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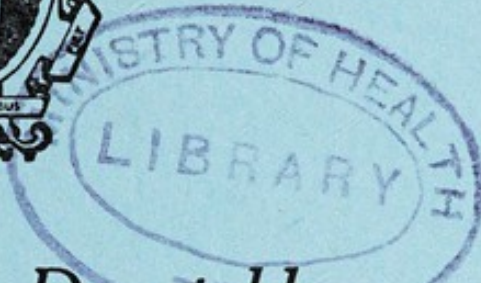
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Borough of Dunstable.

Report

ON THE

Health of Dunstable

for the year 1952

BY


H. A. A. PARGETER, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Together with the Report of

A. BISHOP, Cert. R.S.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector



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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1952

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
DUNSTABLE.

November, 1953.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunstable.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Statistics of most interest in this Report that I now present are contained on page 8, which show a falling birth rate associated with a stable population and death rate.

It is to be noted that during the year 1952, Cancer in its different forms was the commonest cause of death, 46 cases being certified compared with 28 during 1951.

In conclusion I wish to express to the Town Clerk and the Sanitary Inspectors my thanks for the help they have always given in my work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

- (a) *Medical Officer of Health* (part-time).
H. A. A. Pargeter, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
- (b) *Senior Sanitary Inspector*.
A. Bishop. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- (c) *Additional Sanitary Inspectors*.
H. Stew. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
D. P. J. Byrne. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- (e) *Chief Clerk/Shorthand Typist*.
Mrs. D. F. Wordsworth.
- (f) *Junior Clerk*.
Miss R. A. Fensome.

SECTION A :—**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.****Vital Statistics.**

Area of Borough, 2,028 acres.

Population as estimated by Registrar-General ... 17,090

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate

Book as at 31st December, 1952 ... 5,200

Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1952 ... £91,175

Sum produced by a penny rate taken at 31st March, 1952 £352

Number of new houses erected :

(a) Council : Permanent ... 114

(b) Private Enterprise ... 33

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952.

The following tables give extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year 1952 as furnished by the Registrar-General :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Live Births ...	217	100	117	} Birth rate per 1,000 of population, 12.7
Legitimate ...	206	94	112	
Illegitimate ...	11	6	5	
Still Births ...	7	4	3	} Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births, 31.9
Legitimate ...	5	4	1	
Illegitimate ...	2	—	2	
Deaths ...	192	98	94	} Death rate per 1,000 of population, 11.2

There were no deaths from diseases or accidents of pregnancy and childbirth.

In order that the birth and death rates may be more properly compared with those of other districts, it is necessary for them to be multiplied by comparability factors. These factors are supplied by the Registrar-General.

Thus the adjusted rates for Dunstable are as follows :—

Birth Rate, 12.7, comparability factor, 0.94, adjusted birth rate, 11.9

Death Rate, 11.2, comparability factor, 1.06, adjusted death rate, 11.9

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	3.	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	13.8
Legitimate	3.	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	14.6
Illegitimate	—.	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	46

Population.

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General since 1933, when the Borough was extended to its present area, are as follows :—

1933 (mid-year)	...	...	...	...	10,293
1934	..	...	...	...	10,520
1935	..	...	...	...	11,330
1936	..	...	...	...	12,800
1937	..	...	...	...	13,450
1938	..	...	...	...	13,760
1939	..	...	...	...	14,720
1940	..	...	...	...	15,730
1941	..	...	...	...	18,040
1942	..	...	...	...	17,130
1943	..	...	...	...	16,450
1944	..	...	...	...	16,160
1945	..	...	...	...	15,680
1946	..	...	...	...	16,010
1947	..	...	...	...	16,490
1948	..	...	...	...	16,990
1949	..	...	...	...	17,110
1950	..	...	...	...	17,260
1951	..	...	...	...	17,070
1952	..	...	...	...	17,090

The natural increase in the population or difference between the birth and death rates are as follows :—

1942	...	...	...	...	...	6.1
1943	...	...	...	...	...	7.2
1944	...	...	...	...	...	8.4
1945	...	...	...	...	...	8.2
1946	...	...	...	...	...	9.3
1947	...	...	...	...	...	15.9
1948	...	...	...	...	...	11.1
1949	...	...	...	...	...	5.5
1950	...	...	...	...	...	5.7
1951	...	...	...	...	...	2.4
1952	...	...	...	...	...	1.5

Causes of Death.

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar-General's statistics :—

<i>Causes of Death</i>							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	98	94
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	9	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	12	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	22	22
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	9	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	9	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	8
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	4
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	7	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	3	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	2	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—

Infant Mortality.

The following table shows Infantile Mortality from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

	<i>Weeks</i>				<i>Total under one month</i>	<i>Months</i>				<i>Total under one year</i>
	0-	1-	2-	3-		1-	3-	6-	9-	
Congenital deformities	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Intussusception ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3

INFANT MORTALITY.

	<i>Total Live Births</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate-Dunstable</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate-England and Wales</i>
1941 ...	274	55	59
1942 ...	274	55	49
1943 ...	275	44	49
1944 ...	320	36	46
1945 ...	294	30	46
1946 ...	305	56	43
1947 ...	407	7	41
1948 ...	317	22	34
1949 ...	279	43	32
1950 ...	284	11	30
1951 ...	251	28	30
1952 ...	217	14	28

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during 1952.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1952.

(England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns).

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

	<i>Borough of Dunstable</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>London Admin. County</i>
Births :					
Live	12.7	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still	0.41	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
	31.9(a)	22.6(a)	24.6(a)	23.0(a)	19.2(a)
Deaths :					
All causes ...	11.2	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.06	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Influenza ...	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox ...	—	0.00	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Poliomyelitis)	—	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia ...	0.58	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Notifications :					
Typhoid Fever ...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever ...	0.41	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough	2.90	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria ...	—	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas ...	—	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox ...	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	6.67	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia ...	0.37	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic ...	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic	—	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.12	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18

Rates per 1,000 live births.

Deaths :					
Under 1 year of age	13.8	27.6*	31.2	25.8	23.8
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	—	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).

(a) Notifications Puerperal Pyrexia	—	17.87	23.94	10.22	30.77
(b) Maternal Mortality					
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the Puerperium ...	—	0.09	} Not available		
Abortion with Toxaemia ...	—	0.02			
Other Toxaemias of pregnancy	—	0.21			
Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth ...	—	0.09			
Abortion with sepsis	—	0.07			
Abortion without sepsis ...	—	0.04			
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and Puerperium ...	—	0.20			

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths or notifications.

* Per 1,000 related births.

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1941—1952.

Year	Live Births		Still-Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths				Maternal Deaths			
	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births
1941	274	15.2	13	45.3	181	10.0	11	4	15	55	—	—	—	—
1942	274	16.0	10	35.2	169	9.9	8	7	15	55	—	—	—	—
1943	275	16.7	3	10.9	156	9.5	6	6	12	44	1	—	1	3.6
1944	320	19.8	8	24.0	185	11.4	8	4	12	36	—	1	1	3.1
1945	294	18.7	13	42.3	164	10.5	8	1	9	30	—	—	—	—
1946	305	19.0	8	25.6	156	9.7	12	5	17	56	—	—	—	—
1947	407	24.7	5	11.9	145	8.8	1	2	3	7	—	—	—	—
1948	317	18.7	8	24.6	130	7.6	4	3	7	22	—	—	—	—
1949	279	16.3	8	27.9	185	10.8	5	7	12	43	—	2	2	6.9
1950	284	15.5	4	13.9	160	9.8	2	1	3	11	—	—	—	—
1951	251	13.8	9	34.6	210	13.0	3	4	7	28	—	—	—	—
1952	217	12.7	7	31.9	192	11.2	—	3	3	14	—	—	—	—

SECTION F :—

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis.

General Statistics. The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious diseases notified during 1952 together with the number admitted to hospital, and the deaths from these diseases :—

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths Registered</i>
Scarlet Fever	7	5	—
Whooping Cough	50	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :			
Paralytic	1	1	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	114	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	6	—	10
Dysentery	5	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis :			
Infective	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers	1	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	4	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—

The following table gives an analysis of the more important cases of Infectious Disease notified, according to age :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 25</i>	<i>25 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ac. Poliomyelitis :										
Paralytic	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2

No cases of Smallpox were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Case-rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Case-rate for England and Wales</i>
1952	7	0.41	1.53

The following table shows the incidence for the last ten years :—

1943	...	65	1948	...	9
1944	...	40	1949	...	19
1945	...	32	1950	...	27
1946	...	31	1951	...	6
1947	...	19	1952	...	7

Diphtheria :—The following table shows the number of cases of Diphtheria which have occurred during the last ten years :—

1943	...	9	1948	...	2
1944	...	2	1949	...	0
1945	...	0	1950	...	0
1946	...	2	1951	...	0
1947	...	2	1952	...	0

There have been no deaths from the disease since the year 1937.

Cancer.

The following table shows the prevalence of Cancer deaths during the last 10 years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
1943	11	12	23	1.4
1944	13	15	28	1.73
1945	16	15	31	1.97
1946	16	17	33	2.06
1947	14	13	27	1.64
1948	15	10	25	1.47
1949	13	16	29	1.69
1950	16	12	28	1.62
1951	15	13	28	1.64
1952	24	22	46	2.69

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1952 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10-	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20-	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	11	10	1	2	1	—	—	—

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary 0.06

Non-pulmonary —

Tuberculosis

New cases and mortality during 1952

District	The British		Non-British		Deaths
	Respiratory		Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F	
1					
2					
3					
4					
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99					
100					

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Respiratory

Non-respiratory

of the total number of deaths from tuberculosis

1952

1951

1950

1949

1948

1947

1946

1945

1944

1943

1942

BOROUGH OF DUNSTABLE.

REPORT
of the
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
DUNSTABLE.

23rd September, 1953.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Dunstable.*

MR. MAYOR, MRS. WESTRAY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1952.

It will be noted from the paragraph dealing with Refuse and Salvage Collection that difficulties are being experienced in connection with obtaining sufficient labour to maintain a regular service. With a diminishing team of collectors and the addition of new houses the position is such that it can very easily become serious.

The Report shows considerable additional activity in connection with food inspection in the Slaughterhouse, in shops and in other premises.

My thanks are again extended to the Public Health Committee and other members of the Corporation for their consideration and support ; to the Medical Officer of Health for his help and guidance and to the members of my staff for the assistance which they have been able to give me.

Yours obediently,

A. BISHOP,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION C :—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

The general position relating to the supply of water is unchanged. The bulk of the supply is pumped from Wells owned by the National Gas Board within the Borough and a smaller supply is taken from the Luton Water Company.

This water is drawn by agreement fixed at 2,100,000 gallons per week with a maximum of 500,000 and a minimum of 200,000 gallons per day, against a total output of approximately 1,000,000 gallons per day.

The quantities pumped and purchased during 1952 were :—

Pumped from Wells in the Borough :	304,612 thousand galls.
Purchased from Luton Water Company	73,312 „ „

The following information is provided to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health :

(a) *Quantity and Quality.*

There was no shortage during 1952.

Reference to the paragraphs dealing with the results of the examination of samples will show that the quality has remained consistently good throughout the period under review.

(b) *New Works.*

Additional work during the year has been confined to the provision of new Mains to serve the houses on the new Estates and in connection with private development.

(c) *Risk of Contamination.*

During the year the main pumping station has been completely re-decorated, walls replastered and a new floor laid. Allotments near the top of the Wells have been cleared and new allotments provided at a farther distance from the Well head to accommodate those displaced.

All water is treated by chlorination.

(d) *Number of Dwelling Houses supplied.*

With a very small exception every house in the Borough is provided with a separate piped supply. The few standpipes that remain are in properties which will shortly be dealt with under the Housing Acts and are in most cases unfit for habitation.

Results of the Examination of Water Samples.

Bacteriological Samples.

Forty-seven samples taken from various points within the Borough were submitted for examination, a typical report being as follows :—

“ This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Samples dated 11th March, 8th April and 1st July taken from points supplied by main from Luton varied respectively as follows :—

“ This sample shows slight opalescence and carries a trace of matter in suspension but the turbidity is not marked. It is of very satisfactory bacterial purity. The water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.”

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance but it contains large numbers of bacteria. In the absence of organisms of the coli-aerogenes group there is no evidence of dangerous contamination and the water is considered wholesome in character for drinking and domestic use. It is not, however, of the standard required for public supply purposes.”

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance. The water shows very slight bacterial abnormality since organisms of the coli-aerogenes group are present in a very small number and the sample therefore, just fails to comply with the highest standard which is desirable in the case of a public supply. In the absence of bacterial coli, however, there is no direct evidence of dangerous contamination and the water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

Further investigation proved fairly conclusively that these results were due to faulty sampling and different arrangements were made, no further trouble being experienced.

Chemical Samples.

One sample was taken. It was from the supply derived from Wells within the Borough and was reported on as follows :—

“ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic purity.”

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

(a) *Sewage Disposal.*

Conditions at the Sewage Works remain as previously reported upon. Application has, however, been made and plans and details submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for consent to proceed with the construction of a New Works on the existing site to provide for a population of 30,000. This figure is 10,000 in excess of the present population but provision is being made to provide for a contemplated reasonable increase.

The total loan application is £173,530.

(b) *New Sewers and Sewerage.*

The condition of existing sewers is, generally speaking, satisfactory. No work has been commenced in connection with the storm water from the northern area of the town. No major works have been carried out in connection with the sewers apart from work in connection with the New Corporation Housing Estate and private development.

(c) *Closet Accommodation.*

The number of houses without separate closet accommodation is very small and are situate in the properties which in the main are ripe for demolition under the Housing Acts. The number of houses with closet accommodation without flushing apparatus is also very small.

3. Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers or streams in the Borough.

4. Public Cleansing.

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

There has been no change in the policy regarding Collection and Disposal. Refuse is still being deposited in the Old Chalk Pit at the foot of Dunstable Downs. Little difficulty has been experienced in obtaining sufficient covering material with the result that no nuisance has arisen from smell, fire or flies. Careful systematic baiting has prevented any serious infestation by rats.

Every effort has been made to maintain the normal weekly collection of house refuse but at times it has been impossible to do so and the collection has extended to ten days and more. This is due to the inability to maintain a sufficient number of employees and were it not for the fact that we are served by a number of "old timers" who can be relied upon for an extra effort the problem might easily be made more serious at some periods.

The general unsatisfactory condition prevailing at the West Street Yard where the vehicles are garaged and salvage is stored and baled has been considered by the Public Health Committee. Every endeavour is being made to find a suitable site for a new depot.

(b) *Salvage.*

The procedure for collecting salvage remains unchanged. The number of household bins for the collection of kitchen waste in use at present is 1,440 and there are 500 still awaiting delivery as soon as labour can be spared to do so.

The number of street bins has been reduced to 151.

Kitchen waste is collected twice weekly and is sent to the Concentrator Plant at Luton. The amount collected in 1952 was 385 tons as compared with 345 tons in 1951.

At the time of writing all control of Animal Feeding Stuff has just been removed and the position regarding the demand and financial implications as a result of having to compete in the open market with waste food concentrate is not clear.

I am, however, convinced that so long as there is a demand for processed kitchen waste every effort should be made to continue to collect it separately whether the Corporation is directed to do so or not. If the separate collection were to be discontinued it would still be the responsibility of the Council to collect it as refuse and dispose of it at the Tip with the consequent return of rat and fly problems.

Collection of waste paper was very much a problem during the year. In the first months the demand was such that newsprint was being sold at £22-15-0 per ton and mixed waste paper at £16 per ton. The Mills became overstocked and the demand dropped to the extent that a quota system was introduced and prices dropped to £10 per ton for newsprint and £7-10-0 per ton for mixed waste paper. It was possible to bring the amount of paper collected down to the quota figure without disturbing the weekly household collection. The quota has now been removed but the price has been further reduced in respect of mixed waste to £6-10-0 per ton.

During the year the amount collected and sold was 203 tons as against 237 tons in 1951.

The following table shows the amount and value of salvage collected during 1952 and a comparison with 1951 :—

<i>Material</i>	<i>Year 1951</i>				<i>Year 1952</i>			
	<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Paper	237	9	3	21	202	12	—	—
Heavy Iron	13	13	—	—	11	13	—	—
Rags	8	7	—	2	6	5	2	—
Bones	—	2	2	—	nil			
Brass, lead, aluminium, copper	—	14	2	21	—	15	—	3
Tins	3	13	2	—	13	8	3	—
Waste Food	345	—	—	—	385	2	2	—
VALUE	£5,011 19 3				£3,734 3 0			

	1952
Number of Abatement Notices served	6
Number of Informal Notices given	192
Number of Abatement Notices complied with	6
Number of Informal Notices complied with	166

SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE.

	1952
(a) Structural Defects.	
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	43
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	27
Chimneys repointed, etc., and pots renewed	11
Flashings renewed	6
R.W. pipes refixed, repaired or renewed	11
Windows and frames repaired or renewed	13
Windows made to open	13
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	8
Main walls repointed or cement rendered	10
Dangerous bay windows rebuilt	2
Dangerous cornice rebuilt	1
Floors repaired or relaid	18
Ceilings replastered	21
Walls replastered or matchboarding renewed	22
Dampness eradicated in walls and ceilings	19
Sashcords renewed	17
Staircases repaired and/or handrails provided	5
Firegrates repaired or renewed	10
Smoking flues remedied	4
Rooms and staircases redecorated	23
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	2
Miscellaneous repairs	18
(b) Foul Conditions.	
Obstructed drains cleared	41
Obstructed sewers referred to Borough Surveyor	22
Dirty tenants	4
Sand pit disinfected	1
(c) Drainage.	
Bathrooms provided	7
Drains relaid or repaired	13
W.C. pans renewed	8
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	9
Cold water supply tanks repaired or renewed	2
W.C. structures repaired, cleansed or rebuilt	5
Defective joint between flush pipe and w.c. pan renewed	5
W.C.'s provided with water supply and/or water pipes repaired	8
Gully drains repaired or dishing renewed	1
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	7
Yard paving relaid or provided	4
Sink and bath wastepipes repaired or renewed	6
Manholes and/or covers repaired or renewed	4
Additional sinks provided or renewed	4
Lavatory basins provided	5
Grease trap provided	1
(d) Sanitary Accommodation at Inns, Restaurants, Offices, etc.	
Schools accommodation improved	1
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	3
Sanitary accommodation cleansed or improved	3
Cinema accommodation cleaned and painted	1
(e) Collection of Refuse and Salvage.	
Offensive accumulations removed	7
New dustbins provided	201
(f) Keeping of Animals.	
Accumulations of manure removed	2
Discontinued after informal action	2
Pig keeping reduced	1

	1952
(g) Verminous Conditions.	
Rooms disinfested	8
Parcels of verminous bedding and clothing destroyed	3
Wasps nests destroyed	3
(h) Factories, including Bakehouses.	
Sanitary accommodation on building site removed	1
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	2
Intervening ventilated space provided	1
Improved lighting provided in sanitary accommodation	7
W.C. door repaired	1
Existing sanitary accommodation improved	1
Existing sanitary accommodation labelled	1
Existing sanitary accommodation cleansed	6
Premises cleansed and painted	3
Temperature maintained	1
Smoke nuisances abated	1
Bakehouse cleansed and redecorated	3
(i) Dairies and Milkshops.	
Dairy cleansed and redecorated	1
W.C. accommodation cleansed and repaired	1
Drains cleared	2
(j) Restaurant, Hotel and Canteen Kitchens.	
Walls tiled	1
Cleansed	7
Sanitary accommodation improved	2
Beetles eradicated	1
New food store and kitchen provided	2
New floor	1
Kitchens improved	3
(k) Food Premises.	
Rooms cleansed and decorated	2
New sink and washing facilities provided	3
(l) Shops.	
Cleansed	2
Washing facilities provided	1
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	1
Sanitary accommodation cleansed and redecorated	2
Hot water supplied	1
(m) Tents, Vans and Sheds.	
Vans removed	1

Offensive Trades :—Section 107 Public Health Act, 1936.

Three premises in which rags are involved are the only offensive trades registered in the Borough.

An order made by the Secretary of State makes Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, operative in the Borough.

This Section calls for the registration of Marine Store Dealers' premises and for the keeping of proper records.

Exchange of Toys, etc., for Rags :—Section 154 Public Health Act, 1936.

Two offences regarding the exchange of toys for rags were dealt with by the Justices. A fine of £2 and costs was imposed in each case.

Factories Act, 1937.

Information as to the number of inspections made, notices served and work carried out under the provisions of the above Act are set out below :—

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises	Number 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 ...	14	16	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	93	87	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	4	1	—
TOTAL	113	107	1	—

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	2	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequately lighted	3	3	—	3	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	2	2	—	—	—

(3) OUTWORK—SECTIONS 110 AND 111.

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. Cleaning & washing	27	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	2	—	—	—	—	—

6. Shops and Offices.

(a) *Sanitary Conditions.*

There were forty-three recorded visits in connection with sanitary accommodation but the number of actual visits made to shops is much greater as some are recorded for the purpose of food inspection and other duties.

The following improvements were effected :

Shop premises cleansed	...	...	...	2
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	1
Additional Sanitary accommodation provided				1
Sanitary accommodation cleansed and redecorated				2
Hot water facilities provided	...	...	...	1

A few shops have now taken advantage of the provision in the Shops Act to transfer the weekly half holiday from the prescribed day which is Thursday, to Saturday.

7. Camping Sites.

From time to time applications have been received for licences to station caravans on land within the Borough. Five such applications were received during the year. In one case where sanitary accommodation was available, although not altogether satisfactory, a licence for a period of six months was granted. In the remaining four cases the applications were refused on the ground of lack of suitable accommodation. There is a tendency for the number of applications for licences to increase and amongst these are some for consent to stand caravans on land within the curtilage of private dwellings even though the persons concerned are not members of the same household.

There is no licensed camping ground in the Borough.

8. Smoke Abatement.

There is no problem in connection with smoke in the Borough apart from infrequent discharges from the smaller industries. This, however, is a matter which should be carefully watched having regard to the large scale industrial developments now in hand or contemplated.

9. Swimming Pools.

Five samples were taken from the three swimming pools within the Borough and observation was maintained as to their general condition.

With one exception sample results were fairly satisfactory by bacteriological examination though the chlorine content was low. One unsatisfactory sample taken from a school resulted in further investigation.

10. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs is set out below :—

					1952
(a) Number of Council Houses	(1)	Infested	...	...	1
	(2)	Disinfested	...	...	1
(b) Number of other Houses	(1)	Infested	...	...	2
	(2)	Disinfested	...	...	2

11. Rodent Control.

Operations during the year were undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries so as to qualify for grant aid. 249 visits were made in the course of inspections and treatments for the destruction of the common brown rat and the house mouse and 158 properties of various kinds were inspected and 56 found to be infested. In 17 cases informal action was taken to secure treatment and proofing by owners or occupiers and the remainder were treated by or with the assistance of the staff of the department. These included the treatment of two recurrent, though diminishing, infestations at the Sewage Farm and the Refuse Tip.

Treatments of the sewers during the year began with a small maintenance treatment to end the previous sequence of treatments, and the annual test bait then followed, though later than usual due to labour difficulties and unsuitable weather.

Sixty-one manholes were baited and inspected and twenty-two were found to be infested, though no significant extension of existing areas liable to reinfestation had occurred. When the whole of these areas were covered in the subsequent treatment, the infestation was not at all heavy, 17 manholes only out of 97 showing a take of some kind.

SECTION D :—

HOUSING.

(a) *Unfit Properties and Repairs.*

The position regarding unfit properties remains unchanged although preparations are now being made to commence and record inspections on a systematic basis so that action can be taken as soon as new houses can be made available for rehousing. An application by the Public Health Committee to the Housing Committee for a

first allocation of twelve houses made earlier in the year was unsuccessful as the Housing Committee felt that the requirements of the waiting list were such that they could not accede to the request. The Housing Committee is, however, rehousing the occupiers of the twenty ex-Army Huts in First Avenue which are unfit for further occupation. Most of these have already been vacated and will shortly be demolished.

One house regarded as unfit for human habitation was reconditioned on an undertaking given by the owner.

A considerable amount of repair work has been carried out as a result of action under the Public Health Act and this is set out in the Schedule of Work Done earlier in the Report. A much larger amount of repair work has also been going on by owners other than at the request of the Corporation due to the easing of licensing and other restrictions.

(b) *New Housing.*

The number of new houses completed during 1952 was :—

(a) By the Council	...	...	...	...	114
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	33

Building operations both by the Council and by private enterprise should provide a larger number during the current year.

(c) *Overcrowding and Re-housing.*

There are still quite a large number of cases of overcrowding in the Borough but the number of really serious cases is very much less than was the case a few years ago. In the Points Scheme operated by the Corporation in the letting of new houses due regard is paid to overcrowding and unfitness.

A revision of the list of applications for houses was made in May/June, 1953. The list now contains 589 applicants.

SECTION E :—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. Milk Supply.

(a) *Registration.*

The state of the registers at the end of the year was as follows :—

Distributors of Milk	...	...	...	...	43
Dairies	...	...	...	...	11

Dealers' Licences authorising use of Special Designations :—

(i.)	“ Sterilised ”	...	...	30
(ii.)	“ Pasteurised ”	...	...	12
(iii.)	“ Tuberculin Tested ”	...	...	9

Supplementary Licences authorising use of Special Designations :—

(i.)	“ Pasteurised ”	...	...	4
(ii.)	“ Tuberculin Tested ”	...	...	2

(b) *Inspections.*

Forty-nine visits were made in connection with the inspection of Dairies and sixty-eight visits were made in connection with sampling.

(c) *Sampling.*

Seventy-one samples were submitted for examination and the results are tabulated on the opposite page. Results include repeat samples after the small number of unsatisfactory samples recorded. No evidence of tuberculosis or brucella abortus was discovered in fourteen of the samples so examined.

No. of Sample	RESULT OF METHYLENE BLUE TEST				Result of Phosphatase Test	Result of Turbidity Test	RESULT OF CLINICAL EXAMINATION	
	Grade	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory period to decolourise	Tuberculosis			Br. Abortus	
1	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—	—	
2	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
3	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
4	Ungraded	"	—	"	—	—	—	
5	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
6	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
7	"	No	4 hours	—	—	—	—	
8	"	"	4 hours	—	—	—	—	
9	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—	—	
10	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
11	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
12	Ungraded	"	—	"	—	—	—	
13	Accredited	—	—	—	—	—	—	
14	Ungraded	Yes	—	—	—	—	No evidence	
15	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	
16	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	
17	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	
18	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	
19	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	
20	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—	—	
21	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
22	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
23	"	"	—	"	—	—	—	
24	T.T. Pasteurised	—	—	—	Satisfactory	—	—	
25	Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—	
26	Ungraded	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	
27	"	"	—	—	—	—	No evidence	
28	"	—	—	—	—	—	"	
29	"	—	—	—	—	—	"	
30	"	—	—	—	—	—	"	
31	"	—	—	—	—	—	"	
32	"	—	—	—	—	—	"	
33	"	Yes	—	—	—	—	—	
34	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	
35	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	
36	"	"	—	—	—	—	—	

Ice-Cream Sampling.

Thirty-seven samples were submitted for examination. Nineteen were graded as Grade I. ; twelve as Grade II. ; four as Grade III. and two in Grade IV. Of these samples twenty-eight were sold wrapped and nine unwrapped.

The Grading of the wrapped samples was :—

Grade I.	13
„ II.	11
„ III.	2
„ IV.	2

In the case of the nine other samples four were manufactured from a complete cold mix and were graded :—

Grade I.	3
„ III.	1

The five bulk supply samples were graded :—

Grade I.	3
„ II.	1
„ III.	1

The suggested standard is that 50% of the samples from each individual manufacturer or retailer should fall into Grade I. ; 80% into Grade II. ; not more than 20% into Grade III. and none into Grade IV.

Taking the total number of 37 and assessing results on this basis 31 out of the 37 samples, or 84%, fall into Grades I. or II.

Identity and No. of Sample	Presumptive Coli	Faecal Coli	Methylene Blue decolourised in hours	Prov. Grading	Remarks
A.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped block
B.1	—	—	1½	3	Complete cold mix
C.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped block
D.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Complete cold mix
E.1	—	present	over 4½	1	Complete cold mix
F.1	—	—	over 4½	1	Complete cold mix
G.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
G.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
H.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
I.1	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
J.1	—	present	over 4½	1	Wrapped
J.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
K.1	—	—	0	4	Wrapped
K.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
K.3	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
L.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
M.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
N.1	—	present	over 4½	1	Wrapped
O.1	present	—	1½	3	Wrapped
O.2	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
P.1	—	present	over 4½	1	Wrapped
P.2	—	present	0	4	Wrapped
Q.1	—	—	1½	3	Wrapped
Q.2	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
R.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
R.2	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
S.1	—	present	over 4½	1	Wrapped block
S.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped block
T.1	present	present	1½	3	Bulk
T.2	—	—	over 4½	1	Bulk
T.3	—	—	over 4½	1	Bulk
T.4	—	—	4	2	Bulk
T.5	—	—	over 4½	1	Bulk
T.6	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
T.7	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped
T.8	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
T.9	—	—	over 4½	1	Wrapped

(d) *Water and Similar Ice Lollies.*

Fourteen samples were submitted.

The results obtained in the last five samples were very unsatisfactory and strong representations were made to the manufacturers and by the Medical Officer of Health to the Medical Officer of Health for the area in which they were manufactured. For a while supplies to the shops in this area were suspended.

Sample No.	Manufacturer	Bacillus Coli Present or Absent	Faecal Coli Present or Absent
1	A	Absent	Absent
2	A	"	"
3	B	"	"
4	B	"	"
5	C	"	"
6	C	"	"
7	C	"	"
8	D	"	"
9	F	"	"
10	F	Present	Present
11	F	"	"
12	F	"	"
13	F	"	"
14	F	"	"

(e) *Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947/1948.*

All manufacturers within the Borough are now using a "complete cold mix."

2. **Meat and Other Foods.**(a) *Slaughterhouses.*

There is only one Slaughterhouse in the Borough. It is of fairly modern construction but it is not large enough to deal satisfactorily with the amount of slaughtering now being done in it or to achieve the standard laid down in the new Ministry of Food Memorandum dealing with Meat Inspection. It is kept in a reasonably good state. Until such time as the policy with respect to the Slaughter of Animals is decided it would be unfair to call for further major improvements from the owner of the property.

The following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected and the percentage either wholly or partly condemned or some part of which was condemned.

The number of animals slaughtered increased from 4,639 in 1951 to 6,738 in 1952. Another interesting feature is the low proportion of cows slaughtered against other cattle—8.2%.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle ex- cluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed and inspected	2,274	187	336	3,231	710
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	814	54	2	106	43
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tubercu- losis	35.9	28.9	1.2	3.3	6.1
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i> Whole carcasses condemned	10	2	1	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	215	53	—	—	54
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	9.9	29.4	0.3	—	7.9

Tuberculosis in Calves.

One calf was discovered to be affected with congenital tuberculosis. Information was passed to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Cysticercus Bovis.

No cases were discovered.

Table showing monthly totals of animals slaughtered and inspected :—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Cattle ex- cluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
1952						
January ...	108	19	16	198	97	438
February ...	66	23	11	247	21	368
March ...	14	5	30	48	123	220
April ...	181	23	27	65	51	347
May ...	230	18	10	85	94	437
June ...	129	12	10	643	44	838
July ...	234	14	19	457	67	791
August ...	295	15	46	314	33	703
September ...	333	14	30	251	20	648
October ...	307	20	41	404	43	815
November ...	186	11	51	285	63	596
December ...	191	13	45	234	54	537
TOTALS ...	2,274	187	336	3,231	710	6,738

Table showing monthly and yearly totals of meat from various animals condemned as unfit for human consumption at the Crown-controlled Slaughterhouse :—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Bovine</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total lbs.</i>
1952					
January ...	2,161	—	4	466	2,631
February ...	2,162	63	41	15	2,281
March ...	435	63	13	336	847
April ...	2,150	48	5	210	2,413
May ...	3,807	—	5	463	4,275
June ...	1,470	—	26	89	1,585
July ...	4,396	—	23	212	4,631
August ...	5,193	—	4	306	5,503
September ...	4,088	—	10	109	4,207
October ...	4,762	—	200	103	5,065
November ...	2,322	—	19	173	2,514
December ...	2,452	—	79	205	2,736
TOTALS	35,398	174	429	2,687	38,688

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of licences to act as slaughtermen in force at the end of the year remained at eight, five of which operated in the Borough.

(b) Meat and Food other than in Slaughterhouse.

The number of visits paid to premises where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale was 773.

The following table shows the amount and variety of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed or utilised for animal feeding stuffs as being unfit for human consumption :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Tins or Packets</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Tomatoes	88	—
Ham	26	—
Meat	32	—
Pork	8	—
Ham, cooked	—	4
Pork	—	38½
Ham, canned	—	8½
Bacon	—	11 lbs. 11 ozs.
Chicken	1	—
Mutton	—	16
Beef	—	554½
Black Pudding	—	13½
Tripe	—	50
Sheep's tongue	1	—
Fish paste	23	—
Soup	2	—
Oats	8	—
Semolina	18	—
Milk	10	—
Macaroni	1	—
Boiled sweets	—	5
Water ices	342	—
	(number)	
Flour	—	70
Dates	—	25
Jelly crystals	1	—
Tea	—	2

(c) Prosecutions—Unsound Food.

Proceedings were instituted against an employer and an employee under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in respect of the sale of sliced wrapped bread which was found, on opening, to be very dirty.

The employee was given an absolute discharge and the employer a conditional discharge.

(d) *Prosecutions*—Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924/1935.

Proceedings were instituted before the Justices on one occasion for failure to take reasonable precautions to protect meat against contamination in course of delivery from a van to a retail shop. The evidence was to the effect that the person was seen carrying meat on his shoulder without head or neck covering. The case was dismissed.

(e) *Food Premises Generally.*

Steady progress has continued in improving the standard of kitchens of hotels, restaurants, canteens and food shops, but much still remains to be done to achieve even a reasonable standard in every case.

(f) *Byelaws—Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food.*

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings under the Byelaws but continual pressure is being maintained to achieve a good standard by educational and persuasive measures.

The fact that there was no serious outbreak of food poisoning should not, however, lead to complacency and the standard is not all that may be desired in every case. There can be no excuse for the lack of ordinary elementary hygienic practices where food is concerned. It is a personal matter and those who fail in their duty must expect personal serious consequences.

(g) *Registration*—Section 14—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the end of the year premises were registered as follows :—

Preparation of fried fish and chipped potatoes	7
Manufacture of sausages	18
Preparation of cooked meat	9
Manufacture of meat pies	3
Sale and manufacture of ice-cream	8
Sale of ice-cream	56

(h) *Adulteration of Food.*

No samples were submitted for examination. The adulteration and standards provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are administered by the Bedfordshire County Council.

(i) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*

No samples were submitted.

(j) *Food Poisoning.*

Two cases were dealt with, only one person being involved in each instance.

Rainfall.

The following figures of rainfall in the Borough over the last ten years are included in the Report for record purposes :—

					<i>inches</i>
1943	...	...	...	...	19.37
1944	...	...	...	...	20.68
1945	...	...	...	...	21.24
1946	...	...	...	...	27.99
1947	...	...	...	...	20.21
1948	...	...	...	...	25.60
1949	...	...	...	...	21.47
1950	...	...	...	...	30.63
1951	...	...	...	...	31.99
1952	...	...	...	...	27.39



