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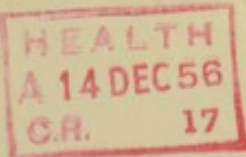
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RURAL DISTRICT OF CHELTENHAM



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

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Certified Sanitary Inspector

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CHELTHENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

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 Rural District.

As is usually the case, the vital statistics are favourable, the infantile mortality being in line with that for the County and Country as a whole.

The Government's economic policy continues to bring about delays in the Council's schemes for providing main sewerage in various places.

Particulars of 338 unfit houses were supplied as required to the Minister who approved the Council's plan to deal with the problem in an eight year period.

Thirty improvement grants were made during the year, enabling houses which otherwise would have fallen into the unfit category to be brought up to modern standards of amenity and repair. Such reconstruction work voluntarily undertaken is an important measure in dealing with the problem of unfit houses.

As is customary, Mr. E.H. Rosser, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports in detail on housing, water supply, sewerage and the sanitary inspection of the District.

I have great pleasure in expressing my appreciation to the Members of the Council for their support and to my colleagues for their ready co-operation and help during the year, and in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health

November, 1956

CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	..	81,940
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population (including members of the Armed Forces)	..	25,970
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1955)	..	7,826
Rateable Value (at 31.12.55)	..	£198,877
Sum represented by a penny rate (at 1955/56)	..	£799.18.0.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>					<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	431	205	226
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	17	11	6
Total	..	..	..	..	448	216	232
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population				17.3			
Area Comparability Factor (Births) ..				1.05			
Corrected Birth Rate (17.3 x 1.05) ..				18.2			
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>							
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	6	4	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total	..	..	..	..	6	4	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population				0.2			
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				13.2			
<u>DEATHS</u>					261	127	134
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population				10.1			
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths) ..				0.98			
Corrected Death Rate (10.1 x 0.98) ..				9.9			

NO. 30, DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION

Deaths	..	..	..	..	nil
Deaths per 1,000 total (live and still) births					nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Mortality)

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	11	2	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total	..	..	..	..	11	2	9
11 infants per 1,000 Live Births	..			..	24.5		

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE
(Neonatal Mortality)

					<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	10	2	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total	..	..	..	..	10	2	8
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	..				22.3		

POPULATION

Following the trend in recent years, the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of 25,970, is an increase of 980 over that of 1954. The natural increase in population, excess of births over deaths, was 187.

BIRTH RATE

Births numbered 448 as compared with 439 in 1954, making the Birth Rate 17.3 which is similar to that for the previous year of 17.6. The Birth Rate for the Rural District compares very favourably with the rate of 15.0 for England and Wales as a whole.

If due allowance is made for the large proportion of elderly people in the age distribution in the District, the Corrected Birth Rate 18.2. should be used for purposes of comparison.

DEATH RATE

Deaths totalled 261 as compared with 228 in 1954, making the Death Rate 10.1. The Death Rate in the Rural District is again lower than the rate of 11.7 for the Country as a whole.

INFANT MORTALITY

There were 11 deaths of infants under one year of age; the infantile mortality being at the rate of 24.5. deaths per 1,000 live births. The local rate is much the same as that for the County, 24.1, and that for the Country as a whole, 24.9. It is to be noted that the infantile mortality rate for the Country as a whole is even slightly lower than that for the previous year, and is the lowest recorded.

Again 10 of the 11 deaths of infants took place in the neonatal period, that is within one month of birth. The death of the infant in this period is bound up with the health of the mother in pregnancy and confinement. Prematurity was given as the cause of death in six cases, and congenital abnormalities in three cases.

CANCER

There were 46 deaths from cancer, eight more than in 1954. Six men and one woman died from cancer of the lung.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death in the following table are classified under the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0
4. Diphtheria	0	0
5. Whooping cough	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
8. Measles	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	3	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	6	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	0	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	0	3
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	17	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0
16. Diabetes	0	0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	14	19
18. Coronary disease, angina	25	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	2	2
20. Other heart disease	20	39
21. Other circulatory disease	7	3
22. Influenza	0	1
23. Pneumonia	2	7
24. Bronchitis	4	0
25. Other diseases of respiratory system..	0	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	2
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea ..	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	0	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	19
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	0
34. All other accidents	4	5
35. Suicide	1	0
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	0	0
Total	<u>127</u>	<u>134</u>

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

	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	16.8	16.5	15.7	17.6	17.3
Death rate (per 1,000 population)	10.7	10.0	8.7	9.1	10.1
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 yr.)	15.5	27.8	31.0	23 0	24.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)(Deaths of infants under 1 mth)	7.7	12.6	13.0	16.0	22.3

For comparison, the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc. are given overleaf :

	England & Wales	County of Glos.	Cheltenham R.D.
Live Births	15.0	15.42	17.3
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)	23.1	22.80	13.2.
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.7	11.44	10.1
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Year)(per 1,000 live births)	24.9	24.10	24.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 Month)(per 1,000 live births)	17.3	17.89	22.3

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1955 -
(Excluding Tuberculosis)

	Under 1 yr.		1 - 5		5 - 15		15 - 25		25 and upwards		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	6	3	14	9	-	-	-	-	20	12
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	3	13	8	5	11	-	-	-	-	21	22
Measles	4	7	83	69	123	125	2	1	1	4	213	206
Poliomyelitis												
Paralytic	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
	Under 5 yrs		5 - 14		15 - 44		45 - 64		65 and upwards		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pneumonia	2	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	7	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was slight as has been usual in recent years; 32 cases were notified which is much the same as the previous year. The disease was mild in character and in nearly all instances the patient was isolated at home. No spread could be attributed to this mode of procedure.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

Forty three cases were notified, none of which were fatal.

Vaccination against whooping cough can be arranged with the child's doctor or at the Child Welfare Centre. It is a particularly valuable measure in the case of young infants in whom the disease is much more serious.

Measles

Measles is a disease with a biennial incidence, 1955 was an epidemic year, 419 cases were notified as compared with 180 in 1954. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1955.

Age at 31.12.1955 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 year		1		2		3		4		5		9		10		14	
	1955	1954	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939
Number immunised	32	218	317	389	327	1,468	951											
Total number immunised	..	..	..	..	3,702													
Number of children immunised in :	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947									
Primary	317	328	445	416	429	209	297	211	249									
Maintenance	324	133	211	311	247	166	316	94	192									

317 children under fifteen years of age were immunised, as compared with 328 in 1954, only 38 of these were babies under one year of age representing twenty-two per cent of the children in the age group.

The acceptance falls far short of seventy-five per cent which is the target figure of the diphtheria immunisation campaign. The poor response in the case of young babies is due to postponement in the summer months on account of the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis

Five cases of poliomyelitis (3 paralytic) were notified. The same number was notified in the previous year.

Food Poisoning

There was one outbreak of food poisoning, involving five persons. The causal organism was not determined.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The following table sets out the details of the records of vaccination received during the year :

Age :	<u>under 1 yr.</u>	<u>1 yr.</u>	<u>2 - 4 yrs.</u>	<u>5 - 14 yrs.</u>	<u>15 yrs & over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vaccination	157	16	13	16	18	220
Re-Vacc'tn	1	-	2	12	30	45

Proportion of children vaccinated under one year of age, expressed as a percentage of the number of births during the year :-

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
32	33	38	31	34

There was a slight increase in the number of children vaccinated during the year, 220, compared with 146 in 1954. In order that the community should have sufficient protection to prevent epidemics of smallpox, at least half the babies should be vaccinated, whereas, it will be seen, the response is not yet good enough.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases

			<u>Children</u>		<u>All persons</u>
			<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	
Respiratory	-	-	6
Others	-	-	3

Deaths

Respiratory	..	..	..	1
Others	..	..	..	nil

Tuberculosis Register.

The number of cases on the register, 31st December, 1955 was as follows :-

<u>Respiratory</u>			<u>Central Nervous System.</u>			<u>Other forms</u>			<u>Allforms Total</u>
<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
86	58	144	2	-	2	16	19	35	181

There was a welcome decrease in the number of new cases of tuberculosis, nine cases were notified as compared with sixteen in 1954. Deaths from this disease continue to decline, and only one death occurred. However, the number

of cases in the tuberculosis register has not decreased in a like manner, so the risk of infection is still high.

The Council have rehoused many families in order to enable an infectious person to have a separate room. More use should be made of the services of the Mass Radiography Unit. It is available to all, and early diagnosis by this means shortens the patient's period of treatment and eliminates a source of infection.

Vaccination against tuberculosis is offered to all thirteen year old school children, and the response is most encouraging. Vaccination of the growing adolescent affords him protection at a time of life of particular susceptibility. This measure should bring about a decline in the number of new cases.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, - Clean Food

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are in force for securing hygienic methods in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the open air.

Food shops and similar establishments are inspected regularly to ensure that the food is wholesome and that the premises comply with requirements.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

These Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, replace Section 13 of the 1938 Act, as the principal law relating to food hygiene.

The application of these new Regulations is much more extensive in that they apply, generally speaking, not only to food shops but to all "food businesses", and include canteens, clubs, schools and so on.

In the main, the Regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956, and are designed to prevent contamination of food. Those requirements dealing with structural alterations, e.g., the provision of sinks, washbasins etc., do not become operative until the 1st July, 1956.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 : removal to Suitable Premises
of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 1.

No application was made to the Court for a Removal Order under this section.

The Home Help Service continues to be of great value in rendering timely assistance to old people living alone and so enabling them to carry on.

In a few cases the Home Help Assistance would have been inadequate, and so, after persuasion, the old people agreed to be admitted to hospital.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Facilities

Samples of water, milk and ice-cream and pathological specimens are sent for bacteriological analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford. The laboratory is part of the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Ministry of Health, and no charge is made for making use of its services.

Chemical examination of specimens is undertaken by Messrs. Ellis and Turner, Public Analysts, Gloucester.

Home Help Service.

This service is organised by the County Council, and a charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

The Home Help takes over the running of the home where the housewife is temporarily incapacitated through illness.

As noted elsewhere, the Service is very useful to old people who can no longer manage because of infirmity.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made to the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (telephone Number: Cheltenham 55746)

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 Council Offices or the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Charlton Kings (Tel. 55746)

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES (Gloucestershire County Council)

Apperley	..	..	2nd Wednesday, 4th Thursday
Ashchurch (Northway Church Centre)			Alternate Tuesdays
Bishops Cleeve	..	..	Each Wednesday
Dumbleton	..	..	4th Friday
Leckhampton	..	..	Each Friday
Prestbury	..	..	Each Tuesday
The Reddings	..	..	2nd & 4th Thursdays.
Shurdington	..	..	1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Stanway	..	..	2nd Friday
Stoke Orchard	..	..	Alternate Tuesdays
Twynning	..	..	2nd Thursday
Winchcombe	..	..	Alternate Tuesdays
Witcombe & Bentham	..	..	2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

HOUSING ACT, 1936, Parts II & III; HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954, Section I.

(1) PROPOSALS:

Total number of permanent dwellings in the Local
Authority's area 7,826

Part 1. 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 | .. | 338 |
| (ii) | Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all houses in (i) | .. .. | 8 yrs. |

Part 2. 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 | .. . | 8 |
| (iv) | Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister, but have not yet become operative | .. .. | nil |

Part 3. 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 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 | .. .. | 58 |
| (vii) | Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, for temporary accommodation | .. | nil |
| (viii) | Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be demolished in the five years | | 66 |
| (ix) | Number of Houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1935 | .. .. | 150 |

(2) ACTION TAKEN DURING 1955

Houses demolished or closed in the period

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------|
| (1) | <u>Housing Act, 1936</u> | Houses |
| (a) | Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) | .. 4 |

(b)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners (Section 11) and still in force	5
(c)	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) ..	Nil
(2) <u>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</u>		
	Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) ..	Nil

Repairs in the period.

(3)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ..	30
(4)	Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice.:	

Houses in which defects were remedied :-

(a)	by owners	2
(b)	by local authority	nil

(3) NEW HOUSES

Completed in 1955 :

Council Houses	59
Bishops Cleeve Housing Association ..	60
Dowty Housing Association ..	3
Private Enterprise	326
Gloucestershire County Council ..	<u>5</u>
Total	453

(4) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of houses in respect of which Improvement Grants were issued :

(a)	Improvements	58
(b)	Conversions	1

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

The re-survey of Category V. dwellings which was commenced in November, 1954, was completed by the middle of 1955, and a very full report on the results of the survey was presented to the Council by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. This report shewed that of the 505 Category V. houses revisited no less than 183, or approximately 36 per cent, could be reclassified into higher categories, leaving a balance of 322 houses which were judged to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at reasonable cost of being made fit. These 322 houses, together with a further eight, the subject of Clearance Orders which were already operative constitute the "slum clearance" programme now being embarked upon by the Council. Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 required all local authorities to submit to the Minister by August 31st, 1955, proposals for dealing

with unfit houses during the succeeding five years. The Cheltenham Rural District Council undertook to deal with the whole of the 330 unfit houses in the five-year period; 58 of them in Clearance Areas, and the remainder as individual unfit houses. This represented an average rate of 66 houses per annum. However, the Ministry has intimated that eight years is regarded as a reasonable period for the completion of Cheltenham's programme, thus reducing the tempo to 41 houses per annum, assuming the work is actually spread over eight years.

The Council decided that the work should be carried out parish by parish as this would simplify the synchronisation of clearance and re-housing provision. The report revealed that the parish of Deerhurst contained a higher proportion of unfit houses than any parish in the Rural District, and so it was decided that the 49 unfit houses in Deerhurst should be dealt with in the first 12 months. By the end of the year under review, arrangements were well in hand for dealing with the Deerhurst houses; fifteen of them in three Clearance Areas, and the remainder as individual unfit houses. It is not anticipated that all the houses represented will be actually demolished or closed since the Council has reaffirmed its policy of giving the fullest encouragement and help to owners of unfit dwellings who are willing to carry out work to bring their properties up to a standard of fitness for human habitation, wherever this is physically possible.

The Council is also continuing its policy of making Improvement Grants in all suitable cases to enable owners to bring their properties up to a proper standard of amenity and to extend their useful life for a period of at least 15 years.

WATER SUPPLY

Part of the Rural District is within the supply areas of the Gloucester and Cheltenham Corporations's water undertakings.

The Council's supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. All the supplies are chlorinated.

Nineteen samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, and two samples for chemical examination; in addition, seventeen bacteriological samples were taken from private supplies

	No. of <u>houses</u>	No. of houses supplied direct into <u>house</u>	No. of houses supplied by means <u>of standpipe</u>
Alderton	135	125	-
Ashchurch (incl. Aston Cross, Aston- on-Carrant, Fiddington & Pamington)	391	350	-
Badgeworth (incl. Bentham and The Reddings)	459	377	-
Boddington (incl. Hayden)	82	81	-
Bishops Cleeve	1,092	1,078	-
+Buckland (incl. Laverton)	75	68	7
Coberley	81	25	-
+Cowley (Birdlip public) (Cowley private supply)	99	76	-
Deerhurst (incl. Apperley and Walton Hill)	203	131	-
+Dumbleton (incl. Gt. Washbourne, Little Washbourne and Wormington)	172	94(public) 67(private)-	-

		No. of <u>houses</u>	No. supplied <u>direct</u>	No. supplied <u>by S'pipe</u>
Elmstone Hardwicke	..	64	54	-
Gotherington	..	129	111	-
+Great Witcombe	..	31	31	-
Hawling	..	51	37	-
Leigh (incl. Coombe Hill)	..	94	92	-
Leckhampton	..	524	474	-
Oxenton (incl. Woolstone)	..	50	33	-
+Prescott	..	31	23	-
Prestbury	..	1,084	1,014	-
Shurdington	..	275	236	-
Snowhill	..	70	39	-
Southam	..	139	139	-
Stanton	..	86	84	-
Stanway	..	140	138	-
Staverton	..	122	114	-
Stoke Orchard (incl. Tredington)	..	173	166	-
+Sudeley (incl. Charlton Abbots)	..	43	33	-
Swindon (incl. Brockhampton)	..	112	105	-
Teddington (incl. Alstone)	..	54	54	-
Toddington	..	141	130	-
Twynning	..	260	116	-
Uckington	..	96	92	-
Up Hatherley	..	50	49	-
Walton Cardiff	..	15	15	-
Winchcombe (incl. Gretton & Greet)	..	951	934	3
Woodmancote	..	252	245	-
		<u>7,826</u>	<u>7,030</u>	<u>10</u>

+ Private or part private pipe supplies

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The extensive building development and increase in population to over 2,000 in Bishops Cleeve had given rise to overloading of the sewage disposal works at Brockhampton, and consequent pollution of the river.

Reconstruction of these disposal works was completed during the year, serving the parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Southam, and Woodmancote.

Work is in progress to provide the village of Birdlip with a sewerage system and sewage disposal works.

The Minister gave approval for the Council to proceed with the Scheme for disposal works for the village of Great Washbourne.

CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, on the work of his Department for the Year 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Department for which I am responsible to the Council.

The activities of the Council have continued to increase and in the succeeding part of the report it is proposed to deal with various duties under separate headings unless they have already been dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING

The provision of housing accommodation is still a very important task for the Council, but does appear to be less acute than at any time since the end of hostilities in 1945. The effect of the easing of restrictions upon private enterprise has resulted in the number of completed private houses rising to 326 as against 152 in 1954, 81 in 1953, and 32 in 1952. A further encouraging feature is that at the end of 1955, the number of private enterprise houses in course of erection had risen to 238 plus 4 for the Dowty Housing Association. The number of sites for future private houses approved by the Town Planning Authority now totals approximately fifteen hundred.

The total number of houses completed in the District totalled 453, and based on an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per house, this means that 1,585 persons have been provided with permanent accommodation during the year.

The efforts of this Council have been directed to providing housing at Bishops Cleeve and Leckhampton. These are the main centres of population and where the Council owned sites with services available.

The number of requisitioned properties at the beginning of the year was 4, and this was reduced to 3 by the end of the year. Since that date all have been released.

The list of applications for houses is less than a year ago. The number of houses erected by private enterprise showed, as anticipated, an increase during the year, and the rate continues to be maintained.

Applications for Housing Accommodation

Ordinary applications :-

a. living in the District	..	..	289	
b. not living in the District..	..	..	<u>102</u>	391

Families occupying dwellings on temporary estates

a. The Park, Stoke Orchard	..	..	91	
b. Chargrove Grounds	..	..	8	
c. Witcombe Grounds	..	..	<u>48</u>	147

Families in requisitioned properties.	..			3
---------------------------------------	----	--	--	---

The occupation of caravans is still increasing and more licensed sites came into use during the year.

Temporary Housing.

Under this heading accommodation of former camp sites has been included. The Council still control sites at Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe. The policy of the Council has been to re-house the families who have been on these sites for a long time. It is hoped that when the families are rehoused from Stoke Orchard, Shurdington and Witcombe, it will be possible to remove the buildings.

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

	Year ending :	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
No. of dwellings	..	163	147
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors (not including conversions or matters arising therefrom)	..	36	117
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's staff	323	257
No. of visits	311	424

Other Activities in Housing.

In accordance with the directions received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, preparations were made for dealing with unfit houses in accordance with the programme approved by the Ministry. The policy adopted is to deal, each year, with all category five houses in a selected portion of the District. By this method the Council will eventually know the number of families requiring to be rehoused in that area, and from this information, the size of the site for new houses can be estimated. Following these lines, it was decided to deal with the Parish of Deerhurst in the first year, where the number of houses in Category V. totalled 49. The properties concerned were re-inspected and by the end of the year the necessary information had been collected in almost all cases in readiness for taking the action required by the Housing Acts.

Reconditioning of houses also shewed a marked increase and by the end of the year Grants had been approved in respect of 84 cases, affecting 102 properties. The Council have encouraged owners to make applications, and where the works have been completed the results have been very satisfactory. In some cases it would be safe to say that apart from the improved standard, the value of the property has increased by an amount greater than the actual costs incurred.

HOUSING ACTS.

Under the Housing Acts the following figures relate :-

	Year ending:	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
Housing inspections or re-visits	513	794
No. of properties on which Statutory Notices were served	16	15
No. of properties on which Statutory Notices were complied with	6	5

No. of properties on which Statutory Notices were served prior to 1955 which were complied with during 1955		4
No. of informal Notices served	20	37
No. of informal Notices complied with ..	18	30
No. of impure water supplies rectified..		3
No. of roofs repaired.	9	7
No. of drainage systems repaired or renewed	10	12
No. of dwellings where miscellaneous defects were rectified		8
No. of houses for which applications for Improvement Grants were received	46	70
No. of Grants approved covering improvements		62
No. of Grants approved covering conversions		1
No. of inspections re. Improvement Grants	78	430

Requisitioned Properties.

At the end of 1955 the Council held under Requisitioning Powers three properties which gave accommodation to three families. During 1955 one property was released to the owner,

The following figures relate to these properties :-

	Year ending	
	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
Orders for repairs completed by the Council's workmen	10	nil
Orders for repairs completed by Contractors	7	1
No. of visits to inspect	36	2

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 ten men upon this work (not including the part time of the Foremen). The following figures shew the work carried out :-

	Year ending	
	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
No. of houses repairable by the Council at the end of the year (others will be released from Contractors from time to time)	870	1083
No. of Repair Orders completed by the Council's Staff (an order may contain several items).	1144	1755
No. of Repair Orders completed by Contractors, including electricity and gas	490	546
Total	<u>1,634</u>	<u>2,301</u>

No. of houses overhauled and redecorated externally by contract & direct labour	186	193 - contract 26 - direct l. 219 total
No. of houses redecorated internally on change of tenancy	2	1

	Year ending:	
	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
No. of tiled surround fireplaces fitted	20	31
No. of defective drainage boards replaced	28	25
No. of defective sets of firebricks replaced	26	19
No. of defective firebaskets replaced	28	50
No. of defective firebars to ranges replaced	20	36
No. of defective sinks replaced	1	5
No. of defective sanitary pails replaced	8	15
No. of W.C. pans replaced	27	22
No. of defective taps replaced	16	9
No. of defective flush boxes replaced	4	4
No. of defective chimney pots replaced	14	9
No. of defective lavatory basins replaced	2	2
No. of defective W.C. seats replaced	36	46
No. of portable coal fired coppers replaced	5	8
No. of gate posts renewed	14	13
No. of roofs repaired	82	167
No. of eaves gutters repaired	27	49
No. of visits to Council Houses for various purposes	2,856	2,908
No. of cases where damage has been repaired at the tenant's expense	15	21
No. of applications to erect television aerials dealt with	77	127

BUILDING BYELAWS

The work in connection with the Building Byelaws has continued to increase during the year, as will be seen by the number of houses erected or in course of erection.

	Year ending:	
	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
Total number of plans received and considered	423	492
No. of plans re-submitted..	63	114
No. of plans withdrawn	1	1
Total considered by the Committee.. ..	485	605
Total number of plans approved - permanent	427	542
Total number of plans approved - temporary	14	3
Total number of plans disapproved	44	60
Temporary approvals renewed	12	16
Plans declared of no effect	3	-

		Year ending :	
		<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
Temporary Buildings removed	..	3	-
No. of recommendations to Area Planning Office	..	232	190
No. of visits to properties and sites		2,430	2,932
No. of houses completed by the Council		258	59
No. of houses completed by Private Enterprise		152	326
No. of houses completed by Gloucestershire C.C.		-	5
No. of houses converted to more dwellings or other buildings converted		6	1
No. of houses completed by Housing Asstns.		98	63
No. of houses in course of erection at the end of 1955 :-			
Council (including flats)		48	
Housing Association (Dowty)		4	
Private Enterprise		<u>238</u>	Total 290

Each plan when received is checked and acknowledged, and if there is any discrepancy and time permits, the owner's or architect's attention is drawn to this with a view to the necessary alterations being made prior to consideration by the Committee.

Every endeavour is made to inspect work at the following stages - excavation of foundations; completion of concrete foundations; dampcourse; roofing; testing of drains; installation of fittings; and completion.

In a number of cases the owners of houses have obtained loans through the Council under the Housing Act, 1949, and in such cases more frequent inspections are made, and the work is closely checked before certificates are issued for payments.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Under this heading has been included the work in connection with milk supply, infectious diseases, water supply, nuisances, disinfestations, tents, vans and sheds, factories and workshops, pollution of streams, inspection of food premises, public conveniences and sewage disposal etc. The following figures show the activities during the year :-

		Year ending :	
		<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
No. of complaints received or nuisances discovered	..	84	97
Nuisances abated	..	79	77
Complaints not justified	..	2	5
Informal Notices sent	..	36	23
Statutory Notices served	..	nil	2
No. of visits in connection with the above items	..	243	281
No. of premises disinfected	..	5	2
No. of premises disinfested	..	6	7
No. of new drainage systems installed		61	29
Visits to new drainage systems	..	247	149
No. of visits to public conveniences		33	50
Infectious disease visits	..	35	22

INSPECTION OF FOODS

The following foodstuffs have been condemned :-

			<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs</u>
Tinned Fruit	..	..	5	1	17	14
Tinned vegetables	..	..	1	0	12	13
Tinned fish	..	..	0	0	13	10
Tinned meat	..	..	1	1	22	13
Meat	..	..	0	0	3	0
Tinned puree	..	..	1	0	21	13
Soups	..	..	0	1	0	0
Preserves	..	..	0	0	8	1
			<hr/>			
TOTAL	..	..	9	2	16	0
			<hr/>			
Tinned milk	..		23 pints			

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

[illegible]

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs	Horses
<u>Cysticercosis contd.</u>						
Generalised and totally condemned	.58%	-	-	-	-	-

No. of visits in connection with the Food & Drugs Act : 197

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Sale of Icecream

No. of applications considered and licences issued : 3

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

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

	Year ending :	
	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
No. of new applications for licences received	81	67
No. of applications withdrawn. ..	5	1
No. of new applications approved (private sites)	69	54
No. of new applications approved (Council sites)	3	3
No. of new applications disapproved	4	9
No. of visits to sites	191	305
No. of previous licences renewed ..	65	63

Factories Act, 1937

No. of informal notices served	nil	nil
No. of unsuitable sanitary conveniences rectified	2	1
No. of visits to factories	71	76

Sewage Disposal

Samples of sewage effluents were taken periodically at the Council's sewerage works, and 26 samples were submitted for analysis.

No. of visits to Sewage Disposal Works etc. : 761.

Water Supplies

The laying of the main to Laverton from Stanton was completed during the year, and the unsatisfactory supply to Laverton was discontinued.

During the year the number of samples submitted from the Council's supply totalled 21, and from private sources 17.

During the year the number of new connections to the mains totalled 459, and of these 166 connections were made to the Council's mains, 285 to the Cheltenham Corporation's mains, and 8 to the Gloucester City mains.

No. of visits to supplies, mains etc. : 128

The total length of cast iron and asbestos distributor mains owned by the Council of diameters from 2 - 9 inches is approximately 103 miles. In addition there are approximately 11½ miles of galvanised, copper and asbestos pipes of between ¾" and 2" diameter, and 21½ miles of supply and pumping mains from 3 to 6 inches in diameter.

Refuse and Salvage

Regular collections of house refuse are made throughout the District. Weekly collections are made in the built up areas, fortnightly in the villages, and monthly in the more remote and scattered areas.

The controlled method of tipping is undertaken, and refuse is tipped at Shurdington, Snowhill, Winchcombe, Prestbury, and Twynning.

Refuse is collected weekly in the Parishes of Bishops Cleeve, Leckhampton, Prestbury, part Up Hatherley, and Winchcombe. Fortnightly collections are made in the remaining Parishes of the District, with the exception of Alstone, Teddington, Charlton Abbots, Hawling, Elmstone Hardwicke, Leigh, Oxenton, Woolstone and Twynning, which are collected monthly.

No. of visits to tips etc. : 258

Vehicles. 3 Shelvoke & Drewry 16/20 cu.yd. fore and aft tippers.
1 Bedford Compressmore 18/20 cu.yd.

	Year ending:		
	<u>31.12.53</u>	<u>31.12.54</u>	<u>31.12.55</u>
No. of Dwellings	6,854	7,379	7,826
Quantity of refuse collected	31,000	32,000	33,000 cu.yds
Distance travelled by vehicles .	32,000	34,400	36,445 miles

The cost of collection steadily mounts and it will be seen that between December, 1953 and December, 1955, the number of properties from which refuse is collected has increased by nearly 1,000, involving an increased mileage of 4,445. This together with increased costs in wages, repairs etc. is responsible for the overall increase in costs.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

No. of informal notices served	1
No. of visits	89

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT 1928.

No. of informal notices served	5
No. of licences issued to store petroleum. ..	76
No. of visits	107

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

The arrangements whereby the Pest Operator deals with Tewkesbury Borough and the Cheltenham Rural District continues to operate in a very satisfactory manner.

During 1955 the Pest Operator has made the following visits and treatments :-

	<u>No. of Treatments to Premises.</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>	<u>No. of premises inspected (incl- uding clearing of the baits.</u>
Cheltenham R.D.C. Premises	60	179	82
Other premises in the Cheltenham Rural District	370	1069	323
Premises in Tewkesbury Borough	102	288	45
Total	<u>532</u>	<u>1536</u>	<u>450</u>
Total number of complaints received and visited			94

In addition to the above work, the sewerage systems at Prestbury and Winchcombe, were treated during April and October, and only minor infestations were recorded.

The sewers at Tewkesbury were also treated during April and October.

LOANS FOR HOUSE PURCHASE.

This is another heading under which there is increased activity. The work involved is first in checking the plans and specifications prior to loan sanction, and afterwards inspection of the work to see that it is satisfactory, and certifying payment at the appropriate stages.

The position at the end of 1955 was that the Council had agreed to advance loans in 143 cases; the amount loaned being £215,327. These figures do not include those relating to the Bishops Cleeve Housing Association, and Dowty Housing Association.

S U M M A R Y.

The foregoing report deals with the principal sections but during the year there were other fields of activity such as dangerous structures, Milk and Dairies Regulations, Street Numbering, inspection of housing sites etc. These have entailed many visits and inspections.

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 :-

				for the year :-		
				1953	1954	1955
New Council Housing sites	..			111	83	77
Temporary Housing	..	..		333	311	424
Housing Act inspections	..	..		184	513	794
Improvement Grants	..	..		-	78	430
Requisitioned Properties	..	..		29	36	2
Council House Repairs	..	..		2074	2856	2908
Building Byelaw Inspections	..	..		1805	2430	2932
Public Health (Nuisances, Statutory Notices etc)	..	..		214	291	303
New Drainage Systems	..	..		468	247	149
Public Conveniences	..	..		50	33	50
Food and Drugs Acts	..	..		43	244	197
Tents Vans, and Sheds etc.	..	..		265	191	305
Factories and Workshops Act	..	..		81	71	76
Sewage Disposal	..	..		677	815	761
Water Supply	..	..		70	113	128
Refuse and salvage	..	..		296	253	258
Public Rights of Way	..	..		74	90	89
Petroleum Acts	..	..		107	93	107
Milk and Dairies	..	..		11	20	44
Miscellaneous visits	..	..		152	150	356
Attendance at meetings	..	..		107	93	85
Street Numbering	..	..		18	5	37
TOTAL ..				7373	9021	10512

No. of communications dispatched from the office during the year 4491

As will be seen from the above, the year has again been one of increased activity, and I wish to thank all members of the Council's staff for the good work they have done during the year, and for the friendly and close co-operation which has prevailed throughout with all departments.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for the kindness and consideration which they have afforded when dealing with the work of the Department.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. ROSSER

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor.