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HEALTH
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Rural District of Cheltenham

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1949

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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Cheltenham Rural District Council

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1949

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for 1949. An innovation has been made this year in that Mr. Rosser, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector, gives the section dealing with Housing, Water and Sanitation.

In general, the local statistics indicate the healthiness of the community and its freedom from serious infectious disease.

The rapid increase in the population is a serious factor in the Council's housing problem. This year there are 1960 more people, equivalent to one tenth of the total population. For the people to be adequately housed there should be a proportionate increase in new homes. Yet the new houses built during the year amount to only one in thirty of the inhabited houses in the District. Even so, many of the houses built by the Council are to replace derelict huts at Ashchurch and elsewhere.

It is the Council's aim to provide a piped water supply in every hamlet, works to this end are in progress. Unfortunately an abundant water supply aggravates the deficiencies of the rudimentary sewage systems which are to be found in some of the villages.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 was implemented by the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into force on the 1st October, 1949. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries became responsible for the registration of Dairy Farms and Producer-Retailers; supervision of Pasteurizing Establishments passed to the County Council; both these functions were formerly carried out by the District Council, now, only the licensing of Dealers Premises is left to them.

I desire to thank Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and my colleagues for their ready co-operation on all occasions.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

July, 1949.

Medical Officer of Health.

Cheltenham Rural District Council

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population mid-1949	Civilian 21,470 Total 22,780
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	5,951
Rateable Value, March, 1950	£138,601
Sum represented by a penny rate	£548

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	348	175	173
Illegitimate	23	8	15
Total	371	183	188

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population, 17.3

Still Births

Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	6	4	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population, 0.3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 16.0

Deaths	Total.	Males.	Females.
	248	133	115

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population, 11.5

Area comparability factor, 0.92

Corrected Death Rate (11.5 by 0.92) per 1,000 of the population, 10.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	1	2.6
No. 30 Other Maternal Causes	1	2.6

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

(Infantile Death Rate)	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	10	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	10	4	6

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births, 27.0

POPULATION.

As was to be expected in a rural district, the population at the end of the war fell from 20,770 in 1944 to 18,910 in 1946. Since then, however, it has increased each year, the sharpest rise being in 1949, an increment of 1,960 persons making a total population of 22,780.

BIRTH RATE

There were 371 live births during the year, the BIRTH RATE being 17.3 as compared with 19.8 for the previous year. In spite of this fall the rate is still somewhat above the national rate 16.7.

DEATH RATE

248 people died making the Death Rate 11.5 per 1,000 of the population.

This year the Registrar-General has reverted to his pre-war practice of giving the area comparability factor, 0.92 by which the crude death rate, 11.5 must be multiplied to obtain the corrected death rate, 10.6. In the corrected death rate due allowance has been made for the relatively high proportion of elderly people in the district. It is, therefore, the rate to compare with the death rate 11.7 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY

Ten of the 371 children born during the year died before they were a year old, making the Infantile Mortality Rate 27 deaths per 1,000 live births. The local rate is an improvement even on the national rate of 32 which itself is an all-time low.

The success of social and medical services together with the housing conditions and economic circumstances may be measured by the fall in infant mortality.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two deaths, one from sepsis and one from other maternal causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics :

DISEASE				Males	Females
1.	Typhoid and Para. Fevers	..	..	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	..	..	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	..	..	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	..	..	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	..	..	4	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	1	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	—	—
9.	Influenza	..	..	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH—*continued*

Causes of Death							Males	Females
10.	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Enccephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
13.	Cancer	{ Bucc. Cav.) Oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)			..	..	2	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	3
16.	Cancer of other sites	..	..	..	..	..	12	9
17.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	..	..	15	18
19.	Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	51	46
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
21.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
22.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	4	11
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	2	4
28.	Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
30.	Other Maternal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
31.	Premature Births	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
32.	Congenital Malformations—Birth Injuries, Infantile Disease, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
33.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
36.	All other causes	..	..	..	..	..	10	8
Total							133	115

Total both Male and Female, 248

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES IN THE DISTRICT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	17.1	17.9	20.6	19.8	17.3
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.4	12.2	13.4	10.8	11.5
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)	32	38	35	38	27

**FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE
MORTALITY RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC.,
ARE GIVEN BELOW**

	England and Wales.	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns.	County of Glouces- tershire.	Chelten- ham R.D.
Live Births (per 1,000 population)	16.7	18.7	17.5	17.3
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.39	0.47	0.36	0.3
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.7	12.5	11.9	11.5
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under one year) (per 1,000 Live Births)	32	37	30	27
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis .. . (per 1,000 Live Births)	3	3.8	2.2	—

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1949 (Excluding Tuberculosis)

DISEASE.	Under 1 year		1 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25		25 and up		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	4	3	13	8	2	1	—	1	19	13
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	2	1	7	9	8	8	—	—	—	1	17	19
Measles	2	—	15	13	23	13	—	—	—	—	40	26
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	6	6	9
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
Cerebro Spinal F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	1	—	—	—	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1 Malaria (contracted abroad) (F) over 25.

1 Food Poisoning (F) over 25.

SCARLET FEVER

During the year 32 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, an increase of 4 over the previous year. No deaths occurred and the case rate, 1.5 per 1,000 of the population, is much the same as that, 1.63, for the country as a whole.

No increase in incidence of the disease has been noted following the modern practice of isolating cases, as far as it is possible, at home. The facilities are checked and soap and disinfectants issued to the affected households.

DIPHTHERIA

Two cases of diphtheria occurred, the first since 1947. They were brother and sister and had not been immunised. A special immunisation session was held in the village, to which all children who had not been immunised were brought.

MEASLES

There were 66 notifications of measles as compared with 270 in 1948. Measles has a biennial incidence, children escaping the disease one year adding to the population at risk the following year. One child died from the disease.

POLIOMYELITIS

Fortunately, no cases of this disease occurred in the district.

FOOD POISONING

Only one notification of food poisoning was received in contrast to the general experience. Food poisoning has become much more prevalent due to the growing custom of both adults and children to take advantage of facilities for obtaining meals in canteens and restaurants.

Scrupulous cleanliness must be exercised where food is prepared in large quantities and meals are taken under communal conditions. Contamination can take place more easily, larger quantities of food are involved, and the growth of infecting organisms is favoured by the longer interval which usually elapses between the preparation and serving of the food.

Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) returned to Registrar-General :

1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total
Nil	Nil	I	Nil	I

Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents :

Total Outbreaks		Total Cases	
Nil		Nil	
Single Cases Agent Identified	Unknown Cause	Total	
I Salmonella	Nil	I	

Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938

The Council made Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air.

The Byelaws should prove a useful instrument in the hands of the public health staff and the food trades, leading to an all round raising of hygienic standards.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS

In order to bring home to the public and the food trades the importance of clean handling of food, every opportunity is taken by the Medical Officer of Health of giving addresses on this subject to the general public, especially the local women's organisations.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

During the year 297 children were immunised for the first time and 316 children had a reinforcing injection on starting school.

Not every child is immunised, for 371 children were born in 1949 but the campaign for immunisation had the effect of raising the percentage of protected children from 62% in 1948 to 69% at the end of 1949.

Even so, two cases of diphtheria occurred; each immunised child is a barrier to the spread of infection but, as yet, the proportion is not high enough to ensure for the community complete freedom from the disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

(in relation to child population)

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949 :

Age at 31/12/49 e.g. born in year	Under						Total	
	1 year 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5 to 9 1940-44		10 to 15 1935-39
Number immunised	27	230	243	207	166	1,274	1,115	3,262
	Children under five					Children 5-15		
Estimated mid-year population 1949	1,939					2,788		4,727

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in Relation to Immunisation :—

There were two cases and no deaths from Diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases were notified during the year :—

	Children		All Persons
	0—4	5—14	
Tuberculosis Notifications, 1949 :			
Pulmonary	—	1	18
Non-Pulmonary—			
(1) Glands	—	1	1
(2) Bone and Joint	—	—	—
(3) Abdomen	—	—	—
(4) Other Organs	—	—	—
(5) Meningitis	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Deaths, 1949 :			
Pulmonary	—	—	5
Non-Pulmonary—			
(1) Glands	—	—	—
(2) Bone and Joint	—	—	—
(3) Abdomen	—	—	—
(4) Other Organs	—	—	—
(5) Meningitis	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1949 was as follows :—

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			All Forms
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total.
77	37	114	22	16	38	152

There were 19 new cases and 6 deaths from tuberculosis as compared with 17 new cases and 11 deaths the previous year.

The number of new cases may appear large but there is no undue incidence of the disease in the district.

No deaths occurred from tuberculosis of persons who were not on the Tuberculosis Register.

It is the policy of the Council to give priority in housing to persons suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis; such patients, unless they occupy a separate bedroom, are a grave menace to the rest of the family.

General Provisions for Health Services

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service is operated by the County Council. There is a control station in Cheltenham and sub-station at Moreton-in-Marsh. The Ambulance Service may be obtained by telephoning Cheltenham 3112 and in emergency dialing "999" or "0" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service."

A Hospital Car Service is operated; forty-eight hours notice should be given of the requirements, and requests for this Service made to the Control Station at Cheltenham. The Service is available for taking patients to and from appointments in connection with the National Health Service when public transport is not practicable.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This Service is organised by the County Council. The Home Help takes over the running of the home when the housewife is temporarily incapacitated. A charge according to a scale of assessment is made for the Service.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made through the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. : Cheltenham 55746 or to the Home Help Office, 77 Promenade, Cheltenham, Telephone No. : Cheltenham 53121.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. : Cheltenham 55746.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Alderton	4th Wednesday
Apperley	2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday
Ashchurch	Alternate Tuesdays
Bishops Cleeve	Alternate Wednesdays
Dumbleton	4th Fridays
Prestbury	1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Leckhampton	Fridays
The Reddings	2nd and 4th Thursdays
Shurdington	1st and 3rd Wednesdays
Stanway	2nd Friday
The Park, Stoke Orchard	Alternate Tuesdays
Twynning	Alternate Thursdays
Winchcomb	1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Witcombe and Bentham	2nd and 4th Mondays

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention

Although no application has been made to the Court it has been necessary to keep a number of aged people under observation. The plight of these old people because of their incapacities has been brought to notice by relations, neighbours and District Nurses.

The Home Help Service has been of great assistance in many instances. A little timely help and the provision of a meal is often sufficient to enable lonely old people to carry on in their own homes.

Some routine method must be devised whereby these old people are visited from time to time and help provided when necessary.

The operation of a mobile meal service is cumbersome in a rural area. In its place a neighbour can often be found who will provide a meal under the aegis of the Home Help Service.

The independent spirit of old folk is particularly noticeable in country districts, but though they refuse to appeal to the National Assistance Board they will accept the Home Help Service. The latter being a development of the good neighbourliness in our villages.

Apart from the humanitarian aspect of such work, there is saving of expensive beds in hospitals and homes, should such accommodation be available.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Housing

	New Houses Completed				Total at 31.12.49
	1946	1947	1948	1949	
Permanent Houses ..	14	44	54	79	191
Temporary Houses .. (prefabs)	40	—	3	—	43
Private Enterprise .. (Majority for agricultural workers)	—	—	—	14	14
Bishops Cleeve Housing Association	—	—	27	66	93
Housing Units, Former Camp sites	131	90	4	11	236
Cheltenham Corporation	—	—	—	56	56

Housing Act, 1949

Section I.

The Council have been hampered in building new houses and enforcing improvements in existing houses because their statutory powers were limited by the phrase "houses for the working classes" which occurred in the former Housing Acts. This limitation has been removed by Section I of the Act; the Council's duty now is in regard to the housing of the community as a whole.

Section 2

No application was made to the Council under this section for action to be taken to quash a Demolition Order. The provision is a temporary one relating to houses where Demolition Orders were made prior to 1st January, 1946, but, as the result of works carried out since the Demolition Order was made, are considered fit for human habitation. Applications must be made by 31st July, 1950.

Section 20

Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949 empowers local authorities to make grants to private owners for the provision of dwellings by the conversion of houses and other buildings and for the improvement of existing dwellings.

Application for grant must :

- (a) be made to, and approved by, the authority before work is begun ;
- (b) include full particulars of the proposed works and of the property on which the works will be carried out, together with plans and specifications and an estimate of the cost.

The local authority must satisfy themselves that :

- (a) the resulting dwellings will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for at least thirty years ;
- (b) the applicant has either a freehold interest or a leasehold interest in the property for an unexpired term of at least thirty years ; and
- (c) the dwellings will conform with such requirements with respect to their construction and physical condition and the provision of services and amenities as the Minister may specify.

No application for grant under this Section was received during the year, although the Rural Housing Survey showed that 1,450 houses in the area were in need of thorough reconditioning and might well qualify for grant.

WATER SUPPLY

The Council's supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. Thirty-five samples were taken from springs feeding into this supply and from various consumer points.

Only in the case of the Cleeve Hill Spring was an unfavourable report given. This spring is so situated that if pollution occurred it could be of a dangerous type. It was considered advisable, therefore, to abandon the spring as a source of supply. The spring has a yield of 10,000 gallons per day even in times of minimum yield.

All supplies under the Council's control are chlorinated in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Fifty-seven samples were taken from private supplies. In cases where the supplies were found to be polluted steps were taken to have either the properties connected to the public water-mains or local protective measures carried out.

Parish	Number of houses	Number of houses supplied direct into houses	Number of houses supplied by means of standpipes
Alderton	135	122	7
Ashchurch (includes Aston Cross, Aston-on-Carrant, Fiddington and Pamington)	201	187	7
Badgeworth (includes Bentham and The Reddings)	343	261	—
Bishops Cleeve	472	459	3
Boddington (includes Hayden) ..	71	70	—
*Buckland (includes Laverton) ..	69	62	7
Coberley	76	—	—
*Cowley (includes Birdlip)	112	91	—
Deerhurst (includes Appertey and Walton Hill)	206	111	2
Dumbleton (includes Great Washbourne and Little Washbourne)	158	150	—
Elmstone Hardwicke	60	52	5
Gotherington	113	87	10
*Great Witcombe	32	21	4
*Hawling	42	25	10
Leigh (includes Coombe Hill) ..	91	87	—
Leckhampton	208	148	3
*Oxenton (includes Woolstone) ..	46	7	10
*Prescott	29	20	—
Prestbury	828	775	—
Shurdington	206	152	5
*Snowhill	67	42	—
Southam	124	124	—
*Stanton	77	70	4
*Stanway	135	134	—
Staverton	128	112	6
Stoke Orchard (incl. Tredington)	73	72	—
*Sudeley (incl. Charlton Abbots)	45	43	—
Swindon (incl. Brockhampton) ..	185	171	2
Teddington (includes Alstone) ..	41	40	—
Toddington	131	131	—
Twyning	237	21	—
Uckington	88	81	—
Up Hatherley	45	45	—
Walton Cardiff	15	15	—
Winchcomb (includes Gretton and Greet)	851	824	19
Woodmancote	235	232	—
Total ..	5,951	5,044	104

*Private or part private piped supplies

Cheltenham Rural District Council

Report by Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor on the Work of his Department for the year 1949

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been the custom of the Council to receive an Annual Report from the Medical Officer of Health in which he deals with the General Statistics and Sanitary Circumstances in the District. His report is prepared in a form required by the Ministry of Health, but it does not deal with the whole of the activities of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council. I have therefore prepared this Report with a view to giving the Council more details and a fuller description of various matters in the district. As this is the first report of this nature it may be of general interest if I quote a few figures showing the position at the end of 1949 as compared with that existing when this Council was formed in 1935.

	1935		1949
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	15,489	Civilian	21,470
		Total	22,780
Number of inhabited houses	4,818		5,951
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£325		£548
Rateable Value	£85,075		£138,601

It will be seen from the above figures that there has been a very marked increase under the above headings and these have to some extent been brought about by the introduction of factories at Bishops Cleeve, Bentham, Uckington, The National Coal Board Laboratories at Stoke Orchard, the Military Depot at Ashchurch, and the general influx of population arising from the staffing of these factories and others in adjoining areas.

Particulars of the various services will be given under the various headings as they arise and a summary given at the end.

HOUSING

Prior to the outbreak of war housing conditions in the district were easy, in fact, in some parishes there was a delay in finding tenants for houses erected by the Council and the activities of the Housing Committee were mainly directed to dealing with houses which, under the terms of the Housing Act, 1936, were considered to be unfit for habitation. The position to-day, however, is very different. The

Council have a waiting list of approximately 500 persons who wish to be housed by the Council and over 100 wish to erect houses by private enterprise, but are prevented by the restrictions now in force.

In 1939 the Council owned 302 houses, whilst at the end of 1949 this number had risen to 539. In addition "Barksdale" at Winchcombe has been converted to form three dwellings, and in January, 1950, 84 others were in course of erection. It will, therefore, be seen that in the very near future the houses owned by the Council will be double the pre-war number. The Council has been very active in dealing with the housing situation, especially bearing in mind that the submission of a Scheme for approval involves a very great deal more work than it did previous to 1939, and after approval is received problems in connection with the supply of labour and materials seem to continually arise.

A year ago hopes ran high as to the possibility of reconditioning many of the houses in the District. The Housing Act, 1949, came into operation on the 31st July, 1949, and under which there is provision for the making of Grants for Improvements of Houses or Provision of Dwellings by the conversion of Houses or other Buildings. Now that a little experience has been obtained in the operation of this Act it is found that many of the schemes are rejected by the Ministry, the number of successful applications being very low. Indeed it seems to be the policy to discourage owners from making applications.

The increase in the number of houses has resulted in an increase in the amount of repairs to be carried out. In addition to the increase in number there is an increase in the amount of maintenance work at various premises. New houses are provided with hot water systems and in time these will require attention. Many of the houses are colour washed and the Swedish Houses are painted. In both these cases this adds to the amount of periodical maintenance and costs.

Temporary Housing

Under this sub-heading I have included former Camp Sites but not the prefabricated bungalows. At the end of 1949 the sites at Northway, Stoke Orchard, Shurdington, Witcombe, Nettleton Grounds accommodated 236 families. Previously I have referred to a waiting list of approximately 500. Had it not been for the presence of these Camps it will be seen that the Council's waiting list would have been even longer than it is at the present time.

At Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe alterations and adaptations have been made and it is anticipated that the majority of these buildings will have a life of approximately ten years from the time of taking over. The Council realise that these buildings are not of a permanent nature and in order to keep them weatherproof, etc., a great deal of maintenance is required. At the same time they are serving an extremely useful purpose and give separate accommodation

to families who would not otherwise enjoy this. At the end of the year work was still proceeding on a number of these conversions and the supervision of this work is undertaken by this Department.

The following figures will illustrate the work involved in dealing with these sites :—

No. of Dwellings at end of 1949	236
Number of Repair Orders completed by Contractors (not including conversions or matters arising therefrom)	468
Number of Visits (Repairs and Supervising Conversions)	1018

REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

At the end of the year the Council held under requisition accommodation for 59 families. The following figures relate to these properties :—

Orders for Repairs completed by Contractors ..	76
Number of Visits to Inspect	152

It is now the Council's policy to derequisition properties as soon as possible.

REPAIRS TO COUNCIL HOUSES

Repairs to Council Houses are generally carried out by direct labour and at the end of the year we employed a total of eight men upon this work (not including the part time of the Foreman). We did not employ this number throughout the year as we were without the services of two painters for a considerable period. The following figures show the work carried out :—

No. of Houses repairable by the Council at the end of 1949 (others will be released from Contractors from time to time)	539
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff (An order may contain several items)	632
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors, including Electricity and Gas	82
Total	714
No. of Houses overhauled and redecorated externally by Council workmen	58
No. of Houses overhauled and redecorated externally by Contract	10
Total	68

REPAIRS TO COUNCIL HOUSES—*Continued.*

No. of Houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy	15
No. of defective grates replaced	10
No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced	50
No. of defective sinks replaced	9
No. of defective sanitary pails replaced	13
No. of defective rain water tanks replaced	29
No. of defective draining boards replaced	39
No. of houses having electricity installed by tenants ..	3
No. of houses having gas coppers installed by tenants	5
No. of houses having gas coppers installed by the Council	11
No. of houses having gas supplies provided by the Council	12
No. of gates or posts renewed	80
No. of visits to Council Houses for various purposes	777
No. of visits in connection with Contractors maintenance period (not included above)	121

HOUSING ACTS

Under the Housing Act the following figures relate :—

Housing inspections or revisits	208
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List of Housing Repairs and Improvements

No. of Informal notices served	27
No. complied with	27
Roofs repaired	22
Ceilings repaired	7
Floors repaired	16
Drains or drainage systems repaired or new drains or systems	91
Water Supplies improved	7
Stairs repaired	5
Cottages generally reconditioned	10
Walls repaired or rebuilt	9
Plasterwork repaired	13
Dangerous parts removed	9
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	15
New sinks provided	11
Chimneys repaired or rebuilt	14
Bathrooms provided	9
Windows repaired or new provided	15
New W.C.s provided	9
General redecorations	16
New larders provided	5

BUILDING BYELAWS

During the year reports upon 278 buildings were submitted under the Building Byelaws to the Plans Committee. In addition 28 cases were brought forward for observations to be submitted to the Town Planning Authorities. In order to save time plans are checked when submitted and the attention of Architects or Owners drawn to any defects. This is done in order to allow them to make any necessary adjustments before the meeting of the Committee.

After approval, notices are sent to the parties concerned giving the Committee's decisions. Endeavours are made to inspect work at the following stages :—

Excavation of foundations, completion of concrete foundations, dampcourse, roofing, testing of drains (this often entails several visits), installation of fittings and final completion. Upon completion of a building final details are submitted to the Rating Department.

Because of the present restrictions upon building, owners are unable to proceed in many cases. They submit plans in anticipation of being able to proceed at some time in the future. If building restrictions are removed many of these will proceed to erect their houses and this will mean extra visits, etc.

During the year the following figures shew the work involved :—

Plans reported upon	278
No. approved	231
No. given temporary approval	22
No. disapproved	25
No. re-submitted	45
No. of visits to properties and sites	737
No. of houses completed by the Council	79
No. of houses completed by the Housing Association	66
No. of houses completed by Private Enterprise	14
No. of houses converted to more dwellings or other buildings converted	16

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING REGULATIONS

Under these Regulations the Council are still responsible for the issue of licences for repairs, reconditioning, etc., to dwelling houses where the value of the work during a Statutory period of twelve months exceeds £100. In this connection 137 applications have been received and 90 licences issued by the Council and 19 by the Ministry. This involved 122 visits prior to the issue of the licences. In addition, there is a great deal of work in connection with the submission of applications to the Ministry both as regards the applications and supply of material.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading we have included work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supplies (other than maintenance of the Council's Undertakings), disinfestations nuisances, tents, vans, sheds, factories, workshops, pollution of rivers and streams, inspection of food preparation rooms, etc. A total of 702 visits were made. During the year 79 complaints were received, 18 Statutory Notices were served and in the remainder of the cases we were able to get owners or occupiers to abate the nuisance without the necessity of taking formal action in the matter.

The following figures will shew the activities during the year :—

No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered ..	79
Complaints not justified	6
No. of visits	169
Informal Notices sent	73
Statutory Notices served	18
Statutory Notices complied with	16
Nuisances abated	71
Premises disinfected	14
Premises disinfested	12
No. of visits	32

INSPECTION OF FOODS

The following foodstuffs have been condemned :—

	Tons	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Ozs.
Tinned fruit and vegetables ..		3	3	19	2
Tinned fish				22	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned meat			2	17	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned tomato puree ..	8	7	1	19	
Tinned milk			1	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Raw meat (beef)				1	8
Shredded Suet					8
Custard Filling				4	
Cheese				24	
Chocolate Cup				2	12
Sugar and Syrup			1	17	
Butter				20	
Sago			1	25	
Cereals			1	14	
Sauces				16	4
Eggs—300 No.			1	9	8
	8	14	2	22	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS

The work may be described under two headings :—

- (a) the problem of dealing with gypsy encampments and
- (b) Camping for holidays, etc., or by persons occupying caravans who cannot find housing accommodation.

The latter problem is fairly easy to deal with as the occupants are usually very willing to co-operate in providing and maintaining sanitary conditions.

The following figures relate to the activities in this section during the year :—

No. of new applications for licences received	35
No. of new applications approved	31
No. of new applications disapproved	4
No. of visits to sites	120
No. of previous licences renewed	13
No. of unauthorised caravans requested to leave within a stated period	6

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Council own Sewage Disposal Plants at the following sites :—

Alderton, Little Witcombe, Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton, Wormington, Prestbury, Shurdington, Stanton, Southam, Stoke Orchard, Brockhampton (Swindon), Winchcombe, Woodmancote.

During the year the Council has taken over the works at Stanton formerly owned by the Stanton Estate and the one at Wormington formerly owned by the Wormington Estate. At the latter site the Works were reconstructed by the provision of a new settling tank, filter, and sludge beds, and very satisfactory results are being obtained.

ALDERTON.

These works were completed in 1937 and comprise 2 settling tanks, 2 filters, 2 small sludge beds and a humus tank. The sludge beds are very small and require increasing in number and size. I would suggest the Council consider the provision of additional sludge beds at this site. The condition of the brickwork at the base of the filters is unsatisfactory as a number of the bricks are perishing. It will be necessary to renew some sections of this in the near future.

ASHCHURCH.

There is a Disposal Works serving the Camp and this is owned by the War Department. The Council have made arrangements for

the sewage from the new Housing Site at Northway to be treated at these works by the War Department. The Council have to maintain a Pumping Plant at the Northway Site.

BISHOPS CLEEVE.

The present works at Bishops Cleeve comprise a pair of settling tanks and the effluent is irrigated over the land. These Works are treating a quantity far in excess of that for which they were originally designed. The Post-War Scheme intended by the Council is to connect the sewers at Bishops Cleeve with the new one in Stoke Road so that all the sewage will be dealt with eventually at the Brockhampton Works. The present Works will be retained for dealing with the storm overflow. During the year the sewer was extended along Stoke Road-Cheltenham Road to the Housing Site at Two Hedges Road at a cost of £8,900.

LECKHAMPTON.

During the year the new Works were installed near Kidnappers Lane for the purpose of dealing with sewage from the properties in that area. These properties were erected principally between 1920 and 1930, since when continual complaints have been received about the nuisance arising from the discharge of drainage at these premises. After a long period we have been able to bring the new Works into being.

PRESTBURY.

About two years ago part of the discharge to the Prestbury Works was diverted to the Cheltenham Corporation sewers and this has resulted in an improvement in the effluent at the Prestbury Works.

SHURDINGTON.

The present Works includes two small settling tanks, the effluent being irrigated over the land. The Scheme submitted to the Ministry of Health allows for picking up the present discharge from this Works and taking it to sewers which will serve Badgeworth and thence to a proposed site near Staverton Bridge from which it will be pumped to the Cheltenham Corporation Works at Hayden. The present Works will be retained for dealing with the storm overflow. At the present time these Works are overloaded, but so far we have been able to avoid any serious trouble in the stream.

STOKE ORCHARD.

The Works here are those provided for treating the sewage from the former Camp. During the year complaints were received about the quality of effluent and it was then found that oil and chemicals were being discharged to the drainage system from buildings under

the control of the Agricultural Executive Committee. Steps were taken to have this cut off and this resulted in an immediate improvement. Repairs are required to the cement rendering of the sludge well.

BROCKHAMPTON, SWINDON.

These Works take the effluents from Messrs. Smith's Factory, the houses at Gay Lane, Stoke Road, Evesham Road and the new Housing Estate in course of development at Two Hedges Road. These Works are now working up to capacity and in practice we are finding that the number of sludge beds is insufficient to allow adequate de-sludging of the settling tanks. Eventually, when the remainder of Bishops Cleeve is connected, it will mean considerable enlargements will have to be made, but in the meantime if the provision of the sludge beds can be agreed to it will allow more frequent de-sludging of the tanks to take place, and this will considerably relieve the pressure on the filter beds. I would strongly recommend the Council to consider this suggestion.

WINCHCOMBE.

During the year the laying of the sewer at Greet has been completed and also the storm water tank. The provision of the latter has considerably assisted in dealing with the quantity which arrives at these Works during stormy weather. The Works now comprise 3 settling tanks, 1 pair of storm water tanks, 5 filters, 1 humus tank and 3 sludge beds. A new sludge pump is on order.

WOODMANCOTE.

During the year the sprinkler arms were renewed and although the Works are dealing with a quantity considerably in excess of that for which they were designed a very good effluent is being discharged to the stream. Repairs to the settling tank are required and also the provision of a sludge bed. Part of the Council's Post-War Scheme includes the diversion of the flow from these Works to the Works at Brockhampton, and this will leave these Works to be devoted entirely to treating storm overflow.

It is likely, however, that it will be some years before this portion of the Scheme is dealt with. In the meantime repairs are required to the storm overflow filters as well as to the settling tank mentioned above.

GENERAL.

We have employed on Sewage Disposal nine men. Of these, one attends to the works at Alderton, various plants at Council Houses, and sewer ditches in the Gotherington area and Parishes surrounding Tewkesbury. Three men are engaged at the Works at Bishops Cleeve, Woodmancote, Prestbury, Brockhampton; two men at Winchcombe; one attends to Wormington and Stanton and various ditches in that

area; one man attends to the plant at Shurdington and another is engaged on the plants at Kidnappers Lane, Leckhampton, Witcombe, Elkstone and Council Houses.

The number of Sewage Disposal Plants, particularly on Housing Sites is continually increasing. All these require attention and the best policy is for this to be "a little and often," rather than infrequent attention resulting in unsatisfactory effluent, which causes trouble and takes time to rectify. During the year plants have been brought into operation at Coberley, Leigh (2 sites), Uckington, Teddington, Gotherington and Stanway. Others are in course of construction.

There are a number of what is termed "Sewer Ditches" existing in the area and these are periodically cleansed. I am afraid, however, that these should have more frequent attention and the problem of labour for this will be dealt with by the Staff and Offices Committee.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

When the Council came into being in 1935 the Parish of Winchcombe was the only one receiving a regular collection of house refuse. Arrangements had been made by the former Cheltenham R.D.C. to provide this service at Prestbury and Leckhampton but it did not come into operation until after the new Council was formed. At the present time this service is undertaken throughout the whole of the district, the more populous parts receiving a weekly collection, others a fortnightly one and a monthly one for the more scattered parts. We now have three lorries, each ten cubic yard capacity, engaged on this work, each lorry having a driver and two loaders for normal collections.

Shortly after the outbreak of war the Council instituted a Salvage Scheme but during 1949 Paper Merchants notified us that they were unable to take further deliveries of waste paper and we were reluctantly compelled to abandon this side of the Service.

During the year all refuse was brought to the tip at Prestbury and here we instituted the "Controlled Tipping System." The cost of supplying necessary soil for covering was a considerable one, but there is no doubt that this method of disposal is the right and proper one. Towards the end of the year discussions opened and we were able to make arrangements for additional tips at Shurdington, Snowhill and more recently one at Gotherington Fields.

On an average 39 loads are tipped each week which gives quantities of 390 cubic yards per week. Some of these loads have been weighed and found on an average to weigh 3 tons 6 cwts. It seems, therefore, that during the year over 20,000 cubic yards weighing 6,600 tons are disposed of. The Controlled System of Tipping results in more labour being required to properly carry out this system and the greatest difficulty has been found in obtaining the labour both for loading and disposal of the refuse.

WATER SUPPLIES

Since the Council was formed there has been a big increase in the amount of work in connection with the water supplies throughout the District. Several more Schemes will be brought into operation in the near future and when these are completed it seems that the Council's concern will be chiefly that of maintenance. The taking of the mains to the few outstanding villages will result in raising the premises served to approximately 95% of the number in the District. Some of these are still privately owned but are meeting the needs at the present time. Apart from these private supplies the District is supplied under three systems :—

- (a) where the Council take supplies from springs and distribute to the properties.
- (b) where the Council take bulk supplies from other Authorities and distribute
- (c) where distribution is undertaken by other Authorities under Statutory Rights.

The following Parishes are supplied under Scheme (a) :—

Alderton, Bishops Cleeve, Gotherington, Hawling, Southam, Stanton, Stanway, Teddington, Toddington, Winchcombe, Woodmancote.

The following Parishes receive a supply under Scheme (b) :—
Ashchurch (part), Cowley (part), Elmstone Hardwicke, Stoke Orchard, Walton Cardiff, Snowhill.

The following Parishes receive a supply under Scheme (c) :—
Badgeworth, Boddington, Deerhurst, Leckhampton, Leigh, Prestbury, Shurdington, Staverton, Swindon (part), Great Witcombe (part), Twyning, Uckington, Up Hatherley.

The following Parishes are supplied at the present time from private sources :—

Buckland, Cowley (part), Dumbleton, Great Witcombe (part), Stanway (part), Sudeley.

The Schemes awaiting approval by the Ministry but not completed relate to the Parishes of :—

Badgeworth (part), Coberley, Dumbleton, Great Witcombe, Oxenton, Brockhampton (Swindon).

During the year the quantity of water taken in bulk supplies from other Authorities amounted to 52,768,200 gallons, Water used from springs owned or leased by the Council totalled 161,736,000 gallons. No information is available on the quantity of water used in the Parishes where other Authorities undertake the distribution. The total annual consumption in the District where the Council undertake distribution

is 214,504,000, average daily consumption 587,682. The total average daily consumption includes farms and other trade purposes amounts to 62.1 gallons per head of the population served.

The Ministry of Health recently required certain figures as to the water supply in the District and the following figures were supplied :

	Gallons
(1) Annual consumption by farms recorded through meters	25,052,760
Average daily consumption	54,939
Average daily consumption per head population	5.8
(2) Annual consumption by factories	64,388,820
Giving an average daily consumption of	176,408
This gives an average daily consumption per head of	18.6
(3) Annual consumption by the population and other small users	130,062,620
Average daily consumption	356,335
Average daily consumption per head	37.7

The latter figure is a very high one and it will be recollected that during 1949 it was reported that the consumption at the National Service Hostel of approximately 1,000 persons was averaging 57 gallons per head per day. When allowances are made for the high consumption at this place the average daily consumption is considerably reduced.

The maintenance of the Council's supplies is undertaken by direct labour with a Depot at Gretton Road, Winchcombe. We have employed at the present time one foreman Plumber, 1 Plumber and 7 others.

During the year the Council brought into operation a Scheme whereby in accordance with the duty laid upon them by the Water Act, 1945 they undertake the laying of new services between the main and the stop tap near the boundary of the premises. Work was commenced under this Scheme in August, 1949, and by the end of March, 1950, 52 services had been laid and £645 4s. 3d., the costs of laying the service pipes, was recovered from the owners of the properties.

All supplies from springs are chlorinated whether the Analyst's reports are satisfactory or not. Chlorinating Plants are established at the following points :—

Cleeve Hill Pumping Station, Stanton, Stanway, Winchcombe Reservoir and Woodmancote.

No. of new connections to mains owned by the Council—179. Of these, 123 were new houses, 22 of which were connected to existing mains and 101 connected to mains laid for development. The remainder were properties previously supplied from wells and standpipes.

No. of houses connected to mains owned by other Authorities—98. Of these, 54 were connections to new houses and 44 existing properties.

It will therefore be seen that during the year 277 properties were connected to the public main.

During the year 52 service pipes in the highway were repaired and on 51 occasions we have had fractured mains. The latter occurred chiefly in the areas where the mains are laid in blue clay and principally at Elmstone Hardwicke and Stoke Orchard. The Council will recollect the reports upon these, and during the year it was necessary to relay sections at Elmstone Hardwicke although some of these cast-iron pipes had only been laid about eleven years.

During the year fourteen Fire Hydrants were repaired or replaced at the request of the Fire Service. The costs incurred are recoverable from the County Council.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections, but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, public rights-of-way, Petroleum Regulations, inspection of housing sites, etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections but to give a detailed account of these would involve a much longer report and I fear that this may already be considered a lengthy one.

The summary of the visits, apart from the maintenance of the Council's Water Supplies or the Clerk of Works on Housing, Water or Sewerage Schemes, is as follows:—

New housing	184
Temporary housing	1,018
Requisitioned properties	152
Council houses	898
Inspection under Housing Act	208
Control of Civil Building	122
Complaints, etc.	169
Inspection of Foods	113
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	88
Water Supply (other than maintenance)	170
Sewage Disposal	345
New buildings	570
Refuse and Salvage	185
Attendance at Meetings	109
Miscellaneous visits	356

Total	4,697
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No. of communications dispatched from Office in the year	3,987
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I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. H. ROSSER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.