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ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report

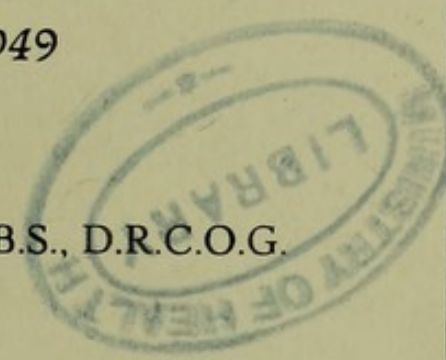
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1949

BY

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.



TOGETHER WITH

The Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Members of the Council

(1949-1950)

Chairman:

H. T. COURT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

A. J. C. CATFORD

Members:

A. ARMSTRONG

W. G. BACK

W. G. D. CAMERON

MRS. C. M. CROSS

A. DEVLIN

A. FARR

MRS. A. M. R. HOOPER

H. LETCH

S. C. LITTLECHILD

Medical Officer of Health:

G. WINN EVERETT, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G

Sanitary Inspector:

A. D. S. BLACKHALL, A.R.San.I.

Pupil Assistant:

J. S. RUCK

Clerks:

B. G. HARRIS

MRS. I. M. PENTECOST

Public Health Department:

Council Offices, Shenley Road, Boreham Wood, Herts.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my ninth Annual Report, on the health of the District for the year 1949.

VITAL STATISTICS

It is interesting to note that the Death Rate of 5.2 per 1,000 population is the lowest recorded for at least 26 years. The current Birth Rate of 19.2 per 1,000 population has only been exceeded three times in the same period. No records are available earlier than 1924, but it is probably safe to say that the Death Rate, which is less than half that of the County of London, is the lowest ever in this District.

DIPHTHERIA

A monthly clinic is held for immunisation and close co-operation is maintained with the Divisional Medical Officer. 178 Children were immunised during the year. For the fourth successive year there were no notifications of diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were ten new cases during the year as compared with 15, 12, 12, 15 and 10 respectively in the years 1948 to 1944 inclusive. These figures do not include cases in Shenley Hospital.

FOOD PREPARERS

During the year regular sampling of ice-cream was continued in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Ministry of Health Bulletin for March, 1947. The requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 are being strictly enforced at premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream.

HOUSING

One hundred and fifty-three permanent houses were completed and occupied during the year. In spite of the Council's energetic housing programme since the war, there are still many families without a separate home, although I would say that cases of serious overcrowding are very rare.

GENERAL

The year has been one of sustained effort and achievement and I am pleased to report that there has been considerable emphasis, by way of routine supervision and constant surveillance, on clean food production. I am sure that much more is achieved by personal contact, in this field, than by posters, circulars or other forms of propaganda.

I must again express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his willing co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. WYNN EVERETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA

Area	8,339 acres
Population, 1921 Census	4,513
Population, 1931 Census	*5,946
Registrar-General's estimate of	
(a) resident population mid-1949 ...	} 13,660
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates ...	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to Rate Books	} 3,287
Elstree 2,566	
Shenley 633	
Ridge 88	
Rateable Value (1st April), 1950	£134,324
Estimated product of a penny rate (1st April, 1950)	£550

* Adjusted in respect of alteration of boundary in 1935.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises the parishes of Shenley and Ridge which are chiefly agricultural and residential, and Elstree. In Elstree the principal occupations are industrial, more particularly the film studios and allied industries, photographic processing, knitting mills, electrical accessories and light engineering. Elstree is to some extent residential, particularly on the west side of the London Midland Region Railway Line. On the east side of the London Midland Region Railway Station, in the Boreham Wood portion of the parish, considerable development has taken place in the past decade. A number of new factories were erected prior to and during the war. Various types of industry are represented including the manufacture of cosmetics and pharmaceutical chemicals, petrol tanks, pistons, ventilation equipment as well as printing and light engineering works.

The County of London (Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire) Compulsory Purchase Order 1947, having been confirmed, a start was made during the year, on the erection of houses. In the Elstree Rural District approximately 605 acres are affected, and about 4,500 houses will be built.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	252	127	125
	Illegitimate	10	3	7

Birth Rate: 19.2 per 1,000 *estimated resident population.*

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	5	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Rate: 11.3 per 1,000 <i>total (live and still) births</i>							

Deaths	...	...	...	...	71	37	34
Death Rate: 5.2 per 1,000 <i>estimated average population.</i>							

The Comparability Factor of 1.15 (furnished by the Registrar-General to correct anomalies in age and sex distribution, compared with the country as a whole) gives a Standardised Death Rate of 5.98. The Death Rate for England and Wales and for the Administrative County of London respectively are given as 11.7 and 12.2 per 1,000 population.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes:—</i>		
Puerperal sepsis	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes ...	Nil	—
Total	Nil	—

Death rates of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	22.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	23.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

One whole-time Assistant Sanitary Inspector who is studying for the qualifying examination of the Joint Board.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examination of sputum is carried out at the Herts County Council laboratory. Swabs are examined by the Clinical Research Association. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are examined at the Public Health Sector Laboratory, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Cases of infectious disease are conveyed by the Coppetts Wood Hospital Ambulance. The ambulance for non-infectious cases provided by the Herts County Council is stationed at the Fire Station, Manor Way and is manned by the Herts Fire and Ambulance Brigade Staff. If this service is not available Ambulances are on call from a pool controlled by the West Herts Divisional Control, St. Albans.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are Nursing Associations in Elstree, Boreham Wood, Shenley and Ridge, supplying three whole-time nurses who work under the Herts County Council. There is no special nursing for infectious diseases.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS:—

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare
First Aid Post, Shenley Road,
Boreham Wood

Ante-Natal:
2nd and 4th Thursdays
at 2 p.m.

Infants:
Tuesdays: 2 to 4 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation:
2nd Wednesday in each
month at 10.15 a.m.

(ii) School Dental Clinic
Hillside Secondary Modern School,
Boreham Wood

Wednesdays:
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(Closed as from 1st May
1948 due to resignation
of School Dental Officer).

(e) HOSPITALS

The Rural District of Elstree is covered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Individual hospitals are managed by Hospital Management Committee Groups.

Barnet Group No. 5 Hospital Management Committee

Wellhouse Hospital

General Hospital with complement of 456 beds. Has facilities for operative surgery, X-ray, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pathology etc. Regular consultative clinics are as follows:—

Ante-natal	Orthopaedic
Dental	Paediatric
Dermatological	Post-Natal
Ear, Nose & Throat	Psychiatric
Fractures	Radiotherapy
Gynaecological	Surgical
Medical	Tuberculosis
Ophthalmological	

St. Stephens Hospital
(formerly Barnet Isolation Hospital)

Small general hospital with complement of 88 beds.

Victoria Hospital, Wood Street,
Barnet

Maternity Hospital with complement of 48 Maternity Beds and 48 cots.

Clare Hall Hospital

Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Elmbank Hospital, Arkley

Hospital for chronic sick aged female patients with complement of 25 beds.

Mid Herts Group (No. 7) Hospital Management Committee

Hill End Hospital and Clinic,
St. Albans

Child Psychiatric and Guidance service.

Mondays to Fridays: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(Patients seen by appointment only)

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Rd.
St. Albans

Venereal Diseases:

Attendances:

Females:

Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon and
5 to 7 p.m. Fridays 2 to 4 p.m.

Males:

Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m. Fridays
5 to 7 p.m.

West Herts Group (No. 9) Hospital Management Committee

Bushey Hospital, Bushey

Bed Complement 38

Northern Group (No. 20) Hospital Management Committee

Coppetts Wood Hospital,
London, N.20.
(Tel.: TUDor 1160)

All cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Smallpox) are taken to this hospital. Bed complement 144.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I. (i) WATER

The following information with respect to the water supply of the area is given in accordance with Circular 2/50 of the Ministry of Health.

1. The water supply was maintained during 1949 at a satisfactory standard in (a) quality and (b) quantity.
2. The Colne Valey Water Company are the suppliers and have provided the following information with regard to the sampling of the water supplies during the year:—
559 samples of raw water were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were variable.
1,914 samples of supply waters were submitted to bacteriological examination. The results were very satisfactory.
333 samples of raw water were examined chemically and the results were variable.
360 samples of supply waters were examined chemically and the results were very satisfactory.
3. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
4. There was no action during the year in respect of any contamination.
5. Of the 3,287 houses in the district:—
(a) About 3,249 or 99 per cent. are supplied from piped water mains direct to the house and
(b) About 25 or 1 per cent. by means of standpipes.
(c) Thirteen isolated houses have no piped water supply.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The extension to the sewer in the village of Ridge was completed and several houses and farm buildings were connected.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Several cases of minor pollutions of streams have been investigated. One case of a soil connection having been made to the storm water sewer was found and remedied.

Several ponds were treated with D.D.T. as a precaution against the breeding of mosquitoes.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 80 pail closets at out-lying farms and farm cottages all the dwelling houses in the district are served by water closets; these, with the exception of a few which discharge into cesspools, are connected to public sewers.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is collected from the whole of the district by the Council's own staff (under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor), and disposed of by controlled tipping at Green Street, Shenley.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The prescribed tabular statement is contained in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which commences on page 12.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No statutory action was taken during the year.

(v) CAMPING SITES

- (a) The number of sites in the area which were used during 1949 was one, licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) Eight annual licences authorising individual applicants to station and use moveable dwellings were issued during the year.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, excluding holders of individual licences, 40.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No statutory action was taken during the year. The Council is a constituent member of the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council; the Sanitary Inspector represents the Hertfordshire Local Authorities on the Executive Committee.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths in the area.

4. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory. The water is supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company. The schools are visited regularly by the Assistant School Medical Officer, and especially on an outbreak of any infectious disease for the purpose of excluding or examining possible contacts and advising on any necessary measures.

No schools were closed for infectious disease.

5. RODENT CONTROL

From the 1st May, when powers were delegated to the Council under the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, 39 domestic premises and 19 business premises received rodent control treatment. One Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work, under the supervision of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D**HOUSING**

During the year 15 inspections and visits were made in connection with the Rural Housing Survey.

Four Council-owned sub-standard houses were demolished and a pair of semi-detached 5-room houses erected on the site. A further four similar houses were also demolished and the erection of four houses and a bungalow on the site commenced.

SECTION E**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD****(a) MILK SUPPLY**

See page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(b) SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES

See page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) ICE CREAM

See page 16 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

There were 10 cases of scarlet fever. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths. All cases were removed to Isolation hospital.

There were no cases of diphtheria. Diphtheria anti-toxin is immediately available if required.

Disinfection of infected premises is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning in the district.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year:—

Disease	Total notified	Total cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	10	10	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Measles	72	—	—
Whooping Cough	55	—	—
Pneumonia	6	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—

Age-Group	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & up
Scarlet Fever				1	1	7	1					
Diphtheria												
Erysipelas										1	3	
Measles		7	10	14	9	26	2	2	2			
Whooping Cough	3	8	8	10	7	17			1	1		
Pneumonia			1			3					1	1
Dysentery												
Puerperal Pyrexia									1			
Poliomyelitis		1							1			

Tuberculosis—New cases and mortality during 1949.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1								
1—5 ...								
5—15 ...	1	1						
15—25 ...		1				1		
25—35 ...		2			1			
35—45 ...	1							
45—55 ...	4	1						
55—65 ...				1				
65 and up ...						1		
* TOTALS	6	5		1	1	2		

* These figures include four cases from Shenley Hospital—two new cases and two deaths.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Elstree Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My eleventh Annual Report covers a period noteworthy for certain administrative changes. Perhaps the most important of these has been the transfer of powers under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944, which came into operation on the 1st October 1949. The effect of this Act is that the supervision of Milk production has now passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, so that the routine inspection of cowsheds and dairies is no longer my concern. Milk distributors and retailers are still controlled by the local authority. For my part, I shall miss the friendly contact with dairy farmers. Generally speaking, I found them most co-operative and I tried to build up some understanding between us. I think we got to know each other and when I would make my routine call, the farmer would know that he was talking to someone who lived locally, and he could reasonably hope that that person would know local conditions and understand local difficulties. I hope we shall not lose the personal touch under the aegis of the Ministry.

Routine inspections of canteens, restaurants, shops, factories, etc., have been intensified during the year and, in connection with food preparers especially, my aim has been a monthly inspection. During the summer months, samples have been taken from every Ice Cream Manufacturer and a fortnightly sample from each has been aimed at. It is gratifying to note that this has resulted in a gradual improvement; samples falling into Grades 3 and 4 have become fewer and fewer.

I am confident that the statistics contained in the following pages will show that the utmost vigilance is being maintained in public health matters, and I present my report with some measure of satisfaction and with a sincere expression of gratitude for your continued confidence and support.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. S. BLACKHALL,
Sanitary Inspector.

**PARTICULARS OF
INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR**

Rural Housing Survey:							
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Public Health Act inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Public Health Act re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Visits re overcrowding, including computation of permitted numbers	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Visits in respect of:							
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Smoke nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Food Preparers	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Stables and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Tents, Vans and Sheds (Moveable Dwellings)	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Passage paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Water Courses	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Housing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	639
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
							TOTAL 2,135

DETAILS OF INTIMATION NOTICES & STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Intimation Notices

Nature of Principal Defects	No. of Notices served.
General housing defects including leaking roofs, dampness, defective plaster, floors, window-frames, etc....	18
Absence of necessary information in rent books (Sections 4 and 62 of the Housing Act 1936)	4
Overcrowding	—
Drainage	5
Defective paving of yards and passages	—
Defective w.c. and sink connections	9
Absence of, or dilapidated dustbins	7
Choked and insanitary water courses	—
Filthy or verminous premises	2
Insufficient water supply (including burst pipes, leaking tanks, etc.)	3
Waste of water (referred to the Colne Valley Water Co.)	—
Offensive accumulations	—
Improper keeping of animals	—
Dairies and cowsheds...	9
Food preparers	12
Factories and Offices	10
Bakehouses	—
Stables and Piggeries	—
Nuisance from smoke or effluvia	1
Shops (Sanitary or other arrangements)	1
TOTAL	81

Statutory Notices

Nature of defects	Statute	No. of Notices served	No. of Houses or Premises affected
Defective drain	Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	1	1
Paving of yards and passages	Section 56, Public Health Act, 1936	1	3
Nuisances	Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936	14	14
Dilapidated dustbins	Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936	3	3

Legal Proceedings

111 Shenley Road Section 93, Owner's appeal against
(requiring the repair Public Health Act, 1936 decision of County Court
of a defective smok- in the Herts Quarter
ing kitchen range). Sessions. Appeal upheld.

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Houses
Repairs to plastering and woodwork	17
Floors repaired	9
Window frames repaired and sash cords renewed...	9
Leaking roofs and gutters repaired	15
External brickwork repointed or repaired	6
Dirty rooms cleansed or redecorated	3
Dampness remedied	8
Cooking ranges and firegrates repaired or renewed ...	6
Facilities for domestic washing provided or improved ...	2
Adequate water supply provided	—
Hot and cold supply cisterns repaired or renewed ...	4
Drains cleared and drainage systems repaired	21
W.c. and sink connections repaired... ..	20
Paving to yards and passages repaired	5
Dustbins provided	9
Water courses cleansed	1
Accumulations removed	—
Nuisance from the keeping of animals abated	—
Cowsheds and dairies limewashed	5
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	—
Cowshed approaches cleansed	1
Food preparers' premises improved	9
Rooms disinfected	15
Verminous houses disinfested	17
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	—
Factory defects remedied	10
Smoke nuisances remedied	—
Moveable dwellings removed	—
Stables and Piggeries limewashed	—
Miscellaneous	3
TOTAL	195

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED AND PARTICULARS OF CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	-	2	17	-	135
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with disease (other than tuberculosis) ...	-	-	-	-	1.5%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage (of the number inspected) affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.5%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Number of retail purveyors.

No. of Licences issued	Sterilised	Pasteurised	Tuberculin Tested	Total
Dealers' Licences ...	4	2	4	10
Supplementary Licences	3	2	2	7

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947

There are 7 premises in the district registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for manufacture and sale, and 11 premises registered for the sale, of ice cream.

53 samples were taken during the year of which details are given below:—

No. of Samples	Results			
	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
53	16	16	12	9

Provisional Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory, Grades 3 and 4 are unsatisfactory.

HOUSING

Summary of action taken

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	41
--	----

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 notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners	16
----------------------	----

(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
---	---

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1949

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	7	—	—
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	62	58	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	70	65	—	—