

[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Doncaster R.D.C.

Contributors

Doncaster (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1953

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DONCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH
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THE ANNUAL
REPORT

for the year 1953

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


A. PENMAN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. REYNOLDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department, Nether Hall, Doncaster.



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DONCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Nether Hall,
Doncaster.
July, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members,
Public Health Committee,
Doncaster Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present the Annual Report on the health conditions of the Rural District in 1953 in accordance with my statutory duty.

Since the report incorporates that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, I have left certain sections to Mr. Reynolds, relating to matters more closely associated with his duties.

The birth rate, which has been steadily falling since the high peak of 1947, showed an increase for the first time for five years. The death rate from all causes compared favourably with that for England and Wales, although the death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was a little in excess of the county and national figures. Even so, the tuberculosis death rate was only half of what it was in 1949.

The infant mortality rate and likewise the neo-natal death and stillbirth rates (all of which have a close relationship) were moderately in excess of similar rates for the county and country generally. The main immediate causes of the infant deaths were prematurity and conditions associated with prematurity (notably atelectasis). Although the neo-natal survival rates among domiciliary and hospital premature babies varied from 73 to 77 per cent. and could be accounted good, they were not good enough to match the attainments of better equipped communities.

Two maternal deaths occurred from a cause very difficult to control and not perfectly understood, and temporarily spoiled the record after two years freedom from maternal loss.

There was no case of diphtheria for the third year running. The state of immunisation among the pre-school children and infants is not adequate to guarantee this continued immunity. Fortunately, the school children have a high rate of immunity and act as a buffer against the spread of infection, since they are twice as numerous as the pre-school population.

Gastro-enteritis has been a persistent offender in this area among children under two, but in 1953 there was an outbreak among older children and adults due to hand-to-mouth infection.

In the field of sewerage and sewage disposal there is still much to accomplish, all of it requiring capital expenditure, and in spite of some improvement in atmospheric pollution, that problem is still a long way from solution. This latter involves the increased use of gas and electricity, the wider use of appliances burning coke and coalite, and of appliances burning raw coal in a controlled manner; the use of better quality fuels in industry, and the employment of mechanical stoking of furnaces. Such a problem cannot be solved in a short time, but if we are to attain a better health record for bronchitis and respiratory diseases, the effort will have to be made.

I have to thank all my staff who have helped me with the preparation of this report, and Mr. Reynolds for his substantial contribution.

I have also to thank the Committee for their encouragement and support at all times in the work of prevention.

Yours faithfully, A. PENMAN, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATE - 1953

RATES	Doncaster Rural District:	Aggregate West Riding Rural Districts:	West Riding Admin. County:	England and Wales:
Crude Birth: per 1,000 population...	18.3	16.6	15.7	15.5
Adjusted Birth: do.	17.92	17.3	16.0	—
Crude Death: do.	9.24	9.3	11.6	11.4
Adjusted Death: do.	11.84	10.4	12.1	—
Tuberculosis, Respiratory do.	0.26	0.13	0.16	0.18
Tuberculosis other do.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Tuberculosis, all forms do.	0.28	0.15	0.18	0.20
Cancer of lung and Bronchus do.	0.26	0.22	0.28	0.34
Cancer all forms. do.	1.70	1.57	1.88	1.99
Vascular lesions, Nervous system do.	1.03	1.24	1.76	*
Heart and Circulation do.	2.82	3.27	4.26	*
Respiratory Diseases: do.	1.14	1.06	1.30	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births):	1.95	0.81	0.51	0.76
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births):	37.3	33.2	29.2	26.8
Neo-natal Mortality (per 1,000 live births):	28.3	21.6	18.6	17.7
Still Birth (per 1,000 live and still births):	35.1	23.8	24.7	22.4

RECORD OF PROGRESS—DONCASTER RURAL DISTRICT

Year	Live Birth Rate:	Crude Death Rate:	All Forms of Tuberculosis	Infant Mortality:	Maternal Mortality:
1911	35.1	14.9	1.32	126.4	*
1916	30.6	13.9	1.64	106.9	*
1921	30.8	14.0	1.14	130.9	*
1926	29.4	10.3	0.8	82.3	*
1931	23.1	9.10	0.9	81.5	*
1936	18.42	8.74	0.56	61.0	8.25
1937	18.23	8.72	0.67	55.0	5.35
1938	18.76	8.01	0.38	48.0	9.15
1939	19.21	8.59	0.58	56.0	2.92
1940	20.11	9.11	0.49	67.0	0.98
1941	20.8	9.3	0.61	61.0	4.59
1942	20.8	8.1	0.47	41.0	2.91
1943	20.6	9.3	0.58	54.0	4.83
1944	23.7	8.8	0.55	42.0	4.97
1945	20.8	8.6	0.59	61.0	0.94
1946	21.9	7.9	0.39	42.0	2.56
1947	22.36	9.66	0.73	58.4	2.46
1948	22.06	9.2	0.53	49.8	1.68
1949	19.98	9.15	0.55	52.98	1.85
1950	18.81	9.05	0.34	53.79	1.95
1951	18.06	9.97	0.43	47.81	NIL
1952	17.0	8.84	0.11	32.9	NIL
1953	18.3	9.24	0.28	37.3	1.95

* Figures not available

SECTION A

STATISTICS

General:

AREA of the District (in acres)	75,156
Registrar—General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population	54,180
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1953)	15,123
Rateable Value	273,219
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,066 7 7

Extracts of Vital Statistics:

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	462	483	945	Doncaster R.D. Live Birth
Illegitimate	19	27	46	Rate 18.3
				Adjusted 17.92
Total ...	481	510	991	England and Wales 15.5

Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	18	16	34	Doncaster R.D. Still Birth
Illegitimate	2	0	2	Rate 0.61
				Adjusted 0.598
Total ...	20	16	36	England and Wales 0.35

Deaths of Infants: Under 1 year: (in brackets under 4 weeks)

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate ...	18(13)	18(15)	36(28)	Doncaster R.D. Infant
Illegitimate ...	1(—)	—	1(—)	Mortality Rate ... 37.3
				England and Wales 26.8
Total ...	19(13)	18(15)	37(28)	

Deaths: All Causes:

Male	Female	Total	
277	223	500	Doncaster R.D. Crude
			Death Rate 9.24
			Adjusted 11.84
			England and Wales 11.4

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

	Male	Female	Total	
(b) Non-respiratory	—	1	1	Doncaster R.D. Death Rate
(a) Respiratory ...	13	1	14	from Tuberculosis 0.28
				England and Wales 0.20
Total ...	13	2	15	

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year home population was 54,180, an increase of 530 over that of the preceding year. The population's natural increase was 491. This is the first intercensal yearly estimate of the Registrar General I have known in which the estimated increase exceeded the natural increase. Migration from the district has always exceeded immigration in a far larger measure than the live births exceeded the deaths and thus reduced the potential increase. Does this mean that there is less incentive now to emigration because of the improved housing position, or better industrial conditions, or improved local amenities? Or increased immigration for similar reasons?

Births:

The number of live births increased by 37 to 991 and the birth rate thus rose to 18.3 per 1,000 from 17.8 the previous year. Since the 1947 post-war peak of 22.7 the birth rate has fallen steadily and the 1953 up-swing is the first break in that trend. The national birth rate similarly recovered from 15.3 to 15.5.

Female live births were 29 more than male live births, thus reversing the position of the preceding two years. The illegitimate births were less than 5 per cent. of the total.

The live birth rate adjusted by the Registrar-General's factor was 17.92, making the rate more comparable with the national figure by correcting the local advantage in age and sex distribution.

Deaths:

There were 500 deaths from all causes among the resident population (males—277; females—223), 26 more than in 1953, giving a crude death rate of 9.24 and an adjusted rate of 11.84 (by the Registrar-General's factor), compared with 11.4 for England and Wales. The male deaths were in proportion to female as 11 to 9, being a lower than usual male preponderance.

The principal causes of death were:—

	Compared with		
	1953	1952	1951
Diseases of the heart and circulation, (including vascular lesions of the nervous system)	209	207	228
Cancer (including leukaemia)	92	93	69
Pneumonia, bronchitis, influenza, etc ...	62	51	77
Accident and violence (motor accidents 7, other accidents 27, suicide 5) ...	39	25	26
Tuberculosis (all forms)	15	6	24

The deaths from these causes were 83 per cent. of the total. Diseases of the heart and circulation remain the largest group of causes of death, but showed no further tendency to increase since the peak was reached in 1951, and that in spite of a steadily-advancing average age of the population. Cancer (including leukaemia) remained the next most serious cause of death.

Accidental causes of death rose sharply due to a larger number of industrial and home fatal accidents. Actually fatal motor accidents were one fewer.

After the phenomenally low rate of mortality from tuberculosis in 1952, even the moderate figure of 1953 seems large, but it corresponds more closely with the national rate.

Maternal Mortality.

The Registrar General classifies three deaths of mothers as maternal. As a matter of fact, I believe two only should be attributed to childbirth, since the principal cause of death in the third was haemorrhage from a congenital aneurysm of a cerebral artery, which might have ruptured at any other moment of stress and could scarcely have been provided against ante-natally. I regard this death as "associated" with maternity, but not due to maternal causes.

The remaining two died from emboli from pelvic thrombosis, 28 and 50 days respectively after giving birth to their babies. Both received ante-natal supervision; both were delivered in hospital: one died in hospital and one at home, the latter having taken her discharge against medical advice.

There is obviously a need for further research into the causes of pelvic thrombosis, its prevention and treatment.

The maternal death rate was thus:—

		Rate per 1,000 live and still births: Doncaster R.D. Compared with England and Wales.	
Sepsis	—	0.10	
Abortion with toxæmia .	—	0.01	
Other toxæmias . . .	—	0.24	
Haemorrhage	—	0.13	
Abortion (without sepsis or toxæmia)	—	0.04	
Abortion (with sepsis) ...	—	0.06	
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	1.95	0.18	
Total ...	1.95	0.76	

Infant Mortality.

37 infants (19 male : 18 female) died before reaching the age of 1 year. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was thus 37.3, which is 5.6 more than in 1952, when the lowest-ever rate was recorded. The national rate was 26.8.

No fewer than 9 died of prematurity and 12 from prematurity as an associated cause.

Compared with infant mortality rates in the Rural District of less than five years ago, the present rate shows a marked improvement, and, but for the amazing fall in the national rate, would be very respectable. It is to be noted that while the number of infants dying from pneumonia, bronchitis, gastro-enteritis, and other infective conditions, have dropped in the same degree as the national trend, there is little improvement of the number dying from prematurity or associated prematurity. In 1950 and 1951, the national figure for deaths of infants due to prematurity and other causes associated with prematurity, each represented roughly one-fifth of the total of infant deaths from all causes. In 1953, the local proportion was prematurity one-quarter and associated prematurity one-third. It would appear that further local improvement will centre mainly round the efforts made to prevent prematurity and to deal with premature infants. Where minutes count in the preservation and resuscitation of the premature, a scattered rural district must be a handicap to the speedy application of remedial measures in the home, and in the absence of a Premature Baby Unit locally, the best results will not be obtained in hospital.

The following was the distribution of the 37 infants who died:—

Health Visiting Area:

	Notified	Live Births	Infant	Deaths
Armthorpe, etc.	185	1	
Askern, etc.	185	10	
Kirk Sandall, etc.	77	1	
Brodsworth, Barnburgh	52	1	
Edlington, etc.	280	18	
Rossington, Bawtry	168	2	
Sprotborough, Cadeby	76	4	
		<u>1023</u>	<u>37</u>	

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS—1953

Cause of Death	All Infants		Under 4 wks.		4 wks. to 3 mths.		3 to 6 months		6 to 9 months		9 to 12 months	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	2	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Immaturity ...	3	6	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	7	6	7	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haemolytic Disease	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidental Suffocation	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...	19	18	13	15	3	—	3	1	—	2	—	—

*Associated prematurity ... 7 5 These deaths have been attributed to other causes but had immaturity as one of causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH—1953

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
	ALL CAUSES:	277	223
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	13	1
2	Tuberculosis, Other	—	1
3	Syphilitic Disease	1	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	2	1
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	1	—
8	Measles	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	2
10	Malignant neoplasm: stomach	9	3
11	do lung, bronchus	13	1
12	do breast	—	8
13	do uterus	—	8
14	do lymphatic and other	23	25
15	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	—	2
16	Diabetes	—	2
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	25	31
18	Coronary disease: angina	23	22
19	Hypertension with heart disease	6	5
20	Other heart disease	42	32
21	Other circulatory disease	11	12
22	Influenza	3	2
23	Pneumonia	6	4
24	Bronchitis	22	18
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	5	2
26	Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ...	4	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	5	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	3
31	Congenital malformations	2	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	23	27
33	Motor vehicle accidents	6	1
34	All other accidents	22	5
35	Suicide	4	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—

SECTION B

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

This brief summary is not meant to replace the report of the County Medical Officer and Chief School Medical Officer.

Births:

1,046 live and still births occurred among mothers resident in this divisional area. 432 of them took place in Maternity Hospitals or Nursing Homes; 614 were domiciliary. Institutional births were thus 42% of the total, an increase of 3% over the previous year. The total adjusted births represented an increase of 67: of this total there were 33 still births comprising 15 domiciliary and 18 institutional.

Ante-Natal Clinics:

About 65% of the total expectant mothers attended the County Council's Ante-Natal Clinics during the year. The Hospital Board has ante-natal clinics in being, and medical practitioners supervise many of their own patients ante-natally; midwives also gave ante-natal supervision to expectant mothers. The average number of attendances per mother was 5, and the total attendances were 3,832: 396 half-day sessions were held at Armthorpe, Askern, Edlington, Rossington, Kirk Sandall, Sprotborough and Bawtry.

1953. Consultants' Ante-Natal Clinics: Held at Western Hospital.

168 patients were referred to these clinics from ordinary Ante-Natal Clinics with the following results:—

Delivered in Western Hospital	...	...	91
Domiciliary Confinements	...	...	47
Post-Natal	...	...	3
Delivered in Nursing Homes	...	...	2
1954 confinements	...	...	13
Removed from district	...	...	1
Treatment	...	...	11
Total	...	...	168

Post-Natal Clinics:

Post-natal clinics were held in conjunction with the ante-natal clinics. 86 mothers attended for the first time and 110 mothers in all. As in former years, fullest use is not made of these services, in spite of the fact that every encouragement is given to the mothers to attend.

Help in the Home:

Cases provided with Home Help during the year ended 31st December, 1953:

	No. of Cases	Hours employed
(1) Maternity and Expectant Mothers	35	3,078
(2) Tuberculosis	—	—
(3) Chronic Sick (incl. aged & infirm)	124	33,486
(4) Others	12	1,338
	171	37,902

The percentage of time spent on the aged has increased from 71 to 88 of the total.

The corresponding figures for last year were 146 cases and 28,582 hours employed. This service continues to develop since the maximum has not been reached. During 1953 the number of hours of help given was equivalent to 16.56 whole-time helps as against 16 whole-time helps

allocated to the Division. Compared with the previous year there was a large increase given to the aged and a moderate increase in help to mothers in confinement.

This service is brought to the notice of appropriate cases through the medium of the Midwife, Health Visitor, the District Nurse and the General Practitioner, and the Welfare Officers of the County Council, the Assistance Board and Education Authority.

Child Welfare Centres:

The seven centres at Armthorpe, Askern, Bawtry, Edlington, Kirk Sandall, Rossington and Sprotborough continued their good work and, on the 3rd March, were joined by a Weighing Centre opened at St. Leonard's Church Hall, Barnsley Road, Brodsworth. This centre is open one session per fortnight. There are clinics outside the area at which some mothers from the rural district can attend more conveniently, such as Maltby, Goldthorpe, Woodlands, Conisbrough and Doncaster.

With the exception of the last named, all the clinics are run by the West Riding County Council.

About 70% of the available infants under one year attended the centres in this division, 60% of those aged 1 to 2, and 25% of the age groups 3 to 5. The total attendances were 17,775.

Education in the method of infant feeding, clothing and management were the principal functions of these Centres, while medical advice was available at an early stage for children apparently not responding.

Dried milks, cereals and vitamin supplements were on sale to attenders. Suitable arrangements were in being for the Ministry of Food to distribute dried milk and vitamins on the same or adjoining premises.

Number of children aged 0—5 years attending during the year	...	...	...	...	...	1,840
Number of attendances of children aged 0—5 during the year:						
(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	10,484
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	7,291
No. of children attending for the first time being under 1 year of age at the date of first attendance	...	...	...	...	...	740

Health Visiting:

Not until the last quarter of the year was the staff of Health Visitors up to full strength; prior to that there was a deficiency of two. One Assistant Health Visitor continued to act specially as Tuberculosis Visitor and did very good work in presenting reports on housing conditions, persuading contacts to attend for examination and helping to find possible sources of infection, as well as providing details of cases to be recommended for extra nourishment.

The Senior Health Visitor has again given special attention to the unmarried mother and her child and to problem families. The extra help given at critical times has often promoted a favourable outcome. In this work there has been close co-operation with the Moral Welfare Society, and the Doncaster and District Adoption Society, and the County Council have been generous over the payment of institutional expenses.

The following is a summary of the work performed by Health Visitors:—

(a) Total No. of attendances made at Local Authority Clinic Sessions	1,274
(b) Visits:—	First Visit Total Visits
(1) Expectant Mothers	259 438
(2) Children under 1 year	1,025 7,513
(3) Children between 1 and 2 years	5,029
(4) Children between 2 and 5 years	8,292
(5) Other cases	2,604
(6) Visits to households re Tuberculosis	1,421
Total	1,284 25,297

The Senior Health Visitor acted as Almoner to Western Hospital and Hamilton Lodge for three of the West Riding Health Divisions and was able to use the Health Visiting staff to promote liaison between the home and the hospital.

Midwifery:

(a) Domiciliary.

The midwifery staff consisted of 11 whole-time Midwives, 2 Home Nurse/Midwives, and 2 Senior Reliefs. Midwives were booked for 751 confinements in the home and, of these, 538 were completed, 30 miscarried before term, 25 removed from the district before term and 130 were removed to hospital or institution either before or after confinement. 4,394 ante-natal visits were made. Midwives were present at 602 labours and a doctor was also in attendance on 104 occasions.

Gas and Air Analgesia was given to 338 mothers and pethidine to 136. 11,950 post-natal visits were paid which included 255 to 51 mothers discharged from hospital before the 14th day. 434 infants were established on breast feeding at the time the Midwife ceased attending.

(b) Institutional.

432 mothers normally resident in the district were delivered of babies in maternity hospitals or homes; of these 93 had been referred to hospital as abnormalities.

Institutional confinements amounted to about 40% of the total, which is a high proportion for this district but low when compared with the country generally.

Home Nursing:

There were 8 full time Home Nurses and 1 Senior Relief Home Nurse, in addition to 2 Home Nurse/Midwives. A heavy volume of work was carried out; 1,436 cases involving 26,360 visits analysed with the following classification:—

	No. of Cases attended by Home Nurses during the year	No. of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year
Medical	782	16,519
Surgical	610	8,926
Infectious Diseases	8	59
Tuberculosis	17	679
Maternal Complications	19	177
Total	1,436	26,360

	Visits
Patients included in above who were aged 65 and over at the time of first visit during the year: 435 patients.	12,540
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of first visit during the year: 134 children.	1,053
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year 146 patients.	8,166

Ultra Violet Ray Clinics:

This clinic was held twice weekly at the Sprotborough Child Welfare Centre during the months of January to May and October to December inclusive.

31 children made 307 attendances for treatment. All were recommended by their own doctor or a school medical officer and were referred back for re-examination after treatment. The cases were selected and the results good generally; those not likely to respond not being encouraged because of the distance to be travelled by the patient and parent. Reciprocal arrangements are in force with Bentley Clinic for the convenience of the patients.

Mental Deficiency Acts:

Nine new cases were ascertained during the year and the procedure for reporting to the Local Health Authority had been completed in six at the end of the year. All the new cases reported were placed under statutory supervision. Seven cases reported to the Local Health Authority under Section 57(5) of the Education Act, 1944, were recommended for discharge from supervision on attaining the age of 21. The number under guardianship was reduced to 2 by recommendation for non-renewal of the guardianship orders, satisfactory care with their own relatives being assured.

These changes resulted in the following total of known defectives:—

	Under 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under Statutory Supervision ...	13	9	38	40
Under Guardianship ...	—	—	—	2
In places of Safety ...	—	—	—	—
Under voluntary supervision ...	—	—	6	4
Total ...	13	9	44	46

Good work was done by the mental health social worker in keeping in touch with these cases and in helping with the difficulties arising. Owing to the scarcity of accommodation in occupation centres the home teacher's services were required by too many cases. Whereas over 40 were considered suitable for an occupation centre only 11 were actually attending there.

One old-standing guardianship case was admitted to an Institution and one, transferred to a place of safety by the magistrates elsewhere, was certified for admission to another institution.

Three defectives ceased to be under care of the Authority by death or removal from the area.

School Medical Inspection (Brief Summary):

A. Periodic Medical Inspections.

Number of inspections in the prescribed groups:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1,432
Last year primary	...	...	...	...	1,008
Last year secondary	...	...	...	...	1,144
Total	...	...	...	...	3,584

B. Other Inspections.

Number of special inspections	...	...	...	204
Number of re-inspections	...	...	...	41
Total	...	...	...	245

For the first time since 1949 it was possible to carry out a full programme of school medical inspection because of the medical staffing position.

Nutrition—Classification of General Condition:

A. Good (above average)	...	23.05 per cent.
B. Fair (average)	...	75.73 per cent.
C. Poor (below average)	...	1.22 per cent.

The position disclosed indicated a continued high level of nutrition.

Cleanliness:

Total Number of school children on rolls	...	9,445
1. Total Number of examinations in the schools by school nurses or other authorised persons	...	21,933
2. Total Number of individual pupils found to be infested (however slightly)	...	55
3. Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2) Education Act 1944)	...	1
4. Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3) Education Act 1944)	...	—

The issue of disinfecting lotions with explanatory leaflet and guidance by the school nurses in their use were sufficient in almost all cases.

Defects Found:

Of the 3,584 children examined at routine inspections (plus 'specials' and re-examinations), the following defects were found requiring treatment:—

Eyes: (a) Vision	...	127	Orthopaedic: (a) Posture	...	38
(b) Squint	...	19	(b) Flat Foot	...	15
(c) Other	...	9	(c) Other	...	16
Ears: (a) Hearing	...	49	Nervous System:		
Nose and Throat	...	208	(a) Epilepsy	...	3
Speech Defects	...	15	(b) Other	...	10
Heart and Circulation	...	5	Psychological:		
Lungs	...	11	(a) Development	...	8
Development: (a) Hernia	...	2	(b) Stability	...	7
(b) Other	...	—	Other	...	73

Defects Treated:

Under the same classification a larger number of minor conditions were found not requiring treatment but observation. Defects treated during the year were as follows:—

				No. of Cases treated:	
				By the Authority	Elsewhere or otherwise
Skin Diseases:					
Ringworm (1) Scalp	...	...	...	—	—
(2) Body	...	...	...	3	—
Scabies	...	...	...	—	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	97	—
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	92	3
Total	...	...	...	192	3
Eye Disease, Defective Vision, Squint:					
External conditions	...	...	...	21	—
Refraction and Squint	...	...	...	462	—
Total	...	...	...	483	—
Ear, Nose and Throat Defects:					
Operative treatment for:—					
(a) Diseases of the ear	...	...	...	—	1
(b) Adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	...	...	...	—	114
(c) For other conditions of nose and throat	...	...	...	—	5
Received other forms of treatment	...	...	...	487	25
Total	...	...	...	487	145
Orthopaedic and Postural Defects:—					
(a) Number treated in hospital	...	...	...	—	3
(b) No. treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics	...	...	...	44	1
Child Guidance Treatment:—					
Number of pupils treated	...	...	...	9	—
Speech Therapy:—					
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	...	...	...	47	—
Other Treatment Given—attendances:—					
(a) Minor ailments	...	...	...	5291	—
(b) Ultra Violet Ray Clinic	...	...	...	31	—

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1953

(Other than Tuberculosis).

AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

Arranged in the manner prescribed by the Registrar General.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-Paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	9	10	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—
1 to 2 ...	3	4	24	18	—	—	—	—	21	33	—	—
3 to 4 ...	12	12	25	27	—	—	—	—	32	31	—	—
5 to 9 ...	29	29	20	28	—	—	1	—	37	56	—	—
10 to 14	6	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—
15 to 24	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
25 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	50	49	78	87	—	—	1	1	94	135	—	—

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia		Bacillary Dysentery		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	6	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
5 to 14...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 44	3	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
45 to 64	5	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 & over	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	18	13	—	—	4	—	1	—

					M.	F.
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	—	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—	1

540 cases of notifiable infections (other than tuberculosis) came to the knowledge of this department during the year. 165 cases of whooping cough indicated a high level for this infection in the district, having regard to the number of cases likely to have been missed, because of their mildness or because of doubtful diagnosis. Three children died from whooping cough, two being infants under nine months of age at which time the strain of coughing is most damaging: both infants had been treated in hospital. The reason for immunising against whooping cough early and not delaying until the anti-diphtheria inoculation is given is apparent. Whooping cough was prevalent mostly during the months April to August inclusive.

229 cases of measles were included in the total notifications, the majority of them occurring in the months of January to April inclusive. There were no deaths from measles. This number does not represent an epidemic year.

Two mild cases of poliomyelitis were notified and one severe fulminant case died before notification. This position indicates a continuation of an endemic level somewhat higher than pertained in the days of less mixing of populations by air travel.

Diphtheria was again absent, the last confirmed case being in 1950.

Anti-Diphtheria Immunisation 1953:

Children completing a course of immunisation:—

ANTI-DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1953

Age	0-4	5-14	Total
Primary	581	76	657
Reinforcement doses	—	539	539

The state of anti-diphtheria immunisation at the end of 1953 was:—

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
	39	2160				4590	3865	
TOTAL ...						2199	8455	10654
Estimated mid-year population						4726	10096	14882
Percentage Immunised						46	84	71

The number of children under five who have been immunised remained at a level which is too low for safety. Fortunately the school children have risen further above the safety margin and continued to act as the main buffer against the spread of infection among the young.

The price of freedom from diphtheria is a high immunity rate among all under fifteen years of age. My appeal still is to parents of children under five years of age and particularly of infants under 1 year.

Vaccination Against Smallpox:

In 1953, when there were 991 live births, the following was the result of a campaign modelled upon that used against diphtheria:—

	Ages of persons vaccinated—1953					Total
	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 and over	
Primary Vaccination	190	16	16	25	24	271
Re-vaccinated	—	—	1	6	20	27

This amounts to an infant vaccination rate of about 20 per cent. The corresponding "acceptance rate" for England and Wales was 30·7 per cent. in 1952, having risen from 29·6 in 1951 and 23·8 in 1950.

Re-vaccination at the moment is mainly requested in order to fulfil the conditions permitting travel abroad and sometimes for contact with suspected cases of smallpox at home.

No-one can claim that the present state of vaccination is capable of limiting the spread of imported smallpox. The result of campaigning is disappointing but the organisation for meeting an emergency is being kept alive in the knowledge that vaccination, regarded with indifference in the absence of the smallpox, is eagerly sought after when the enemy strikes nearer home. Careful parents are also enabled to make provision early.

Scarlet Fever:

99 cases of scarlet fever compared with 49 and 39 in the preceding two years. There were no cases in April and the maximum monthly total was in October. The season of greatest prevalence being September to December inclusive. Case to case infection commenced almost immediately with the congregation of the public in crowds for the Coronation celebrations.

Gastro-Enteritis:

Another infection spread by crowding of persons was gastro-enteritis. The cause of the illness was a germ which has been recently re-christened salmonella typhimurium. Previously it was well-known as one variety of the species bacillus enteritidis and it was recognised as a food poisoning organism although its habit of spreading from case to case through the infecting of surfaces touched by human hand plus defective personal hygiene was not forgotten. Its new name 'salmonella' emphasizes the spread by food in the minds of the public, and perhaps rightly so. Gastro-enteritis among children under two years has always been prevalent locally much above the national level and this organism has been commonly identified in this connection among babies sent to the local isolation hospital.

An outbreak of gastro-enteritis among persons of all ages occurred during June and July involving about 30 known cases in Doncaster and District. The first cases reported were recognised in a general hospital since a feature of the disease was the simulation of acute abdominal conditions. This led to the aggregation of infective cases there. In all, five cases were discovered in hospital, twelve in the County Borough, and thirteen in the Doncaster Rural and other neighbouring districts. Every effort was made to identify any possible article of consumed food common to all the cases but without success. Indeed as the pattern of the outbreak unfolded it corresponded more to that of case-to-case

infection such as via contaminated surfaces. The outbreak lasted several weeks and one case proved fatal. The general hospital staff took effective measures to limit the infection and the cases from all sources were isolated in the Infectious Diseases hospital. There were several symptomless carriers of the temporary type and a few cases had to be discharged from the isolation hospital still excreting the organism even after weeks of treatment with sulphonamides and antibiotics. The case with the history of earliest onset (31st May) was such a carrier with the suggestion of a chronic focus in the gall bladder. The Medical Officers of the areas involved conferred and exchanged information and the Press were helpful in alerting the general public as well as in broadcasting the need for personal hygiene. Opportunity was also taken to boost the 'Clean Food' campaign. Carriers were supervised and instructed in strict personal hygiene.

Salmonella typhimurium was the cause of at least two food-borne outbreaks in other parts of the country about the same time.

Tuberculosis:

New Cases and Mortality during 1953:—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 15	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	—
15 to 25	5	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 to 35	9	10	—	1	1	—	—	1
35 to 45	1	3	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 to 55	9	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65	8	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Over 65	5	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
All ages	37	22	4	3	13	1	—	1

66 new cases, classified as in the accompanying table, represented a moderate increase in an annual total. This upward trend has been general throughout the country for reasons previously explained. The modern methods of ascertainment are presenting a more comprehensive picture of the extent of the problem.

The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 0.28 per 1,000 residents and thus slightly higher than the national figure of 0.20. The local rate in 1952 was 0.11. These moderate fluctuations among a relatively small population probably have chance factors as an explanation.

Six of the new cases came to our notice posthumously through death registrations.

The parish distribution of the new cases and deaths were as follows:—

	New Cases	Deaths
Armthorpe	5	2
Askern	6	2
Barnburgh	2	1
Barnby Dun-with-Kirk Sandall ...	1	1
Bawtry	3	—
Blaxton	1	—
Brodsworth	6	1
Conisbrough Parks	2	1
Edlington	17	3
Fenwick	1	—
Rossington	12	2
Sprotborough	8	—
Warmsworth	1	1
Parish undisclosed by Registrar		
General	1	1

Edlington, Rossington, Sprotborough, Brodsworth and Askern were prominent for new cases. Edlington with three deaths was highest.

Sanatorium and Hospital Treatment:

The following numbers of cases were admitted or discharged from Institutions during the year:—

	Admitted			Discharged or Died		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory:						
Adults	31	34	65	36	30	66
Children	1	3	4	3	2	5
Non-respiratory:						
Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—	—
	32	37	69	39	32	71

19 hospitals, sanatoria and other institutions were involved mainly in the Leeds and Sheffield hospital regions.

Visiting in the Home:

The tuberculosis visitor paid 1,421 visits to households in connection with reports of home circumstances, health education, grants of extra nourishment, talks to contacts regarding examination at the Chest Clinic, outdoor shelter maintenance, etc, etc.

Where housing conditions were adverse applications for Council and colliery houses were supported with the object of obtaining the required priority.

Extra Nourishment:

Number of patients receiving extra nourishment:

(a) At the beginning of the year	41
(b) Granted extra nourishment during the year	28
(c) Number of grants discontinued	26
(d) Number of patients receiving extra nourishment at the end of the year.	43
(e) Total number of orders issued during the year	299
Outdoor Shelters: Supplied and maintained	5

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The position of water supplies remained satisfactory, all the principal supplies being of good quality and no inadequacies were reported to this department. Provision for the future, however, is affecting most of the supplying authorities with the expanding needs of new housing estates, modernized agriculture and industrial development. Schemes for enlargement of source, storage, and distribution are before the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Since the war, activity in sewerage and drainage has been mainly confined to extensions to new housing estates. This year the re-sewering of the old village of Norton was commenced, a scheme much delayed for compelling reasons. Several other parishes mentioned in previous annual reports await attention.

The Rural District Council gave encouragement to the conversion of privies to water closets by making available £1,000 during the year towards the owners' cost under Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936.

Part of Braithwell was re-sewered and extensions made to various housing estates.

With regard to atmospheric pollution, smoke from burning spoil banks was very much reduced by adequate remedial measures continuously applied; an encouraging number of colliery chimneys showed a marked improvement usually in association with the establishment of mechanical stoking; the problem at Askern showed some improvement with the fitting of a grit extractor on the drying plant at the Coalite Works. Much, however, remains to be done. The entire problem of domestic and industrial smoke and grit pollution is a vast one which will take a long time to solve.

Housing:

The provision of 378 houses by the District Council and 66 by private owners was an excellent contribution to the overtaking of arrears that have accumulated since the outbreak of war.

In 1946, guided by the experience of the immediate pre-War years, I estimated that 250 new houses were necessary to meet the normal annual increase in the number of families requiring accommodation (see Annual Report, 1946, p.17). It is probable that this basic requirement to prevent further arrears may have increased since the population has gone up by 7,000 since that time and the objective of one family per house has been more firmly established in the minds of the general public. I mention this to place in proper perspective the phrase—"overtaking arrears" when applied to annual building figures.

The decision of the National Coal Board to erect about 1,000 houses in the Rural District was a great help to attaining our objective, particularly as the decision was implemented so energetically.

The Sanitary Inspectors of the Rural District gave more of their time to inspection of existing houses. At the time of writing this report legislation is pending which requires a full resumption of housing inspection (Rent and Repairs Bill), the ban on demolition having already been raised by Circular 30/54, (Housing: Slum Clearance).

Food:

Under Sections 18 to 20 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949, (Food and Drugs Act, 1938), three orders were issued to cause raw milk to be pasteurised prior to sale for various periods owing to the discovery of bovine tuberculosis in raw milk supplies in this District.

One carrier of infection was made fully aware of the consequences of engaging in the handling or distribution of food (including milk and ice-cream) and has obeyed the warning.

National Assistance Acts, 1947 and 1951, Section 47:

No order was executed during the year to remove to hostels elderly persons unable to devote to themselves adequate care, although one was under consideration in December. One case was dealt with informally after an agreement to enter Part III Accommodation voluntarily.

These cases call for the maximum of wisdom, delicacy, sympathy and tact, since the removal of aged people from long accustomed surroundings with the curtailment of personal freedom, actual or implied, can cause adverse effects on the mind. Accommodation in aged persons bungalows and home help to maintain them there as long as possible seems to me the proper policy until even that becomes impossible.

A. PENMAN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. A. PENMAN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (also Divisional Medical Officer, West Riding County Council).

Assistant County Medical Officers:

Dr. C. M. DORNAN, M.B., B.Ch.
Dr. M. T. BURTON, L.M.S.S.A.

Health Visitors:

Miss E. Humphries—Senior Health Visitor.
Miss A. M. Hogg ARMTHORPE
Miss L. Shaw
Mrs. G. Daley ASKERN
Mrs. J. Parkes
Miss W. Renecar—BAWTRY and ROSSINGTON
Miss E. Goulden—BRODSWORTH
Miss F. Arrand EDLINGTON
Miss N. H. Stewardson
Miss M. Simpson—KIRK SANDALL
Mrs. F. Weaver—ROSSINGTON
Miss E. P. Llewellyn—SPROTBOROUGH
Mrs. C. R. Burston, Div. Area

Midwives:

Senior Reliefs:

Nurse B. Gilbert, 17 Brecks Lane, Kirk Sandall
(Tel. Barnby Dun 251).
Nurse G. M. Wilkinson, 10 Low Road, Warmsworth
(Tel. Doncaster 53245).
Nurse B. Wright, 11 Scott Avenue, Barnburgh (Tel. Goldthorpe 2150).
Nurse M. Hampshire, "Rockley," Norton, Askern (Tel. Askern 269).
Nurse E. Hawksworth, 5 Common Lane, Tickhill (Tel. Tickhill 289).
Nurse F. A. Heard, Co-operative House, Rossington
(Tel. Rossington 255).
Nurse M. Jones, 22 Rushymoor Avenue, Askern (Tel. Askern 294).
Nurse D. Lee, 9 Rands Lane, Armthorpe (Tel. Armthorpe 239).
Nurse A. Mundie, 10 Bevan Avenue, Rossington
(now left W.R.C.C. service).
Nurse R. H. Senior, 95 Hawthorn Avenue, Armthorpe
(Tel. Armthorpe 206).
Nurse E. M. Mason, 5 Grove Vale, Wheatley Hills
(now left W.R.C.C. service).
Nurse D. M. Hill, Merton House, Mill Lane, Warmsworth
(Tel. Doncaster 53188).
Nurse M. Blacker, 35 Clark Avenue, Edlington (Tel. Conisbrough 3167).
Nurse D. Duckworth, 1 Queen's Road, Bawtry (Tel. Bawtry 312).

District Nures:

Senior Relief:

- Nurse D. Robinson, Holly Cottage, Bessacarr
(Tel. Doncaster 55168).
- Nurse N. A. Jeffreys, 19 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotborough
(Tel. Doncaster 49845).
- Nurse E. E. Oades, "Little Haven," Bone Lane, Campsall
(Tel. Askern 304).
- Nurse M. Renecar, 120 Tickhill Road, Doncaster (Tel. Doncaster 53436).
- Nurse E. L. Jones, 50 Grange Lane, Rossington (Tel. Rossington 246).
- Nurse E. Hawksworth, 5 Common Lane, Tickhill (Tel. Tickhill 289).
- Nurse A. Caygill, Birch View, Warning Tongue Lane, Bessacarr
(Tel. Rossington 385).
- Nurse P. Anstock, 7 Low Road, Warmsworth (Tel. Doncaster 53860).
- Nurse D. E. Robson, "Ingledene," Nutwell Lane, Armthorpe
(Tel. Armthorpe 225).
- Nurse D. Duckworth, 1 Queen's Road, Bawtry (Tel. Bawtry 312).
- Nurse D. Gilbert, 8 Church Road, Kirk Sandall (Tel. Barnby Dun 314).

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year
1953 for the Rural District of Doncaster in the County of Yorkshire
(W.R.)

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

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

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	92	53	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	92	53	2	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	—	1	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Statement made to the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, in relation to inspections, notices, etc:—

Total number of Inspections during 1953	...	...	11495
Nuisances reported during 1953	...	...	247
Nuisances in hand 1952	...	...	105
Abated during 1953	...	...	295
Outstanding at end of 1953	...	...	57

The total inspections relate to:—

The total inspections relate to:—		Meat and Food:	
Nuisances	755	Bakehouses	31
Housing Acts and Regulations	541	Butchers' Shops	58
Moveable Dwellings	113	Restaurants, Cafes and	
Rehousing Investigations	895	Hotel Kitchens	13
Interviews with Owners and		Food Preparing Premises	84
Tradesmen	65	Fish and Chip shops	61
Factories	53	Slaughter Points	8
Smoke Observations	30	General Provision shops	126
Spoilbanks and Refuse Tips	433	School Canteens	13
Public Sanitary Conveniences	6	Shops' Act	78
Drainage	379	Unsound Food	183
Pet Animals Act	1	Milk Shops and Dairies	20
Hairdressers	18	Ice Cream shops	51
Licensed Premises	3	Ice Cream Manufacturers	40
Public Cleansing and Salvage	6339	Hawkers' Premises	61
Conversions	476	Water Supplies:	
Prevention of damage by		Samples taken	88
Pests Act	9	Supplies investigated	78
Miscellaneous	47	Milk Samples taken	57
Dirty & Verminous Premises:		Ice Cream Samples taken	63
Bed Bugs	74	Infectious Diseases:	
Other Vermin	60	Disinfections (inc. T.B.)	173
Dirty Houses	12	Investigations	173

Notices:

Informal Notices served	...	247	Complied with	...	232
Statutory Notices served	...	27	Complied with	...	15
Legal Proceedings taken	...	1			

WATER SUPPLIES

The greater part of the District is supplied by two water undertakings, the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board and the Doncaster Corporation. In addition, Pilkington Bros. Ltd. have a supply which serves Kirk Sandall and there are two estate supplies to the rural parishes of Hooton Pagnell and Clayton-with-Frickley.

Water is mainly derived from deep boreholes which give supplies of constant purity and moderate hardness.

All the parishes in the Rural District have a piped supply. There are, however, some outlying farms and houses in rural parts which are not within a reasonable distance of a water main.

Extension of water mains have been carried out throughout the District to supply new housing developments.

The following samples of water were submitted for bacteriological analysis:—

	No. of Examinations	
	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board	40	—
Doncaster Corporation	29	—
Pilkington Bros. Ltd.	5	—
Private Wells	7	13
Dearne Valley Water Board	1	—
Springs—Estate Supplies	4	—
Private spring	—	1
Totals ...	86	14

In addition three samples were submitted for chemical examination from the Doncaster Corporation supply, two of which proved to be satisfactory and the other unsatisfactory. The latter was of a temporary nature and has since been remedied.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION: END OF YEAR, 1953

	No. of inhabited houses 31/12/53	Water closets	Pail closets	Privy middens	Dustbins	Dry Ashpits	Cesspools
Parishes Closely Built: Armthorpe, Askern, Barnby Dun with Kirk Sandall, Bawtry, Edlington, Rossington, Sprotborough and Warmsworth.	11590	12001	132	18	12175	8	314
Parishes Closely built in parts: Austerfield, Barnburgh, Blaxton, Braithwell, Brodsworth, Cadeby, Cantley, Denaby (Old), Marr, Norton, Wadworth.	2569	1956	555	187	2464	12	495
Parishes Entirely Rural: Adwick - on - Dearne, Awkley, Burghwallis, Clayton - with - Frickley, Conisborough Parks, Fenwick, Hampole, Hickleton, Hooton Pagnell, Kirk Bramwith, Loversall, Melton (High), Moss, Owston, Stainton, Thorpe-in-Balne.	964	449	402	121	853	13	140
TOTAL ...	15123	14406	1089	326	15492	33	949

Closet Conversions and Additions for 1953:

- 20 Privies to water closets.
- 1 Privy to pail closet.
- 46 pails to water closets.
- 444 Water Closets provided for new buildings.

In March 1953, the Council considered the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936—Section 47—Sub. Section I—Replacement of earth closets etc. by water closets at joint expense of owner and local authority and it was decided that notices be served in appropriate cases.

Twenty-six were completed during 1953 at a total cost to the Council of £455 15s. 4d.

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS

The scheme for the supply of dust bins by the Council, under Section 73 (3) Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by the Local Authorities (Charge for Dustbins) Order, 1949, has continued to work satisfactorily.

Two hundred and eighty nine bins were supplied. An annual charge of five shillings is made on the property and collected as part of the General Rate.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

(a) Colliery Spoilbanks:

There are five burning spoilbanks, at Askern, Armthorpe, Brodsworth, Edlington and Hickleton, all owned by the National Coal Board. Nuisances are kept to a minimum by spraying with water and blanketting.

The residue after burning at some spoilbanks is a fine red shale, which is being used to a small degree for road and path making.

With the machines now available for levelling sites, the National Coal Board should give consideration to the question of removing the unsightly rugged peaks to a uniform level, which would promote the growth of some form of vegetation, suitable trees could be planted and thus beautify these unsightly black mountains, which have for a long time disfigured this District.

(b) Industrial Chimneys:

Thirty smoke observations were taken of thirty minutes duration. Twelve showed excessive emission of black smoke, based on the bye-law standard of not more than three minutes black smoke in thirty minutes.

This is an improvement upon previous records. The Yorkshire Main Colliery, Edlington, is still the worst in the area. Mechanical stokers are in process of being installed at this Colliery, so there is every possibility that the position will be further improved by next year.

(c) Askern—Doncaster Coalite Works:

In the report last year, I stated that the grit arrester had been installed early in 1953 and appeared to have effected some improvement of the dirty conditions in the atmosphere and on the ground for some distance around the works.

The Deposit Gauge readings for 1953 are set out below. These show an average monthly total deposit of 38.05 tons per square mile, which is just over 12 tons per square miles less than last year, when the average was 50.13 tons.

DEPOSIT GAUGE AND LEAD PEROXIDE READINGS, 1953 —St. Peter's Church, Askern

ASKERN:	Month	Rainfall Millimetres	Insoluble Deposit Tons per square mile	Soluble Deposit Tons per square mile	Total Deposit Tons per square mile	Sulphur dioxide in exposed lead peroxide Milligrammes
	January	10	55.02	5.69	60.71	1.25
	February	29	21.50	5.08	26.58	1.67
	March	11	29.32	3.69	33.01	1.28
	April	42	24.82	5.62	30.44	.80
	May	28	15.03	5.69	20.72	.58
	June	25	30.57	2.34	32.91	.49
	July	29	42.32	7.45	49.77	1.2
	August	60	58.14	4.87	63.01	1.03
	September	40	51.47	4.87	56.34	1.38
	October	40	13.61	4.06	17.67	1.47
	November	28	24.52	2.84	27.36	2.21
	December	24	34.43	3.66	38.09	2.0%

SMOKE FILTER MACHINE—PUBLIC CLEANSING DEPOT, KIRK SANDALL

By drawing measured quantities of outside air through a 1 inch diameter filter paper, and the stain being matched with a scale of shades, the concentration of smoke is estimated and expressed in milligrams per hundred cubic metres, as shown in the following table:

Smoke Readings for the Year, 1953—Centre, Kirk Sandall
Station:—Public Cleansing Depot, Sunnyside

Month	Highest	Lowest	Average
January	·798	·038	·307
February	·399	·038	·287
March	·608	·019	·140
April	·228	·019	·079
May	·076	·019	·041
June	·152	·019	·057
July	·076	·019	·046
August	·114	·019	·041
September	·228	·019	·052
October	·399	·019	·180
November	·608	·076	·203
December	·475	·038	·202
Highest in year ...	·798		
Lowest in year ...	·019		
Average	·136		

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Now that mechanical stokers have been installed, or are in process of being provided at the four collieries, Armthorpe, Askern, Edlington and Rossington, there is a decided improvement in the atmospheric conditions in those areas.

There still remains however, the problem of finding some method to control the emission of smoke and fumes from the Doncaster Coalite Works at Askern, which, as previously reported has been investigated by experts of the Department of Fuel and Industrial Research, the Inspector of Alkali etc. Works, Ministry of Health and the Directors and Chemists of the Company concerned. Research is continuously being undertaken but a practical solution has yet to be found.

The Foundry at Sprotborough is another potential cause of atmospheric pollution which, by the nature of the processes carried on there is difficult to control, particularly having regard to Section 109, Public Health Act, 1936.

Generally speaking, the atmospheric conditions in the area compare very favourably with other districts of similar type.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN

Fifteen infestations of bed bugs, ants, silver fish and blackclocks were dealt with in private properties.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two licences have been granted to keep pet shops.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

There are thirty one certificates of registration in force under Section 120—West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. Bye-laws for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of the persons and premises where the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on in the Rural District, which came into operation on the 1st day of January,

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1953

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricultural (3)	All other (incl. business premises) (4)	Total (5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) ...	71	14527	600	858	16056
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, as a result of (a) notification (b) survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (c) otherwise e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose (Notes 1, 2 and 3) ...	(a) 51	208	—	36	295
	(b) —	—	435	—	—
	(c) —	—	—	—	—
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats (Notes 1, 2 and 3) ...	Major —	—	—	—	—
	Minor 48	207	15	32	302
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice (Notes 1, 2 and 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 and 3). ...	38	207	15	32	302
VI. Number of notices served served under Section 4 ...	—	—	—	—	—

NOTE—With regard to Sections II, III and V, this includes 10 refuse tips and 7 sewage disposal works. Treatment of these is continuous in rotation.

SECTION D

HOUSING

(1) Council Houses:

The number of houses owned by the Council at the end of 1953 was 2,512, made up as follows:—

Pre-War 629: Post War 1,878: Sewage Works houses 5.

During the year 14 Pre-war houses were sold to the sitting tenants.

In addition the Council have control of a hostel at Warmsworth which provides accommodation for 30 families. Also a camp at Sprotborough which provides accommodation for 29 families. By the end of 1953, 3 of these dwellings had been demolished and the families rehoused in Council houses. The Council have now decided that the remaining tenants of Sprotborough shall all be rehoused by the end of 1955.

(2) **Housing Postal Survey (December 1953)—Result.**

Applications re-affirmed 2,029.

These 2,029 applicants were classified at the time of application.

	Resident in District.	Non-Residents.	Total
From householders ...	679	18	697
From non-householders ...	1308	24	1332
Total ...	1987	42	2029

During 1953, 378 houses were completed and let as under:—

	Coal Miners	Agric.	Others	Total
Airey	—	—	—	—
Traditional	147	1	190	338
Aged Persons Bungalows	—	—	40	40
	147	1	230	378

In addition 66 private houses were completed.

Rehousing:

Eight hundred and ninety five visits were made in connection with rehousing of families into Council houses. The furniture, particularly the bedding is thoroughly examined to ensure that the house about to be occupied does not become infested with any kind of vermin, especially bed bugs. This also applies to houses where exchanges have been arranged.

It was necessary to disinfect the furniture and bedding in five cases, the work being carried out by a firm of fumigation experts. Hydrogen cyanide gas was applied except for the bedding which was steam disinfected. This is a considerable reduction on last year's number of fourteen.

One hundred and fourteen houses which became vacant for various reasons, were inspected for cleanliness and defects, in order that the necessary repairs could be carried out before the houses were re-occupied.

Privately Owned Houses:

Ninety five notices were served in respect of houses requiring defects to be remedied.

Legal proceedings were taken against one owner.

The Court enforced compliance of the Notices and awarded Costs to the Council.

Fifteen houses were demolished during the year. Thirteen of the families were rehoused by the Council, the other two houses being vacant prior to demolition.

A further house is unoccupied as a result of a Demolition Order becoming operative, the tenants having been rehoused by the Council.

There are still 14 houses occupied upon which Demolition Orders were made before 1939.

Tents, Vans, Sheds etc. Section 269—Public Health Act, 1936.

This mode of living has shown a considerable increase in the area during the year, mainly due to temporary accommodation being required by key workers engaged on the large housing estates in course of construction.

Forty nine licences were granted for a period of twelve months in each case. The position is satisfactory, insomuch that there are no large colonies of this type of dwelling in the area and the places are well kept.

There is one licensed site near Bawtry, designed to accommodate ten caravans. This is a model of what can be done on a well regulated site.

The caravans are all of the latest types, each one being sited in an enclosure, suitably fenced, provided with concrete footpaths, and an artistically designed store shed. All the gardens are neatly laid out with flowers and small grass plots. Dust bins are provided.

Piped water supply and drainage is supplied to each pair of caravans. Four water closets, two for males and two for females are installed in a well designed building, conveniently situated. There is also an Elsan lavatory to each caravan.

SECTION E

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY

Meat Supplies:

Most of the home killed meat comes from the Doncaster County Borough Abattoir, the Ministry of Food being responsible for the supply. There has been no marked improvement in the slaughtering, handling and distribution, which has been far from satisfactory for a long time. Now that the date for the decontrol of meat supplies has been fixed for July, 1954, I feel that cleaner meat, with better keeping properties will be for sale in the shops.

The number of pigs killed under the Ministry of Food's Self-Suppliers Scheme has decreased considerably this year.

There are thirty nine licensed slaughtermen on the register.

Milk Supplies:

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 and The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

At the close of the year the following licences were in force:—

Dealers' licences for the sale of:—

Pasteurised Milk	21
Tuberculin Tested Milk	20
Sterilised Milk	71

Supplementary licences for the sale of

Pasteurised milk	6
Tuberculin tested milk	4
Sterilised milk	4

There is very little raw ungraded milk sold, although the district is not yet included in a "Specified Area" as defined by the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

Fifty four samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Service Laboratory, for guinea pig inoculation and consequent detection of bovine tuberculosis. Fifty one proved to be negative and three positive. The necessary action was taken in the unsatisfactory cases.

Ice Cream:

Sixty three samples were submitted to the laboratory for examination. The results were classified as follows:—

Grade I	39
Grade II	11
Grade III	10
Grade IV	3

Grades III and IV are considered to be not satisfactory. In these cases the manufacturers are interviewed and their processes examined

with a view to preventing repetition of the lower grade results. There are five ice cream factories in the area. Forty inspections were made of these and fifty one visits paid to shops where ice cream is sold.

Food Premises and Food Handling:

Once again as much attention as possible was devoted throughout the year to these most important subjects. The upward trend in both premises and methods, noticeable during the past few years was again continued. The trade generally is alive to the great public interest in food hygiene, and the department received many enquiries during the year concerning the new Food and Drugs Bill, expected to become law during 1954.

In general the food byelaws were well observed during the year under review.

Two of the problems encountered most frequently were partly attributable to the age of controls.

There is a lack of refrigeration accommodation in many of the smaller shops in the villages, and this gives rise to some food spoilage in hot weather. With the more plentiful supply of foodstuffs there is a tendency to overstock, thus rendering cleansing operations more difficult.

It is anticipated that these matters will fall into perspective now that normal trading conditions have returned.

At the end of the year there were 160 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. These were comprised as follows:

Manufacture of ice cream	...	...	...	5
Manufacture of preserved foods	...	...	...	63
Sale of ice cream	...	...	...	92

208 inspections were carried out during the year.

It is estimated that there are 257 food shops in the 35 parishes and these consist of the following main groups:

Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	33
Fish frying premises	...	...	...	...	27
Grocers and general provisions	...	...	...	...	147
Others	...	...	...	...	50

546 visits were made to these premises during the year.

Food Poisoning:

See report of the Medical Officer of Health. Section 'F'—Gastro-enteritis.

Unfit Food

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the Owners:

Cooked Meats	...	437lbs. 11ozs.	Bacon	...	216lbs. 6ozs.
Canned Meats	...	546 tins	Flour	...	103lbs.
Canned Fish	...	137 tins	Sugar	...	17lbs. 8ozs.
Canned Vegetables	...	81 tins	Butter and Fats	...	18lbs. 14ozs.
Pulses	...	375 tins	Biscuits	...	1lb.
Canned Fruit	...	5,703 tins	Cheese Spread	...	16 cartons
Milk	...	644 tins	Cereals	...	4lbs.
Sausage	...	713lbs.	Cereals	...	9 pkts.
Cheese	...	181lbs. 8ozs.	Coffee	...	131 bts.
Preserves	...	220lbs.	Pickles	...	32 jars
Fruit	...	175lbs. 11ozs.	Sauces	...	30 bts.
Pulses (dried)	...	1lb. 8ozs.	Fish Paste	...	24 jars
Cake	...	212lbs. 8ozs.	Soups	...	45 tins
Pastries and Bread	...	250	Eggs	...	92

Condemned foods are removed by the Council's lorries and buried deep on the refuse tips.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Rural District is served by a direct labour scheme for the collection and disposal of household refuse, the cleansing of privies and pail closets, the emptying of cesspools. Street sweeping is undertaken in five of the most populous parishes.

No additional charge, over the general rate is made for any of the services, in fact many householders receive attention over and above the ordinary service, where it is deemed necessary to prevent nuisances. This particularly applies to the emptying of cesspools.

The average weekly collections, including schools and other premises number 17,934 and the vehicles travelled 164,160 miles in the execution of the work.

Dust bins and pail closets are emptied weekly and privies monthly. The cleansing of cesspools varies from one week to two months having regard to the circumstances. The number of cesspools has increased again during the year and will continue to do so each year, unless further sewerage and sewage disposal schemes are provided. Barnburgh, Sprotborough, parts of Braithwell and Cantley are badly in need of these services.

The Council either own or rent eight refuse disposal sites each serving an area within reasonable access of the places of collection.

Transport:

Eighteen modern type vehicles are used for public cleansing. The deisel engined cesspool emptier purchased in 1953 has continued to work satisfactorily.

Salvage:

The amounts collected and sold during the year were:—

Waste paper 160 tons 9 cwts 1 qr. 0 lbs. ...	£1,089	9	2
Textiles 1 ton 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 5 lbs. ...	£28	1	0
Scrap metal 10 tons 7 cwts. 3 qrs. 0 lbs. ...	£49	12	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,167	2	2

A bonus of £133 8s. 5d. was shared amongst the workmen in the Public Cleansing Department.

Public Cleansing Depot:

The lorries are garaged, regularly greased and maintained, repaired and painted in the Depot at Kirk Sandall. Two mechanics are employed on this work.

Salvage is mechanically baled there. The Depot is also used as the Council Stores.

Works Committee:

Again this Committee, comprised of three members of the Council and three representatives of the workmen, has continued to function amicably.

Wages and Conditions of Service, as laid down by the Provincial Joint Council are complied with in every respect. A five day week of forty-four hours is worked for ten months of the year and a five and a half day week during January and December on account of shorter hours of daylight.

The recruitment of suitable labour has become progressively worse during the year.

Details of Work Performed:

Population served ...	54,180
Total collections ...	950,523
Average weekly collections ...	17,934
Miles travelled by vehicles ...	164,160
Gallons of Sewage removed ...	8,195,850
Gallons of fuel consumed ...	18,639

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. REYNOLDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

**SANITARY OFFICERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.**

**Chief Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent, Officer in Charge
of Council House Lettings:**

A. Reynolds, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat
and Other Foods. (Appointed August 1924).

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

No. 1 District—Edlington, Sprotborough, Warmsworth area:
E. K. Smith, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat
and Other Foods. (Appointed April 1932).

No. 2 District—Armthorpe, Bawtry, Rossington area:
G. Stevenson, C.S.I.B., National Certificate in Building.
(Appointed January 1951).

No. 3 District—Askern, Norton, Brodsworth area:
R. Durant, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat
and Other Foods. Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as
applied to Buildings and Public Works. National Certificate in
Building. (Appointed September 1952).

Public Cleansing Foreman and Disinfecting Officer:

G. Buckley.

Clerks:

E. Hemingway.

J. A. Hickling.

