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ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

WILLIAM L. BELL

M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.

**FOR THE YEAR 1949**

*including the*

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. W. G. CORNER

M.S.I.A.



ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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*Medical Officer of Health (Permanent) :*

W. L. BELL, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

A. W. G. CORNER (Cert. R.S.I.), M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

A. H. V. MARSDEN, M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

M. HODGKINS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.,  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

J. FORREST, M.R.San.I.,  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

*Rodent Officer :*

J. R. SNELL.

*General Assistants :*

H. W. FRY.  
R. A. WARD (Temporary).

*Secretary to Medical Officer of Health :*

MISS B. L. CAMPBELL.

*Shorthand-Typist :*

MISS M. PANNELL (*resigned*).  
MISS A. NEWSTEAD.

*Junior Clerk :*

MR. D. PLATT.

ETON RURAL DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

**For the Year 1949**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1949.

I took over my appointment in August, and as my predecessor died in March, there was a considerable period when the work of the department was carried out under the guidance of Mr. Corner, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, with occasional visits by a Medical Officer acting only in a part-time capacity. I should like to pay tribute to the way in which the work was carried out during this difficult period by Mr. Corner and to the loyal co-operation of the staff, and for their help since I assumed office.

It is gratifying to record that there were no serious epidemics in the district. The vital statistics show a satisfactory comparison with the national rates.

Much emphasis has rightly been laid in recent years on the paramount importance of raising the standards of Food Hygiene. A great deal of good work has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during their visits to food traders, by the giving of advice and guidance and by propaganda concerning the clean handling of food.

A growing problem (not peculiar to this District) has been the increasing number of old folk living alone and not receiving proper care and attention. In the past many such cases have been overlooked, but increasing attention is now being paid to the subject

and in this District real attempts have been made to cope with the problem, and a large amount of voluntary work has been done. It was found necessary to deal with one case under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the woman concerned was admitted to Hospital under a Court Order.

Sanitation in many of the Schools in the District is still far from satisfactory, particularly in those cases where primitive pail closets are still the only form of sanitary convenience, and this Council has for a considerable period been trying to get the matter remedied. I have had no hesitation in certifying these as a menace to health and as a consequence efforts are being made to ensure the installation of water-borne systems.

I should like to express my appreciation of the support and sympathetic understanding of the Committee since my arrival in this District.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM L. BELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# SECTION I

## STATISTICS

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Area (Land and Inland Water) ... ..	35,500 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	41,100
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1949 according to Rate Books ... ..	10,925
Rateable Value, 1.4.49 ... ..	£399,296
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£1,575

TABLE I.

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## VITAL STATISTICS

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### Live Births

Total ...	684	Male	379	Female	305
Legitimate ...	644	Male	360	Female	284
Illegitimate...	40	Male	19	Female	21
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	16.64
National Rate	...	...	...	...	16.7

### Still Births

Total ...	8	Male	3	Female	5
Legitimate ...	8	Male	3	Female	5
Illegitimate...	—	Male	—	Female	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population...	...	...	...	...	0.19
National Rate	...	...	...	...	0.39

### Deaths

Total ...	420	Male	227	Female	193
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	10.2
National Rate	...	...	...	...	11.7



Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :—

(a) From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	1

#### Death Rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births

(a) From Sepsis	...	...	Nil	National Rate 0·11
(b) From other causes	...	1·4		National Rate 0·71

#### Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

Total	...	...	23	Male	13	Female	10
Legitimate	...	...	21	Male	12	Female	9
Illegitimate	...	...	2	Male	1	Female	1

#### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	33·6
National Rate	...	...	...	32·0

#### Deaths from Measles (all ages)

Male	...	-	Female	-	Total	...	...	Nil
------	-----	---	--------	---	-------	-----	-----	-----

#### Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)

Male	...	1	Female	-	Total	...	...	1
------	-----	---	--------	---	-------	-----	-----	---

#### Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)

Male	...	1	Female	-	Total	...	...	1
------	-----	---	--------	---	-------	-----	-----	---

#### Births

The birth rate per 1,000 population for 1949 at the figure of 16·64 shows an increase over the 1948 figure of 16·07, and is almost identical with the national rate of 16·7.

#### Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate at 33·6 per 1,000 live births is slightly above the national figure of 32·0.

#### Deaths

The total number of deaths in the district was 420, giving a rate of 10·2 against the national rate of 11·7.

The chief causes of death were heart disease, cerebral hæmorrhage, cancer, in that order of frequency. Deaths from cancer and tuberculosis have fallen.

TABLE II

## CAUSES OF DEATH in the Eton Rural District during 1949

						Male	Female
						All Causes	...
						227	193
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	6	2
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases...	...	...	...	...	2	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	2	2
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus M, Uterus F	...	...	...	...	2	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	24	21
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	2
18.	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	37	40
19.	Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	65	53
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	8	7
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	8	7
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	13	7
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	5
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	1
25.	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	5
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	2	3
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	3	3
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	6
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	4	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	5	3
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	20	12

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

#### Staff

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Owing to the sudden death of Dr. Hill in March, 1949, it was found necessary to make temporary arrangements for a Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Ronaldson, Assistant County Medical Officer, acted in a part-time capacity until the vacancy was filled on 15th August, 1949, by the appointment of Dr. W. L. Bell, acting at first in a temporary capacity and later as permanent Medical Officer of Health.

There were no changes in the Staff of Sanitary Inspectors, and apart from the appointment of a secretary to the M.O.H. there was little change in the office staff.

## SECTION III

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#### National Assistance Act, 1948

#### Section 47—Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

Following a complaint from the neighbours of a woman of 65 years, living alone in a wooden bungalow, the premises were inspected and found to be in an appalling condition of filth and neglect and the occupant to be uncared-for, emaciated and living under the most primitive conditions. The woman at first refused admission to her home, and a Court Order had to be obtained before access could be gained.

In spite of several attempts at persuasion, she refused to be admitted voluntarily to hospital. Her mental condition, although extremely eccentric, did not justify certification. It was therefore decided that action should be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

In order to obtain a Court Order for removal to hospital, a satisfactory Certificate has to be produced and substantiated. There was no difficulty in proving that removal was desirable in the

interests of the person concerned and for preventing injury to the health of other persons, but the grounds on which the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health were based presented something of a problem. In such cases it is necessary to prove that the person is either aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated. The person concerned was neither aged nor physically incapacitated, and she was in the habit of walking several miles practically every day. It was necessary, therefore, to prove that she was infirm, which could only be done by demonstrating that she was "mentally" infirm. No legal definition of the term infirm appeared to have been made, and it was decided that the dictionary definition of "irresolute" should be used. The magistrates were satisfied of the presence of infirmity and an order for committal to hospital for 3 months (Part 3 accommodation) was made.

## SECTION IV

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### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

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#### Water

Four water undertakings provide the majority of the piped water supplies to the district, mainly on the lines indicated in the Report for 1946. There are in addition two other Undertakings supplying water, i.e. (a) The South West Suburban Co. (referred to in the Report of 1946 as No. 5) who supply some ten properties, including a hotel, camping site, and several bungalows to that small portion of the Parish of Wraysbury which is physically separated from the district by the River Thames, and (b) The Marlow Water Co., who supply some three isolated properties on the northern fringe of the boundary of the Parish of Taplow.

The position in relation to the supply to some 500 properties in the Parish of Wraysbury remains unchanged but will, it is hoped, be finalised after considerations of Town and Country Planning are resolved.

A table showing the results of samples taken from main supplies is appended at the end of this section, together with details of samples taken from other sources.

The several Water Undertakings have advised as follows:—

BURNHAM, DORNEY & HITCHAM WATERWORKS CO., LTD.  
Mains laid: Burnham, 575 yds. (3-in.), 631 yds. (4-in); Dorney, 256 yds. (3-in.).

Twenty-seven samples were sent for bacteriological examination and in all cases results were of a very high standard. Rainfall for year, 21.41 inches, this being 3.15 inches below the average. The rainfall for October, 5.94 inches, was the highest for this month in the Company's records.

AMERSHAM, BEACONSFIELD & DISTRICT WATER CO. (INC.).  
An extension of main was made at Bulstrode Park, Gerrards Cross. The water supplied by the Company is of high quality (see result of analysis below\*) and there is always an ample supply available. The water is treated at the source with chlorine and is also de-chlorinated before passing into supply.

**\*Report** (dated 10.3.50)

AMERSHAM, BEACONSFIELD & DISTRICT WATER Co.

(Chemical results in parts per million)

Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	Slight chlorinous
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	...	7.0
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	...	34
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	...	495
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	...	330
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	...	15
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	...	240
Hardness—Total 270—						
Carbonate (Temporary)	...	...	...	...	...	240
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	...	...	...	...	...	30
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	4.2
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	...	0.05
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	0.35
Metals	...	...	...	...	...	Absent

## BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in ... ..	}	1 day at 37°C. 0 2 days at 37°C. 0 3 days at 20°C. 0
		Present    Absent
		in            from
Presumptive Coliform Reaction ... ..	—	100 ml.
Bact. coli. ... ..	—	100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ... ..	—	100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

**BOROUGH OF SLOUGH.** Mains laid : Stoke Poges, 120 yds. (3-in.), 26 yds. (4-in.) and in addition a further 345 yds. of 3-in. was laid as a private main ; Datchet, 532 yds. (3-in.), 848 yds. (4-in.).

The number of houses served by the Undertaking in the Rural District estimated at 2,157 (pop. estimated 9,926). Of these, 2,096 houses have a piped supply into the house, the remaining 61 being by standpipe.

The high quality of the water has been maintained throughout the year, monthly bacteriological examinations of the raw water have been taken, and in every case the report has been that the water is of a highly satisfactory quality and suitable for domestic use.

The supply has been sufficient in quantity, and the Corporation has a large scheme under design for improvement works to meet the future needs. The rain water, as previously stated, is quite satisfactory, and the only treatment given is chlorination as a precautionary measure.

**RICKMANSWORTH & UXBRIDGE VALLEY WATER CO.** Mains laid : Denham 61 yds. (2-in.) ; Hedgerley 69 yds. (4-in.), 1,012 yds. (6-in.) ; Fulmer 112 yds. (4 in.).

The number of domestic supplies afforded throughout the area at 31st December, 1949, was 4,203. The supply is regularly analysed and the results obtained invariably show the water is perfectly pure and in every way suitable for public supply. A constant supply is maintained, and the sterilisation treatment employed is the chloramine process ; the residual chlorine at both West Drayton and Iver Pumping Stations before being passed into the supply is .25 parts per million.

Details of samples taken from various sources are as follows :—

## SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM WATER UNDERTAKINGS

(1) <i>Parish</i>	(2) <i>Water Undertaker</i>	(3) <i>Bacteriological Samples</i>		(4) <i>Chemical Samples</i>		(5) <i>Remarks</i>
		<i>Date</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Result</i>	
WEXHAM ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	5-1-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co.	26-1-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET ...	Slough Boro. Water Department ...	26-1-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
BURNHAM ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	26-1-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DENHAM ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	—	—	16-3-49	Satisfactory	†
IVER ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	9-5-49	Satisfactory	9-5-49	Satisfactory	†
DATCHET ...	Slough Boro. Water Department ...	7-6-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
WRAYSBURY ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	7-6-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
BURNHAM ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	8-6-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co....	8-6-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
HEDGERLEY ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	17-8-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
TAPLOW ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	17-8-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
WEXHAM ...	Slough Boro. Water Department ...	24-8-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*

\* Submitted to Public Health Laboratory Service, Reading.

† Submitted to The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM WATER UNDERTAKINGS—continued

(1) <i>Parish</i>	(2) <i>Water Undertaker</i>	(3) <i>Bacteriological Samples</i>		(4) <i>Chemical Samples</i>		(5) <i>Remarks</i>
		<i>Date</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Result</i>	
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co....	24-8-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
IVER ... ..	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	7-9-49	Satisfactory	7-9-49	Satisfactory	†
WRAYSBURY ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	—	—	7-9-49	Iron objectionable for domest. use Sample sat.	†
IVER ... ..	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	—	—	7-9-49	Satisfactory	†
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co....	19-10-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
HEDGERLEY ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co....	19-10-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FARNHAM COMMON	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	19-10-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
STOKE POGES ...	Slough Boro. Water Department ...	19-10-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
WEXHAM ... ..	Slough Boro. Water Department ...	9-11-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FARNHAM COMMON	Slough Boro. Water Department ...	20-12-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FARNHAM COMMON	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	20-12-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FARNHAM COMMON	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	20-12-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FARNHAM COMMON	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	20-12-49	Satisfactory	—	—	*

\* Submitted to Public Health Laboratory Service, Reading.

† Submitted to The Counties Public Health Laboratories.



**SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING PLACES**

(1) <i>Name of Swimming Pool or Bathing Place</i>	(2) <i>Controlled by</i>	(3) <i>Bacteriological Samples</i>		(4) <i>Chemical Samples</i>		(5) <i>Remarks</i>
		<i>Date</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Result</i>	
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (outlet) ...	Privately owned	23-5-49	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (inlet) ...	Privately owned	23-5-49	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Total samples collected ...	2	—	—	—	—	—

Ninety samples of water were taken from premises where the source was other than from main supply, e.g., tube well, etc., and of these, 88 were submitted for bacteriological examination, 54 being satisfactory, and 34 doubtful or unsatisfactory; 2 submitted for chemical examination, 1 being satisfactory and the other unsatisfactory.

Of the unsatisfactory or doubtful samples a number were repeat samples and the preliminary precautionary warnings were given pending the improvement of or the provision of main supplies.

In addition, 2 samples of water were taken from the River Thames in May and June, and submitted for bacteriological examination. These were taken following a request for information from a College in the area of a neighbouring Authority as to fitness for bathing. Results indicated the presence of coliform bacilli and faecal coli and the Laboratory pointed out the results so far as B. Coli were concerned were practically identical with those of 1945 and 1946.

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### **Drainage and Sewage**

The reception and treatment of sewage remained substantially the same as reported last year to the four sewage works of the Council at Burnham, Gerrards Cross, and Iver Northern and Southern, and mainly in respect of the three parishes named. Progress has been made in respect of the provision of small disposal works for groups of Council houses in non-sewered areas.

Consideration was given in respect of (a) the surface water drainage of the Willowbank Estate, Denham; (b) relief drainage at Gerrards Cross; (c) works of repair and/or substitutions of existing disposal works; and (d) reception of sewage from other Local Authority areas. Tenders were obtained and approval of the Ministry of Health given in respect of (a), whilst in respect of (b) it was decided not to take any further action.

Tenders were received in the early months of the year in respect of the main drainage extension to serve the Industrial Area, Thorney, Iver, and work commenced in December.

Several samples of sewage effluent were taken from small private disposal works and submitted for chemical examination.

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## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

A considerable improvement is noted in regard to the arrangements for refuse collection in that the period of collection was reduced from fortnightly to weekly, a feature which was enjoyed by only a portion of the District prior to the war. Thus at the end of the year there were some 11,773 premises being visited weekly.

The details of work show an all-round increase over the previous year's figures as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Premises</i>	<i>Loads</i>	<i>Cu. Yds.</i>	<i>Petrol used</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1948	11,414	6,104	44,607	10,067 galls.	91,268
1949	11,773	6,538	44,975	11,433 galls.	102,279

The Council in common with many other Local Authorities were aware of the difficulties arising from the tendency to dispute the responsibility for the provision of dustbins as between owner and occupier. A comprehensive report was submitted by your Officers but no alteration in procedure was considered desirable.

The disposal of household refuse continued to be by controlled tipping—incineration still not being satisfactory as in pre-war years due to the changed nature of the refuse.

Difficulty was experienced at certain disposal sites and disposal has been concentrated at Taplow, Denham, Iver Heath and Horton.

Cesspool and pail closet emptying continued on the same basis as for the previous year but the work increased, 337 more cesspool systems being emptied than the previous two years as shown by the following figures :—

	<i>Emptyings</i>	<i>Loads</i>	<i>Petrol galls.</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
1948	12,903	23,970	17,267	118,520
1949	13,912	27,294	18,395	134,667

The disposal of cesspool contents continues as an unsatisfactory feature and brings me here to express my wholehearted concurrence with the views expressed by my predecessors in that every effort should be made to secure the abolition of the majority of cesspools and conservancy forms of closets remaining in the district—an unsatisfactory, sometimes insanitary, and uneconomic feature of country life!

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

A detailed report of the premises visited and action taken is included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

### **Swimming Pools**

The privately-owned bath at Burnham Beeches continues as the only one open to and for the use and enjoyment of the public in the Council's district. Organised parties of school children make use of the facilities at this open-air pool during the summer season.

Continuous filtration and chlorination is the method used to preserve the purity of the water.

Reports on samples of the bath water taken and submitted for bacteriological examination continue to be satisfactory.

## Factories Act, 1937

### 1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupier prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ... ..	20	42	5	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ... ..	114	61	8	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ... ..	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>—</b>

### 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp. (4)	By H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ... ..					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	3	3	2	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) ... ..	6	4	3	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

## SECTION V

### HOUSING

Details of number of new houses built by the Council and private enterprise, inspections, formal actions taken, are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## SECTION VI

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk Supply

Milk producers and retailers' premises were inspected frequently by the Sanitary Inspectors—in the case of producers only up to the 30th September following the administrative changes consequent upon the coming into operation on the 1st October of the Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act, 1944, and the Transfer of Functions (Food & Drugs) Order, 1948, etc.

Only one dairy as indicated in last year's Report carried out the pasteurising process under licence and samples taken in connection with and from this plant showed satisfactory results and in conformity with the Order.

Ninety-eight samples of milk, including raw and undesignated milks, were taken from the various dairy premises and submitted to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Reading with results as follows:

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Full test not completed</i>
Pasteurised ... ..	31	20	5
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	13	8	3
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	9	5	4
Accredited ... ..	2	—	2
Accredited (Farm Bottled) ...	1	—	1
Non-designated—Heat treated	4	2	—
Raw ... ..	38	29	—

## Milk Special Designation Order

Licences for designated milk were granted as follows:—

Pasteuriser's Licence ... ..	1
Tuberculin Tested Bottling ... ..	1
Dealer's Licence :	
Pasteurised ... ..	8
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	8
	— 16
Dealer's Supplementary Licence :	
Pasteurised ... ..	7
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	6
	— 13

## Ice Cream

There are eight premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and 50 premises for the storage and sale of ice cream. The number of last-mentioned premises has increased by practically 100 per cent. from last year. In addition, there are a number of vendors who are registered with neighbouring authorities selling from vans and tricycles.

Samples of ice cream gave these results of provisional gradings :

Grade 1 ...	20	Grade 3 ...	18
Grade 2 ...	27	Grade 4 ...	23
	—		—
	47		41

In addition to the foregoing samples, (a) two ice-lollies were submitted for report and both were satisfactory so far as *b. coli.* was concerned and (b) in respect of a strawberry ice sample submitted, the report indicated that colour interfered with test.

## Meat and Other Foods

Details of inspection and condemnation of foods, etc., are included in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SECTION VII

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease, and a satisfactory fall in the number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough occurred. Scarlet Fever cases rose, compared with the numbers for 1948.

#### Scarlet Fever

53 cases of this disease were notified, compared with 33 in 1948. All cases were of the mild prevailing type. The increase was due to a small outbreak of the disease at Datchet C. of E. School, where 16 cases occurred. Contacts were swabbed, carriers detected and treated, with satisfactory results.

#### Diphtheria

No cases occurred. (There was one case in 1948.)

#### Poliomyelitis

There was a drop in the number of cases from 10 cases in 1948 to 6 cases in 1949. One death occurred.

#### Measles

224 cases of this disease were reported, compared with 443 for the pervious year.

#### Whooping Cough

The number of cases of Whooping Cough fell from 154 in 1948 to 74 in 1949.

#### Tuberculosis

Notifications showed a slight rise from 28 to 31 Pulmonary, and from 3 to 4 Non-Pulmonary cases, the total being 35 cases for 1949.

The total number of deaths was 10, and the death rate 0.24 per 1,000 of the population. The National rate was 0.45.

#### Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths.	Organisms and other agents responsible	Foods involved
1	33	Nil	? Toxins	Re-heated stew

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
**For the Year 1949**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN,

In submitting my annual report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1949, I have to refer to the death early in March of Dr. J. L. Hill, your Medical Officer of Health.

Although Dr. Hill had only been with the Council for a comparatively short time, he was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him, and to me, personally, his sudden death was felt as that of a friend.

The five months which followed, until the appointment of Dr. Bell, had their difficulties, but I believe that, with the kind assistance of Dr. Townsend, County Medical Officer of Health, his staff, and that of neighbouring Medical Officers of Health, the work of the Public Health Department was reasonably maintained.

The position in regard to movable dwellings did not show any improvement, rather the reverse, whilst no important development occurred in regard to the major schemes for the provision of main drainage.

A comprehensive report on the sanitary accommodation of some twenty-three schools was prepared and submitted to you.

Once again, I tender my sincere thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, the Members of the Council, the Clerk, to all colleagues of every Department, and to the Area Planning Officer, Bucks County Council and staff, for the unfailing consideration and courteous assistance which I have received.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. G. CORNER,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

### (a) Meat

Slaughtering of animals for the supply of home-killed meat to the district generally was carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse at Gerrards Cross. Inspection was carried out as in previous years by three Sanitary Inspectors working on a weekly rota generally involving overtime.

The attention of the Ministry of Food was drawn to certain minor structural matters and to the disposal of certain condemned meat. Appropriate remedial action was taken.

As requested by the Council, close attention was paid as to the methods of slaughter but no unsatisfactory circumstances were detected.

Following a complaint by a local Ratepayers' Association and an enquiry by the Council, the Ministry of Food advised that it was proposed to make other arrangements for the slaughtering of animals as a result of which it was anticipated that the Government Slaughterhouse at Gerrards Cross would be closed in September of the following year.

The details of visits and inspections given below show a considerable increase of animals killed and inspections made over the figures for 1948.

Total number of visits to Slaughterhouse ...	246
Total number of animals examined ...	5,084

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Animals slaughtered ...	1,023	204	384	3,370	103
<b>DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</b>					
1. Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	Nil	1	2	4
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	318	49	1	34	12
2. Carcasses of which some part or					
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	31.18	24.0	.52	1.06	15.53

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>					
1. Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	9	Nil	Nil	1
2. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	114	56	Nil	Nil	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	11.92	31.86	—	—	7.76

### (b) Condemned Foods other than Home-killed Meat

As the result of inspections of foods other than home-killed meat, the following articles of food were condemned in its then state as unfit for human consumption.

#### MEAT

- 980 lbs. of imported beef.
- 120 lbs. of corned beef and mutton.
- 1 tin of bacon.
- 69 lbs. of bacon.
- 40 lbs. of sausage (pork), and other meats.
- 38 lbs. of assorted meats.
- 20 tins of assorted meats.
- 5 (20 lb.) calves' heads.
- 6 calves' feet.
- 1 tin (4 lb.) Belgian pork gelatine.

#### FISH

- 3 stones of skinned dog fish.
- 2 stones of plaice.
- 26 stones of herrings.
- 5 stones of fresh hake.
- 4 stones of kippers.
- 2 boxes of cod fillets.
- 5 stones (1 box) of fresh cod.
- 46 tins of fried fish cakes.
- 1 tin of cod liver.
- 4 tins of crab paste.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- 116 tins of evaporated and condensed milk.
- 188 tins of assorted fruit, vegetables and jam.
- 16 (50 lbs.) of guinea fowls.
- 33 geese.
- 66 cases of Italian pears.
- 36 lbs. of almond substitute.
- 50 lbs. of currants.
- 70 lbs. (1 case) dates.
- 14½ lbs. margarine.
- 1 bottle of salad cream.
- 3 jars of cherries.
- 3 tins of orange juice.
- 2 tins of mincemeat.
- 2 lbs. of tropical fruit jam.
- 2 lbs. of grapes.
- 2 lbs. of pears.
- 1 lb. of raspberry jam.
- 4 lbs. of canned Christmas pudding.

### **Disposal of Condemned Food**

The disposal of condemned meat at the Government Slaughterhouse is under the control of the Ministry of Food. In respect of other condemned foods this is disposed of on the lines of the instructions given by the Ministries of Health and Food.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933**

The number of licences issued to persons authorising them to slaughter animals was 15, including 12 renewals.

### **Movable Dwellings**

The housing shortage both in the District and in the surrounding areas is responsible for the occupation of the majority of the movable dwellings which are scattered throughout the District with a decided tendency towards the more southern part. Although the following figures may give the impression that there has been a reduction from the previous year, this is not the case, and is due to

a readjustment of the licensing periods. There is little doubt that there are a considerable number of such dwellings which are not licensed.

The total number of applications made in pursuance of the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269, was 107, as indicated in the following table. The corresponding figures for the year 1948 are shown in brackets.

	SITES		INDIVIDUAL CARAVANS	
	New	Renewals	New	Renewals
Applications made	2 (3)	13 (10)	31 (54)	61 (76)
Granted ... ..	1 (3)	13 (10)	23 (37)	61 (76)
Refused ... ..	1 (-)	- (-)	8 (17)	- (-)

### Rodent Destruction

This work has been carried out by the Rodent Officer on the same lines as for the previous years, using the methods advised by the Ministry of Food, and can be summarised as :—

Notifications ... ..	628
Surveys and inspections ... ..	909
Baitings, gassings and trappings ... ..	1,313
Dead rats found ... ..	906
Dead mice found ... ..	205

## HOUSING

Details of progress with housing new and otherwise are given below.

In April a special sub-committee set up for the purpose made a general tour of inspection of some nine Clearance Areas and of some fifteen individual unfit houses, all of which were the subject of formal action prior to the war. Arising from the subsequent report, the rehousing of the occupants was accelerated and consideration was to be given to possible redevelopment of certain areas.

## New Houses

The following houses were erected during the year :—

(1) By the Council...	...	...	...	...	...	155
(2) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	52

Housing progress at 31st December, 1949, as extracted from Appendix B to Quarterly Housing Returns of the Minister of Health, as follows :—

(a) Sites :						Houses
Possession obtained, development not yet begun...						26
Developed or under development, house erection not yet begun	...	...	...	...	...	80
(b) Permanent houses :						
Number of approved tenders	...	...	...	...	...	603
Number under construction...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Number completed at 31.12.49	...	...	...	...	...	155
(c) Rebuilding war-destroyed houses :						
Number completed	...	...	...	...	...	—
(d) Temporary houses :						
Number completed	...	...	...	...	...	—
(e) Private Enterprise :						
Number of licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	50
Number of licences transferred from other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number under construction	...	...	...	...	...	40
Number completed	...	...	...	...	...	52
Rebuilding war-destroyed buildings under construction	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rebuilding war-destroyed buildings completed	...	...	...	...	...	—

## Housing Survey

Progress at 31.12.49.

A. Estimated total number of houses to be surveyed...	5,583
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B. Houses inspected and classified in accordance with the  
Hobhouse Report :—

Category	Classification	
1. Satisfactory in all respects	... ..	2,396
2. Minor defects only	... ..	1,551
3. Requiring structural alteration or repair	... ..	780
4. Suitable for reconditioning	... ..	—
5. Unfit for habitation and requiring demolition	... ..	97
		4,824

**Inspections, etc.**

Number of houses inspected for housing defects (Rural Housing Survey)	... ..	699
Number of visits in connection with Public Health or Housing Acts	... ..	1,490

**Formal Action under Housing Acts**

(a) INDIVIDUAL houses which were considered as being incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense and beyond further temporary repair were dealt with as follows :—

Demolition Order made	... ..	5
Undertakings accepted in respect of	... ..	2
Closing Order made	... ..	1
Premises demolished where Undertakings previously given	... ..	—
Premises demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order		2*

\* An allowance of £50 was made in respect of one property towards cost of removal expenses and disturbance of trade as provided by the Housing Act, 1936, Section 18.

(b) CLEARANCE AREAS. 14 houses which were included in 3 Clearance Areas confirmed prior to the outbreak of war in 1939 were demolished during the year and following the re-housing of the families concerned.

**Formal Notices**

Housing Act (Section 9)	... ..	Nil
Public Health Acts	... ..	93

## Court Proceedings

It was necessary in certain instances to take proceedings in the local Magistrates' Courts to secure the enforcement of notices and otherwise in respect of appeals against notices.

## Summary of Inspections

Housing (Survey) ... ..	669
Housing (including Public Health) ... ..	1,490
Drainage ... ..	721
Nuisances (refuse deposits, animals, dust and smoke)	624
Infectious diseases, enquiries and disinfections ...	99
Infestations (insect) ... ..	27
Hutted Camps ... ..	27
Movable Dwellings (including sites) ... ..	397
Refuse Tips ... ..	87
Water Supplies ... ..	312
Factories ... ..	103
Shops, Cafes, etc. (food premises) ... ..	289
Dairies ... ..	237
Ice Cream ... ..	125
Slaughterhouses ... ..	246
Knackers' Yards ... ..	7
Schools ... ..	35
Petroleum Stores ... ..	91
Miscellaneous ... ..	154

## Petroleum Regulations

Number of licences issued ... ..	118
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