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ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector



FOR THE YEAR 1951





ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1951



# ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Public Health and General Purposes Committee January to May, 1951

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# ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Public Health and General Purposes Committee

May to December, 1951

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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### *Medical Officer of Health:*

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

G. M. HOBBIN, B.Com., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(August to December)

### *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  
(Resigned 25/10/51)

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

N. F. COLLIER, M.S.I.A.  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods  
(Appointed 3/12/51)

### *Rodent Officer:*

J. R. SNELL

### *General Assistants:*

H. W. FRY  
R. A. WARD

### *Secretary to the Medical Officer of Health:*

Miss B. L. CAMPBELL

### *Shorthand-Typist:*

Miss A. NEWSTEAD (resigned 24/2/51)  
Mrs. C. P. PARSONS (appointed 26/2/51)

### *Junior Clerk:*

Miss P. MATTHEWS (resigned 31/8/51)  
Miss J. FRAIN (appointed 27/8/51)

ETON RURAL DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1951

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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 and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1951.

In reading the report excessive importance should not be attached to rates as these are often based on very small numbers. It is advised that rates should be studied in conjunction with the actual numbers concerned and it should be borne in mind that comparisons with other areas or with previous years may have little statistical significance.

The principal infectious disease during the year has been Measles but this year the number of cases, ~~633~~, is the highest for any year since Measles became notifiable in 1939. → 663.

Puerperal Pyrexia calls for special comment as the new regulations which came into force this year altered the definition so that any febrile condition of 100·4°F. or more during the 14 days following childbirth or miscarriage become notifiable. The effect of this is that many more cases are notifiable than in previous years under the old definition and hence we have 55 cases this year compared with no cases in 1950.

Whooping Cough also shows an increase of 51 cases over last year's figure, but other diseases are notably fewer and, in particular, I am glad to say there were no cases of Food Poisoning and only 1 case of Dysentery compared with 4 cases of Food Poisoning and 17 cases of Dysentery in 1950.

Diphtheria has once again remained extinct in this district and the corrected notifications for the whole country are given as 699 compared with 23,199 in 1944. The Minister of Health, in a circular sent to all Authorities, has expressed his appreciation of this remarkable effort but at the same time issues a warning against



complacency and urges that the campaign must be no less vigorously sustained if a level of safety is to be secured. It is undoubtedly a fact that the success of the campaign has in itself meant that fear of Diphtheria has declined, and that frequent references to the virtual disappearance of the disease have often been misunderstood by the general public as implying absolute elimination rather than elimination conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. The National level of immunisation of children before their first birthday in 1951 was dangerously low, being only 28% of the estimated number instead of the required 75%.

During 1951 the Mass Radiography Unit visited South Bucks and examined people from three Local Authority Areas including the Eton Rural District. No differentiation was made by the Unit in the report issued, as to local government boundaries, with the unfortunate result that no figures relating to the area of this Authority are available. This oversight may be one of the less serious results of having removed the main control of the Tuberculosis Service from the Local Authorities and vested it in the Regional Hospital Boards. In spite of the good relations which exist between the principal partners in this field of work—viz., the Hospital, the Medical Officer of Health and the General Practitioner—there is room for a closer unity.

The District Medical Officer of Health cannot avoid being closely associated with tuberculosis households in dealing with the problems of housing, the control of infectious diseases through food handlers, and other employments, disinfections and despatching specimens for laboratory examination, and yet one finds that the modern trends in administration appear to aim at transferring the District Officer's responsibilities in this sphere of work elsewhere.

As the year 1951 was a census year, I feel it would be appropriate and of interest to members if I include here a few comments on the facts revealed by the census sample tables.

The ageing of the population has increased considerably since the previous census, because the birth rate has declined and people on the average are living longer.

In 1931 the age group 15–34 comprised about one-third of the total population, but in 1951 this group was only slightly more than one-quarter. In 1931 one male in 15 was aged 65 and over, while in 1951 the ratio was one in 11. The proportion of women aged 65 and over has increased from one in 12 in 1931 to one in 8 in 1951. At ages 65 and over, the ratio of males to females is now two to three, and at ages 85 and over it is one to two.

These already well-known population trends revealed by the census emphasise once again that the care of the aged and infirm will become more and more a burden on the Medical and Social Services.

The marriage boom which began during the war has notably increased the proportion of married women. In 1931 the percentage



of married women in age groups 15-19, 20-24, 25-34 was 1·8, 25·8 and 67·0, compared with 4·5, 48·4 and 81·9 in 1951. In Britain in 1951, 15½ million men and 7 million women followed an occupation for payment or profit. These figures represent an increase over those of 1931 of 2½ millions for males and 1¼ million for females. One-fifth of all married women are now following a paid occupation and this is twice the proportion in 1931. Over one-quarter of a million men aged 70 and over, and 110,000 women aged 65 and over are still working.

The survey shows that there were 13,312,000 structurally separate dwellings occupied by private households of which 60% were of 4 or 5 rooms. Dwellings of all sizes up to 5 rooms have increased since 1931 while dwellings with 6 rooms or more have declined. It is noted that the overall picture of housing density shows very little change from the position in 1931 and the increase of 3¾ millions in the population has not lowered the standard of density. In the housing statistics it is also revealed that 45% of all households are without a fixed bath and either sharing with another household or making do without. These facts may be of some value in forecasting local tendencies and requirements, particularly in so far as old people are concerned and the need to make better provision for their welfare.

A great deal of good work has been done by the Sanitary Inspectors who have willingly worked overtime, or at week-ends and on holidays to maintain the service. In assessing this, one has to bear in mind that the work of the Department being preventive, is seldom spectacular and in fact it is only when something breaks down that attention is liable to be directed to our existence.

I have pleasure in saying that all members of the staff have been devoted to their duties and have collaborated fully in maintaining the high standard which has been achieved.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. M. HOBBIN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION I

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water) ... ..	35,500 acres
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1951 (according to Rate Books) ... ..	11,900
Rateable Value at 1.4.51 ... ..	£407,878
Product of Penny Rate, 1950/51 ... ..	£1,615 4s. 11d.
Population. Registrar General's estimate for mid-year 1951 ... ..	42,990

### VITAL STATISTICS

<b>Live Births</b>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	311	292	603
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	19	12	31
				—	—	—
				330	304	634
				—	—	—
Birth Rate per 1,000 population...				...	...	14.74
National Rate ... ..				...	...	15.5
Comparability Factor ... ..				...	...	0.97
<b>Still Births</b>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ... ..	...	...	...	5	6	11
Illegitimate ... ..	...	...	...	—	1	1
				—	—	—
				5	7	12
				—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births ... ..				...	...	18.57
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ... ..				...	...	0.28
National Rate per 1,000 Population ... ..				...	...	0.36
				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Deaths</b> ... ..	...	...	...	227	236	463
				—	—	—
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population ... ..				...	...	10.77
Corrected Death Rate—allowing for sex and age (comparability factor=1.00) ... ..				...	...	10.75
National Death Rate ... ..				...	...	12.75
Ratio of Corrected Death Rate to National ... ..				...	...	0.86

**Infant Mortality** (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age)

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	9	6	15
Illegitimate ...	...	...	1	2	3
			—	—	—
			10	8	18
			—	—	—
Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...				28.39
National Rate	...	...	...	...	29.6
Death Rate for Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births	...	...	...	...	24.88
Death Rate for Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	96.77

**Neo-Natal Mortality** (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	3	5	8
Illegitimate ...	...	...	1	1	2
			—	—	—
			4	6	10
			—	—	—
Death Rate for all Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	0.08

**Maternal Mortality** (Deaths due to or associated with pregnancy and childbearing)

Total from all causes (excluding Abortion) ... Nil

**Analysis of Maternal Mortality Rates per 1,000 Total Births and National Rates**

			<i>Eton Rural District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
(a) Abortion with sepsis ...	...	...	Nil	0.09
(b) Other abortion ...	...	...	Nil	0.05
(c) Complication of pregnancy and delivery...	...	...	Nil	Nil
(d) Sepsis of childbirth and the puerperium			Nil	0.10
(e) Other complications of the puerperium			Nil	0.18

**Mortality of Children under 2 years from Enteritis and Diarrhoea**

Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	Nil
National Rate	...	...	...	...	1.4



# CAUSES OF DEATH in the Eton Rural District during 1951

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<b>All Causes</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>463</b>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	3	3	6
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	1	1	2
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	3	—	3
4. Diphtheria...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	5	3	8
11. Malignant neoplasm, bronchus	...	...	...	16	1	17
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	1	7	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	1	6	7
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	...	24	17	41
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	26	24	50
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	34	27	61
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	10	7	17
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	24	54	78
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	8	5	13
22. Influenza	...	...	...	3	4	7
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	11	18
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	11	22
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	2	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	3	2	5
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	24	15	39
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	6	2	8
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	5	7	12
35. Suicide	...	...	...	2	2	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	1	—	1

TABLE I

Deaths and Death Rates per 1,000 Population from Principal Causes, 1947-1951

<i>Disease</i>	1947		1948		1949		1950		1951	
	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
T.B. Respiratory ... ..	19	0.47	12	.28	8	0.19	6	0.14	6	0.14
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	-	-	1	.02	1	0.06	1	0.02	-	-
Malignant Diseases of all types ...	63	1.57	86	2.03	59	1.43	84	2.02	80	1.86
Diseases of the Heart, all types ...	132	3.30	125	2.95	118	2.62	118	2.85	156	3.63
Pneumonia ... ..	21	0.52	19	0.45	20	0.48	15	0.36	18	0.42
Bronchitis ... ..	10	0.25	19	0.45	15	0.36	19	0.45	22	0.51
Suicide ... ..	3	0.75	7	0.17	3	0.72	5	0.12	4	0.09
Diabetes ... ..	1	0.02	3	0.07	3	0.72	5	0.12	-	-
Vascular Lesions of nervous system ...	44	1.01	53	1.25	77	1.87	39	0.94	68	1.58



TABLE II

Comparison of Local and National Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates from 1941 to 1951

Year	Birth Rates per 1,000 Population		Death Rates per 1,000 Population		Infant Mortality Rates (i.e. under 1 year of age) per 1,000 Live Births	
	Eton Rural District	England and Wales	Eton Rural District	England and Wales	Eton Rural District	England and Wales
1941	13.9	14.2	10.6	12.9	42.9	59.0
1942	15.4	15.8	10.6	11.6	30.1	49.0
1943	17.35	16.5	10.6	12.1	40.6	49.0
1944	18.6	17.6	11.9	11.6	35.4	46.0
1945	17.2	16.1	10.8	11.4	24.3	46.0
1946	18.06	19.1	10.1	11.5	45.4	43.0
1947	19.4	20.5	10.4	12.0	33.5	41.0
1948	16.07	17.9	9.9	10.8	29.3	34.0
1949	16.64	16.7	10.2	11.7	10.2	11.7
1950	15.6	15.8	10.0	11.7	21.6	29.8
1951	14.74	15.5	10.77	12.5	28.39	29.6

TABLE III

Causes of Death of all Infants under 1 year, and Analysis of Ages at Death

*(from local returns before correction to place of residence)*

Cause	0-1 day	1-7 days	1-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Pneumonia ... ..	-	-	3	3	2	2	-	-	7
Congenital Malformation ... ..	4	2	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
Prematurity ... ..	7	6	-	13	-	-	-	-	13
Other Developmental Conditions ... ..	3	3	-	6	-	1	-	-	7
All other causes... ..	2	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Totals ... ..	16	12	3	31	2	3	-	-	36



# SECTION II

## TUBERCULOSIS

### TABLE IV

Age Periods	New Cases and Hospital Admissions								
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Combined Totals	Number Admitted to Hospital	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		New Cases	Previously Notified
0-1	...	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	...	...	...	-	-	-	1	-	1
5-15	...	...	...	1	-	1	3	1	-
15-25	...	...	...	4	3	7	1	1	1
25-35	...	...	...	5	-	5	1	1	5
35-45	...	...	...	5	1	6	-	1	2
45-55	...	...	...	4	1	5	1	-	-
55-65	...	...	...	3	-	3	-	1	-
65 and over	...	...	...	1	1	2	-	-	-
Totals	...	...	...	23	7	30	6	4	10

TABLE V

## Notification Register

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Combined Totals
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Number on Register on 1st January, 1951 ... ..	193	173	366	60	47	107	473
Number entered by Notification ... ..	23	7	30	5	5	10	40
Number entered other than by Notification ... ..	19	10	29	2	-	2	31
Number Removed from Register due to:—							
(a) Death ... ..	3	3	6	1	1	2	8
(b) Removal from District ... ..	6	5	11	-	-	-	11
(c) De-notification ... ..	3	-	3	-	-	-	3
Number remaining on Register at 31st December, 1951	223	182	405	66	51	117	522



**TABLE VI**  
**MORTALITY**  
**Comparison of Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1951 with Previous Years**

Year	Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Combined Totals	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
1942	40,970	11	2	2	3	18	0.51
1943	39,690	10	4	3	1	18	0.46
1944	39,400	7	9	1	1	18	0.45
1945	38,150	8	3	1	-	12	0.32
1946	39,020	3	5	-	1	9	0.23
1947	39,910	14	5	1	-	20	0.50
1948	42,370	9	3	-	-	12	0.28
1949	41,100	6	2	2	-	10	0.24
1950	41,400	5	1	-	-	6	0.14
1951	42,990	3	3	1	1	8	0.18

### Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

The sites of infection in new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified were as follows:—

Site	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Male	Female
Cervical Glands	...	...
Uterus	...	3
Right Epididymus	...	1
Kidney	...	-
Hip	...	1
Wrist	...	-
	...	-

## SECTION III

### Laboratory

The following specimens have been examined at the laboratories of the Public Health Services:—

							<i>Number</i>
Throat swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli, Haemolytic Streptococci and Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Nasal swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Ear swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sputum specimens for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Faeces for Coli-Typhoid organisms	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Blood (Widal Test)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Blood (Wassermann Reaction)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cerebro Spinal Fluid	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pleural fluids	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pus specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Water Samples:							
(a) Drinking Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
(b) Swimming Pool Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
<b>Staff Examinations (Superannuation, etc.)</b>							
Number examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
<b>Applications for Re-housing on Medical Grounds</b>							
Number of applications received	...	...	...	...	...	...	20



## SECTION IV

TABLE VII

## Prevalence of Notifiable Diseases

Showing cases notified during 1951, numbers admitted to hospitals and deaths. Also notifications for years 1941-1950.

Disease	Cases Notified 1951	Cases Admitted to Hospital 1951	Deaths 1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
Smallpox	11	4	-	39	54	33	37	59	59	103	69	52	48
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4	4	4	3	7
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	35	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	24	1	14	-	2	4	2	2	25	15	26	16	9
Pneumonia	-	-	-	10	7	19	8	26	10	23	30	4	15
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	663	6	-	155	225	450	297	373	426	70	592	119	515
Measles ...	109	7	-	58	74	157	69	77	36	153	71	55	192
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2	-	6	5	-	4	3	1	6	6
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Paralytic ...	2	2	-	3	6	8	8	1	5	-	1	2	18
(b) Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Infective ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Post Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	17	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	4	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis—	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary ...	30	19	6	24	39	27	42	20	13	25	17	22	21
Non-Pulmonary	10	1	2	3	3	3	6	12	12	8	8	5	5

TABLE VIII

## Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups

Disease	Ages in Years of Cases Notified												
	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	-	1	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	13	4	12	11	11	48	3	2	2	1	-	-	2
Measles ...	7	54	67	90	88	300	38	16	2	2	2	1	9
Pneumonia ...	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	2	1	9	4	3
Poliomyelitis—													
Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	11	8	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-



TABLE IX

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
Scarlet Fever ...	1	-	2	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough ...	6	14	17	10	2	9	24	8	13	1	2	3
Measles ...	44	124	225	145	54	30	21	16	1	1	-	2
Pneumonia ...	7	4	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
Poliomyelitis—												
Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	7	8	11
Dysentery ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis—												
Pulmonary ...	1	1	4	4	4	-	5	2	4	2	1	2
Non-Pulmonary ...	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	1

TABLE X

Showing Cases of Notifiable Diseases occurring in each Parish in the Area

Disease	Burn- ham	Datchet	Denham	Dorney	Farnham	Fulmer	Gerrards Cross	Hedger- ley	Horton	Iver	Stoke Poges	Taplow	Wexham	Wray- bury
Scarlet Fever ...	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	-
Pneumonia ...	1	1	4	1	2	-	2	-	-	9	2	-	2	-
Measles ...	160	105	21	13	15	1	18	8	1	168	31	55	40	27
Whooping Cough	2	4	14	1	1	4	15	5	-	51	8	2	2	-
Poliomyelitis— Non-Paralytic...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis— Pulmonary ...	2	-	5	-	4	1	3	-	-	7	4	2	1	1
Non-Pulmonary	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	-	1



**TABLE XI**  
**Immunisation and Re-immunisations**

Type	Primary Immunisation				Re- Immu- nation
	Age at Date of Final Injection			Total	
	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years		
Diphtheria only ... ..	50	68	49	167	615
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough combined ... ..	213	204	10	427	—
Whooping Cough only ...	—	2	1	3	—

## SECTION V

### WATER

The number of principal water undertakings providing a piped supply to the district is now reduced from four to three following the transfer of the Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. to the Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. in October. No other major alteration has taken place in respect of water supplies and therefore the position so far as Wraysbury is concerned remains unaltered. The Undertakings have given certain details of their activities, etc., as concern this Authority and these are tabulated below:—

#### **Borough of Slough**

Mains laid.

Stoke Poges (Clevehurst Close and Farthing Green Lane) ...	94 yds. of 3-in. main
Wexham (Uxbridge Road, George Green) ... ..	165 yds. of 3-in. main
Wexham (Withycroft Housing Site)	260 yds. of 4-in. main
Datchet (Montrose Way) ... ..	165 yds. of 4-in. main 24 yds. of 3-in. main

37 new supplies were provided to consumers in the area.

The supply was sufficient in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

## **Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co.**

### **Mains extensions.**

Colnbrook (Accommodation Road)	508 yds. of 2-in. main 18 yds. of 3-in. main
Denham (Cheapside Lane and Ashmead Lane) ... ..	55 yds. of 3-in. main
Denham (Oxford Road and Old Mill Road) ... ..	74 yds. of 3-in. main
Denham (Penn Drive) ... ..	87 yds. of 4-in. main
Denham (Savay Lane) ... ..	56 yds. of 4-in. main
Iver (Thorney Lane) ... ..	46 yds. of 9-in. main 60 yds. of 12-in. main
Iver (Cherry Tree Lane, St. Johns Road and Slough Road) ...	315 yds. of 3-in. main 504 yds. of 4-in. main
Wraysbury (Tithe Farm Lane) ...	131 yds. of 3-in. main

No main extensions were carried out in that part of the area previously served by the Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co.

The number of domestic supplies afforded at 31st December, 1951, was 4,412, an increase of 47 since previous year.

## **Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Waterworks Co. Ltd.**

### **Mains laid.**

Farnham Royal (Rosker Grove) ...	106 yds. of 3-in. main
Burnham (Dropmore Road and Chalkpit Lane) ... ..	226 yds. of 4-in. main

## **Water Analyses**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Supply</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Result</i>
12	Burnham	Bacterial	Good
3	Burnham	Chemical	Good
10	Taplow	Bacterial	Good
2	Taplow	Chemical	Good
8	Service	Bacterial	Good

During the year the Company installed a similar system of chlorination as that at Burnham (super-chlorination using Sodium Thiosulphate as a de-chlorinating agent). The consumption of water in their area increased during the year by 13 million gallons. No shortage was experienced.



# 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>	
FARNHAM ROYAL	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	18/1/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
HEDGERLEY ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ...	18/1/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	18/1/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET ...	Slough Borough Water Department ...	22/1/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
TAPLOW ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	7/3/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
IVER ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ...	7/3/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	7/3/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET ...	Slough Borough Water Department ...	7/3/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FARNHAM ROYAL	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	7/5/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
IVER ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ...	7/5/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FULMER...	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	7/5/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
IVER ...	Slough Borough Water Department ...	7/5/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
TAPLOW ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	2/7/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
FULMER...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ...	2/7/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	2/7/51	Doubtful	—	—	*
DATCHET ...	Slough Borough Water Department ...	2/7/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
TAPLOW ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	16/8/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
HEDGERLEY ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ...	16/8/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	20/8/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET ...	Slough Borough Water Department ...	20/8/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*

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>	
BURNHAM ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	29/10/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS ...	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	22/10/51	Doubtful	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS ...	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	29/10/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
GERRARDS CROSS ...	Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. ...	29/10/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET ...	Slough Borough Water Department ...	22/10/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
WRAYSBURY ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ...	25/10/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
HORTON ...	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. ...	13/12/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
DATCHET ...	Slough Borough Water Department ...	13/12/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*
BURNHAM ...	Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. ...	17/12/51	Satisfactory	—	—	*

\* Total Mains Samples Collected ... 29



# 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	6/6/51	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (Inlet)	Privately owned	6/6/51	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Nutts Court Swimming Pool ...	Privately owned	14/7/51	Unsatisfactory	—	—	—
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (Outlet)	Privately owned	16/8/51	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool (Inlet)	Privately owned	16/8/51	Satisfactory	—	—	—
Total Samples collected ...	5	—	—	—	—	—

# SAMPLES TAKEN OTHER THAN MAINS

<i>Type of Sample Taken</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Doubtful</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bacteriological ...	16	35	4	55
Chemical ...	1	2	—	3

## SECTION VI

### GENERAL SANITATION

The work of cesspool emptying has once again shown a considerable increase and the facilities for the disposal are even more restricted than in previous years. Fourteen machines are now in full use. In addition, an average of 620 pail closets have been emptied weekly.

The New Denham Sewage Scheme was put out to Contract during the year but the work was not commenced, and it is estimated that it may still be several years before the scheme is in operation to such an extent as to relieve the task of the Cleansing Department. It can be said, however, that as the work progresses and the drainage comes into operation our difficulties in that area will resolve themselves. Unfortunately the position in other parts of the district is not so happy as regards the immediate future, and in particular I may mention Farnham Royal and Farnham Common where the increasing amount of work and the inadequacy of the disposal sites serving that area cause some apprehension and call for special vigilance. It is plain that the installation of main drainage in the Farnham Area must be considered before long.

The table below shows the total number of vehicle loads taken from premises likely to be affected by the installation of main drainage and may serve as a rough guide to the future position. It is pointed out however that problems such as land levels, land ownership, old and deteriorated properties not likely to be connected may cause variation.

(1) Year	(2) <i>Total Number of Vehicle Loads per Annum for the whole District</i>	(3) <i>Estimated Number of Loads to be deducted if all proposed sewers were laid and drains connected</i>	(4) <i>Estimated Number of Loads from remaining cesspools if sewerage installed</i>
1948	23,970	14,253	9,717
1949	27,294	15,646	11,648
1950	27,763	16,323	11,440
1951	29,139	18,102	11,037

During the year, 72 yards of 6-in. sewer with pumping station and 500 yards of 4-in. rising main were commenced at North Park, Iver, and it was anticipated that the work would be complete early the following year.



North of the village of Iver 76 properties have been connected to 800 feet of 4-in. and about 1,500 feet of 6-in. new sewers. Another 25 properties have been connected in the district and a block of 6 flats at Burnham was connected to the main sewer.

In addition to this, three premises were converted to main drainage.

## **THE SANITATION OF SCHOOLS**

During the year 1951 a hygiene inspection of the premises of every school in the district was carried out and quite a mass of defects was compiled. These were summarised and submitted in a comprehensive report to the Divisional Education Committee of the County Council and also the Public Health Committee of this Council. This Council was concerned only with the sanitary defects relating chiefly to closets, cesspools and surface water drainage, and any nuisance or menace to health arising therefrom.

The state of these installations was referred to generally in my last annual report and the position has been reviewed from time to time throughout the year. Liaison has been maintained with the County Architect and the County Education Officer and progress reports received.

The defects due to be remedied relate principally to seven or eight schools and, briefly, the position at the end of the year was as follows:—

### **Denham County School**

Here the urinals were found to be flooding and choked almost every day apparently due to the inadequacy of the cesspools which overflowed regularly in spite of additional emptying. Investigation revealed that surface water was draining into the cesspools. The question of proper disposal of roof and surface water was referred to the County Architect and was stated to be receiving attention.

### **New Denham County School**

The installation of water-borne sanitation was commenced in August but, owing to the higher water level, it was necessary to carry out a modified scheme which has been completed.

### **East Burnham School**

By the end of the year tenders for the installation of modern sanitation had been received and work was expected to commence as soon as approval of the expenditure was obtained.

### **Hollybush C.E. School**

No scheme has been drawn up, and pail closets with no covers were still in use.

### **Horton School**

The Minister of Education has not to date issued the order determining the status of the school and sanitary improvements could not therefore be undertaken.

Open pail closets were still in use with no separate arrangements for male staff.



### **Wraysbury County School**

Open pail closets were still in use. These were inadequate in number and no separate accommodation was provided for male staff. No headway could be made here until additional land on which to site the sewage disposal plant could be purchased. Negotiations for the purchase of this land from the Railway Executive were first commenced in August, and no decision had been reached by the end of the year.

### **George Green County School**

The installation of water-borne sanitation to these premises was completed in September.

In the installation of new sanitary blocks, insufficient attention has been paid to the requirements of the particular school, e.g. at New Denham, and Farnham Royal and Dropmore Schools the senior children have been provided with infant (or nursery school) size of lavatory bowls. Owing to the expense and work required to change these it is likely that they will remain for a long time.

## **SECTION VII**

### **LEGISLATION AND DIRECTIVES**

A number of important items have come into operation during 1951 and a few of those which are directly associated with the work of the Department are set out below.

#### **The National Assistance (Amendments) Acts, 1951**

##### *Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention*

This Act came into operation on 1st September, 1951, and gives Local Authorities further power to enable them to deal expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are not able to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. It enables the Medical Officer of Health and another Medical Practitioner to certify that a person should be removed without delay and an application may be made to Court without giving either the person or the hospital or institution receiving him the seven days' notice previously required. An Order obtained in this manner remains in force for a period not exceeding 3 weeks.

#### **The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1951**

These Regulations came into operation on 1st August, 1951, and apply throughout England and Wales, including London. They replace regulations which have been in force in London and the remainder of the country respectively. They continue the effect of those regulations making Puerperal Pyrexia a notifiable disease



with slight modifications including a revised definition of Puerperal Pyrexia which the administration of the replaced regulations has shown to be necessary.

The Puerperal Pyrexia Regulation, 1939, did not apply to London and there the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926 and 1928, remained in force. The effect of this was that Puerperal Fever was notifiable in London until the London County Council (General Powers Act, 1948) removed it from the category of notifiable (and dangerous) infectious diseases in Section 304 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936. Puerperal Pyrexia continued to be notifiable and the requirements in London now being the same as in the rest of the country, the opportunity has been taken in these new Regulations to make one set which apply to London and the rest of the country alike.

### **The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951**

#### **The Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1951**

These Regulations prescribe standards of cleanliness for each kind of filling materials to which the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951, applies. (They specify the prescribed analysts for the purpose of tests under that Act and fix the fees which may be charged by any analyst making such a test and the form in which the certificate of the results is to be given.)

They also prescribe the form in which the records are to be kept by occupiers of premises registered under the Act for the use of filling materials or licensed for the manufacture or storage of rag flock, and the manner in which the records are to be kept and the information which is to be recorded.

### **The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1951**

These Regulations came into force on 22nd June, 1951, and are to be enforced and executed in every district by the Local Authority.

They require a medical practitioner who is attending or called in to visit a person suffering from Leprosy to notify the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health of the case by sending him a certificate of the form prescribed in the Regulations.

These Regulations have caused a precedence in the notification of infectious diseases by bypassing the Medical Officer of Health. This brought forth a storm of indignation from Public Health Officers, and strong protests from the Society of Medical Officers of Health, who are still hopeful that the position may be rectified.

### **The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950**

This Act came into operation on 1st January, 1951, and consolidates certain enactments relating to Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream, and by Section 32 is to be construed as if it formed part of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.



It makes no change in the law and, together with the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 and 1944, is cited as the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950.

### **Dogs in Food Shops, Restaurants, etc.**

In this circular the Minister of Food draws attention to the unhygienic practice of allowing dogs in food shops. He felt he would not have any great success if he tried to stop this practice by prohibitive regulation, and considered that the problem was more likely to be solved by voluntary action and appeal to the public to co-operate.

He expressed the opinion that notices signed by the Medical Officer of Health and displayed by traders, requesting customers not to bring their dogs into the premises would be a practical step to a higher standard of food hygiene, and recommended all Authorities to consider the advantage of issuing such a notice.

The Minister's recommendation in this matter was supported by the National representative bodies of the retail food trades and the Local Authority Associations.

Steps were taken immediately by this Authority to carry out the recommendation.

### **The Dried Egg (Control of Use) (Revocation) Order, 1951.**

This Order came into operation on the 1st June, 1951, and revoked the Order made in 1945.

The effect of the revocation is that manufacturers are freed from the requirement to be licensed in order to use dried egg in the manufacture of ice-cream, synthetic cream and other bakers' cream filling, or to sell a wet mixture containing dried egg for use in the manufacture of these products. Also manufacturers who use dried egg are no longer required to disclose the fact on the container.

### **Notification of Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning**

#### *Ministry of Health Circular*

In this circular the Minister states that he feels it is desirable that medical practitioners should be enabled to use a single composite form for the purpose of notifying cases of infectious disease and of food poisoning and that this form should be standardised throughout the country. It is pointed out that as the contents of certificates to be used in notifying infectious diseases are prescribed in statutory regulations there is no authority for requiring additional particulars to be given by practitioners on forms of certificates which are supplied to them under Section 145 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and to the submission of which the rate of fee laid down in that section applies.

The Minister also urges that there should be printed on the cover pad of forms an explanatory note on Tuberculosis, as to the reason for notification of this disease and the type of tuberculous person to be notified.



When brought into effect, these recommendations will mean a reduction in the present heterogeneous assortment of forms in use, and simplify the transmission, filing, etc., of wrongly addressed notifications.

## **CASES DEALT WITH UNDER THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**

### **Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention**

One case was dealt with under Section 47 of the above Act. This was a lady of about 60 years of age living alone in a small bungalow and she had already been the subject of five similar Court Orders prior to this action. The first Order of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction sitting at the local Magistrates' Court was on 12th October, 1949, when she was removed to Part III Accommodation and detained for 3 months.

Two months after returning home it was found necessary to apply to Court again for her removal, and a second Order was obtained in March, 1950, when she was again removed to Part III Accommodation for 3 months. Having regard to all the circumstances, further Court Orders were applied for and obtained on 30/6/50, 29/9/50 and 4/12/50 each for periods of 3 months extension.

As she appeared to have improved considerably she was permitted to return home in March, 1951. Following her removal to hospital on each occasion the bungalow was completely cleaned, the blocked drains cleared and the place made habitable, which entailed a great deal of work.

Subsequent to her return home in March, 1951, she was visited by the Chief Sanitary Inspector who reported in May that the lady was again failing to keep the bungalow in a sanitary state, and that the conditions were such as to be a nuisance. Every possible effort was made to reason with her to persuade her and advise her about living properly and keeping the place clean, and she was quite capable at that time of understanding and physically fit to co-operate, but the efforts were all in vain.

The bungalow was the subject of a mortgage, the instalments on which were paid by relatives and this lady (the occupant) appeared to be practically destitute, apart from the financial support which she was receiving from the National Assistance Officer.

When visited at later dates it was found by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and myself that conditions were steadily deteriorating and that the lady's health was now suffering considerably as the result of the filthy conditions in which she was living and the lack of proper meals. The front room alone was in use for living, cooking, eating and sleeping. There was a rickety camp bed in the room, two oil stoves and such other furniture as existed could scarcely be seen for litter and filth of every description which



covered the table, chairs, mantelpiece and floor alike. The water supply to the building had not been in use for some time and the lavatory was blocked with excreta.

By December, 1951, she was in poor health, infirm and incapable of looking after herself. A further application was made to Court on 12th December, 1951, for her removal to Part III Accommodation and on this occasion the application was vigorously opposed by the County Council on the grounds that the accommodation referred to was unsuitable and that she had been a nuisance to other patients when there previously. They recommended that she should be sent to a mental hospital for a period of observation.

The Court decided that she should again be sent to Part III Accommodation and she was removed the following day. After her admission she was examined by a psychiatrist who agreed that she was not certifiable and found her a most difficult person to advise.

Our experience of this case from the start has been that she is a very stubborn and difficult person to deal with and, although during the greater part of the time she was at home she was physically fit to co-operate had she been willing, she would make no effort to remedy the appalling conditions in which she lived but displayed considerable astuteness and cunning in fobbing off all those who called to advise her and warn her of the consequences.

She was hostile towards her only relative who would have anything to do with her, viz. her married sister, whose husband incidentally was paying the mortgage on the bungalow, and all efforts of this sister to intervene and assist were of no avail.

Originally the Public Health legislation for the abatement of nuisances was invoked and a statutory notice served with the result that the Council themselves had to carry out the work in default.

Now being finally convinced that her return home will be immediately followed by a reversion to the same state with repetition of her removal and cleaning up the filth, there appears to be no alternative but to continue applications to Court every 3 months for renewal of the Detention Order.

It would appear that amendment of the National Assistance Act in order to enable the Court to decide an appropriate period of detention in excess of 3 months in cases of this kind is desirable.



# SECTION VIII

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

### Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Session with Medical Officer</i>
Burnham	Village Hall, Gore Road	1st & 3rd Tuesday	1st Tuesday
Datchet	Working Men's Club	2nd & 4th Wednesday	2nd & 4th Wednesday
Denham	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Wednesday	2nd Wednesday
Farnham Royal	Village Hall	Weekly Thursday Diph. Imm. 3rd Tuesday at 9.45 a.m.	2nd & 4th Thursday
Gerrards Cross	British Legion Hall	1st & 3rd Friday	3rd Friday
Hedgerley	Memorial Hall	1st & 3rd Wednesday	3rd Wednesday
Horton	Champney Hall	1st & 3rd Wednesday	1st Wednesday
Iver	Village Hall	1st & 3rd Wednesday	3rd Wednesday
Iver Heath	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Wednesday	4th Wednesday
New Denham	St. Francis Hall	1st & 3rd Wednesday	1st Wednesday
Richings Park	Church Room	2nd & 4th Monday	2nd Monday
Stoke Poges	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Tuesday	4th Tuesday
Wraysbury	Scout Hut	2nd Thursday	2nd Thursday

#### Birth Control Clinics

Slough:

Social Centre, Farnham Road	Wednesday, 2-4 p.m.
Health Centre, Burlington Road	Friday, 2.30-4 p.m.

High Wycombe:

The Health Centre, The Rye...	Weekly, Tuesday, 2 p.m.
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#### Tuberculosis

The Chest Clinic is at the Kipling Memorial Building, Alma Road, Windsor, where appointments may be made with the Chest Physician in Charge.

**Venereal Diseases**

King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor.

Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon, Middlesex.

Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

**Registered Nursing Homes**

There are a number of registered Nursing Homes in the Eton Rural District. Location and further particulars of these may be obtained from the Medical Officer of Health.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
For the Year 1951

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my Annual Report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors.

I feel that I must voice a personal note before making the usual general comments, in that, with the departure of your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. L. Bell, in the early part of the year, and the subsequent appointment of Dr. G. M. Hobbin, in August, I hope that the rather unsettling succession of changes in this direction are now finally at an end.

The two major features which have been referred to in preceding Annual Reports, i.e. lack of main drainage and the movable dwelling problem, continue to occupy a very large proportion of time and although the prospects in regard to the proposed Denham main drainage appear to be brighter, the other problem of movable dwellings will probably not ease or finally disappear until the housing shortage is resolved.

Bare figures alone without somewhat lengthy written details do not very often give a fair indication of work done, likewise the service of written notices whether formal or informal cannot represent the efforts of verbal persuasion and friendly advice whether to owners or occupiers of dwelling houses, shops and industrial premises with whom we are in daily contact.

In conclusion, it is, as it has been on former occasions, my very sincere pleasure once again to thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Members of the Council, the Clerk, Dr. Hobbin, and all members of the Staff and Town Planning Officer for friendly co-operation all through the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. G. CORNER,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



## SECTION IX

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk

Frequent visits continued to be made to the retail dairy premises in the district and generally conditions were satisfactory.

Eight large multiple dairies deliver milk in the district from premises outside and this tendency for concentration into the larger dairy businesses appears likely to continue. The bulk of milk delivered by these dairies is heat treated.

Forty-four samples of milk were taken from various dairy premises and in course of delivery and submitted for examination to the Public Health Service Laboratory at Reading as set out below:—

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Number taken</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Pasteurised ... ..	32	27	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)...	7	5	1
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	4	1	2
Raw ... ..	1	1	—

(The full tests were not completed in respect of 4 samples.)

In addition to the above, 23 samples were sent to the same Laboratory for examination for the presence of *Brucella Abortus* and as a result 4 were found to be positive.

#### Milk Special Designation Orders

Licences for designated milk were granted as follows:—

##### *Dealers' Licences*

Pasteurised ... ..	13
T.T. ... ..	14
Sterilised ... ..	3

##### *Dealers' Supplementary Licences*

Pasteurised ... ..	10
T.T. ... ..	8
Sterilised ... ..	2

#### Ice Cream

Eight premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and 70 premises for storage and sale. The number of premises for storage and sale has increased by 12 since last year.

As with milk supplies, vendors from other areas have also been noted selling ice cream from motor vans, etc., and these also are inspected and checked with other Local Authorities.



Forty-nine samples of ice cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Reading, with these results:—

Grade 1	...	15	Grade 3	...	5
Grade 2	...	16	Grade 4	...	12
		—			—
		31			17
		—			—

(Examination of one sample could not be completed owing to failure of apparatus at Laboratory.)

The results are not as good as the previous year, as although the number of Grade 3 was lower, Grade 4 was correspondingly higher giving a percentage of those Groups as 32% against 33% for last year.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

### (a) Meat

No Government slaughterhouse is now operated in the district and, apart from the "cottager's pig" and certain emergency slaughtering at farms or small holdings, home-killed meat for human consumption in the district appears to be derived from some three or four slaughterhouses in Berkshire or elsewhere in Buckinghamshire.

#### *Meat Inspection*

During the course of routine inspection of shops a bovine carcase and offals showing evidence of disease and absence of signs of inspection was found—the meat so affected was seized and ultimately condemned by a J.P. After thorough investigation and enquiries outside the district it was found that the appropriate notice of intention to slaughter had not been given and the Local Authority concerned were advised accordingly. In a similar manner the local Food Enforcement Officer of the Ministry of Food was advised for such action as his Department might wish to make.

Later in the year the Food Enforcement Officer advised of a case of alleged illicit slaughtering of pigs in the district and legal proceedings in this instance will no doubt be taken early next year.

Arising from two outbreaks of Swine Fever late in the year, a large number of pig carcasses were inspected after slaughter at the premises necessitating early morning visits at the week-end. Apart from the condemnation of the unfit carcasses, every assistance was given to the unfortunate owners in getting the fit carcasses to the distribution centres.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, etc.

Visits to butchers' shops	...	229
Other visits <i>re</i> slaughtering	...	15



### **(b) Other Foods (excepting Milk)**

Several complaints were received following the August Bank Holiday relating to mouldy bread, all of which was wrapped cut slices made by one of the largest bakery businesses in London. The firm, on being contacted, referred to the rush prior to the holiday, and it appeared that (a) the bread was not sufficiently cool when wrapped, (b) more was bought and kept by customers over a longer period than usual, and (c) that consumers did not fully appreciate necessity for proper storage. Leaflets had been issued by the firm to retailers but it was a moot point whether these came to the notice of the consumers. In this last connection the firm were advised that advice on the keeping and storage should be printed on the actual wrapper.

No further complaints were received.

### *Legal Action*

The proceedings taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Section 9, in respect of unsound food, i.e. two loaves of bread in which were portions of a mouse, reported upon late 1950, resulted in the conviction of the three principals of the firm in February when fines of £5, £5, and £2 (£12) plus costs were inflicted.

### **(c) Unsound Foods**

The following is a list of the various articles of food considered unsound or unfit for human consumption, the majority of which was surrendered by the shopkeeper, etc.:—

#### *Meat*

- 159 lbs. Home-Killed Beef.
- 2 Bovine Heads and Tongues, 40 lbs.
- 1 pair Bovine Lungs, 10 lbs.
- 1 Bovine Heart, 7 lbs.
- 2 Bovine Spleens, 4 lbs.
- 2 Bovine Sweetbreads, 2 lbs.
- 120 lbs. Imported Beef (Australian).
- 21 tins Corned Beef, 147 lbs.
- 20 tins Ham (French, German, etc.), 240 lbs.
- 15 tins Meat Roll, 75 lbs.
- 2 tins Danish Pork, 12 lbs.
- 17 tins Assorted Meats, 102 lbs.
- 1 tin Jellied Veal, 6 lbs.
- 6 tins Sausages, 12 lbs.
- 3 lbs. 10 ozs. Sausages
- 7 Swine Carcases and 8 Sets of Offals, 1,260 lbs.
- 2 cases Irish Rabbits, 50 carcases.
- 2 cases Imported Geese, 74 lbs.
- 2 Cockerels, 15 lbs.

#### *Milk*

- 24 tins Evaporated and Condensed Milk.



### *Fish*

3½ stones Herrings.  
11 tins Sardines.  
6 tins Salmon.

### *Fruit*

223 tins Assorted Fruits.  
100 boxes Dates.  
7 lbs. Pineapple Puree.

### *Cheese*

11 lbs. Cheese.  
16 boxes Cheese.

### *Miscellaneous*

1 jar Pickles.  
2 lbs. Butter (rancid).  
270 lbs. Cooking Fat.  
10 loaves Bread.  
40 lbs. Farinoca.  
9 pkts. Corn Flakes.  
50 lbs. Sago.  
2 tins Sweet Corn.  
2 tins Lemon Barley Crystals.  
12 ozs. Flour.  
1 tin Marmalade.

Visits in connection with foregoing, 83.

## SECTION X

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARD

#### **Food & Drugs Act**

One application for the renewal of a slaughterhouse licence and one in respect of knackers yard were received and granted.

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

Renewals	...	...	...	...	13
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#### **Game Licences**

Renewals	...	...	...	...	14
New Licences	...	...	...	...	3
				—	17

#### **Petroleum Licences**

Renewals	...	...	...	...	112
New Licences	...	...	...	...	8
				—	120

## SECTION XI

### REFUSE TIPS

In the Annual Report for 1948 attention was drawn to the nuisances and difficulties which arose from tips used for industrial wastes.

During 1951 two instances occurred—one regarding polluted water escaping from the tip and causing nuisance in an adjoining watercourse and the other where standing water in the pit, due to exceptional rainfall, was so offensive that numerous complaints were received from householders in the locality.

In both cases samples of the affected water were submitted for analysis and results indicated high sulphate content, a feature probably fairly common in such cases and usually offensive at certain seasons.

Sealing off with many loads of clay ultimately stopped the discharge referred to, whilst the other pit was subjected to heavy dosage of some tons of chloride of lime over 2 or 3 months, coupled with an alteration in the tipping arrangements, and the exclusion so far as possible of certain chemical wastes.

Other and smaller tips also received attention. Conditions to be attached to a planning permission for use of land as a refuse tip for another Local Authority were referred for consideration for inclusion therein.

## SECTION XII

### NUMBER OF DISINFECTIONS AND DISINFESTATIONS

#### (a) Disinfections of Premises

Scarlet Fever ... 3

Tuberculosis ... 1

#### (b) Disinfestations of Premises

Bugs ... 3 premises

As in recent years, quite a number of requests for assistance and advice were received during the year from householders and shopkeepers regarding wasp infestations with a few relating to hornets. Although the Council are under no statutory obligation to do so, practical assistance was given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in some instances where aged or young persons were concerned and in the absence of any male help. The complaints regarding house and other flies appear to have decreased and there may be some relation in this respect to the first-mentioned infestations.

The incidence of bug infestation also appears to have decreased considerably, and this is probably due to a great extent to the efficiency and ease of application of modern insecticides. No treatment involving the use of Hydrogen Cyanide was carried out.



## SECTION XIII

### RODENT DESTRUCTION

This work was continued on the same lines as last year by the one full-time Rodent Officer-Operative whose work is summarised below:—

Visits	...	...	...	...	678
Treatment (gassing, baiting and trapping)					1,003*
Dead rats found	...	...	...	...	1,116
Dead mice found...	...	...	...	...	181

\* Including treatment in respect of 11 business premises for which charges were made.

The following is extracted from Form PDR/R.2:—

Type and total estimated number of premises:—

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	20
Dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	12,119
Business premises	...	...	...	...	415
Agricultural property	...	...	...	...	250

Class of infestations:—

Major	...	...	...	...	197
Minor	...	...	...	...	416
Mice only	...	...	...	...	19

Notices served:—

Under Section 4	...	...	...	...	4
Under Section 6	...	...	...	...	—
Informal	...	...	...	...	—

Proceedings under Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 22 Nil

## SECTION XIV

### HOUSING

Details of progress with respect to unfit houses and the provision of new houses are given below.

The practice of referring all newly reported unfit houses to the special Unfit Houses Sub-Committee of the Housing Committee for inspection prior to formal action has been continued.

#### New Houses

The following houses or separate units of accommodation were erected during the year:—

1. By the Council	...	...	...	...	139
2. By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	80

*Other housing accommodation.* Conversions of some 12 properties into 24 housing units were approved and/or in hand during the year.

## Formal Action under Housing Act

### (a) *Individual Unfit Houses*

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	Nil
Undertakings accepted in respect of	...	...	...	...	5*
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	1
Premises demolished where Undertakings previously given	...	...	...	...	5*
Premises demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:—					
(a) By Council in default of owner	...	...	...	...	1
(b) By owner	...	...	...	...	—
Premises demolished (informal action)	...	...	...	...	1
Undertakings cancelled—property made fit	...	...	...	...	1

\* Except in respect of one property figures relate to different houses

### (b) *Clearance Areas*

Houses demolished in Clearance Areas confirmed prior to outbreak of War in 1939	...	...	...	4
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### (c) *Improvement Grants. Housing Act, 1949*

One application for an Improvement Grant was received from a private owner, and this was approved subject to the consent of the Ministry.



## SECTION XV

### 1. INSPECTIONS for Purposes of Provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	19	36	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	116	76	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises ... ..)	-	-	-	-
Total ...	135	112	5	-

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three of more "cases".)

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	1	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	4	1	2	—

Outworkers inspections	...	...	...	5
Certificates (approval of water supply)	...	...	...	1
Workplaces inspections	...	...	...	24



## SECTION XVI

### MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The year 1951 saw an acceleration of the previous year's increase in the number of caravans being used for residential purposes within the district. Further surveys to that conducted in September and October, 1950, were made in February and August, 1951, and these revealed 544 and 655 caravans respectively. At the end of the year it was estimated that the figure had reached over 700.

This increase was caused mostly by unauthorised sitings in the form of additions in numbers of caravans on unlicensed sites, the starting up of multiple sites without licence or Planning permission and unauthorised individual sites.

The early part of the year was taken up with analysis of the September, 1950, survey figures, and as the wider issues of planning were involved the position was referred to the Bucks County Council. This step culminated in a joint conference at the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

In July, 1951, a special Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee was set up and at their meeting in July formulated a definite policy which had the concurrence of the Bucks County Council as Planning Authority. Considerable publicity of this policy followed in the local press and in leaflet form sent out with rate demands.

In July, my Deputy was seconded by the Council, in the first instance for a period of 2 months, to implement the policy generally.

The Council at the time had decided to proceed with the use of land at the Polo Ground, Datchet, as a site to be used for the re-grouping of caravans. In addition other land in the Burnham and Iver areas was surveyed with a view to their possible use as caravan sites. Under consideration also was the use of land as an advance preparation housing site at Wexham.

During the year there were a number of Public Inquiries following refusal by the Council of applications for new individual and private enterprise multiple sites and additions to existing sites. A feature of some of these applications was the placing of caravans on the site under appeal previous to the hearing. This action introduced a new factor of hardship over-riding, in my opinion, consideration of the merits or demerits of each case on Planning and Public Health issues. In one instance the site was practically filled with vans before the Public Inquiry and in another nearly half filled. The decision of the Minister in both these cases was the grant of a Planning limited period permission.

In the autumn a start was made in securing improved standards on existing multiple sites. Revision of licence conditions, long overdue, was under consideration. In addition enforcement of conditions attached to Planning permissions was pressed in interviews with site owners.



At the end of the year the position could only be described as still difficult.

During the year one heard of differences between site owners and the occupiers of movable dwellings and these related to trading on the sites, lack of security, and alleged restrictive practices.

These features are not the statutory concern of Local Authorities, and it is open to doubt whether legislation should be extended to cover such matters.

The " gypsy " or roving caravan type (not members of camping organisations or of similar class) continued to give trouble in the early part of the year particularly in the Burnham (Littleworth Common and The Gore) area, but the service of Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act plus Court proceedings eventually improved the position. Considerable clearing up of filth and rubbish at the expense of the ratepayers was necessary afterwards.

	<i>Sites</i>		<i>Individual Caravans</i>	
	<i>New</i>	<i>Renewals</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Renewals</i>
Applications made	1 (—)	13 (15)	11 (13)	42 (51)
Granted ... ..	— (—)	11 (15)	10 (10)	41 (51)
Refused ... ..	1 (—)	— (—)	3 (3)	2 (—)

The corresponding figures for the year 1950 are shown in brackets.



## SECTION XVII

### NOTICES

#### Formal

Housing Act (Section 9)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	49

<b>Informal</b>	...	...	...	...	262
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#### Visits and Inspections

Housing (including Public Health)...	...	...	...	837
Drainage	...	...	...	621
Nuisances (refuse deposits, animals, dust, etc.)	...	...	...	353

##### Factories:

(1) Motive Power	...	...	...	76
(2) Non-motive	...	...	...	36
(3) Work Places	...	...	...	24

Outworkers	...	...	...	5
Food Premises, Shops, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	508
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	20
Movable Dwellings (including sites)	...	...	...	1,177
Gypsies	...	...	...	45
Refuse (including tips)	...	...	...	100
Petroleum	...	...	...	46
Infestation	...	...	...	38
Shops Act	...	...	...	16
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	7
Hutted Camps	...	...	...	1
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	51
Complaints Received	...	...	...	104
Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	262
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	49
Legal Enforcement Action	...	...	...	1