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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

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# Annual Report

—OF THE—

## Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the  
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1956

COULTHURSTS, FARNWORTH



BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

*With*  
*the Compliments of the*  
*Medical Officer*  
*of Health*

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

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of Farnworth

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1956

COULTHURSTS, FARNWORTH

## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

\*THE MAYOR (Councillor J. W. GEERE, J.P., C.C.) *ex officio*

\**Chairman*: Alderman J. A. DEAN

\**Vice-Chairman*: Councillor W. NICHOLLS

### *Members:*

Alderman J. BROOKS, C.C.

\*Alderman A. JONES, O.B.E., J.P.

Alderman W. WELSBY

Councillor H. BRINDLE

Councillor G. BLOOR

Councillor J. HARDY (Miss)

\*Councillor J. HIGGINS

Councillor R. MATTHEWS

Councillor P. SMITH

\*Councillor J. M. WHITE

\**Members of the Sub-Committee*

## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### *Senior Public Health Inspector:*

A. H. S. LEWIS, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD,  
R.S.I. Food Inspection (Resigned 31/5/56).

H. CORSCADDEN, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD,  
R.S.I. Food Inspection, R.S.I. Smoke Inspector  
(Appointed 23/7/56).

### *Public Health Inspectors:*

J. SMITH, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD.  
R.S.I. Food Inspection.

J. TAYLOR, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD,  
R.S.I. Food Inspection (Appointed 5/3/56).  
(Resigned 12/8/56).

### *Clerks:*

Mrs. M. M. TAYLOR.

Miss E. SIMMS (Resigned 31/10/56).

Miss P. CURWOOD (Appointed 6/11/56).

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, together with the Senior Public Health Inspector's report, for the year 1956.

Every year it becomes more apparent that epidemics from infectious disease are now infrequent. The whooping cough and measles of childhood years are still present, but it is hoped that whooping cough immunisation, the figures for which are steadily rising in the Borough, will in ten or fifteen years time relegate whooping cough to the group of now rare diseases. Measles epidemics will still occur from time to time as an active immunity to this disease can only be given by an attack of the disease itself.

It is ten years since a case of diphtheria occurred in the normal population of Farnworth.

Scarlet fever and measles when they do occur, are no longer the serious infections they were thirty or more years ago.

Dysentery is not uncommon throughout the country and during 1956 there were one hundred and fifty-eight cases notified. The causative organism is the Shiga Sonnei and the disease, apart from a day or two of diarrhoea, is not incapacitating. However, infection is readily spread and that almost entirely from lack of personal hygiene. Frequent hand washing, essential after a visit to the lavatory, or after attendance on a sufferer from the disease, is all that is required to stamp out an epidemic.

Food poisoning due to Salmonella Typhi-murium was responsible for twenty-one cases, all widely separated and without any apparent common source of infection. The small outbreak was sudden, short lived and without incident.

Two cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred during the year, one a young married woman over twenty-one and the other a girl of fifteen. A third case occurred in a nurse at the Bolton District General Hospital which is within the Borough. This case was not a resident of the town.

A start was made during the year on the large Slum Clearance programme. How difficult this problem of clearing away unfit houses has become!

Unless a number of houses at an economic rent to the wage earner can be built commensurate with the people needing houses and with those to be rehoused from demolished houses, slum clearance is a shadow without substance.

The good health of a community is dependent in great measure on suitable housing accommodation.

An uncrowded, comfortable home means more than good health. It means greater peace of mind, less discontent and a big stride towards the solving of juvenile delinquency. The stuffy, overcrowded, badly constructed home cannot compete with the outside attractions of today. Home life as we older people knew it, is disappearing. The country would be better for its return.

During the year the Clean Air Bill was passed by Parliament and during 1957 measures to reduce atmospheric pollution can be instituted. Now is the time for the appropriate bodies to seek means to produce at a reasonable price large quantities of smokeless fuel which can ignite as readily as the best household coal. Just as the housing problem cannot be solved by building houses at high rents, no more can air pollution be minimised by advocating smokeless fuel for the domestic user (who is responsible for fifty per cent. of air pollution) at a high price. If this can be avoided, then industrial pollution offers little obstacle to eradication.

The figures for deaths from bronchitis and cancer of the lung or pleura in the Borough are given for the years 1950 to 1956.

There is no doubt that cigarette smoking predisposes to cancer of the lung. There is meagre evidence that air pollution may contribute.

#### Borough of Farnworth

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of deaths from Bronchitis	29	45	24	24	29	31	18
No. of deaths from cancer of the lung or pleura.	6	3	12	7	8	12	9

The excessive cigarette smoker and inhaler is the most prone to lung cancer. The pipe smoker is less so.

Bronchitis seems dependent on the hard and wet winters. Heavy atmospheric pollution is a contributory cause.

If we could get clean homes, clean food, clean air and a population conscious of the value of hygiene and health, what a " Brave New World " it would be.

It is gratifying to see that greater interest has been shown in old people's welfare. The Mayor, Councillor J. W. Geere, inaugurated an Old People's Welfare Fund and he, with the Lady Mayoress's assistance, has worked hard on their behalf. As a result of this fund the Welfare Committee will have some money to draw on and if means can be found to establish a small yearly income then the financial problem will be solved.

It requires more than money, however, to bring some solace and happiness to aged people, and voluntary workers who will visit old people are still required.

Loneliness is still one of the greatest trials of old age. As one man of seventy-five, who had kept himself active and fit until rheumatoid arthritis limited his travels, said to me—" If I'd known old age was like this I wouldn't have bothered."

It is regrettable that homes or hostels for old people have not been founded in Farnworth. So much in this respect has been done in neighbouring towns and my experience of Farnworth as an autonomous authority prompts me to say that were the Borough Council the authority for old people's welfare, we should not be so lacking in provision for their well being.

As in former years, I am indebted for the help and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the members of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area .....	1,504 statute acres
Population .....	27,720 Estimated mid-1956 28,614 Census 1951.
Number of Inhabited houses, 1931 .....	7,104
Number of Inhabited houses, 1956 .....	9,272
Rateable Value (1st April, 1956) .....	£244,796
Sum represented by 1d. rate .....	£916

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

BIRTHS:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .....	204	196	400
Illegitimate .....	5	6	11
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>209</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>411</b>

STILL BIRTHS:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .....	6	8	14
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>

	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population .....	14.7	15.7
Still Births per 1,000 total births .....	33.0	23.0
Still Births per 1,000 population .....	0.55	0.37

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .....	15	5	20
Illegitimate .....	—	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births) .....	51	23.8
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	15	
Maternal Deaths .....	Nil	401

DEATH RATE:	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
Per 1,000 population .....	13.2	11.7

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALL AGES IN 1956

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	2	1
Syphilitic disease .....	2	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	6	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	8	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	19	9
Leukæmia, aleukæmia .....	—	1
Diabetes .....	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	19	33
Coronary disease, angina .....	29	19
Hypertension with heart disease .....	3	3
Other heart disease .....	22	21
Other circulatory disease .....	8	9
Influenza .....	—	2
Pneumonia .....	4	9
Bronchitis .....	11	7
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	6	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa .....	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	—
Congenital malformations .....	2	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases .....	26	21
Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	—
All other accidents .....	6	9
Suicide .....	1	3
Homicide and operations of war .....	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL .....	182	163
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES**  
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED  
DURING THE YEAR 1956  
TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS — YEARS										
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & over	Age unknown	
Scarlet Fever .....	17	-	-	-	2	1	12	2	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough ...	158	16	18	21	32	23	44	4	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis- Paralytic .....	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Non-paralytic.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella) .....	16	1	3	1	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery .....	158	4	9	6	10	10	38	13	6	62	-	-
Meningococcal infection .....	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
			0-		5-		15-		45-		65 and over	Age unknown
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal) .....	21		5		3		-		8		5	-
Paratyphoid fevers...	1		-		-		-		-		1	-
Erysipelas .....	6		-		-		-		6		-	-
Food poisoning .....	21		4		5		4		5		3	-
Tuberculosis Respiratory .....	18		-		2		4		9		3	-
Meninges & C.N.S.	-		-		-		-		-		-	-
Others .....	2		-		1		-		1		-	-

#### DIPHTHERIA

There were no cases of diphtheria in the resident population of Farnworth during 1956.

#### FOOD POISONING

Twenty-one cases of food poisoning were notified during the year 1956. The organism isolated in each case was salmonella typhi-murium.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### INSPECTIONS DURING 1956

During the year some 1,536 premises were visited for the purpose of administering the provisions of the various Acts and Orders. The wide range of the inspections is indicative of the many duties falling within the purview of the Public Health Inspector, this new title being granted during the year under review.

These mainly routine duties are largely dependent upon continuity and the several changes in the Inspectorate can only have had an adverse effect.

	<i>Number of Visits</i>
Houses—Public Health Act .....	2,220
Housing Act .....	554
Overcrowding .....	21
Disinfections .....	12
Disinfestations .....	44
Infectious diseases .....	95
Factories .....	46
Bakehouses .....	13
Milk distributors .....	31
Offices .....	7
Food premises .....	203
Drainage work .....	408
Ice Cream dealers .....	17
Rodent control .....	699
Mortuary .....	1
Smoke observations .....	16
Market .....	45
Butchers' shops .....	41
Fried fish shops .....	4
Hospitals .....	26
Schools .....	6
Shops Act .....	16
Pet shops .....	2
Caravans .....	12
Slaughterhouses .....	128
Conversion of waste water closets .....	6
Dairies .....	24
Outworkers .....	22
Miscellaneous .....	222
 Defects or nuisances—	
Number discovered .....	1,281
Number abated .....	911
 Number of notices served—	
Informal .....	315
Statutory .....	227

## WATER SUPPLY

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The supply was from Heaton Sand Filters, Ferns Park Pressure Filters and the Sweetloves Open Sand Filters, and 12 samples of both raw and filtered water were subjected to full chemical analysis and 150 samples of raw and 153 samples of filtered water, to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. The results showed that general filtration and treatment of the raw water were necessary and that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in all cases. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly, the water was shown to have no significant plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

An additional 1,362 yards of water main, varying in diameter from 2in. to 6in. were laid in Farnworth during the year.

## DRAINAGE

The inspection and testing of all new drainage work and of alterations to existing drainage was maintained during the year and a high degree of co-operation with the local building contractors was in evidence.

The number of waste water closets was again reduced, the final abolition of this insanitary appliance is perhaps not too far distant. A grant of £10 was made in respect of each conversion and the overall situation is as follows:—

Number of privy middens .....	3
Number of closets attached to these middens .....	3
Number of pail closets .....	6
Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) .....	Nil
Number of trough closets .....	Nil
Number of waste water closets .....	46
Number of fresh water closets .....	10,411
No. of houses on water carriage system .....	9,371
Number of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets during the year .....	6

The privies and pail closets left in the area are on outlying farms, where, at the moment, it is not practicable to connect to the public sewer.

## REFUSE COLLECTION

This is carried out under the control of the Borough Surveyor, a weekly collection of the contents of 10,397 dustbins being maintained by three covered motor vehicles. The refuse, after the recovery of salvageable materials is disposed of by tipping in the Darley area.

## VERMIN INFESTATION

The incidence of infestation of houses with *cimex lectularius* (bed bugs) was small. It was not necessary to have any houses disinfested with hydrogen cyanide. 39 privately owned houses were disinfested with D.D.T. in solution. 6 Council houses and 35 privately owned houses were disinfested against other inspect pests.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Pet shops are inspected in co-operation with the R.S.P.C.A. Two pet shops were re-registered in Farnworth in 1956.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

Sixteen observations were taken during the year, all on industrial chimneys, the domestic chimney being outside the provisions of existing legislation, a situation which should gradually change with the implementation of the Clean Air Act. 1956, in fact, may well mark the beginning of the road towards a clean and smokeless air and although many obstacles lie ahead, the co-ordination of all concerned may well achieve a considerable improvement. The efforts of the Public Health Inspectors have again been directed towards improving the efficiency of boiler plant and their operators.

The recording of the amount of pollution in the Borough was continued in co-operation with the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, the collected results being circularised to the 35 local authorities who participate in the scheme.

SHOPS AND OFFICES:	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Defects &amp; Contraventions</i>
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences .....	7	—
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences .....	7	—

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### 1. INSPECTIONS:—

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. of inspections</i>	<i>No. of written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
Factories without mechanical power	6	—	—
Factories with mechanical power ...	36	—	—
Other premises .....	3	—	—
Total .....	45	—	—

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

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The systematic destruction of rats in their main habitat was undertaken by the rodent operators, the results of the bi-annual treatments being tabulated below along with details of the numerous inspections carried out.

Complaints of infestations are regularly received in the department and, following an initial investigation, treatment is carried out according to the size and type of infestation.

### DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	Others including Business and industrial	
Number of properties in local authority's district ...	33	9378	8	955	10,374
Number of properties inspected by the local authority, primarily for rodent infestation... ..	33	1126	9	318	1,486
Number of properties found to be infested by rats or mice .....	21	330	2	85	438
Number of infested properties treated by the local authority .....	21	330	2	85	438

### SEWER TREATMENTS

Dates of treatment .....	11th April to 4th May	20th November to 4th December
Total number of manholes .....	1054	1054
Bait and poison .....	Bread mash & arsenic	Sausage rusk & zinc phosphide
Number of manholes baited .....	977	123
Number of manholes showing prebait take .....	133	24
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take on one or both days .....	80	15
	80	15

### PUBLIC BATHS

The public baths are owned by the Corporation and are under the control of the Health Committee.

## MORTUARY

The public mortuary, situated in Gas Street, is the responsibility of the Health Committee, but its use is mainly determined by the County police.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### PREPARATION, SALE AND STORAGE OF FOOD

318 inspections under this heading again revealed the need for improvements to bring the premises up to the standard required by the Food Hygiene Regulations.

In many cases only informal action was necessary but most important of all an inspection of this nature affords an opportunity to bring to the notice of employees the fundamental principles of food handling.

### MILK SUPPLY

The number of milk distributors registered by the local authority at the end of the year was as follows:—

Dairies in Farnworth .....	2
Dairy farms in the district .....	6
Shops other than dairies .....	150
Premises outside the district .....	3

Fourteen dealers' licences to retail tuberculin tested milk were issued.

The number of licences to retail heat treated milk was 14 for pasteurised and 148 for sterilised milk.

Fifteen samples of raw milk were taken for examination for the presence of tuberculosis, all of which were satisfactory. Three samples of pasteurised milk passed the phosphatase test.

### ICE CREAM

Four premises are registered as being suitable for the manufacture of ice cream and were so used during the year.

Fourteen premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, making a total of 120 registered in Farnworth.

Twenty-seven inspections of ice cream dealers' and manufacturers' premises were made during the year.

### PRESERVED FOOD

Ninety-eight inspections were made of premises used in connection with the sale of preserved food. Twenty-eight such premises are registered in Farnworth.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

Two private slaughter-houses are licensed in the Borough, only one of which was actually in use by the end of the year.

All the animals slaughtered were inspected, and there follows a table of the number of animals inspected and the amount of meat condemned.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	2	Nil	2	848	2
Number inspected .....	2	Nil	2	848	2
All diseases except tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	28	Nil
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	3.3%	Nil
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of carcasses found to be affected with  
cysticercus bovis ..... Nil

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1938 AND 1954

During the year 5 persons had their licences to slaughter animals renewed. Two new licences were issued.

## DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

*Articles condemned**Weight & Reason*

## BEEF:

Organs or parts of carcasses ..... 72lb. Extensive bruising

## MUTTON:

Organs or parts of carcasses ..... 49lb. Parasitic

## FOODS—mainly tinned—comprising fruit,

vegetables, etc. .... 1,483lb. Decomposed or  
otherwise unfit.

## NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers .....	142
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.).....	30
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.) .....	5
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.).....	37
Bakers and/or confectioners.....	46
Fried fish shops .....	26
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc. ...	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments.....	93

## HAWKERS

No hawkers were newly registered during the year; the total number registered in Farnworth—12.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Public Health Inspector.

Particulars of samples taken during the year:—

Milk .....	95
Other articles .....	46

The other 46 articles comprised:—

2 Margarine	1 Cream of olive oil
1 Tapioca	1 Macaroni
9 Tea	1 Orange drink
2 Vinegar	1 Pudding mix
1 Shredded coconut	2 Fresh fruit
2 Camphorated oil	1 White pepper
1 Flour confectionery	1 Pickles
2 Bread	1 Fish paste
3 Lard	2 Epsom salts
2 Curry powder	1 British Ruby Wine
2 Pork sausage	1 Egg flip
2 Beef sausage	1 Cream of cod liver oil
3 Cooking fat	

With the exception of those listed below, all the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Milk	Contained 0.8% extraneous water.	Same vendor. Supplier cautioned, vendor informed.
Milk	Contained 2.1% extraneous water.	
Pork sausage	Meat content 57.5%	Vendor interviewed
Pork sausage	Meat content 60.5%	Vendor interviewed
Fish paste	52.9% deficient of the minimum percentage of fish.	Formal sample obtained.
Cream of Cod Liver Oil	Labels refer to all kinds of lung infections including consumption. Vitamins and minerals claimed without declaration. Acid value of oil 1.6, B.P. limit is 1.2. Appeared to be very old stock.	Stock surrendered.

## HOUSING

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:— *Houses*

(i) By the local authority .....	84
(ii) By other local authorities .....	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	2

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES

## DURING THE YEAR:—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	475
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	2,776
2. Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number found during year .....	9
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year .....	617
3. Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit .....	315

## 2. CLEARANCE AREAS (HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954):—

1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year:—	
(a) Unfit houses .....	—
(b) Other houses .....	—
2. Number of persons displaced .....	—

## 3. HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS:—

	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Displaced Persons</i>
1. Houses demolished or closed during year		
(a) Housing Act, 1936—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) .....	Nil	Nil
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force .....	5	13
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12) .....	—	—

(b) Housing Act, 1949—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3 (2) .....	—	—
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) .....	—	—

	<i>Number of Houses</i>
2. Repairs during the year.	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts .....	171
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—houses in which defects were remedied:	
(i) By owners .....	101
(ii) By local authority in default of owners ...	3
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16): Houses made fit—	
(i) By owners .....	—
(ii) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954: Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) ...	—

*Number of Houses*

#### 4. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE

(HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954):—

1. Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 .....	—
2. Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above .....	—
3. Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) .....	—

5. HOUSING ACT, 1949— IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.	<i>Private bodies or Individuals</i>		<i>Local Authority</i>	
	<i>No. of Schemes</i>	<i>No. of dwelling- houses or other buildings affected</i>	<i>No. of Schemes</i>	<i>No. of dwelling- houses or other buildings affected</i>
Action during the year :				
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority .....	26	26	—	—
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry .....	—	—	—	—
(c) Finally approved by Ministry .....	—	—	—	—
(d) Work completed .....	27	27	—	—

## HOUSING CONDITIONS

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AS TO HOUSING CONDITIONS :

Of 9,373 houses in the town, 3,023 are Corporation houses aged from 30 years to newly built, and are in good condition ; of the remainder approximately 3,000 houses are old (50 years or more) lacking in modern amenities, have solid walls and dampness is a prevalent defect in them. Most of them are 4-room cottage type, easily overcrowded.

### SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES :

At the end of 1956, 516 applications for Corporation houses had been received from families in lodgings.

### FITNESS OF HOUSES :

Notices for essential repairs are continually being served by the Health Department, but there has been little improvement of housing standards as distinct from the maintenance of existing standards in rented houses.







