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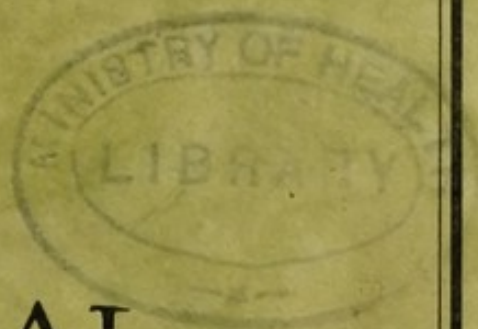


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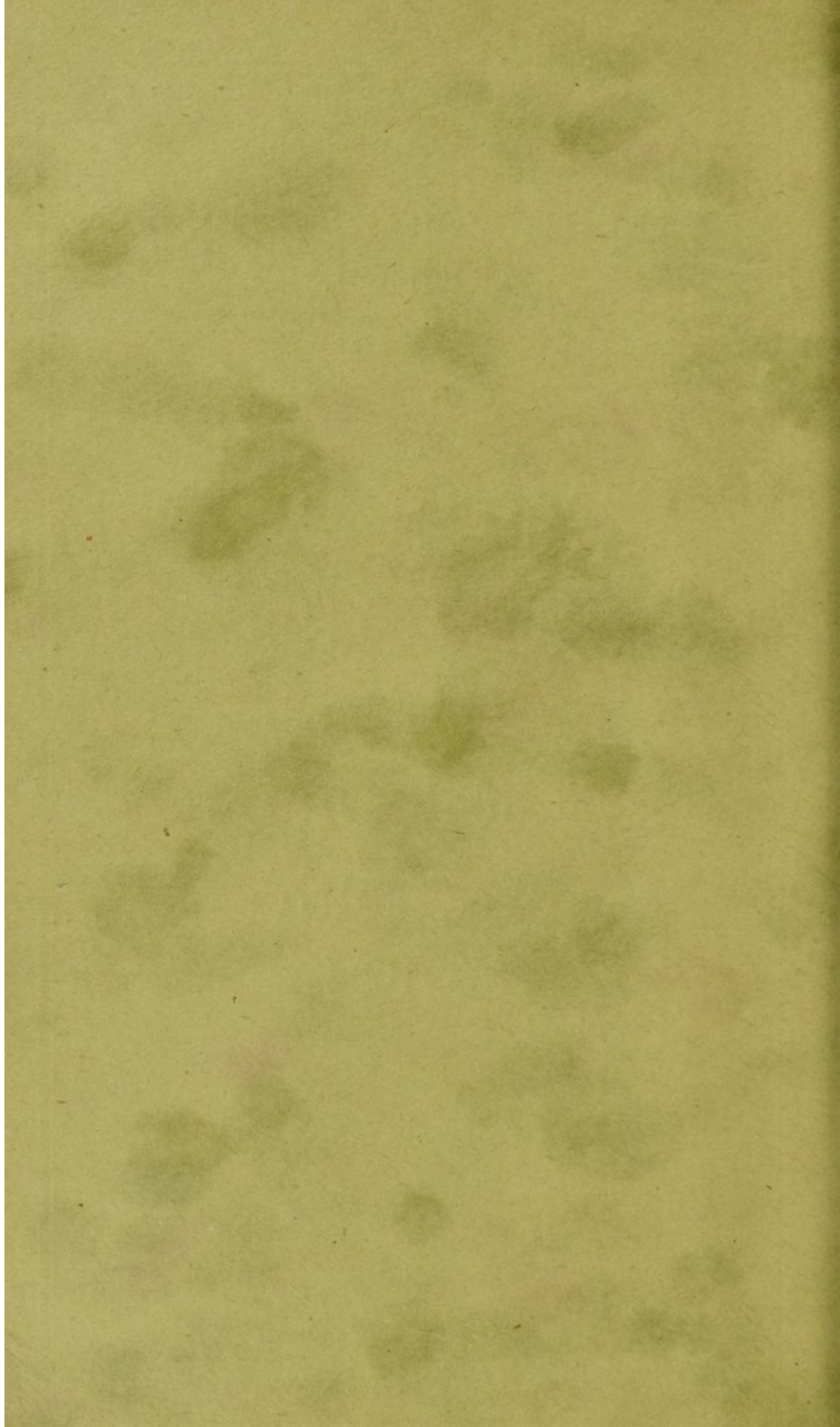
DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health
for 1954



DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1954

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

The following report of your late Medical Officer of Health (Dr. G. H. H. Waylen) has been compiled from the draft report he had prepared prior to his death.

Your obedient Servant,

P. R. TRAPP,

Clerk of the Council.

Browfort, Devizes.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres—63,515.

Population as estimated by Registrar-General—16,160.

Number of Inhabited Houses—3,930.

Rateable Value—£72,456.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births	108	86	194
Legitimate	103	81	184
Illegitimate	5	5	10
Stillbirths	—	4	4
Legitimate	—	3	3
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Live Birth Rate (Crude)			12.00
Live Birth Rate (Adjusted)			15.36
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.2
Comparability Factor			1.28
Number of Deaths from all causes ...	127	133	260
Death Rate (Crude)			16.09
Death Rate (Adjusted)			14.80
Comparability Factor			0.92
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.3
Deaths of Infants under one year ...	1	3	4
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate			20.61

Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	25.5
Deaths as Result of Pregnancy and Childbirth	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	0.69
Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	1 2 3
Legitimate	1 2 3
Illegitimate	— — —

CAUSES OF DEATH.

As returned by the Registrar-General, 1954.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1. Tuberculosis—Respiratory	2	2	4
2. Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Diseases	1	1	2
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	1	3	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	5	1	6
12. Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	—	1	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	4	14
15. Leukæmia and Aleukæmia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	2	1	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	11	17
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	11	13	24
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	6	11
20. Other Heart Diseases	44	46	90
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	7	6	13
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	5	9	14
24. Bronchitis	4	3	7
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1	3
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	4

30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations ...	3	1	4
32.	Other Defined & Ill-defined Diseases	7	17	24
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	—	—	—
34.	All Other Accidents ...	3	4	7
35.	Suicide ...	2	1	3
36.	Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
All Causes ...		127	133	260

Satisfactory features are the absence of Maternal Deaths (No. 30) and Deaths from Notifiable Infections (Nos. 4-9 inclusive).

Four deaths are attributed to Respiratory Tuberculosis and twenty-two to Other Respiratory Diseases.

Malignant Neoplasms (Nos. 10-14 inclusive) account for over ten per cent. of deaths, and Disease of Cardio-Vascular System (Nos. 17-21 inclusive) for nearly sixty per cent.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health—G. H. H. Waylen, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer—G. E. Williams, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—V. C. S. Robey, M.S.I.A.

Housing Inspector—E. C. Bishop.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Devizes and District Hospital.

Total Bed Complement ...	...	60
Average daily number of occupied beds ...	...	44.28
Total number of admissions ...	...	1,151

Physiotherapy Department.

Out-patient Attendances ...	...	9,527
In-patient Attendances ...	...	1,091

Radiological Department.

Out-patient Attendances ...	...	3,032
In-patient Attendances ...	...	538

Out-Patient Department.

Number of new Out-patients ...	...	1,972
Number of Attendances ...	...	5,878

Pathological Department.

Total number of Visits (In-patients and Out-patients)	5,404
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Number of Operations performed.

Major	155
Intermediate	165
Minor	636

The new Out-patient Department commenced work in August. This provides a Treatment Room, Consulting Room, two Examination Rooms and adequate space for Waiting Room accommodation and office requirements.

MATERNITY SERVICES.

Institutional Confinements from the Devizes Rural District.

Live Births at Devizes Maternity Hospital ...	...	127
Still Births at Devizes Maternity Hospital ...	...	1
Live Births at Other Maternity Hospitals ...	...	8
Still Births at Other Maternity Hospitals ...	...	Nil

Domiciliary Confinements in the Devizes Rural District.

Live Births ...	...	38
Still Births ...	...	Nil

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Acute Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	4

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE GROUP	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25 ...	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
25 — 35 ...	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 — 45 ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 — 65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	2	1	—	2	2	—	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

AGE GROUP	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Primary immunisations completed during 1954	87	45	5	6	6	15	3	167
Reinforced injections administered during 1954	—	—	—	1	9	113	88	211
Total immunised child population at 31st December, 1954 ...	10	104	110	130	165	139* 764†	305* 631†	2358

*Not immunised since 31st December, 1949. †Immunised since 31st December, 1949.

VACCINATION.

AGE GROUP	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over
Vaccinations	109	6	3	8	5
Re-vaccinations	—	—	3	23	15

HOUSING.

Number of Houses completed during the year:—

	Traditional.	Non-traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority ...	11	42	53
2. By Private Enterprise ...	20	—	20
	—	—	—
	31	42	73
	—	—	—

Number of Houses under construction at year's end:—

	Traditional.	Non-traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority ...	20	4	24
2. By Private Enterprise ...	16	—	16
	—	—	—
	36	4	40
	—	—	—

Number of Houses approved but not started at year's end:—

	Traditional.	Non-traditional.	Total.
1. By Local Authority ...	29	52	81
2. By Private Enterprise ...	3	—	3
	—	—	—
	32	52	84
	—	—	—

Sites Purchased during the year:—

1. Erlestoke (The Street). 0.531 of an acre.
2. Patney (Hostel Site). 1.711 acres.

Sites for which Negotiations were in progress at year's end:—

1. Rowde (Consciencs Lane).
2. Urchfont (Romain Lane).

Number of New Houses completed Post-War, at end of 1954:—

Council	...	...	...	381
Private	...	...	...	96

Allocation of New Houses.

The allocation of new houses from among a numerous list of applicants sometimes invites criticism. In fact, each case is considered on its merits and several factors may have a bearing on a single case, e.g., a young couple with a child or two may be living in a parent's home, and may be there overcrowding the sleeping accommodation; the dwelling itself may be substandard, and also a tied cottage now required by a farmer for a younger worker. Lastly, serious health reasons may be present, such as tuberculosis or the aftermath of rheumatic fever. I try to advise on the relevance of claims on health grounds, and the relative degrees of housing unfitness.

Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, 1954

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1954.

My Report contains many particulars which are not within the purview of a sanitary inspector. They relate to some of my duties in my capacity as your Surveyor and Water Engineer. I have ventured to include reference to these activities because they have a direct bearing on Public Health in the widest sense and in the hope too that they might be of interest to the Council.

A perusal of the Summary of Inspections on the last page of the Report gives a good indication, so far as it is possible to do statistically, of the activities of your Staff. It is an approximate index of output, but a very considerable proportion of the work of the Department, such as correspondence, reports, specifications, plans, interviews of explanation and advice, compilation of statistics, etc., cannot be recorded in this way.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing the appreciation of the Department for the happy relationship which existed between the late Doctor Waylen and the Staff. His wise counsel and broad undersanding of human frailties helped to resolve many of the problems which were encountered in the course of our duties.

I wish to thank also the Staff of the Department for the efficient and conscientious way in which they have carried out their duties, and the Council for their continued appreciation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. E. WILLIAMS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

A change of emphasis occurred in the Government's housing policy during the year, which was embodied in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and the circulars of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government concerning the operation of the Act. The main changes were the resumption of pre-war activities in the demolition of unfit dwellings and the repair and/or improvement of houses which do not comply with the standard of fitness laid down in the Act. The two latter provisions are facilitated by permitted increases in rental and the substantial grants that can be made towards the cost of improvements.

It was not possible to make any progress in regard to a survey to determine the number of unfit houses, owing to insufficient staff. The Council decided to augment the Staff to enable this and other duties properly to be executed.

Improvement Grant Scheme.

Particulars of activities in regard to the Improvement Grant Scheme are as follows:—

Number of enquiries received	...	...	...	54
Number of formal applications received and approved	...	...	...	13
Schemes under preparation at end of year	...	...	...	8
Enquiries not proceeded with	...	...	...	20
Proposals rejected informally as unsuitable	...	...	...	8
Proposed works not within the scope of the Act	...	...	...	5

Housing Act, 1936—Section 88—Housing Statistics for 1954.

The following is a copy of a return made to the County Medical Officer of Health concerning the inspection of houses during the year and action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts:—

1. *Number of New Houses and Flats erected during the year.*
 - (a) *By Local Authority* 53
 - (b) *By Private Enterprise* 20
2. *Inspection of Dwellings during the year.*
 - (i) *Inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts* 43
 - (ii) *Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts* 112
 - (iii) *Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation* ... 39
 - (iv) *Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation* ... 64
3. *Remedy of Defects by Informal Action.*

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action 51
4. *Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health & Housing Acts).*
 - (A) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936.*
 - (i) *Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied* ... Nil
 - (ii) *Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices:—*
 - (a) *By Owners* Nil
 - (b) *By Local Authority in default of owners* ... Nil
 - (B) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*
 - (i) *Number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served* Nil

(ii)	Number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(C)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of Closing Orders made (Individual Houses)	3
(ii)	Number of Demolition Orders made	4
(iii)	Number of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	2
(iv)	Number of undertakings accepted	2
(v)	Number of undertakings completed	2
(D)	Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26, Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of houses upon which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(ii)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(E)	Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936.	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were cancelled, as result of premises having been made fit	Nil
5.	Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.	
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	Not known
(ii)	Number of cases discovered during year	5
(iii)	Number of cases abated during year	3

WATER SUPPLY.

Area Supplied.

Of the twenty-four parishes in the District nine only are totally served by water mains and eight partly served. The following is a list of the Council's water systems:—

1. The Great Cheverell System.
2. The Erlestoke System.
3. The Nursteed System.
4. The Roundway System.
5. The Brickley Lane System.
6. All Cannings Council House System.
7. Marden Council House System.
8. Chirton Council House System.

9. Urchfont Council House System.
10. Etchilhampton Council House System.
11. Patney Hostel System (Part Ownership).

TABLE I.

The amount of water supplied in 1954 from Great Cheverell, Erlestoke and Devizes Borough sources, expressed in gallons per month:—

	Great Cheverell	Erlestoke	Nursteed	Fairway	Dunkirk	Brickley Lane	Roundway
Jan.	1,993,600	73,900	*	1,931,000	719,000	*	*
Feb.	1,867,500	62,800	12,480†	2,159,000	994,000	27,600†	29,550†
Mar.	1,851,400	79,400	6,310	2,140,000	1,190,000	15,020	29,450
Apr.	1,935,500	70,500	7,640	2,164,000	1,153,000	14,880	17,750
May	2,314,800	122,600	8,630	2,169,000	1,307,000	14,550	23,750
Jun.	2,387,700	148,900	4,770	1,940,000	1,178,000	14,250	18,050
July	2,747,800	78,800	7,200	1,657,000	1,182,000	14,550	17,250
Aug.	2,310,100	68,800	8,050	1,749,000	1,032,000	16,350	21,450
Sep.	2,325,800	78,200	5,050	1,640,000	1,042,000	14,100	20,050
Oct.	2,453,900	74,800	6,100	1,665,000	1,168,000	15,600	18,950
Nov.	2,433,200	81,100	4,750	1,428,000	1,159,000	*	17,500
Dec.	2,653,100	76,900	4,500	1,654,000	1,394,000	29,050†	17,450
	27,274,400	1,016,700	75,480	22,296,000	13,518,000	175,950	231,200

Note: *Meter readings not available. †Two months' consumption.

Supplied from Great Cheverell Borehole	...	27,274,400
Supplied from Devizes Borough	...	36,296,630
Supplied from Erlestoke Source	...	1,016,700
		<hr/>
		64,587,730

The total shows an increase of 6,396,100 gallons over the amount for 1953, or approximately 11%.

The amount of water taken from Devizes Borough shows an increase of 7,047,000 gallons over the amount for 1953, or approximately 24%.

The following Tables II and III show the position in regard to the availability of piped water supplies:—

TABLE II.

PARISH	Details of Connections				Estimated Population Supplied	Total Population 1951 Census
	Domes- tic	Pt.Dom. Pt.Trade	Trade	Halls etc.		
GREAT CHEVERELL SYSTEM:						
Great Cheverell ...	96	11	8	1	351	351
Market Lavington	285	30	22	1	1,104	1,202
Marston	29	9	1	—	132	132
Potterne	269	28	16	2	1,045	1,105
Poulshot	69	15	10	1	309	309
Rowde	176	21	15	1	694	825
Seend	242	43	42	—	865	865
Worton	100	12	5	2	327	327
Bromham*	67	10	—	—	278	1,492
Easterton*	34	1	7	—	114	427
Little Cheverell* ...	14	4	—	—	60	174
West Lavington*	78	2	1	—	255	946
ERLESTOKE SCHEME:						
Erlestoke	31	1	1	—	104	228
	1,490	187	128	8	5,638	8,383
Note. *Part only of these parishes is supplied.						
MAIN EXTENSIONS FROM BOROUGH: PARISH OF ROUNDWAY.						
Roundway Village						
System	15	—	1	—		
Nursteed System ...	13	4	—	—		
Fairway System ...	16	1	—	—		
Brickley Lane						
System	10	—	—	—		
	54	5	1	—		

Note. In addition, the Devizes Borough Council supply direct fifty houses, plus Roundway Hospital and its nine private houses, the Flax Factory, Card's Garage, and a reserve to supply Roundway Farm (Mr. Pike) and cottages in the Parish of Roundway.

In the Village of Bishop's Cannings ninety properties are supplied by the Devizes Borough Council.

TABLE III.

Parish	No. of Houses Supplied	Population Supplied
COUNCIL HOUSE ESTATE		
BOREHOLES:		
All Cannings	22	77
Chirton	16	56
Etchilhampton	8	28
Marden	12	42
Urchfont	22	77
Patney	4	14
	84	294

TABLE IV.

The following is the number of new connections made to the water systems:—

	Great Cheverell System	Erlestoke System	Council House Estate Boreholes
Domestic	65	2	16
Part Domestic & Part Trade ...	8	—	—
Trade only	5	—	—
Total	78	2	16

TABLE V.

Results of Samples of Great Cheverell Public Supply.

Date	Before or After Chlorination	Result
28. 5.54	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
28. 5.54	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
11.11.54	Before	Fair
11.11.54	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory

TABLE VI.

Results of Samples of Erlestoke Public Supply.

Date	Before or After Chlorination	Result
28. 5.54	Before	Bacteriologically satisfactory
28. 5.54	After	Bacteriologically satisfactory
11.11.54	Before	Fair
11.11.54	After	Fair

The Great Cheverell System. Consumption Statistics.

1.	Total number of premises supplied	...	...	1,780
2.	Total number of metered connections	...	...	313
3.	Total number of domestic connections	...	...	1,459
4.	Total number of other connections, e.g. Halls, etc.			8
5.	Total overall consumption	...	...	66,098,500 glns.
6.	Total metered consumption	...	...	25,495,915 glns.
7.	Estimated total domestic consumption	...	...	45,354,885 glns.
8.	Estimated average domestic consumption per head of the population per diem	...	...	22.45 glns.
9.	Estimate average overall consumption per head of the population per diem	...	...	32.72 glns.

It should be noted that Nos. 7-9 above are estimated figures. It is not possible to give precise figures as the water which is recorded by most service meters, e.g. farms, is used for both domestic and non-domestic purposes. Again, an estimate of population (3.5 persons) per house is used in arriving at the above figures as a physical count is not practicable. No adjustment has been made for the waste factor.

Notwithstanding these assumptions the figures may be taken as reasonably reliable.

The following inferences may be drawn from a study of the preceding tables and statistics:—

1. 94.35 per cent. of the population of those parishes which have had water mains throughout the parish since 1937 are connected up. This can be regarded as fairly satisfactory. This percentage should have been reached four or five years previously. It was, however, not practicable to take the necessary steps to secure a high percentage of premises connected, owing chiefly to inadequate water supply and staff difficulties.
2. The domestic consumption per head of the population per day, viz., 22.45 gallons, shows an increase of 7.57% compared with the figure arrived at for 1953, and an increase of 41.2% compared with the figure arrived at for 1950. These are large increases. The computation for 1950 had to be made without the help of the 1951 Census and part of the increase may be due to some error in this respect.

The domestic consumption per head of the population per day is increasing each year. How much of this is being beneficially used and how much is being wasted? A small part of the increase is due to the more widespread use of modern sanitary appliances; is the remainder wasted in undetected leakages, misuse or undue consumption? A useful pointer which helps to supply an answer to these questions is obtained from the following Table. This relates to houses which have a full compliment of sanitary fittings. The water installation is also new and unlikely to have any leakage that would influence the consumption.

Table showing Water Consumption on certain Council House Estates.

Estate	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Annual Consumption	Average Consumption per Head per Day
Chirton ...	16	56	303,540 glns.	14.86 glns.
Etchilhampton	8	28	171,780 glns.	16.61 glns.
Urchfont ...	22	77	385,430 glns.	13.75 glns.
Total ...	46	161	860,750 glns.	14.64 glns.

Thus it will be seen that the estimated average domestic consumption per head of the population per day on the Great Cheverell System is 22.45 gallons and on the above Council House Estate Systems 14.64 gallons. The apparent relatively excessive consumption on the Great Cheverell System, to which are connected numerous houses having no water closets or baths, indicates that water is being wasted through undetected leakages, misuse or undue consumption. In the absence of a properly organised system of waste detection and the records that would go with it, it is not possible to give a more detailed analysis of the causes of the increase and the remedies therefor.

3. The figure of 22.45 gallons per head per day is only 10.2 per cent. below the design figure of 25 gallons per head per day used for your Post-War Water Schemes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

An event of the greatest significance in regard to water supply occurred during the year. It is gratifying to be able to report that work commenced on the North Western, North Eastern and South Eastern Area Water Supply Schemes which, when completed, will secure the inestimable advantage of a piped supply of pure and wholesome water in every part of the District except a part of West Lavington. In addition to providing piped water to parts of the area where no piped water previously existed, the new Schemes will augment the Great Cheverell System where the excess of supply over demand has been precariously inadequate for many years.

No progress was made with regard to the proposed acquisition of the two boreholes at the V.I.S.T.R.E. Camp, Erlestoke.

SEWERAGE.

The Council are responsible for:—

13.6 miles of public piped sewer.

4.4 miles of public sewer ditch.

Several miles of private sewer and drains on Council House Estates.

23 sewage works.

Substantial progress was made in regard to the provision of drainage schemes in several parishes as follows:—

Easterton and Market Lavington.

Following the Inquiry held in 1953 the Scheme was prepared in detail with a view to inviting tenders.

Rowde.

An inquiry was held and further progress made with the preparation of this Scheme with a view to inviting tenders.

Seend.

A scheme for this Village was approved following an inquiry.

Urchfont.

A revised scheme excluding farm drainage was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Wedhampton.

The Council approved a scheme for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Stanton St. Bernard.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Potterne.

Construction work on Stage 2 of this Scheme was commenced in October.

Plans for thirty-eight septic tanks and drainage systems for forty-five houses were approved. These do not include Council House Estates having self-contained drainage plants.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughterhouses.

The slaughtering of animals by the Ministry of Food came to an end during the year. Following applications from two butchers the Council decided to licence two slaughterhouses as follows:—

- (a) Messrs. H. F. Stiles and Son, Jockey Lane, Bromham.
- (b) Mr. W. H. Andrews, Urchfont.

Considerable improvements were carried out to these premises as a condition of licensing them, and although they are below modern standards of hygiene and convenience they may be considered satisfactory pending clarification of the Government's plans in regard to the slaughtering of animals for human consumption.

Following consultation with the Devizes Borough Council approval was given to the erection of a slaughterhouse by Mr. R. Douse at Coate, and work on the construction of this building was commenced during the year.

Meat Inspection.

Slaughtering in the District did not commence generally until July. The number of carcasses inspected was as follows:—

Bovine	...	...	...	...	...	96
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	35
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	214
Goats	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						346

The following meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

- 22lbs. Liver (16lbs. Cirrhosis; 6lbs. Cavernous Angioma).
- 1 Sheep's Liver (Cysts).
- 1 Bovine Liver (Abscesses).
- 2 Bullocks' Heads (Tuberculosis).
- 1 Bullock's Head and Lungs (Tuberculosis).
- 1 Pig's Head and Lungs (Tuberculosis).

Other Food Inspection.

The following foods were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

- 16lbs. Tinned Corned Beef (Blown).
- 48 x 7oz. tins Luncheon Meat (Blown).

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are twelve registered "Distributors" operating in the District of which six have premises within the area.

A number of other persons produce and retail milk in the District but in these cases the Council are only concerned with the cleanliness of the milk after it has left the producers' premises.

Five Dealer's Licences and three Supplementary Licences to use the designation "Pasteurised" and two Dealer's Licences and three Supplementary Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" were issued.

Following representations by the County Medical Officer of Health the Council agreed at the end of the year to operate a programme of milk sampling.

ICE CREAM.

There are twenty-eight registered retailers of ice cream in the area. The premises are satisfactory. Most ice cream now sold is wrapped and there is little chance of contamination of the product at the place of sale. All ice cream is stored in electric conservators.

FOOD POISONING.

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

It became increasingly evident during the year that the Council's system of refuse collection and disposal was becoming overloaded and out of balance. Accordingly arrangements were made towards the end of the year to submit a scheme for the re-organisation of the Refuse Collection Service.

The existing service has been carried on for the last eight years at a remarkably low cost.

Negotiations were commenced with the War Department for the removal and disposal of refuse from Military establishments within the area.

The refuse vehicle covered a total mileage of 12,926 at an average of approximately 8.55 miles per gallon.

The total cost of collection and disposal of refuse for the year ended 31st March, 1954, was £1,577 16s. 6d., and the net cost after deducting income received (£63 8s. 2d.) was £1,514 8s. 4d. The approximate cost of the service per head of population was 1s. 10.49d., and the approximate cost per head of the population served was 2s. 5.32d.

RODENT CONTROL.

Owing to the long illness and subsequent death of the Rodent Operative no work was done in connection with the extermination of rats for the first eight months of the year.

Mr. A. E. Perrett was a very competent rat catcher and gave his services conscientiously.

Mr. F. W. Barrett was appointed as Rodent Operative to serve both the Council and the Devizes Borough Council in August, 1954.

The following is a copy of the Return made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the work done under this head in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1955:—

	Type of Property.				
	(1) Local Authy.	(2) Dwelling Houses (Incl. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (Incl. Business Pre- mises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agricul- tural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6	2,844	244	3,094	845
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	11	—	11	—
(b) Survey under the Act	6	1,018	78	1,102	84
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	—	—	—	—
III. Total inspections carried out – including reinspections. (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	Figures not readily available.				
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats (Major)	2	56	24	82	40
(Minor)	4	214	12	230	12
(b) Mice (Major)	—	2	—	2	—
(Minor)	—	1	—	1	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV.) treated by the Local Authority	6	273	36	315	14
VI. Total treatments carried out – including re-treatments	6	273	36	315	14
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	Total 44				

FACTORIES ACT.

There are fifty-three factories in the District. Particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows:—

Seventeen inspections were made during the year. Cases in which defects were found are tabulated below.

Particulars of Defect.	No.	Action.
Cleanliness of Factories	2	Remedied 2

The rebuilding and enlargement of premises used for motor vehicle repairs was completed, including the provision of modern sanitation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Licences were in force in respect of five sites. Individual licences were granted in respect of seven moveable dwellings.

COMPLAINTS.

The following Table shows the position in regard to complaints made to your Officers either verbally or by correspondence.

Type of Complaint	Number	Remedied	Out-standing	No Action Necessary
Housing (excluding Council houses)	5	5	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Houses	5	5	—	—
Sewerage	9	9	—	—
Drainage	45	40	2	3
River Pollution	1	1	—	—
Water Supply	24	24	—	—
Refuse	14	14	—	—
Keeping of Animals	1	1	—	—
Fly Infestation	3	2	—	—
Rodent Infestation	11	11	—	—
Footpaths	2	2	—	—
Miscellaneous	11	7	2	2
Totals	131	121	4	6

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

176 plans were submitted for approval.

The explanation of the complicated procedures in regard to the submission of plans and applications, etc., made heavy inroads

on the time of your Officers. In many cases applicants were not willing to engage professional assistance from persons who are acquainted with the complexities of the law governing these matters; this means that your Officers have to fulfil that role.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing ...	...	...	...	...	183
Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	42
Building ...	...	...	...	...	451
Drains ...	...	...	...	...	256
Sewerage ...	...	...	...	...	269
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	368
Water Samples ...	...	...	...	...	16
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	...	...	...	...	13
Food ...	...	...	...	...	82
Food Shops ...	...	...	...	...	74
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	22
Refuse ...	...	...	...	...	92
Workshops and Factories ...	...	...	...	...	17
Petroleum ...	...	...	...	...	11
Rodent Control ...	...	...	...	...	43
Council Houses ...	...	...	...	...	677
Town and Country Planning ...	...	...	...	...	164
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	123

