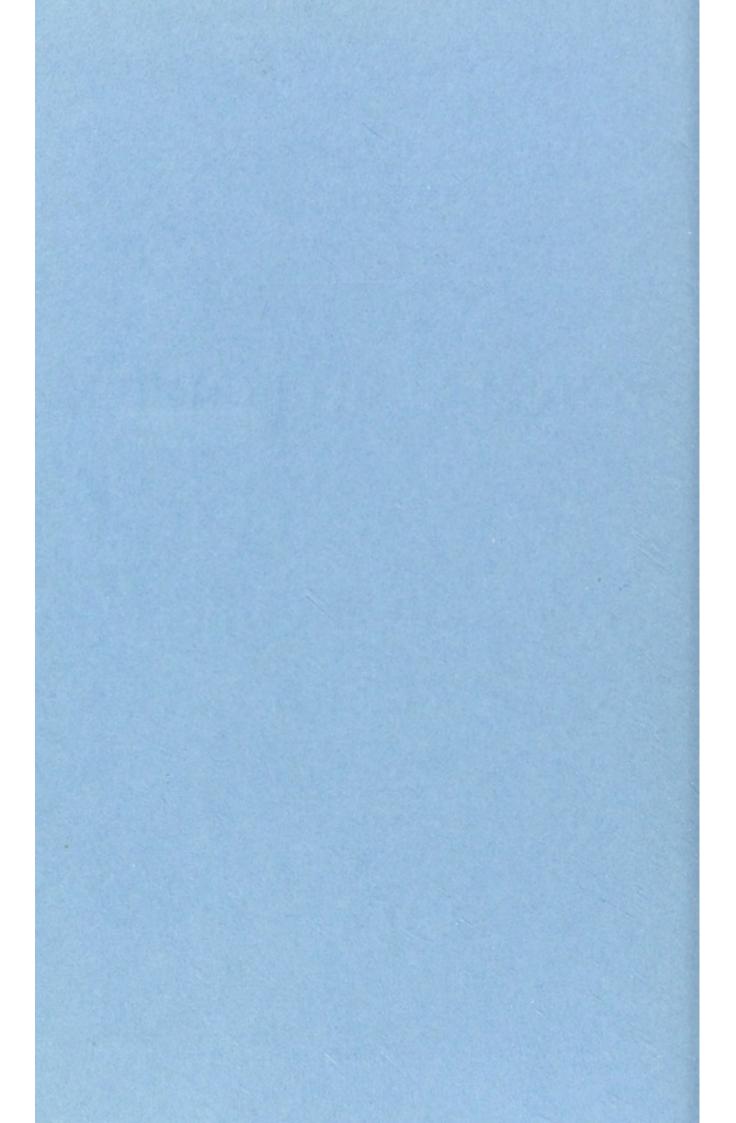
### CHEADLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

SEP 56

# of The Medical Officer of Health

# 1955

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### CHEADLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

# REPORT

### OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending December 31st, 1955

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.
- SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON THE SANITARY SUPERVISION OF THE DISTRICT INCLUDING FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.
- 10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, PREVALENCE AND CONTROL
- 11. DETAIL OF NEW WORKS, ETC., REPORTED BY THE SURVEYOR.

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# REPORT

### OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending December 31st, 1955

### INTRODUCTION

To the Chairman and Members of the Cheadle Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1.

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

The report again 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 time.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Mr. Keey, the late Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his quiet help and work in the District. Mr. Keey has retired after nineteen years service with the Council.

I would like too, if I may do so without presumption, to express my satisfaction with the Council's action in increasing the Sanitary Inspectors Staff. This resulted from the increased amount of work which had to be covered, and I now feel the Department in a position to carry out all its obligations. Expenditure on the promotion of health often can show no evidence of immediate benefits, but it is apparent to all who enquire that the nation's health is better than it was half a century ago, and much of the credit must go to those in the past who had the wisdom to spend money in the promotion of health.

I hope and believe that in half a century's time the same will be said about our generation.

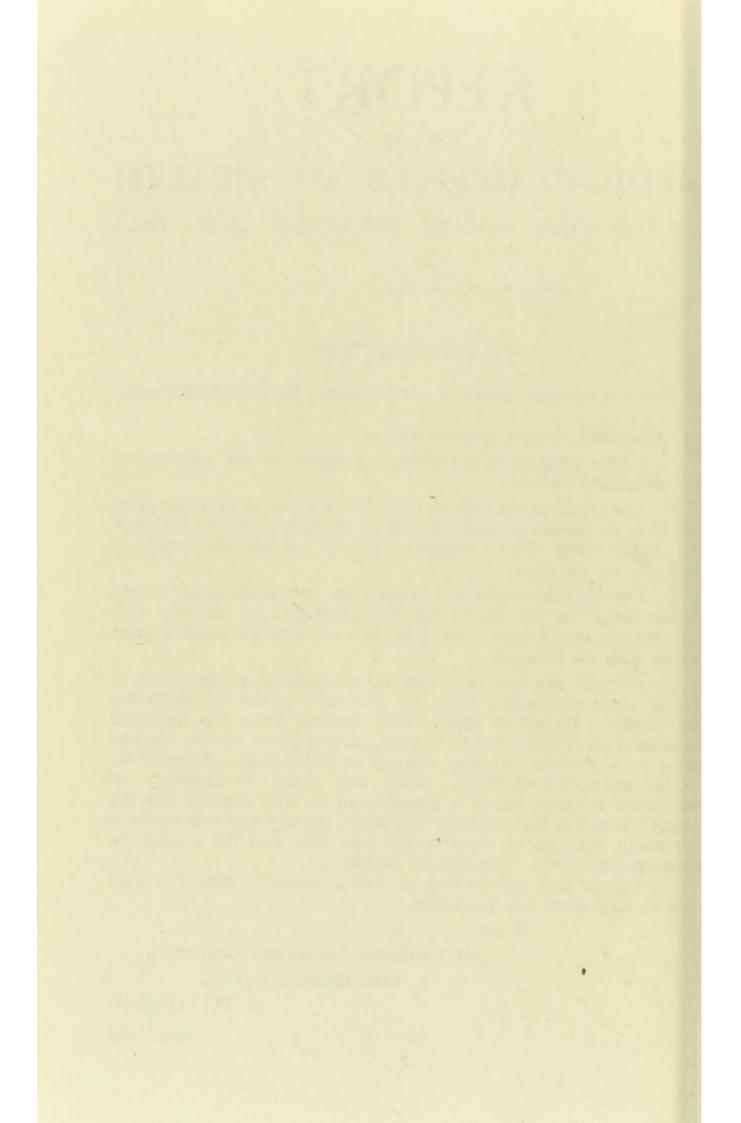
I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. H. TOMLIN.

July, 1955



### GENERAL INFORMATION

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

> PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955 Chairman : Mr. A. SMITH

Members- Mrs. R. Berry, Mrs. H. M. Gardner, Mrs. K. M. Harris, Messrs. J. H. Aberley, W. A. Ashton, J. A. Berresford, J. M. Berresford, J. Brindley, J. Byatt, R. L. Carr, P. Clowes, J. C. Cope, P. Cratchley, J. W. Crossley, R. A. Evernden, J. Finnikin, F. R. Ford, A. E. Foreman, J. R. Goodwin, S. E. Goodwin, D. Heath, N. Heathcote, W. H. Hewitt, J. E Horton, J. A. Hurst, F. Hulme, J. Johnson, W. Jones, S. W Lees, J. Moffatt, G. W. Morris, T. Mottram, J. Price, G. H. Shaw, W. Shelley, C. Spode, D. G. Spooner, F. G. Taylor, K. R. Tomkins, B. Tootall, W. C. Washburn, F. Williams, A. Wootton.

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 (to retirement on 21st July, 1955).
- R. COMLEY, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., Chief Sanitary Inspector (from 21st July, 1955) Food Inspector.
- D. N. DUNLOP, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector (from 1st July, 1955).
- B. R. NAGLE, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector (from 1st August, 1955).
- K. M. HAWKINS, Clerk.

2.

### 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.

K. J. RATCLIFFE, Engineering Assistant.

W. BENNETT, A.M.I.Mun.E., Engineering Assistant.

- P. J. DREWRY, Clerk of Works.
- M. H. J. EVANS, Engineering Assistant-
- W. H. HOBSON, Clerk
- J. W. SHAW, Clerk.
- H ALKINS, Clerk.
- R. SHEMILT, Shorthand Typist.
- M. P. BROOKES, Shorthand Typist.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)
Registrar General's Estimate of population 34,420
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book 9,763
Rateable Value £130,088
Sum represented by a penny rate £486 17s. 10d.

No major changes affecting the social conditions in the area can be ascribed to the year 1955. Full employment continued, with no new industry established.

The R.A.F. Camp which had been in existence at Cheadle since the days of the war was closed but as this was a small unit with few "permanent" personnel its going could not. I think, have appreciably affected social life in the District.

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.

Last year in my report I made some comment on the provision of facilities for the welfare of the aged, and suggested the desirability of considering the provision of a Home for Old People in Cheadle. During the year 1955 a Public Meeting was called and a committee was set up to go into the question. The provision of a Home it was thought would be an asset to the district, but the only premises available were not considered suitable.

This year I would devote some space in this section to a brief review of the recreational facilities available for youth in the area, and in doing so I would point out that 'Health' has been defined as "a complete state of physical, mental and social wellbeing."

The provision of adequate recreational facilities for youth will do much to prevent the development of unsocial trends such as "Teddy Boyism" in youth, and perhaps the individual feelings of unrest and inadequacy in later life which result in the stress diseases, such as coronary thrombosis.

Cheadle District is, I think, not badly served for such recreational facilities. The small size of some of the village communities make it impossible for some of the well-established youth organisations, such as the Boy Scouts to cover the whole district but there are in the District fourteen Youth Clubs which cover most of the larger villages.

The membership of these Youth Clubs varies between 18 and 85 and most of them meet once or twice a week. Besides the social side of the meetings, and the experience of running a community organisation afforded to the members, the clubs provide recreational and cultural facilities such as table tennis, organised football, swimming, lectures and debates, the production of plays,

3.

etc. Group facilities offered to the Clubs in 1955 included a Musical Festival at Ipstones where 150 members from the Cheadle Clubs attended, and week end courses in Camping and Canoeing near Cheddleton.

The activities of any particular club must of course depend on the inclination and enthusiasm of the Club members. General guidance in the organisation and running of the clubs is available from the County Council's Service of Youth, but the success of a club must depend on its members' enthusiasm, and that in turn can be inspired by the enthusiasm of each club's adult "Leader".

These Youth Club Leaders are, I am sure, making a very real contribution to the well being of our community.

Nevertheless it should be known that membership of Youth Clubs totals around 500, and there are in the district perhaps 2,500 persons of an age where membership would be of value. There is room for expansion.

If any reader of this report could help in the establishment of a new club, or could help in the running of an existing club and has no contact with the Youth Service Movement I would gladly do my best to advise them as to who to approach in the first place.

Alternatively they might approach Mr. Gordon Myatt, the Area Youth Organiser, who I would thank for much of the detail included in the above paragraphs.

### TAE

### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEAS

	Scarlet	Fever	Whoopin	g Coo
Numbers originally notified	M. 26	F. 37	M. 25	F# 300
Final numbers after correction     Ages     0      1      3      5      10      15      25 and over      Age unknown      Total		1 1 6 21 8  37	5 7 7 6  25	10
	M.	monia F.	M.	ntery
Numbers originally notified	8	9	3	1
Final numbers after correction     Ages     0      5      15      45      65 and over      Age unknown      Total	 1 6 1  8	2 3  4  9	·· 1 2   3	
TUBERCULOSIS	Respi	ratory	Mening	es C.1
Numbers originally notified Total (all ages)	M. 12	F. 7	M. 2	F 1
Final numbers after correction     Under 5     5-14     15-24     25-44     45-64     65 and over     Age unknown     Total (all ages	$ \begin{array}{c}         1 \\         2 \\       $	··· 1 3 2 ··· 1 ··· 7	2     2	··· 1 ·· · ·

"B"

### BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS

• -

	asles ig rubella)	P	Acute aralytic	Poliomy Non-j	yelitis paralytic		
M. 41	F.   46	M. 4	F. 	M. 1	F. 	12/030	41842. Ber
1 14	1 12	··i					
7	11						
18	21						
1	1					1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	
			•••				
••					••		
41	46	4					
41	1 40	Fo					
Erys	ipelas	Poiso		1		spine 6	
M. 1	F.   1	M. 5	F. 2				
1	1	3 2	1 1				,
1	1	5	2		an province		
Ot	hers	Other N Diseas	lotifiable es	Origi Not	nally ified	Final N after co	umbers rrection
M. 2	F. 2	Puerperal Ophthalmi	ia	M.	F.	М.	F.
1   1	1 1  	neonatoru	m				
2	2		none of the	Contractory of the	in to in		

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, 1955. BIRTHS Males. Females Live Births—Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Illegitimate ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Still Births-Total ... ... ... ... ... ... ... DEATHS Total, all causes ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Deaths of infants under 1 year ... ... ... ... Deaths of infants under 4 weeks ... ... ... ... Deaths from Tuberculosis (respiratory) ... ... Tuberculosis (non-respiratory) ... ... Syphilis ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Influenza ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Other Infectious Diseases ... ... Cancer of Stomach ... ... ... Cancer of the lungs and bronchi ... Cancer of the breast ... ... ... Cancer of the uterus ... ... ... Other malignant neoplasms ... ... Diabetes ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Vascular lesions of nervous system Coronary disease and angina ... ... Hypertension with heart disease ... Other heart disease ... ... ... Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... ... Bronchitis... ... ... ... ... ... ... Other respiratory diseases ... ... Ulcers of stomach and duodenum ... Gastritis and enteritis ... ... ... Nephritis ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Enlargement of prostate ... ... Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion Congenital malformations ... ... Motor Accidents ... ... ... ... All other accidents ... ... ... Suicide ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... Registrar General's Estimated Mid. Year Population ... ... 34,420 Registrar General's Comparability Factors-Births 1.04; Deaths 1.03

### Population.

The Registrar General's estimate for the District's population in mid 1955 was 34,420 which shows an increase of 1,190.

This must largely be due to persons coming into the district to the new housing estates as the number of births registered only exceed the number of deaths by twelve.

### Live Births.

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

### Still Births.

14 were registered as against 13 and 7 in the preceding years.

### Birth Rate.

Using the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor, Cheadle has a total (live and still) Birth Rate of 15.5 per 1,000 of the population. (14.25 in 1954).

### Legitimacy of births.

The proportion of illegitimate births decreased to 20 per 1.000 total births compared with 27 and 55 in the preceding years. Although this tigure may fluctuate from year to year it is satisfactory to note that the proportion in the last two years is considerably less in Cheadle than in the country as a whole. As indicated in my report for 1954 1 think this rate can be taken as an index of the mental, moral and social stability and well-being of a community.

### Deaths.

485 deaths were registered in the Rural District in 1955. Numbers in preceding years were 476, 432, 322, 344, and 304.

As pointed out previously this increase is largely due to the new system of ascribing to the Rural District the deaths of persons from other Districts coming into our hospitals to die.

It will be impossible to draw any conclusions from this new Death Rate until the system has been in operation for some years

### Infant Mortality.

Eleven children under one year of age died in 1955. The numbers in preceding years were 13 and 14.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 22.0 per 1,000 related live births, which can be regarded as satisfactory. Seven of the eleven deaths were in infants under four weeks.

### Maternal Mortality.

For a second year no deaths associated with child birth occured.

### Causes of Death.

The numbers of deaths from selected cases are shown in the statistical table.

The commonest groups are Heart Disease 193 (194), Cancer 58 (81), Cerebral Thrombosis etc. (strokes) 61 (55), Respiratory diseases 40 (16).

The figures in brackets are those for the previous year.

### Ages at death in 1955.

	ntages		
Ages	Males	Females	Total
0-10	4.0	1.0	2.4
11-20	1.0	0.4	0.6
21-30	2.0	0.8	1.2
31-40	2.0	0.8	1.4
41-50	6.0	4.0	5.1
51-60	12.0	10.0	11.3
61-70	24.0	22.0	23.0
71-80	35.0	38.0	36.0
Over 80	14.0	23.0	18.0

The decades of life in which deaths occured are shown in the following table.

Consideration of the table shows that very few deaths occur under the age of 50 years.

Fifteen deaths were between birth and school leaving age and of these three were due to accidents which might have been prevented, four were due to illness in which medical treatment held out some hope of recovery and nine were due to causes for which we have at present no means of treatment or hope of prevention.

Thirty-eight deaths occured between school leaving age and fifty years, and the remaining two hundred and thirty two were in persons of over fifty years.

In my report for 1950 a survey was made of causes of death in childhood. This year it may be of interest to place on record a survey of the causes of death in middle life—that is the thirty-eight deaths between leaving school and fifty years.

They may be classified as follows:-

Accidental deaths	6
Deaths due to condition which	
is treatable 1	3
Deaths from congenital causes	2
Deaths from malignant disease	8
Deaths from heart disease	4
Deaths from other diseases in which treat-	
ment is of little avail	5

It would appear that about half these deaths are due to conditions in which there is at least some hope of prevention or remedy by medical treatment. Tables showing the extent of piped 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 in the district, including the comprehensive scheme to Oakamoor.

During the year investigations were held into the possibilities of taking a piped supply to the outlying localities of Blore-with-Swinscoe, Bottomhouses and Freehay.

In all cases the main difficulty was that of the cost of the scheme. Many of the properties which would be benefitted were tarms, which would show a considerable capital appreciation if mains water were laid on. In fairness to other rate-payers the Council felt every effort should be made to obtain some contribution to the costs from those who would benefit most by the schemes.

In these localities there is no denying that the present water supplies are! not satisfactory, but any expenditure on improving environmental services must be planned on a basis of 'the greatest good for the greatest number.'"

PARISH	No. of Properties with Mains Water laid on	No. of Properties using stand taps
ALTON	354	66
CAVERSWALL	2,252	36
CHEADLE	2,318	68
CHECKLEY	707	63
CHEDDLETON	967	7
CONSALL	26	
COTTON	74	1
DILHORNE	139	28
DRAYCOTT	256	4
FARLEY	34	
FORSBROOK	734	14
IPSTONES	344	18
KINGSLEY	723	13
OAKAMOOR	158	34
WATERHOUSES .	254	7
TOTALS	9,340	359

5.

Probable number coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37 deg. C Probable number of faecal coli		BAC	Injurious Metallic contam- ination p.H.Value	Appearance	Total solids dried at 212°F Free and Saline Ammonia Albuminoid Ammonia Nitric Nitrogen Chlorine	
	Ipstones Foxt	TERIOLOG	Nil 6.4	4nrs Nil Minute trace Suspended Matter	19.0 Nil 0.20 1.5	Ipstones Foxt
	Werrington	BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION	Nil 8.1	0.004 Clear	30.5 Nil 0.55 1.8	Werrington
1 1	Alton	AMINATIO	None 6.4	Nil No Colour	12.0 Nil 0.0004 0.05 1.1	Alton
1 1	Whiston	•	Nil 6.6	Clear and Colcurless	16.0 Nil Nil 0.10 1.4	Whiston
	Cauldon	WATER SAMPLES 1951.	Nil 6.6	Clear and Colourless	13.0 Nil 0.0004 Nil 1.4	Cauldon
1 1	Kingsley	MPLES 19:	Minute trace of Iron 6.3	0.004 No Colour	11.0 0.0004 0.0012 0.10 1.3	Kingsley
	Tean	51.	None 7.2	0.004 Minute trace Suspended Matter	24.5 Nil 0.0004 0.39 1.9	Tean
	Cheadle		NII 7.1	Nil Clear	30.0 Nil Nil 1.0 2.3	Cheadle

# CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

### HOUSING

The Table below indicates the progress made in housing in recent years. Further detail is given in Section 12. (Surveyor's Report).

Year Year Year	Houses built by Local Authority	Houses built by Private Enterprise	Houses built by Coal Industry Housing Assoc.	Totals
1948	155	7		162
1949	103	19		122
1950	113	18		131
1951	61	16	Carlos and Carlos and	77
1952	138	31		169
1953	150	85	and a fin how welco	235
1954	149	115	404	668
1955	94	153		247
TOTAL	<b>S</b> 963	446	404 .	1813

In October the Council informed the Minister of Local Government of its intention with regard to "slum clearance" or dealing with "unfit" houses.

In effect this was that from its future building programme half the houses should be used to rehouse persons from houses due for demolition and half to house people whose need arose from other causes.

Two hundred and eighty four houses were thought by the Sanitary Inspector to be unfit for human habitation and one hundred and fifty six of these could be dealt with in clearance areas. These figures were agreed by the Council, and it was thought it would take six to seven years to deal with the clearance of these unfit houses.

The renovation and modernisation of existing owner occupied houses continued to increase, and with 34 cases of improvement grants being made this contribution to our over-all housing position can no longer be considered trivial.

In four instances during the year the Council adhered to its policy that houses would not be built for the employees of any particular firm or body, but that such employees be considered for housing in the normal way with the rest of the applicants.

During the year the Council offered building sites for sale on its estate at Cheddleton but the response was negligible. At present there would seem to be no shortage of building land on the private estates. In 43 cases the Council agreed to act as Guarantors to Building Societies under Section 5 of the Housing Act 1949.

During the year negotiations were commenced for the acquirement of land to serve as a Caravan Site.

7.

### SEWERAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

As in most rural areas the provision of a piped water supply creates drainage problems and must be followed up by a proper sewerage system if full advantage is to be taken of it.

Considerable engineering works and expense in the way of provision of good facilities for dealing with sewage still lie ahead of us, and the Council is well aware of this.

During the year work commenced on new sewerage projects in Kingsley and the Blythe Valley area. When these are completed Ipstones and then Alton are to be tackled and in both cases there is real need.

The arrangements for Refuse Collection in the Rural District are set out in the Surveyor's Report. I would say here that the Council's decision to appoint a Refuse Collection Foreman has in my opinion been justified by the more sanitary condition of the tips alone.

### 8.

### FOOD AND NUTRITION

### Nutritional State.

The nutritional state of the community, as judged by the inspection of school children and infants remains excellent.

### Clean Food.

Not a year goes by without some outbreak of alimentary infection which might be transmitted by contaminated food or improper food handling.

Looking through past reports I find the following-

- 1950. Food poisoning out-break in hotel.
- 1951. Dysentery epidemic.

Two sporadic cases of paratyphoid in villages and outbreak of paratyphoid in a hospital.

- 1952. Outbreak of Infectious diarrhoea in a school.
- 1953. Outbreak of Epidemic vomiting in a school.
- 1954. Outbreak of Dysentery in hospital. Outbreak of Food Poisoning. Outbreak of Epidemic Vomiting.
- 1955. Outbreak of food poisoning. Isolated cases of dysentery.

As stated in my report for 1952 there remains room for improvement in food premises.

The proposals for new Food Hygiene Regulations and our increased staff should allow us to bring this improvement into effect, but I would again stress that Public Opinion is more effective than Regulations.

However modern and well equipped premises may be there is still danger from dirty or careless habits of those working in them, or indeed from customers visiting them.

A box full of tomatoes in the market square seems an irresistable attraction to passers-by to handle them and test them for ripeness—and each person handling them might unknowingly be a germ carrier.

We are constantly telling the public that they should wash their hands after visiting the toilet—but how often do we find facilities provided for this at, say, a public house? The customer has to handle a door knob which is doubtless infected, then handles a glass which goes straight to his mouth.

The customer should not only avoid unhygienic shops, restaurants and hotels, but should let it be known why he was so doing. If this were the case the premises would soon cease to be unhygienic.

### Milk.

The cleanliness of milk, as judged by the Methylene Blue Test again showed a considerable amount of the milk retailed was not up to the standards of purity which are desired. Out of 379 samples 60 (15.8%) failed to pass the test.

Of 232 samples of milk examined for tuberculosis five were found to contain tuberculosis germs.

Milk, an ideal nutritional food, remains dangerous unless pasteurised, sterilised or otherwise effectively heat treated.

9.

### REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

I have pleasure in submitting my remarks upon the duties performed during the year by this Department of the Council.

July of this year saw the retirement from his employment with the Council of Mr. A. P. Keey, my predecessor as Senior Sanitary Inspector, and I should like to record my tribute to him. Having worked with Mr. Keey for eight years I have come to appreciate his sense of duty and high integrity. He has worked for the good of the District in his own quiet manner and he will be remembered by many for his kindly assistance. I should like to wish Mr. and Mrs. Keey a long and happy retirement.

Previous reports have referred to staffing difficulties in the Department and this problem of staff shortage was eased during the year with the appointment of Mr. D. N. Dunlop in July and Mr. B. R. Nagles in August. The additional staff has meant that one can arrange for much routine work to be done which has been left undone for a long time. The increase in staff has necessitated the removal of the Department from very restricted space to more spacious offices and I am most grateful to the Council for these greatly improved working conditions.

### HOUSING.

Work in connection with the letting of houses has continued to occupy much time as will be seen from the number of visits made to the homes of applicants. The reduction in the number of housing sites has brought about an increase in correspondence received in the Department, from applicants wishing to transfer their applications to a parish where houses are being erected. There has been a very marked difference in the need of applicants recently compared with perhaps two years since, there is no longer the gross overcrowding of the larger families and the applicants not having a separate home are not living in such overcrowded conditions as was apparent in the past.

These changed conditions give a possible lead to future housing policy when no doubt the condition of a house will decide upon the rehousing of the occupier, and emphasis is likely to be on Slum Clearance.

### Housing Repair and Rents Act 1954.

Section 1 of this Act required the submission of the Council's proposals for dealing with unfit houses in the district and the proposals were to be returned to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government by 30th August, 1955 but owing to the staff shortage it was not found possible for these proposals to be submitted until 28th October, 1955. The details submitted were as follows.

- Part I. The total problem.
  - (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act 1936 284
  - (ii) Period of years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i) 6-7 yrs.
- Part II. Orders already made, etc.
  - (iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority Nil

### Part III. Action in the first five years.

- (v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years ... ... Nil
- (vi) Number of houses which aer to be included in clear-
- (vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister
- (vii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under secton 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 for temporary accommodation ..... Nil

112

- (viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years ... ... ... ... 112

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 provided us with a Standard of Fitness of a house for human habitation but this is capable of the widest variation in interpretation and I doubt if there is any function of Local Government that creates so varied an opinion as the question of whether a house is unfit for human habitation.

There are houses in this district which should cease to be occupied as soon as possible, the damp, dark, dilapidated conditions under which the occupiers of these houses exist cannot help but have a bad effect on all aspects of their health and welfare.

### HOUSNG ACT 1936

Whilst continuing a programme of rehousing overcrowded families, cases have arisen where a poor dwelling has become vacants and opportunity has been taken to bring about demolition, closing or repair of the house and during the year nine houses have been so dealt with.

Number of houses upon inspection were considered to be unfit	113
Number of houses the defects of which were remedied by	
informal action	92
Number of representations made—	
(a) execution of work	12
(b) demolition or closing	9
Number of notices served requiring works	12
Number of houses rendered fit after service of notice	12
Number of Demolition or Closing Orders	9
Number of Undertakings	1
Number of houses demolished	4

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954-Certificate of Disrepair.

Few applications (six) have been received for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 Section 26 and it would appear that with the restriction on increase on rents of twice the statutory repair deduction or a stopper on increase of twice the gross value, few owners in the district have been able to obtain an increase of the rental of their houses. I consider that every effort should be made to prevent the present drift, by this, I mean the acceptance by both owner and tenant of a house which by reason of lack of normal maintenance is moving slowly but surely to a state when it will enter the group of houses labelled "not repairable at a reasonable expense". The final result will be the requirement of an expensive new Council house.

### HOUSING ACT 1949

### Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954-Improvement Grant.

There has been an increase in the number of enquiries concerning Improvement Grants. 37 Formal applications have been made and of these, 34 approved. The costs attached to Improvement Grants are interesting.

Costs submitted including repairs and improvements
not ranking for grant £14,721 14s. 11d.
Costs approved as reasonable £13,764 5s. 0d.
Grants made £6,882 2s. 6d.
It will be seen that the cost of repairs is an average of only

£28 per property and this indicates that it is only the owner of a house which is in good repair condition who is taking advantage of the grant scheme. It is often the cost of repairs that proves a deterrent to an owner of the older house proceeding with an improvement scheme.

In previous reports it has been stressed that many people were unaware of the Improvement Grant Scheme but much has been done to publicise the scheme and today many builders and architects when called upon to prepare alterations are advising their clients on the Scheme.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

### Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

There have been nineteen slaughterhousse in use throughout the year and with the exception of six, licenses have been issued for the maximum period to the 31st July, 1959. These exceptions are licensed for limited periods and alterations and improvements are being carried out, on completion of which I anticipate that Licenses for the maximum period will be granted.

The slaughterhouses are mainly for use by traders operating one shop or traders having perhaps in addition a stall in the market of the adjoining city of Stoke-on-Trent.

The standard of structure aimed at has been a hanging room separate from the slaughterhouse, hot and cold water on tap, walls and floors impervious, adequate lighting and ventilation. This objective has been attained in nearly all cases and it is good to see the pride now taken by many butchers in their premises and in their methods, although the methods of a minority will need to be improved and this will. I have no doubt be achieved in the near future as I find that good working conditions encourage improved working methods.

The work of meat inspection requires the services of one inspector from Monday until Thursday each week and it can be said that there is in this district 100% inspection of animals killed for human consumption and I should like to acknowledge the help-ful manner in which the butchers give the appropriate and prompt notification of slaughter.

I believe that this inspection duty is of a paramount importance and no meat should be sold to the public before it has been efficiently inspected. I consider that the Law should require this and that it should not be left to the sense of duty of the butcher and local authority inspector to ensure that it is done.

The followng table indicates the number and different types of animals killed and the number of animals affected with Tuberculosis and Conditions other than Tuberculosis.

The incidence of Tuberculosis in Cows remains high at 28.7%

The incidence of diseases other than Tuberculosis in cattle would appear to be very high but it should be borne in mind that the majority of infection are parasitic conditions of lungs and/or livers.

	attle luding vs. Co	ws. (	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs. Ho	orses
Number Killed (if known)	729	836	1475	4699	1813	
Number inspected	729	836	1475	4699	1813	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						9119 903
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	4		1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	146	283		465	61	
Percentage of the num inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci		33.97%	0.27%	9.9%	3.42%	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	2	1	1			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	. 72	239			101	
Percentage of the nur inspected affected with Tuberculosis		28.71	% 0.067	%	5.57%	
Cysticercosis. Carcases of which som part or organ was condemned	ne 7	1				

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

Carcases submitted treatment by refrigeration	io	1	1	 	
Generalised and totally condemned				 	

### Slaughter of Animals Act 1933/54.

Forty slaughtermen's Licenses have been issued during the year and on the issue of the Licenses the applicant is now informed of the necessity of obtaining from the Police a Fire Arms Certificate under the Fire Arms Act 1937.

### Food and Hygiene Regulations 1955

It is not until the first of January 1956 that these Regulations come into operation but I would say that they should prove of considerable help to the Sanitary Inspectors in bringing about improvement in food handling and display.

### Offensive Trades.

Knackers Yard—There is one knackers yard in the District and regular visits are made to the premises. It has been necessary on several occasions to require improvement in conditions at these premises.

Gut scraping, Fat Melting and Fat Extracting.—Since the construction of the new premises following the action taken by the Council, the conditions at these premises have improved considerably but there remains a general untidy method of working.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

More than 300 complaints, most of which are covered by this Act, have been received during the year and the routine work of drainage, conversion of privies and water connections has continued.

The Draycott Sewerage Scheme has been completed and connected to the Blythe Valley Trunk Sewer. The areal covered by the scheme was served by numerous septic tanks which have been unsatisfactory for many years. It has not been found necessary to take Statutory Action to bring about the connection of properties to the sewer, the owners have been approached by letter and by interview and 169 properties have now been connected.

### Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

The following table indicates the number and type of Licenses issued in respect of milk retailers within the District.

Special Designation.	Number of Dealers' Licenses.	Number of Supplementary Licenses
Tuberculin Tested	15	10
Pasteurised	20	11
Sterilised	42	12

### RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts 1949.

Work of Rodent Control continues to be carried out by the Rodent Operative under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The following table indicates the number of inspections carried out to the various types of properties within the District.

	and E	11:00	Duringer	A	
	ocal E Authority	Dwelling Houses		Agriculura	
No. of properties					
in Local Authority's District	22	8858	927	004	
Number of properties		0000	921	903	
inspected as a result					
of— Notification		59	4		
Survey under th				ALCON THE !!	
Act	22	339	38	223	
Otherwise					
Total inspections					
carried out including	~	17.1	105	201	
re-inspections	64	474	105	223	
Number of properties inspected which were					
found to be infested	,		1		
(a) Rats. Major			Barroll San		
Minor.	22	371	32	15	
(b) Mice. Major					
Minor		6	10		
Number of infested					
properties treated					
by Local Authority	22	377	42		
Total treatments carri	ed				
out including re-treatments	63	153	0.0		
e-treatments	05	453	98		
No. of Block Control					
schemes carried out 2	29 (in resp	ect of 244 I	properties)		

### SHOPS ACTS 1950.

The powers of the Staffs. County Council under the Shops Acts are delegated by agreement to the Rural District Council and the Council have placed upon me the responsibility of inspection under the Act.

In general the shopkeepers of the District comply with the Closing provisions of the Act but during the year a difficulty was found in the non-compliance with the Closing Provisions by a Mobile Shop. It was necessary to take this case to the Stipendiary Magistrates Court and a fine of  $\pounds 2$  with costs amounting to  $\pounds 1$  11s. was made by the Court.

Infectious Diseases.		
Number of visits		11
Number of disinfections		6
bakehouses.		
Number on Register		9
Number of visits		16
Slaughterhouses.		10
Number on register		19
Number of inspections		287
Offensive Trades.		
Number of premises		2
Number of inspections		24
Shops Acts.		
Number of inspections		88
Petroleum Regulations.		
Petroleum Licenses issued		87
Carbide Licenses issued		
Number of inspections		12
Factories and Workshops.		
Number on register		124
Number using mechanical power		70
Number of inspections		11
Letting of Houses.		
Number of houses occupied during the year		93
Number of persons rehoused		362
Number of persons housed per dwelling		3.89
Section 47 Public Health Act 1936.		
Number of conversions carried out		17
Estimates submitted £564		6d.
Final cost £447		0d.
Office made in the ter ter ter ter	10s.	6d.
Average cost per conversion £26	5s.	11d.

### Details of Miscellaneous Food Surrendered.

61lbs. Cooked Tongue	28lbs. of Wet Fish
6 6lbs. tins of Tongue	62 tins of various fruits
1 11b. 6oz. Ox Tongue	67 tins of various vegetables
9 tins of Ham (total weight	3 tins of milk
96lbs.)	2 tins of Soup
26 tins of various meats.	338 Steadman Powders.
25lbs. Prunes	

SUMMA	RY	OF	WO	RK	CARRIED	OUT	BY
	SA	NITA	ARY	INS	SPECTORS		

	and servations made.	Notices S Informal.		Notices Complied with
Complaints and Nuisances	333	95	30	95
Food Premises	104	15		15
Food Inspection	1783			
Ice Cream Premises	10	1		1
Bakehouses	18	3		3
Farms and Dairies	32			
Housing Applications	523			
Housing Act 1936	922		9	9
Housing Act 1949	207			
Housing Repairs & Rents	Act 10			
Slaughterhouses	287		19	13
Offensive Trades	24	4		4
Conversions	77	11	4	13
Drainage	236	192	8	177
Shops Acts	88		1	1
Factories and Workshops	11	4		4
Petroleum Regulations	12			
Water Supplies	27	6	2	7
Water Samples	31			
Rodent Control	355			
Disinfections	6			
Scavenging	4	27	16	29
Infectious Diseases	11			
Re-visits of complaints	100	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Interviews and other visits	443			
TOTALS	5654	358	89	391

26

### 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
I.—Factories in which Sect- ions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	54	2		
2 Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	70	9'		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers prem- ises)				
	124	11		

### 2. Cases in which defects were found to exist.

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions. were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S1)					
Overcrowding (S2) Unreasonable Temperature					
— (S3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S4)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S7).					
(a) insufficient	22	2		2	
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2			
(c) not separate for sexes					
Ineffective drainage of floors					
Other offences against the					1.
Act (not including off-		and the second	10.000	1000.000	Section 1
ences relating to out-				inner	
	and the second second	1			
work)				1 ha	
			-		
TOTAL	4	4	2		

### 10. INFECTIOUS DISEASE, PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.

### Notifications.

Details of notifications are given in Table B. None of the notifiable diseases occured in epidemic form, although Scarlet Fever, with 63 cases, had a higher incidence than at any time for the past eight years.

Other infections reported from schools include 27 cases of chicken pox, 31 cases of mumps, 4 of impetigo and 1 of influenza. **Dysentery**.

One isolated case came to light in St. Edward's Hospital and four cases from Weston Coyney.

### Polio-myelitis.

Although only four cases were notified this is the greatest number that the Rural District has ever had.

### Food poisoning.

There was a small out-break of vomiting and diarrhoea at Tean, in which those affected had nothing in common except that they had all bought and eaten cooked pressed meat from the same butcher and on the same day.

None of this suspected meat was available for examination, but the symptoms of the cases and their negative bacteriology left little doubt that the illness was due to a staphylococcal food poisoning conveyed by accidental infection of one batch of the cooked meat.

The general hygiene of the premises in which the meat was prepared was good, and none of the food handlers showed any signs of disease.

It is possible that the out-break was due to some customer sneezing or coughing in the direction of the meat at the time it was in the shop and exposed for sale. Such mishaps could of course be prevented by keeping meat under glass shelving instead of on open trays or counter slabs.

### Influenza.

In 1954 the Ministry of Health had asked local authorities Medical Officers to advise them immediately of the out-break of winter epidemic disease, such as influenza.

In the Cheadle Rural District the following steps were taken to secure early information as to the existence of any such epidemics.

- (a) Local doctors were circulated asking for early informmation.
- (b) Local factories were asked to notify sudden and unexpected increase of absenteeism from work.
- (c) The Ministry of National Insurance was to notify any marked increase of Sickness Claims.
- (d) Schools, as previously, were required to notify absences from influenza.

In January 1955 a doctor informed me of the existence of an epidemic of what appeared clinically to be influenza in the Blythe Bridge area. Subsequently he was most helpful in supplying clinical details and blood specimens for the Ministry, and it was confirmed that the cases were in fact due to Influenza. The extent of the out-break was difficult to determine, but in the week before Christmas when school attendance is usually good it had dropped from the normal 90 per cent. to 47 per cent.

At this time there was no knowledge of the presence of epidemic influenza in the Pottery Towns, and later the epidemic did not spread outside Blythe Bridge.

The usual progress of upper respiratory infection is that the epidemic spreads across the rural district either from north to south or from west to east, having originated so far as we are concerned in Leek or the Potteries.

The fact that quite an extensive epidemic could remain localised was of interest to the Ministry and such knowledge may well be of use in planning campaigns of preventive inoculation against influenza if and when a reliable vaccine becomes available.

### Diphtheria.

In the continued absence of this disease in the Rural District comment must be confined to the need for continued emphasis on preventive inoculation.

As was found in south Staffordshire the disease can still reappear with its former dangers, and protection calls not only for inoculation in infancy but subsequent re-inforcing inoculations during school life on entering school and again at the age of eleven. The out-break in south Staffordshire also pointed out the desirability for a third re-inforcing inoculation at the age of eight.

My personal views are that with the possibility of complete erradication of diptheria before us every effort in the coming years is worth while, and that we should accept the policy of striving for a third re-inforcing dose during school life.

The proportion of our children effectively protected is still far too low, although in contrast with other districts the amount by which we fall short of our target is not increasing.

385 children received a course of primary immunisation and in additon 131 children received a reinforcing dose.

The annual numbers of primary immunisation in preceding years has been 307, 260, 369, 588, 410, 398.

### Whooping Cough.

With seventy-five notified cases the incidence of this disease was slightly below the yearly average. Thirty-four of the cases, however came from Weston Coyney and this village must be looked upon as having had a local epidemic. In the autumn of 1953 the County Council gave its official support to a policy of vaccination against whooping cough, and it is only now that records are available in sufficient numbers to make any attempt to see what protection has been given.

In 1954 the number of children born in the district was 441. At the end of 1955 the number of these children who had been immunised against whooping cough was 146, leaving 295 not protected.

In these 295 unprotected children there were 7 cases of whooping cough. In the 146 protected children there were NO cases.

This does not, of course, prove that immunisation gives 100 per cent. protection in every case, but it does support very strongly the claim that from the individual's view-point immunisation against whooping cough is very well worth while.

During 1955 the number of primary immunisations against whooping cough in the Rural District was 177, roughly 39 per cent. of all infants born.

No comment has been made in this report for some years about smallpox or vaccination against this disease.

Since the cessation of compulsory vaccination and in the absence of the disease the proportion of the community protected against small pox has been getting steadily less year by year.

The proportion of protected persons now is so low that 1 think we must regard ourselves as an unprotected community—that is one in which the proportion of protected individuals is so small that it would not have any appreciable action in delaying or limiting an outbreak of small pox should one occur.

Furthermore, I can not see that in the absence of small pox "Health Education" or Propaganda will be at all effective in bringing the proportion of protected people up to a level which would give protection to the community should an outbreak occur.

Admittedly vaccination against small pox is more troublesome than inocculation against diphtheria or whooping cough.

On the other hand I feel most strongly that from the individual's standpoint vaccination is most desirable. Vaccination of an infant may save its life in later years.

In the Rural District the number of primary vaccinations done in 1955 was only 120 and a considerable number of these were in adults who were going overseas and for whom vaccination was compulsory.

### Tuberculosis.

New cases notified were 12 males and 7 females with pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 males and 3 females with non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The total of 19 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis compares with 8, 25, 29, 26, 16, 20 and 19 in the preceding years.

Two deaths occured from pulmonary tuberculosis (one male and one female) and one male death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The total of 3 deaths compares with 5, 3, 4, 4, 8, 10, 14 and 13 in previous years.

Undoubtedly these local figures support the national ones in showing that new methods of treatment introduced after the late war have considerably reduced the mortality from this disease but have not appreciably reduced the number of cases of infection which come to light.

At one time it was felt that a diagnosis of tuberculosis was almost a sentence of death, and fear led to concealment of the disease.

It is to be hoped that this is no longer the case. The earlier a sufferer consults a doctor, is correctly diagnosed, and has treatment started the better are the chances of recovery,

### Cancer.

While cancer is not an infectious disease it is one of "public health" importance and some comment here may be of value.

In February 1955 a monthly return of Cancer Deaths was started with the idea of supplying information to the Birmingham Regional Cancer Statistical Research Committee and during the year 47 cases were reported.

Reviewing these reports several facts emerge which, while not new, might well be made known to the general public.

First, the disease is for the most part one of elderly people. No deaths occured under 40, and only five under 50. The greatest number of deaths in any decade was in that from 71-80, and the average age at death was 65 years.

There is no need for young and middle aged people to get alarmed at the prospect of cancer.

On the other hand in the elderly any new symptoms might be those of an early cancer which could be successfully treated although of course they might and more probably would be merely due to the general deterioration with advancing years.

However, I think that if in any doubt medical advice should be sought early.

What these new symptoms might be is difficult to say, and would depend on the site of the cancer.

Of the 47 cases under review, twenty-two were affecting the digestive system, and might have shown early signs of indigestion, constipation or diarrhoea, nine were affecting the breast or female reprodution organs and might have shown signs of a lump or abnormal bleedng. Five were of the throat and would have been self evident. Four were of the lungs and might have shown a newly devloping cough or symptoms of bronchitis.

I would repeat that with such symptoms newly developing in the elderly a visit to the doctor would either allow an early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, or more likely it would set the patient's mind at rest by removing an anxiety which can be a very real source of upset.

## 11. DETAIL OF NEW WORKS, ETC., REPORTED BY THE SURVEYOR.

### Cheddleton Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January 1955 to 31st December 1955 was 129,920,700 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 355,947 gallons.

### Tean Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January 1955 to 31st December' 1955 was 25,291,000 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 69,290 gallons.

### Hollington Water. (Hollington Supply).

The amount of water supplied to the general public from this supply from 1st January 1955 to 31st December 1955 was 45,362,000 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 124,279 gallons.

### Cauldon Low Water Supply.

The amount of water pumped from 1st January 1955 to 31st December, 1955 was 23,081,000 gallons, which gives a daily consumption of 63,235 gallons.

### SEWER EXTENSIONS.

### Bythe Valley Sewerage Scheme.

Following upon the completion and official opening of the Blythe Valley Drainage Scheme and Sewage Purification Works, the Scheme for the internal drainage within the Blythe Valley was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The work commenced in August and is now substantially completed. When completed all properties within the Blythe Valley which can be drained by natural gravitation to the Blythe Valley trunk sewer, will be provided for, viz: Weston Coyney, Cookshill, Caverswall, Forsbrook, Blythe Bridge, Draycott and Cresswell.

### Kingsley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme.

The Kingsley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and work commenced in June.

A major portion of the disposal works is now completed and the laying of the sewers should be completed during the following twelve months

### WATER EXTENSIONS.

### Replacement of supply main, Foxt reservoir to Tollgate.

2370 lineal yards of 4-in. diameter cast iron main, together with fittings, hydrants, etc., have been laid to improve the supply to the village of Ipstones.

### Stoney Lane, Cauldon Lowe.

1066 lineal yards of 4-in. diameter and 190 yards of 3-in. diameter cast iron mains, together with fittings, have been laid to improve the supply to Stoney Lane area of Cauldon Lowe. Extension to Ramsor Road, Farley.

### Extension to Ramsor Road, Farley,

786 lineal yards of 3-in. diameter cast iron water main, together with fittings, have been laid to serve properties in Ramsor Road.

### Rangemoor to Abbey Lane, Wetley Rocks.

555 lineal yards of 3-in. diameter cast iron water main, together with fittings, have been laid to improve the supply in the Wetley Rocks area.

### Oakamoor Water Scheme.

The Oakamoor Water Scheme was completed at the beginning of the year and arrangements are being made for the connection of properties in the near future.

### 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, mamely Waterhouses, where this is done by contract.

In order to provide a more efficient salvage collection service, a new open lorry has been purchased which has increased the Council's fleet of vehicles from 15 to 16. 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, aff 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.

### Bus Shelters.

During the year the Council have erected bus shelters of concrete constructon in various parts of the Rural District including Pompey Lodge, Cauldon, Ipstones, Kingsley Holt, Alton and Caverswall.

### HOUSING.

The number of houses completed during the year was:--

By Local Authority	 	 	94
By Private Enterprise	 	 	153
Total	 	 	247

### Attlee Road — Dandillions.

On this site a further 43 houses, including flats, have been co.npleted and 30 houses, including flats, are now under construction.

### The Avenue.

The bungalow on this site has been completed and is now tenanted by a disabled person.

### Victory Crescent

The houses have now been completed on this estate.

### Kingsley.

The four houses along Holt Lane have been completed and tenanted.

### Tean.

### The Wentlows.

During the year six houses have been completed on the site. Blythe Mount.

On this site the Council have completed 38 houses, including flats, and there are still 10 under construction. **Private Enterprise**.

The number of houses or bungalows being built by private enterprise at present under construction within the Rural District is 86.



