

[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, Diss U.D.C.

Contributors

Diss (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956

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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1956/57

Chairman:- Councillor E.Owen.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
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| " R.A.Bryant. | |

^Z Chairman of the Council.

^X Vice-Chairman of the Council.



THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, together with the Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1956.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the Annual Report for 1956.

- I. The general health of the District throughout the year continued to be very satisfactory. The birth and death rates were very much the same as those of England and Wales as a whole. There was only one infant death and there were no still births. The incidence of infectious diseases was low and there were no deaths from infectious diseases or tuberculosis.

The year 1956 was memorable in that it marked a widespread, if limited, use of a vaccine for protection against poliomyelitis.

The implementation of new housing schemes received a severe check as a result of financial restrictions; unfortunately it was also a year which started with the best intentions for the elimination of sub-standard houses in accordance with the requirements of the Rent and Repairs Act 1954. However, the building of Council houses to re-house those displaced from condemned property has received financial encouragement from the Ministry of Housing. Plans to improve or extend water supply and sewerage schemes were also affected by the financial difficulties of 1956; approval of any particular scheme depended largely on its urgency from the public health point of view.

Action was taken throughout the year to secure higher standards of food hygiene in food premises in accordance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, in an attempt to reduce the mounting national incidence of food-borne disease. But legislation is not the final answer: personal care on the part of managers and employees is of the greatest importance and consumers, by demanding hygienic treatment of the food they purchase, can make a very valuable contribution to this problem.

The ever-widening field of public health activities has caused Parliament to change the title of "Sanitary Inspector" to that of "Public Health Inspector". The new title more aptly describes the various duties and responsibilities which the Inspector of today is required to accept and, more important still, it is a further indication in public health services of the shifting emphasis from the study of man's environment to the study of man himself in relation to the society in which he lives. That relationship is now receiving the same kind of attention as did man's physical afflictions in the early days of doctoring and is an explanation of the over increasing interest in the subject of mental health. In this connection the following quotation is made from the Ministry of Health Annual Report, 1955:

"Many of the troubles besetting humanity have their origin in emotional disturbances and the science of mental health is beginning to evolve from a study of these phenomena.

It must be admitted that many of our ideas on the subject are in that nebulous state which generally precedes the formation of more solid concepts. But, as knowledge grows, means of promoting mental health will be evolved and increasingly the emphasis will be placed on prevention rather than remedy".

There is little need to stress the ways by which a local authority, through its various activities, can make a significant contribution to promoting good mental health in the community which it serves.

II. Administration.

Clerical assistance for your Medical Officer of Health is carried out by the Senior Clerk and staff at the Local Health Office, Norwich, while close touch is maintained with the Diss office.

The post of Public Health Inspector was vacant at the beginning of the year but was filled at the end of January by the appointment of Mr. I. C. Prowse who continued in office throughout the remainder of the year.

III. Vital Statistics.

(a) Population

The population of Diss has remained very much the same during the past one hundred years. In 1956 the population as estimated by the Registrar General was 3,590.

(b) Births

There were 53 live births recorded during the year: 22 boys and 31 girls. In 1955 there were 64 births. The birth rate for 1956 was, therefore, 14.8 per 1,000 of the resident population compared with 17.8 in 1955.

(c) Deaths

The number of deaths during the year was 44 and the death rate was, therefore, 12.3 compared with a record low death rate of 9.5 in 1955. Twenty-seven of these deaths occurred in the 70 to 100 age group. Except for one infant death there were no deaths under the age of thirty.

Twenty-one deaths were caused by diseases of the heart and arteries; there were nine deaths from cancer (two from lung cancer in males). There were no deaths from motor vehicle accidents but two deaths from other accidents and two cases of suicide.

(d) Comparability Factor

The comparability factor makes an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that of England and Wales as a whole. The comparability factors as supplied by the Registrar General for births and deaths in Diss U.D.C. are 1.05 and 0.85 respectively. When the actual birth and death rates of Diss are multiplied by these factors the resulting rates can fairly be compared with the rates for England and Wales. The adjusted birth rate for Diss thus becomes 15.5 compared with 15.7 for England and Wales and the death rate 10.4 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

(e) Infant Mortality

There was one infant death (a brain haemorrhage) in 1956. This is the only infant death that has occurred in Diss U.D. during the past three years in the course of 167 births. This is a very satisfactory record and speaks well of the efficiency of the local medical and nursing services. The infant mortality rate (deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births) was, therefore, 18.9. The infant mortality rate of England and Wales in 1956 was 23.8 (the lowest ever recorded).

(f) Expectation of Life (England and Wales)

In 1841 the expectation of life, at birth, was 40 years for boys and 42 years for girls. In 1955 the expectation of life remained the same as in 1954 i.e. 68 years for boys and 73 years for girls.

More people are living to old age than ever before. It is estimated that by 1979 there will be nearly ten million people of pensionable age while the number of persons of working age will remain much the same as in 1951. At that time there were less than seven million people of pensionable age.

This is the reason why increasing attention is given to the health and social problems of the aged particularly the need for suitable housing under happy social conditions.

IV. Infectious Diseases.

(a) Twenty cases of infectious diseases were notified by general practitioners during 1956 compared with sixty in 1955. Nine of the notifications were measles, nine whooping-cough, one case of scarlet fever and one of pneumonia.

(b) Diphtheria

Diphtheria has not yet been completely eradicated from England and Wales. There were 155 notified cases in 1955 compared with 173 in 1954. The number is steadily declining year by year. It is as well to recall that in 1945 there were 18,500 notified cases with 722 deaths. In order to obtain eradication of the disease it is considered necessary to secure immunisation of at least 75% of babies before their first birthday. In England and Wales the percentage of babies immunised is no more than half the required percentage. An analysis of the details of the cases and deaths (22) in 1954 and 1955 demonstrates the need for early immunisation and booster doses.

In Area 5 (Districts of Diss, Depwade, Loddon and Wymondham) special attention was paid to diphtheria immunisation in 1956. One thousand six hundred and ten diphtheria immunisations were carried out: 523 of these were primary immunisations of children under five years of age (390 under one year of age). Considering the births of the Area (596 in 1956) this immunisation rate is reasonably good. 948 booster doses were given.

(c) Poliomyelitis

There have been no cases of poliomyelitis in Diss since 1953 when there was one case of the paralytic type. In 1955 there were 3,712 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in England and Wales with 270 deaths.

In 1956 protection against poliomyelitis by immunisation was offered to the public for the first time. Parents of 105 children in Diss U.D.C. responded to this offer; that is to say that out of the total number of children eligible (those aged 2 to 9 years) the acceptance rate was about 25%. The acceptance rate for England and Wales was about 30%. Unfortunately, owing to an unexpected shortage of vaccine it was possible, during the year, to immunise no more than 10% of those children registered for immunisation. However, at the time of writing this report all the children on the original 1956 register have been immunised (with a few exceptions for medical reasons) and a further offer of registration has been made to parents of children born between the years 1947 to 1956 inclusive.

The following information is available regarding the results of the immunisations carried out in England and Wales in May and June 1956.

Nearly 400,000 injections of vaccine were given with no ill effects; the only reactions attributable to the injections were trivial. Those who were immunised were divided into two groups, the older born in the years 1947 to 1950 and the younger in the years 1951 to 1954. As it was possible to immunise only 10% of those who registered it was reasonable to accept those registered but who received no vaccine as strictly comparable controls. In the older group of those vaccinated the attack rate of poliomyelitis last year was 1.3 per 100,000 (one case). Had the attack rate been the same as in the unvaccinated controls of this group, 6 cases would have been expected i.e. an attack rate of 8.2 per 100,000. The younger vaccinated children produced 3 cases (4.1 per 100,000), whereas 15 would have been expected on the rate observed among the younger controls (20.1 per 100,000). In both groups, therefore, the apparent protection was about 80%, though with such small numbers of cases this figure must be accepted with great reserve. Better evidence of the efficiency of vaccination should be available when the results of the 1957 campaign are assessed.

(d) Vaccination against Smallpox

The vaccination rate for Area 5 in 1956 was 87%. Sixty-two children in the age group 0-4 years in Diss U.D.C. were given primary vaccination. Over the past five years the vaccination rate for Diss in the 0-4 age group has been 60%. In 1955 the vaccination acceptance rate for infants in England and Wales was just over 36%. As in the case of other immunisation procedures the ideal infant acceptance rate for the protection of the community against smallpox is 75%.

(e) Tuberculosis

Since 1951 the number of deaths in England and Wales from tuberculosis of the lungs has been more than halved. In the same period the number of deaths from other forms of tuberculosis has fallen by almost two thirds.

A feature of mortality in recent years has been that in females the high relative death rate in adolescence has disappeared and most deaths, as in males, are tending to occur in later life. In 1955 the peak of male deaths was in the age group 65 to 69 years.

Notifications of tuberculosis have declined by nearly 27% since 1949.

The attack against tuberculosis is now undertaken with increasing optimism and the line of attack is shaping as follows:

- (a) Examination of family contacts of notified cases and widening the check on contacts beyond family contacts.
- (b) Detecting or confirming cases by mass radiography surveys and examining contacts of such cases. Such surveys aim primarily at the most susceptible sections of the population.
- (c) Protecting school-leavers by B.C.G. vaccination where a skin test shows there is inadequate immunity; offering similar protection to family contacts of cases where this is indicated.
- (d) Investigating (X-ray etc.) school-leavers (and their family contacts) whose reactions to a skin test shows that they have acquired some immunity by contact with the disease.
- (e) Skin testing of school children in areas where the incidence of tuberculosis is above average or where it is known the school population as a whole has been exposed to the risk of infection, and investigating "positive reactors".
- (f) Skin testing of school entrants, followed by yearly skin tests where the first test is negative. Should the skin test become positive then the source of this apparently recent infection has a fair chance of being uncovered.
- (g) Including periodic X-ray chest examinations as a routine in certain types of employment i.e. teachers, certain food-handlers, etc.

The foregoing outlines measures for personal protection. Control of milk and food supplies, good housing and good living standards are the well-recognised community measures for indirect control of the disease.

In carrying out mass radiography the primary object is to find the number of "cases of tuberculosis requiring treatment or close clinic supervision". Among "general public volunteers" X-rayed in 1954 the number so found produced a rate of 2.0 per 1,000 persons X-rayed. In April 1956, an X-ray survey was carried out at Diss when 1876 general public volunteers presented themselves for examination. This survey detected two new cases of active tuberculosis in addition to a variety of other chest conditions. In all, three new cases of tuberculosis were notified in Diss U.D. during the year.

V. Cancer.

There were 9 deaths in Diss District in 1956 as a result of Cancer, or 20% of the total deaths. The yearly mortality remains much the same.

There were two deaths from lung cancer - both males. The upward trend in deaths from lung cancer throughout England and Wales continues. Between 1936 and 1955 deaths from lung cancer in men has increased fourfold and the rate in women has doubled.

"Civilized man appears to increasingly surrounding himself with an unnatural chemical environment whose carcinogenic (cancer causing) potentialities are being gradually explored. To what extent human cancer is caused by environmental carcinogens is not yet known but, as more and more of the chemical substances which man inhales, absorbs, or ingests are being proved carcinogenic to animals, it seems reasonable to infer that certain cancers of the human body may be initiated or promoted by such substances. The long latent period usually separating the first contact of an agent and the first signs of established malignant disease tends to make the ascertainment of direct proof of causation a long and laborious business and such proof may never be forthcoming". (Ministry of Health, Annual Report 1955).

With regard to lung cancer it is reasonable to assume that attempts will be made to eliminate any established carcinogens from tobacco tar in order to meet the grave suspicion that tobacco smoke is a cause of this disease.

VI. Housing.

Details of work under the Housing Act are contained in the Report of the Public Health Inspector which follows this Report.

Hesitancy in building policy resulted from financial restrictions imposed on new building schemes. Work was begun, however, on four flats and one bungalow.

A desirable housing policy at the present time is one which co-ordinates the action of the Health Committee (which pulls down) with that of the Housing Committee (which puts up); for the fact that financial assistance from the Ministry is obtainable for re-housing those displaced by the closing or demolition of old property has put considerable emphasis on the provision of new houses for old. It is reasonable, therefore, to plan new housing schemes with an eye on the possibility of evacuating tenants from complete blocks of sub-standard houses rather than allocating houses to tenants taken at random from the list of condemned properties.

Much has already been said and written about the advantages of specialised housing for the aged. The great advantage from the administrative point of view is that the small unit allocated to old people will almost certainly free a larger dwelling at a reasonable rent for a young family in need; provided these small units are incorporated within the Council housing area there should be little difficulty in persuading the old people to move.

It is now accepted that with the increasing number of old people in the population the problem of housing the elderly and providing care for them is of particular importance. In 1901 children under 15 years of age amounted to 32 per cent of the population of England and Wales and persons of 65 years of age, or over, to 5 per cent: in 1955 the proportions were respectively 23 per cent and 11 per cent.

VII. Water Supplies.

Filtered, softened, and chlorinated water, is supplied from two 10" boreholes at the waterworks in Louie's Lane. Bacteriological and chemical analyses continued to give satisfactory results throughout the year.

VIII. Sewage Disposal.

Reference to sewage disposal is contained in the Report of the Health Inspector which follows this Report.

The sewage disposal works operated successfully throughout the year and work on the extension of town sewers continued.

IX. Conclusion.

Infectious diseases are no longer the chief killers of our children. Almost twice as many children aged 5 to 14 die from violence (on the road or in the home) as from all infectious and respiratory diseases put together; in pre-school children deaths from accidents in the home are three times greater than deaths from infectious diseases.

Notifications of Dysentery in 1955 in England and Wales were the highest on record (36,718). There has been a considerable increase in Sonne dysentery (the commonest form of dysentery) during the past ten years. In children the liability to contract this disease is far in excess of that in the older age groups. No doubt this may be explained by the fact that personal hygiene is the most important factor in preventing the disease spreading and the young are most likely to be at fault in the habit of regular hand-washing (the simplest and the best method of controlling many diseases).

Food poisoning is another problem causing anxiety. Incidents are steadily increasing. In 1955 the incidence was 49 per cent above that of 1954. The final answer lies in the education of all food handlers until scrupulous cleanliness and the use of "no-touch" techniques become second nature. This sounds hopelessly idealistic - but perhaps not so if microbe awareness is developed early in life. To stand in a kitchen and watch even intelligent and well-educated cooks at work leads to one conclusion only: that there are very few people who believe wholeheartedly in dangerous germs.

Whatever may be the difficulties the fact remains that school is the place to develop an awareness of unpleasant social problems such as harmful microbes, smoking, or litter. It is equally necessary to ensure that the school as a meeting place where these problems should be stressed has itself the best standard of sanitation which local amenities allow - so that Authority appears to be practising what it preaches. Needless to say the fundamental need is a good water supply on which the remaining items of sanitation can be built up.

One wishes that the child at school could be taught something of the world of invisible microbes. The Microbe Man is quite as fascinating as the Space Man, infinitely more realistic (particularly to the school child who suffers the pangs of immunisation), of great practical importance, and equally adaptable to the strip cartoon.

But unexpected ignorance in matters of health need not always exasperate. There was the mother at school medical inspection who having been told that her daughter needed adjustment to her shoes to correct a foot fault remarked, after all the details were explained, "Yes, but her father doesn't like her feet interfered with".

- X. In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman, the Clerk of the Council, and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement and for the enthusiastic and efficient help given me by the Sanitary Inspector and Council staff, and by the Clerical Staff at the Local Health Office, Norwich.

I have the honour to be, Mr.Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. E. Holmes

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) (including water)	3,628
Estimated Resident Population (Mid-year)	3,590
Rateable Value	£44,789
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£181

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	22	31	53
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	22	31	53

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident population.

Diss Urban District..... 14.8
Area 5..... 14.2

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births.

Diss Urban District..... 0.0
Area 5..... 23.7

Table 4. DEATHS (All ages)

Male	Female	Total
20	24	44

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population.

Diss Urban District..... 12.3
Area 5..... 11.4

Table 5. INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of Infants under one year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	-	1	1

Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.

Diss Urban District..... 18.9
Area 5..... 20.8

(Area 5 comprises Depwade & Loddon R.D's. and Diss & Wymondham U.D's.)

Table 6. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR - Diss U.D.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	-	1	1
Totals	-	1	1

Table 7. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar-General) - Diss U.D.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	-	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	3	2	5
15. Leukemia, Aleukemia.	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2	4	6
18. Coronary disease, angina.	3	1	4
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	2	3
20. Other heart diseases.	1	5	6
21. Other circulatory diseases.	-	2	2
22. Influenza.	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia.	-	2	2
24. Bronchitis.	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	-	-
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	2	1	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-
34. All other accidents.	1	1	2
35. Suicide.	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
Totals	20	24	44

Table 8. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1956
(According to Age Groups)

Diss U.D.	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	-	1	1
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 " " 10	-	-	-
10 " " 20	-	-	-
20 " " 30	-	-	-
30 " " 40	1	-	1
40 " " 50	2	-	2
50 " " 60	7	-	7
60 " " 70	3	3	6
70 " " 80	3	8	11
80 " " 90	4	10	14
90 " " 100	-	2	2
100 and over	-	-	-
Total	20	24	44

Table 9. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
<u>Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)</u>	(35)	(51)	(58)	(62)	(47)	(50)	(64)	(53)
Diss U.D.	10.3	14.0	16.8	17.8	13.4	14.1	17.8	14.8
Area 5.	14.5	14.9	15.4	15.6	14.3	13.4	14.3	14.2
England and Wales.	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7
<u>Still Births (per 1,000 total births)</u>	(1)	(1)	NIL	(2)	(3)	(1)	NIL	NIL
Diss U.D.	28.0	19.2	0.0	31.2	60.0	19.7	0.0	0.0
Area 5.	27.0	23.0	26.8	28.0	17.1	26.0	20.8	23.7
England and Wales.	(Not Published)			22.6	22.4	24.0	23.1	23.0
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)</u>	(56)	(50)	(55)	(49)	(44)	(45)	(34)	(44)
Diss U.D.	16.1	13.7	15.9	14.1	12.6	12.7	9.5	12.3
Area 5.	13.3	12.1	14.0	12.6	10.9	11.6	11.8	11.4
England and Wales.	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7
<u>Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)</u>	NIL	NIL	(2)	(2)	(2)	NIL	NIL	(1)
Diss U.D.	0.0	0.0	34.5	32.2	42.5	0.0	0.0	18.9
Area 5.	21.0	14.5	27.5	28.8	34.8	7.1	19.0	20.8
England and Wales.	32.0	29.8	29.6	27.0	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8

NOTE:- Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Diss U.D.

Table 10. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
(ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS) - Diss Urban District

	Under 1	1-4 yrs	5-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles.	-	5	4	-	-	9
Whooping Cough.	-	4	5	-	-	9
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	-	9	10	-	1	20

Table 11. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
Diss Urban District

	Quarters				Total
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	1	1
Measles.	-	2	7	-	9
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	9	9
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	1
Totals	1	2	7	10	20

Table 12. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Diss Urban District

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Scarlet Fever.	1	-	1	-	1
Measles.	45	1	73	27	9
Whooping Cough.	12	4	3	27	9
Pneumonia.	1	-	3	5	1
Erysipelas.	1	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	1	-
Polioyelitis (Paralytic)	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	60	6	81	60	20

Table 13. TUBERCULOSIS (Details of New Cases during 1956)
Diss Urban District

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0-4	-	-	-	-
5-14	-	-	-	-
15-22	-	-	-	-
23-34	-	-	-	-
35-44	2	-	-	-
45-54	1	-	-	-
55-64	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	-	-	-

Table 14. TUBERCULOSIS (NUMBER OF CASES ON T.B. REGISTER AS AT 31.12.56)
Diss Urban District

	Male	Females	Total
Pulmonary	14	7	21
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	4
Total	16	9	25

Table 15. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
Diss Urban District

		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Pulmonary	Male	-	-	1	-	3
	Female	-	1	2	1	-
Non-Pulmonary	Male	-	1	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	1	-	-
Total		-	2	4	1	3
Area 5	Total	43	24	23	13	17

Table 16. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is the number of notifications of primary and booster injections received during the last six years in respect of Area 5.

	Primary Injections			Booster Injections		Total
	Under 1	Total Under 5	Age 5-14	Under 5	Age 5-14	
1956	390	523	139	62	886	1,610
1955	283	463	86	45	251	845
1954	257	486	171	26	983	1,666
1953		493	392	36	1,855	2,776
1952		371	95	15	598	1,070
1951		460	70	9	178	717

Table 17. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the years 1952 to 1956 resident in the District and Area 5, are shown in the following table.

	Diss U.D.					Area 5				
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of live births registered.	62	47	50	64	53	623	574	560	577	576
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years)	25	18	29	33	62	315	391	375	361	500
Percentage vaccinated.	40	38	58	51	100	50	68	67	62	87

Table 18. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

District	Eligible for Vaccination. (i.e. Births 1947-1954)	Number Accepted	% Accepted	Number ϕ Vaccinated
Diss U.D.	408	105	25	11
Wymondham U.D.	691	172	25	26
Depwade R.D.	2,263	713	31	59
Loddon R.D.	1,511	585	39	70
Totals - Area 5	4,873	1,575	32	166

ϕ Only 10% of the acceptances were vaccinated owing to the limited supply of vaccine.

Table 19. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Diss U.D.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of deaths.	13	13	7	5	10	7	8	5	9
Percentage of total deaths.	23	20	14	9	20	16	17	14	20

Table 20. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Area 5

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of deaths.	85	82	84	86	82	74	87	73	65
Percentage of total deaths.	16.9	16.8	17.3	15.3	16.3	16.9	18.5	15.2	14.0

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1956

SEWERAGE, CONSERVANCY AND DRAINAGE.

The maintenance of the sewers and sewage disposal works is the responsibility of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

The sewage disposal works has operated satisfactorily during the year and samples of the effluent taken for examination proved satisfactory.

During the year work continued on the extension of the town sewers, and although work on the Ejector Station was held up for some time, it was satisfactorily completed before the end of the year. The conversion of Privies to a water carriage system and the connections to the main sewer were unfortunately prolonged due to the discovery of faulty joints in the drains and sewers in the Mission Road Area.

A number of conversions from pail closets and Privies to water closets were carried out during the year with the result that a reduction in the cost of Night Soil Clearance was possible.

De-scaling of sewers in the Denmark Street, and Park Road area was carried out during the year with very satisfactory results. Whilst de-scaling operations were being carried out in Park Road a severe fracture in the sewer was discovered and some 35 yards of 15 inch sewer had to be re-laid. This work was carried out successfully by direct labour.

The clearance of night soil, cesspools, and privy vaults has been carried out smoothly during the year without complaint or nuisance. The Contract for this work is with Messrs. Tovey Transport Ltd., of Cambridge. The conservancy work carried out by the Contractors on behalf of the Council consists of the following:-

261 Pail closets cleared every week.

24 Privy-vaults and cesspools cleared twice per year
(these can be cleared more frequently when requested,
on payment of the cost of the additional clearance.)

75 visits were made in connection with conservancy and drainage during the year.

The supervision of the reconstruction and alteration of drainage works at existing buildings is the responsibility of your Public Health Inspector, as is the enforcement of repair, renewal and cleansing of defective or foul drainage systems. Several lengths of defective drain were renewed during the year, and two properties sharing W.C.'s were provided with additional units by the Owners.

WATER SUPPLIES AND WATER SAMPLES

The mains supply is the responsibility of the Council's Water Engineer. Samples from the main supply taken for examination continued to give a result of 'Highly Satisfactory'.

OTHER SUPPLIES

Routine samples of well water were taken from premises not having a mains supply available, and upon bacteriological examination were reported as follows:-

4 samples	-	Highly Satisfactory.
2 samples	-	Satisfactory.
1 sample	-	Suspicious.
3 samples	-	Unsatisfactory.

When an unsatisfactory result was obtained, the supply was chlorinated and the occupier advised to boil the water before use.

Two samples of water were taken from the Swimming Pool in the District and were Highly Satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936

Section 75 (Provision of Dustbins etc.) 24 complaints were received concerning defective or insufficient dustbins, as a result of informal action dustbins were provided or renewed at these premises.

Section 53 (Filthy or verminous premises) No premises in a filthy or verminous condition were observed or complained of during the year.

Section 92 (Nuisances) (Not including matters dealt with under Section 75)

Some 48 complaints of alleged insanitary conditions were received, recorded and investigated. 43 of these complaints were justified but only 21 were matters that could be classed as nuisances under this section; the remaining 22 complaints concerned such matters as rodent infestations etc.

As a result of these complaints 21 informal or verbal notices were served requiring the abatement of the nuisance. It has not been necessary to resort to legal proceedings in any one instance.

A summary of defects remedied is appended.

Section 167 (Disinfection of premises, articles etc.) Following one case of Scarlet Fever the disinfection of rooms and articles therein was carried out.

Section 269 (Control of Movable Dwellings.) 5 visits were made to sites of movable and other temporary dwellings. In each case the dwellings were maintained in a sanitary and hygienic manner, with suitable sanitary accommodation, refuse facilities and water supply readily available.

During the year the Council's part time Rodent Operator resigned his duties due to increasing ill health. An employee from the Highways department now carries out this part time work satisfactorily.

Infestations were revealed by complaint or during routine inspections, and in all cases were investigated initially by your Public Health Inspector.

The Urban District has been generally free from vermin during the year, and only 11 infestations were recorded at the following type of premises:-

Private Houses	-	5
Council Property	-	5
Schools	-	1

Baiting of the Town Sewers was carried out during April and October, the result and extent being as follows:-

April 1956	-	Manholes baited - 18	Bait Taken - 5
October 1956	-	Manholes baited - 21	Bait Taken - 5

The results indicate that the Town Sewers are generally free from vermin, and the results of the test baits show the least infestation for many years.

The Council's refuse tip is situated within the area of the adjoining Rural District Council with whom the tipping facilities are shared. By arrangement, the Rural District Council are responsible for, and attend to, any rodent infestation that may occur at the tip.

THE HOUSING ACTS etc.

During the year under review, steady progress has been made in dealing with the problem of unfit houses, and as a result the action taken under Section II (Demolition of unfit houses) was as follows:-

Demolition Orders Made	-	4
Closing Orders Made	-	2

At the time of writing this Report the total number of houses unoccupied and awaiting demolition is 23, and the majority of the tenants have been rehoused by the Council.

The Council are faced with many problems in dealing with the question of unfit houses. The tenants of these sub-standard houses must be offered alternative accommodation, and to rehouse these tenants the Council have to secure suitable sites and construct further houses.

During the year work was commenced on a block of 4 flats and 1 bungalow. All 5 units of accommodation are to be occupied by persons from sub-standard properties.

A plan of action for the Demolition and closure of unfit houses is in operation, but in the near future some consideration must be given to the question of 370 houses or so in need of repair, which, if not soon attended to, will in many cases deteriorate rapidly to a state where such houses can only, from an economic aspect, be demolished.

PART IV HOUSING ACT 1956

There were no known or recorded cases of Statutory Overcrowding during the year.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

Part II

There were no applications for certificates of Disrepair by tenants of houses where a landlord had claimed a repairs increase in rent. Such applications for a certificate can be made to the Council by a tenant who considers his house is not in sufficiently good condition to warrant an increase in rent under this Act. Where the Council are also of the same opinion they are required to issue a certificate of Disrepair to the tenant.

FACTORIES AND OUTWORKERS

During the year 5 inspections were made of premises registered as Factories under the Factories Act 1951. Conditions were found to be satisfactory with the exception of two cases when it was necessary to serve informal notices requiring the cleansing of Sanitary Conveniences. In each case the matter was remedied.

There were no known or recorded persons carrying on outwork in the District.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of, and as required by the Factories Act, is appended.

SHOP ACT 1950

The duties of the Council under this Act are restricted to enforcing the Provisions of Section 38 which relate to the maintenance of suitable and efficient ventilation and a reasonable temperature in shops, and the provision of sanitary conveniences for persons employed in or about the shop. There were only 4 inspections of shops made specifically under this Act but the requirements were enforced at the same time as inspections of various types of shops were carried out for other purposes.

No contraventions were recorded.

PETROLEUM ACTS 1928 and 1936

23 visits were made to premises at which Petroleum was being stored. No contraventions were recorded.

Petrol rationing was again introduced during December, and it was brought to the notice of the Public that it is an offence to keep for private use or for sale more than THREE GALLONS of Petroleum Spirit, unless duly authorised by the Local Authority.

The number of licences in force during the year was 33, and the approximate storage was 91,000 gallons.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

1 licence was issued during the year, and the requirements of the licence was complied with satisfactorily.

MILK DAIRIES AND FOOD PREMISES

During July 1956 the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations became operative. In the Diss Urban District there are approximately 54 Food Premises, including 8 mobile stalls and vans.

The following is a list of Food Premises and Shops in the Urban District:-

Fish and Chip Saloons	-	4
Butchers Shops	-	6
Groceries etc.	-	14
Fish Shop	-	1
Greengrocers	-	3
Bakehouses & Restaurants	-	5
Chemists	-	4
Ice Cream Manufacture	-	1
Confectionery etc. including Ice Cream	-	16

Of the stalls and vehicles selling Food in the Diss Urban District, 3 sell Fruit and Vegetables, 1 Sweets, 1 Wet Fish and 3 are mobile Fish and Chip Vans.

120 inspections and visits were carried out during the year in connection with Food Premises. Work carried out in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations include three mobile fish and chip vans being provided with water containers, hot water supply, first-aid kits, impervious counters, soap and towels, refuse containers etc.

The majority of Premises handling open food have displayed 'No Smoking' notices, and 'Wash your Hands' notices. A number of premises supplying open food and previously without a hot water supply, have had geysers fitted; other improvement works carried out include the provision of sinks, wash basins, first-aid kits, and impervious surfaces to counters.

SECTION 14 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

7 premises where sausage and preserved food etc. is manufactured are registered under this section, as are 17 premises where ice cream is sold or manufactured. These premises were maintained in a satisfactory state during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation)
(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 ... 6

Principal Dealers - 2
Supplementary Dealers - 4

Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation)
(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 .. 7

Principal Dealers - 3
Supplementary Dealers - 4

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

120 visits were made to food premises and food stalls during the year. A further 10 visits were made for such things as the voluntary surrender by traders of unsound food in their possession.

SAMPLING

The major sampling operations for chemical analysis are normally carried out by the Food and Drugs Authority who, in the case of this District, are the Norfolk County Council.

An authorised officer of the local authority may also purchase, or in certain cases take, samples of any food, and certain Drugs. Local Authorities, who are not also the Food and Drugs Authority, usually confine their sampling to certain foods for the purpose of bacteriological examination.

Eleven samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Ten of these samples were placed as Grade I, the other sample being Grade 2 and classed as satisfactory.

The majority of the vendors of Ice Cream sell the pre-packed product. Only one establishment manufactures ice-cream and the premises are in very good condition, the preparation being very satisfactorily carried out.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOOD

The following amounts of foodstuffs were surrendered by traders in the town and rejected as unfit for human consumption by your Sanitary Inspector. A certificate of Surrender was issued in each case and the foodstuffs were removed and properly disposed of.

Tinned Meat	-	109 tins
Tinned Fish	-	78 tins
Tinned Fruit	-	67 tins
Tinned Vegetables	-	33 tins
Tinned Milk	-	63 tins

MEAT INSPECTION

A total of 288 visits were made to the Slaughterhouse by your Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Comparative figures of animals slaughtered are as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Total</u>
1956	740	988	342	17	2,087
1955	650	1,552	527	14	2,743
1954	999	2,450	1,698	323	5,470
1953	1,441	2,164	2,425	1,015	7,045
1952	1,549	1,891	1,866	1,165	6,461
1951	1,632	1,401	1,633	1,046	5,712
1939	645	2,213	735	132	3,725

The rejection of Meat and Offal compares very favourably with that of last year. The quality of beasts slaughtered during the year was high.

Comparative amounts of meat and offal rejected are as follows:-

1956	1 ton	2 cwts.	3 qrs.	22 lbs.
1955	1 ton	2 cwts.	2 qrs.	15 lbs.
1954	7 tons	18 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1953	12 tons	0 cwts.	2 qrs.	23 lbs.
1952	19 tons	11 cwts.	0 qrs.	0 lbs.
1951	17 tons	7 cwts.	0 qrs.	20 lbs.

I append a summary of the causes of rejection and it will be seen that Tuberculosis is still the main cause of rejection in cattle and pigs. Similarly rejections of offal due to parasitic affections account for the greater amount of offal rejected.

<u>Offal rejected</u>		<u>Meat</u>
3 Pigs Lungs	- Parasitic.	1 Cow Carcass - Septic Metritis and Oedema.
3 Sheep Livers	- Fluke Condition.	
18 Pigs Heads	- Tuberculosis.	1 Pig's Leg - Tuberculosis.
5 Pigs Mesentary	- Tuberculosis.	1 Pig Carcass - Generalised Tuberculosis.
4 Beasts Heads	- Tuberculosis.	
15 Beasts Lungs	- Tuberculosis.	
2 Beasts Livers	- Tuberculosis.	
1 Beasts Mesentary	- Tuberculosis.	
43 Beasts Livers	- Fluke Condition.	1 Part Pig Carcass - Bruising.
7 Pigs Livers	- Milk Spots.	3 Part Beast Carcasses - Bruising.
5 Beasts Livers	- Abscess.	2 Part Beast Carcasses - Abscess.
2 Beasts Heads	- Abscess.	1 Sheep Carcass - Septic Metritis.
1 Pig's Heart	- Endocarditis.	

One carcass was found to be affected with *Cysticercus Bovis* and was sent out of the area for cold storage treatment.

The method of the disposal of rejected material has continued as previously, being collected by the Suffolk Fat and Bone Company Ltd., of Oulton Broad, for the reduction into fertilisers etc.

REFUSE COLLECTION DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

COLLECTION

At the end of the year the number of premises from which refuse is collected was estimated at 1,298 and the number of bins to be emptied 1,395.

A seven day collection in the District was maintained throughout the year, this to a large measure due to the conscientious support of the two men employed on the vehicle.

The volume of refuse placed in the bins for collection still tends to increase, this probably being due to the increasing tendency to sell food in prepacked cartons or packages, and although the paper is still collected by this Council as Salvage, it is becoming more and more apparent in the general refuse.

DISPOSAL

The tipping of Refuse at the Roydon Tip continued satisfactorily during the year. During August a tip fire occurred but was very quickly brought under control. Throughout the year liberal use has been made of the covering material on the site, and as a result no complaints regarding the tip were received.

TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION

The scheme for the collection of trade Refuse was first put into operation during 1954.

The basis of this scheme is that all refuse collected from each business or premises in separate occupation shall be contained in standard size bins (up to $3\frac{1}{4}$ cu.ft.) and in each case each bin over two put out for collection shall be charged at a rate of 6d per week. Those premises with over two bins being guaranteed a weekly collection.

This scheme has continued to operate satisfactorily during the year.

Authorisation is still given to persons wishing to deposit rubbish on the tip, provided the authorised person carries out certain simple requirements printed on the authorisation form. Varying charges were made for tipping facilities at the tip, from 1/-d for a casual load to 7/6d per quarter year for certain business concerns who wished to use the tip regularly.

SALVAGE

Although the amount of paper salvage collected during the year was satisfactory the financial return was low due to the poor price offered by the Mills. The price fell from 6/-d per cwt. to that of 3/-d per cwt.

DUSTBIN HIRE SCHEME

The scheme continued to work very smoothly and was much appreciated by those persons taking advantage of it.

GENERAL

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the members of the Council and Officers and staff of the Council, for their support during the year.

J.C. PROWSE

Sanitary Inspector.

Diss Urban District Council.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTION

A. GENERAL

Conservancy and Drainage	...	...	...	75
Factories	...	...	...	5
Game Licences	...	...	...	4
Pet Animals	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	23
Rodent Control	...	...	...	44
Shops	...	...	...	2
Water Samples	...	...	...	12
Water Supplies	...	...	...	13
With Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	5
Swimming Pool	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	179

B. HOUSING

Houses inspected under Public Health Act	...	...	28
Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	10
Revisits to Houses	...	...	10
Tents, Vans, Sheds etc.	...	...	5
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	60

C. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	...	...	1
Disinfections carried out	...	...	1

D. FOOD PREMISES

Dairies and Milk Distributors	...	...	2
Food Premises including Market Stalls	120
Miscellaneous Food Visits	10

E. SAMPLING

Ice Cream	11
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F. MEAT INSPECTION

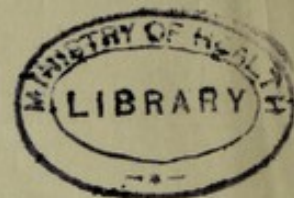
Visits to Slaughterhouse	288
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G. REFUSE COLLECTION

Visits in connection with collection, disposal and salvage	169
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TOTAL VISITS AND INSPECTIONS ... 1,081

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS AND NUISANCES REMEDIED



General

Accumulations removed	...	...	...	1
Dustbins supplied or renewed by owners etc.	...	...	...	24
Foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	1

Drainage

Drainage systems repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	6
Obstructed drains cleared	...	...	...	4
Sinks provided	...	...	...	8
Water closets repaired	...	...	...	2

Repairs to Dwellinghouses

Ceilings repaired - rooms	...	...	...	1
Dampness remedied - rooms	...	...	...	3
Doors and windows repaired	...	...	...	2
External walls repaired	...	...	...	1
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired	...	...	...	1
Roof repaired	...	...	...	3
Internal walls repaired	3

Water supply

Internal water supply provided	2
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PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS REQUIRED BY
SECTION 128 (3) FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes as to health:-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority...	40	4	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)...	3	-	-	-
TOTAL	44	5	-	-