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Contributors

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HEALTH
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DISS URBAN DISTRICT.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
together with the Report
of
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

YEAR ---- 1949.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR 1880

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1949 OF THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE DISS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

High Common,
Wicklewood,
Wymondham.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1949. The Report is prepared on the instructions laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Details of vital statistics of the Diss Urban District with comments thereon are given below.

The Registrar General estimates the population to be 3,481 at the 31st December, 1949, and this is 5 less than in 1948. The birth rate per 1,000 in the year under review was 10.34 which is 4.86 less than the previous year and 6.36 less than the rate for England and Wales as a whole. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that special influences are at work which lower the birth rate in the Diss Urban District and these are most likely an ageing population and acute lack of housing facilities for young married couples.

The illegitimate birth rate was 2.8% of the total births during the year. This is the lowest rate since the end of the War.

The still birth rate per 1,000 total births was 2.8. This is very low.

The death rate for the year per 1,000 of the estimated population was 16.09 which is almost the same as for the previous year. The death rate per 1,000 for England and Wales during the same period was 11.7. The high death rate in Diss is attributable to the ageing population increased by a lower birth rate. It will be seen that the birth rate is lower than the death rate so that replacement of the existing population is not now taking place.

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age and no deaths of mothers arising from pregnancy or childbirth during the year. This indicates a continued high standard of maternal and infant care.

During 1949 the incidence of infectious disease was exceptionally low, there being a total of 14 cases only consisting of 4 cases of scarlet fever, 5 cases of whooping cough, 1 of acute anterior poliomyelitis and 4 cases of measles.

Four new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, making a total of 22 known cases in the district. This is an increase of 4 over the previous year. The cases were made up as follows:- Nineteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The increased incidence is not unduly high compared with the Country as a whole and is following the trend experienced in almost all other districts.

The Council may be satisfied that the health of the community in the Urban District of Diss was satisfactory during the year.

The area of your District is	...	...	3,628 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	3,486.
ditto (1931 Census)	...	...	3,421.
Rateable Value	...	...	£17,883.
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£69.13.4d.

Vital Statistics for 1949.
Births and Deaths.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	22.	12.	34.
Illegitimate	-	1.	1.
			<u>35.</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 10.34.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1.	-	1.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			<u>1.</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births ... 2.8.

Deaths.

Number ..	56.	(Male - 26, Female - 30).	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	16.09
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis & other Maternal Causes			Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	13
Deaths from Infectious Diseases	...	...	3
(1 Influenza, 2 Pneumonia)	.....	.....

Analysis of Causes of Death. Total (all ages).

Cancer	...	...	...	13.
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	7.
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	20.
Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	1.
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1.
Respiratory Diseases (other than Pneumonia)	...	...	...	1.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2.
Influenza	...	...	...	1.
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	2.
Congenital Malformations etc.	...	...	...	1.
Suicide	...	...	...	1.
All other causes	...	...	...	6.
				<u>56.</u>

Incidence of Infectious Diseases during 1949:

	<u>1st Qr.</u>	<u>2nd Qr.</u>	<u>3rd Qr.</u>	<u>4th Qr.</u>
Measles	-	-	2	2
Whooping Cough	-	3	2	-
Scarlet Fever	3	1	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-

Total number of Infectious Diseases .. 14.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There is an abundant supply of pure water of high quality obtained from a borehole into the chalk within the District boundary. This supply was quite unaffected by the shortage of water, even in deep bores, which affected many other areas of the County during the year. Fourteen houses were provided with a piped mains water supply for the first time during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Scheme to replace the existing inadequate and highly unsatisfactory sewage disposal plant in the town has not yet been implemented. Meanwhile, gross pollution of the Waveney from the sewage works at Diss through the unsatisfactory treatment plant unavoidably continues. During the year, 58 new water closets were connected up to the sewers which aggravates the sewage disposal problem at the sewage works. It is to be hoped that the construction of a new disposal plant will not be long delayed as there are few towns in Norfolk where the need is more acute.

HOUSING.

The Council pressed forward during the year and built a further 25 Council Houses, this being the maximum possible under the present restrictions. New building is not, however, keeping pace with the demand for houses and the application list for Council Houses lengthens rather than decreases. Actuated by a desire to have a detailed estimate of the housing problem in Diss, the Council very wisely instituted a housing survey to embrace all living accommodation in the Urban District. This survey has progressed steadily during the year and some very interesting information has been revealed, details of which are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. In considering the figures it has to be taken into account that naturally the worst parts of the town were surveyed first. Of the 216 houses surveyed during 1949 129, rather more than half, have been found to be in need of major repairs to render them fit for human habitation and 64 were found unfit for human habitation and incapable of being made so at an economic cost. 142 houses had no water laid on into the house and 127 were without a sink. This is a very serious state of affairs when measured in terms of human discomfort and danger to health. At the present time housing overshadows all other public health problems in importance and needs to be tackled with the greatest energy on a National basis.

This will be my last Annual Report to the Council as I am now employed elsewhere in the County and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincerest thanks to the Members of the Council and to the Clerk of the Council for their help and co-operation during my period of office as Medical Officer of Health, Diss. I would also like to give a special word of thanks to the Sanitary Inspector who has shown that he has the interests of the town very much at heart.

Yours faithfully,

W.W.SINCLAIR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.
Diss Urban District.

September, 1950.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1949.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Water Supply	47.
Drainage	230.
Factories	41.
Vans used for human habitation	14.
Public Conveniences	4.
Rats and Mice	97.
Shops Acts	28.
Markets	100.
Petroleum Acts	24.
Cowsheds and Dairies	27.
Housing	492.
Infectious Diseases	37.
Public Cleansing	406.
Refuse Collection - Dustbins	30.
Visits with M.O.H.	30.
Miscellaneous	<u>122.</u>
Total	<u>1729.</u>

FOOD INSPECTION VISITS.

Regional Slaughterhouse	540.
Butchers Shops	23.
Fishmongers	3.
Grocers	12.
Bakehouses	19.
Fried Fish Shops	4.
Ice Cream Premises	33.
Restaurants and Cafes	4.
Miscellaneous	<u>26.</u>
Total	<u>1066.</u>

Complaints Received - 85.
Nuisances Abated - 37.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

New W.C's. - Council Houses,	50.
New W.C's. - Other Houses	7.
New W.C's. - Shops	<u>1.</u>
Total	<u>58.</u>

Number of each type - 31st December, 1949.

W.C's. - Council Houses	61.
W.C's. - Other Houses	302.
W.C's. - Houses and other premises	936.
W.C's. - Schools and Public Buildings	65.

In 1939 there were 771 W.C's., the total is now 1,001 nearly a 30% increase. In addition more than a 100

houses have been provided with a fixed bath. It is not surprising, therefore, that the present sewage works are entirely inadequate for the needs of the town. It is reasonable to suppose that the volume of sewage to be treated will increase considerably every year for some years to come.

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging which includes the emptying and cleansing of pail closets, privy vaults, and cess-pools, is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Approximately four days a week are fully employed in this work by A. Orves using a horse drawn tumbler cart, the horse being hired from Mr. A. F. Harvey, Sturgeon's Farm, Roydon, at a charge of 15/- a day. 7 pails in Roydon are emptied weekly at an annual charge.

PARTICULARS OF WORK DONE.

Pail Closets - emptied weekly,	309.
Privy Vaults,	49.
Cess-pools,	13.

The cost of the scavenging services is nearly £400 per year.

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

The cleansing services are under the direction and supervision of your Sanitary Inspector.

Two men and one loader/driver with a converted Austin 5 ton lorry (an unsuitable and inefficient vehicle) are fully employed on refuse collection and disposal.

Refuse disposal is by open tipping on land rented by the Council at an annual cost of £15. During the summer the tip caught fire and the opportunity was taken to re-claim a piece of land for a private owner. Both tips are still burning slowly (almost imperceptably) but are causing no nuisance.

During most of the year a weekly collection of refuse has been maintained and this is sufficient to meet all the needs of the town. Many householders try to fill their bins every week and many of the materials (e.g. paper and cardboard, potato peelings, tea leaves etc.) would be better burnt. Garden refuse must NOT be put in bins.

The poor quality of the coal supplied to Diss is reflected in the greatly increased weight of refuse collected during the winter months.

The collection of refuse has been greatly extended during the past 2 years and, with the exception of The Heywood and part of Walcot, now covers the whole of the Urban District. This can be seen more clearly from figures - In 1947 the number of dustbins emptied weekly was 697, by the end of 1949 that figure had risen to 1,174. Smaller increases will occur annually as new houses are built.

In September the Council decided to operate a scheme whereby dustbins could be hired at an annual charge of 5/-. 48 bins have been provided under this scheme and 136

have been provided privately during the year. Thus for the first time in history nearly every house has a proper galvanised sanitary dustbin instead of a miscellaneous assortment of buckets, tubs, oil drums, baths, etc. The benefits to health and hygiene cannot be over estimated.

It is essential that the present lorry be replaced by a modern, specially designed refuse lorry, if these services are to be maintained.

No. of bins emptied weekly, 1,174.
 No. of new bins provided during the year, 184.

SALVAGE.

A fairly successful 6 months salvage drive ended on the 31st March. It was therefore something of a shock when in May waste paper and cardboard became unsaleable. No paper has been sold since our last consignment was despatched on the 23rd April. Collection was however continued for some weeks until the Council decided to cease collections early in June. There is now 11 tons 2 cwt of baled paper and cardboard in stock (which was worth some £70) and which, it seems likely, will have to be burnt.

The weights and value of the various materials salvaged and sold during 1949 are:-

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard ...	13.	11.	1.	88.	18.	11.
Scrap Metal	-	19.	0.	3.	1.	4.
Rags	-	4.	1.	3.	18.	7.
Miscellaneous	-	2.	3.	-	11.	10.
Increased Collection Allowance				14.	9.	6.
				£ 111.	0.	2.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your Sanitary Inspector is also responsible for the administration of the Petroleum Acts which are mainly concerned with the storage of Petroleum Spirit and the licensing of such Stores. 25 Licences to store Petroleum Spirit are held in the Diss Urban District providing a storage capacity of more than 73,000 gallons.

Two new Licences were granted during the year, the tanks being installed under the Supervision of your Inspector.

No. of Visits of Inspection ... 24.

HOUSING.

No. of houses repaired at the request of your Inspector .. 20.
 No. of houses closed as unfit for occupation 2.
 No. of houses on which demolition orders have been made ... 3.
 Total No. of Housing Visits 492.

OVERCROWDING.

No. of cases reported to Local Authority 3.

Notes:

It is disappointing that a start has not yet been made with the new sewerage scheme.

When the economic situation permits an early start should be made with the demolition of unfit houses, but the present rents of Council Houses are much too high for many of the people who should be re-housed.

The results of the Housing Survey to date confirm that the standard of amenities in a large number of houses is dismally low. But while the present high cost of repairs and the absurdly disproportionate rents continue, it will be difficult to raise these standards. I would remind landlords that they are statutorily compelled to provide sinks, proper drainage, and a supply of water in pipes in the house, and to keep their houses in a reasonable state of repair. To quote from a manual issued by the Minister of Health in 1919 -

A Fit house should be:-

1. Free from serious dampness.
2. Satisfactorily lighted and ventilated.
3. Properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, and with a sink and suitable arrangements for the disposal of slop water.
4. In good general repair.

And should have:-

5. A satisfactory water supply.
6. Adequate washing accommodation.
7. Adequate facilities for cooking and preparing food.
8. A well ventilated foodstore.

The Council have adopted a "wait and see" policy with regard to the powers given to grant financial assistance towards the improvement of existing houses under the Housing Act 1949. Many Local Authorities have found that owners fight shy of all the conditions attached to such assistance. It is, however, too early to get opinions on the working of these new provisions.

WATER SUPPLY.

3 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. 2 were Satisfactory, and 1 Unsatisfactory.

14 houses have been provided with a piped mains supply.

It was gratifying to find no shortage, or prospect of a shortage, of water during the prolonged dry spell last summer. When the new pump and softening plant are installed at the water works Diss will have a water supply second to none in the County.

NEW HOUSING ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED.

Council Houses built and occupied	...	25.
New houses built and occupied by private persons	...	4.
Flats	...	3.

In spite of the fact that the Council have built 84 houses since the end of the War the Housing List continues to grow and lengthen. This may be partly due to the younger people wanting a better standard of accommodation.

HOUSING SURVEY.

A start has been made with a Housing Survey. At the

of the year 216 houses had been inspected and recorded. These were placed in categories as in the Rural Housing Survey, viz:-

1. Fit in all respects	...	...	2.
2. Minor repairs necessary	...	...	21.
3. Major repairs necessary	...	...	129.
5. Unfit for human habitation	...	...	64.
			<u>216.</u>

N.B. Category 4 refers to houses fit for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act and does not apply.

The following details clearly show the deplorably low standards and the main faults of what constitutes almost 1/5th of the total number of houses in Diss.

Houses without fixed bath	...	...	211.
Insufficient light and ventilation in 1 or more rooms			197.
Houses without sink	...	...	127.
Houses without water laid on in the house		...	142.
No provision for, or unsatisfactory, drainage		...	105.
Pail lavatories	...	...	75.
Pails and sewer available	...	...	18.
No separate lavatory accommodation	...	...	45.
W.C. and no flushing cistern	...	...	24.
No proper foodstore	...	...	76.
No facilities for washing clothes	...	...	48.
No gas or electricity	...	...	13.
(With 1 exception both gas and electricity could easily be made available).			
Gas Lighting	...	...	75.

As a matter of interest the following means are used for cooking:-

Gas Cooker	...	...	...	181.
Electricity	...	...	...	20.
Other means (Fire Ovens, Paraffin Cookers)			...	15.

Note:

It has been law since 1875 that houses should be properly drained, and sinks were specifically required under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. Comment is superfluous.

Scale of Rents - Including Rates (Weekly).

	<u>Category 3.</u>	<u>Category 5.</u>
Under 5/-	27.	25.
5/- to 6/-	41.	27.
6/- to 7/-	17.	5.
7/- to 8/-	10.	2.
8/- to 9/-	6.	2.
9/- to 10/-	7.	1.
Above 10/-	12.	1.

It will be seen that approximately 2/3rds of the total in these 2 categories are rented at 6/- a week or less - including Rates. It is undoubtedly true that the Rent Restrictions Acts are operating unfairly against many property owners (many properties are a definite liability) and also that these Acts are hindering the progress of essential repairs and maintenance.

It is rather surprising in these days of housing shortages that so many houses are occupied by a single person. The

Following table sets out the number of inhabitants for houses in each category.

	<u>Cat. 1 & 2.</u>	<u>Cat. 3.</u>	<u>Cat. 5.</u>
1 person	2.	20.	10.
2 persons	4.	37.	21.
3 persons	5.	50.	20.
4 persons	7.	11.	3.
More than 4.	5.	11.	10.

DISINFECTION.

No. of visits in cases of Infectious Disease 37.
 No. of rooms disinfected ... 22.
 One house was sprayed with Zaldecide before re-occupation.

RATES & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

This Council has a contract at an annual fee of £5.5.0. with Mr. A. J. Goodwin, a Rodent Operator in the employ of the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee, for the treatment of all Council properties as and when required by your Sanitary Inspector.

Private and business premises in the town are dealt with by contract with Goodwin to whom all complaints are referred for treatment.

This system has worked quite well, and Mr. Goodwin has proved efficient, willing and reliable.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act comes into force on the 1st of April, 1950. It is too early to say how this new legislation will affect Diss as regards Rodent Control.

The following Council properties have received treatment:-

(1) Refuse Tips	...	...	7.
(2) Public Conveniences	...	...	2.
(3) Stores Yard and Stables - Chapel Street,			1.
(4) Moat, Shelfanger Road,	...	...	1.
(5) Council Houses,	...	...	9.
(6) Housing Site,	...	...	1.

Operators of the Ministry of Food have treated the lairages and slaughterhouse 4 times.

Other premises treated during the year:-

Private Houses	...	...	34.
Licensed Premises	...	...	4.
Shops	...	...	6.
Other premises,	...	...	6.

A sewer test was undertaken and completed at the end of June. 10 manholes were treated with 2oz baits of sausage rusks, and in all cases except one the results were Negative. The complete take was in the manhole taking drainage from the Moat, which was then in the process of being filled in. The manhole was then treated and cleared along with the Moat. The weather during the period was dry.

No. of visits in connection with Rats; and Mice, 97.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

No. of shops and stores registered ... 85.
 No. of inspections during the year ... 28.
 One new W.C. has been provided during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

1. Inspections.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Factories with mechanical power	38.	30.
Factories without mechanical power	9.	8.
Other premises under the Act,	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>
	<u>49.</u>	<u>41.</u>

2. Defects Found.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of Cleanliness,	1.	1.
Improved Drainage,	1.	1.
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>		
Defective or dirty,	<u>2.</u>	<u>2.</u>
	<u>4.</u>	<u>4.</u>

1 case of a dirty sanitary convenience was referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

MEAT. Diss is a slaughtering centre under the Memoranda and Orders of the Ministries of Food and Health, supplying a wide area besides the town itself and a population of some 32,000. Meat Inspection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector of the Diss U.D.C. The approximate percentage distribution of the meat output from the slaughterhouse is:-

Diss	25%
Hartismere	35%
Depwade	40%

Notes:

Manure is removed weekly.
 Condemned meat is removed thrice weekly.
 Blood is removed daily.
 Lighting is by Electricity.
 Town mains water is connected.
 Drainage is connected to the town's sewerage system.

No. of visits of inspection to the slaughterhouse .. 540.

SLAUGHTERING.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
General	1119 (1204)	819 (1017)	1977 (1829)	33 (38)
Casualties	143 (109)	42 (15)	8 (23)	161 (97)
Private	-	-	-	96 (61)
	<u>1262 (1313)</u>	<u>861 (1032)</u>	<u>1985 (1852)</u>	<u>290 (196)</u>

Of the 1262 Cattle slaughtered there were:-

583 (556)	Steers	including	16 casualties.
358 (426)	Heifers	"	29 "
35 (44)	Cow/Heifers	"	13 "
240 (237)	Cows	"	63 "
46 (50)	Bulls	"	22 "

CONDEMNATIONS - Whole Carcasses.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Tuberculosis only	19 (14)	- (-)	- (-)	5 (5).
All diseases except T.B.	<u>13 (10)</u>	<u>9 (5)</u>	<u>3 (9)</u>	<u>15 (2).</u>
Total	<u>32 (24)</u>	<u>9 (5)</u>	<u>3 (9)</u>	<u>20 (7).</u>

CONDEMNATIONS - Part Carcasses.

Tuberculosis only	12 (5)	- (-)	- (-)	8 (-)
All diseases except T.B.	<u>48 (40)</u>	<u>3 (1)</u>	<u>3 (1)</u>	<u>17 (7).</u>
Total	<u>60 (45)</u>	<u>3 (1)</u>	<u>3 (1)</u>	<u>25 (7).</u>

WEIGHTS OF MEAT CONDEMNED.

Meat (Tuberculosis)	7T. 6Cwts.	3Qrs. 2lbs.	(4 T. 0Cwts. 1Qr. 5lbs)
Meat (Other causes)	5 11.	3. 13.	(3. 14. 0. 0.
Offal (Tuberculosis)	1 13.	2. 19.	(1. 1. 1. 11.
Offal (Other causes)	1 9.	2. 5.	(1. 7. 1. 9.
Liver (Distomatosis)	2 1.	1. 21.	(2. 0. 3. 18.
Totals	<u>18T. 3Cwts.</u>	<u>1Qr. 41 lbs</u>	<u>(12T. 3Cwts. 3Qr.15 Lb)</u>

N.B. The figures in brackets are comparative figures for 1948.

NOTES.

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in February caused an almost complete cessation of slaughtering for 3 weeks.

Only one case of Cysticerous Bovis has been discovered during the year but numerous cases have been reported in various parts of the country, and it would seem that the parasite has now become established again. Efficient Meat Inspection is probably the best way of stamping out this parasite.

Losses of Liver caused by the Liver Fluke (Distoma Hepaticum) remain at a deplorably high level).

In 1939 when Diss did not supply such a wide area as it does now 2,213 Pigs were slaughtered as against 290 in 1949. Comment is superfluous.

The number of Calves slaughtered is still too high although showing a substantial reduction on the previous year.

I would like to express thanks to Mr.J.A.Smith (Slaughterhouse Manager) for his willing co-operation and unflinching courtesy.

CONDEMNED CANNED & OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

Milk	183 tins.
Meat	83 "
Fruit	70 "
Fish	39 "
Vegetables	30 "
Various	14 "
Boiled Sweets	5 lbs.

FOOD PREMISES.

There are:-

6 Bakchouses, 6 Butchers Shops,
4 Fried Fish Shops, 3 Fishmongers.

9 premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

ICE CREAM.

There is only 1 manufacturer in the town. 7 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream, there being 4 new registrations during the year.

The manufacture of Ice Cream is subject to the provisions of The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947, and the provisional Methylene Blue Test is divided into 4 Grades - Grades 1 and 2 being Satisfactory, 3 and 4 Unsatisfactory.

4 samples of Mr.S.F.Driver's Ice Cream have been taken during the season. 2 were reported Grade 1.

1 was reported Grade 2.

1 was reported Grade 4.

Of other samples taken:-

1 was reported Grade 1.

1 was reported Grade 2.

1 was reported Grade 3.

It would seem that manufacturers generally are turning out a bacteriologically satisfactory product, and that contamination often takes place during retail sale, emphasising the need for the utmost cleanliness from persons serving ice cream.

The tendency is towards the consumption of ice cream all the year round instead of during warm spells as hitherto.

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of registered cow keepers	18.
No. of T.T. Producers	3.
No. of Accredited Producers	2.
No. of Retail dealers	6.
No. of dealers retailing bottled Pastuerised Milk	1.
No. of dealers retailing T.T. milk	1.
No. of inspections of cowsheds and dairies	27.

On the 1st October the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949, made under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944, came into force. The Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries became responsible for the registration of dairy farmers and farms, the inspection of cattle, and the enforcement of the Regulations on dairy farms.

Local Authorities are left with the responsibility for the registration of milk distributors and the provisions relating to diseases communicable to man. The Medical Officer of Health of a Local Authority is given extended powers to deal with milk causing, or suspected of causing, disease.

It is too early to say whether any benefits will accrue from the new set up, but at present there seems to be an unnecessary duplication of officers, and another important function is lost ~~by~~ by Local Authorities.

A new designation - "Sterilised" is recognised under the Special Designations Regulations 1949.

From the 1st October 1950 Pasteurised Milk will only be sold in bottles or other containers.

Model Byelaws.

Steps have been taken to make Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping, and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in the Open Air. There has been much criticism that these Byelaws do not go far enough to ensure the utmost cleanliness at all times in the handling of food.

L. WILSON, M.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.