

[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, East Retford U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

East Retford (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

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Borough of East Retford.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1944

BY

JOHN WARRACK,

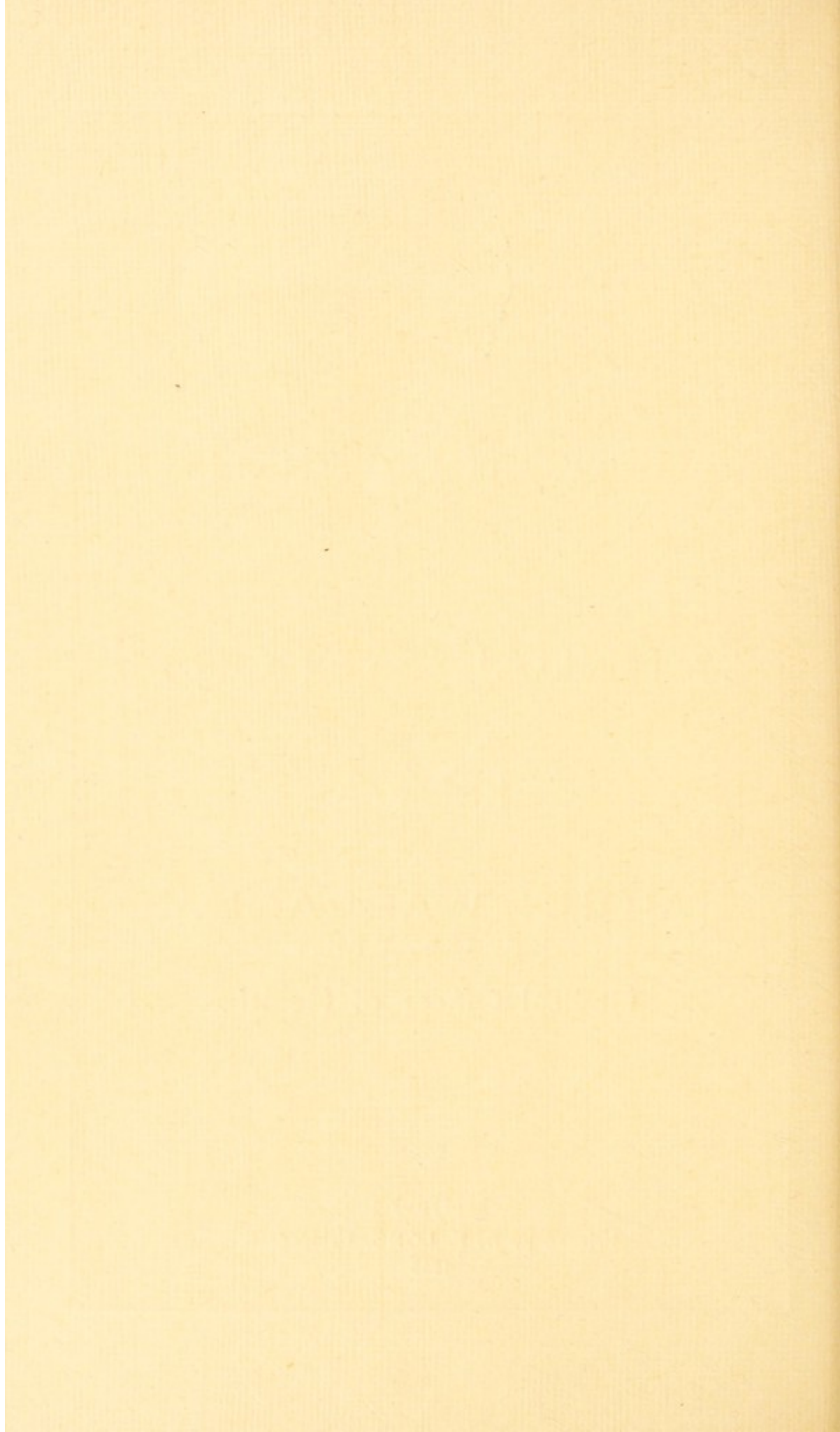
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BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1944

BY

JOHN WARRACK, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1944).

Alderman A. Wilson (Chairman).
Alderman J. R. Waterfield (Vice-Chairman).
Alderman F. Nettleton
Councillor the Rev. F. C. Darvell
Councillor J. W. Peatfield
Councillor E. E. Sutton
Councillor L. Tanner
Councillor R. Wilson

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1944).

Alderman J. R. Waterfield (Chairman)
Miss G. Bradshaw (Vice-Chairman)—Co-opted Member
Councillor A. E. Clayton
Councillor the Rev. F. C. Darvell
Councillor W. B. Vickers
Councillor R. Wilson
Mrs. Clarke—Co-opted Member

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

(as at 31st December, 1944).

Medical Officer of Health—

W. C. Davidson, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Left 31st May, 1944).

Medical Officer of Health—

J. Warrack, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.San.I.
(Commenced 1st June, 1944).

Dental Officer (Part-time) L. A. Mackley, L.D.S.
Sanitary Inspector—

F. R. Smith, Cert. Roy. San. Inst., Cert. Insp. of Meat
Health Visitor (Temporary) Miss S. Watson
Matron, War Time Day Nursery Miss E. Cox
Matron, Ordsall Lodge Ante-Natal Hostel Miss I. Plant
Chief Clerk Mrs. H. N. Morris
Clerks Miss M. E. White, Miss I. J. Fuller

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK BUILDINGS,
MARKET PLACE,
RETTFORD.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of East Retford.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1944 on the Health of the Borough. In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 49/45, the Report has been condensed and gives merely an outline of the work undertaken by this Department.

Since my arrival in Retford on the 1st. June to take over duties as Medical Officer of Health from Dr. W. C. Davidson there have been several outstanding occurrences in connection with the Services and Health of the Borough.

On the 6th. November Miss Joels who had been Matron of Ordsall Lodge Ante-Natal Hostel since June 15th, 1942, resigned and her place was taken by Miss I. Plant.

In the middle of September, to meet the increased demands for accommodation for expectant mothers, owing to the flying bomb attacks in Southern England, instructions were received from the Ministry of Health to open another Ante-Natal Hostel. "Fir Grove," London Road, was accordingly taken over, equipped and staffed, and commenced receiving patients on the 13th October.

Towards the end of the year the district was attacked by an outbreak of Scarlet Fever which reached epidemic proportions. Luckily the majority of cases were of a mild type and the death rate was, in consequence, very light.

Mrs. White who had been full-time Home Help since the inception of the scheme in 1943, resigned in April, 1944. Mrs. Hicks the other full-time Home Help resigned in May. From that month until the 6th July the Service was non-existent, when one full-time and one part-time helpers were appointed. In the following month another part-time helper was taken on but owing to ill health had to give up her duties shortly afterwards.

There continues to be an ever increasing demand for Maternity accommodation for expectant mothers in the Borough, who in the majority of cases, owing to unsatisfactory home conditions, find it impossible to have their babies at home. Approximately 12 beds would be required per month, but on the 1st July the County Authorities, on whom the Borough is dependant for accommodation, introduced a "rationing" scheme in which only 3 beds are allowed for mothers from Retford each month.

I wish to acknowledge with thanks the assistance which I have received from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Smith, and the members of the Office Staff. I also wish to record my gratitude for the co-operation of the members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WARRACK.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS—

	Total	M	F
Legitimate	306	160	146
Illegitimate	25	17	8
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			21.37
Birth Rate of England & Wales per 1,000 estimated population, 17.6			

STILL BIRTHS—

	Total	M	F
Legitimate	7	3	4
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total births			26.47
Rate per 1,000 estimated population			0.56
Rate per 1,000 population of England and Wales			0.50

DEATHS—

	Total	M	F
	189	98	91
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			11.89
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population in England & Wales, 11.6			

MATERNAL MORTALITY—

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	Nil
Other maternal causes	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	5.88
Maternal Mortality for England & Wales per 1,000 live births, 1.93	

INFANTILE MORTALITY—

	Total	M	F
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year	9	4	5
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year	1	1	0
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			30.21
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			29.41
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			40.00
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births			46.00

MORTALITY—

The deaths include those of 26 persons in institutions outside the Borough: 16 males and 10 females.

The above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

The causes of death were:

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34

Health Services in the Borough.

War Time Day Nursery. The Nursery has continued to function efficiently during the year under the Matronship of Miss Cox. It is still working to full capacity and there is a waiting list for admission of about 40 children. Permission has been granted by the Ministry of Health for the provision of an extension which will enable an additional 12 children to be admitted. There have been, during the year, a number of changes in the Staff which is now complete and working harmoniously. There have been no outbreaks of any infection in the Nursery during 1944.

Scabies. A considerable number of cases of this infestation still continue to be reported or ascertained in the Borough. During the year 134 cases have been treated with Benzyl Benzoate emulsion at the Cleansing Station in Brewery Lane. Generally 2 treatments are all that are required to clear the infestation. It has not been found necessary to resort to compulsory cleansing under the Scabies Order 1941 in any case.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The campaign for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria has been continued during the year and 152 children between 1 and 5 years of age and 16 children between 5 and 15 years of age have been immunised in the Borough. This gives a percentage of immunised of 92.6 between 1 and 5 years of age and 95.8 between 5 and 15 years of age, which percentages are quite satisfactory.

Towards the beginning of 1944 it was found that children who had been treated in 1941 and early 1942 and who had received rather small doses of antigen did not now possess a full degree of immunity against the disease, accordingly it was decided to offer the parents of these children an opportunity of having their children treated again by receiving one additional dose to augment their immunity. In the Borough between May and December 803 children were so treated.

During the year 8 children under 15 years of age developed Diphtheria, no deaths occurred.

Water Supply.

The Water supply is derived from deep wells with, at the moment, no surface storage, so that continuous pumping is necessary to keep up the pressure.

All the houses in the town are supplied directly by piped water, no stand pipes being used. The Water is generally satisfactory as shown by the bacteriological examinations which are carried out before and after chlorination.

During the year 106 examinations were made. Of this number 101 were satisfactory and 5 were under suspicion. The water was chemically analysed 3 times during 1944 and found to be virtually unchanged from previous years. The water was still found to be non plumbo-solvent.

In the few cases in which contamination had been found to have occurred renewal of the water mains invariably effected a cure.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

In 1944 there were 340 children born in the Borough of which 331 were live births and 9 still births. This represents an increase of 29 total births over the previous year. 10 children under the age of 1 year died during the year which is the same as for 1943, giving a ratio per 1,000 live births of 30.03. The ratio for England and Wales per 1,000 live births for 1944 is 46.00

CHILD WELFARE AND ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Number of sessions held during 1944	...	...	...	...	299
Number of sessions attended by Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	178
Number of examinations made (children)	...	...	...	...	659
Number of examinations made (mothers)	...	...	...	...	2476
Average number of children and mothers examined per session, 17.6					
Number of individual children who attended Centre	...	...	...	...	1035
Number of visits paid by children to the Centre:					
Under 1 year	...	...	...	6800	
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	4191	Total 10,991
Number of individual ante-natal cases who attended:					
Evacuees	...	...	...	455	
Retford	...	...	...	215	Total 670
Number of individual post-natal cases who attended	...	...	...	...	16

VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITOR.

Children under 1 year of age	...	...	1802	
Children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	1647	Total 3,449

CONFINEMENTS IN HOSPITAL.

Jessop Hospital, Sheffield	...	...	...	8	
County General Hospital, Worksop	...	...	...	19	
Eaton Hall Emergency Maternity Home	...	...	...	71	Total 98

CASES SEEN BY SPECIALIST (Mr. Stacey).

At Sheffield	...	...	...	...	...	8 (including evacuees).
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ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

Number of children attending the						
	Worksop Cripples Guild Clinic	...	...	...	...	29
Number of attendances made at Clinic	...	...	...	...	...	167



PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD.

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward
Scarlet Fever ...	148	124[a]	1	54	39	55
Diphtheria ...	8	7[a]	...	4	1	3
Measles ...	24	...	...	13	3	8
Whooping Cough ...	55	...	1	12	14	29
Erysipelas ...	7	...	...	3	1	3
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	44	2[b]	9	11	11	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	1[c]	...	1	...	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1[c]	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	24	12[d] 1[e] 1[f]	6	8	5	11
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	4	2[d]	4	2	...	2
Totals ...	318	151	21	108	75	135

[a] North Carlton Isolation Hospital.
[c] County General Hospital.
[e] County Institution, Mansfield.

[b] Retford and District Hospital.
[d] Ransom Sanatorium, Rainworth.
[f] Sheffield Royal Infirmary.

BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD.
TUBERCULOSIS, 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1... 2 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2... 3 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
3... 4 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4... 5 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5...10 ...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
10...15 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
15...20 ...	5	1	1	...	1	1	1	1
20...35 ...	4	6	...	1	2	...	...	...
35...45 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45...65 ...	2	1	...	1	1	1	...	1
65 and over ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	14	10	1	3	4	2	2	2

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1944.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you a report on the work done during the year 1944.

51 complaints have been received and the premises visited, nuisances being found in every case except one.

112 informal notices, asking for the abatement of nuisances were served, and in 14 cases these were followed up by the service of statutory notices under the Public Health Acts. In one case where a house roof was very leaky, a summons was issued as the legal notice had not been complied with and this was effective in getting the work done.

Property owners have had great difficulty in getting even urgent house repairs put in hand. The building firms in the Borough have had to keep nearly all their very depleted staffs on essential war work and it has been possible to get only the most urgent repairs done to house property.

The shortage of houses is most acute and there is considerable overcrowding in the town. There is no prospect of any quick amelioration of this evil.

There is a shortage of dustbins and this has been one of the causes of the delay in the removal of house refuse. It is hoped that dustbins will be given priority of manufacture when the European war is over.

The Common Lodging house is visited frequently and the Keeper is asked to remedy any defect found. The house has been rather full owing to war conditions and replacements of bedding are difficult and costly. The Keeper has not had an easy job and there has been some deterioration in the standard compared with pre-war years.

Some cases of houses in dirty condition and infested with vermin are brought to my notice or found during visits. We took vigorous action in all these cases, usually steaming the bedding, spraying and fumigating the house. Success can be achieved if we get the co-operation of the tenant, but there are a few cases, usually where the tenants are below average mentality, where co-operation is not forthcoming and these have to be kept under regular supervision.

Food Inspection. This work is very onerous as the Ministry of Food supply meat for about 85,000 population from Retford. I receive assistance from Mr. J. Hunt, Asst. Sanitary Inspector to the Retford R.D.C. in the work of meat inspection at the slaughterhouses, whilst the staffs of the Ministry of Food, the Wholesale Meat Supply Association, and the Butchers Buying Groups collaborate with me in our work of delivering to the public, meat in the best possible condition.

All the carcasses and organs are inspected at the slaughterhouses before removal and this means late evenings and early morning work. The animals slaughtered in 1944 were:—

Cattle	3,132	Sheep	11,628
Calves	718	Pigs	369

a total of 15,847. This compares with 20,280 in 1943, 17,568 in 1942 and 16,665 in 1941.

The percentage of animals in which visible tuberculous lesions were found in either the carcasses or organs during the past four years have been:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944
Cattle	22.5%	23.4%	31.1%	32.8%
Pigs	8.8%	11.9%	17.4%	16.1%
Calves	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%

It is probable that a steady increase in tuberculosis in the cattle slaughtered is due partly to war conditions on the farms and partly to the fact that the percentage of lower grade or casualty animals brought to the slaughterhouses is higher.

The total weight of meat condemned at the slaughterhouses was 139,159 lbs. which is a reduction on 1943. All condemned meat goes to a firm who sterilize it and convert it into cattle food, fertilizers, etc. The public can rest assured that the meat issued to them is free from disease and of a wholesome character.

Foodstuffs in the shops and warehouses are submitted for my inspection if any doubt as to its quality exists and the following list shews foods condemned mostly for decomposition.

Bacon and ham, 377 lbs; Butter, lard and other fats, 173 lbs; Fish, 70 lbs; Cheese, 21 lbs; Jam, 48 lbs; Sugar, 13 lbs; Cereals, 10 lbs; Potatoes 2½ cwts; Imported Meat, 84 lbs; Eggs, 264; Pickles, 9 jars; Sultanas, 38 lbs; Coffee, 20 lbs; Mixed tinned foods, 930 tins.

During 1944, 183 visits were paid to cowsheds and dairies in Retford. There were 20 cowkeepers, of whom 12 were also retailers, and 5 retailers only with premises in the Borough on the register at the end of 1944 and there were also 8 registered retailers who have no premises in the Borough but retail direct from their farms in the Rural area. The number of cowsheds and dairies under my supervision was 25, the same as in 1943.

There is no milk sold in the Borough from guaranteed tubercle free herds. The Retford Co-operative Society Ltd., sell pasteurised milk from their plant at 'Arcadia,' Carolgate, Retford, and this plant is regularly inspected, and the milk sampled regularly, samples being obtained from the plant on 72 different days. In only one case was the phosphatase test above 2.5 and on this occasion the pasteurising error was slight. In the Spring of the year some high counts of bacteria were noted and these were found to be due to heat resisting bacteria. The offending farm was not discovered as the trouble cleared quickly but I received some material assistance in this matter from the Midland Agricultural College at Sutton Bonnington.

118 samples of raw milk were submitted for the Resazurin test and of these 109 were 'A' grade, 7 'B' grade and 2 'C' grade.

The bakehouses and other food manufactories are visited and inspected for cleanliness and no serious contravention was discovered in 1944.

Infectious Disease. During 1944 there was a considerable number of cases of Scarlet Fever and this caused quite an appreciable amount of work. All cases were visited promptly, enquiries made and list of contacts obtained. The usual sources of infection are either contacts at school or in or near the home. Unfortunately return cases were the cause in some instances. Home visits were made by me to cases of Scabies in order to arrange for treatment at the cleansing station.

VISITS.

To slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	568
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	223
Premises re Nuisances	...	...	...	...	147
Properties under Notice	...	...	...	...	75
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	183
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	25
Shops re Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	311
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	11
Premises re Rats	...	...	...	...	64
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	18
re House Refuse and Salvage	...	...	...	...	277
Public Mortuaries	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	58

1974

Cleansing. The main problem for cleansing superintendents in 1944 was the supply of labour. During the winter of 1943-44 we had several regular men off through sickness and the work of collecting the house refuse suffered delay. At no one time was the interval between collection more than 3 weeks but some inconvenience was caused to the public.

During the year one Karrier Bantam Refuse Collecting Motor was purchased and application was made for another one. This second vehicle was not obtained in 1944. The Ordsall tip was used through the year.

The Salvage sold in 1944 was 289 tons compared with 416 tons in 1943 and 502 tons in 1942. The approximate value was £1,190 and the total gross cost of the collection of house refuse and salvage was £4,160 and the net cost after deducting certain charges and salvage sales was £2,903. This is a rate of 7.8 pence per annum and a cost per 1,000 population of £181.

The cleansing of the streets was carried out as usual on the length system which works very effectively in Retford. The cost has risen, due to the increases in wages and cost of materials, and last year's cost to the Borough was £2,396. Some of the outlying roads are cleansed by the Notts. County Council. Practically all the sweepings are carted to the tip as they have little or no manurial value.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. R. SMITH,

Sanitary Inspector.

