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BOROUGH OF DUNSTABLE



REPORT

ON THE


HEALTH OF DUNSTABLE

FOR THE YEAR 1955

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 1955

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
PRIORY HOUSE,  
DUNSTABLE.

26th November, 1956

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 1955.

This year showed the beginning of great changes in the  
Borough in the development of new housing estates and the  
demolition of insanitary property. The population continues  
to increase and the post war problems of overcrowding are now  
being solved.

The year was healthy with no serious epidemics. There  
were 30 deaths from Cancer during the year which is about the  
average for the last ten years and this in spite of an  
increased population.

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.

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 S. C. Nicholson.

SECTION A :-

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Vital Statistics.

Area of Borough, 2,085 acres.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Population as estimated by Registrar-General  | 18,140        |
| Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book<br>as at 31st December, 1955.. .. . | 5,968         |
| Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1955.. .. .                                       | £ 107,906     |
| Sum produced by a penny rate taken at<br>31st March, 1955 .. .. .                     | £ 396. 8. 2d. |

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

The following tables give extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year 1955 as furnished by the Registrar-General :-

|              | Total | M.  | F.  |   |
|--------------|-------|-----|-----|---|
| Live Births  | 266   | 142 | 124 | } Birth rate per 1,000 of<br>population 14.7        |
| Legitimate   | 259   | 139 | 120 |   |
| Illegitimate | 7     | 3   | 4   |   |
| Still Births | 9     | 5   | 4   | } Rate per 1,000 (live<br>and still)<br>Births 32.7 |
| Legitimate   | 8     | 4   | 4   |   |
| Illegitimate | 1     | 1   | -   |   |
| Deaths       | 171   | 88  | 83  | } Death rate per 1,000 of<br>population 9.5         |

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, 14.7, comparability factor, 0.99, | adjusted birth rate .. | 14.6 |
| Death Rate, 9.5, comparability factor, 1.05,  | adjusted death rate .. | 9.9  |

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :-

|  |  |       |      |
|--|--|-------|------|
| Total  | 6. Rate per 1,000 live births ..           | .. .. | 22.6 |
| Legitimate                                   | 6. Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births.. |       | 23.2 |
| 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)                | .. .. ..                                   | .. .. | 30   |

### Population

The population figures as supplied by the Registrar-General for last ten years are as follows :-

|                 |          |        |
|-----------------|----------|--------|
| 1946 (mid-year) | .. .. .. | 16,010 |
| 1947 "          | .. .. .. | 16,490 |
| 1948 "          | .. .. .. | 16,990 |
| 1949 "          | .. .. .. | 17,110 |
| 1950 "          | .. .. .. | 17,260 |
| 1951 "          | .. .. .. | 17,070 |
| 1952 "          | .. .. .. | 17,090 |
| 1953 "          | .. .. .. | 17,270 |
| 1954 "          | .. .. .. | 17,570 |
| 1955 "          | .. .. .. | 18,140 |

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

|      |          |      |
|------|----------|------|
| 1946 | .. .. .. | 9.3  |
| 1947 | .. .. .. | 15.9 |
| 1948 | .. .. .. | 11.1 |
| 1949 | .. .. .. | 5.5  |
| 1950 | .. .. .. | 5.7  |
| 1951 | .. .. .. | 2.4  |
| 1952 | .. .. .. | 1.5  |
| 1953 | .. .. .. | 5.1  |
| 1954 | .. .. .. | 5.2  |
| 1955 | .. .. .. | 5.2  |

### Causes of Death

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

| Causes of Death                             | Males | Females |
|---|-------|---------|
| All causes .. .. .                          | 88    | 83      |
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .        | -     | -       |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other .. .. .              | 1     | -       |
| 3. Syphilitic disease.. .. .                | -     | -       |
| 4. Diphtheria .. .. .                       | -     | -       |
| 5. Whooping Cough .. .. .                   | -     | -       |
| 6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .         | -     | -       |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .              | -     | -       |
| 8. Measles .. .. .                          | -     | -       |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases   | -     | -       |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .     | 1     | 3       |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus      | 7     | 2       |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .      | -     | 3       |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .      | -     | 1       |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 8     | 5       |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .           | -     | -       |
| 16. Diabetes.. .. .                         | -     | 2       |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system      | 14    | 18      |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina .. .. .        | 12    | 7       |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease .. .. . | 3     | 4       |
| 20. Other heart disease .. .. .             | 3     | 14      |
| 21. Other circulatory disease .. .. .       | 6     | 4       |
| 22. Influenza .. .. .                       | 1     | -       |
| 23. Pneumonia .. .. .                       | 7     | 4       |
| 24. Bronchitis .. .. .                      | 5     | -       |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system    | -     | -       |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .   | -     | -       |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea      | 2     | -       |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis.. .. .          | -     | 2       |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate.. .. .          | 2     | -       |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. . | -     | -       |
| 31. Congenital malformations .. .. .        | 2     | 1       |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | 10    | 9       |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents.. .. .          | 3     | -       |
| 34. All other accidents .. .. .             | 1     | 4       |
| 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.

|                      | Weeks |    |    |    | Total under one month | Months |    |    |    | Total under one year. |
|----------------------|-------|----|----|----|-----------------------|--------|----|----|----|-----------------------|
|                      | 0-    | 1- | 2- | 3- |                       | 1-     | 3- | 6- | 9- |                       |
| Prematurity .. ..    | 1     | -  | -  | -  | 1                     | -      | -  | -  | -  | 1                     |
| Debility at birth .. | 1     | -  | -  | -  | 1                     | -      | -  | -  | -  | 1                     |
| Birth deformity ..   | 1     | 1  | -  | -  | 2                     | 1      | -  | -  | -  | 3                     |
| Accidental death ..  | -     | -  | -  | -  | -                     | 1      | -  | -  | -  | 1                     |
| Totals ..            | 3     | 1  | -  | -  | 4                     | 2      | -  | -  | -  | 6                     |

### INFANT MORTALITY

|         | Total Live Births | Infantile Mortality Rate-Dunstable | Infantile Mortality Rate-England and Wales |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 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   |
| 1954 .. | 288               | 35                                 | 26   |
| 1955 .. | 266               | 23                                 | 25   |

### Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during 1955.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
MATERNAL DEATH RATES AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1955.

(England and Wales)

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

|   | Borough<br>of<br>Dunstable              | England<br>and Wales |
|---|---|----------------------|
|   | Rates per 1,000<br>Civilian Population. |                      |
| <b>Births:</b>  |   |                      |
| Live .. .. .  | 14.7                                    | 15.0                 |
| Still.. .. .  | ( 0.49<br>32.7(a)                       | ( 0.35<br>23.1(a)    |
| <b>Deaths:</b>  |   |                      |
| All causes.. .. .   | 9.5                                     | 11.7                 |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.. .. .                         | -                                       | -                    |
| Whooping Cough .. .. .  | -                                       | 0.00                 |
| Diphtheria.. .. .   | -                                       | 0.00                 |
| Tuberculosis .. .. .  | 0.06                                    | 0.15                 |
| Influenza .. .. .   | 0.06                                    | 0.07                 |
| Smallpox .. .. .  | -                                       | -                    |
| Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-<br>encephalitis).. .. . | -                                       | 0.01                 |
| Pneumonia .. .. .   | 0.61                                    | 0.51                 |
| <b>Notifications:</b>   |   |                      |
| Typhoid Fever .. .. .   | -                                       | 0.00                 |
| Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .                                     | -                                       | 0.02                 |
| Meningococcal Infection .. .. .                               | -                                       | 0.03                 |
| Scarlet Fever .. .. .   | 0.55                                    | 0.73                 |
| Whooping Cough .. .. .  | 0.99                                    | 1.78                 |
| Diphtheria.. .. .   | -                                       | 0.00                 |
| Erysipelas.. .. .   | 0.06                                    | 0.10                 |
| Smallpox .. .. .  | -                                       | -                    |
| Measles .. .. .   | 19.14                                   | 15.61                |
| Pneumonia .. .. .   | 0.12                                    | 0.63                 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis, Paralytic.. .. .                         | 0.06                                    | 0.08                 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis, Non-paralytic .. .. .                    | -                                       | 0.06                 |
| Food Poisoning .. .. .  | 0.33                                    | 0.28                 |

|  | Borough<br>of<br>Dunstable                          | England<br>and Wales |
|--|---|----------------------|
|  | Rates per 1,000<br>live births                      |                      |
| Deaths under 1 year of age .. .. .                                   | 22.6  | 24.9 †               |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis<br>under 2 years of age. . . . . | -   | 0.8                  |
|  | Rates per 1,000<br>Total Births<br>(live and still) |                      |
| (a) Notifications  |   |                      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .  | -   | 17.79                |
| (b) Maternal Mortality   |   |                      |
| Sepsis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and<br>the Puerperium .. .. .        | -   |                      |
| Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy.. ..                                    | -   |                      |
| Abortion with Toxaemia .. .. .                                       | -   | } 0.10               |
| Abortion with Sepsis .. .. .   | -   |                      |
| Abortion without Sepsis . . . . .                                    | -   |                      |
| Other Complications of Pregnancy,<br>Childbirth and Puerperium .. .. | -   | 0.54                 |

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 1946 - 1955

| Year | Estima-<br>ted Popula-<br>tion | Live Births |   | Still-Births |   | Deaths |   | Infant Deaths       |                               |                         | Maternal Deaths                        |        |       | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>total<br>births |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|--------------|---|--------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------|-------|---|
|      |                                | No.         | Rate per<br>1,000<br>estimated<br>popula-<br>tion | No.          | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>total<br>births | No.    | Rate per<br>1,000<br>estimated<br>popula-<br>tion | Under<br>4<br>weeks | 4<br>weeks<br>to 12<br>months | Total<br>live<br>births | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>live<br>births | Sepsis | Other |   |
| 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     | 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                                     | -      | -     | -                                       |
| 1954 | 17,570                         | 288         | 16.4  | 8            | 27.0                                    | 196    | 11.2  | 8                   | 2                             | 10                      | 35                                     | -      | -     | -                                       |
| 1955 | 18,140                         | 266         | 14.7  | 9            | 32.7                                    | 171    | 9.5   | 4                   | 2                             | 6                       | 23                                     | -      | -     | -                                       |

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 causes of Infectious Diseases notified during 1955 together with the number admitted to hospital, and the deaths from these diseases :-

| Diseases                    | Total Cases Notified | Cases Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths Registered |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever .. .. .       | 8                    | -                          | -                       |
| Whooping Cough .. .. .      | 18                   | -                          | -                       |
| Acute Poliomyelitis :       |                      |                            |                         |
| Paralytic .. .. .           | 1                    | 1                          | -                       |
| Non-Paralytic .. .. .       | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Measles (excluding rubella) | 347                  | -                          | -                       |
| Diphtheria.. .. .           | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Ac. Pneumonia .. .. .       | 2                    | -                          | 11                      |
| Dysentery .. .. .           | 1                    | -                          | -                       |
| Smallpox .. .. .            | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Acute Encephalitis :        |                      |                            |                         |
| Infective .. .. .           | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Post-infectious .. .. .     | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Paratyphoid fevers .. .. .  | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Erysipelas.. .. .           | 1                    | 1                          | -                       |
| Meningococcal infection ..  | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Food Poisoning .. .. .      | 6                    | -                          | -                       |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .   | -                    | -                          | -                       |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum ..    | -                    | -                          | -                       |

The following table gives an analysis of the more important causes of Infectious Diseases notified, according to age :-

| Disease               | Age          |        |        |        |          |          |             |         | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|-------------|---------|-------|
|                       | Under 1 year | 1 to 2 | 3 to 4 | 5 to 9 | 10 to 14 | 15 to 24 | 25 and over | Unknown |       |
| Scarlet Fever .. .. . | -            | -      | 1      | 6      | 1        | -        | -           | -       | 8     |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis:    |              |        |        |        |          |          |             |         |       |
| Paralytic .. .. .     | -            | -      | -      | -      | -        | 1        | -           | -       | 1     |
| Measles .. .. .       | 9            | 50     | 10     | 180    | 4        | 1        | 1           | 1       | 347   |

No cases of Smallpox were notified during the year.

### Scarlet Fever

| Year | No. of Cases | Case-rate per 1,000 | Case-rate for England and Wales |
|------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1955 | 8            | 0.55                | 0.73                            |

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

|      |    |    |    |      |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|------|----|----|----|
| 1946 | .. | .. | 31 | 1951 | .. | .. | 6  |
| 1947 | .. | .. | 19 | 1952 | .. | .. | 7  |
| 1948 | .. | .. | 9  | 1953 | .. | .. | 16 |
| 1949 | .. | .. | 19 | 1954 | .. | .. | 26 |
| 1950 | .. | .. | 27 | 1955 | .. | .. | 8  |

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

|      |    |    |   |      |    |    |   |
|------|----|----|---|------|----|----|---|
| 1946 | .. | .. | 2 | 1951 | .. | .. | 0 |
| 1947 | .. | .. | 2 | 1952 | .. | .. | 0 |
| 1948 | .. | .. | 2 | 1953 | .. | .. | 0 |
| 1949 | .. | .. | 0 | 1954 | .. | .. | 0 |
| 1950 | .. | .. | 0 | 1955 | .. | .. | 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 ten years :-

| Year | Males | Females | Total | Rate per 1,000 |
|------|-------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 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           |
| 1954 | 15    | 23      | 38    | 2.16           |
| 1955 | 16    | 14      | 30    | 1.65           |

## Tuberculosis

New cases and mortality during 1955 :-

| Age Periods   | New Cases   |          |                 |          | Deaths      |          |                 |          |
|---------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
|               | Respiratory |          | Non-Respiratory |          | Respiratory |          | Non-Respiratory |          |
|               | M.          | F.       | M.              | F.       | M.          | F.       | M.              | F.       |
| Under 5 years | -           | -        | -               | -        | -           | -        | -               | -        |
| 5 - 14 "      | 1           | 1        | -               | 1        | -           | -        | -               | -        |
| 15 - 24 "     | -           | 1        | 1               | -        | -           | -        | 1               | -        |
| 25 - 44 "     | 9           | 1        | -               | -        | -           | -        | -               | -        |
| 45 - 64 "     | 4           | -        | -               | -        | -           | -        | -               | -        |
| 65 and over   | 1           | -        | -               | -        | -           | -        | -               | -        |
| Age unknown   | -           | -        | 1               | -        | -           | -        | -               | -        |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>15</b>   | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b>        | <b>1</b> | <b>-</b>    | <b>-</b> | <b>1</b>        | <b>-</b> |

### DEATH RATES PER 1,000 FROM TUBERCULOSIS

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| Pulmonary.. .. .      | ---  |
| Non-Pulmonary .. .. . | 0.06 |

REPORT  
OF THE  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1955

---

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
PRIORY HOUSE,  
HIGH STREET SOUTH,  
DUNSTABLE.

20th August, 1956.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1955.

The year has been important in that it was possible to recommence the clearance of unfit properties after the work had been held up for so many years due to War and Post-War conditions. Demolition in the St. Mary's Street/Chapel Walk Areas and of certain other properties in High Street South and Church Street is now well in hand. It should shortly be possible to proceed with routine inspections with a view to the carrying out of works of repair in other properties.

The Food Hygiene Regulations which recently came into force has now given much wider scope to deal with unsatisfactory personal habits and more defined and reasonable standards of premises, stalls, etc. Although the Regulations call for much of the time of the staff the local response so far would appear to indicate a desire on the part of the traders to co-operate.

The introduction of new plant for the collection and disposal of house refuse should help considerably in both directions but no progress has yet been made in connection with the erection of a new Depot to replace the present unsatisfactory buildings.



Due to my impending retirement this is the last Annual Report which I shall have the privilege to present to the Council. I would therefore like to record my thanks for the kindly and helpful manner in which I have been supported during the twenty-one years I have held office in the Borough and to the Medical Officer of Health for his support and friendship and for the many acts of kindness extended to me.

I appreciate the fact that I have always been loyally supported by a good staff, some of whom have been associated with me for many years, and to them I tender my warmest thanks.

I shall continue to watch the fortunes of the Council and the Borough with more than a passing interest and wish you every success.

Yours obediently,

A. BISHOP,

Senior Sanitary Inspector

SECTION C :-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY.

The position regarding the supply of water remains unchanged. During the year the consumption reached 431,044,000 gallons giving a daily average of 1.18 million gallons.

Of this amount 277,622,000 gallons were pumped from Wells owned by the National Gas Board in the Borough the remaining 153,422,000 gallons being received from the Friars Wash supply. All water is subject to chlorination.

There was no shortage of water during the year.

Apart from the works necessary to provide for the rapidly expanding industrial and residential estates there were no new major works within the Borough which call for special comment.

The quality of the water supplied remains good and there are no special risks involved in collection or distribution.

There are still a few houses without a separate piped supply but these are being reduced and will shortly be entirely eliminated as a result of the progress now being made with regard to the demolition of unfit properties.

Results of the Examination of Water Samples.

Bacteriological Samples.

A total of 112 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these, twelve samples were taken by the staff of the Public Health Department and the remainder by the Eastern Gas Board. Copies of the results of the examination of all samples taken are now forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health and as a result closer contact is maintained.

In general the results were found to be very satisfactory but on one occasion a high bacillus coli content was followed by careful enquiry and check sampling which seemed to denote unsatisfactory sampling rather than unsatisfactory conditions at the source of supply or delivery. At any rate the matter was quickly cleared up and the check samples were satisfactory.

A typical bacteriological Report shows:-

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

#### Chemical Analysis

Three samples were submitted by the Eastern Gas Board. An examination of the reports show that the result was satisfactory in each case. A typical report shows:-

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. 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 quality.

In the aspect of the Chemical Analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

## 2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the following information regarding drainage and sewerage:-

With the exception of extensions on the Downside Estate, no additional Foul Water Sewers were laid by the Council, although private enterprise has been responsible for new lengths of sewer in the Poynters Road area.

The construction of the new Sewage Disposal Works commenced on 25th April 1955 on a two years contract at a cost of £188,000. Bad weather and shortage of labour delayed progress during the year, and it is now estimated that the initial contract for a 30,000 works will be completed during the Autumn of 1957.

Provision in the contract was made for a further 10,000 unit to be built if required, and the increasing demands of Industry will undoubtedly make the construction of this additional unit an immediate necessity.

Included amongst the projects which have been under consideration during the year are a new Foul Water Outfall Sewer from the Disposal Works to Houghton Regis village, with the possible duplication of the existing sewer beyond this point as far as the new industrial area off Luton Road, and the provision of new outfall sewers to drain the extensive area of development to the south-west of the town between Mead Way and Southfields.

### 3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There are no rivers or streams in the Borough.

### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING

#### (a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The general position with regard to the lack of suitable labour remained unaltered during the whole period and it was impossible to maintain anything like a satisfactory service. While every possible effort was made to give as good a service as possible I am afraid that householders and occupiers of other premises were hard pressed at times. However, it is to their credit that with very few exceptions they appreciated the position and were helpful rather than critical.

Conditions are now slightly improved and the introduction of a second bulk loading vehicle already shows signs of speeding up the collection and I am satisfied that it will shortly be possible to re-arrange the existing employees to give a third team.

The West Street Depot is gradually but surely falling to pieces and any attempt to even carry on minor repairs are a waste of time and effort. Although attempts are continually being made to settle the question of a new Depot nothing of a concrete character seems to materialise.

Under present conditions it is impossible to expect good service from either employees or vehicles.

Conditions at the Tip at the foot of the Downs have considerably improved during recent months as a result of the introduction of a Tipmaster. Refuse is now levelled off, covered and properly consolidated as soon as it is received.

The present tip will provide for the needs of the Borough for possibly two years at the most and for this reason every endeavour is being made to find another suitable site.

(b) Salvage.

Waste Paper and other articles are collected and deposited in trailers attached to the refuse collecting vehicles. A separate collection is made from the larger shops and business premises.

The following table shows the amount and value of salvage collected during 1955 and a comparison with 1954 :-

| Material                         | Year 1954        |       |      |      | Year 1955         |       |      |      |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------|------|------|-------------------|-------|------|------|
|                                  | tons             | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. | tons              | cwts. | qrs. | lbs. |
| Paper.. ..                       | 215              | 14    | 3    | -    | 241               | 16    | 2    | -    |
| Heavy Iron.. ..                  | 13               | 16    | 2    | 14   | 6                 | 13    | 2    | -    |
| Rags .. ..                       | 3                | 13    | -    | 10   | 2                 | 15    | -    | 14   |
| Brass, lead<br>aluminium, copper | -                | 16    | 1    | 19   | -                 | 12    | -    | 9    |
| Tins .. ..                       | 2                | 9     | 3    | -    | -                 | -     | -    | -    |
| Waste Food.. ..                  | 25               | 14    | -    | -    | -                 | -     | -    | -    |
| VALUE..                          | £ 1,805. 19. 3d. |       |      |      | £ 2,127. 18. 11d. |       |      |      |

(c) Cleansing of Cesspools.

Conditions remain unchanged and the number of cesspools in the Borough is very small. The work of emptying is undertaken by the Luton Rural District Council upon payment by the Corporation.

Two cesspools serving two houses in Half Moon Lane have been abolished as a result of the premises being connected to the sewer.

5. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

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

|  | 1955 |
|--|------|
| Inspections of premises where nuisances were found or complaints investigated.. .. | 291  |
| Visits to property under notice or re work in progress                             | 400  |
| Visits re drainage of existing buildings.. ..                                      | 238  |
| Visits re cesspools .. ..  | 12   |
| Inspection of sanitary accommodation at:   |      |
| Public Conveniences .. ..  | 78   |
| Cafes, Hotels, Public Houses, etc. .. ..   | 61   |
| Factories with power .. ..   | 57   |

|  | 1955 |
|--|------|
| Factories without power .. .. .                            | 5    |
| Bakehouses .. .. .   | 24   |
| Shops .. .. .  | 19   |
| Schools .. .. .  | 18   |
| Visits re collection and disposal of refuse and salvage    | 454  |
| Visits re marine stores .. .. .                            | 1    |
| Visits re rodent control .. .. .                           | 525  |
| Visits re verminous conditions and other pests .. .. .     | 29   |
| Visits re keeping of animals .. .. .                       | 2    |
| Visits re manufacture, preparation and storage of food:-   |      |
| Slaughterhouse.. .. .                                      | 373  |
| Bakehouses .. .. .   | 31   |
| Butchers and Grocers .. .. .                               | 72   |
| Shops .. .. .  | 2    |
| Fish Shops .. .. .   | 12   |
| Dairies .. .. .  | 25   |
| Ice-cream premises .. .. .                                 | 46   |
| School canteens .. .. .                                    | 10   |
| Hotels, cafes, etc... .. .                                 | 32   |
| Market stalls .. .. .                                      | 62   |
| Visits re unsound food.. .. .                              | 39   |
| Visits re sampling of food .. .. .                         | 3    |
| Visits re sampling of ice-cream .. .. .                    | 17   |
| Visits re sampling of milk .. .. .                         | 7    |
| Visits re housing applications .. .. .                     | 46   |
| Visits re overcrowding.. .. .                              | 5    |
| Visits re unfit conditions .. .. .                         | 160  |
| Visits re proposed clearance areas .. .. .                 | 22   |
| Visits re housing survey (Five Year Plan) .. .. .          | 329  |
| Visits re Repairs and Rents Act 1954 .. .. .               | 35   |
| Visits re caravans, etc. .. .. .                           | 54   |
| Visits re infectious disease and disinfection .. .. .      | 71   |
| Visits re Improvement under Housing Act, 1949 .. .. .      | 379  |
| Visits re Shops Act .. .. .                                | 16   |
| Visits re sampling of water at Swimming Pools .. .. .      | 15   |
| Visits re water sampling .. .. .                           | 16   |
| Visits re Pet Animals Act .. .. .                          | 6    |
| Visits re old people in need of care and attention .. .. . | 18   |
| Visits re National Assistance Act, 1948 .. .. .            | 19   |
| Visits re Atmospheric Pollution .. .. .                    | 10   |
| Visits re exchange of Toys for Rags .. .. .                | 2    |
| Miscellaneous visits .. .. .                               | 158  |

|  | 1955 |
|--|------|
| Number of Abatement Notices served .. .. .       | 7    |
| Number of Abatement Notices complied with.. .. . | 7    |
| Number of Informal Notices given .. .. .         | 126  |
| Number of Informal Notices complied with .. .. . | 125  |

SCHEDULE OF WORK DONE

|   | 1955 |
|---|------|
| <u>(a) Structural Defects</u>   |      |
| Roofs repaired and made weatherproof .. .. .  | 37   |
| Eaves gutters repaired or renewed . . . . .   | 19   |
| Chimneys repointed, etc., and pots renewed .. .. .                                  | 17   |
| R.W. pipes refixed, repaired or renewed.. .. .                                      | 7    |
| Window and frames repaired or renewed .. .. .                                       | 39   |
| Window sill repaired or renewed .. .. .   | 5    |
| Doors and frames repaired or renewed .. .. .  | 8    |
| Main walls repointed or cement rendered.. .. .                                      | 11   |
| Main walls rebuilt and/or tied in .. .. .   | 3    |
| Floors repaired or relaid .. .. .   | 29   |
| Ceilings replastered .. .. .  | 28   |
| Walls replastered or matchboarding renewed .. .. .                                  | 47   |
| Dampness eradicated in walls and ceilings .. .. .                                   | 39   |
| Sashcords renewed .. .. .   | 36   |
| Staircases repaired or/and handrails provided                                       | 3    |
| Firegrates repaired or renewed .. .. .  | 7    |
| Smoking flues remedied .. .. .  | 3    |
| Rooms and staircases redecorated .. .. .  | 10   |
| Washing copper repaired or renewed.. .. .   | 3    |
| Miscellaneous repairs .. .. .   | 5    |
| <u>(b) Foul Conditions</u>  |      |
| Obstructed drains cleared .. .. .   | 31   |
| Obstructed sewers referred to Borough Surveyor                                      | 27   |
| <u>(c) Drainage, Paving and Water Supplies.</u>                                     |      |
| Drains relaid or repaired .. .. .   | 16   |
| W.C. pans renewed .. .. .   | 16   |
| Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed .. .. .                                       | 18   |
| Cold water supply tanks repaired or renewed .. .. .                                 | 5    |
| Additional w.c.s provided, w.c. structures<br>repaired, cleansed or rebuilt .. .. . | 7    |
| W.C.s provided with water supply and/or water<br>pipes repaired .. .. .             | 21   |

1955

|  |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|--|--|----|----|----|----|-------------------------|-----|
| <u>(c) Drainage, Paving and Water Supplies (Contd)</u> |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | W.C. seats repaired or renewed                 | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 4   |
|  | Gully drains repaired or dishes renewed        | .. |    |    |    |                         | 6   |
|  | Yard paving relaid or provided                 | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 2   |
|  | Sink and bath wastepipes repaired or renewed   |    |    |    |    |                         | 5   |
|  | Manholes and/or covers repaired or renewed     | .. |    |    |    |                         | 3   |
|  | Additional sinks provided or renewed           | .. | .. |    |    |                         | 1   |
|  | Cesspools connected to sewer..                 | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 2   |
|  | Draining boards to sink renewed                | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 2   |
| <u>(d) Sanitary Accommodation at Inns, etc.</u>        |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Sanitary accommodation improved                | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 7   |
|  | Sinks and hot water provided in bars           | .. | .. |    |    |                         | 2   |
|  | Premises rebuilt or improved..                 | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 4   |
| <u>(e) Collection of Refuse and Salvage</u>            |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Offensive accumulations removed                | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 3   |
|  | New dustbins provided                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..                      | 457 |
| <u>(f) Keeping of Animals</u>                          |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Accumulations of manure removed                | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 1   |
|  | Discontinued after informal action             | .. | .. |    |    |                         | 3   |
| <u>(g) Other Nuisances, Including Offensive Trades</u> |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Fish frying premises cleansed and limewashed   |    |    |    |    |                         | 1   |
|  | Structural alterations and improvements        | .. |    |    |    |                         | 1   |
| <u>(h) Tents, Vans and Sheds</u>                       |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Unlicensed caravans moved on..                 | .. | .. | .. |    |                         | 5   |
| <u>(i) Infectious Diseases</u>                         |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Rooms disinfected after notifiable disease     | .. |    |    |    |                         | 7   |
|  | Rooms disinfected after non-notifiable disease |    |    |    |    |                         | 7   |
|  | Bedding disinfected                            | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..                      | 4   |
| <u>(j) Verminous Conditions</u>                        |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Rooms disinfested                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..                      | 4   |
|  | Filthy and verminous articles destroyed        | .. |    |    |    | contents of five houses |     |
| <u>(k) Insect Pests, etc.</u>                          |  |    |    |    |    |                         |     |
|  | Houses disinfested..                           | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..                      | 13  |



|  | 1955 |
|--|------|
| (1) <u>Factories, including Bakehouses</u>                     |      |
| Additional sanitary accommodation provided ..                  | 2    |
| Existing sanitary accommodation improved.. ..                  | 2    |
| Existing sanitary accommodation cleansed.. ..                  | 3    |
| Lighting improved .. .. .                                      | 3    |
| Defective roofs repaired .. .. .                               | 2    |
| Premises limewashed .. .. .                                    | 2    |
| (m) <u>Atmospheric Pollution</u>                               |      |
| Smoke nuisances abated .. .. .                                 | 2    |
| Special Fire Doors fitted.. .. .                               | 3    |
| (n) <u>Slaughterhouse and Butchers' Shops</u>                  |      |
| Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities improved .. .. . | 2    |
| (o) <u>Restaurant and Hotel Kitchens</u>                       |      |
| Cleansed .. .. .   | 1    |
| Improved .. .. .   | 1    |
| Wall plaster renewed and redecorated .. ..                     | 1    |
| Walls and ceilings and windows, etc., repainted                | 1    |
| New sink and waste pipe provided .. .. .                       | 1    |

OFFENSIVE TRADES - Section 107 Public Health Act, 1936.

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.

There are two premises involved in the collection of rags, one of them on a very small scale.

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                         | 11                 | 5           | -               | -                    |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.               | 101                | 57          | 2               | -                    |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.) | 3                  | -           | -               | -                    |
| TOTAL   | 115                | 62          | 2               | -                    |

(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                                       | Re-medied | Referred          |                   |  |
|  |   |           | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |  |
| Want of Cleanliness Unreasonable                                   | 2   | 3         | -                 | -                 | -  |
| temperature ..   | -   | -         | -                 | -                 | -  |
| Inadequate ventilation ..  | -   | -         | -                 | -                 | -  |
| Inadequate Lighting ..   | 3   | 3         | -                 | 1                 | -  |
| Sanitary Conveniences:   |   |           |                   |                   |  |
| (a) Insufficient   | 2   | 2         | -                 | 1                 | -  |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ..                                     | 5   | 5         | -                 | 1                 | -  |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ..                                      | -   | -         | -                 | -                 | -  |
| Other offences (not including offences relating to Out-work) .. .. | 2   | 2         | -                 | -                 | -  |
| TOTAL  | 14  | 15        | -                 | 3                 | -  |

(3) OUTWORK - SECTIONS 110 and 111

| Nature of Work                 | SECTION 110   |   |   |  | SECTION 111       |                   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|
|                                | No. of out-<br>workers in<br>August list<br>required by<br>Section 110<br>(1) (c) | No. of cases<br>of default<br>in sending<br>lists to the<br>Council | No. of<br>prosecutions<br>for failure<br>to supply<br>lists | No. of<br>instances of<br>work in<br>unwholesome<br>premises | Notices<br>served | Prosecu-<br>tions |  |
| Wearing apparel (Making, etc.) | 22  | -   | -   | -  | -                 | -                 |  |
| Paper Bags .. .. .             | 1   | -   | -   | -  | -                 | -                 |  |
| Feather sorting .. .. .        | 1   | -   | -   | -  | -                 | -                 |  |
| Stuffed toys.. .. .            | 8   | -   | -   | -  | -                 | -                 |  |
| TOTAL                          | 32  | -   | -   | -  | -                 | -                 |  |

## 6. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936.

Seven applications for licences to station caravans were received during the year. One was refused, two in respect of existing licences were renewed for a period of six months and licences from three to six months were granted in the other four instances. In three cases the necessary consent under the Town and Country Planning Act was refused in another instance the van was not moved on to the site.

Reports were submitted to enable action to be taken by way of enforcement procedure in respect of two separate caravan sites adjacent to 51, London Road and another near 44, Stipers Hill.

Early in the year some trouble was experienced due to unauthorised camping on land at the rear of the Fire Station. This ground is now being used occasionally for short periods for the purpose of holding Fairs but there is little nuisance created on Public Health grounds.

## 7. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Very little trouble is experienced in this matter.

It was necessary to call the attention of the persons concerned to the emission of black smoke from a factory chimney on two occasions due to inefficient stoking.

During recent weeks a problem due to atmospheric pollution from a factory outside the Borough has been the cause of annoyance and nuisance to the residents of the new Downside Housing Estate. Representations were made to the Officers of the Rural District Council. Visits were made to the premises concerned and no further trouble appears to have arisen.

## 8. SWIMMING POOLS

The water in the California Pool was sampled on four occasions, sixteen specimens were submitted being four in each group. On three occasions the results were satisfactory. In the other instance the bacillus coli content was high with a chlorine content much lower than the recognised standard. Representations were made to the Owner and check samples were found to be satisfactory.

One group of four samples was submitted from the Pool at the Grammar School. Apart from a wide disparity between the chlorine content at the inlet and outlet ends the water was satisfactory.

## 9. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No case arose during the year.

## 10. RODENT CONTROL

Maintenance treatments of the sewers were carried out in March and October.

Rat infestation was found on each occasion to be limited to three small areas in the older part of the Town. These areas and adjoining manholes were treated with sausage rusk and zinc phosphide after adequate prebaiting. Eighty-one surface infestations were dealt with during the year necessitating one hundred and seventy-three visits by the sanitary inspectors. This number of visits would be greatly increased if it were not for the use of Warfarin poison bait which does away with the necessity of prebaiting. All these surface infestations were of the common rat or house mouse and are isolated infestations mainly associated with chicken runs, sheds, etc.

The refuse tip became re-infested on several occasions during the year but these minor infestations were quickly stamped out by Warfarin bait applied by the Tip attendant. Re-infestation is less likely now that the Tip is being consolidated by a bulldozer.

## SECTION D :-

### HOUSING

#### Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

The following tabulated information required under Article 31 of the above Regulations and which has not been called for during and since the War is now again required under Ministry of Health Circular 28/54 :-

#### **I** Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :-

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .               | 585  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 1672 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts .. | 175  |

|  |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
| (b)  | Number of inspections made for the purpose. Visits to properties already recorded in  |     |
| (2) (a)  | .. .. .   | 765 |
| (3)  | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. ..                                    | 19  |
| (4)  | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. | 256 |
| <b>II</b> Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices: |   |     |
|  | Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .                               | 151 |
| <b>III</b> Action under Statutory Powers during the year:                      |   |     |
| A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.           |   |     |
| (1)  | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .   | -   |
| (2)  | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:  |     |
| (a)  | By Owners .. .. .   | -   |
| (b)  | By Local Authority in default of Owners .. .. .   | -   |
| B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:                                       |   |     |
| (1)  | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .   | 7   |
| (2)  | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:   |     |
| (a)  | By Owners .. .. .   | 7   |
| (b)  | By Local Authority in default of Owners .. .. .   | -   |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. ..  | 6 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953) .. .. . | 5 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .   | - |
| (4) | Number of Undertakings not to re-let given by Owners .. .. .   | 1 |
| (5) | Dwelling-houses acquired and demolished by Corporation .. .. .   | - |

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .   | - |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.. .. . | - |

Housing Act, 1936.

|     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year  | 45  |
|     | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein.. .. .   | 86  |
|     | (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .  | 261 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .  | 43  |
| (c) | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .  | 62  |
|     | (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .  | 263 |
| (d) | Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. . | -   |



|     |       |  |     |
|-----|-------|--|-----|
| (e) | (i)   | Number of Council houses found to be overcrowded at end of year .. .. .            | 18  |
|     | (ii)  | Number of families dwelling therein ..   | 35  |
|     | (iii) | Number of persons dwelling therein.. ..  | 108 |
| (f) |       | Number of cases of overcrowding in Council houses relieved during the year .. .. . | 14  |

All the above are on a bedroom standard only.

Unfit Properties.

(a) Clearance Areas

- Dunstable Clearance Area No. 1-1955 (Hampton Court)
- Dunstable Clearance Area No. 2-1955 (Ashton Street-Chapel Walk)
- Dunstable Clearance Area No. 3-1955 (St. Mary's Street-Chapel Walk)

These areas were represented to the Corporation in February 1955. They contained some twenty-two dwelling-houses all of which were unfit for human habitation and other derelict buildings. The Council also resolved to include a few other properties for satisfactory clearing and redevelopment. Attempts were made to acquire the properties by negotiation and in most cases this was successful.

A Compulsory Purchase Order was however submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in February, 1956 and has been confirmed without modification.

In the meantime, two cottages within the area - Nos. 24 and 26 Chapel Walk - have been demolished.

- (b) Church Street No. 1-1956 Clearance Area.
- Church Street and Walnut Tree Terrace No. 2-1956 Clearance Area.
- Church Street No. 3-1956 Clearance Area.
- Church Street No. 4-1956 Clearance Area.

The preparatory work to deal with the above areas has been completed and the necessary Representations submitted to the Council in July, 1956. The formal Resolutions to deal with the areas by way of Clearance and Compulsory Purchase including land and buildings within or contiguous to the areas which may be necessary for satisfactory re-development were passed by the Council on 25th July, 1956.

There are thirty houses in these areas which are regarded as being unfit for human habitation, thirteen of which are already subject to Closing or Demolition Orders.

Individual Unfit Houses  
Housing Act, 1936. Section 11.

183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201 Church Street,  
Dunstable.

These houses considered to be unfit for human habitation were the subject of Demolition Orders made in 1956. They have all been vacated and are at present being demolished by the owners.

138-140 Church Street, Dunstable.

These cottages were represented as unfit for human habitation. Demolition Orders have been made. One house has been vacated and as soon as the remaining tenant is re-housed the two cottages will be demolished.

92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102 High Street South, Dunstable.

These houses have now been vacated and demolished.

Other unfit properties recently dealt with are:-

166, High Street South, Dunstable.  
59a, High Street North, Dunstable.  
1 and 3, Church Walk, Dunstable.  
72 and 74, Edward Street, Dunstable.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) Certificates of Disrepair.

Seven applications for Certificates under Section 26 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received. A Certificate was issued in each case. Two applications for the revocations of Certificates were received and were granted.

(b) Improvement Grants.

Fourteen applications for grants under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949 and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received. Six of these were in respect of Cart's Almshouses, Nos. 65/75 High Street South, under Section 31 of the Act. In this case the Trustees are a Housing Association within the meaning of the Act and their application for a grant of 75% of the cost of the Improvements

from the Ministry has recently been approved. The improvements and repairs proposed to be carried out will provide very much needed amenities for the old folk occupying the premises.

The remaining eight applications were concerned with the provision of internal sanitary accommodation, baths, lavatory basins, hot water systems and proper ventilated food storage accommodation. These applications were for grants under Section 20 of the Act.

Improvements in respect of which grants had been approved were carried out in fifteen houses during the year.

#### NEW HOUSING

The number of new houses completed in 1955 was:-

|       |                       |     |
|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| { a } | By Council.. ..       | 154 |
| { b } | By Private Enterprise | 286 |

#### OVERCROWDING AND RE-HOUSING

There are now no really serious cases of overcrowding in the Borough except in one or two instances where property is occupied as a lodging house although not actually coming within the legal definition as such.

Reference to the overcrowding figures in the Special Table dealing with this matter will show that the extent of known overcrowding even on a bedroom standard rather than the legal standard is small and that rehousing by the Corporation and removals resulted in a decrease of the number of cases of overcrowding even on this Standard from seventy-one at the end of 1954 to forty-five at the end of 1955.

The number of applicants on the Council Waiting List at the end of December, 1955 was:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Live List .. .. .               | 186 |
| Deferred List .. .. .           | 325 |
| Aged Persons Flat Applicants .. | 99  |

SECTION E :-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk Supply.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1955, came into force on the 21st March, 1955, and it included the Borough as part of a specified area for the sale of milk by retail, thereby making it compulsory to use a special designation in relation to all milk sold by retail within the area.

This provision coupled to the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations which provide that as from the 1st October, 1954, all pasteurised milk must be bottled on the premises where it is pasteurised, and as there is no pasteurising plant or producer of T.T. milk within the Borough, has meant that no bottling of milk can now take place at any of the registered dairies. These premises are now used only as places where milk is kept for the purpose of sale.

The majority of milk distributors are general store-keepers who confine their sales to a few dozen bottles of sterilised milk a week, but the main distribution is carried out by the seven registered dairymen within the Borough and six firms who operate from outside the Borough.

With two exceptions all the distributors obtain their milk from the same sources. This has reduced the need for extensive sampling very considerably and is the reason why so few samples appear to have been taken.

(a) Registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

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

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Distributors of milk .. .. | 38 |
| Dairies.. .. .             | 7  |

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of Special Designations:-

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| (i) Pasteurised.. ..       | 10 |
| (ii) Sterilised .. ..      | 32 |
| (iii) Tuberculin Tested .. | 10 |

Supplementary Licences authorising the use of Special Designations:-

|       |                      |   |
|-------|----------------------|---|
| (i)   | Pasteurised.. ..     | 6 |
| (ii)  | Sterilised .. ..     | 3 |
| (iii) | Tuberculin Tested .. | 5 |

(b) Inspections

Twenty-five visits were made in connection with the inspection of dairies and seven were made in connection with sampling.

(c) Prosecutions

No prosecutions were made under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, but warning letters were sent to two firms concerning the sale of milk in a container not fastened with a cap or cover overlapping the lip of the container in the one instance and the unauthorised bottling of milk in the other.

(d) Sampling

Seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and of these one failed to comply with the prescribed tests but as the overnight temperature in the laboratory exceeded 65°F. this result was declared void.

No sample was examined clinically.

RECORD OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1955

| No. of Sample | Result of Methylene Blue Test |              | Result of Phosphate Test | Result of Turbidity Test | Result of Clinical Examination       |              |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
|               | Grade                         | Satisfactory |                          |                          | Unsatisfactory period to decolourise | Tuberculosis |
| 1             | Pasteurised                   | Yes          | -                        | Satisfactory             | -                                    | -            |
| 2             | "                             | Yes          | -                        | "                        | -                                    | -            |
| 3             | "                             | No           | less than ½ hr           | "                        | -                                    | -            |
| 4             | "                             | Yes          | -                        | "                        | -                                    | -            |
| 5             | Sterilised                    | -            | -                        | -                        | Satisfactory                         | -            |
| 6             | Pasteurised                   | Yes          | -                        | Satisfactory             | -                                    | -            |
| 7             | "                             | Yes          | -                        | "                        | -                                    | -            |

2. Ice-Cream

(a) Registration under Section 14 - Food and Drugs Act, 1938

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

Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream .. .. 61  
 Premises registered for the manufacture and sale  
 of ice-cream .. .. 4

The standard of ice-cream produced is usually very high, although one manufacturer dropped from Grade I to Grades II and III during the height of the summer.

(b) Ice-cream Sampling

Seventeen samples were submitted for examination. Twelve were placed in Grade I, two in Grade II, two in Grade III and one in Grade IV.

RECORD OF ICE-CREAM SAMPLES TAKEN IN 1955

| Identity and No. of Sample | Pre-sumptive Coli | Faecal Coli | Methylene Blue de-colourised in hours | Prov. Grading | Remarks        |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| A.1                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Wrapped        |
| A.2                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Wrapped        |
| A.3                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Wrapped        |
| A.4                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Bulk           |
| B.1                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Cold Mix       |
| B.2                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Wrapped        |
| B.3                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Cold Mix       |
| B.4                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Bulk           |
| B.5                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Cold Mix       |
| B.6                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Bulk           |
| B.7                        | -                 | -           | 1½                                    | 3             | Cold Mix       |
| B.8                        | -                 | -           | 0                                     | 4             | Cold Mix       |
| B.9                        | -                 | -           | 4                                     | 2             | Bulk           |
| B.10                       | -                 | -           | 4                                     | 2             | Cold Mix       |
| C.1                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Wrapped        |
| C.2                        | -                 | -           | 1½                                    | 3             | Partly Wrapped |
| D.1                        | -                 | -           | 4 +                                   | 1             | Wrapped        |

(c) Sampling of Milk and Water Lollies.

Of the six lollies submitted for examination one was found to have presumptive coli present and another to have presumptive and faecal coli present. Both these lollies originated from the same source and were manufactured by a firm of national repute.

Great concern over the laboratory findings was expressed by the Secretary of the Company and the Department was assured that all possible steps were being taken to locate and remove the source of contamination.

Further examination of the lollies was not possible because owing to great public demand they were in short supply and for the rest of the summer no trader could be found to have any in stock.

The other lollies examined were found to be satisfactory with the exception of one which had a pH value less than 4 and was therefore unsuitable for examination.

RECORD OF ICE-LOLLY SAMPLES TAKEN IN 1955

| Identity and No. of Sample | pH Value    | Presumptive Coli Present or Absent | Faecal Coli Present or Absent | Remarks                   |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A.1                        | -           | Present                            | Present                       |                           |
| A.2                        | -           | Present                            | Absent                        |                           |
| A.3                        | less than 4 |                                    |                               | Fruit Juice not examined. |
| B.1                        | -           | Absent                             | Absent                        |                           |
| C.1                        | -           | Absent                             | Absent                        |                           |
| C.2                        | -           | Absent                             | Absent                        |                           |

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

Ice-cream is only produced at two of the four premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream. Both these manufacturers use a complete cold mix which they obtain from the same source.



### 3. Meat and Other Foods

#### (a) Slaughterhouse

There is still only the one privately owned Slaughterhouse in the Borough and now that things have settled down after the decontrol of meat marketing it has been found more than adequate for the needs of the local butchers and a considerable amount of the meat killed there is sent to neighbouring areas.

The total number of animals slaughtered during 1955 was somewhat less than in 1954 being 9,049 compared with 9,986 but the figure still exceeds the number slaughtered during the period of control. In this respect it is only fair to point out that the increase is in the slaughter of sheep and pigs, the number of bovines slaughtered having diminished considerably.

The following table shows the number of animals killed and examined at the slaughterhouse during the year and gives the percentages affected by tuberculosis and other diseases. It is worthy of note that the steady decrease in the incidence of tuberculosis found in carcasses has been maintained as reference to the second table will show

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

|  | Cattle<br>excluding<br>Cows | Cows  | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed ..   | 1210                        | 470   | 328    | 3101                  | 3989 |
| Number inspected ..  | 1210                        | 470   | 328    | 3101                  | 3989 |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>   |                             |       |        |                       |      |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | 1                           | 1     | 4      | 1                     | 3    |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..                        | 393                         | 185   | 3      | 185                   | 146  |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | 32.56                       | 39.57 | 2.13   | 5.99                  | 3.73 |
| <u>Tuberculosis only:</u>  |                             |       |        |                       |      |
| Whole carcasses condemned  | 5                           | 7     | -      | -                     | 3    |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..                        | 70                          | 70    | -      | -                     | 103  |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis                    | 6.20                        | 16.38 | -      | -                     | 2.65 |

Table showing comparative percentage incidence of Tuberculosis in animals slaughtered over the past five years:-

|      | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows  | Calves | Pigs |
|------|-----------------------|-------|--------|------|
| 1951 | 8.4                   | 33.22 | 0.27   | 3.79 |
| 1952 | 9.9                   | 29.4  | 0.3    | 7.9  |
| 1953 | 8.62                  | 20.74 | 0.32   | 2.82 |
| 1954 | 7.81                  | 23.25 | 0.00   | 1.94 |
| 1955 | 6.2                   | 16.38 | 0.00   | 2.65 |

### Tuberculosis in Calves

No case of congenital tuberculosis in calves was discovered during the year.

### Cysticercus Bovis

Five cases of localised cysticercus bovis were discovered and the carcasses and offals of the affected animals were subjected to the treatment recommended by Section C of the recommendations on meat inspection contained in Memo. 3 Meat.

Table showing monthly totals of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1955:-

| Month     | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Total |
|-----------|-----------------------|------|--------|-----------------|------|-------|
| January   | 114                   | 44   | 32     | 204             | 359  | 753   |
| February  | 106                   | 44   | 26     | 129             | 360  | 665   |
| March     | 110                   | 43   | 40     | 101             | 453  | 747   |
| April     | 97                    | 30   | 25     | 35              | 339  | 526   |
| May       | 93                    | 39   | 8      | 89              | 355  | 584   |
| June      | 95                    | 34   | 8      | 182             | 367  | 686   |
| July      | 84                    | 26   | 13     | 283             | 292  | 698   |
| August    | 100                   | 35   | 13     | 332             | 288  | 768   |
| September | 111                   | 48   | 39     | 462             | 333  | 993   |
| October   | 106                   | 41   | 37     | 452             | 285  | 921   |
| November  | 106                   | 49   | 40     | 534             | 262  | 991   |
| December  | 88                    | 37   | 47     | 298             | 296  | 766   |
| TOTALS:   | 1210                  | 470  | 328    | 3101            | 3989 | 9049  |

Table showing monthly and yearly total of meat from various animals condemned as unfit for human consumption at the Dunstable Slaughterhouse:-

| Month        | Bovine<br>including Calves | Sheep | Pigs  | Total lbs. |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| January ..   | 1629                       | 57    | 260   | 1946       |
| February ..  | 997                        | 17    | 256   | 1270       |
| March.. ..   | 1540                       | 7     | 284   | 1831       |
| April.. ..   | 1234                       | 7     | 129   | 1370       |
| May .. ..    | 1404                       | 15    | 187   | 1606       |
| June .. ..   | 969                        | 2     | 574   | 1545       |
| July .. ..   | 2263                       | 17    | 154   | 2434       |
| August ..    | 4382                       | 76    | 102   | 4560       |
| September .. | 3493                       | 94    | 331   | 3918       |
| October ..   | 957                        | 58    | 187   | 1202       |
| November ..  | 1870                       | 105   | 124   | 2099       |
| December ..  | 2064                       | 38    | 114   | 2216       |
| TOTALS:      | 22,802                     | 493   | 2,702 | 25,997     |

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1954

Of the five persons who held licences to slaughter animals in force at the end of 1955, only four applied to have their licences renewed.

One other person applied for a licence to slaughter animals and this was granted subject to the condition that no animal should be slaughtered by the licensee except when under the supervision of a person holding a slaughterman's licence which is not subject to a like condition.

All the slaughtermen now licensed operate within the Borough.

## Meat and Food Other Than in Slaughterhouse

The number of visits paid to premises where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale was 665.

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.

| Article                     | Tins, Packets,<br>Jars or Cartons | lbs. |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Beef .. .. .                |                                   | 112  |
| Ham .. .. .                 | 5                                 | 6    |
| Corned Beef .. .. .         | 15                                |      |
| Luncheon Meat .. .. .       | 11                                |      |
| Stewed Steak .. .. .        | 9                                 |      |
| Pork .. .. .                | 1                                 |      |
| Sausages .. .. .            |                                   | 43   |
| Tongue .. .. .              | 1                                 |      |
| Fish .. .. .                | 25                                |      |
| Lobster Paste .. .. .       | 1                                 |      |
| Fish Cakes.. .. .           | 36                                |      |
| Tomatoes .. .. .            | 42                                |      |
| Tomato Juice .. .. .        | 1                                 |      |
| Vegetables (various).. .. . | 53                                |      |
| Fruit (various).. .. .      | 69                                |      |
| Peanuts and raisins .. .. . | 103                               |      |
| Preserves .. .. .           | 7                                 |      |
| Orange Juice .. .. .        | 1                                 |      |
| Stone Ginger .. .. .        | 1                                 |      |
| Milk .. .. .                | 9                                 |      |
| Suet .. .. .                | 1                                 |      |
| Cheese .. .. .              | 1                                 |      |
| Sandwich spread.. .. .      | 6                                 |      |

### (c) Prosecutions - Unsound Food.

Proceedings were instituted against a firm of butchers under section 9(a) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 on two counts that they

- (i) did sell and
- (ii) did expose for sale

meat pasties intended for but unfit for human consumption.

The Firm, which is a large Company, availed themselves of the defence available to them under section 83 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and proved to the Court's satisfaction that

it was due to the acts and default of their branch manager that the contraventions of the provisions had arisen and that they had used all due diligence to secure that the provisions in question were complied with.

The Court acquitted the Company and convicted the branch manager of the offences imposing fines of £5. on the first count and £2. on the second count, plus £1. 8. 0d. costs.

(d) Food Premises Generally

The number and type of food premises in the Borough at the end of the year was:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Bakehouses .. .. .                       | 8  |
| Pastry Cooks.. .. .                      | 10 |
| Butchers .. .. .                         | 21 |
| Confectioners .. .. .                    | 13 |
| Fish Shops (wet and fried) .. .. .       | 10 |
| Greengrocers.. .. .                      | 14 |
| Grocers and General Provision Merchants  | 48 |
| Hotels .. .. .                           | 5  |
| Public Houses .. .. .                    | 29 |
| Restaurants, Cafes, and Factory Canteens | 26 |
| School Canteens .. .. .                  | 7  |
| Slaughterhouses .. .. .                  | 1  |

(e) 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 .. .. .         | 7  |
| Manufacture of sausages .. .. .           | 16 |
| Preparation of cooked meat .. .. .        | 9  |
| Manufacture of meat pies .. .. .          | 3  |
| Sale and manufacture of ice-cream .. .. . | 4  |
| Sale of ice-cream.. .. .                  | 61 |

(f) Adulteration of Food

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

(g) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

In May a circular letter was received from the Director of Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton, which stated that a number of samples of Chinese Dried Egg Albumen had been examined and found to be heavily infected with Salmonella. In

view of this visits were made to all the bakehouses in the Borough and Chinese dried egg or dried egg albumen were found to be in use at two of them. Four samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and one was found to be infected with Salmonella Thompson. The baker quite willingly surrendered what was left of that particular consignment of albumen but examination of a further sample could not reveal the presence of Salmonella.

(h) Food Poisoning

There were two outbreaks involving six cases notified during 1955.

RAINFALL

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

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Inches</u> |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1946        | 27.99         |
| 1947        | 20.21         |
| 1948        | 25.60         |
| 1949        | 21.47         |
| 1950        | 30.63         |
| 1951        | 31.99         |
| 1952        | 27.39         |
| 1953        | 20.61         |
| 1954        | 29.10         |
| 1955        | 20.85         |





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