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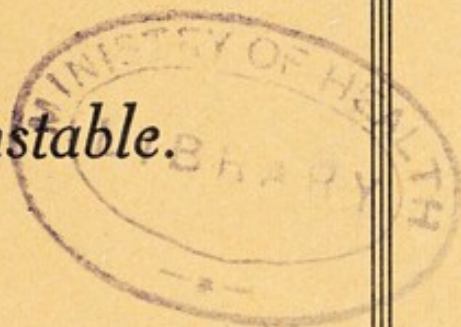


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*Borough of Dunstable.*



# Report

ON THE

## Health of Dunstable

for the year 1953

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 1953

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
DUNSTABLE.

*November, 1954.*

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1953.

From a Public Health point of view it is very satisfactory to note that an efficient Sewage Works will now be soon under construction and will be large enough to deal with the imminent increase in numbers of houses and factories.

Dunstable still remains a place of health and happiness. The statistics of this Report show that the health through 1953 was good, but there is no doubt that the happiness of the Town would be greater if we could moderate the river of traffic passing through along the Watling Street. This is not only a danger to life and limb, but there is also for most of the hours of the day continual noise and continual fumes which make the High Streets the very opposite of a pedestrian's paradise.

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 and  
(to April, 1953) Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.  
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.  
L. V. Lee. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.  
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- (d) *Chief Clerk/Shorthand Typist*.  
Mrs. D. F. Wordsworth.
- (e) *Junior Clerk*.  
Miss R. A. Fensome (to September, 1953).

## SECTION A :—

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

#### Vital Statistics.

Area of Borough, 2,028 acres.				
Population as estimated by Registrar-General	...	...	...	17,270
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book as at				
31st December, 1953	...	...	...	5,331
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1953	...	...	...	£94,441
Sum produced by a penny rate taken at 31st March, 1953	...	...	...	£362
Number of new houses erected :				
(a) Council : Permanent	...	...	...	138
(b) Private Enterprise	...	...	...	43

#### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

The following tables give extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year 1953 as furnished by the Registrar-General :—

	Total	M.	F.	} Birth rate per 1,000 of population, 14.0.
Live Births	242	125	117	
Legitimate	229	121	108	
Illegitimate	13	4	9	

Still Births	...	7	3	4	} Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births, 28.2.
Legitimate	...	7	3	4	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	
Deaths	...	153	74	79	} Death rate per 1,000 of population, 8.9.

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, 14.0, comparability factor, .94, adjusted birth rate, 13.2  
 Death Rate, 8.9, comparability factor, 1.06, adjusted death rate, 9.4

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Total	7.	Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	32.3
Legitimate	7.	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	33.9
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)	...	...	...	...	20

### 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
1953	..	...	...	...	17,270



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
1953	...	...	...	...	...	5.1

### Causes of Death.

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

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	74	79
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	10	20
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	9	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	15	17
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
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-	
Prematurity ...	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital defects	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Debility from birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	4	1	1	—	6	—	1	—	—	7

### INFANT MORTALITY.

	<i>Total Live Births</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate-Dunstable</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate-England and Wales</i>
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
1953 ...	242	32	27

### Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths during 1953.



Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953.

(England and Wales, London, 160 Great Towns and 160 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>160 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London</i>	<i>160 Smaller Towns (Resident Pop. 25,000 —50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>London Admin. County</i>
<b>Births :</b>					
Live ... ..	14.0	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5
Still ... ..	{ 0.41	{ 0.35	{ 0.43	{ 0.34	{ 0.38
	{ 28.2	{ 22.4(a)	{ 24.8(a)	{ 21.4(a)	{ 21.0(a)
<b>Deaths :</b>					
All causes ...	8.9	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis ...	0.06	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza ...	0.06	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Poli- encephalitis) ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia ...	0.36	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
<b>Notifications :</b>					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever ...	0.93	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough	1.56	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.00	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles ... ..	14.65	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia ...	0.40	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic ...	0.17	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-Paralytic	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning ...	0.06	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38

Rates per 1,000 live births.

<b>Deaths :</b>					
Under 1 year of age	32.3	26.86*	30.8	24.3	24.8
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	0.00	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

## Rates per 1,000 Total Births (live and still).

(a) Notifications : Puerperal Pyrexia	0.06	18.23(a)	24.33(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)
(b) Maternal Mortality :					
Sepsis of Pregnancy, childbirth and the Puerperium ...	0.00	0.10	} Not available		
Abortion with Toxaemia ...	0.00	0.01			
Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy	0.00	0.24			
Haemorrhage of Pregnancy and childbirth ...	0.00	0.13			
Abortion with sepsis	0.00	0.06			
Abortion without sepsis ...	0.00	0.04			
Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and Puerperium ...	0.00	0.18			

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—1953.

Year	Estima- ted Popula- tion	Live Births		Still-Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths				Maternal Deaths			
		No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated popula- tion	No.	Rate per 1,000 total births	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated popula- tion	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	18,040	274	15.2	13	45.3	181	10.0	11	4	15	55	—	—	—	—
1942	17,130	274	16.0	10	35.2	169	9.9	8	7	15	55	—	—	—	—
1943	16,450	275	16.7	3	10.9	156	9.5	6	6	12	44	1	—	1	3.6
1944	16,160	320	19.8	8	24.0	185	11.4	8	4	12	36	—	1	1	3.1
1945	15,680	294	18.7	13	42.3	164	10.5	8	1	9	30	—	—	—	—
1946	16,010	305	19.0	8	25.6	156	9.7	12	5	17	56	—	—	—	—
1947	16,490	407	24.7	5	11.9	145	8.8	1	2	3	7	—	—	—	—
1948	16,990	317	18.7	8	24.6	130	7.6	4	3	7	22	—	—	—	—
1949	17,110	279	16.3	8	27.9	185	10.8	5	7	12	43	—	2	2	6.9
1950	17,260	284	15.5	4	13.9	160	9.8	2	1	3	11	—	—	—	—
1951	17,070	251	13.8	9	34.6	210	13.0	3	4	7	28	—	—	—	—
1952	17,090	217	12.7	7	31.9	192	11.2	—	3	3	14	—	—	—	—
1953	17,270	242	14.0	7	28.2	153	8.9	6	1	7	32	—	—	—	—

## 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 1953 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 ... ..	16	8	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	27	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :			
Paralytic ... ..	3	3	—
Non-Paralytic ... ..	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	253	7	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia ... ..	7	2	6
Dysentery ... ..	6	1	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis :			
Infective ... ..	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ... ..	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—

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 2</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 9</i>	<i>10 to 14</i>	<i>15 to 24</i>	<i>25 and over</i>	<i>Age Un- known</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	1	3	11	1	—	—	—	16
Ac. Poliomyelitis :									
Paralytic ... ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles ... ..	5	56	60	114	5	3	4	6	253

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>
1953	16	0.93	1.39

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

1944	...	40	1949	...	19
1945	...	32	1950	...	27
1946	...	31	1951	...	6
1947	...	19	1952	...	7
1948	...	9	1953	...	16

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

1944	...	2	1949	...	0
1945	...	0	1950	...	0
1946	...	2	1951	...	0
1947	...	2	1952	...	0
1948	...	2	1953	...	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>
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
1953	9	11	20	1.16

# 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.
0- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5- ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10- ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15- ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20- ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25- ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35- ...	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
45- ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	7	9	1	2	1	—	—	—

## DEATH RATES PER 1,000 FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary ... 0.06

Non-pulmonary ... —



Table 1

Year 1950 and 1951

Year 1950		Year 1951		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102
103	104	105	106	107	108
109	110	111	112	113	114
115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126
127	128	129	130	131	132
133	134	135	136	137	138
139	140	141	142	143	144
145	146	147	148	149	150
151	152	153	154	155	156
157	158	159	160	161	162
163	164	165	166	167	168
169	170	171	172	173	174
175	176	177	178	179	180
181	182	183	184	185	186
187	188	189	190	191	192
193	194	195	196	197	198
199	200	201	202	203	204
205	206	207	208	209	210
211	212	213	214	215	216
217	218	219	220	221	222
223	224	225	226	227	228
229	230	231	232	233	234
235	236	237	238	239	240
241	242	243	244	245	246
247	248	249	250	251	252
253	254	255	256	257	258
259	260	261	262	263	264
265	266	267	268	269	270
271	272	273	274	275	276
277	278	279	280	281	282
283	284	285	286	287	288
289	290	291	292	293	294
295	296	297	298	299	300
301	302	303	304	305	306
307	308	309	310	311	312
313	314	315	316	317	318
319	320	321	322	323	324
325	326	327	328	329	330
331	332	333	334	335	336
337	338	339	340	341	342
343	344	345	346	347	348
349	350	351	352	353	354
355	356	357	358	359	360
361	362	363	364	365	366
367	368	369	370	371	372
373	374	375	376	377	378
379	380	381	382	383	384
385	386	387	388	389	390
391	392	393	394	395	396
397	398	399	400	401	402
403	404	405	406	407	408
409	410	411	412	413	414
415	416	417	418	419	420
421	422	423	424	425	426
427	428	429	430	431	432
433	434	435	436	437	438
439	440	441	442	443	444
445	446	447	448	449	450
451	452	453	454	455	456
457	458	459	460	461	462
463	464	465	466	467	468
469	470	471	472	473	474
475	476	477	478	479	480
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529	530	531	532	533	534
535	536	537	538	539	540
541	542	543	544	545	546
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565	566	567	568	569	570
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583	584	585	586	587	588
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613	614	615	616	617	618
619	620	621	622	623	624
625	626	627	628	629	630
631	632	633	634	635	636
637	638	639	640	641	642
643	644	645	646	647	648
649	650	651	652	653	654
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661	662	663	664	665	666
667	668	669	670	671	672
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679	680	681	682	683	684
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715	716	717	718	719	720
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739	740	741	742	743	744
745	746	747	748	749	750
751	752	753	754	755	756
757	758	759	760	761	762
763	764	765	766	767	768
769	770	771	772	773	774
775	776	777	778	779	780
781	782	783	784	785	786
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841	842	843	844	845	846
847	848	849	850	851	852
853	854	855	856	857	858
859	860	861	862	863	864
865	866	867	868	869	870
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895	896	897	898	899	900
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937	938	939	940	941	942
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949	950	951	952	953	954
955	956	957	958	959	960
961	962	963	964	965	966
967	968	969	970	971	972
973	974	975	976	977	978
979	980	981	982	983	984
985	986	987	988	989	990
991	992	993	994	995	996
997	998	999	1000	1001	1002
1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008
1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014
1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020
1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026
1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032
1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038
1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044
1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050
1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056
1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062
1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068
1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074
1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080
1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086
1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092
1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098
1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104
1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110
1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116
1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122
1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128
1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134
1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140
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1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152
1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158
1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164
1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170
1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176
1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182
1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188
1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194
1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200
1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206
1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212
1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218
1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	1224
1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230
1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236
1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242
1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248
1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254
1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260
1261	1262	1263	1264	1265	1266
1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272
1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278
1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284
1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290
1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296
1297	1298	1299	1300	1301	1302
1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308
1309	1310	1311	1312	1313	1314
1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	1320
1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326
1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	1332
1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	1338
1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344
1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350
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1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368

# REPORT

of the

## SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

### FOR THE YEAR 1953.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,  
DUNSTABLE.

*11th August, 1954.*

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1953.

The Report deals with the action taken in connection with the various duties with which the Sanitary Inspector is concerned including that dealing with collection and disposal of house and trade refuse.

Progress has now been made in connection with the unsatisfactory condition at the Sewage Works to the extent that the construction of the new works will commence early in 1955.

The coming into force of the Housing, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, will undoubtedly mean additional work both in connection with the submission of proposals to the Minister of Health in relation to the demolition, closure or repair of unfit houses and in dealing with certificates relating to rent increases in respect of repairs.

While the survey to enable the proposals to be submitted to the Minister is being completed, unfit properties are wherever it is possible being closed and demolished and steps are being taken to deal with one proposed Clearance Area.

While the introduction of further Legislation in connection with food should give added power and incentive to raise the standard of Food Hygiene I am sure that we must continue to have more regard to the personal attitude towards this matter.

My thanks are again extended to the Public Health Committee and the Council for the consideration and support given to me at all times ; to the Medical Officer of Health for his help and guidance and to the members of my staff and colleagues for the assistance which they have always given to me.

Yours obediently,

A. BISHOP,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*



## SECTION C :—

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### 1. Water Supply.

The following information as to the water supply and works in connection therewith has been supplied by the Manager and Engineer of the Dunstable District of the Eastern Gas Board.

The general position relating to the sources of supply remained unchanged during 1953.

The larger quantity was pumped from Wells within the Borough owned by the National Gas Board with an additional supply from the mains of the Luton Water Company.

##### (a) *Quantity and Quality.*

The quantities pumped and purchased during 1953 were :—

Pumped from Wells in the Borough ... 284,777,000 galls.

Purchased from Luton Water Company 95,407,000 galls.

The total quantity was therefore 380,184,000 gallons giving an average of 1,042,000 gallons per day.

As from 1st April, 1954, the water from Luton was from the New Friars Wash Pumping Station of the joint Luton and Dunstable scheme and not from the Luton Water Company as hitherto. The quantity being received from this source at the end of July, 1954, was in the order of 400,000 gallons per day.

There was no shortage of water during 1953.

##### (b) *New Works.*

A new booster pump was installed to increase pressures in West Street/Tring Road area. This difficulty will be overcome when the laying of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of 8" main in the Bull Pond Lane Area which is now in progress is completed. Normal extensions of mains to deal with the building development has also been undertaken.

##### (c) *Risk of Contamination.*

Although all water is treated by chlorination there is very little risk of contamination from any cause.

##### (d) *Number of Dwelling Houses Supplied.*

There are very few houses in the Borough without a separate pumped water supply.



## Results of the Examination of Water Samples.

### *Bacteriological Samples.*

A total of thirty-five samples were submitted for examination during the year, twenty-one samples being taken from points within the Borough, and fourteen from the point at which the water purchased from the Luton Water Company enters the Borough. The samples as a whole proved satisfactory, a typical report being as follows :—

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

The only variants were samples submitted on the 27th and 30th July and taken from a point within the Borough. They were reported on as follows :—

“This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The sample shows, however, slight abnormality since organisms of the coli-aerogenes group are present in small number. Bact. coli are absent and no direct evidence of dangerous contamination is therefore shown.”

The slight abnormality was found to be due to a new length of water main which had been insufficiently flushed before use. When this condition was rectified further samples showed a return to normal.

### *Chemical Samples.*

Two samples only were submitted for chemical analysis.

They were reported on as follows :—

“This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is hard in character, but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. The organic quality is of a high standard.”

These results are consistent with a water which, from the aspect of chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.”

## 2. Drainage and Sewerage.

### (a) *Sewage Disposal.*

There is no change in the condition at the Sewage Works.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has now given approval in principal to the Council's proposals for the first stage development of a new Sewage Works on the present site at an estimated cost of £173,530 and at his request the Council has suggested 1st March, 1955, as the starting date.

The first stage development provides for a population of 30,000.



(b) *New Sewers and Sewerage.*

The condition of the sewers is in the main satisfactory. The amount of trouble experienced as a result of obstructions is small and is confined to those instances where a very small number of properties is involved.

Work has not yet commenced in the laying of storm water sewers in the northern portion of the town.

Considerable extension to the storm water sewers in the Downs Road area to provide for existing streets and the new Downside Estate and for the considerable industrial extension in the Luton Road area and other development which has been and is still being carried out.

No major alteration of existing sewers has been necessary although there have been considerable extensions to provide for new building development.

(c) *Closet Accommodation.*

The number of houses in the Borough without separate closet accommodation or with closet accommodation without flushing apparatus is very small and will shortly be almost, if not altogether, eliminated as a result of Clearance or other action under the Housing Acts.

### 3. **Rivers and Streams.**

There are no rivers or streams in the Borough.

### 4. **Public Cleansing.**

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.*

The Refuse Collection Service was fairly well maintained throughout the year notwithstanding the shortage of the right type of labour. This is only possible by the continual payment of overtime.

Conditions at the Refuse Tip were satisfactory throughout the whole period. No trouble was experienced from rats, due to a large extent, to the care taken by the tip attendant both in the covering of the refuse and careful baiting.

Negotiations are now being undertaken with a view to the purchase of a site in Church Street for the erection of a new depot for housing of vehicles, etc., to replace the very unsatisfactory premises in West Street.

(b) *Salvage.*

The collection of kitchen waste continued throughout the year on the basis of a twice weekly collection from household bins and from the reduced number of street bins. As a result of the removal of Control of Animal Feeding Stuffs and the fact that the Luton Corporation decided to close down their concentrator plant, due to the decline in the demand for waste food concentrate the Council, after giving careful consideration to the whole matter, decided to discontinue the salvage of kitchen waste in February, 1954.



Every endeavour was made, with some degree of success, to transfer certain of the large producers of kitchen waste to private collectors and as a result little inconvenience was caused.

A large number of the waste food containers have already been sold.

Waste paper collection was maintained throughout the year. Prices obtained did not fluctuate to any extent as in previous years. Reference to the table shows that although the amount of waste paper collected exceeded the previous year by about 6 tons and kitchen waste by about 27 tons the total revenue for the year was reduced by about £1,820 due almost entirely to the reduction in the price of waste paper.

The following table shows the amount and value of salvage collected during 1953 and a comparison with 1952 :—

<i>Material</i>	<i>Year 1952</i>				<i>Year 1953</i>			
	<i>tons cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>				<i>tons cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>			
Paper ... ..	202	12	—	—	208	9	2	—
Heavy Iron ... ..	11	13	—	—	8	12	—	—
Rags ... ..	6	5	2	—	4	11	2	—
Brass, lead, aluminium, copper	—	15	—	3	—	13	3	1
Tins ... ..	13	8	3	—	14	—	3	21
Waste Food ... ..	385	2	2	—	412	16	1	—
VALUE ... ..	£5,011 19 3				£3,191 4 9			

### (c) *Cleansing of Cesspools.*

Although the number of cesspools in the Borough has been increased as the result of the erection of houses close to the boundary in the Tring Road area the problem of emptying has not been increased to any extent.

This work is still undertaken by the Luton Rural District Council on payment. The number of cesspools in the Borough does not justify the provision of separate plant by the Council.

## 5. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The following schedules give details and number of inspections made and the results of the notices served :—

	1953
Inspections of premises where nuisances were found	264
Visits to property under notice or re work in progress	349
Visits re drainage of existing buildings	226
Inspection of sanitary accommodation at :—	
Public conveniences	128
Factories with power	54
Factories without power	17
Dairies	4
Bakehouses	16







	1953
<b>(c) Drainage, Paving and Water Supplies.</b>	
Additional kitchen provided ... ..	1
Bathrooms provided ... ..	4
Drains relaid or repaired ... ..	19
W.C. pans renewed ... ..	11
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed ... ..	16
Cold water supply tanks repaired or renewed ... ..	3
W.C. structures repaired, cleansed or rebuilt ... ..	9
Defective joint between flush pipe and w.c. pan renewed ... ..	7
W.C.'s provided with water supply and/or water pipes repaired ... ..	12
Gully drains repaired or dishing renewed ... ..	6
W.C. seats repaired or renewed ... ..	12
Yard paving relaid or provided ... ..	6
Sink and bath wastepipes repaired or renewed ... ..	4
Manholes and/or covers repaired or renewed ... ..	9
Additional sinks provided or renewed ... ..	2
Fresh air inlet repaired or renewed ... ..	1
Lavatory basins provided ... ..	3
<b>(d) Sanitary Accommodation at Inns, Restaurants, Offices, etc.</b>	
Additional sanitary accommodation provided ... ..	3
Sanitary accommodation cleansed or improved ... ..	8
<b>(e) Collection of Refuse and Salvage.</b>	
Offensive accumulations removed ... ..	6
New dustbins provided ... ..	301
<b>(f) Keeping of Animals.</b>	
Accumulations of manure removed ... ..	2
Discontinued after informal action ... ..	3
Reduced after informal action ... ..	1
<b>(g) Verminous Conditions.</b>	
Rooms disinfested ... ..	4
Lorry load of verminous bedding and clothing destroyed ... ..	1
<b>(h) Factories, including Bakehouses.</b>	
Additional sanitary accommodation provided ... ..	3
Intervening ventilated space provided ... ..	4
Improved lighting provided in sanitary accommodation ... ..	6
Existing sanitary accommodation improved ... ..	4
Proper screen provided ... ..	1
Notices exhibited ... ..	1
Washing facilities provided ... ..	3
Existing sanitary accommodation cleansed ... ..	6
Premises cleansed and painted ... ..	4
Premises made safe ... ..	1
Smoke nuisances abated ... ..	2
Sanitary accommodation on building site filled in ... ..	1
Bakehouses cleansed and redecorated ... ..	4
<b>(i) Dairies and Milkshops.</b>	
Dairies cleansed and redecorated ... ..	3
Drains cleared ... ..	2
<b>(j) Restaurant, Hotel and Canteen Kitchens.</b>	
Cleansed ... ..	4
New sinks provided ... ..	1
Additional sanitary accommodation provided ... ..	2
Sanitary accommodation improved ... ..	5
Kitchens improved ... ..	3
Floor repaired ... ..	1
Ceiling repaired ... ..	1
<b>(k) Food Premises.</b>	
Rooms cleansed and decorated ... ..	6
Doors and windows cleansed ... ..	1
Floor cleansed ... ..	2
New sink and washing facilities provided ... ..	2
Hand Washing Notice provided ... ..	5
<b>(l) Shops.</b>	
Cleansed ... ..	2
Washing facilities provided ... ..	1
Drains relaid or cleansed ... ..	1
<b>(m) Tents, Vans and Sheds.</b>	
Vans removed ... ..	2



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

There is no change in the circumstances. There are three premises involved in the collection of rags, two of them on a very small scale.

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 requiring the registration of Marine Store Dealers' premises and for the keeping of records is in force in the Borough.

*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.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	14	17	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	99	70	17	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	4	3	—	—
TOTAL ...	117	90	18	—

(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	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	10	10	—	9	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	2	2	—	2	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ... ..	11	11	—	10	—
(c) not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	27	27	—	21	—

## (3) OUTWORK—SECTIONS 110 AND 111.

<i>Nature of Work</i>	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	<i>No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. Cleaning & washing	40	—	—	—	—	—
Paper Bags ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Feather sorting ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	53	—	—	—	—	—

**6. Moveable Dwellings.**

Twelve applications for licences to station caravans on land and two applications for licences in respect of land to be used for the same purpose were received.

Five licences, for periods up to six months, were granted to station caravans on sites and seven were refused. The two applications in respect of land were also refused.

**7. Smoke Abatement.**

It was found necessary on one occasion to call attention of the occupiers of one factory to the emission of black smoke. In another instance some annoyance was caused to residents in the Capron Road area as a result of deposits from a chimney used in connection with a small smelting furnace at a nearby foundry.

In both cases advice was obtained and every endeavour made to overcome the difficulty.

**8. Swimming Pools.**

Seven samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. In two cases the result was unsatisfactory but in both instances the chlorine content was low. Repeat samples proved satisfactory.

**9. Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

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

						1953
(a) Number of Council Houses	1.	Infested	...	...	...	1
	2.	Disinfested	...	...	...	1
(b) Number of Other Houses	1.	Infested	...	...	...	nil
	2.	Disinfested	...	...	...	nil.



## 10. Rodent Control.

During the year the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries were fulfilled so as to qualify for grant aid. A total of 496 visits were made in the course of inspections and treatments for the destruction of the common rat and the house mouse. Some 133 properties were involved and of these 97 were found to be infested. All treatments were carried out by the staff of the department.

A large scale treatment at the sewage works seemed to be very successful. The numbers were not great but the infestation was widely scattered.

The Corporation Refuse Tip was also treated to deal with recurring infestations.

Treatment of the sewers began with a maintenance treatment made to complete the required activity within the financial year 1952-53. The Annual Test bait was carried out later in the year and this was successfully combined with another treatment. Infestations, however, were not heavy and the number of takes were comparatively small.

## SECTION D :—

### HOUSING.

#### (a) *Unfit Properties and Repairs.*

A considerable number of visits have now been made to the older properties in the town with a view to the preparation of the Proposals for dealing with unfit houses which are to be submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government before the end of August, 1955, as a result of the coming into force of the Housing, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Since the last Report the twenty families who were housed in the Army Hutments at First Avenue which were regarded as unfit for habitation have been moved to other accommodation and the Huts demolished.

Other unfit properties have been dealt with under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, resulting in the service of one Demolition Order and four Closing Orders. These Orders will remain in force until such time as it becomes possible to demolish the houses without injury to adjoining property or until adjoining houses can also be dealt with in a similar manner. One undertaking to recondition a house was accepted and the work has since been carried out. Notice of intention to consider Closing Orders or the future user of six other houses have also been served on interested persons.



Consideration is now being given to the best procedure to be adopted to deal with the unfit properties in the Chapel Walk and St. Mary's Street area immediately adjoining Ashton Street. Every endeavour is being made to commence procedure for clearance irrespective of the proposals mentioned above.

Suggestions for the improvement of the Ashton Street/West Street and Chews Almshouses have been submitted to the persons in charge. In the case of Chews Almshouses proposals have been submitted to the Charity Commissioners while the Trustees of the Ashton Almshouses Charity are endeavouring to obtain the release of the necessary Capital to carry out the work.

A small number of applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, have been received but it is hoped that this provision may be used to a greater extent in dealing with some of the older type of property in the Borough.

(b) *New Housing.*

The number of new houses completed during 1953 was :—

(a)	By the Council	...	...	...	...	138
(b)	By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	43

The Council is now completing the development of the Brewers Hill Estate and has commenced the erection of houses on the Downside Estate. There is also much activity by private developers.

(c) *Overcrowding and Re-housing.*

While there are still a number of cases of overcrowding in the Borough there are not many of the really serious kind when judged on the Housing Acts standards. The kind of overcrowding now met is confined more to overcrowding in bedrooms rather than in houses themselves or as a result of the inconvenience due to occupation of houses by more than one family even though the number of inmates may be reasonably small.

The number of applicants on the Council Waiting List at the end of June, 1954, was :—

Live List	...	...	...	...	...	280
Deferred List	...	...	...	...	...	205
Aged Persons Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	91
Total	...	...	...	...	...	576



## SECTION E :—

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## 1. Milk Supply.

(a) *Registration under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

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

Distributors of Milk	...	...	48
Dairies	...	...	9

Dealers' Licences authorising use of Special Designation :—

(i.) Pasteurised	...	...	11
(ii.) Sterilised	...	...	31
(iii.) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	11

Supplementary Licences authorising use of Special Designations :—

(i.) Pasteurised	...	...	5
(ii.) Sterilised	...	...	1
(iii.) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	3

(b) *Inspections.*

Ninety-one visits were made in connection with the inspection of dairies and thirty-eight were made in connection with sampling.

(c) *Prosecutions.*

One dairyman was prosecuted for unclean conditions in a dairy and for unsatisfactory storage of milk bottle caps and fines amounting to £10 were imposed.

(d) *Sampling.*

Thirty-six samples were submitted for examination. Eight samples failed to comply with the prescribed tests. The one sample so examined showed no evidence of tuberculosis or brucella abortus.

## RECORD OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1953.

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	Ungraded	No	0 hours	—	—	—	—
2	"	No	1 hour	—	—	—	—
3	"	No	3½ hours	—	—	—	—
4	"	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
5	"	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
6	"	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
7	"T.T.	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
8	Pasteurised	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
9	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—	—
10	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
11	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
12	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
13	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
14	Ungraded	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
15	"	No	2 hours	—	—	—	—
16	"	No	4 hours	—	—	—	—
17	"	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
18	Pasteurised	Yes	—	Satisfactory	—	—	—
19	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
20	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
21	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
22	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
23	"T.T. Pasteurised	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
24	Accredited	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
25	Ungraded	No	1 hour	—	—	—	—
26	"	No	0 hours	—	—	—	—
27	"	Yes	0 hours	—	—	—	—
28	Pasteurised	No	—	Satisfactory	—	—	—
29	"	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
30	"T.T. Pasteurised	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
31	Pasteurised	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
32	Sterilised	Yes	—	"	—	—	—
33	Ungraded	Yes	—	"	Satisfactory	—	—
34	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	Accredited	Yes	—	—	—	—	—
36	Ungraded	Yes	—	—	—	No evidence	No evidence



### *Ice-Cream Sampling.*

Twenty-one samples were submitted for examination. Nine were graded as Grade I. ; five as Grade II. ; six as Grade III. and one as Grade IV.

Fourteen of the samples were submitted wrapped for sale. It is of interest to note that of these only four were graded as Grade I. and five as Grade II. while five of them fell into Grades III. and IV.

The suggested standard is that 50% of the samples for 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.

In each case where an unsatisfactory result was obtained repeat samples were taken and reference to the table (i.e., serial letter H) will show how a Grade III. result was followed by three Grade I. results from the same producer.

Identity and No. of Sample	Presumptive Coli	Faecal Coli	Methylene Blue decolourised in hours	Prov. Grading	Remarks
A.1	—	—	4 +	1	Wrapped block
B.1	—	—	4	2	Wrapped block
B.2	—	—	4	2	Wrapped
C.1	—	—	4 +	1	Wrapped
C.2	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
D.1	—	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3	Wrapped
D.2	—	—	3	2	Wrapped
D.3	—	—	0	4	Wrapped
D.4	—	—	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2	Wrapped
E.1	—	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3	Wrapped
E.2	—	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3	Wrapped
E.3	—	—	2	3	Wrapped
F.1	—	—	4 +	1	Wrapped
G.1	—	—	4 +	1	Wrapped
H.1	—	—	1	3	Complete cold mix
H.2	—	—	4 +	1	Complete cold mix
H.3	—	—	4 +	1	Complete cold mix
H.4.	—	—	4 +	1	Complete cold mix
J.1	—	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$	2	Complete cold mix
J.2	—	—	1	3	Complete cold mix
J.3	—	—	4 +	1	Complete cold mix
K.1	—	—	4 +	1	Complete cold mix

### *(d) Water and Similar Ice Lollies.*

Ten samples were submitted, seven of which were examined. The results are given below :—

Identity and No. of Sample	P.H. Value	Bacillus Coli Present or Absent	Faecal Coli Present or Absent	Remarks
A.1	7	Present	Absent	—
B.1	7	Present	Present	—
B.2	7	Present	Present	—
B.3	6	Absent	Present	—
B.4		Present	Present	—
C.1	7	Present	Absent	—
C.2	5	Present	Absent	—

### *(e) Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947/1952.*

There are six registered manufacturers. A complete cold mix is used in every case.



## 2. Meat and Other Foods.

### (a) Slaughterhouse.

The only Slaughterhouse in the Borough, which is privately owned, is of fairly modern construction and has been used to capacity by the Ministry of Food during the whole period of Meat Control.

With the removal of control early in July, 1954, consultations took place between Council Officials, Butchers and other interested persons to make arrangements to ensure that sufficient and suitable accommodation was available to meet local needs.

The present slaughterhouse was considered to be adequate. No difficulty has been experienced and it is being used by butchers from outside as well as those inside the Borough.

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

The number of animals slaughtered increased from 6,738 in 1952 to 7,375 in 1953.

The number of cows slaughtered, compared with other cattle, dropped from 8.2% in 1952 to 6.1% in 1953 and it is interesting to note that the percentage of animals slaughtered and found to be affected with tuberculosis was lower in each class.

CARCASES 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	2,189	135	309	3,292	1,450
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	—	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	682	36	—	78	96
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tuber- culosis ... ..	31.29	26.66	—	2.36	6.82
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses condemned	12	3	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	177	25	—	1	41
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	8.62	20.74	0.32	0.03	2.82



*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 during the year.

Table showing monthly totals of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1953.

<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>
January ...	109	7	27	135	69	347
February ...	72	8	6	135	70	291
March ...	145	9	11	48	103	316
April ...	163	8	20	212	187	590
May ...	151	11	13	250	73	498
June ...	136	14	13	667	92	922
July ...	242	8	25	410	91	776
August ...	277	21	20	291	43	652
September ...	379	15	46	422	97	959
October ...	237	14	90	316	177	834
November ...	150	12	32	235	118	547
December ...	128	8	6	171	330	643
TOTALS ...	2,189	135	309	3,292	1,450	7,375

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>
January ...	1,632	—	24	186	1,842
February ...	1,944	—	4	88	2,036
March ...	1,010	—	17	787	1,814
April ...	1,678	—	10	219	1,907
May ...	982	—	7	133	1,122
June ...	1,403	—	181	93	1,677
July ...	2,967	—	68	272	3,307
August ...	4,651	77	3	168	4,899
September ...	5,857	—	12	—	5,869
October ...	2,684	—	18	148	2,850
November ...	3,202	—	30	185	3,417
December ...	3,591	—	28	233	3,852
TOTALS	31,601	77	402	2,512	34,592

*Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.*

All licences to act as slaughtermen issued by the Council expired on the 31st December, 1953. Of the eight persons so licensed only five applied to have their licences renewed. There was also one application for a new licence.

The six slaughtermen now licensed operate within 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 865.

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, Packets or Jars</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Beef ... ..	—	51
Mutton ... ..	—	8½
Lamb ... ..	—	16
Pork ... ..	—	26½
Minced Meat ... ..	—	60
Liver ... ..	—	5½
Sausage ... ..	—	609
Faggots ... ..	30	—
Black Pudding ... ..	—	10
Meat Pies ... ..	83	—
Bacon ... ..	—	36
Ham ... ..	—	366
Meat ... ..	143	—
Soup ... ..	1,226	—
Vegetables (various) ... ..	144	—
Beetroot ... ..	254	—
Tomatoes ... ..	1,478	—
Tomato Juice ... ..	29	—
Fruit ... ..	1,419	—
Fruit Juices ... ..	221	—
Fish ... ..	173	—
Fish Paste ... ..	118	—
Pickles and condiments ... ..	44	—
Synthetic essence ... ..	36	—
Mincemeat ... ..	5	—
Puddings ... ..	26	—
Milk and cream ... ..	37	—
Cereals ... ..	2	—
Flour and biscuits ... ..	2	—
Chocolate ... ..	1	—



(c) *Prosecutions—Food not of the Nature, Substance or Quality Demanded.*

- (i.) Proceedings were instituted against a butcher under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in respect of the sale of a sausage containing tobacco and cigarette paper.

A fine of £10 was imposed.

- (ii.) A baker was prosecuted under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for selling an eccles cake containing a cigarette end.

The Justices found the case against the baker proved, and gave him a conditional discharge, on payment of costs.

(d) *Food Premises Generally.*

- (i.) The number and type of food premises in the Borough at the end of the year was :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Pastry Cooks	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers	...	...	...	...	21
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	13
Fish-shops (wet and fried)	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	14
Grocers and General Provision Merchants					48
Wholesale Grocers	...	...	...	...	1
Hotels	...	...	...	...	5
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	29
Restaurants, Cafes and Factory Canteens					29
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1

Reference to the Schedule of Work Done during the year will show that steady progress is still being maintained in improving the standard of food premises.

(ii.) *Proceedings—Section 13 Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

Proceedings were instituted before the Justices against the Proprietress of a cafe and an employee as under :—

<i>Section</i>	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
13 (1) (h)	Failure to observe cleanliness— room, utensils, etc. ...	Employee fined £2
13 (2) (b)	Permitting the above ...	Proprietress fined £5
13 (1) (g)	Failure to cleanse floor ...	Proprietress fined £5

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

Proceedings were instituted against a cafe proprietress and fines imposed as under.

<i>Byelaw</i>	<i>Offence</i>	<i>Result</i>
4 (a)	Failure to protect food against dust, dirt and rodents ... ..	Fined £2
4 (c)	Failure to cleanse shelves, cupboards, in kitchen	Fined £2

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

The number and kind of food premises registered at the end of the year was :—

Preparation of fried fish	...	...	...	8
Manufacture of sausages	...	...	...	17
Preparation of cooked meat	...	...	...	9
Manufacture of meat pies	...	...	...	3
Sale and manufacture of ice-cream	...	...	...	6
Sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	58

Three hundred and fifty-six visits were made in connection with these premises.

(g) *Adulteration of Food.*

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

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

No samples were submitted.

(i) *Food poisoning.*

One case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

## Rainfall.

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Inches</i>
1944 ... ..	20.68
1945 ... ..	21.28
1946 ... ..	27.99
1947 ... ..	20.21
1948 ... ..	25.60
1949 ... ..	21.47
1950 ... ..	30.63
1951 ... ..	31.99
1952 ... ..	27.39
1953 ... ..	20.61





