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Contributors

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Subrany

BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1952

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report for the year 1952 on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration for the Borough.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Public Health Department, The Chequers, Devizes. G. H. H. WAYLEN, Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

| Area in Acres 1391 a | icres |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Population 7830 | |
| Number of inhabited houses 2804 | |
| Rateable Value £54,35 | 7 |
| Product of 1d. rate £213 | |

| | | VITAL S | TATIS | STICS | | | |
|----------------------------|------|---------|-------|-------|----|----|--------|
| Live Births | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | M. | F. | Total. |
| Live Births | | | | | 59 | 60 | 119 |
| Legitimate | | | *** | *** | 53 | 57 | 110 |
| Illegitimate | | | *** | | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| Live Birth Rate | | | 2 | | | | |
| Borough (Crude) | | | | | | | 15.2 |
| (Adjusted) | | | | | | | 15.34 |
| England and Wales | | | | | | | 15.3 |
| Comparability Factor | *** | *** | | | | | 1.01 |
| Still Births | | | | | | | |
| Legitimate | | | | | | | Nil |
| Illegitimate | | | | | | | Nil |
| Death Rate | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 12.8 |
| Borough (Crude) | | | *** | *** | | | |
| (Adjusted) | | | | | | | II.I |
| England and Wales | *** | *** | | *** | | | 11.3 |
| Comparability Factor | | *** | | *** | | | 0.87 |
| Deaths of Infants under On | e Ye | ar | | | | | |
| All Infants | | | | | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Legitimate | | | | | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | | | *** | | 1 | - | 1 |

| Inf | antile Mortality Rate | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----|------|-------|------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|------------|------|--------|-----|
| | Borough | | | | | | | | | 58 | 3.8 | | |
| | England and Wales | | | | | | | | | - | .6 | | |
| De | aths of Infants under F | our We | eks | of . | Age | | | | | | | | |
| | and of annual officer a | 0111 11 0 | CRO | 01 . | . Age | | | M. | F. | Tota | 1 | | |
| | All Infants | | | | | | | 77.5 | 2 | | | | |
| | Legitimate | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | | | | |
| | Illegitimate | | | | | | | 3 | _ | | 5 | | |
| N.I. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ivia | ternal Mortality Rate | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Borough | | | | | | | _ | - | | Nil | | |
| | England and Wales | | | | | | ••• | | | 9 P | er m | illion | 1 |
| | | C | AU | SES | S OF | D | EATH | | | | | | |
| | | | M. | F. | T. | | | | | | M. | F. | T. |
| 1. | Tuberculosis-Respiratory | | 1 | _ | | 20. | Other Hea | rt Dise | ases | | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| 2. | Tuberculosis-Other Forms . | | - | _ | | 21. | Other Circ | culatory | Diseases | | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3. | | | - | - | | 22. | Influenza | | | | - | - | - |
| 4. | | | - | _ | | 23. | Pneumonia | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 5. 6. | Mariana 1 To Partie | | | | | 24. 25. | Bronchitis Other Disc | | Posnirato | ny System | | 1 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 D 1: 1:4: | | | | | 26. | Ulcer of S | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 8. | 11 1 | | | | | 27. | Gastritis, | | | | 1 | _ | 1 |
| 9. | Other Infective and Parasitic | | _ | - | | 28. | Nephritis | | | | | _ | |
| 10. | Malignant Neoplasm (Stomac | | 1 | 1 | | 29. | Hyperplasi | | | | | _ | 2 |
| 11. | Malignant Neoplasm (Lu- | | | | | 30. | Pregnancy | | | | | | _ |
| | Bronchus) | | 2 | _ | 2 | 31. | | | | | - 4 | _ | 1 |
| 12. | Malignant Neoplasm (Breast |) | - | 2 | 2 | 32. | Other Defi | ned and | Ill-Define | d Diseases | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| | Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus | | - | 1 | 1 | 33. | Motor Vel | hicle A | ccidents | | - | _ | _ |
| 14. | Other Malignant and Ly | ymphatic | | | | 34. | All Other | Accider | its | | - | - | - |
| | Neoplasms | | 2 | 4 | | 35. | Suicide | *** | | | - | - | - |
| 15. | Leukaemia and Aleukaemia | | - | 1 | | 36. | Homicide | and Op | erations of | f War | | - | - |
| | | | 2 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| 17. | Vascular Lesions of Nervous | | 6 | 12 | 18 | | m | | | | 10 | | 100 |
| | Coronary Disease: Angina . | | 9 | 13 | 22 | | Total | | | *** | 46 | 54 | 100 |
| 19. | Hypertension with Heart D | isease | 3 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | |

Again, the predominant causes of death are those of an ageing population, e.g., deaths from Cardiovascular Disease (Nos. 17-21), total 65 (65%; and from Malignant Neoplasms (Nos. 10-14, total 13 (13%).

There was a single death from Tuberculosis (Pulmonary), and four others from Respiratory

Lesions (Nos. 23 and 24).

No deaths occurred in Child-Bed (No. 30). No deaths were caused by Infectious Diseases

(Nos. 4-9 inclusive and No. 22).

The doubling of the Infantile Mortality Rate from last year has no real significance, the total yearly figures being too small.

GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health: G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H. (Cantab).
Sanitary Inspector: K. WILDEY, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., C.G.L.I. (San. Eng.), Royal Sanitary Institute Certificates for Meat and Other Foods Inspection and Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works.

Ambulance Services, Maternity and Child Welfare Services

Clinics-Orthopædic and Physchiatric, etc.

All these services are under the control of the Wiltshire County Council, and are reported on by the Chief Medical Officer to that Body.

Maternity Services

DEVIZES MATERNITY HOSPITAL (15 Beds).

During 1952 there were close on 400 admissions (385), with an average stay of a fortnight

(14.7 days). There was a full complement of nurses throughout the year. This hospital serves the Mid-Wilts Hospital Area, though, of course, the larger number of admissions are local ones, including those from the Devizes Hostel.

No. of Institutional Confinements in respect of residents of the Borough ... Live Births 135

Still Births

No. of Domiciliary Confinements in respect of residents of the Borough ...

Live Births 22 Still Births Nil

Under the new arrangements, women tend to be increasingly confined under hospital conditions away from home.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

| Scarlet Fever | | | | 13 |
|----------------|------|------|------|----|
| Whooping Cough | | | | 12 |
| Measles | | | | 8 |

DEVIZED POPOLICH

Devize

| A very light year. | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| es and District Hospital | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL BED COMPLEMENT | | | | | | 60 | |
| During the year there were over 1 | ,100 | admissions | (1141), | and all | the Depa | rtments w | ere busy. |
| PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT. | | | | | | | |
| Out-Patient Attendances | | | | | | 10669 | |
| In-Patient Attendances | | | | | | 1325 | |
| RADIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT. | | | | | | | |
| Out-Patient Attendances | | | | | | 2585 | |
| In-Patient Attendances | | | | | | 377 | |
| OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT. | | | | | | | |
| Number of new Out-Patien | ts | | | | | 2663 | |
| Number of Attendances | | | | | | 8659 | |

Nearly 700 (683) surgical procedures were carried out; of these half (350) were major operations now classified under Groups A and B.

Nursing shortages have been less evident.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation in relation to Child Population

| | Immunis | | | | Total Immunised Child Population at 31st December, 1952. | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------------|------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|----------------------|--|
| Under 1 | 1-4 years | 5-14 years | Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | Total under 15 | |
| 80 | 50 | 23 | 6 | _ | 100 | 112 | 102 | 577 | 570 | 1559 | |

TUBERCULOSIS

| (A) Notifications: | | Pulmona | ry | Non-Pulmonary | | | |
|--------------------|----|---------|-------|---------------|----|-------|--|
| Age Group | M. | F. | Total | M. | F. | Total | |
| 0—10 | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | |
| 10—15 | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ | - | |
| 15—25 | - | 4 | 4 | _ | I | I | |
| 25—35 | I | _ | 1 | _ | _ | _ | |
| | - | - | _ | _ | - | _ | |
| 35—45 45—65 | 4 | - | 4 | I | _ | I | |
| Over 65 | 2 | _ | 2 | _ | _ | _ | |
| TOTALS | 7 | 4 | 11 | I | I | 2 | |

| (B) Deaths: | in mining | Pulmona | ry | Non-Pulmonary | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|---------------|----|-------|--|--|
| Age Group | M. | F. | Total | M. | F. | Total | | |
| 0—10 | _ | - | _ | _ | _ | _ | | |
| 10—15 | _ | - | _ | _ | _ | _ | | |
| 15-25 | _ | - | - | _ | _ | _ | | |
| 25-35 | _ | - | _ | _ | _ | _ | | |
| 35-45 | _ | - | _ | _ | _ | _ | | |
| 45-65 | I | - | I | _ | _ | _ | | |
| 35—45 45—65 Over 65 | - | 55 - | - | _ | _ | _ | | |
| TOTALS | - I | - 1 | I | - | - | _ | | |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

During the year under review, the quantities of water pumped were as follows:-Shepherds Shore Waterworks ... 122,121,000 gallons ... Bourton Waterworks 104,318,000 gallons TOTAL 226,439,000 gallons ... Water supplied to Devizes 135,328,248 gallons Water supplied to Military Camps 64,692,000 gallons Water supplied to Rural District, (including Roundway Hospital) 26,616,000 gallons

A new borehole pump was installed at Bourton during the year, and was brought into commission on the 1st July, 1952. New chlorinating plant was installed during the year. Certain areas in the Borough, e.g., The Nursery and around Shanes Castle and Pans Lane area, including a light engineering factory, continue to suffer from low pressures at peak periods. This will continue until a new main through the Borough is constructed.

Drainage and Sewerage

The reconstruction of part of the Main Outfall Sewer and the part extension and alteration of the Main Sewage Disposal Works was under consideration during the year. At the end of the year negotiations had reached the stage where tenders for the work could be invited.

No analyses of sewage effluents were made during the year.

Housing in Devizes Borough

| No. of Post-War Houses completed | by | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Local Authority at 31.12.53 | | | 204 (244 units) |
| No. of houses completed during year- | | | |
| Local Authority at 31.12.52 | | | 54 (54 units) |
| By Private Enterprise | | | 8 |
| No. of houses under construction at 3.12 | .52 | | |
| By Local Authority | | | 94 |
| By Private Enterprise | | | 9 |
| No. of houses authorised but not comm | enced at | 31.12.52 | |
| By Local Authority | | | Nil |
| By Private Enterprise | | | 4 |
| Housing sites obtained in year | | | Nil |
| Site Works in progress during year | | | Hillworth Park Estate. |
| | | | Site clearance commenced in |
| | | | November, 1952. |

No. of unfit houses demolished during year By official action Nil By unofficial action Nil No. of houses or portions thereof Closed by Statutory action Nil Closed with consent of owner by unofficial action

New applicants for housing during 1952 totalled 132. At the end of the year the number of

applicants on the Borough list was 519. Of these, 407 were from persons already living in the Borough and 112 from outside, mainly from the Devizes Rural District.

Steady progress has been made. The number of houses completed and under construction at the year's end have increased by over 50% on the corresponding figures for 1951. Nevertheless, little repair work, let alone reconditioning, has been done on old properties, for obvious economic reasons; and the stage where slum areas can be cleared has not been reached, nor can be until the list of applicants, new and old, still over 500 at the year's end can be further reduced.

An occasional old house with a number of rooms is found to be let in lodgings to two or more families without the provision of adequate sanitary and cooking facilities. The adoption of a

special Byelaw to enable the Borough Council to deal with such cases is needed.

Public Cleansing

Negotiations were in progress for the acquisition of land to be used as an extension of the refuse tip at Nursteed Road, but were not completely finalised at the end of the year. The tip was better kept, more material being used for covering, which was carried out more frequently with diminution of fly breeding.

Swimming Pool

The pool was not closed during the year. The number of attendances totalled 30,808.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report

To-The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the

Public Health Department,

Council of the Borough of Devizes.

The Chequers, Devizes.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Report upon the work carried out in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during 1952.

The tables and particulars in the Report are in conformity with Ministry of Health Regula-

tions and requirements.

Clerical assistance is not provided, although the Borough Surveyor has kindly arranged for his typist to do typing for me upon request, and this has proved most helpful in times of need. Nevertheless, much of the writer's time is spent in filing, keeping of office records, correspondence and the issue of licences, etc.

156 complaints were made to this Department during the year, all of which received the necessary attention.

Housing

A general housing survey of the town was carried out at the request of and in conjunction with the County Planning Department to assist them in the drafting of the Devizes Town Map. It was estimated that some 468 houses are in need of demolition within the next 20 years on account of their bad arrangement and congestion on site, lack of amenities, age and disrepair. To replace these houses and the need for accommodating those who are already homeless or in overcrowded dwellings, it appears necessary for the erection of approximately 1,000 houses during the next two decades, i.e., 50 per annum. Further progress has been made after consultations with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the County Planning Officer for dealing with the congested area of Sheep Street, and it is hoped that plans will be concluded early in the new year for the area to be scheduled for re-development in accordance with the Housing Acts.

No houses were demolished during the year. The tenants of three unfit dwellings were allocated Council houses, and the owners gave an undertaking not to re-let for human habitation. Owing to their abutment with other poor dwellings, it was not considered wise to order demolition until the adjacent properties are dealt with or become vacant. The Council has re-housed one family from an unfit house, and the owner has been give notice to demolish within six months.

53 owners were informally required to carry out repairs to properties to abate nuisances;

46 were remedied.

Legal proceedings were instituted against an owner concerning serious dampness and general disrepair at two cottages. The Court issued Nuisance Orders for the work to be executed within two months, and imposed fines totalling \pounds_{27} , with costs of \pounds_{77} .

Nine houses were provided with sinks and internal water supplies and two houses with an

additional watercloset.

In order to offset demolition action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, an owner carried out repairs and improvements on an unfit dwelling house. The cottage was made habitable at an unreasonably high cost. In the writer's opinion, this case demonstrates that, old worn-out cottages are beyond repairing and are best demolished.

Re-housing

The Council have re-housed all seven families where a member was suffering from notifiable tuberculosis.

Of the 15 applicants who applied to this Department for a Council house, only seven were referred to the Housing Officer, and all were ultimately re-housed by the Council. The remaining eight cases were seeking better accommodation and are considered by the Letting Committee from time to time along with many other similar cases already on the Housing Officer's list. The Housing Department has re-housed 12 other deserving cases, including one caravan dweller, which were recommended through the Health Department during the previous year.

Verminous Premises.

D.D.T. treatment proved effective for the extermination of vermin at ten houses (Bed Bugs,

2; Fleas, 3; Beetles, 5).

At the request of the proprietors, an inspection was made of dirty bedding and miscellaneous articles in a store at a local furniture repository. The goods were found to be verminous, and arrangements were made for their destruction.

A wasps' nest was removed after gassing, in order to prevent annoyance to tenants of houses

in the vicinity.

Dirty Houses

Improved conditions resulted in consequence of periodical visits made to six houses reported

as being in a dirty state.

A reported death through senility of the occupier of a large house which was found to be in an extremely filthy state, together with a large accumulation of old and unsound tinned foods, was dealt with promptly. The Borough Surveyor's Department supplied a labourer and a lorry to remove unwanted rubbish to the refuse tip. It took almost a week to get the house wholesome again. All expenses incurred in this work were defrayed by the deceased's solicitor after negotiations with the Trustees and this Department.

Drainage

In consequence of complaints of unpleasant sewer gas smells, 29 drains were smoke-tested and found to be in a defective condition on private premises. Eight drains have been repaired or renewed. Six choked drains were cleared as a result of informal action. In addition, there were nine new lengths of drain supervised and water-tested. Complaints of choked or foul watercourse ditches received toward the end of the year were dealt with, one of which was cleansed and the others are receiving attention.

Water Supply

No samples of water were taken by this Department for the purpose of analysis.

Foods

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, 1948 and 1952

Surprise visits were made to Ice cream premises occasionally, to check heat treatment record charts and inspect premises and methods of manufacture. Ice-cream was being produced satisfactorily by all four dealers. A notice to repaint the walls and ceilings of an ice-cream preparation room was complied with.

An application for permission to utilise an outbuilding for the storage of ice-cream in bulk for distribution was withdrawn because of the cost of structural alterations and repairs required to

be carried out to make the premises comply with the above Regulations.

Foods and Drugs Act, 1938, and Shops Act, 1950

In the course of routine visits made to food premises, the owners or proprietors responded to the following requirements:—

Tiling of the walls, new terrazzo floor and wooden chopping block at a butcher's shop;

Limewashing and painting of two bakehouses;

Washing facilities for staff of both sexes at a grocer's shop; Repair of defective floor in kitchen and food store at a cafe;

Refuse removed from the yard and dirty shop premises cleansed in four cases.

Beer cellars were found to be in an insanitary condition at a club and public house, which necessitated cleansing and limewashing of the walls and ceiling, new concrete floor, walls and ceiling.

Occasionally, the odd cracked drinking cup was found to be in service at cafes, but these

were quickly removed upon request.

Two new registrations were granted on premises opened as fried fish shops. Approved appliances and fittings were provided and alterations done to comply with the Food and Drugs Acts. There are now four Fried Fish and Chip shops in the Borough and two mobile Fish and Chip vans.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

A new modern dairy was built and registered as an alternative to carrying out improvements to existing badly-sited premises, in order to conform with the above Regulations.

There are now five registered dairymen in the Borough.

Meat and Other Foods Inspection

The Central Wiltshire Bacon Co., Ltd., operate the only slaughterhouse in the Borough. Animals were inspected in accordance with recommendations laid down by the Ministry of Health Memo. 62/Foods and the Ministry of Food Memo. 3/Foods.

A few calls were received from butchers within the Borough asking for meat to be examined

where it showed signs of unfitness at the time of delivery.

There has been no case of Food Poisoning reported to this Department during the year.

The following pig carcases/organs or parts were condemned as being unfit for human contion:—

| tion | n:- | | - | | | | _ | |
|----------|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|--------|
| | Total number slaugh | ntered | | | | | | 15746 |
| | Total number inspe- | | | | | | | 13182 |
| | Total number exami | | | ment | | | | 2564 |
| All Dise | eases except Tuber | culosis | | | | | | |
| | Whole Carcases | | | | | | | 13 |
| | Organs or parts of | | | | | | | 346 |
| | Percentage of numb | er inspe | cted aff | ected wit | h diseas | es other th | nan T.B. | 2.722% |
| Tuberci | ulosis only | | | | | | | |
| | Whole Carcases | | | | | | | 6 |
| | Organs or parts or | carcases | | | | | | 421 |
| | Percentage of numb | | | ected wit | h Tuber | culosis | | 3.239% |
| Tuberc | | | | | | | | |
| 100000 | Whole Pigs | | | | 6 | (018 | B lbs.) | |
| | Heads | | | | 277 | | 34 lbs.) | |
| | Mesentaries | | | | 52 | (3) | | |
| | Henges | | | | 107 | | | |
| | Livers | | | | 9 | | | |
| | Spleens | | | | 17 | | | |
| | Kidneys | | | | 40 | | | |
| | Miscellaneous Parts | | Frank, | Udder) | 19 | | | |
| Other (| | | | | | | | |
| | Whole Pigs | | | | 13 | (1,3) | 5 lbs.) | |
| | Heads | | | | 4 | | 4 lbs.) | |
| | Henges | | | | 91 | | | |
| | Mesenteries | | | | 11 | | | |
| | Livers | | | | 156 | | | |
| | Spleens | | | | 2 | | | |
| | Kidneys | | | | 38 | | | |
| | Spare Rib and Loin | | | | 36 1 | bs. | | |
| | Hind Quarters | | | | 73 1 | bs. | | |
| | Belly Pieces | | | | 30 1 | bs. | | |
| | Flecks | | | | 7 1 | bs. | | |
| Unsour | nd Foods Condem | ned and | d Surre | endered | | | | |
| | Eggs | | | | 939 | | | |
| | Beef | | | | 58 | ibs. | | |
| | Ox Tongue | | | | 16 1 | | | |
| | Ox Liver | | | | 40 1 | | | |
| | Pork | | | | | bs. | | |
| | | | | | - 1 | 1 | 0.00 | |

2 OZS.

24 lbs.

Beef Sausage

```
6 lbs.
Pork Sausage
Cheese
                                             oo lbs.
                                                        8 ozs.
Cooking Fat
                                             10 lbs.
Dates
                                              2 lbs.
                                                        gozs.
                                             I Pkt.
Cereals
                                              2 lbs.
Drinking Chocolate ...
                                             18 lbs.
Bananas
Fruit Cake
                                              6 lbs.
                                              3 lbs.
Dried Fruit
                                              ı Pkt.
Custard Powder
                                                       (111 ozs.)
Table Jellies
                                              5 lbs.
Bottled Sauce
                                              1 Bottle.
Mixed Sweets
                                              3 cwt. 3 qrs. 101lbs.
Chocolate Bars
                                             42 bars
Biscuits ...
                                             139 lbs.
                                              I loaf
Bread
Potato Crisps
                                              2 Pkts.
Christmas Puddings
                                             36
                                                        (23 lbs. 10 ozs.)
Mincemeat
                                                        (3 lbs. 12 ozs.)
                                              3 Jars
Malted Milk
                                              7 Tins
                                                        (4 ibs.)
Chutney ...
                                                        (111 ozs.)
                                              1 Jar
Pickles
                                             34 Jars
                                                        (27 lbs. 12 ozs.)
                                             10 Jars
1 Tin
Meat Paste
                                                        (20 lb. 12 ozs.)
Milk Powder
                                                        (I lb.)
Lemon Curd
                                             1 Jar
                                                        (I lb.)
                                              4 Cans
Canned Soups
                                                       ( 3lbs. 10 ozs.)
( 25lbs. 3 ozs.)
                                             91 Cans
       Fish
   ,,
       Vegetables ...
                                             141 Cans
                                                        (226 lbs. 120zs.)
   ,,
                                             122 Cans
                                                                  20ZS.)
       Meats
                                                       (402 lbs.
                  ...
   ,,
       Meat & Vegetables ...
                                              2 Cans
                                                        ( 2 lbs. ooozs.)
       Fruit
                                             236 Cans
                                                        (303 lbs.
                                                                  7 ozs.)
                   ***
   ,,
                                                        ( 39 lbs. 13 ozs.)
        Jam
                                             42 Cans
   ,,
       Milk
                                             23 Cans
                                                        (29 Pints)
   ,,
       Milk
                                             89 Cans
                                                        (83\frac{1}{2} \text{ lbs.})
       Vegetables
                                               1 Gallon
                           ...
```

Public Health Act, 1936

Several visits were made to a couple of factories due to the receipt of complaints regarding the emission of black smoke and grit over long periods. The coal allocated by the Ministry of Fuel and Power was of low grade, which made it impossible to burn in boiler fires without emitting unreasonable quantities of smoke, no matter how carefully the fires were stoked. These firms have taken up the matter with the Ministry with a view to obtaining better goal. Both firms have been most co-operative, and have taken all steps practicable in an endeavour to mitigate the nuisance.

Poultry and pigs kept too near dwelling houses gave rise to complaints in three instances, and the keepers responded to a request for the fowl houses and pig sty to be removed well away from the premises.

One house was fumigated after recovery of a "home case" of infectious disease, and the bed was stoved.

An additional watercloset and wash basin was provided for the staff at an office—separate acommodation is now available for both sexes.

Rodent Control

The Rodent Operator's services on alternate week between the Borough and the Rural District continues to work satisfactorily. Mr. J. E. Hopkins, Borough Treasurer, deals with the accounts, and the records are kept by the writer.

The Rodent Operator's services are available upon application by occupiers of infested properties. Private dwellings receive free treatment, and business premises are charged upon a cost basis laid down by the Council. The Ministry and the Council share an equal proportion of the net cost of the services.

The procedure of pre-baiting and poisoning as laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is carried out.

The Borough sewers had two treatments during the year, i.e., June and November. The rat population in the sewers continues to decrease slightly from year to year. 337 search and surveys were undertaken in the year. Pre-baiting and poisoning on the Borough refuse tip was done in January, March and September; 65 rat bodies were picked up.

Sewage Works

MAIN WORKS, BATH ROAD.—Treatment carried out in September; 10 bodies collected.

Breachfield Works.—Treatments carried out in January and June; 16 rat bodies collected.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

| | | Local Authority | Dwelling Houses | Agricul- tural | Other Premises | TOTAL |
|----|--|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. | No. of properties in Local Authority's District | 5 | 2248 | 23 | 519 | 2795 |
| 2. | Properties Inspected by Local Authority as result of (a) notifi- cation (b) survey or otherwise | A — B 5 | 31 317 | 1 4 | 13 | 45 337 |
| 3. | Properties Inspected which were found to be infested by rats | | 186 | 1 4 | 14 | 5 206 |
| 4. | Properties Inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice | _ | _ | _ | 1 | 1 |
| 5. | Infested Properties treated by Local Authority | 4 | 188 | 5 | 14 | 211 |
| 6. | Notices served under Section 4: (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. proofing) | _ | _ r | _ | - 13 | <u> </u> |
| 7- | Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4 | | | _ | | |
| 8. | Legal Proceedings | _ | _ | _ | _ | _ |
| 9. | Number of "block" control schemes carried out | | | | | 19 |

Petroleum Acts

Five flame-proof petrol pumps were fixed to replace obsolete types. One steel petrol tank was fixed underground in a concrete and brick chamber containing sand to cover the tank. The tank was pressure tested and a licence of approval issued by the Council.

One of the Petroleum Companies closed their Depot at Devizes Goods Station and the registration was deleted from the Register. The petroleum storage tanks were made safe under supervision and removed from the premises by British Railways.

Summary of Duties carried out during 1952

| | - | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|
| Complaints made to Departme | ent (non | e statutor | ry) and | visited | | | 156 |
| Nuisance complaints received a | and atte | nded to | | | | | 65 |
| | | | | | | | 46 |
| Defective pavings abated (affe | cting 12 | houses) | | | | *** | . 1 |
| Smoke nuisances | | | | | | | 2 |
| Interviews with owners/builder | rs or rep | presentation | ves | | | | 140 |
| Drains smoke-tested | | | | | | | 56 |
| Drains colour-tested | | | | | | | 51 |
| Drains water-tested | | | | | | | 26 |
| Visits to works in progress | | | | | | | 185 |
| Miscellaneous Visits | | *** | | | | | 173 |
| Visits re: | | | | | | | |
| Rodent Control | | | | | *** | *** | 34 |
| Factory Acts | | | | *** | | | 9 |
| Housing | | | | | | | 74 |
| Overcrowding complaints | | | | | | | 15 |
| Verminous premises | | | | | | | 10 |
| Dirty Houses (6 houses) | | | | | | | 16 |
| Dairies | | | | | | | 5 |
| Farms | | | | | | | 2 |
| Ice-cream premises | | | | | | | 10 |
| Butchers' Shops | | | | | | | 5 |
| Shops Act | | | | | | | 2 |
| Food premises | | | | | | | 13 |
| Fried Fish Shops | | | | | | | 3 |
| Food and Drugs Act | | | | | | | 11 |
| Petroleum Acts | | | | | | | 16 |
| Food Inspections | | | | | | | 285 |
| Notices Served: | | | | | | | |
| (a) Statutory | | | | | | | 22 |
| (b) Informal | | | | | | *** | 46 |
| Miscellaneous letters sent | | | | | | | 163 |
| Complaints referred to Boroug | h Surve | yor's Dep | ot. | | | | 39 |
| Petroleum Licences issued | | | | | | | 35 |
| Carbide Licences issued | | | | | | | 2 |
| Slaughtermen's Licences issued | i | | *** | | | | 4 |
| | | | | | | | |

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, Your obedient servant,

KENNETH WILDEY,
Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises (1) | M/c line No. | Number on Register (3) | Number of | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Inspections (4) | Written notices (5) | Occupiers prosecuted (6) | M/c line No. (7) |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 1 | 40 | 7 | 3 | - | I |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 2 | 1 | 1 | _ | - | 2 |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises) | 3 | 29 | 1 | 1 | - | 3 |
| TOTAL | | 70 | 9 | 4 | | |

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars | M/c | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in | M/c |
|--|-------------|---|----------|----------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------|
| | line No. | | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | rred By H.M. Inspector | which prosecutions were instituted | line No. |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | (8) |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 4 | 3 | 3 | _ | - | - | 4 |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | 5 | - | - | _ | | _ | 5 |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | . 6 | - | _ | _ | - | - | 6 |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | 7 | - | _ | _ | _ | _ | 7 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | . 8 | - | - | - | _ | _ | 8 |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient | . | - | _ | - | - | - | 9 |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | . 10 | - | - | _ | - | _ | 10 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | . 11 | - | - | _ | - | _ | 11 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out work) | 12 | 1 | _ | _ | _ | _ | 12 |
| TOTAL | 60 | 4 | 3 | _ | _ | - | 60 |