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BOROUGH OF



GRANTHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Health of the Borough
for the Year

1949

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

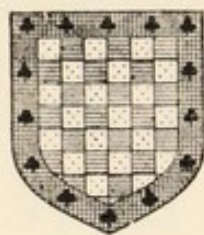
Chief Sanitary Inspector



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BOROUGH OF GRANTHAM

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman R. Lee, J.P. (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. L. Basford, J.P. (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman B. H. Sindall

Councillor H. Cant

Councillor J. R. Cook

Councillor G. E. Mills, J.P.

Councillor H. J. Pacey

Councillor A. L. Ramsden

Councillor S. G. Streeton

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

R. F. McKEOWN, M.B., B.A.O., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

C. TAYLOR, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. H. ROBERTS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

BOROUGH OF GRANTHAM

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

16, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Grantham.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present on behalf of my predecessor, Dr. R. F. McKeown, who left before the necessary statistics were available, the Annual Report on the vital statistics, health, and sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year 1949.

I have had by now sufficient opportunity to realise the high standard of efficiency and zeal which governed Dr. McKeown in his work, and can only express my ambition to maintain the reputation earned by his services to the Council.

Under the circumstances, comment is necessarily restricted to the statistics available in the following tables. This report is further curtailed in that 1949 was the first full year of loss of certain functions to the local Health Authority under the National Health Act, notably Maternity and Child Welfare, Diphtheria Immunisation, and administration of St. Catherine's Day Nursery.

With one disquieting exception the vital statistics show little change as compared with the satisfactory levels of previous years. It is gratifying to note that again there has not been a single maternal death in the Borough. The Infant Mortality Rate has increased by one-third, representing 5 additional deaths under one year of age. There is one factor to be taken into account against this increased Infant Mortality Rate. Stillbirths decreased from 15 in 1948 to 6. It has been found elsewhere that such a decrease has sometimes been associated with an otherwise inexplicable increase in the Infant Mortality Rate. The assumption is that improved ante-

natal and obstetric care result in the survival till after birth of an increased number of infants of poor constitutional viability who fail to resist the hazards of the first year of life.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever continued to rise, but fortunately the disease was of a very mild type, rarely necessitating removal to hospital. After a period of epidemic prevalence in 1948, Measles and Whooping Cough reverted to their usual level. The Borough was again entirely free from Diphtheria.

Tuberculosis of the lungs continues to conform to the national pattern in that the brunt of the disease has fallen on females in late adolescence and early adult life; while in the male, notifications and deaths start later and at a lower level of incidence, but continue into middle life and later. While notifications show a decided increase (due in part, no doubt, to improved diagnosis), it is a source of some satisfaction that deaths show an equally marked decline.

The two cases of Food Poisoning were long distance lorry drivers who contracted the infection far from the Borough, but this low level of notification, in all probability, does not reflect the true incidence of this condition.

An intensified drive, restricted by limitations of staff, was instituted in an effort to improve standards of cleanliness in food premises of all types, but it is obvious that prolonged efforts by all concerned will be needed before conditions can be regarded as satisfactory. The problem is fundamentally one of individual education and sense of responsibility, and the general public, particularly the housewife, could play a great part by demanding a higher standard from foodhandlers.

I am sure Dr. McKeown would wish me to thank the Council, and in particular the Health Committee, for their interest and support in all Public Health matters, and I can join him unreservedly in thanking the Public Health staff and colleagues in other Departments for the great and friendly help they have shown both of us.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. ROSS.

BOROUGH OF GRANTHAM

STATISTICS

Population (Census 1931)	19709
Population (Mid-year estimate—Civilian)	23080
Area of Borough	3868 acres
Rateable Valuation (1st April, 1949) ...	£144941
Sum represented by penny rate (year ending 31st March, 1949)	£562 14 8

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	211	200	411
Illegitimate	18	14	32
Birth rate per thousand estimated population			19.2
Average for England and Wales ...			16.7

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births	42.9
Average for England and Wales ...	32

DEATHS	M.	F.	Total
Number of deaths	146	129	275
Deaths per 1,000 estimated population			11.9
Corrected (for age and sex) death rate			11.5
Average for England and Wales ...			11.7

MATERNAL DEATHS

Deaths from Maternal Causes ...	0
Maternal mortality per 1,000 total births	0
Average for England and Wales ...	0.98

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DEATHS

Notifications received during the year

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	77	9	—
Pneumonia	23	—	8
Measles	135	1	—
Whooping Cough	56	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Erysipelas	7	—	—
Poliomyelitis	5	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	2	2	—
Total	306	17	9

Age distribution of the Notified infectious Diseases

	Not Known	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	3	6	8	11	45	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Pneumonia	5	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	23
Measles	7	5	14	15	13	15	64	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	135
Whooping Cough	1	6	7	8	11	5	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	2	7
Anterio Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Total	13	12	24	29	33	31	133	5	2	3	6	5	3	3	4	306

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	Deaths during 1949				New cases during 1949			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
15—25 years ...	—	1	—	—	3	3	—	—
25—35 years ...	—	1	—	—	1	4	—	—
35—45 years ...	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 years ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Not known ...	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	3	1	1	10	9	1	—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1949						Male	Female
All causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	146	129
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	20	18
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	...	...	...	...	...	13	20
Heart diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	42	50
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	...	...	...	...	...	9	4
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	13	9
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Other respiratory diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Other digestive diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Nephritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other maternal causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Premature births ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Infantile diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Road traffic accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other violent causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
All other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	12	5

DEATHS FROM CANCER

	Cancer of :					Rate per 1,000 population
	Buc;cav; & oesoph;(m) uterus (f)	Stomach and duodenum	Breast	All other sites	Total	
Male	4	3	...	13	20	0.87
Female	3	1	2	12	18	0.78
Total	7	4	2	25	38	1.65

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 — ANNUAL REPORT OF M.O.H.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	58	24	2	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	147	97	7	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers)	—	—	—	—
Total	205	121	9	—

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	12	8	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature ...	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation ...	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	2	1	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	1	...	1	...
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	8	4	...	1	...
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Offences against the Act (not including those relating to Outwork) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	24	14	...	2	...

FOOD POISONING.

Total Outbreaks: 1. Total Cases: 2

Total Deaths: Nil

Organisms responsible: Unknown.

Foods involved: Not available.

The cases referred to above were two long distance lorry drivers who were admitted to Grantham Hospital with symptoms of food poisoning. From the history it was assumed that the food concerned was consumed in a cafe in Hertfordshire, and consequently the local Medical Officer of Health was requested to make the necessary investigations, which turned out to be fruitless.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

As far as possible, within the limitations of staff, the clean food campaign was maintained and intensified, reliance being mainly placed on personal contact with occupiers or proprietors of food premises with the object of fully discussing and emphasising the need for the highest possible standards to be attained in food hygiene.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

These facilities are, of course, the responsibility of the Local Health Authority; the following list is retained for purposes of information.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing and domiciliary midwifery is still carried out by the District Nurses stationed at the District Nurses' Home, Castlegate.

HOME HELPS.

Help for cases of illness and maternity cases is provided through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, 40, Westgate.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The Grantham General Hospital and the Hillview Hospital, Dysart Road, cater for the needs of the area.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

Maternity accommodation is provided at the above two hospitals.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

There being no isolation hospital in the immediate neighbourhood accommodation when required has to be sought in neighbouring areas.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS.

Sanatorium treatment for cases requiring it is arranged by the Regional Hospital Board, who are now responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

(a) PROVIDED BY THE KESTIVEN COUNTY COUNCIL:

Ante-natal Clinics:

At 40, Westgate, on alternate Mondays.

Child Welfare:

Six clinics weekly held at the Clinic, 40, Westgate—Dr. in attendance once weekly.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

At the Child Welfare Clinic on Tuesday afternoons, and at clinics held at specially arranged times for reinforcing doses. Free immunisation can also be arranged with general practitioners.

School Clinic:

Beaconfield. Minor ailments daily 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. Dr. in attendance Tuesday 9.30 a.m. Specialist services by appointment.

Day Nursery:

The Day Nursery, St. Catherine's Road, provides for children of working parents. At present there is a considerable waiting list.

(b) PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY:

Tuberculosis:

A weekly session is held by the Chest Physician in the Grantham Hospital Out-Patients' Department, on Monday mornings.

Venereal Diseases:

A weekly session is held in the Out-Patients' Department of Grantham Hospital, on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological investigations are amply provided for by the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln. All necessary chemical analyses are done by Mr. W. W. Taylor, Public Analyst, Nottingham.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

16, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Grantham

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the annual report on the sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1949. Although so far as possible details are given under the respective headings, there are some matters which it is not possible to classify or tabulate and which take up a considerable amount of time.

The number of complaints registered at the department was 393, which figure shows an increase on that for the previous year; in fact, there has been a progressive increase in the number of complaints received during the past five years. This may be accounted for to some degree by the continued deterioration of the older dwelling houses, caused by various factors such as inadequacy of building labour for repair work, increased costs of building repairs, the reluctance and in some cases genuine inability of landlords to incur such increased costs while the present rent control remains.

One item of special mention is that during the year attention was given to the supervision of food preparation premises, many improvements were secured and, at every opportunity, strong emphasis was made on the importance of personal hygiene in connection with food handling. The subject of food hygiene is one which has lately come to the forefront, and it is now one of the major functions of a public health department to give rigorous attention to obtaining better standards of hygiene in food premises and food handling. This calls for regular visits to such premises, but staff limitations have somewhat restricted our efforts in this direction; although Grantham has only a population of just over 23,000, it is an extremely busy shopping centre which serves not only its own inhabitants, but also a large proportion of the popula-

tion from the many villages which are situated within easy reach of the town, and there are in the Borough approximately 220 food premises of different categories. With many other diverse public health duties to carry out, your Sanitary Officers are not able to devote as much time as should, in my opinion, be given to the question of food hygiene.

The past year saw the introduction of (a) The Housing Act, 1949, which, inter alia, makes provision for the giving of financial assistance towards improvement of housing accommodation; and (b) the following new regulations relating to milk supplies, amending the law on registration and licensing, production, handling, storage, and distribution, etc., viz., The Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949, The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

A tabulated list of inspections and visits made by your Sanitary Officers during the year is given on page 17.

WATER SUPPLY.

As stated in previous reports, the Grantham Waterworks Company supply water throughout the Borough. It is a constant supply which has proved adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. 25 samples were taken from the town mains during 1949, and in all cases the water was reported to be of satisfactory bacterial quality at the time of sampling.

The following report was made by the Analyst upon a water sample taken from the public supply in May, 1949:—

This sample contains per million parts:—

Chemical

Total Solids dried at 180° C	...	400.00
Suspended Matter	...	Absent
Chlorides as chlorine	...	21.30
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrate	...	4.00
Oxidised Nitrogen as nitrite	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	0.1400
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0200
Temporary Hardness	...	180.00
Permanent Hardness	...	135.00
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.		
from N/80 KMnO ₄	...	0.160

pH value	7.70
Appearance	Clear and Bright
Odour	None
Taste and Colour	Normal
Heavy Metals	Absent
Free Chlorine	0.050

Bacteriological

No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 21° C. in 72 hours	11
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37° C. in 24 hours	0
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37° C. in 48 hours	1
Coli—aerogenes count per 100 mls. at 37° C. in 48 hours ...	0
Faecal coli count per 100 mls. at 44° C. in 48 hours	0
Bacillus Coli (Presumptive) ...	Absent in 100 mls.

Opinion

At the time of sampling, this water was of satisfactory bacterial and chemical quality for human consumption, domestic use and dairy purposes.

So far as is known, less than a dozen houses in the Borough derive water from shallow wells. Two such wells were closed after notice from the department, and piped water supply provided in lieu thereof.

24 informal notices were served requiring the provision of an internal water supply in respect of houses which obtained water from outside standtaps, and the work was carried out in all cases without further action.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There was considerably less pollution of the River Witham and the small watercourse known as The Mowbeck. This resulted from the policy adopted by the Borough Engineer's staff of systematically dealing with each individual source of pollution noted during the survey carried out in 1948.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The only sewer extension completed during 1949 was a short length of 150 feet of 9 inch diameter foul sewer.

Complaints were frequently received during spells of hot weather of offensive smells emanating from street gullies. Although street gullies are cleansed and flushed at regular intervals, many of them are untrapped and should be replaced to prevent the occurrence of this nuisance, which is most strongly objected to by members of the public.

191 visits were made in connection with the drainage of existing premises, the smoke test was applied to old drains and all new drainage work was hydraulically tested; a total of 57 tests were made.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

All properties in the borough with the exception of 37 houses are now on the water carriage system. In July a decision was taken by the Health Committee to have a scheme prepared for the conversion of a further eight pail closets at Gonerby Hill Foot district. Removal of pail closet contents continued to be carried out by contract at a cost of £208 per annum.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

A collection of house and trade refuse was made weekly, a fleet of 5 S.D. Freighters and 1 Commer lorry were used for the purpose; one new refuse collection vehicle was purchased to replace one which had given constant service since 1928; during the latter part of the year the increased yield of refuse resulting from the gradual development of new Council housing estates and erection of other private houses became very apparent, and it was found necessary to adjust the refuse collection service accordingly.

In marked contrast to the previous year, the sale of materials salvaged from domestic and trade refuse declined very seriously; an unexpected slump in the waste paper market being largely responsible, and this resulted in a review of the arrangements for the collection of trade refuse, with the ultimate decision to reimpose a charge for this service at all premises where the amount was in excess of one bin weekly.

As a result of a successful appeal by an owner against a notice served upon him by the Council to provide a new dustbin at a rent controlled house, the advisability of introducing a municipal dustbin scheme was fully considered and deferred. All who are concerned with the administration of refuse collection services agree that there is much to be said in favour of local authorities undertaking the supply of receptacles for storage of household refuse—it eases administration, ensures uniformity and standardisation of the type of receptacles in use, renewals take place quickly, and these points are not without effect in reflecting upon the efficiency and some economy in the running of a collection service, not to mention that it is a public health measure of some importance to provide the means to ensure that all household refuse may be stored under ideal hygienic conditions.

With lack of tipping grounds in the locality, the increasing yield of refuse presents a more difficult problem when its disposal has to be arranged, and the Council is aware of the inadequacy of the present destructor. Following a visit by a Health Sub-Committee to a modern refuse disposal plant, the Council accepted a recommendation to invite manufacturers of destructor plants to submit schemes, with plans and prices, for adapting the present destructor for use in accordance with the most up-to-date methods to serve a population of up to 40,000. No final scheme was in readiness at the end of the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Atmospheric pollution does not present a serious problem in this Borough; two complaints were received during the year of excessive smoke emission from factory chimneys causing nuisances to residents in the locality; after interviews with the works' engineers in both cases the nuisance was mitigated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no licensed sites in the borough for the use of moveable dwellings, and no action was found necessary with regard to dwelling vans.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The unostentatious but none the less important work of rodent destruction continued to be carried out with unabated zeal by your Rodent Officer, the most scientific and expedient methods being used on systematic lines with a high degree of success. It is impossible to assess in positive terms the actual value of this work to a community, but the sure knowledge that serious depredations of food supplies by rats does occur together with the fact that they are a mode for the conveyance of disease amply justifies it as a worthwhile public service. Unfortunately it is not possible to record that full advantage was taken of this service as the number of notifications of rat infestations made to the department in 1949 could, in my view, have been increased by full co-operation from all those having knowledge of such infestations.

The public sewers, refuse tip, 79 business premises and 76 other premises, gardens and piggeries, were treated and in all 947 visits were made by the Rodent Officer.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREANUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE
DURING 1949

Complaints reported to the Public Health Department	393
Inspections and re-visits of dwellings and other premises where nuisances were found	1747
Inspections of premises upon complaint where no nuisances were found	57
Inspection of houses (Housing Act, 1936)	8
Re-inspection of houses (Housing Act, 1936)	36
In connection with overcrowding	32
Miscellaneous visits to properties other than above	145
Visits in connection with drainage of premises	191
Visits to bakehouses	39
„ „ cowsheds	14
„ „ dairies and milkshops	81
„ „ ice-cream premises	83
„ „ food preparing premises	47

„ „ cooked food and “ Making-Up ” premises ...	65
„ „ factories (with mechanical power) ...	97
„ „ factories (with no mechanical power) ...	24
„ „ factories (re means of fire escape) ...	8
„ „ outworkers premises ...	4
„ „ fried fish shops ...	25
„ „ markets, shops and stalls ...	76
„ „ offensive trade premises ...	11
„ „ dwelling vans ...	19
„ „ verminous premises ...	18
„ „ rat infested lands and premises ...	1
„ „ cafes and cafe kitchens ...	28
„ „ cinemas and places of public entertainment	4
„ „ shops (Shops Act, 1934, Section 10) ...	8
„ „ slaughterhouse ...	412
„ „ wholesale meat supply depot ...	65
„ „ meat purveyors ...	60
„ „ piggeries ...	3
„ „ schools ...	5
„ „ swimming baths ...	1
„ in connection with smoke abatement ...	24
„ „ „ „ river pollution ...	17
„ „ „ „ water supply ...	24
„ „ „ „ refuse collection and disposal	145
„ „ „ „ salvage ...	52
„ „ „ „ infectious disease ...	94
Inspection of licensed premises ...	18
Number of interviews with builders or owners ...	292
Number of samples of water taken for analysis ...	24
Number of informal notices served ...	338
Number of Statutory Notices served ...	17

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

These Regulations replaced with amendments The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the function of registering milk producers was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Borough Council remained the responsible

authority for registration of all persons carrying on the trade of a milk distributor and also any premises used as a dairy in Grantham.

The number of milk distributors registered was 13

The number of dairy premises registered was 8

Legal Proceedings were taken under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, against a milk producer for using unregistered premises and also for various contraventions relating to production of milk under dirty conditions, fines totalling £11 being imposed by the magistrates.

(b) THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The number of dealers' licences issued authorising the use of the designation "Sterilised" in relation to milk sold from their premises was 2.

There is only one pasteurising establishment in the Borough, and under these Regulations the licensing authority in future will be the County Council instead of the Borough Council, although your Sanitary Officers will still be responsible for visiting this dairy to note compliance or otherwise with the Regulations mentioned in paragraph (a) above. Obviously, therefore, inspections will be made by officials of two different authorities, and there will be some overlapping of duties, which in my opinion could give rise to misunderstandings.

A fairly high percentage of milk sold in the town is pasteurised before distribution.

(c) THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

One supplementary licence was issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to a milk supply sold by one of the milk distributors.

(d) SAMPLING OF MILK SUPPLIES.

Regular sampling of milk supplies was carried out throughout the year.

30 samples of ungraded milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln, where they were subjected to a Methylene Blue Reductase Test. On the results obtained 20 samples were of the standard equivalent to that of Accredited Milk and only 3 samples were considered unsatisfactory.

32 samples of pasteurised milk were taken and, with one exception, all complied with the legal standard. 11 samples of tuberculin tested milk were examined, 5 failing to conform to the required bacteriological standard, as a result of which the matter was referred to the licensing authority, viz., the County Council, for further investigation at the producer's premises.

With the co-operation of the County Sanitary Officer, seventy milk samples were obtained for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, and one only was reported to be positive. This was duly reported to the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who took the necessary action.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

(a) SAMPLING OF FOOD.

This was carried out by the Kesteven County Council; and, by the kind co-operation of the Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, Mr. E. J. Hawley, the following information has been supplied:—

Total samples taken	...	65
Milk samples taken	...	39
Others		26

There were no proceedings taken during the year in respect of the above samples. Mr. Hawley comments that the average quality of milk supplies is well above the legal standard, the Grantham average being 3.85 % milk fat and 9.06 % solids.

(b) SALE AND MANUFACTURE OF ICE CREAM.

Every effort was made to keep a close check on the hygienic quality of ice cream supplies, and the statistics below indicate the amount of work entailed; a code of practice

was prepared and circulated to all ice-cream vendors requesting them to adopt its recommendations.

Number of premises registered at the end of 1949:

(a) for the manufacture and sale of ice cream	...	6
(b) for the sale of loose ice cream		24
(c) for the sale of pre-packed ice cream only	...	14

Number of premises registered during the year:

(a) for the manufacture and sale of ice cream	...	—
(b) for the sale of loose ice cream		2
(c) for the sale of pre-packed ice cream		8

Number of premises where registration was cancelled on account of unsatisfactory conditions

...	...	1
-----	-----	---

Number of premises deleted from register on account of cessation of business

...	...	...	...	2
-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Total number of inspections of ice cream premises

...	83
-----	----

Result of bacteriological samples taken:—

Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	48
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Methylene Blue Test—

Number classified in Grade 1	...	...	...	23
„ „ „ „ 2	...	...	...	6
„ „ „ „ 3	...	...	...	15
„ „ „ „ 4	...	...	...	4

All samples classified as Grades 3 and 4 were investigated, and follow-up samples taken generally showed improvement, although in one instance successive unsatisfactory samples were obtained from one manufacturer whose premises were ultimately removed from the register on account of unsatisfactory conditions.

(c) SAUSAGE AND MAKING-UP PREMISES.

The number of premises registered for the preparation and manufacture of sausage, cooked meat, etc., is 28.

Routine inspections were made of all these premises and 13 notices were served drawing attention to contraventions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which resul-

ted in the following improvements being effected:—

Number of premises cleansed and redecorated ...	...	11
„ „ structurally improved ...	...	7
„ „ provided with constant hot water		
	supply ...	5
„ „ otherwise hygienically improved ...		2

(d) CAFES, BAKEHOUSES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

As mentioned earlier in this report, special attention was given to the inspection of food premises, and in particular visits were made to cafes and cafe kitchens, one of the main objects being to impress upon the proprietors not only the need for premises of clean appearance, but the need for the utmost care in the washing and cleansing of food utensils and personal cleanliness on the part of food handlers. To supplement these visits the Council agreed to circulate a recommended code of practice for adoption at all catering premises. There is still a certain amount of thoughtlessness and an air of casualness existing on the part of some food handlers, and until this has been overcome and all concerned put into practice the accepted code of food hygiene, then the risk of outbreaks of food poisoning will not be lessened.

There are twenty-six bakehouses in the borough; 39 inspections were carried out and three notices were served relating to cleansing and decorating.

A routine inspection was made of all fish frying shops, and no action was found necessary.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

All slaughtering for the Borough of Grantham and the West Kesteven Rural District was carried out at the Government controlled Slaughterhouse situate in Inner Street, and post-mortem examination of all animals slaughtered there was carried out by the Borough Sanitary Officers. This work frequently entailed evening visits and Sunday visits. No ante-mortem inspection of animals was carried out. Statistics relating to meat inspection are shown in the following table.

	Cattle (ex Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	986	190	351	4288	323
Number Inspected	986	190	351	4288	323

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS

Whole Carcases condemned ...	5	10	13	20	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	291	77	9	86	39
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	30.0	45.2	6.0	2.4	14.8

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole Carcases condemned ...	8	12	1	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	135	83	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	14.5	50.0	0.3	—	3.4

The entire carcases and organs of the following animals were condemned for the reasons stated:—

12 Cows	...	...	Generalised Tuberculosis
1 Heifer	...	...	" "
6 Steers	...	...	" "
1 Calf	...	...	" "
2 Pigs	...	...	" "
1 Heifer	...	...	Tuberculosis with emaciation
1 Bullock	...	...	Moribund
1 Cow	...	...	" and febrile
1 Heifer	...	...	" "
1 Calf	...	...	" "
4 Sheep	...	...	" "
1 Pig	...	...	" and fevered
5 Sheep	...	...	Dropsy
1 Cow	...	...	" "
1 Calf	...	...	" "
1 Cow	...	...	Dropsical and emaciated

4	Sheep	...	...	Acute fever
2	Pigs	...	...	" "
1	Sheep	...	...	Pyæmia
1	Cow	...	...	"
1	Cow	...	...	" and internal bruising
1	Cow	...	...	Emaciated and badly set
1	Cow	...	...	Hydraemia
1	Cow	...	...	Septic Metritis
2	Cows	...	...	Extensive injuries
1	Heifer	...	...	Septicaemia
1	Heifer	...	...	Septic Pericarditis
1	Steer	...	...	Septic Pneumonia
1	Calf	...	...	Pneumonia and jaundice
9	Calves	...	...	Immaturity
1	Calf	...	...	Joint ill
1	Sheep	...	...	Braxy
1	Sheep	...	...	Decomposition
1	Sheep	...	...	Chronic Pleurisy
1	Sheep	...	...	Gangrenous Pneumonia
1	Sheep	...	...	Anaemia
1	Sheep	...	...	Imperfect bleeding
5	Pigs	...	...	Acute swine erysipelas
1	Pig	...	...	Haemorrhagic Nephritis
and Dropsical				

The total weight of meat and offals condemned as unfit for human consumption was 20 tons 2 cwts. 6 lbs., of which 10 tons 4 cwts. 1 qr. 15 lbs. was affected with tuberculosis.

The following articles of food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

Canned food	...	...	...	...	726	tins
Cooked beef	...	...	...	...	24	lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	1	box
Chitterlings	...	...	...	...	1	barrel
Bacon	...	...	...	...	34	lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	15 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Pork Pies	...	...	...	...	12	
Chickens	...	...	...	...	2	
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	1	box
Skate	...	...	...	...	2	boxes
Herrings	...	...	...	...	12	stones
Plaice	...	...	...	...	42	lbs.
Pikelets	...	...	...	...	180 $\frac{1}{2}$	dozen
Pickles	...	...	...	...	19	jars
Locust beans	...	...	...	...	497	lbs.
Salad Cream	...	...	...	...	31	jars
Coffee	...	...	...	...	3	bottles

Fat	...	...	...	...	55	lbs.
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	132	bags
Ryvita	...	...	...	...	4	pkts.
Dried Apples	...	...	...	...	5	lbs.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Periodical visits and observations were made of meat shops and stalls, but it was not found necessary to take any action for contravention of these Regulations.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Seven licenses were granted during the year to slaughter or stun animals by means of a mechanically operated instrument. The number of licensed slaughter-men on the register at the 31st December, 1949, was 19.

HOUSING STATISTICS

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

Statistics of new houses erected in the borough during 1949, as supplied by T. J. Livesey, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.S.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, are as follows:—

1. BUILT BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

(a) Concrete permanent prefabricated houses (Easiform), Site 5, Harrowby Lane	...	...	12
(b) Traditional Brick Houses:			
(i) Harrowby Lane, Site 5	...	...	9
(ii) Belton Lane, Site 6	...	...	4
			—
	Total	...	25
			—

2. BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE:

Traditional Brick Houses	...	...	Total	26
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HOUSING ACT, 1936—UNFIT HOUSES.

The following statistics relate to action taken during 1949:—

Total number of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1936	8
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—Section 11	1
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted not to let again for human habitation	7

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

Number of houses visited upon complaint of overcrowding	32
Number of houses found to be overcrowded during the year	4
Number of families dwelling therein	8
Number of persons dwelling therein	35
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved by the Council during the year	3

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. TAYLOR.

