

**[Report 1956] / Medical Officer of Health, East Dereham U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

East Dereham (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1956

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wkx9p267>

**License and attribution**

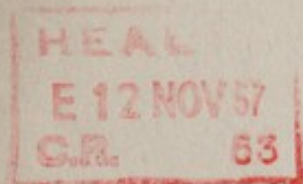
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



*Libary*



1956

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

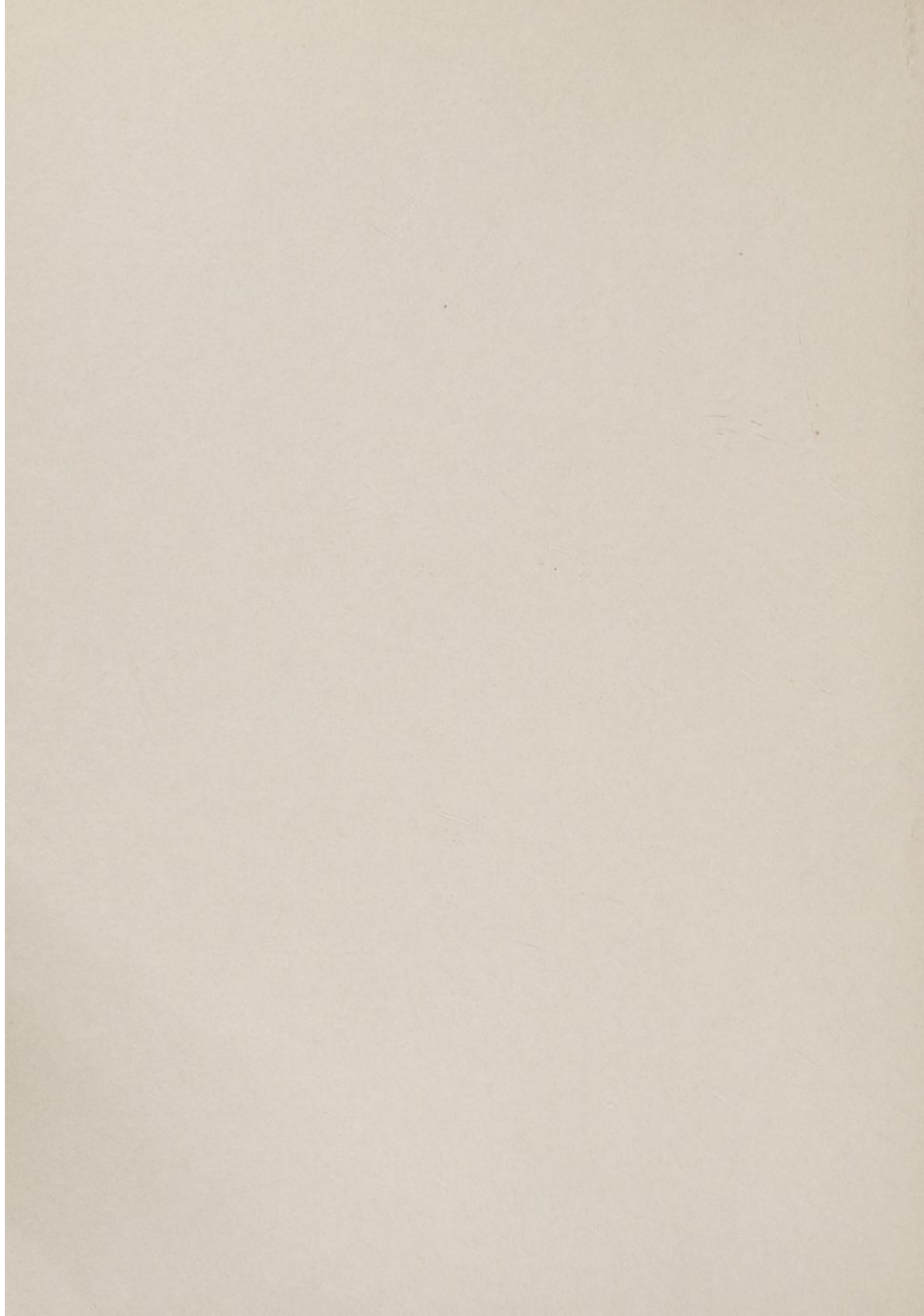
of the

Urban Sanitary Authority

of

EAST DEREHAM

Norfolk





STAFF

Medical Officer of Health


A.B. GUILD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

C.McD. O'DONNELL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.B.

Waterworks Superintendent:

R.R. TYE



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29181975>



## EAST DEREHAM URBAN DISTRICT

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Aldiss and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The estimated mid-year population for 1956 was 6,710, an increase of 60 over that of the preceding year.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

109 live births of which 8 were illegitimate, were registered during the year, and there were 61 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate (16.24) was slightly lower than last year (16.39) and the England and Wales rate was 15.7.

There were 3 still births giving a still birth rate of 0.45 as against 0.15 last year, while the England and Wales rate was 0.35

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the national to the local fertility index, remained at 1.01.

The number of deaths showed a further decrease, 61 as against 65, and this gives a death rate of 9.09, a decrease of 0.69 and the lowest ever recorded. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.73.

The deaths comparability factor was 0.86.

There were 3 deaths of infants under 1 year of age (2 under 4 weeks of age), giving an infant mortality rate of 27.52 compared with the England and Wales rate of 23.9. The causes of death were (1) pulmonary atelectasis (2) meningitis and hydrocephalus (3) prematurity.

Infectious diseases were responsible for 4 deaths - influenza 2 and pneumonia 2.

The smaller number of deaths can be attributed entirely to the marked fall in deaths due to cancer - only 8 as against 16 last year.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

72 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever. The number of cases notified - 38 - seems to be the highest ever recorded. The majority of the cases (24) occurred in the three months, April, May and June, and quite a large percentage of the children attended Dereham Secondary Modern (Girls) School, or had some connection with this school. Swabbing of selected classes, teaching and canteen staff, did not yield any important information.



All were mild in character and consequently effective isolation from the other members of the family could not be maintained for long.

Measles. Only 1 case was notified and this will inevitably result in a large outbreak in the future owing to the accumulation of susceptible children.

Dysentery. 7 cases were notified and two families were involved mainly. The cases were not severe and the problem here is that the carrier condition, after recovery, may be prolonged. As yet no drug is known which can effectively deal with this condition.

There should be no complacency in dealing with this disease, the mildness of which may lead to the neglect of elementary hygienic precautions.

Food Poisoning. Three cases were notified during the year.

The first case was due to *Salmonella typhimurium* infection, the origin of which was not traced.

The second case appeared to be due to *staphylococcus aureus*. The patient had chicken paste - "Far North" variety - on bread for her tea and shortly after consumption the typical symptoms developed. Her baby also had a little of the paste and was out of sorts the following day. The husband had no paste and remained perfectly well. The remnants of the jar were sent to the laboratory and a profuse growth of *staphylococcus aureus* was isolated. Two jars of the same consignment - all that remained in the shop - gave no bacterial growth on examination.

The third case was a typical mussel poisoning, which appears to be quite rare although large numbers of oysters are consumed in this area.

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

Disease					Notification rate per 1,000 population.	
	1956	1955	1954	1953	E.D.U.D.C.	E & W.
Scarlet fever	38	2	2	11	5.66	0.73
Measles	1	2	119	40	0.15	3.55
Whooping cough	4	61	36	49	0.4	2.00
Pneumonia	18	1	5	2	2.68	0.57
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1		
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	1		
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	11		
Dysentery	7	11	4	-	1.04	1.08

Puerperal pyrexia	1	2	3	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	2
Food Poisoning	3	1	3	-
Total	72	80	173	117

Disease	Age Groups												
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	1	1	14	15	2	3	1	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	7	4	3
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Total	1	1	2	3	2	20	15	4	7	2	8	4	3

### Tuberculosis

During the year 7 cases were added to the register, of whom 2 were inward transfers and 1 was a restoration. The comparative figures for the previous three years are :-

1955 - 6

1954 - 5

1953 - 4

The distribution of these 7 cases by age and sex is as under :-

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
26 - 35	1 (a)	1 (a)	-	-
36 - 45	1	-	-	-
46 - 55	-	-	-	1
56 - 65	1+IR	1	-	-
	3 (a) + IR	2 (a)	-	1

(a) denotes one inward transfer: R - restoration.

The numbers remaining on the register were :



	Respiratory			Non-respiratory			Grand Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
31.12.55	14	15	29	2	7	9	38
31.12.56	18	16	34	2	7	9	43

No deaths were due to tuberculosis.

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1956 are given below with the data for East Dereham in brackets for purposes of comparison.

#### Formal Notifications

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
149 (3)	0.39 (0.45)	39 (1)	0.10 (0.15)

Mortality figures for the same period were :

Respiratory	Case Rate	Non-respiratory	Case Rate
21 (0)	0.05 (0)	3 (0)	0.01 (0)

#### B.C.G. Vaccination.

Tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination were carried out again on children aged 14 years and over at the four largest schools in the district. The acceptances were 52%.

The results are tabulated below :-

School.	Refusals	Acceptances		Vaccinated	Tuberculin Test after vaccination
		Primary Tuberculin Test			
		+	-		
Dereham Girls' High School	58	10 (10 screened later)	23	23	18
Dereham M.S.Girls'	59	18 (12 screened later)	26	25	25
Dereham M.S. Boys'	18	25 (24 screened later)	32	31	30
LITCHAM Area School.	9	6 (5 screened later).	18	18	18

Dr. G.F. Barran, Chest Physician for the area, very kindly screened those children whose primary tuberculin test was positive. In all cases the X-ray appearance was within normal limits.

#### Cancer of the Lung.

For the second year in succession no deaths were due to malignant disease of the lung or bronchus.

That there is a strong connection between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung can hardly be doubted. Early diagnosis is not easy and once the diagnosis has been established the success of the treatment is problematical.

In the present state of our knowledge the only sound advice to be given is to cut out smoking entirely. I can see no way of convincing the average boy or girl leaving school that what they do now is likely to cause serious trouble 30, 40 or more years later.

#### Causes of Death.

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General :-

	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	1	5
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lessions of nervous system	2	4	6
Coronary disease, angina	5	2	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	11	6	17
Influenza	-	2	2
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	2	9
All other accidents	1	2	3
	34	27	61

#### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	5,313
Population	
(estimated mid-1956)	6,710
Rateable Value	£67,283
Estimated product of a ponny rate	£250.



# MEDICAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from vital statistics for the year relating to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General :-

	East Dereham		England & Wales
	1956	1955	1956
	Males	Females	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	53	48	101
Illegitimate	5	3	8
	58	51	109
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	16.24	16.39	15.7
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	2	1	3
Still birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	0.45	0.15	0.35
<u>DEATHS (All Ages)</u>			
	34	27	61
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	9.09	9.78	11.73
<u>INFANT DEATHS (Under 1 year)</u>			
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	3	-	3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	27.52	27.52	23.9

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer.

	Under 1.	1.	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	58	20	-	-	-	16	3	97
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	3	79	44	126
								223

In the 11 years 1946-1956, the number of births was 1,209 and in the same period 1137 children received complete primary injections while 1438 reinforcing injections were given.



No children were immunised against whooping cough alone.

#### VACCINATION.

The number of vaccinations was slightly higher than last year. The vaccination rate under 1 year of age is appreciably better than in the country as a whole.

	Under 1 year.	1	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Primary	48	5	2	9	3	67
Re-vaccination	-	-	1	5	3	9
						76

#### POLIO VACCINATION.

Polio vaccination was offered to children born in the years 1947-54 inclusive. During this period 3163 births were registered in East Dereham and Mitford and Launditch Rural District. There were 1078 acceptances giving an acceptance rate of 31% approximately, a rate which compared favourably with the other districts of the County.

In an innovation of this nature it was not surprising to find that parents were unwilling to have the younger age children vaccinated. This is shown in the following table -

Born in	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
	12.3%	19.4%	20%	21.2%	42.3%	49.9%	52.5%	50.4%

The course had to be completed by the end of June 1956, and consisted of two injections for children born in selected months in selected years. 7 children received 1 injection and 109 children received 2 injections. No reaction of any importance was encountered.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

##### WATER SUPPLY.

Of the five water samples sent to the County Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Inspector, four were reported as being highly satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory report was on water from a shallow well which has been replaced by a supply from the town mains.

A survey is being made of all remaining wells in the Toftwood area to establish the suitability of the water for human consumption.

Total Yearly Consumption	64,969,000
Increase on previous year	3,002,000
Total Yearly Domestic Water Used	47,766,540
" " Industrial or Metered Supplies	17,202,460
Average Daily Consumption	178,000
" Gallons per head per day	20.7
" " used by industry per day	47,132
Estimated Total Population supplied	6,315
" " " not supplied	345 or 5%
Number of houses supplied with Town Water :-	
(a) Direct to houses	1,318
(b) By means of Stand Pipe	300
Total number of houses in Rural Area (no mains)	72
" " " " " Toftwood Area not on mains (but mains in existence)	36

These figures are all estimated on an average of 3.2 persons per house.

#### Extensions to mains and work done.

New main extensions were carried out to three small building sites, at Swanton Road, Cecil Road and Swanton Avenue, none of which are complete.

88 properties and houses have been connected to the town supply.

#### Head Works.

No additional equipment or plant has been installed during the year. An urgent need is the additional filter mentioned last year owing to the peak demand which has risen to 16,000 gallons per hour. The present filters can only pass 12,000 g.p.h. The yearly consumption has risen 15% in the last 10 years.

#### Number of samples taken.

Bacteriological 11. Chemical 1.

Results in all cases were "Highly Satisfactory".

A copy of the chemical analysis will be found at the end of the report.



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Stage 1 of the reconstruction of the disposal works is nearing completion. Briefly it includes improvements to the design of the settlement tanks, increased filtration area, additional humus tanks and a digestion tank. Recirculation is also provided for which will ensure a reasonable standard of effluent being discharged into the stream.

After ten years of continuous resistance by various Ministerial Departments it is gratifying to note that the Toftwood Sewage Scheme has been commenced. I consider the Council and its officials are to be congratulated for their persistent and untiring efforts towards improving the public health facilities in the area which have been a source of concern to me for some time.

Test baiting of the main sewars shows no evidence of rat infestation.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In 1951 the Council decided to discontinue their various schemes for pail closet conversion throughout the town because the disposal works was unable to cope with the increased input. The enlargement of the works allows these schemes to be revived and I should like to see them put in hand without delay.

Night soil collection in the central and outlying parts of the district has been satisfactory and few complaints were received.

Towards the end of the year the Council considered a report on the emptying of septic tanks, particularly in relation to the Toftwood area and it was decided they should be emptied twice per year free of charge.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING:

Domestic refuse is collected weekly in the built up area of the town and elsewhere monthly.

The amount of refuse collected is continuously on the increase and requests by the Council to householders to reduce their refuse by burning their paper and cardboard boxes had little effect. If the increase continues it appears a larger vehicle will be necessary.

There were no complaints of fly or smell nuisance from the refuse tip during the year and only one small surface fire was reported.

Routine street scavenging has been maintained satisfactorily.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices.</u>
Drainage	326	2	-
Factories, workshops & bakehouses	66	1	-
Slaughterhouses & butchers shops	322	1	-
Food shops	51	-	-
Cowsheds, dairies, etc.	8	-	-
Restaurants & hotels	30	-	-
Verminous & filthy premises	-	-	-
Housing	117	12	24
Nuisances	51	-	-
Infectious Diseases	-	-	-
Rats & mice	40	-	-
Refuse collection	12	37	-
Nightsoil	3	-	-
Water Supply	10	1	-

54 informal notices served during the year.

### Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the district.

### SMOKE NUISANCES:

A factory refuse tip which had been causing a smoke nuisance to residents in the area has been closed. The same area is also affected by smoke from a laundry and though the firm are prepared to install an oil fuel plant, it appears they are having difficulty in obtaining approval from the Ministry of Fuel and Power due to the oil shortage.

### DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

Two houses were fumigated and two lots of bedding were steam disinfested. No cases of bed bugs or fleas were reported.

## HOUSING.

Twentythree houses were closed during the year under the Council's slum clearance programme which brings the total number of houses subject to closing orders in the district to thirtynine.

I would suggest this is a sufficient number of houses with which to commence the formulation of clearance areas and if the Council are to demolish the 161 houses already agreed before 1960 it seems essential that actual demolition works should proceed without delay.

Two improvement grants were approved during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

Three dealer's licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Four dealer's licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" in accordance with the Milk (Spacial Designation) (Pastourised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The dairies were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

No cases required to be dealt with under part VII of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

### ICE CREAM.

Twelve ice cream samples examined were Grade 1.

### FOOD CONDEMNED.

A complaint of mould on bread was examined by the Public Health Laboratories. The bread was found to be satisfactory.

Food premises were inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations and alterations and improvements necessary for compliance with the regulations are under consideration.

Twenty condemnation certificates were issued during the year covering :

86	tins
359	lbs. haricot beans
12	lbs. pork sausages
80	lbs. imported beef (affected with bone taint)
30	lbs. imported ox liver (decomposed)



## MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat is inspected at the slaughter house every day of the week with the exception of Thursday. The standard of meat produced remains high but conditions under which it is accomplished leaves much to be desired.

Certain minor improvements have been carried out at the slaughter house and a licence is to be issued for a further year. Alternatives to the present arrangements are under consideration by the Council.

The following animals were slaughtered during the year :-

Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
592	5	538	1128

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Inspected	592	5	538	1128

### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases in which some organ or part condemned	28	-	-	-
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.56%			

### ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	1
Carcases in which some organ or part condemned	20	-	-	7
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	3.38%	-	.18%	.70%

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

#### Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health.



	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	5	5	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	46	48	-	-
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Works Site Local Authority	4	15	-	-
Total	55	68	-	-

## 2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M Inspector	by H.M Inspector	No of cases in which prose- cutions instituted
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
	-	1	-	-	-

No prosecutions were instituted under the Acts.

During the year your Medical Officer of Health again carried out the duties of Appointed Factory Doctor and 171 juveniles were examined for fitness for employment. In addition two employees were examined at approximately fortnightly intervals as required under special regulations for individuals employed in dangerous trades (chromium plating)

## HOUSING.

The number of houses erected in 1956 was

- 1) By the Council 26
- 2) By private enterprise 19

The number of houses built by the Council is pre-war 144, post-war 393. It is regretted that the last Annual Report showed the number of post-war Council Houses to be 508 - this should have read 367.

The number of applicants on the housing list at 31st. December, 1956, was 214, 90 less than a year ago.

#### HOUSING CENSUS.

A census of 357 Council Houses was made in November, 1956. Of the tenants, 48 had married members of their family living with them and 15 had lodgers.

928 adults and 589 children were living in these houses, giving an average of 2.6 adults and 1.65 children per house.

<u>Northgate.</u>	-	38 houses	Adults	134.	Children	48.
		Average		3.5		1.3
<u>Jubilee Avenue</u>	-	26 houses		75		32
		Average		2.9		1.2
<u>Becclesgate</u>	-	47 houses		123		80
		Average		2.6		1.7

The number of people occupying the houses was :

<u>Persons.</u>	<u>No. of houses.</u>	<u>Persons.</u>	<u>No. of houses.</u>
1	4	7	21
2	33	8	9
3	97	9	3
4	98	10	3
5	50	11	2
6	34	12	1

#### NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

#### Local Health Services under Part III.

#### Domestic Help Service.

41 occasional home helps were employed during the year, and 19 cases were assisted in East Dereham.

#### Mental Health - Administration.

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge.

18 patients were admitted to mental hospitals, 13 of these being voluntary and 5 certified.

#### Mental Defectives.

The following cases were visited and reported on periodically :-



Under statutory supervision	- 7 (2 visited by P.S.W.)
Under friendly supervision	- 4
On licence	- 1
Guardianship	- Nil
Home teaching	- 2

Two children attend the fortnightly Occupation Centre at the Local Health Office, and two children receive training at home.

Old People's Clubs.

Two Old People's Clubs continue to function in the area with a combined membership of about 200.

Infant Welfare Centre.

This centre continues to be held twice a month and attendances have been satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No cases were dealt with under this Act.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A.B. Guild.





COPY.

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,  
Clarence House,  
6, Clarence Road,  
Norwich.

25th March, 1957.

Cert. No. 1106H

Lab. No. 4895/W

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample Received 11th. March 1957 from East Dereham U.D.C.

Marked From Town Supply via Tap in Waterworks Grounds.

Appearance when received - clear.

Nature of Deposit - nil

Colour - nil.

Odour - nil.

Reaction - faintly alkaline. pH - 7.6 Taste - satisfactory.

Results of Chemical Analysis in Parts Per Million.

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.01	Hardness as $\text{CaCO}_3$ :	
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.06	Total	260
Nitrate nitrogen	Nil	Carbonate (Temporary	235
Nitrite nitrogen	Nil	Non-carbonate	
		(Permanent	25
Chlorine as chlorides	26		
		Alkalinity as $\text{CaCO}_3$	235
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr. $27^\circ\text{C}$ )	0.30		
		Free carbon dioxide	22.5
Fluorine.	0.85.	Total solids (at $180^\circ\text{C}$ )	300
		Iron (total)	0.05
		Metals in solution, other than iron - nil	

OPINION.

This water is of good organic quality and the chemical analysis as a whole shows no sign of pollution. Little alteration has taken place in the analytical characteristics of this water since it was analysed in February 1955 (our Cert. No. 936F); the salinity is slightly higher and the iron content is practically negligible on this occasion. The reaction of the water is on the alkaline side of neutrality, as is desirable in the public supply, to avoid corrosive action on metals. The odour, taste and appearance of the water were all satisfactory and in our opinion it is suitable for drinking and general purposes.



The fluorine content has been determined, for the first time on this water according to our records, and is of considerable interest in as much as it is markedly higher than of the great majority of waters used for drinking purposes in Norfolk, most of which contain less than 0.2 p.p.m. of fluorine. The higher figure in the sample is a definite advantage; the optimum fluorine content of a drinking water is usually taken as 1 p.p.m.

(signed) Lincolne, Sutton & Wood

