

[Report 1954] / Medical Officer of Health, East Retford U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

East Retford (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1954

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/f29pntcv>

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
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1954

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

INCLUDING THE

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. R. SMITH

CERT. ROY. SAN. INST., CERT. INSPECTOR OF MEAT



RETFORD

PRINTED BY WINTER AND SON, GROVE STREET

1955



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

BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1954

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

INCLUDING THE

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. R. SMITH

CERT. ROY. SAN. INST., CERT. INSPECTOR OF MEAT

RETFORD

PRINTED BY WINTER AND SON, GROVE STREET

1955

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1901

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. R. KENNEDY, M.D., D.P.H., D.S.

PRESENTED TO THE

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

T. R. SMITH

AND THE BOARD OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF EAST RETFORD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1954)

ALDERMAN A. WILSON (*Chairman*)

ALDERMAN J. R. WATERFIELD (*Vice-Chairman*)

ALDERMAN F. NETTLETON

ALDERMAN E. E. SUTTON

ALDERMAN L. TANNER

COUNCILLOR J. W. PEATFIELD

COUNCILLOR B. POLLARD

COUNCILLOR T. RICHMOND

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. WILLIAMSON

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. R. SMITH, CERT. ROY. SAN. INST., CERT. INSP. OF MEAT

Clerks :

MISS M. JOHNSON, MISS J. ELLIS, MISS D. M. BENNETT

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CHANCERY LANE,
RET福德.

August, 1955

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF EAST RET福德.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1954.

The year was a comparatively healthy one and a marked feature was the low incidence of Infectious Disease, e.g., only 10 cases of Measles were recorded as against 561 in 1953.

You will note that the Birth Rate has dropped from 16.5 per 1,000 in 1953 to 14.16 in 1954 and the Death Rate has remained almost the same, 11.79 in 1953 and 11.68 in 1954. The Infantile Mortality Rate has risen to 50.20 compared with 33.21 in the previous year.

I would draw your attention to the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit in June and July. In this survey 4,595 persons were X-rayed and the Medical Director was very satisfied with the general turn out and the arrangements made. Previous surveys were in 1949 and 1952 and I hope they will take place every two years. Details are given in the appropriate section.

Diphtheria has lost its headline news value and the fact that no case of this disease occurred during the year may pass almost unnoticed. This would be unfortunate and I would remind you that in 1954, in the whole of England and Wales, there were only 182 notifications as against 18,596 in 1945. This remarkable improvement is due to the success of immunisation, and the importance of having all children inoculated at an early age cannot be over stressed. In East Ret福德, although it is gratifying to see that more children were immunised than in previous years, the number is still too low, but it can only be improved by the full co-operation of parents. Detailed figures will be found later in the report.

Housing

The housing problem is still with us and will be for some years. I have to thank the Housing Manager for the following note. "The number of new houses completed in 1954 was 97, of which 82 were erected by the Corporation, 62 less than in 1953. In spite of this the application list decreased by 24 to 672 and the number of families in lodgings by 47 to 227, and this aspect of the housing shortage is now firmly in hand. Families with a child are generally waiting about two years before being allocated a house, but, in view of the fact that quite a large proportion of available houses will in future have to be used for the re-housing of families displaced as a result of the Clearance Orders now in the process of being made, unless the allocation of houses made by the Government is considerably higher than the 75 allotted for 1955, the situation may easily deteriorate".

It can, I think, be said that progress has been made, it is gratifying, at least, to know that families have not to wait too long before being allocated a house. The Housing Manager points out that special difficulties will arise when families displaced as a result of Slum Clearance have to be re-housed and it is hoped that the Government will help by increasing our allocation of houses. The great bulk of new houses in Retford are built by the Corporation, private building has, as yet, made little contribution.

I am happy to report that a start has been made on the Slum Clearance problem. After careful consideration the Council at its November meeting resolved that certain land and buildings in Spital Hill, Wellington Street, Woolpack Street and Little Lane be declared a Clearance Area. In effect this means that the area will be cleared by the demolition of the unfit houses and re-developed. The Spital Hill area is one of the worst in the town; the houses are mostly old and dilapidated, without bathrooms or proper food stores and in some the layout is such that lighting and ventilation is grossly below standard. The procedure is a somewhat lengthy one but at least the wheels have started to turn.

Slaughterhouse Act, 1954

The purity of our meat supplies is of great importance and the task of ensuring that no diseased meat reaches the butchers' shops falls on the Public Health Department. A short reference, therefore, to the Slaughterhouse Act of 1954 will not be out of place.

Meat was de-controlled in July, 1954, and the Slaughterhouse Act of 1954 passed the duty of securing that sufficient

slaughtering accommodation is available on to local authorities. It will be remembered that from 1940 to 1954 all slaughtering was done at slaughterhouses run by the Ministry of Food. In Retford the Grove Lane Slaughterhouse and the Cattle Market Slaughterhouse served the needs of the Retford Borough, Rural District and the Worksop Borough and Rural District. No private slaughterhouses were used.

For some months prior to July, 1954, the Public Health Committee had been considering the best method of undertaking their new obligations. As a first step all the old private slaughterhouses were inspected by your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector to see if they could be re-licensed, when de-control came into force. It was, however, at once apparent that no solution could be found on these lines as the great majority were quite unsuitable on public health grounds.

Worksop Borough and Rural District intimated that they would in future make their own arrangements for slaughtering, but the Retford Rural District found that they would still have to rely mainly or wholly on the Borough slaughterhouses.

Eventually the Retford Borough and Rural District jointly decided to take over, for a period of four to seven years, the Grove Lane Slaughterhouse, and so provide adequate slaughtering accommodation. The Retford butchers, town and country, for their part, agreed to be responsible for the day to day operation of the slaughterhouse, and to this end formed the Retford Meat Traders.

This arrangement came into force in July, 1954, and apart from a few minor difficulties in the early stages has worked well.

In addition plans were approved for the enlargement and re-conditioning of one privately owned slaughterhouse in the Borough and it is hoped that it will be ready early in the new year.

I am happy to record my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and help. Of my own staff, Mr. Smith has been a tower of strength and my office staff have given me every assistance. To my fellow officers I say thank you for courtesy and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	4,657 acres
Registrar General's Estimated Population, mid-year, 1954	16,870
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1954 ..	5,227
Rateable Value, June, 1955	£112,272
Sum represented by Penny Rate at 1st April, 1955	£445

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate ..	229	125	104	
Illegitimate ..	10	5	5	
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population				14.16
Birth Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population				15.2

Still Births

	Total	M	F	
Legitimate ..	5	3	2	
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—	
Rate per 1,000 total births				20.92
Rate per 1,000 estimated population				0.29
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales				24.0

Maternal Mortality

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	Nil

Infantile Mortality

	Total	M	F
Legitimate ..	11	7	4
Illegitimate ..	1	1	—

Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	48.03
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	100.0
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	50.20
Infantile Mortality Rate of England and Wales per 1,000 live births	25.5

Deaths

	Total 197	M 108	F 89
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.68		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population England and Wales	11.3		

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

Classified Causes of Death

The deaths include those of 60 persons in institutions outside the Borough, 38 males and 22 females.

Tuberculosis, respiratory	3
Tuberculosis, other	0
Syphilitic disease	0
Diphtheria	0
Whooping Cough	0
Meningococcal Infection	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0
Measles	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	4
Malignant neoplasms, lung, bronchus ..	6
Malignant neoplasms, breast	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	0
Diabetes	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	30
Coronary disease, angina	30
Hypertension with heart disease	2
Other heart disease	30
Other circulatory diseases	13
Influenza	0

Pneumonia	5
Bronchitis	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0
Congenital malformations	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	30
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2
All other accidents	4
Suicide	0
Homicide and operations of war	0

Notes on Vital Statistics

239 Live Births were recorded as against 271 in 1953, giving a Birth Rate of 14.16 per 1,000 which is below that of England and Wales at 15.2.

12 Infants died within the first year of life and 11 of these died within the first month, i.e., neo-natal deaths.

The causes of infant deaths were as follows :

Prematurity	5
Congenital Abnormalities	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3
Broncho-Pneumonia	1

The greatest number of deaths was from prematurity and this is in accordance with figures throughout the country. The marked drop in the infant deaths from respiratory and gastro intestinal infection has focused attention on the premature infant, and a great deal of work is being done to learn more about the causes of prematurity and the best methods for caring for the premature baby.

We can hope that this research will soon result in a further drop in the Infantile Mortality Rate.

The total number of deaths in 1954 was 197 giving a death rate of 11.68 per 1,000 which is almost the same as for England and Wales, 11.3.

Analysis of the causes of death shows the majority under the heading Cardio Vascular disease, 105 ; and Malignant Growths, 28. There were no deaths from Influenza, 3 from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 14 from diseases of the respiratory system.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Notts. County Council

I am grateful to the County Medical Officer for supplying the figures of attendances.

(1) Child Welfare Service

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at the Old Day Nursery, Market Square, Retford, at the following times :

Mondays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Thursdays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Fridays : 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Your Medical Officer is in attendance on Mondays and alternate Thursdays.

263 New cases attended the clinic during the year and there were 1,234 medical consultations. Total attendances amounted to 3,719.

(2) Maternity Services

Ante-natal Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre each Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Mothers who can, and wish to be confined at home, are attended by one of the County Midwives, of whom there are three in the Borough, viz. :-

MISS K. BERRY,
2 Woodlands, Whinney Moor Lane, Retford.
Telephone No. Retford 197.

MRS. M. TOWNSEND,
117 Queen Street, Retford.
Telephone No. Retford 583.

MRS. E. CUMMING,
125 Northfield Way, Retford.
Telephone No. Retford 718.

In those cases that require hospital confinement because of social conditions or for medical reasons, the necessary investigation and booking is made by the County Health Department.

103 New cases attended the Ante-Natal Clinic during the year and there were 565 medical consultations, total attendances amounted to 566. There were 21 attendances at the Post-Natal Clinic with 21 medical consultations.

(3) Home Nursing

This service is provided by the Retford and District Nursing Association, and the work is carried out on its behalf by three Queen's Nurses, names and addresses as follows :

MISS JARVIS AND MISS BROWN,
16 Osberton Road, Retford.
Telephone No. Retford 467.

MRS. PEARSON,
12 Victoria Road, Retford.

(4) Dental Treatment

Dental treatment is provided for pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers by appointment at the Child Welfare Centre.

(5) Home Help Service

The office is in Chancery Lane, Retford. This most useful service provides domestic help to necessitous cases on a medical recommendation.

(6) School Medical Service

School Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Market Square, Retford, on Mondays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Your Medical Officer, in his capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer, is in attendance every Monday.

Dental Clinics for school children are held in the same building at the following times: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

(7) Ambulance Service

The main ambulance station is situated in the Retford Borough and the vehicles comprise four ambulances and two dual purpose vehicles, which will carry six sitting cases or three sitting cases and one stretcher case. The Station Supervisor is Mr. G. Brookes. Office: Exchange Street, Retford. *Telephone No.* Retford 400.

(b) Under the control of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board

(1) Chest Clinic

Chest Clinics are held at the Retford and District Hospital every Tuesday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

(2) Orthopaedic Clinic

Orthopaedic Clinics are held at the Retford and District Hospital every Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mr. S. A. S. Malkin, the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon attends the Clinic on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

(3) Venereal Disease Clinic

The nearest clinics are at Mansfield and Worksop.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

There is nothing new to report, the supply is plentiful and of good quality. No sample was sent for chemical analysis, but 245 samples were tested bacteriologically, of these only 3 were reported as suspicious, and the trouble was soon put right by flushing the mains.

Particulars of samples are given hereunder :

<i>Date</i>	<i>After Chlorination</i>	<i>Before Chlorination</i>	<i>Result (Class No.)</i>
4 1 54	5	1	1
12 1 54	5	1	(5 class 1) (1 class 2)
18 1 54	5	1	(3 class 1) (3 class 3)
25 1 54	5	1	1
1 2 54	5	1	1
8 2 54	5	1	1
15 2 54	5	1	1
22 2 54	5	1	1
1 3 54	5	1	1
8 3 54	5	1	1
15 3 54	5	1	1
22 3 54	5	1	1
29 3 54	5	1	1
6 4 54	5	1	1
12 4 54	5	1	1
22 4 54	5	1	1
26 4 54	5	1	1
4 5 54	3	1	1
10 5 54	3	1	1
17 5 54	3	1	1
25 5 54	3	1	1
31 5 54	3	1	1
10 6 54	3	1	1
14 6 54	3	1	1
21 6 54	2	1	1
28 6 54	3	1	1
5 7 54	3	1	1

13	7	54	1	1	1
20	7	54	3	1	1
26	7	54	3	1	1
4	8	54	3	1	1
9	8	54	3	1	1
17	8	54	3	1	1
24	8	54	3	1	1
30	8	54	3	1	1
7	9	54	3	1	1
14	9	54	3	1	1
20	9	54	3	1	1
27	9	54	3	1	1
5	10	54	3	1	1
11	10	54	3	1	1
19	10	54	3	1	1
25	10	54	3	1	1
2	11	54	3	1	1
9	11	54	3	1	1
15	11	54	3	1	1
23	11	54	3	1	1
30	11	54	3	1	1
7	12	54	3	1	1
14	12	54	3	1	1
21	12	54	3	1	1
29	12	54	3	1	1

The grading in Column 4 is given in the Ministry of Health Report No. 71, 1939, "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies", as follows :

Presumptive Coliform Count per ml.

Class 1 — Highly satisfactory		less than 1
Class 2 — Satisfactory		1-2
Class 3 — Suspicious		3-10
Class 4 — Unsatisfactory		greater than 10

Refuse Disposal

Controlled tipping continued at the gravel pits of the North Notts. Gravel Co. Ltd., adjoining the Northern boundary of the Borough.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary under this section during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Tables showing the incidence of Infectious Disease will be found at the end of this report.

The incidence of Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever was lower than in 1953 and no deaths occurred from any of these diseases. The following table shows the incidence of certain infectious diseases over the past five years.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Measles	573	35	73	561	10
Scarlet Fever . .	24	13	53	54	17
Whooping Cough	26	95	4	55	35
Pulmonary T.B.	7	7	8	13	12
Poliomyelitis	—	1	2	1	1
Dysentery	23	4	—	—	6

There was one case of Poliomyelitis, a child aged 4 years, he made a good recovery but was still under treatment for some residual paralysis at the end of the year. The germ of Poliomyelitis is carried in the throat and nose and, what is probably more important, in the human excreta. It is, therefore, an infectious disease and it is always a relief when the danger period is passed without further cases being reported.

All homes where Poliomyelitis has occurred are, of course, visited by the Medical Officer of Health or his representatives, and advice is given regarding precautionary measures which consists mainly of strict attention to personal hygiene, i.e., washing hands before meals and after using the toilet.

6 Cases of dysentery were reported and there were none last year. They were all Sonne dysentery, which is usually a comparatively mild disease but is easily spread. The incidence of this disease has increased greatly throughout the country within the last few years.

Diphtheria

As already remarked there were no cases, and immunisation was carried on as in previous years at the Child Welfare Clinic and in the schools, and by General Practitioners. The following are the details, 1953 figures are given for comparison. Number of children who received primary immunisation :

	1953	1954
By Public Health Department	96	150
By General Practitioners	176	174
Total	272	324
Number of children given reinforcing doses :		
By Public Health Department	239	220
By General Practitioners	63	94
Total ..	302	314

Small Pox

No cases of Small Pox occurred. 81 Primary vaccinations and 14 re-vaccinations were done during the year by General Practitioners and the Public Health Department.

Tuberculosis

11 Males and one female were notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, with 3 deaths. In addition there were 2 male and 3 female cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The table below shows the age incidence.

Mass Radiography

In these days Mass Radiography has an important part to play in the campaign against tuberculosis, and we were glad to welcome the Mass Radiography Unit in June and July, 1954. Previous surveys were made in 1952 and 1949. Below can be found figures of the work done and the findings.

With regard to the 1954 survey, the apparatus was set up in the Butter Market and members of the general public attended there for examinations. In addition the Unit visited certain factories and schools in the town.

The Medical Director writes, "I think you will agree that it was a very satisfactory survey in every way as it resulted in an increased attendance of 800 over our last survey two years ago, though this can be accounted for chiefly by a more thorough attack on the school population. I feel our policy of visiting factories and schools, rather than carrying out the whole survey in the Butter Market proved an advantage and was much appreciated".

The number of cases of active disease discovered was 3, a low figure out of the total of 4,595 X-rayed. This, of course, in no way minimises the importance of the survey ; the important fact is that 3 sufferers were detected and referred for treatment,

and furthermore that they were thereby prevented from infecting their colleagues at work, in the home or at school. The significance of this will be appreciated as one case was a school-boy and one a factory worker. It must be remembered that active Pulmonary Tuberculosis is an infectious disease and is primarily spread by undetected and untreated cases. Brief summary of findings of the three surveys :

	1954	1952	1949
Total X-rayed	4,595	3,739	3,732
Cases of active Tuberculosis detected	3	5	8

It would, of course, be highly fallacious to conclude from these figures that the incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is rapidly declining. In fact 14 cases were notified in 1949 as against 12 in 1954.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pul-monary		Non-Pul-monary		Pul-monary		Non-Pul-monary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2- 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3- 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4- 5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-35	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-45	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-65	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and over	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	11	1	2	3	3	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1954

To the Medical Officer of Health,
Sir,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report on the work done during the year 1954.

There were two events in 1954 of considerable importance to me, viz. : the inspection of the dwelling houses in the Spital Hill area preparatory to the making of a Clearance Area and the transfer of the control and management of the Grove Lane abattoir from the Ministry of Food to the local Councils.

With regard to the unfit housing we did, in 1954, begin to make some real progress towards the clearance of bad houses. A report was made to the Public Health Committee in which a list of 332 houses regarded as unfit for human habitation was given and Committee inspected the Spital Hill-Moorgate area. The decision to proceed by means of Clearance Area and Compulsory Purchase Order for 66 houses was made, and detailed reports were prepared upon all these houses. At the same time other houses were to be brought up as individual unfits and dealt with by procedure under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Detailed figures upon this work will be found later in the report.

Local property owners have not availed themselves to any great extent of the provisions for increase of rent under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. This is a similar experience to most areas of the country and I think that the Sections of the Act dealing with rent increases will be little used. The procedure is cumbersome for the owners, and even when rents have been increased on poor property tenants seem reluctant to appeal to the Local Authority. There is an increasing number of cases where the tenants themselves do repairs providing the rent is not increased, and I found an instance of a tenant who spent £70 on repairs to a four roomed house with a net rent of approximately 5/- per week.

During 1954, 96 complaints were received and investigated, nuisances being found in 75 cases.

164 Preliminary Notices, requiring the abatement of nuisances or the remedying of defects were served, and these were followed up by statutory notices in 13 cases. Recourse to the Police Court became necessary in order to enforce one statutory notice and a nuisance order was obtained. The owner then carried out the work and the nuisance was abated.

Another owner who was served with two statutory notices asked the Corporation to do the work and to accept payment in instalments. This was agreed to and the authority carried out the works by contract with a private building firm.

Details of the defects remedied will be found in a summary at the end of this report.

Vermin

Assistance in the eradication of vermin from dwellinghouses is given to all householders who make a request for such help. The modern synthetic insecticides have been of great assistance in this work, and the bug is almost a forgotten insect in Retford.

The number of houses treated for insect pests was :

Ants	52	Woodworm.....	20
Beetles	13	Efleas	5

The refuse tip was dusted regularly with insecticide for the destruction of flies and crickets. We keep a sharp look-out for possible fly breeding dumps and if we could treat all such places with B.H.C. at intervals then the fly nuisance could be greatly reduced. We had little or no trouble with wasps.

Rodent Control

This work is undertaken by the local authority, a free service being given to all householders, and a charge being made in other cases. There was, once again, much activity against these pests but total eradication seems almost as far off as ever. It is a pity that rats and mice are immune to the rabbit disease, myxomatosis.

The public co-operate in this work and usually we get early notification of the existence of rats and mice. As far as food premises are concerned "rat proofing" is the order of the day and it is usually possible with the aid of concrete and metal plate to make a building proof against vermin.

The poisons in general use are "Warfarin", Zinc Phosphide and Calcium Cyanide dust. Zinc Phosphide is used only where it is possible to keep it away from all domestic animals.

We inspected 603 properties for possible rat infestation during the year, 199 infestations were discovered and the Corporation undertook the work of eradication in 146 cases. Inspections made were 1,145 by the operator and 89 by myself. 301 Dead rats were picked up, but the number actually killed would be many times greater than this.

No legal actions were necessary as occupiers of infested properties are generally only too anxious to help to get rid of rats or mice.

Common Lodging House

There is one registered Common Lodging House in the town with accommodation for 41 persons. I made 28 visits during the year and in 3 instances notices were served requiring the abatement of contraventions. The premises and beds are treated with insecticides on occasions throughout the year.

The keeper is discouraged from accommodating children in the house, but it is impossible to prevent this happening at times when a parent with children is in the town with no housing available to them other than the lodging house.

Dustbins

The Corporation provide and maintain dustbins at premises in the Borough for an annual charge on the rates of 5/- per bin. During 1954, 224 dustbins were supplied and the scheme is working generally in a satisfactory manner.

Mortuary

The Corporation has for many years provided and maintained a public mortuary. Since the advent of the National Health Services the number of bodies brought into the mortuary has increased, principally, because of the much greater use of the premises for post-mortem examinations. During, 1954, 40 cases were brought to the Mortuary and, of these, 24 were from the Rural District area. The Rural District Council make a small payment to the Corporation for each case.

FOOD INSPECTION

Meat

The Ministry of Food ceased to be responsible for the slaughter of food animals at the end of June, 1954, after undertaking this work for a period of $14\frac{1}{2}$ years. The slaughterhouse problem is referred to elsewhere in this report and it only remains for me to say that the final report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses, set up about two years ago, is awaited with interest.

During the final six months of the year whilst the control of Grove Lane abattoir was in the hands of the Councils some improvements in equipment were carried out there. A steam boiler and scalding vat were installed, the lairage accommodation was increased, drinking troughs were fixed in the lairage and washing facilities for the workmen were provided in the actual slaughterhouse.

As in previous years, all the carcasses and organs of animals slaughtered for human food were inspected before removal from the slaughterhouses. The Sanitary Inspectors of the East Retford Rural District Council participate in this work and this arrangement has operated throughout the year efficiently and harmoniously. There is still the need for long hours of duty outside the normal working hours of the Local Government Officer, including a considerable amount of Sunday work.

A comparison of the number of animals slaughtered during the past seven years is as follows :

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
1954	2,614	709	9,201	5,616
1953	3,521	1,026	10,635	3,775
1952	3,907	1,043	12,509	2,821
1951	4,176	1,514	8,262	1,305
1950	3,956	1,483	10,017	633
1949	2,802	1,370	9,987	374
1948	2,738	1,333	6,928	182

The percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis has showed a reduction again but it is a blot upon the agricultural industry of this country that nearly one-fifth of all bovines slaughtered are affected with tuberculosis. Denmark and the U.S.A. have both obtained practically 100% tubercle free bovine herds and we could do the same if the job was tackled with sufficient vigour.

Percentages affected with Tuberculosis

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Cattle	29.15	31.83	28.28	23.2	22.39	20.22	18.09
Pigs.....	13.23	12.3	12.48	8.27	6.94	5.72	5.27
Calves.....	0.6	0.8	1.66	0.26	0.47	0.28	0.42

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 84,690 lbs. The previous seven years were as follows :

1953	109,121 lbs.
1952	139,368 lbs.
1951	142,086 lbs.
1950	176,927 lbs.
1949	122,156 lbs.
1948	120,719 lbs.
1947	126,871 lbs.

All this condemned meat is stained with a green aniline dye and is sold for conversion, after sterilization, into animal foods, fats, bones and fertilizers.

Other List of Meat	<i>Cattle including</i>		<i>Sheep and</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Lambs</i>	
Killed	2614	709	9201	5616
Inspected	2614	709	9201	5616
All diseases except tuberculosis (whole carcasses condemned)	22	53	52	50
All diseases except tuberculosis (part carcasses condemned)	Accurate figures cannot be given			
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis	Accurate figures cannot be given			
Tuberculosis only (whole carcasses condemned)	44	2	Nil	12
Tuberculosis only (part carcasses and/or organs condemned)	427	1	Nil	284
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	18.09	0.42	Nil	5.27

Other Food Condemned

During 1954, I paid 389 visits to food shops and markets for the dual purpose of inspecting the food and the premises. I append a list of food condemned, mostly for decomposition.

Tinned foods ..	539 tins	Jellied Veal	36 lbs.
Ox tongue	60 lbs.	Corned beef	60 lbs.
Cheese	9 lbs.	Rice	1 pkt.
Processed cheese	5 boxes	Rice 'Krispies' ..	2 pkts.
Ham and veal....	117½ lbs.	Liquid eggs.....	121 lbs.
Pickles and sauce	3 bottles	Figs	32 lbs.
Jam	5 lbs.	Raisins	1 lb.
Beef	227 lbs.	Oats	2 pkts.

During the year, 21 notices were served requiring occupiers of food premises to comply with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and at the end of the year 17 had been completed. There is a need for regular and frequent visits to all food premises but owing to inadequate staff and pressure of other duties it is impossible to devote more time to this work. One food trader was prosecuted for offences under the Act and a conviction was obtained.

Three cases of food poisoning were notified during 1954. In two cases in one house the pathogenic organism was not found but some stale artificial cream buns were the offending food. The other case was caused by an infection of *Staphylococcus Aureus*, and the source of infection was suspected to be pressed cooked meat probably infected after purchase from the shop.

Bakehouses

There are 7 bakehouses in the Borough and 38 visits were made to them by myself and on occasion by the Medical Officer. Three contraventions were found and notices were all complied with in a prompt manner.

Ice Cream

At the beginning of the year there were two premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. One manufacturer ceased business but another firm was registered for manufacture late in the year.

There are numerous shops registered for storage and sale only and in these cases the ice cream is sold wrapped as received from the manufacturers.

The results of samples submitted for examination are as follows :

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Satisfactory	19	22	16	23	24	15	7
Unsatisfactory	7	11	13	3	1	7	3
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	33	29	26	25	22	10
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Milk

There is only one dairy on our register and 28 visits were made during the year. No contraventions were discovered.

F. R. SMITH,

Sanitary Inspector

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :	
(i) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	352
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	491
(ii) (a) Number of houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	75
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	181
(iii) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	70
(iv) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	156
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of a formal notice :	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	109
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
1. by owners	Nil
2. by local authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of a formal notice	
1. by owners	16
2. by local authority in default of owners	2

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	2
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936 :	
(a) (i) Number of houses overcrowded at the end of year	Nil
(ii) Number of families living therein	Nil
(iii) Number of persons living therein	Nil
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	43
(d) Particulars of cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the local authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Summary of Visits made during the year

Houses inspected, Public Health Acts..	159
Houses inspected, Housing Acts	210
Complaints investigated	96
Common Lodging House	28
Nuisances investigated	97
Factories visited	21
Re infectious diseases	74
Premises visited re rats and mice	89
Interviews with owners, etc., on site ..	53
Revisits to properties under Notice ..	283
Bakehouses	38
Visits to Knackers Yard, Offensive Trades, etc.	75

Slaughterhouses	1245
Butcher's shops	233
Markets and other Food Shops	389
Ice Cream premises	48
Dairies	28
Petroleum Acts	60
Caravans	24
Miscellaneous	67
	3317

Summary of Nuisances abated during the year

Foul or defective drains or closets	70
Defective house roof and spoutings ..	25
Damp or defective walls and/or plaster	14
Defective yard paving	5
Defective house floors	13
Defective house windows	31
Defective cooking ranges and fireplaces	11
Defective sinks	12
Houses without refuse receptacles	1
Houses overcrowded	5
Dirty or verminous houses	6
Nuisances from manure or animals ..	7
Defective water supplies	8
Nuisances from smoke	1
Miscellaneous nuisances	4

Contraventions of Order or Byelaws abated during the year

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Abated</i>
Food shops and stores	21	17
Knackers Yard	3	3
Bakehouses	3	3
Dairy	—	—
Factory	4	4
Common Lodging House	3	2
Slaughterhouses	1	1
	35	30

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities . .	1	7	7	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	2	86	52	6	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total . .		93	59	7	—	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c. line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	4	—	1	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— (a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	3	3	—	3	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total	60	7	7	—	4	—	60

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	At all Ages	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	Age unk'n
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	6	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	10	2	1	-	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	13	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	5	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	17	-	1	1	1	1	11	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ..	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	3	3	-
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	35	7	4	2	3	6	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ..	108	9	6	5	9	11	28	5	2	8	7	9	9	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

Diseases	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	2
Encephalitis	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	10	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	13	2	1	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	17	1	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3
Scarlet Fever.....	12	-	2	1	2	3	-	1	2	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.....	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary ..	35	6	10	13	3	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	108	10	16	24	12	8	2	5	3	1	4	10	13
Totals..													

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	Total Notified	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	1	2	3	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	1	2	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	3	3	—	—	—	—
Measles	10	5	1	4	—	—
Malaria	2	1	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	6	—	7	(4b, 1c)	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	1	—	(c)	1
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	17	6	—	11	(a)	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	4	—	8	(5b, 3c, 2e, 1g)	11
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	3	—	2	(e)	2
Whooping Cough	35	3	6	26	(c)	3
Totals	108	33	12	63	28	9

(a) North Carlton Isolation Hospital
 (b) Worksop Kilton Hospital
 (c) Lodgemoor, Sheffield

(d) Kings Hill Hospital, Sutton-in-Ashfield
 (e) Ransom Sanatorium
 (f) Barnby Road Hospital, Balderton



