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**Congleton
Rural District
Council**



R E P O R T

on the

*Health and
Sanitary Circumstances
of the district*

Year Ended 31st December, 1953



Medical Officer of Health:
L. RICH, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
P. KIRKHAM, M.S.I.A. (from 1/4/53)
R. C. FORD, M.S.I.A. (to 30/6/53)

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

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Rural District of Congleton for the year 1953.

There has been an increase in the estimated population of nearly 300 during the year, and once again, I am pleased to report that there has been no death of a mother in childbirth.

Apart from Measles and to some extent Whooping Cough, there was no undue prevalence of infectious disease.

This was a notable year in the history of the Rural District, in that it saw the commencement of the scheme of refuse and night-soil collection to cover the whole of our area. The onset of this progressive Public Health measure and its subsequent development have gone remarkably smoothly and are a credit to all concerned.

There was also, during the year, a marked improvement in the rate of completion of new houses and several unfit old properties were represented for demolition.

One of the outstanding problems that remains to be solved is the question of drainage and sewerage. Several of our ditches and water-courses are being polluted by sewage and despite the fact that the Council has already prepared several important schemes, little progress appears to be occurring, mainly, we are told, due to restriction on capital expenditure. The time is fast approaching when this consideration should no longer be allowed to hold up these schemes which are fundamental to the good health of our Rural District.

Once again I wish to thank your Clerk and his staff for their help and guidance in the performance of my duties.

This year saw the retirement on the 1st July of Mr. R. C. Ford, M.S.I.A., after 29 years service with the Council. It is perhaps a fitting tribute to his years of effort that his retirement coincided with the adoption of the comprehensive Refuse Collection Scheme. His ready willingness to help at all times under all circumstances, despite numerous difficulties he had to contend with, was his chief characteristic. The manner in which he assisted his successor, Mr. P. Kirkham, M.S.I.A., in helping him to take over such a large Rural District was most admirable and was very much

appreciated by the new Sanitary Inspector. I take this opportunity of wishing him well in his retirement.

I wish to thank too, Mr. P. Kirkham, for his able assistance in helping me to prepare this report and for the energy and enthusiasm he puts into all he does.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Throughout this report the figures in brackets are for the year 1952, and are for purposes of comparison.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 13,320 (13,030)

Births

Live Births—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	183 (199)	93 (85)	90 (114)
Illegitimate	2 (5)	— (4)	2 (1)

Still Births—

Legitimate	6 (4)	4 (2)	2 (2)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid 1953 16.3 (17)

Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population 15.5 (15.3)

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 31.4 (19.2)

Still birth rate per 1,000 total population ... 45 (3)

Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 total population35 (.35)

Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2 (7)	1 (6)	1 (1)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births		10.8	(34.3)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales		26.8	(27.6)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		10.9	(35.2)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		0	(0)

Deaths

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths, all ages	256 (157)	129 (84)	127 (73)
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population ... ..	...	18.2	(11.4)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the population ... ..	...	11.4	(11.3)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the District during the year:—

Causes	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	7	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	2	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	—	3
Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	21	14	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	25	13	12
Coronary disease, angina	15	8	7
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
Other heart diseases	20	10	10
Other circulatory diseases	11	8	3
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	4	4	—
Bronchitis	5	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	1	1	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases	114	45	69
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	1
All other accidents	7	7	—
Suicide	2	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
Total	<u>256</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>127</u>

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal Causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	0 (0)
Other maternal causes	0 (0)

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

The work at the various Infant Welfare Clinics throughout the Rural District is increasing as can be seen from the figures given below. It is gratifying to note that the continued high level of attendance indicates that the mothers appreciate the value of health education and instruction in the preparation of diets and the preventive aspects of disease.

It is difficult to assess statistically the full value of this work from the preventive aspect. No one knows how many children would fall ill if it were not for the advice and immunisations given at the Clinics. The general improvement that has taken place in the country as a whole in the standard of child care, coupled with the lowest mortality rate ever in our history is probably the best evidence there is of the value of Infant Welfare Clinics.

	New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Welfare Centre									
Holmes Chapel	44	—	—	458	167	105	24	194	8.1
	<i>35</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>364</i>		<i>343</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>240</i>	<i>10</i>
Mow Cop	14	2	1	215	69	58	24	296	12.3
	<i>17</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>131</i>		<i>58</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>7.8</i>
Rode Heath	14	1	—	139	24	81	24	141	5.9
	<i>13</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>139</i>		<i>207</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>227</i>	<i>9.4</i>
Scholar Green	23	—	—	270	109	162	24	287	12
	<i>25</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>262</i>		<i>323</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>456</i>	<i>19.8</i>

Figures in italics are for 1952

Home Nursing

The District Nurses serving our area act in double capacity as Home Nurses and Midwives. They are as follows:—

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
V. Spencer	Black & White Cottages, Astbury.	Congleton 451
G. Magee	Booth Bank Road, Goostrey.	Holmes Chapel 3244
L. B. Blunsum	19 West Way, Holmes Chapel	Holmes Chapel 2226
H. M. Richardson	2 Drenfell Road, Scholar Green	Kidsgrove 466
J. Witter	5 Elworth Street, Sandbach	Sandbach 256

If at all possible, a confinement should take place at home, particularly in a Rural District where transport at such times can present a problem. However, if on Medical or social grounds it becomes necessary for the mother to have her baby in hospital, then provision is made at West Park Hospital, Macclesfield, The

Cliffe Maternity Home, Wynbunbury, and The Barony Hospital, Nantwich. Beds are also available at the Haywood Hospital, Burslem for mothers in Scholar Green, Lawton and Rode Heath.

Vaccination and Immunisation

There has been a satisfactory increase in the rate of Primary Immunisations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

There is no doubt that Diphtheria Immunisation has been an outstanding success. In 1952, for example, in England and Wales, there were only 376 cases and 32 deaths from Diphtheria, whereas, before 1941 there were on an average nearly 60,000 cases, and 3,000 deaths each year from this dreadful disease.

There is no doubt, too, that if we fail to maintain a high percentage of children adequately immunised against Diphtheria, we will get again epidemics and deaths from this disease.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is still in its early stages, but already sufficient evidence has been accumulated to show that here, too, the incidence of another crippling and dangerous disease is being reduced both in its frequency and severity. The practise now-a-days is to combine the immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and so reduce the number of injections required.

I am pleased to report an increase in the number of primary vaccinations carried out against Smallpox. Although this disease is a rarity in this country, we do from time to time get outbreaks from accidental or unrecognized importation from abroad.

Parents do not realise that the safest and best time to have a child vaccinated is when it is three months old. If vaccination has to be done in older children or in adults, it can produce severe reactions which it rarely does in young infants.

STATISTICS

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	41	(75)
School children	...	...	113	(44)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			154	(119)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections	...	...	73	(242)

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-school children	...	...	12	(27)
School children	...	...	43	(50)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			55	(77)
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children	...	...	127	(26)
School children	...	...	29	(8)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			156	(34)
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children	...	...	86	(48)
School children	...	...	11	(5)
Adults	...	...	7	(13)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			104	(66)
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Re-Vaccination

Pre-school children	...	...	—	(1)
School children	...	...	5	(2)
Adults	...	...	34	(82)
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			39	(85)
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport

An ambulance and sitting case car service is provided for the district by transport based at Congleton, Sandbach and Alsager. Arrangements have also been made with neighbouring areas for the use of their ambulances in case of emergency.

Emergency ambulances can be obtained at all times by telephoning Congleton 473, day and night; Sandbach 160 (day) and 389 (night); Alsager 36 (day) and 415 (night).

The demand on the ambulance and sitting case car transport has risen steadily since the onset of the scheme in 1948, and shows no sign of falling off. It is essential that all concerned should use this transport economically and with discretion.

Domestic Help Service

The demand on this service is growing steadily.

The greatest demand made on this service is by the aged and infirm. Although there are many admirable Old Peoples' Homes in the County, the ideal place to care for aged people and the one where they most want to be, is in their own home. It will only be possible to do this if we have available sufficient number of home helps.

STATISTICS

Home Helps employed during 1953

Full time	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	12	(4)
Casual	...	...	...	5	(2)
				17	(6)
				17	(6)

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1953

Full time	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	4	(3)
Casual	...	...	...	2	(1)
				6	(4)
				6	(4)

Applications received during 1953

Confinement	...	...	...	5	(4)
Sickness	...	...	...	3	(2)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	3	(4)
				11	(10)
				11	(10)

Cases attended during 1953

Confinement	...	...	...	6	(2)
Sickness	...	...	...	2	(3)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	12	(8)
				20	(13)
				20	(13)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

I am indebted to Mr. Delwyn G. Davies, Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board for the following information.

The quality of water supplied in the Congleton Rural District during the year has been satisfactory.

The quantity of water available for supply has been augmented by a bulk supply taken from the Congleton Borough Council. Although this was intended to relieve the Mow Cop Pumping Station, an increased demand has reduced its effectiveness.

A scheme for interconnecting the distribution system in the Nantwich Rural District with the Congleton Rural District through Alsager will be completed during 1954.

The actual quantity of water supplied to the Rural District in 1953 was 285 million gallons of which 130 million gallons were used for domestic purposes. From the information available the population supplied from the water mains is 12,500, giving an average over-all daily consumption of 62.5 gallons per head for all purposes and 28.5 gallons per head for domestic use.

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. R. O. Birtwistle, for the reports on Sewerage and Housing.

Sewerage

The Council's Sewage Disposal Works in various parts of the District have been maintained during the year with reasonably satisfactory results. Difficulties have been experienced due to exceptionally long periods required by manufacturers for the repair of machinery.

The Sewerage Scheme for Brereton Green has now been prepared and is ready for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

Work is also well in hand on the schemes which have been necessitated as a result mainly of building development since the war.

Housing

Housing sites now number 54 and they contain as few as two houses (Elton) and as many as ninety (West Way), the largest scheme so far erected by the Council.

It is thought that the need for three bedroom houses is now reducing but that the emphasis will now move to bungalows for aged persons and flats or two bedroom houses for young persons.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

As pointed out in the introduction to this Report, apart from Measles and to some extent Whooping Cough, we have had no undue prevalence of infectious disease in 1953.

There were 5 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, 3 Pulmonary and 2 Non-pulmonary.

Plans are being prepared and will shortly be put into effect to offer vaccination against Tuberculosis to all school children between the ages of 13 and 14. This will have the effect of building up in the community a population resistant to Tuberculosis. Many years will elapse before this happy state will be realised, but it must surely come when Tuberculosis will be as rare as Diphtheria is today.

In the meantime, the usual methods of prevention, namely, by the provision of adequate housing, supervision and control of actual suspects and judicious use of the Mass Radiography Unit, are being carried out.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register in the district and their age distribution is as follows:—

	Up to 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	1	4	5	3	4	4	21
Female Pulmonary ...	—	—	1	4	3	3	1	—	—	12
Male Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	3	7	1	—	2	—	—	13
Female Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	6	5	4	1	4	1	—	21

TUBERCULOSIS

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1953 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1944.

Notifications—1944 to 1953

	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
MALE	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
Up to 1 year																				
1-5					2															
5-15	2		1		2		2													
15-25				1		1		1												
25-35	2	1							2											
35-45				1		1			1											
45-55	1		3		1				1											
55-65			1										3							
65 & over				1																
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15																				
15-25	1																			
25-35					2															
35-45			1			1														
45-55	1																			
55-65																				
65 & over																				
TOTAL	4	4	6	2	7	5	5	4	3	-	7	3	6	1	7	4	4	4	3	2

Deaths—1944 to 1953

MALE	1944		1945		1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
Up to 1 year																				
1-5		1																		
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35																				
35-45																				
45-55																				
55-65		1						1												
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1-5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35																				
35-45																				
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 & over																				
TOTAL	1	3	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	1	3	-	2	1	2	-	1	1	1	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1953

Disease	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over				
Scarlet Fever	1	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	6	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	3	4	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...
Measles	4	9	5	5	57	5	2	7	2	1	...	...	97	...	...
Pneumonia	1	1	...	2	...	4
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Malaria	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Food Poisoning	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	...	...

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. P. Kirkham, the Sanitary Inspector.

Cleansing

With effect from 1st April of this year the Council undertook for the first time a comprehensive scavenging service. Both house refuse and night soil have been collected throughout the district with the exclusion of most farm premises. Farms have been able to apply for the service where they have found disposal difficult and their requirements have been met. A regular collection has been maintained at weekly intervals except for a few of the more isolated dwellings.

A vehicle carrying a driver and two men has been allocated to each of four districts for collection of refuse. One Cesspool Emptier with night soil attachment empties all pail closets weekly. There are approximately 600 pails including those at nine schools. There are also about 60 dwellings having earthenware pans sunk as fixtures into the ground which are emptied of necessity by the use of a scoop. The abolition of such primitive sanitation would assist the scavenging service.

The Cesspool Emptier has carried out much useful work at 23 Council Sewage Works and Septic Tank installations and has removed 149 loads during the year. In addition septic tanks, etc., on private properties are emptied on request at a fixed charge of £1 per load or part load. 88 loads have been removed from 49 private installations in this way.

The Council now operate the following vehicles:—

No.	Make	Date	Duty	Mileage	
				1/4/53 to 31/12/53	Petrol
PMB 601	Karrier Gamecock	Jan. 53	Refuse	6456	967
PMB 602	Karrier Gamecock	Feb. 53	Refuse	3654	953
PMB 603	Karrier Gamecock	Apl. 53	Refuse	3173	624
KMA 128	Fordson	Feb. 48	Refuse	4941	816
KMA 719	Commer	Apl. 48	Spare vehicle	400 approx.	76
PMB 604	Karrier Cesspool Emptier	Apl. 53	Pails & Tanks	7661	1295

Vehicles are at present serviced and maintained by local garages. Each Saturday morning is devoted to cleansing the vehicles and a limited degree of maintenance by the drivers.

Refuse is disposed of by the tipping as far as possible on controlled lines. The Council own one tip only but many useless depressions in various parts of the area are being tipped on and should result in land being made available for use.

Night soil and septic tank contents are disposed of partly on the land and partly at sewage works. A start has been made in the composting of night soil with a view to sale as manure.

Work has commenced on the erection of a Council Depot in the parish of Arclid to house all the Scavenging Vehicles. This should simplify enormously the administration of the service and promote its efficiency without increasing the cost. At present, vehicles are scattered over the area at five different points. It is also envisaged that the maintenance and repairs be carried out by direct labour.

Food and Food Premises

139 visits were made to food premises. The following types of premises are in the district:—

General	41
Cafes	17
Hotels and Licenced Houses ...	33
Butchers	8
Bakehouses	4
Sweets	2
Greengrocers	2
Canning Factory	1
Medical Foods	1
Clubs	5

114

14 premises were found to be unsatisfactory. The necessity for the observance of the most rigid standards of cleanliness was not appreciated by many food handlers. Informal action resulted in considerable improvement in the cleanliness of premises but to effect a similar betterment in the habits of an individual is much more difficult. It was not found necessary to recommend any legal action.

An effort is being made to secure the provision of constant hot water at all food premises. The weakness of the wording of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, does not assist and too many shops consider a kettle on a gas ring or firegrate is sufficient. The problem of standards at the village "general" shop is a difficult one. The right to shop elsewhere is one of the strongest measures for securing improvements for a shopping public who have become food hygiene conscious.

16 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream. 1 shop is registered for the manufacture of ice cream by the complete cold mix method. There are no manufacturers by heat treatment.

Four samples of ice cream were taken and 1 found to be unsatisfactory.

7 other miscellaneous registrations relate to sausages, meat pies, etc., including a fruit and vegetable canning factory.

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered:—

Butter	...	...	...	...	19 lbs.
<i>Canned Goods</i>					<i>tins</i>
Fish	...	...	...	...	5
Fruit	...	...	...	...	276
Meat	...	...	...	...	9
Milk	...	...	...	...	16
Soup	...	...	...	...	6
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	20
					351

Disposal is either by burning or burial. In the absence of this being arranged by the Council, occupiers of food premises are asked to certify that this will be done.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during 1953:—

Dealer's Licences

Accredited	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	4
Pasteurised	...	...	...	5
Sterilized	...	...	...	4

Supplementary

Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised	...	...	...	1
Sterilized	...	...	...	1

Although only four milk samples were taken it is hoped to increase this service particularly regarding raw milk supplied to schools.

Slaughtering and Slaughterhouses

Six licences were renewed to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. There are no slaughterhouses operating within the district and the meat is allocated from the Congleton Borough Slaughterhouses. This Council's Sanitary Inspector may carry out emergency relief work from time to time at the Sandbach Slaughterhouse.

Factories

The following tables give particulars of the routine inspections and action taken during the year. It is rarely found that the larger factories fall short of the statutory standards. In each case any suggestions made were readily followed.

There are no registered outworkers.

INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	8	6	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	22	2
Total	47	28	2

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Insp.
Sanitary Conveniences.			
Unsuitable or Defective	3	2	2

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Summary of Visits

Animals, keeping of	14
Conversions	152
Closet Pails	36
Drainage, including septic tanks, etc.	296
Dustbins	28
Factory, with Mechanical Power	22
Factory, without Mechanical Power	6
Food Premises, General	32
Food Premises, Bakehouses	6
Food Premises, Butchers	12
Food Premises, Cafe and Canteen	19
Food Premises, Dairy, etc.	14
Food Premises, Fish and Chips	2
Food Premises, Ice cream	27
Food Premises, Hotels and Public Houses	6
Food Premises, Unsound Food	23
Food Premises, Vehicles	3
Housing, General	162
Housing, Council House Application	63
Housing, Rural Housing Survey	139
Housing, Housing Act, 1949, Improvement Grants	19
Infectious Disease	10

Infectious Disease, Food Poisoning	...	...	...	10
Infectious Disease, Disinfection	...	...	...	7
Insect Pests	...	...	...	4
Insect Pests, Disinfestation	...	...	...	2
Nuisance, General	...	...	...	49
Nuisance, Housing	...	...	...	36
Nuisance, Petroleum	...	...	...	32
Rodent Control	...	...	...	67
Scavenging	...	...	...	99
Scavenging Tips	...	...	...	92
Scavenging, Teams at Work	...	...	...	110
Scavenging, Garages	...	...	...	82
Shops Act	...	...	...	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	15
Water Supply	...	...	...	10
Workplaces, Offices, Farms, etc.	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous, Interviews, etc.	...	...	...	73
				<hr/>
			Total	1792
				<hr/>

Number of complaints received and investigated	...	152
Number of Informal Notices served	...	156
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	108
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	3
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	47

Conversions

The conversions from conservancy to water carriage system in the Odd Rode parish were nearing completion as the year ended. 44 Statutory Notices under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were complied with and appropriate grants paid. The owners of 5 cottages who carried out conversions by agreement also received grants. 13 Informal Notices were served. Only 6 Notices under Section 47 were outstanding at the end of the year.

Many premises, particularly farms, who had no sewer available but had mains water, carried out conversion of pail closets, installing septic tanks to Council requirements.

Drainage

Complaints were received of nuisances arising from the pollution of ditches by the effluent of septic tanks and other works. In some cases attention to the desludging and/or repair of the tank proved a satisfactory remedy but it was often found that the use of detergents was preventing the natural bacterial action of the tank contents. The problem is, of course, a national one.

Water Supply

Three samples were taken during the year as follows:—

MORETON—

Stand-pipe supplying five houses. Untreated private supply—
Satisfactory.

MOW COP—

Shallow well to isolated house. (This house has become vacant and the owner has undertaken not to relet)—
Satisfactory.

ODD RODE—

Spring to pair of isolated houses. (One house has been made the subject of a Closing Order and the tenant rehoused)—
Unsatisfactory.

Moveable Dwellings

No Statutory action was found necessary to secure removal of caravans and similar dwellings.

Informal letters and visits resulted in compliance with requests.
The Council has no licensed site.

Rodent Control

The Sanitary Inspector has carried out 67 visits on Rodent Control. The Council employs a full time Operator and supplies him with a small van. The following information is given of his work during the year.

			<i>Number treated</i>	<i>Number of visits</i>
Dwelling houses	...	...	35	195
L.A. Premises	...	...	21	432
Business	...	...	15	396
Farms	...	...	45	1088
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	116	2111
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Warfarin with Oatmeal and Sausage Rusk is used almost exclusively for poisoning. Gassing is also used extensively where the ground and surroundings allow.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Acts, 1928 — 36

The Council is responsible for the licencing of premises for the storage of petroleum and petroleum mixtures. Liaison is effected with County Fire Brigade and the Factories Inspector both in these cases and for the issue of Certificate for Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Number of licences renewed in 1953	...	...	58
Number of new licences issued	...	...	4

Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence under the Act was renewed and the premises inspected.

Housing

The allocation of Council houses to people living in sub-standard property has received increasing attention. In each case where re-housing has occurred, steps were taken to secure either betterment of living conditions for the new tenants or to ensure the house was not re-let. 4 houses were closed as a result of a voluntary undertaking by the owners following an informal approach, and 4 houses were closed by invoking the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

In 9 other cases owners have undertaken not to relet the houses should they become vacant and the Council are to allocate houses as early as possible.

101 new houses were built by the Council during the year and 17 houses were built by private owners. There are 403 families on the waiting list of applicants for Council Houses. At the end of the year there were 710 Council Houses and 3,209 private houses in occupation.

69 defective houses had essential repairs carried out to them as a result of informal action.

34 notices under the Public Health Acts were complied with by owners and in 13 cases the works were carried out by the Council in default.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been named in the various reports of the Committee on the subject of the proposed new system of local government in the County of Cheshire. The names are given in the order in which they were mentioned in the reports, and are not necessarily in the order in which they were named in the original proposals. The names are given in full, and are not abbreviated. The names are given in the order in which they were mentioned in the reports, and are not necessarily in the order in which they were named in the original proposals. The names are given in full, and are not abbreviated.



